

"The incident is closed. We will change the subject. Have you no other games, on land?"

"Oh yes, we have lots of them. There is cricket, for instance, which is played by the scholars in our schools and colleges. A single game of cricket often lasts for three days."

"The contestants would most assuredly need a great deal of *σχολή* to enter for a succession of these contests. I rarely jest, however."

"Then, Pindar, there is football which, even as we play it, is a rougher game than cricket."

"Ah, I have heard of that game. They played it at Sparta when they were not fighting. A most rude, brutal, and degrading pastime; no man of *ἀρετή* could possibly engage in it. I thank Apollo that I have never seen a football contest. What do you say? Oh, it must be far worse than the pankration, infinitely worse."

"Now, O Pindar, as you do not appear to like our *agones*, tell me of the Hellenic; speak of the glories of the Olympic games which you have seen and sung so often."

"The Olympics; ah, yes, they used to be a noble sight when people came to see the athletes and to hear me recite. They have rather fallen off lately though. So many people of all sorts, the scum of the democratic cities, resort there nowadays. Besides, there is too vast a horde of rhetors, and sophists, and people reading extracts from the 'Muses', save the mark, of a semi-barbarian fellow, Herodotus, or some such name, for a gentleman to get a hearing. It is certainly not like what it used to be in the good old days when my father first took me to Olympia. Then there were no horse dealers from Elis, hetairæ from Corinth, and merchants from the Peiræus, blocking the course so that one can neither see nor be seen. It is rather a disadvantage to be a gentleman from a gentleman's city in these levelling times."

"I know," broke in the tutor. "When I saw the Olympic games five years ago at the Leukon Teichos I missed the final of the short foot-race, wherein the best runners in the world were competing, by having to wade through miles and miles