

The Canadian Cricket Field,

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CRICKET IN CANADA.

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The Canadian Cricket Field.

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THE CANADIAN CRICKET FIELD,
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TORONTO, JULY 26TH, 1882.

OH! HOLLOW! HOLLOW! HOLLOW!

Many, ingenious and always hollow, are the excuses we hear day after day and year after year for failing to score at the bat. It would seem that nearly every batsman deems it a duty which he owes his reputation to give the reason why every time he gets out without scoring. How often are we compelled to listen to these dismal tales, and how little are our sympathies awakened thereby. A man who always has an excuse at his finger ends is seldom a good cricketer. If you must have excuses, let not the blame of your failure be laid on pads, bat, or the ground but honestly acknowledge that you could not stop the ball, and you will be thought much better of. By all means imitate the simplicity of Morley's reply as to the character of the ball which bowled him in the match with the Australians on the Trent Bridge ground at Nottingham. This is Morley's account of the ball: "It beat me in the pitch, it beat me in the pace, and it beat me in the flight."

THE INTERNATIONAL MATCH.

The Committee of the Ontario Cricket Association have selected September 18, 19 and 20 for this match. The date is as late as we dare choose, and by that time most Philadelphians will have returned from the seaside and country. A strong team can be sent from Canada this year, and we sincerely trust that at last victory will be on our side, and that our American cousins will not find us so hopelessly feeble against slow bowling as last year. The Ontario Cricket Association has done a good work in making this match an annual event, and in systematizing the selection of the Canadian eleven.

Every club belonging to the Association has the right of having the names of those they send in as eligible for

selection receive consideration at the hands of the Executive Committee. The selection has, up to the present, given satisfaction, and the only thing now necessary to make the International Match a thorough success is strength on our part. The Ontario Association has made such a very favourable arrangement with the Association of the United States that the continuance of this game, as far as meeting the expenses in connection with the match is concerned, is put beyond the shadow of a doubt; and it could only be in the event of our proving ourselves so inferior in cricketing talent to our neighbours that the match could die a natural death through lack of interest. This is not likely to come to pass. The committee should select the eleven as early as possible, and then it becomes the bounden duty of every man chosen to practise conscientiously until the match.

The Ontario Cricket Association has up to the present been entirely successful in the main object of its formation, namely, in its operations in connection with the International Match, the series of matches to determine the champion club of Ontario have given rise to more cricket and greater interest in the game than heretofore. Nevertheless, objections to the idea of championship matches in connection with cricket are heard of. What raises the cricket enthusiasm to the wholesome pitch at which it exists at the English public schools but the struggle for cock house, or cock dormitory, or cock form, or in the country at large, cock county?

Still there is no doubt that objections do exist on the part of sundry clubs who maintain that these matches lessen the amount of their cricket in spite of the general increase throughout Canada. The Association, however, would be wise to do away with these matches for a season and test the effect. A great impetus has been given by them, but it would be well to satisfy the discontents for one or more seasons by doing away with this competition and let the Association quietly work out some other branch of reform.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Familiarity on the cricket field is not a factor in the sociability of the game. The constant reference to his men as Tom, Hamilton and Harry by the captain falls strangely on the ear of an old country man, and helps to undo the authority of this official, as well as detract from the dignity of the situation. "It would be much better if during play none but the surnames of the players were made use of, and as little familiarity as possible indulged in.