

peat that honours paid to a professional athlete on the ground of his individual freedom from roguery, stamp the general character of his class, and emphasize the necessity of preserving to the liberal and amateur element its just ascendancy, if we would not have the pastime of a gentleman degraded into a sharper's trade. So long as the liberal and amateur element has thoroughly the upper hand, and the professional element is kept in its place, there is not much danger of anything really bad ; while mere excesses whether in addition to the pastime or in training for it, will hurt only the individual, and will in time correct themselves.

There is, however, one alleged justification for an apparently extravagant enthusiasm, against which good sense and patriotism alike call upon us to protest. We have been told in effect, that Canada ought to be grateful to a professional athlete for raising us by his success to a higher place among the nations. The place of Canada among the nations is not so low nor is she in such desperate need of puffing, as Canadians and they alone suppose. It is true that the mass of the English people whose notice we are always striving, with a somewhat undignified solicitude, to attract, know almost as little about us as we know about the other dependencies of the Empire ; and that it would consequently be the extreme of folly to invite them or any one delegated by them to interfere with the management of our affairs. Nor can we expect that, being fully occupied

with their own business, they will find time every day to go over the bead-roll of all the Colonies and say what fine fellows the inhabitants of each of them are. But when there is occasion to speak of us, they always speak with respect ; and by lending us large sums of money on easy terms they show in the most practical way possible that they have taken pains to form an opinion about us, and think they know that we are prosperous and honest. In the estimation of the sensible part of them, we shall gain little or nothing as a civilized community by an isolated exhibition of qualities which civilized communities possess only in common with barbarians, and perhaps in an inferior degree ; for it is not only conceivable but likely that some amphibious savage who is paddling his canoe among the South Sea Islands, with a forehead like that of an ape, but with sinewy limbs, and a marvellous knack of propelling a boat, might, if furnished with the right appliances, prove the Champion oarsman of the world. Above all, it is ridiculous to suppose that any Englishman will be induced to leave his home and emigrate to Canada because a single Canadian excels in the peculiar art of rowing a shell.

We have rather too much faith in the advertising system. After all, when anything serious is in question, reason and fact will hold the balance, and there seems to be no reason for fearing that the scale of Canada will kick the beam.