

"Do you mean what you say?" exclaimed Pauline, almost indignantly.

He bent his head and looked at her intently, for a moment, with a covert play of mirth under the crisp dark flow of his moustache.

"I am afraid that I do," he replied, with another laugh.

"Then you think this grand American hospitality of which you have just spoken to be a failure—a sham?"

"No, no—far from that," he said, rapidly, and with recurring seriousness. "I was only going back to the dark side of the question—that is all. You know, I told you it had both its dark and its bright side.... Come, let us leave this rabble. You have not really seen the Battery yet. Its true splendors lie just beyond...."

(To be Continued.)

### SPORTING NOTES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

WITH a season lengthy and severe, for Canada even, lovers of winter sports have no reason to complain of the opportunities offered them for the pursuit of their respective fancies. The very jingle of sleigh bells has now grown weary and monotonous, and skating, to most, is as natural as walking; snowshoes, toboggans and iceboats have been in constant use, and those who find pleasure in the last named have been made happy by the recent assurance of Miss Ellen Terry that a slide in a toboggan and a sail on the ice seemed the true poetry of motion.

The great winter game of Canada is, however, curling, and those who are supporters of the national and ancient game of Scotland have had a rare season of it, a season which reached its climax when, last week, the final games were played for the silver tankard. On the last day of the contest four clubs were left in, Lindsay, Preston, Orillia and St. Mary's, the two last named meeting for the final when, after a long and keenly-contested struggle the St. Mary's obtained the right to have their name engraved on the trophy, which was first played for in 1875, when the Hamilton Thistles were the winners. Dr. Ross, president of the Ontario Curlers' Association, also presented the winners with a handsome gold medal.

Considerable discussion has of late been expended on the antiquity of curling. That it was popular in Scotland several centuries ago there can be no doubt. Charles I was a warm patron of the game, and James II was so distinguished a curler that few could equal him. Reliable records of the game go back to four hundred and fifty years ago.

Trotting meetings both on the ice and on regular tracks have been held at various places in the Dominion, yet they cannot, as a whole, have been said to have proved successful, and unless there be a decided change in the management and inducements offered there seems to be but a poor future for trotting in Canada; for not only amongst spectators of these events but also amongst promoters themselves there seems to be a woeful lack of energy and vitality. However, retrospection on winter sports does not afford much food for comment, so with pleasure we turn to coming events, which are now faintly casting their shadows before.

Primarily in importance and of most interest not alone to sportsmen in particular, but to the Toronto public in general, is the coming dog show. Ottawa set the ball rolling last spring; London followed suit in the fall, both with such marked success that we can but predict for the "Queen City" a still greater triumph in the kennel exhibition than attended either her eastern or western rival. Subscriptions and entries are freely promised, whilst the liberality of private individuals will doubtless furnish a good list of special prizes. Advantage will be taken of the presence in the city of sportsmen throughout the Dominion, to hold a sportsman's convention for the purpose of forming an association for the proper protection of game and to look after the interests of lovers of sport.

With a representative Canadian team in England last year, lacrosse at home was somewhat under a cloud, the Toronto Club especially suffering from the absence of so many of their best men. The proposed trip of the Montreal Shamrocks to Europe has fallen through, so the prospects of the coming season are particularly good, and some notable contests are likely to be witnessed on the new lacrosse grounds at Rosedale. The impetus given to lacrosse in Great Britain by the visit of the Canadian team has been most marked. New clubs are rapidly springing up, and the arrival of a picked fifteen from the old country to the new will be an event of no very distant date. Brighton, the sea side metropolis of England, has two clubs in full swing; and the match between England and Ireland is one of the sporting events of the year.

Canadian Cricketing prospects are not bright, the remembrance of the miserable exhibition made in the International match, when half the Eleven were morally bowled before reaching the wickets at all, is too fresh in our memory to speak more hopefully. Local talent is sadly at a discount. A step in the right direction has been taken by the introduction of the professional talent in Canada.

It is rumoured that Lawton will again fill an engagement for the Toronto club, though a coach of greater experience is badly wanted, and one who has filled such a post at a public school should be procured, and with liberal inducements there should be no serious difficulty in getting such a man. J. Norley, who has done such yeoman service for both the counties of Kent and Gloucester—playing for the former by birth, and the latter by residence—remains on at Trinity College School, Port Hope, and the results of his tuition should bear fruit this year. A tour of the Past and Present of the school will again form an interesting event in the programme of the season. The Port Hope club are laying down a new ground, and as they will have the benefit of Norley's assistance during the

school vacation, and have besides some useful cricketers in the club, they should be able to put a fair eleven in the field. The East Torontos, who got through a most successful season last year will be strengthened by several fresh members with cricketing reputations, and they bid fair to assume the premier position amongst local clubs. They last year set a most excellent example by instituting a fortnight's tour, which from its success will, we trust, encourage the club to organize another for the coming season.

It was quite on the boards that an amateur eleven, under the joint management of Lord Harris and Mr. A. N. Hornby, would have visited Canada in the fall. Such an arrangement has, however, been postponed till next season, which, as the international match will then be played on Canadian soil, is perhaps after all best, as that event and a match between the English visitors might be the means of establishing a cricket carnival week, in imitation of the "Canterbury week," and might do much towards arousing the present apparent apathy amongst the general public on matters appertaining to cricket.

An Australian eleven, which in its general composition will be the same as the last, will again visit England, playing in America *en route*, and an attempt will be made to induce the Antipodean eleven to arrange a match or two in Canada. An English team got together by Shaw, Shrewsbury, and James Lillywhite will again go to Australia. A Philadelphia amateur eleven has arranged a European tour, playing fourteen two day-matches in Great Britain—commencing on June 10th at Dublin, and finishing at Maidstone on July 26th.

Aquatic news at this season of the year must necessarily be scant. Hanlan, who has of late been dividing his time by giving exhibitions and posing at theatres in California to the surprise of his friends who concluded his Australian trip had been abandoned, sailed on the 17th of last month for Sydney, where he should reap a golden harvest.

In England the attention of rowing men is now centred on the coming race between Bubeare and Ross for \$2,000 a side, which is fixed for the 10th inst. over the Putney to Mortlake course, Ross conceding a start of ten seconds, which, from the easy way in which Bubeare recently polished off Elliott, it is generally thought he is incapable of doing. Professional oarsmen in England have of late years been of a very mediocre class, and Bubeare, who is said to greatly resemble the champion in his style of rowing, is regarded as the coming man.

The Inter-Varsity boat race comes off on the 5th of April. Both crews are in full practice, Oxford on the Isis, and the Cantabs on the Ouse near Ely; the Cam, despite the money expended on it for improvements, being totally unfit for training purposes. The rival crews as at present composed are about equal in weight. This will be the forty-first contest between the two universities, of which the Dark Blues have won twenty-two, the Light Blues seventeen, and one "a dead heat by six feet," as the excited old waterman, Sam Phelps, who was referee in 1877, announced.

Yachting men are preparing for the season, and the formation of a yachting association for Lake Ontario, with headquarters at Toronto, will likely be inaugurated.

The only recent event of importance in the athletic world was the fifty mile amateur championship race of America, which came off last week at Williamsburg between J. Gassman of that city and P. Golden of New York; the latter was favourite, but was never in the race, being out-paced from the very first, and after going some thirty-one and a-half miles (being then some three miles behind) he gave up. Gassman, after covering thirty-five miles, was stopped and awarded the race and championship, his time for the distance covered being 4 hours, 22 minutes and 42 seconds; his times from the eighteenth up to the thirty-fifth mile are the best on record in America.

Under the joint auspices of the Manhattan and the South London Harriers, picked American athletic amateurs will visit England the coming season. Murray, the champion walker, and Myers will be in the number. Delaney, who, it will be remembered, beat George in a ten-mile handicap, has decided not to go, and he is wise to rest on his reputation, as at that distance he would find one or two in England besides George able to dust him over. Snooks and Cattlin should show him a clean pair of heels, as should also Dunning. Myers should find foemen worthy of his steel at short distances, but Murray will hardly meet an opponent capable of fully stretching him now that Raby, who developed such wonderful powers as an amateur, has joined the professional ranks.

In England the Spring handicaps have filled well, the Lincolnshire Handicap having fifty-two acceptances out of sixty-eight entries; in the City and Suburban sixty-four cry content out of sixty-eight. Both events have American representatives. In the Grand National there were forty-nine acceptances out of fifty-seven subscribers, a considerable improvement on last year, when there were but forty-one subscribers and thirty-one acceptances. The race comes off at Liverpool on the 28th inst., and speculation is already brisk, "Mohican," "Cortolvin," "Cyrus" and "Satellite" being most in demand. The three first named are no strangers to the Aintree course. "Mohican," one of the powerful Irish lot, who was last year top weight, got home third, and as he has wintered well and will likely have Mr H. Beasley up, he will, no doubt, be freely supported.

The Prince of Wales for the first time in the history of the race enters a horse in his own name—"The Scot"—who was greatly fancied for last year's National, but going amiss he was scratched. In the previous year he was going well, when he fell at the last fence but one. He is undoubtedly one of the finest chasers ever seen between flags, and his victory in the interest of the Prince of Wales would be a most popular one. He is now trained by Jones at Epsom.

NIMROD.