

severe fatigue. In a certain sense it is of all games the most Homeric. The chieftains meet hand to hand, chest to chest, and knee to knee, while the crowd looks on in admiration. There is no finer sight of its kind than to see a good player carrying the ball down into the enemy's ranks, whether he runs with it under his arm, as in the Rugby game, or dribbles it, as according to the rules of the Association. Champion after champion comes out to meet him. Perhaps he rolls over his antagonist; perhaps he is rolled over himself. At all events, it is obvious to any one who has watched the game for ten minutes that it cannot be played without risk of bruises and broken bones, and possibly of even more serious injuries. Are we on that account to forbid it? Surely the players are best judges for themselves. There are some persons who think that an Act of Parliament should be passed prescribing the manner in which football ought, or ought not to be played. But this would involve a scheme not so much of paternal as of grandmotherly legislation, altogether alien to our English habits and customs. There is really no analogy between football and the prize ring. In a prize fight the object of each competitor is to injure the other as much as possible. In football, on the contrary, the game is played for its own sake, and such mishaps as result from it are incidental. We should doubt whether, on the whole, more serious accidents do not annually occur in the hunting field than upon the football ground. Mr. Bradshaw is heartily to be congratulated on his acquittal. It is a serious misfortune for him that he should have had to bear the brunt of a criminal trial, and we venture to think that it is for many rea-

sons matter of regret that the coroner's jury should have brought in the verdict they found. As it is, he leaves the court without an imputation on his character, and no right-thinking person will wish he had been punished by the law for having unintentionally caused a fatality which must always give him occasion for the most poignant regret.

A LAST WORD.

In conclusion I would commend a thoughtful consideration of ways and means of promoting the game on this continent to all who have experienced pleasure and benefit from engaging in it—that is, I ask all players to do what lies in their power to bring others into the happy circle of association football. It would be easy to trace the effect of friendships formed on a football field in the broader field of life, the development which takes place of the nobler instincts of humanity and the improvement, mental and physical, which accrues to the man, for athletic exercises are great educating forces, and of their forces none is greater than football. As time is precious in getting this little annual into the hands of the public—it is the production of less than one day's writing, ill-digested but well-intended—I take leave of the subject in the hope that my own feeble effort will have the effect of stimulating some one competent for the task to produce dissertation upon the association game that will be worthy of it and meet with a more enduring place among football players than I can hope for this, the first Canadian attempt at an exposition of a grand past-time.

THE END.