

levity on the occasion, and no feeling of interest so far as we have seen more intense or homefelt than that which might be excited by any curious social occurrence, or even by the arrival of a new show. We see that, in the *Globe*, Mr. Cartwright's house has become Sir Richard Cartwright's 'seat,' but we have observed no other symptom of exaltation. There appear to have been some refusals on the part of men whose special business it is to study the currents of public opinion. In one quarter there seems to have been a still more significant struggle, which led for the first time perhaps in official history, to the contradiction of an announcement in the *London Gazette*. Pitt intended to give Canada an hereditary peerage as well as an order of knights; but the Upas Tree was never planted and the shrub seems unlikely to take root. Canada apparently has rejected social rank, and prefers the spontaneous recognition of social merit.

On the other hand there seems to be considerable danger of our being invaded in force by another intruder resembling social rank only in its pedigree. For the vast and most pestilential system of gambling, mis-called 'sport,' which is the curse of England, and which the Second Empire characteristically laboured to introduce as an instrument of social corruption into France, has its origin mainly in the *ennui* of an idle aristocracy, while it is invested with a false dignity, and its real character is masked to the eyes of the many by the halo of aristocratic association.

It is very right to encourage bracing exercises and liberal amusements, not only for the pleasure they give, but because they are essential to the health of body and mind, schools in their way of a generous character, and, after duty and affection, the best antidotes to vice; and if, in practice, this truth has of late assumed a somewhat extravagant prominence, the excess is

in some measure the Nemesis of past neglect. For the same reasons it is desirable to discourage everything which tends to convert a manly exercise or a liberal amusement into a trade, or, what is still worse, into an excuse for gambling. In England, things have come to such a pass that before a great horse-race, boat-race, or running match, the country becomes a vast gambling hell. Betting places are opened, not only on the scene of the race, but in every tavern through the country: the public journals are filled with 'sporting intelligence,' penned in the lingo of the blacklegs, and with the predictions of a set of charlatans who make money by acting as the soothsayers of this excited and credulous world of vice. Even respectable editors, who personally loathe the whole system and in private tell you that they do, are compelled to yield to the fashion and to pay the best tribute in their power to public morality and the character of their calling by keeping the sporting intelligence within comparatively moderate bounds. We speak from personal observation in saying that people who never saw a race will bet on races at taverns till they lose everything they had, and are driven to dishonest courses to pay what grooms and footmen have learned to call their debts of honour. Such a retinue does 'Sport' bring after it that the pastor of a great parish near one of the race-courses gave up his charge and his benefice in absolute despair. A large portion of the people, of course, is still exempt from the contagion; but the fatal circle is always widening, and thousands are ruined, while tens of thousands are demoralized every year. One liberal amusement after another is drawn into the vortex of pollution. Twenty or thirty years ago rowing was pure; the professional element was still kept entirely in the background; nor was there any betting that could deserve the name of gambling. Cricket holds out best, chiefly because the profes-