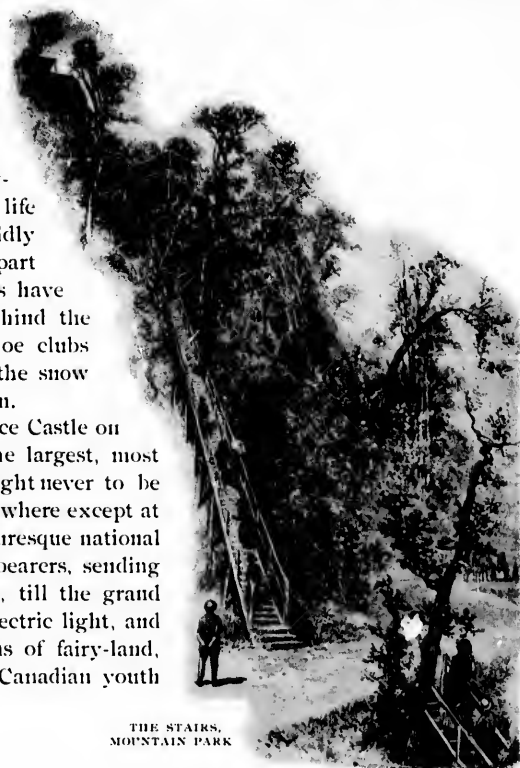


ATHLETICS.

This city is famous for its athletic clubs. The Montreal Amateur Athletic Association embraces in its membership as fine a lot of young men as can be found anywhere, and exercises a marked influence on the social life of the city. Here the national game of lacrosse is wildly popular and carried to greater perfection than in any other part of Canada. Both the Montreal and the Shamrock clubs have a continental reputation. The Athletic Club House behind the mountain is the winter resort of the numerous snowshoe clubs of the city, who take regular tramps, of evenings, over the snow there and back, combining pleasure and healthful recreation.

When a winter carnival is held, the storming of the Ice Castle on Dominion Square, opposite the Windsor Hotel, one of the largest, most magnificent and best conducted hotels in the world, is a sight never to be forgotten. Other cities have attempted imitations, but nowhere except at Montreal can be had such a turn out of snowshoers in picturesque national costumes. Coming down the mountain in lines of torch-bearers, sending up rockets and fireworks as they advance in thousands, till the grand attack takes place on the spectral castle, illuminated by electric light, and the whole is resolved in a tableau that outvies the dreams of fairy-land, they give an idea of the athletic vigor of the city and of Canadian youth that is simply astonishing to strangers.



THE STAIRS,
MOUNTAIN PARK