

THE HONOUR OF THE GAME

The psychology of the game is accurately condensed in far less than a chapter – in fact, in those few words, ***'That is not cricket'***. The brightest gem ever won by any pursuit: in constant use on the platform, in the pulpit, Parliament, and the Press, to dub something as being not fair, not honourable, not noble. What a tribute for a game to have won, but what responsibility on those who play and manage it! It is natural that a people so devoted to sports and pastimes as the British should have brought sporting expressions into their phraseology, but that one pastime should be picked out by common consent as descriptive of all that is straight, fair and honorable is a very extraordinary, indeed I think I might claim, an unrivalled distinction.

And you do well to love it, for it is more free from anything sordid, anything dishonourable, anything serving of servitude, than any game in the world. To play it keenly, honourably, generously, self-sacrificingly, is a moral lesson in itself, and the classroom is God's air and sunshine. Foster it, my brothers, so that it may attract all who can find the time to play it, protect it from anything that would sully it, so that it may grow in favour with all men.

Lord Harris

From A Few Short Runs

AN AUSTRALIAN VIEW

Nothing that ever came out of England has had such an influence on character and nation building as this wonderful game of ours. Nothing that happens in any British community in normal times possesses the same quality of bringing enthusiasm, national partisanship and downright interest as a Test Match. The cricket instinct seems to be born in the flesh and bred in the bone of every one of us. In Australia it is as virile as ever it was in England. There is no game that brings men so close together on a high level as cricket, no game that is quite so conducive to the initiation of healthy discussion, the free exchange of opinions, and the declaration of candid views.

Each and everyone who plays or watches cricket becomes a self-constituted authority. Most of us know quite a lot about the game; no one is absolutely ignorant of it. There is no thrill in anything else like that which manifests itself when an apparently beaten team fights its way to victory through all kinds of adversity, and always by clean methods; and nothing that I know of touches the finer feelings of humanity more than the unobtrusive demonstration of true sportsmanship on the field, the observance of that unwritten law under which a player refuses to profit by an umpire's mistake or a fielder's misfortune. Both for the player and the onlooker there is an exhilarating joy in success and a compensating education in defeat. Cricket teaches us never to use our mental or physical powers in an unworthy way. It teaches honesty, appreciation, persistency, loyalty, enthusiasm, fair play, fighting spirit, self-control, unselfishness and, above all, how to accept success and defeat. That is what we call 'playing the game'.

M.A. Noble, ex-Captain of Australian elevens.

*From **The Game's the Thing.***