

prison instead of a fortnight. Such an act is bad enough anywhere; but it is not expected from those who are engaged in manly and healthy sports. It was said by some newspaper (which by the way, spoke of this rowdy as though he were a very important person and a not unworthy public character), as being about to retire from sport. It is to be hoped so, for any man who cannot keep his temper and behave with ordinary decency in a game is not fit company for even "professional ball players," and many of them are low enough in all conscience.

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In accordance with the prayer of a petition to the Department of Justice at Ottawa the pardon of this offender was recommended and he was released at the end of ten days. The petition was largely signed and of course there was no difficulty about that; but all law abiding citizens were surprised at seeing in the petition the names of men holding high positions of trust in the administration of public affairs. The only possible reason could be the blight of party politics. These representative men should not have signed the petition and this pardon should not have been recommended. It was a blow below the belt to manly games and an apotheosis of blackguardism.

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Some theologians assert that an increase of lawlessness will be one of the signs of the closing up of the present dispensation. However, that may be, this spirit appears to be on the increase, and notably so in places where least expected. We have had occasion to refer to this sort of thing before (ante, page 87). On the present occasion the offenders were the chief magistrate and one of the controllers of a city of "over one hundred thousand inhabitants" (as the Ontario statutes describe the capital of that province). The former, being a lawyer, might have known better. The latter, being a newspaper man, did that which was not unnatural, for much of the press of Toronto has become notorious for its lawless utterances. The incident referred to was in connection with a procession in the streets of the city in question. This procession took possession of a thoroughfare