

Novel Tournament.

Arrangements for a grand Lacrosse tournament between a club of twelve picked players from the Iroquois Indians and rival clubs of like number, composed of Canadian gentlemen, are in contemplation by several prominent Canadian visitors and exhibitors.

A thorough inspection yesterday by a party of amateurs from Canada demonstrated that sufficient space for this purpose could not be had within the Centennial inclosure, about one acre of flat turf being required. The tournament will, therefore, take place in the Park, within convenient distance of the Exhibition Grounds. The Indian Club which will probably be invited to participate, if the affair can be arranged, is now in England, where, in addition to the games already played, they have received over sixty invitations to visit different parts of Great Britain, including urgent requests to play before the Prince of Wales and the royal family.

The game of Lacrosse is of Indian origin, and the first record of it dates back to the French and English wars. When Fort Detroit was captured by the Oneida Indians the game of Lacrosse was used as a blind to gain admittance to the gates, while two clubs of young Indians were playing on the outside of the fort hundreds of warriors creeping stealthily up and remaining concealed in the woods until the ball was thrown over the wall. The juvenile red men asked and were granted permission to go in and recover their plaything, but hardly were the gates opened before the fort swarmed with the enemy, and the result of the strategy is historical. In Canada the game is one of the most favorite athletic pastimes, almost every city and town having its rival clubs; and as it is still played by the Indians, who are determined not to be beaten by the white men, the contests of the red and white players are, of course, always exciting.

The principle of the game is not unlike that of the old Irish game of "hurley," though the ball is kept in the air and is caught upon and thrown by an implement somewhat resembling a huge battle-door. It gives such an opportunity for developing the muscles of all parts of the body, and is such a picturesque as well as exciting game, that it is not strange it has become a national pastime wherever introduced. Its only drawback is that it lacks the element of danger which seems just now so essential for fashionable amusements.