

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

It resulted as I had hoped with the Nationals—three victories out of four—and the future looks very rosy.

By this time, the Atlantas have probably come to the conclusion that they have no business with the Nationals.

In the two games, the Nationals got 28 hits and the Atlantas 12; the Nationals made 11 errors and the Atlantas 19; the Nationals stole 19 bases and the Atlantas 6. In short, the visitors were out-played at every point.

The heaviest batters in the maritime provinces—“as some people have called the Atlantas”—seemed to lose their grip, Friday and Saturday; but there were no flies left on the ball when our boys reached for it.

When the “champions of Maine” use their change battery, the Nationals can easily knock them out, and with their regular battery the Skowhegans have to hustle in order to keep on top. That's good enough.

The fact is that we have now one of the best amateur nines in the country. No provincial club has any chance for victory over it; and now that it has whipped the champions of Maine, the only thing remaining is to try conclusions with the Nationals.

The M. S. C.'s and the Pittsfield clubs—the latter more particularly—would be just pie for us now!

I give Robinson his full share of credit for the work he has done in these four games. He has dropped funny business, played magnificent ball and made himself more solid with the public than he ever was before.

Wagg, of course, has proved his usefulness in every game. So has Whittencott, whose playing I cannot too highly commend. Frank White has done himself credit, as usual. In fact, every man on the team deserves a hand-shake and a pat on the back and if I had space I would gladly give it to him, in type.

The only fixtures the Nationals have ahead, at this writing (Thursday), are the games with the Socials, Aug. 27, 28, and with the Colby university nine, Sept. 4-5. It is quite likely that while the Wanderers cricket team is here, Aug. 16 and 17, a game will be played with their ball nine. These matches, as I said before, are all that seem certain.

Secretary Barker, however, is in correspondence with the Portland Stars and the South Portland, and I shouldn't wonder if both games were arranged. The former nine I believe to be a good one; the latter, I know to be. I hope we may see them both here.

Judging from the Mail's comments on the Nationals' treatment of the Atlantas, ingratitude is a vice that flourishes in Halifax.

The Halifax Mail hits the nail on the head when it says: “The Nationals have made great strides since they secured the services of Wagg as coacher; they bat more freely, run bases like deers, and work together as a team better than ever before. How far they have improved was shown today, when Wagg only played centre field, did no batting, and practically left the rest of the nine to fight the battle for themselves. Wagg, by the way, is a painstaking instructor has a good head and a perfect knowledge of the ‘sharp’ points of base ball. The Nationals made a shrewd move when they secured him as tutor.”

The one thing for the C. & A. club to do now is to raise the rear fence about 10 feet and shut off the view from that bummers' roost which is so appropriately located on the manure pile.

There is nothing the matter with the game the Shamrocks are putting up, either. Luck isn't with them, so fully as they deserve, but when a nine is playing good, stiff ball it is easy to forgive it if victory doesn't always result.

That was a battery contest with the St. Stephens, Wednesday. Four hits off Connolly and three off Riley, with only one error—Sullivan's—for both batteries, tells the story of as clean a game as was ever seen on the barrack square.

By their defeat of the Franklins, Monday, the Clippers appear to have made their lead in the Junior league safe. They, as well as the Histles and Lansdownes, have but one more game to play. At the worst, if the last two clubs should win that game and the Clippers should lose, the three would tie; but if the latter win—and they will do their best, one may be sure—the cup is theirs.

Now that the season is drawing to its close, I renew my congratulations to Mr. Jennings on the success of the enterprise which he has done so much to encourage. The Juniors and their friends ought to banquet him.

Speaking about pitchers, it occurs to me that either Keefe or Ewing could give Clarkson points, this year. All the Giants are putting up great ball and I hope they will come out on top.

It made me happy clear down to my boots when I read, this week, that Anson had signed Mains, the “Windham wonder,” who was brought out by Harry Spence, in the Portlands, last year. After Mains had won a lot of games for that club, he—or the club—had an off day, the nine lost, and the dirt-slingers of the Lowell press, assisted by the parrots, dubbed him an exploded phenomenon. After that happened,

I prophesied, in the Telegraph, that Mains would be in the National league within two years. This amused the New England league people very much at the time, but it strikes me that just at present the laugh is on my side.

Mains has been with the Davenport nine, of the Inter-State league, this season. He had won thirteen straight games when Anson caught on to him. Chicago needs him, or somebody, the worst kind. The aggregation of cross-eyed men that now represents the available pitching strength of that club would cover an amateur nine knee-deep with shame.

This is about the way the Boston Herald feels toward the great “Kell”!

You're our own ten thousand beauty Michael Jay! And why don't you do your duty? Michael Jay! Since we received the news That you were hitting booze, This town has had the blues, Michael Jay!

Now we know how you can fumble, Michael Jay! And will you ever take a tumble? Michael Jay! Pretty soon you'll need a level, To keep that old nut level, For you're going to the devil, Michael Jay!

A logician of an acquaintance says: “Baseball is the National game. The eagle is the National bird. Ergo, the eagle is a baseball!”—New York Sun.

Base ball has improved in every department but batting. Ten years ago the pitching, fielding and base-running of today would be considered marvellous; in fact it would create, if sprung on the public suddenly, a sensation in the sporting world. But as to batting. This department, in nine clubs out of ten, has not improved to any marked extent. Ten years ago players clenched their teeth, grabbed the bats as tightly as their strength would permit, looked fiercely at the pitcher and when they thought a good ball had been pitched, hit at it with all their might. Exactly the same thing is done today. Where does the fault rest? Solely with the captain. He should make a player sacrifice himself and he should make his team practice placing the ball. Anson does it; Comiskey does it; Ewing does it; and why don't the captains of other leagues and association clubs? As a rule players are allowed to bat as they like, but in this age of progression such a state of affairs should not exist. Fielding and pitching have improved to such an extent that only scientific batting and good base-running can overcome the improvement. A good sacrifice, just when one is needed, looks prettier and is appreciated more in the grand stand than a base hit. Baseball players may not realize this, but nevertheless it is so.—New York Sporting Times.

So the Irishmen come August 12! but they give Halifax and St. John the go-by, and honor historic Quebec! That's all right. We can dispense with their presence, though, in truth, our boys would have given them a great reception.

The dates of the visitors are as follows: At Kingston on the 21st and 22nd; Ottawa, 24th and 25th; Orilla, 27th and 28th; Toronto, 30th and 31st and September 1st, and Hamilton, 3rd and 4th.

The Toronto game will be the one of the tour—Canada being pitted against the Irishmen. The gentlemen of Canada will oppose them, and the people of the Queen city of the west have a great game in prospect for the 30th and 31st inst.

I am glad to note that Jones and Henry will be there. After all, if we cannot have the strangers here we can send men to help defeat them. The team is composed in part of W. A. Henry, Halifax; G. W. Jones, St. John; E. R. Ogden, D. W. Saunders, A. C. Allan, W. Rose Wilson, W. W. Jones, W. Fleury, Toronto; A. Gillespie, Hamilton.

There is a cricket club at Seabright, N. J., also a lot of pretty girls. The club wants to go to Canada to play cricket, and the girls want them to go, though not for long, and volunteered to get up some tableaux and theatricals to help defray the expense of the trip. The affair was highly successful. The boys will now go to Canada. They should bring the girls and visit Moncton, where the belles love cricket as well as they do in Seabright.

In the third series of bicycle races, Monday evening, Tom Hall won the mile handicap in 3.22 (lowering the club's record) and the two-mile race in 8.19 1/2. Hall tells me that 3 minutes is what he is trying for, this season. I hope he'll get there.

Doris and Sullivan's circus has gone to smash. John L. made a good ringmaster, but as a financial manager he was no good.

That amusing and long-winded newspaper controversy between McNamara and Scott, begun last fall, is being continued and will so long as those alleged sprinters can find men who are willing to put bluff on paper and carry it to the newspapers. I call them “alleged” sprinters because their talk runs away with them. If either or both of these men want to get on a race it can easily be arranged, but I half believe the old adage “One's afraid and the other daren't” applies here. But let us have a race by all means, only be quick about it.

I am sorry—extremely sorry—to hear that my friend Harrison has tendered the managing committee his resignation as umpire. Base ball interferes with business, he finds, and he can't afford to give so much attention to it under existing circumstances. Of course, while he remains here, the C. & A. club will have him, at any price, to umpire its games, though the acceptance of remuneration will debar him from holding office on the committee. However, I fear he won't stay with us long; for he has been engaged to umpire the championship games of the Skowhegans, and in the near future some league will have him.

I have often expressed my opinion of Mr. Harrison's umpiring, but I take pleasure at this time in repeating it; there are not a half-dozen men on the diamond who are his superiors. That is a strong statement, but I believe I have seen every league and association umpire except two, and I feel fully justified in placing him on an equal footing with all except Doescher, Ferguson, Kelly and Lynch. He makes occasional errors of judgment—but so do they; and not many of them make fewer breaks than he does.

And so good luck to you, dear boy! St. John owes you much for your good work and will watch your career in the future—as a league umpire, I hope—with the most cordial respect and good-will.

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