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some weeks ago a list of prizes offered by St. Paul curlers to contestants in the February *bonspiel* in that city. Among them are tankards, valued at \$150 to \$500 each, besides a series of gold medals. These people of the American Northwest are enthusiasts—and millionaires. Testimony is borne to the character of the game by a writer in the February number of *Outing*, Mr. R. C. Whittet, of Boston, who declares his opinion that "there is infinitely more promise for a nation's manhood, spirit and muscle in curling, in which all participate, than in the so-called national game of America, wherein 5,000 men, more or less, pay fifty cents a head for the privilege of gracing the bleaching boards while eighteen professionals play for big pay to themselves and the band of speculators who own the show."

Let it be borne in mind that these recreative gatherings are those of busy men. We have no leisurely class in this country whose only lookout is how they shall kill time; and so our curlers' gatherings are made up not of dudes and indolent rich, but of the commercial, the professional and the artisan classes, who feel the need of recreation. Many of them in the cities cannot spare two hours in the daytime for a game and so they "hie with gleesome speed" to the rink at night, happy as school-boys, and for the time almost as free from care. I desire here

to quote a sentence from the recent "History of Curling," by Rev. John Kerr, F.S.A., Scot., :—"In all national games it will be found that these elements—chance, force, fellowship and skill have their place in greater or less degree. It is so in cricket, football, golf and other really national games." And among historical references to the game of curling, we find it stated that a well-known curler and golfer, Chas. Robertson, of Cairnie, known as "Golfing Charlie," in proposing at a gathering in 1844 the health of the then juvenile Prince of Wales, added :—"If he (the Prince) is not initiated into all the mysteries of that health-restoring, strength-renovating, nerve-bracing, blue-devil-expelling, incomparable game of curling his education will be entirely bungled and neglected." Of the 20,000 members of the Royal Club in Scotland 500 are clergymen, and the testimony of one of these, Rev. C. Giffen, of Edinburgh, its present chaplain, is :—"I have learned some of the best lessons of how to deal with men by playing side by side with them upon the ice."

The curling rinks of to-day merit a paragraph to themselves, so conspicuous a feature are they in winter sports in this country, especially as they are now so much in request for the game of hockey on skates. Nothing, perhaps, is more distinguished in its way than the Victoria Rink in Montreal, whose great proportions, 220 by 100 feet inside measurement,—the sheet of ice being about 170 by 80 feet—render it so attractive for fancy dress *fêtes* during the winter carnivals, for which that city is celebrated. But this is a skating rink, and only used once, so far as I know, for the purpose of a curlers' *bonspiel*. In Toronto, however, there are five huge rinks, the smallest of which is 75 by 140 feet, the largest 100 by 200 feet and 50 feet high, used mainly for curling. Visitors from the States who remark them are in the habit of asking, "Are these big brick buildings drill-sheds or roller skating rinks, or what are they?" The reason they are so big is in order to accommodate a large number of players under cover at one time. A space of 130 by 16 feet is required for a single game of four men against four, as may be seen by the diagram of the ice in our first paper, page 115. If forty-eight men wish to play at once, as they often do, it is obvious that six times as many feet in width is necessary. There must be plenty of light, and so windows are numerous,