

**CERTAIN ASPECTS OF
ORGANIZED RECREATIONS
IN THE UNITED STATES
FROM 1876 TO 1889**

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Certain Aspects of Organized Recreations in the United States from 1876 to 1889 by Gladys Miller

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Introduction.

This paper aims to present some phases of American amusements between the years 1876 and 1889. The construction of this study was based upon a preliminary survey of the June and December issues of the leading newspapers of the United States to determine what the important amusements were. Through this survey the important sports were determined, and there followed a detailed examination of all the material available which touched upon the points in question.

The thirteen years embraced in this period saw the evolution of the modern sporting page. From obscure, occasional notices, sporting came to occupy one of the foremost places in the press. During the summer of 1886 the New York Tribune was compelled to devote more than five hundred columns to open-air sports in America, assigning to the collection and presentation of this material many of the best writers and observers in its service. This was true of other newspapers as well and indicates the place athletic amusements were assuming in the United States. Every newspaper which was in accord with the times began to assign an important place to out-door amusements.¹ From the prominence of athletics in the press it does not follow necessarily that sports had achieved a wholly new and unprecedented popularity with the public, but

1. The Tribune Book of Open-Air Sports, edited by Henry Hall (New York, 1887), Introduction.

1