TWO FAMOUS SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

Frank Heywood

It is intended to give in these sketches some account of what has been known from time immemorial as one of the most remarkable game regions in the United States, as well as of two Sportsmen's Clubs, whose personnel and whose achievements with the gun, their methods and efforts along the line of establishing a higher standard of field sports, entitles them to distinction in the annals of gentlemen sportsmen.

It was once asserted by "Gloam," in his book, "The Breechloader," that "with the non-shooting public every man who can shoot on the wing is a sportsman; the man who can follow the track of a quail in the cornfield as an Indian can track a deer in the forest, who exterminates a bevy of birds at a single shot, is a sportsman; he who slaughters hundreds of fowl in and out of season, is also a sportsman and, knowing no difference between these and their betters of the gun, the indiscriminating public classes them all alike." It is believed that this was to a greater extent true when these words were penned than is the case to-day, and that the non-shooting public has been led to radical changes in its view of this subject largely by a more intelligent observation of the real qualities of genuine sportsmen, a better understanding of their methods, their effective efforts in the direction of game and fish protection, their dignified recognition of the rights and feelings of their fellow-men, and in their elevation of the standard of field sports. The field is the touchstone of the man; the qualities of a gentleman are inherent and exhibit themselves as conspicuously in the field, the forest and on the stream as in the drawing-room or the office. It is not difficult to believe that a large majority of men are sportsmen at heart. The love of field sports is not confined to any one class or nation. Go where you may you will find the same "nature's free masonry," the warm-hearted hospitality and good-fellowship, which is more than merely the generic bond of sympathy.

There must, of necessity, exist among men, high-minded and positive in their convictions, an honest difference of opinion regarding certain phases of the law and certain measures of clubs, societies and organizations generally, however meritorious or wisely framed.

Nestled peacefully in one of the most beautiful valleys of the great commonwealth of Michigan, in the midst of fertile, well-tilled acres, and the "elegant bounty" of one of nature's great producing districts, lies the attractive little city of Monroe, the second oldest settlement in the State. It is about three miles distant from Lake Erie, on the River Raisin. The surrounding landscape, while by no means striking,