

Esthetic Essays on Esthetic Subjects

Concerning the Status, Standing and Mission of the "Home Team"

It is a trait of human nature to applaud heroic actions partaking of the spectacular. A person may live a model Christian life, devoutly observing the ten commandments and being foremost in deeds of charity, but he can hope for no mark of popular approval, unless he can display his good points in some vividly ostentatious manner. But if he is able to make good on the home baseball team, then his fame is established without fear of molestation. If the crowd remembers that a certain player made a home run at some time during his puerile days, they always expect to see him repeat the performance, and if he fails—as he generally does—his failure is overlooked, for he has made his reputation and no one can knock it.

But to deal with the home team in general. As to composition it is made up of a grand variety of types and assortments of humanity. Every team has a star or two who strut unconcernedly about, conspicuously unmindful of their own prowess and ostentatiously oblivious of the errors of their fellows. Nothing is too good for them and the adoration that the public hands out to them well-nigh mounts up to insanity. If they ever blunder, the crowd will find a ready excuse for them, confident that they will make up for it with two-fold effect whenever an opportunity presents itself. And every team has a poor player on whose head the revivings and slander of a malignant and vengeful populace are cast. Instead of embarking for a far distant land, he suffers his disgrace in silence and sticks manfully by the team and puts up with the persecution. Everyone flags him if he ventures a remark and all conspire to deepen his humiliation. Then there is the ponderous sot whom everyone expects to knock a home run whenever he comes to bat, and no one dares to take him to task when he knocks a wretched pop-up fly to one of the infielders. The crowd feels sorry and only says: "Wouldn't it have gone if he had hit it square?" If he gets to first he is sure to be thrown out at second by a half a mile, for he pounds along like a steam engine on the up-grade with a hundred boxcars holding it back, and by the time the ball reaches second there is a hiatus between him and the base that it would take him several moments yet to cover. All the second basemen has to do is to pass the ball around the diamond and then touch him out at his leisure. The rest of the team is made up of moderate players, who play just consistently enough to entitle them to the privilege of living.

The umpire is a cold-blooded creature who takes as much pleasure in fracturing the home team's chances of winning as he does in holding up the other side. He is an interesting study for an anthropologist. He pays no attention to the remonstrances of the disgruntled ones, and takes himself out of range to show that he is entirely unconscious of what is being said. If pushed too close he barks out a lot of "sass" and abuse, and then sends the knocker to the bench to console himself there. With his hat tipped back and with a "Here am I" expression on his face, he counts out the balls and strikes with a judgment as irrevocable as Zeus' downward nod. He certainly will not suffer from the arrogance of others, and will need no director to see him through life's stormy journey.

While not overlooking the manifestations of the crowd, the man with the voice deserves special notice. Such a great, big, well-tuned voice as he turns loose is an asset of limitless value to

any ball team. Such a volume of sound as he generates carries something with it that buoys up the home players and demoralizes the visitors. The detonation of that avalanche of abuse or encouragement have a jarring effect upon the nerves of those against whom it is directed and an appetizing effect upon those in whose aid it is concerned. No team can do itself justice in face of such work, and it is useless to try it. Such a voice could bring its own price in a town like Chicago, but it could not thrive there, as free air and unlimited range are essential to its development.

If the home team wins, each one of the crowd goes home in jubilant spirits, feeling as happy as if he had been informed of a two-fold benefit having fallen to his portion, in the shape of a large legacy left by a defunct mother-in-law. But if the home team loses, sadness prevails, and the prevaricative clerk feels as if his dead grandmother excuse had been transformed into a reality. And the rest feel the same way.

List of Publications Desired.

A request has been received by Librarian Wyer from the Carnegie Institute at Washington, asking that a list be forwarded to them of all the publications issued by this University since its founding in 1869. The Carnegie Institute is compiling a handbook of the subjects of the publications of all the learned societies and institutions in the country. This will be unique, being the only thing of its kind ever conceived. The list that our University has been asked to furnish will include all such publications as the University Studies, Graduate Bulletin, seminary papers and all scientific publications issued under University auspices, as well as all administrative publications. All departments here that have issued publications are requested to send to Mr. Wyer as complete a list of these as possible. Mr. Wyer has already begun to compile his list. Some of the subjects are noteworthy. One is the announcement of our University for 1871-72, setting forth the advantages of attending our University and the branches taught by our faculty, which consisted of five members. Another noteworthy feature pertains to an announcement of the address upon the inauguration of Chancellor Benton in 1871.

Y. W. C. A. Vesper Service.

The Vesper Service in U. 106 Thursday evening at 6 o'clock, was attended by almost one hundred girls. Miss Paxson's talk was of the same strong, inspiring kind which she always gives. She spoke of the trials and temptations which present themselves to every (University girl); of the struggle which is constantly going on between her better nature and temper, covetousness, selfishness and rebellion. Selfishness, she said, was the root of all evil. Rebellion the characteristic natural to the human heart, the cause of every person's troubles, as it was the cause of the long sufferings of Israel. She warned the girls against making idols of their intellect and recommended as the way of acquiring a beautiful life the prayer in the 139th Psalm, "Search me, O God, and know my heart, and lead me in the way everlasting." Miss Paxson is a charming speaker and every girl in the institution should make an effort to hear her.

The University girls are testifying to Miss Paxson's charm as a speaker by the members in which they are attending the meetings, especially those at noon. Over a hundred and thirty girls were present at the noon meeting Friday.

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Homeseekers' Excursions.

On March 1 and 15, April 5 and 19. Tickets will be sold at one fare plus \$2.00. Return limit 21 days. The points to which they will be sold are as follows: All points in Indian and Oklahoma Territories, and Texas; also to many points in New Mexico, Arkansas, Arizona and Louisiana.

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