

THE ANTIDOTE

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OUR PRIZE LIST

TO any one obtaining for us One Thousand new annual subscribers before 1st January, 1893, we will send one first-class Upright Seven Octave Piano-forte; for Five Hundred subscribers we will give one first-class ticket to Europe and return; for Two Hundred and Fifty subscribers, one first-class Sewing Machine; for One Hundred subscribers, a Gold Watch; or Fifty subscribers, a New Webster's Dictionary, Unabridged; and for Twenty-five a Silver Watch.

OUR NATIONAL GAME.

The game of lacrosse, properly played, is both graceful and interesting, and though it is essentially a masculine sport, there is nothing in itself brutal or debasing, or anything which need preclude our wives and daughters from witnessing it.

We ourselves have seen lacrosse matches both here and in Toronto, which have been delightful exhibitions of strength and skill, and have reflected credit upon the players, as each side manfully strove its best to win. It is of course a game in which accidents may happen, more or less of a painful nature, as is the case in cricket, football, or any other pastime in which the full muscular power of the combatants is put forth in the contest for victory. Just as the cricketer may receive an ugly blow from the ball, so the lacrosse player's head now and then gets a knock, aimed at his bat, but as in either case the wound is purely accidental, it is taken in good part; the recipient never dreaming of harboring malice or revenge.

Canadians have been justly proud of their national game, and have carried it triumphantly to the other side of the Atlantic; it was a game in which gentlemen could indulge, and ladies could enjoy as spectators. We have used the past tense advisedly, for after the disgraceful scenes which occurred at the matches played upon Saturday

the 3rd inst., it would seem as though all feelings of honor and fair dealing had become nearly extinct amongst the rival clubs, and that a noble game has been debased into nothing more or less than a rowdy fight. No language is too strong to apply to those, who have neither the pluck nor good temper to play fair; they place themselves on a lower level than the prize fighter and are unfit to be associated with. The officers from the French ships of war, must have been highly edified and pleased at beholding members of two of our leading lacrosse clubs, not contending for the game in a square, honest manner and allowing the best side to win, but slashing and mauling one another like a pack of savages doing battle.

In Toronto the captain of the Capitals has been committed for assault, but this is hardly the method which is likely to add to the reputation of the game, nor the true mode to stamp out such malpractices. The respective clubs should have the power and will to expel any member who deliberately strikes a foul blow, and if this is not done not only do the clubs, as a whole, become equally guilty with the particular offender but they will bring the great national pastime to a depth of degradation, which will utterly prevent the respectable portion of the community from joining in it. We trust however that the point has been reached at which the reaction will set in, and that for the honor of lacrosse and those who previously brought the game credit and renown, steps will be taken to prevent the scenes we have condemned from being repeated in future.

Mr. Neil Warner is leaving for New York to take up a leading position at Daly's well-known theatre, and previous to his departure, will be tendered a benefit on the 19th instant at the Windsor Hall, when he will appear in his favorite part of "Othello."

Mr. Warner is well known and admired in Montreal and need not, like Othello, have any misgiving as to his success, either at the above benefit or for his future career in New York.

Queen's Theatre. Next week "Faust" with Mr. Lewis Morrison.

THE EDITOR'S FYLE.

The other day a gentleman asked the Editor if he had ever read Mr. Bellamy's book called "Looking Backward" and on receiving a reply in the negative, requested him to do so at once, as the said book was a capital exposition of the doctrines and practise of socialism, and would do much to efface, if it did not altogether obliterate some of the prejudices the Editor had expressed against that creed. The book was read, but had a totally opposite effect to that which the gentleman intended it should have had, for of all the dreary, dead-level systems ever protrayed that held up and expatiated upon in "Looking Backwards" appeared to the Editor the most complete in its unvarying monotony and utter want of individuality of the component characters. Of course it was an entirely impossible picture because founded upon false premises, but none the less was it sad to observe that, since crime and misery had been abolished, the virtues of self-sacrifice, charity, and so forth had also ceased to exist, being no longer needed.

Socialists would seem to argue that everybody being born equal, we should all enjoy the same rights and privileges, and that it is wrong that some should rise in the social and material scale so much above their fellows.

But there is no such equality in birth, and not only socially, but morally, mentally and physically some start the race of life with greater advantages than others, and to enact that none shall push ahead of the crowd, is as absurd as it would be to force the athlete always to keep beside the cripple. Would anyone take an interest in racing if nothing but dead heats were run? No, emulation is necessary to welfare and progress, and "Excelsior!" should be the motto for all. Let us do our best according to the talents entrusted to us, not burying any, and when the post which we must all pass is reached, the looking backwards will not cause the regrets the Editor experienced in contemplating socialism. Instead of levelling down let us rather place a higher mark to strive for, give honor where honor is due and let the best man win.