

THE CANADIAN

CRICKETER'S GUIDE.

CHARACTER OF CRICKET.

THE moral character of any pursuit is best estimated by its consequences to individuals, and its effects upon society. If the absence of evil be not a permissible proof of innocence, it ought to imply assent, when no positive evidence stands in opposition. In all recreative sciences, the mind must, in a greater or less degree, participate, and its disposition may often be determined by the nature of the pursuits selected; the more trivial they are, the more accurately will they reveal the qualities of the mind, just as the lightest feather tossed into the air will show at once the current of the wind. Those exercises which in their nature and operation have a direct tendency to draw the bands of society closer together by friendly intercourse—which substitute the feats of the man for the freaks of the fop—hardihood for effeminacy—dexterity for luxurious indolence—which are free from the taint of selfishness, cruelty, and oppression, and which may be pursued without shame, compunction, or reproach—are entitled to especial encouragement and consideration, in a matter so important as that of a sportive science for “THE PEOPLE.”

Seeing that the generality of mankind have the entail of labour as the lot of their inheritance, it is obviously necessary that there should be some relieving outlet in the shape of occasional diversion, if the machinery of the constitution, both mental and physical, is to be kept in working order. The mental faculties are rarely able to develop themselves unless the body, by necessary improvement, wholesome air, and proper exercise, be in a healthy state. A vigorous and animated tone of the body is