

HISTORY OF LACROSSE IN CANADA.

I am under obligation to Mr W. K. McNaught, President of the Canadian National Lacrosse Association, for having prepared the following History of the Game :—

The game of Lacrosse, as almost everybody knows, is of Indian origin, and like many other things connected with the aborigines of this continent, its early history is enshrouded in obscurity. By what tribe or by whom it was invented will probably always remain a mystery ; but one thing is certain that from the Creeks, in Alabama, to our own Iroquois, along the noble St. Lawrence and the Lac la Pluie of the Generic Chippa-was to the far west of Lake Superior, it was a recognised sport amongst the original proprietors of this Continent. Lacrosse was their distinctive pastime, their recreation, but it served as their training school for their sterner duties of the chase and the war path. In its primitive form it was a sport well calculated to strengthen their muscles, toughen their sinews, and develop in them that self-reliance and decision of character so essential to their very existence.

“ The Conspiracy of Pontiac,” and the massacre of the British Garrison at Fort Michillimakinac, effected by treachery under cover of an exhibition of a game of *baggataway* (as Lacrosse was called in the original), interweaves the National Game of Canada indelibly into the history of the country, and lends to it an interest which it could not otherwise have obtained. The present game of Lacrosse differs very materially from the original game as practised by the aborigines of this country. Their game had no fixed and definite rules by which it was governed. Each tribe laid down its own laws, and in every case it was more a test of bodily strength and endurance than of judgment and skill. Like almost everything else that the genius of the white man has touched the original game has been improved upon, and although it might provoke a smile from the shade of Tullock-chisk-ko (a celebrated Indian Lacrosse player of legendary times) and his dusky compeers, who might fail to recognise in one of our Championship Lacrosse matches the sport to which they were so enthusiastically devoted