



A CHINESE FUNERAL, VICTORIA, B. C.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES

For a long time it has been a subject of mystery to those unacquainted with the facts, why such a city as Toronto was without a regularly organized athletic association or a decent athletic club house. The reason seemed only explainable in the fact that the inhabitants ran principally to two forms of sport—aquatics and lacrosse,—while what was done in the other branches of athletics was confined to a few enthusiasts. Of course, I have no reference now to such games as curling or bowling, for which ample provision has existed for a number of years; I simply speak of the summer pastimes and games that come under the generic caption of outdoor athletics. The Queen City has always had a fair average of promising men, but for lack of proper conveniences and wholesome encouragement the results have not been anything like what might reasonably have been expected. When the old Fencing club was in its prime, it was a place of rendezvous for some of the genuine enthusiasts, and many of the men who sat in winning boats did a lot of hard work at the rooms; but that day passed and interest lapsed. There was somewhat of a revival last year after the Canadian championship meeting at Rosedale, and it looks now as if the seed planted is apt to bear fruit in the not distant future, if some contending influences can only be assimilated. But, like the way of most good things, its path is laid in rough places, and it will require a great deal of diplomacy to overcome the obstacles.

From time immemorial there have been mangers, and there have been the proverbial canines to occupy them, and that seems to be the case just now. It is over six years ago since a similar attempt at forming an athletic association for Toronto was made, when grave obstacles were thrown in the way from a quarter where they should have been least expected, and the scheme fell through. Since that time the great objectors have not had leisure to consider the subject to any material extent; but no sooner is there a movement set on foot to establish an athletic club house, which would be a credit to the city, then a rival organization pops up serenely and makes trouble all round. If there was room for two such organizations, well and good, the more the merrier; but there is not room, and nobody knows the fact better than the gentlemen at the head

of the rival scheme. If the latter succeed in spoiling the chances of the athletic club house, the people of Toronto know whom they have to thank for giving athletics a setback that will not be got over for a year or two, at all events. One of the best known athletes in Canada, and a man whom everybody concedes knows what he is talking about, has this to say in the *Ottawa Journal*, and, unfortunately, there is more truth than poetry in it: "Unless Toronto is now different from any other place, and different from what it has been in the past, what will follow is this: Either the scheme will drop, as all previous ones have dropped, or a few unselfish men will set to work to canvass personally for subscriptions; will stick at this for two or three years or more; will plan, and design; will lose valuable time and go to serious trouble; will constitute themselves amateur unpaid collectors; worry their friends, bore their acquaintances, and be a laughing stock to their enemies, and finally give their city a handsome and useful and creditable institution which will be a boon to thousands of young men who will not, perhaps, as is the way of the world, care much how it came there, but will proceed to run it to suit themselves—as they should. This, in brief, is the story of the foundation of the Ottawa Amateur Athletic Club, now so great a success and so heartily appreciated. It was the story of the foundation of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Club. It will have to be the story of the Toronto Athletic Club, if ever there is one."

The Lake Yacht Racing Association did a good deal of work at their annual meeting, and most of the alterations made in the regulations will commend themselves to all lovers of the grand sport. One of the points which aroused a great deal of discussion was the question of professional yachtsmen. It was finally decided that professional sailors should be admitted in all regattas on yachts over 30 feet corrected length. This seems all very well in its way. All yachtsmen race for money, and it is difficult to understand why an owner should not get the best man to sail his boat, just the same as he would hire the best jockey; but why exclude such advantages from the owners of craft in the smaller classes? It may be said they are easier to sail and all that sort of thing; but experience in sailing a boat does not come in a day, and instruction in the art nautical, such as a regular old sea dog could impart, would be invaluable. Learn this while cruising, may be said; why not in regattas? In a close race, when advantage is to be taken of every puff of wind, and all the niceties of the art are to be taken into consideration—then is the time when the young Corinthian will get some lessons that will serve him in good stead. Another good resolution passed was the

following, which explains itself, and which will do away with a great deal of trouble in regatta times:—"The executive committee may, at least one month prior to the first race of the annual circuit, appoint an officer, at such remuneration as they shall think fit, whose duty it shall be to attend all regattas held under the auspices of the association, and (under the direction of the officers of the club giving the regatta) superintend the laying and logging of courses and laying of buoys, calculate the time allowances in the different classes, fire the guns at proper times, take and correct the times of the competing yachts, and generally do such work in connection with the management of the regattas as may be reasonably required of him. He shall also keep a record of the names and times of the starters in each race, and after the close of each circuit send such record to the honorary secretary of the association. The executive committee shall have power to levy an assessment on each club in the association sufficient in the whole to pay the expense incurred by the employment of such officer.

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The Yale men met with considerable of a surprise on Saturday, when Harvard defeated them by twelve to seven after one of the most brilliant games in the history of the inter-collegiate association. In 1883 Yale beat Harvard 22 to 2; in '84, 52 to 0; in '86, 29 to 4; in '87, 17 to 8, and in '89, 6 to 0. In 1885 and 1888 Yale won by default. It will be seen that this is the first year Harvard has defeated Yale since the present system of scoring came in.

R. O. X.

To George Murray.

Some day we yet shall know thee as thou art,
Who holdest now aloof, yet not unkind,
With poet soul and philosophic mind;
While our hot youth, less heedful of man's heart
Than of man's tongue, strain, with keen joy and smart
The wreath immortal on our brows to bind.
We in the world's dust striving are too blind
To such as thou, who calmly walk apart.

Oft as I think upon thee, I am shamed
At stretching eagerly my untrained arms
To grasp the laurel in thy pathway found;
Yet oft I wonder if fame hath no charms
That thou should'st let the wreath of song be claimed
With which thou could'st, if thou but would, be
crowned.

—ARTHUR WEIR.