

Many English emigrants settled hereabouts. These and the eleven of the Bishops College, Lennoxville Club, organized under Bishop Williams the then principal, himself an enthusiastic cricketer, made good sport for many years. Later matches have been played with Quebec, St. John, and Montreal.

It is impossible to say what is the earliest date at which the regiments stationed in Quebec Province played cricket. For us, however the record only becomes interesting when we find Canadians taking up the game. What any particular regiments on foreign service did among themselves is of no more moment than as being the incentive which prompted the civilian's, as they are always termed in the old scores, to play cricket. It is natural that all the early contests should have been between the red coats and the citizens. In old Quebec with its citadel and ramparts, where Wolfe and Montcalm, after bravely deciding that this Canada of ours should owe allegiance to the British Crown, lie wrapped in eternal slumber, there have been more iron than leather balls sent down. Whether it be that where such serious games were played no idle sport can find a home, that since the merry Dauphin's jest with English Harry, "this mock of his has turned all balls to gun stones," or because of the disinclination of the French to play cricket that the game has never flourished in Quebec we know not, but certain it is that it has had no abiding place there. From time to time there have been clubs and cricket, but neither have been permanent.

Great Montreal however, for half a century, though split in two by the disregard of more than half of her citizens of the game of cricket, and handicapped for lack of some such cricket breeders as the Ontario Public Schools, has maintained her place among the greatest clubs of Canada. The first international match with the United States played in Canada took place in Montreal in 1845. Her's was indeed the enterprise that first induced an English team to brave Atlantic's storms and come to us. Lillywhite in his "*Trip to Canada and United States*," an illustrated volume of some seventy pages published in 1860, sets at rest the dispute which had apparently arisen at the time, as to whom the credit was due of bringing Parr's team here. He gives a statement signed by George Parr and John Wisden to the purport that, their "engagement to play

the four matches was made solely with the Montreal Cricket Club of Lower Canada whose guarantee we accepted for our expenses and remuneration." W. P. Pickering was the secretary of the Montreal Club, and he on its behalf conducted the English party throughout their travels which proved so costly that the gentlemen of Montreal were obliged to subscribe to make up a deficit of something like £100.

The premier club of Canada's greatest city is the Montreal C. C., though it has not always lived under that name. The Vespers is entitled to the distinction of being the oldest civilian club in that city, for, half a century ago, they bowled and batted on the corner of Ontario and St. Urbain streets, on the very spot where now the pupils of St. John's School hunt the leather. This was the pioneer citizens' club which first joined issue with the military and which, strange to say, when the Vespers had become, as it afterwards did, the Montreal C. C. in turn merged its interests with the military in a common organization known as the Montreal Garrison Club. Born to oppose the Garrison itself became a military club. Before this first renomination however, the Vespers had been played for the last time, night had intervened and the morning of a new era saw the Montreal C. C. vigorous and rich, disporting on its new ground where Mackay street now runs.

Before the days of railways in this country matches between clubs at a distance were rare, yet the Toronto club had gone to Montreal in 1846 to engage in what was intended to be the first of a series of "Home and Home" matches and where they won by seven wickets. It was not till 1849 that Montreal was able to return the game, but in that year Conolly, Maline, Wilgress, Shipway, Napier, F. Brown, J. Brown, Powell, Stewart, McDonald and Robinson travelled five hundred miles by stage and boat to keep their pledge, despite the fact that they lost by an innings, and 101 runs. Heward 58, Sams 52, and Parsons 51, were the chief contributors to their opponents total of 218. Napier was their great bowler, and we find him nine years later playing for Canada in the International match with the United States, though not trundelling so well as his colleague from Montreal, Hardinge, who took seven wickets for 52 runs in the first innings of that match. Fourdinier was another Montrealer who played for Canada in the same game.