

ATHLETICS.

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This is the golden era; it is also the age of anomalies. There are anomalies in the Civil Service and out of it. We are so free and independent and liberal-minded that to adhere to rules savors of slavery and bigotry. The annual meeting of the Shamrock Athletic Association of Montreal has recently been reported in the press. This association embraces two branches of sport, lacrosse and hockey, the players of which are all professionals. Yet it heralds itself forth in illuminated type as the *Shamrock Amateur Athletic Association*. From British Columbia the news comes of the managers of lacrosse clubs asserting that all their players while assuming to be amateurs had received payment for their services. These lacrosse clubs have now joined the *Amateur Athletic Federation of Canada*, where they will be made to feel at home and allowed to make money and to profess love.

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The Athletic Federation of Montreal, it will be remembered, is the body which indulges in the time-evading pastime of mixing oil and water, or to state the fact instead of the figure,—love and money. An incident culled from the confessions of a young lady will illustrate the luck the federation is likely to have in this pursuit. This vivacious young lady had played the same tune upon the

Aeolian heart-strings of two young men, and to both had promised marriage. The young men, having advised each other of the circumstances, called upon the young lady together. When the lady's maid brought the callers' cards, the consternation was indescrivable. Upon having the situation explained, the maid suggested that she should inform the callers that the young lady was prostrated with grief on account of her father having recently lost all his money. The lover who remained after hearing this news was to be her final choice. But when the maid delivered her message both lovers precipitately fled.

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The Civil Service bowlers are great entertainers, boon companions,—and expert politicians. By a slight turn of the wrist they have taken possession of the executive of the Athletic Association. In doing this it is not suspected that the bowlers had any grievance which their election is intended either to revenge or correct. On the contrary, bowling is the best established branch of the association, and last year's expenditure on its behalf far exceeded that of any other year. What, it may be asked, will be the effect of the election of so many bowlers? It cannot be that the bowlers intend to introduce the Inquisition with the object of converting the votaries of other pastimes to abandon their adopted faith,—and bowl. No, the interest and enthusiasm the bowlers have evinced constitutes one of

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