

# CORRESPONDENCE.

## "Lacrosse in the Maritime Provinces."

Mr. H. H. Allingham, in an interesting paper on this subject in the *DOMINION ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY* for May, has given currency to some errors as to fact. He says:

"The village of Hampton, on the Intercolonial Railway, about twenty miles from St. John, derives some distinction from the fact that lacrosse in the Maritime Provinces was first played there." This, he says, "was in the month of September, 1873." Again, in Nova Scotia, "the town of Pictou was the first to adopt it" (the game of lacrosse).

This is all wrong. In the summer of 1868 I was in Montreal, and being very fond of the game of lacrosse, I, of my own notion, bought an outfit of crosses, balls, and printed regulations, such as might equip a club of moderate dimensions, and took them with me to Halifax. On my arrival, a number of us Haligonians organized a lacrosse club, of which I was chosen president and captain; and the late Isaac J. Wylde, secretary.

*That* was the first lacrosse club ever organized, or known, in the Maritime Provinces; and our first game was played on the North Common of Halifax in the early autumn of 1868. Hon. Malachi Bowes Daly, now Lieut.-Governor of Nova Scotia, and a young Montrealer named Macfarlane, since deceased—both of them experienced players, were kind enough to assist me in coaching our new team; and, excepting us three, I do not think there was any one in Nova Scotia who had previously played the game, or ever seen it played. There was a second Halifax club formed a few weeks after ours, the original one.

After a few months practice I had one of my hands disabled through accident, and we closed proceedings for the season. In the following year our fellows did not seem to take kindly to the game—too much work they seemed to think. I tried to encourage the smaller boys into the game by giving them crosses and a set of ash-steel-shod flag-poles, which I had had made. I was abroad for some time afterwards, but I have understood that these youngsters practiced somewhat until Mr. Burns' vigorous movement.

P. S. HAMILTON.

OTTAWA, May 10, 1892.

## Mr. Allingham's Reply.

*To the Editor of the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY:*

SIR,—With reference to the above, I am very glad Mr. Hamilton has put me straight on the subject, as my sole aim was to give as accurate a history of the game as possible. I took great pains in writing to parties I thought could give me the information required, in every city and town in the Provinces, and in the replies I received from Halifax and Pictou from present lacrosse players, no mention was made of Mr. Hamilton. I hope this explanation will clear me of any suspicion of the slightest intention to misrepresent any persons or places; my earnest desire being to render honour to whom honour is due.

I remain, yours truly,

H. H. ALLINGHAM.

ST. JOHN, N.B., 14th May, 1892.

