

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

Of the game last Saturday but little can be said, and still less need be written. I was two innings late, and the first words that greeted me were: "Robinson's at his funny business again."

I think every lover of the ball was disgusted at the way he acted. The home nine soon became discouraged and piled up numerous errors. The only wonder is that the game went as it did.

What do we pay Robinson for anyway?

In the interest of accuracy and honesty, I beg leave to compliment the *Sun* on its base ball scores and reports. They are picturesque, interesting and reliable—almost as good as I could make them!

Does the public often realize, I wonder, how much it has gained in this particular, within two years? There was a time, not so very long ago, when the story of a game was told in a careless paragraph. Now, it demands a well-considered column—often the best written column in the paper.

"My son," said the Judge, blandly, to the youthful witness, "do you know the nature of an oath?" "I think I do sir," replied the little boy, timidly; "my father has been betting on the Detroit this season."—*Chicago Tribune*.

One of the best base ball players in Maine has been nominated for representative by the Skowhegan Republicans. Mr. Goodwin has made a three-base hit.

Old lady (to despondent small boy)—Why are you not playing ball with the other little boys, sonny? Small boy (with tears in his eyes)—De empire find me! I can't find my ball. An' dis mornin' I got my release from de club.—*New York Sun*.

After the Colby game, when so much abuse had been showered upon two men who didn't deserve it, I felt pretty sore. I talked with a number of men who never saw a game of ball before this season, and the comments they gave voice to made me angry—as well as tired. I conceded, of course, that they knew more about the game than I did, who had scored and reported it for professional as well as amateur clubs, for a half-dozen seasons, but they knew so very much more that I could hardly tell where their knowledge ended and mine began. I expressed my own opinions very modestly—as became a man who didn't claim to know it all—and now the result proves that I was right! Strange and wonderful, isn't it? Events have verified my predictions as many as once or twice before, but I never felt quite as much elated as on this occasion.

Under these circumstances I repeat that Wagg and Larrabee make up the best battery that St. John has ever seen. Chew over this assertion as much as you like. It is the fact and I stake my reputation on it.

Scene—King street dry goods store. Time—Monday afternoon; 5.30. Lady customer (examining a piece of dress material)—"How much is this a yard?" Clerk (smiling, yet absent-minded)—"O, 13 in favor of—oh! beg pardon, 60 cents, please."

"They done us last time we was down there," said he, "but they've got to be cucksies if they don't shut out this time. We was beat by the umpire last time, anyway, and didn't have no fair shake. When the gang comes up here we give 'em all the chances in the world and they beat us again. But they won't do it this time. I've got the greatest battery in Chicago, bar none. That rocking chair battery of Anson's ain't nowhere. Then I've got three pitchers in the team, all 'way up, too. We're going to paint the town red and we're going to give the Detroit gang such a razzle-dazzle as they never heard of."—Captain of Chicago Mail Newsboys' Club to a Chicago reporter.

Should there be more hitting? The *New York Sporting Times* thinks so, and suggests a plan which obviates the necessity of moving back the pitcher. It says:

The *Sporting Times* has given the matter considerable attention of late, and can only see one way to remedy the defect, and that is to give the men more ground to cover. The idea, which we think was first brought forward by Harry Wright, is to increase the "fair" territory by making extra lines outside of the line to first and third base, and make these the dividing lines between "fair" and "out" ground, instead of the base line. We do not claim that the mere fact of giving a larger area of "fair" ground for the ball to land on, will make an alarming degree of difference, but we do say, and without fear of contradiction, that by doing so every man in the nine, with the exception of the catcher, will have to cover more ground.

Let the line slope gradually from the home base, so that when it reaches third and first it will be, say, three feet from the bag. This will give the third baseman three more feet to cover. The short stop will have to look after some of the third baseman's uncovered territory. The second baseman will have to move up toward his bag, in order to take care of some of the ground that the short stop formerly guarded, and the first baseman will necessarily be compelled to move three feet nearer his bag. This will give an excellent opportunity for hard-hit batters to get between the infielders. It will also add one feature to the game, and that is, placing the ball. At present the only placing that can be done is by bunting the sphere toward the first base line and beating it to the base. Only those gifted with extraordinary speed can do this, and the man who cannot sprint can never make a success of it. Then, too, with one or two exceptions, no matter how fast a man travels, unless he is a left-handed batter, it is almost folly for him to attempt to bunt a ball.

The only question which occurs to me in connection with this ingenious plan is: Is not the public better satisfied to see a battery game than a batting game? A high-score game brings out the kickers in full force. It is base ball they want to see, not cricket.

O'Connor, the young Canadian oarsman, claims the title of champion sculler of America. Who has he ever beaten to give that distinction? Until he out-rows John Teemer, the McKeesport oarsman, the latter will be recognized as America's champion.—*Sporting Times*.

Umpire Goldsmith in talking of shoulder-bound pitchers, says: "I am convinced that nothing will do a lame shoulder any good. The sensation is a peculiar one. I can go out and pitch for a short time as well as I ever did. Then my arm commences to lose its power, and after pitching a half an hour it falls perfectly powerless at my side. I would not be able to pitch a full game."

Unpleasant weather interfered somewhat with the successful opening of the New Brunswick circuit at Moosepath, this week. There was an excellent field, and the arrangements for the convenience of the public could hardly have been bettered, but the lowering sky and the heavy track were adverse factors that counted for a good deal.

A good deal of money will go to Halifax in the next few days. After it has served

its purpose, it will come back to St. John, with interest. Considering that Ye World's Fayre has just ended, and then now the games of the Nationals are to come on, it looks as though a good many of the Halifax sports will have to do without new overcoats this winter.

Entries for the C. and A. club sports today are as follows:

Throwing cricket ball—W A Henry, W A C, Halifax; Frank White, St John C and A C; James Kennedy, St John C and A C; R A Watson, Y M C A A C.

100 yards dash—W A Henry, Wanderers A A C, Halifax; Frank White, St John C and A C; Ralph March, Cecil March, Hampton A A C; E Watson, St John C and A C; O Watson, University A A C.

One mile run—H D Creighton, Chebucto A A C, Halifax; J E G Boulton, Wanderers A A C, Halifax; A A C, St John C and A C; W A Henry, Wanderers A A C, Halifax; C and A C; M B Henderson, St John C and A C.

One mile bicycle race—R T Patten, Skowhegan, Me; T P Hall, W C Fairweather, Charles Coster, F W Hall, St John C and A C.

Throwing heavy hammer—R Jardine, St John C and A C; J McCaffrey, Carleton A A C; R A Watson, St John C and A C.

Standing broad jump—R A Watson, Y M C A A C, Halifax; O Watson, University A A C; J F Maher, St John C and A C.

220 yards dash—W A Henry, Wanderers, Halifax; Frank White, St John C and A C; Ralph March, Cecil March, Hampton A A C; E Watson, St John C and A C; C Collins, Carleton A A C.

Half-mile run—H C Creighton, Chebucto A A C; W A Kerr, H H Ring, W A C, Halifax; M B Henderson, St John C and A C; Cecil March, Ralph March, Hampton A A C; J E G Boulton, Wanderers A A C; J G Robinson, Y M C A A A C; F Maher, St John C and A C.

Two mile bicycle race—R T Patten, Skowhegan, Me; T P Hall, W C Fairweather, Charles Coster, F W Hall, St John C and A C.

Hurdle race—W A Henry, Wanderers A A C, Halifax; W A Kerr, H H Ring, St John C and A C; W A Watson, University A A C; James Kennedy, St John C and A C.

Pole vaulting—D Harrison, R B A A C, Halifax; H Gilbert, Rothery A A C; J Y Ellis, Carleton A A C; J A Harrison, St John C and A C.

Four hundred and forty yards dash—W A Kerr, St John C and A C; Ralph March, Cecil March, open up, St John C and A C; Cecil March, C C A A C; Carleton A A C; J G Robinson, Y M C A A A C; M B Henderson, St John C and A C.

A finer crowd of athletes has never appeared on St. John grounds, and I have no doubt the people will show their keen appreciation of the programme and turn out en masse.

Of course, the events of the day will be the running races, and the fleetest boys of the provinces are in for them. Henry, Halifax's champion; Watson, the fleet University boy, and our own Frank White and Warlock. Won't they make a grand race! Who wouldn't be there to see it?

I expect lots of fun with the cyclists. Patten, the fleet Skowhegan wheelsman, will be on deck and the St. John record breaker, Tom Hall, is also on the list. The pace will be fast you can bet your last cent.

I am afraid boys, that the mile race will be very warm for St. John. From what I have heard of the Halifaxians they are trained for it and are in great trim. Look out for them. I fancy they are running for Halifax and not for their own glory and "Ease me and I'll ease you" will be their motto.

In the pole-vaulting and running high jump—but especially the former—I believe Harrison will make a splendid attempt for the lead. I have seen him break the university record, some 8 feet 3 inches, and that was but his beginning.

"I saw that horse at the fair last fall and made up my mind to breed to him," will be the remark of many farmers next spring when the breeding season opens up. Moral: Stallion owners, show your horses at the fairs.—*Chicago Horseman*.

The Lewiston (Me.) *Journal* recently asked its readers to send in postal-card votes on the question, "Which is the best trotter in Maine?" The voting has not closed, but the result of the vote for the first week stood as follows: Glenarm, 321 votes; Nelson, 62; Jack Spratt, 25; Lumps, 4; Aubine, 1.

A man with \$5 who named the winners of the five races on the closing day at Saratoga could have won \$75,000. Five dollars on Spinette at 20 to 1 would have produced \$105. This on Joseph at 30 to 1 would have yielded \$3,150, which could have been doubled on Cruiser, making \$6,300. This on Perkins in the fourth race at 2 to 1 would make a capital of \$12,600. That amount on Killarney in the jumping race at 5 to 1 would have yielded the neat fortune of \$75,000. A man doesn't often play five winners in one day.

A lumber merchant of this city states: "Just returned from the East. At Calais and vicinity there is a great deal of interest in the horse question. F. Todd showed two of his stallions, Edgardo and Elton, on St. Stephen trotting track while I was there. I didn't see Edgardo move, but Edgardo is free of the soreness he showed in his work last season, and he moves free and just like a trotter. I believe he can trot very fast, as he is a shapely youngster, and acts like a game one. I have no doubt Mr. Todd has in him an excellent young horse."—*Chicago Horseman*.

The expansion of racing in America has been too swift and hasty to be sound and lasting. Race courses have been springing up in every quarter almost in a night, like Jonah's gourd. The number of races has been multiplied many times. The men of stakes and purses have been enormously increased, and now upon almost every available day, from the time when the snow melts until the middle of the month of December set in, there is racing in some part of the country, and upon a great majority of the days racing upon two or more tracks at the same time. For many years the breeding and running of thoroughbreds in this country were practised on a modest and reasonable scale. Now they have suddenly swollen into proportions that are a craze for this form of sport has seized upon great numbers of people who desert their regular occupations during several afternoons in a week to take part in the excitement and the gambling which attend the races of the relative merits of the horses. The business of betting—for it has become a business, pursued with an energy and activity equal to those devoted to more legitimate and salutary forms of money-getting—has advanced and widened to an extent that would not have been thought possible a quarter of a century ago. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are staked in all the chief cities of the country on such races as the Suburban Handicap and the Futurity Stakes. Gambling on the turf has become the most attractive, the most fascinating and the most dangerous form of wild speculation in which masses of people indulge. Betting on horses is practised far more generally and by a far greater number of people than speculation in stocks. Stock speculations require considerable sums for margins and for the protection of operators. Gambling on races requires so little capital that even men of the most meagre resources may practice it. The whole thing has been carried to a most deplorable excess. Talk is heard on every hand of the big profits made by the jockeys clubs, and new schemes and enterprises in addition to those already mentioned or indicated are in the air.

A reaction must come from this feverish, unnatural and injurious state of things. Big and broad and rich as this country is, it cannot during this century support the turf on any such scale as the jockeys clubs seem to expect. Every one who has the true interests of breeding and of racing at heart must deeply regret the undue attention every hand has to do to the

number of race tracks and to carry speculation of this sort to fantastic extremes. It is a mistaken policy, which must inevitably end in disaster.—*New York Tribune*.

It is said that Esterbrook owes his release to a row he had at Detroit with his manager. It is also stated that Spence offered to adjourn to a room in the hotel and have it out then and there. This is about Harry's way of doing business with an obstinate person.

He was battered and smashed, and alas! for his vision. 'Twas painfully blurred; He had umpired a ball game, and to his decision The crowd thus demurred. —*Boston Budget*.

Father and son, well known London cricketers, were playing a match at a popular ground, well within the metropolitan radius, one day last week. The younger batsman, anxious to make the first notch, called his father for a run, but the latter refused. "You forget my boy," said the senior, in tones of admonition, "that I am 25 years older." "Oh, no, I don't, Guv'nor," was the reply, "but if you had got six duck's eggs in succession you would have wanted to run yourself!"—*Cricketer*.

The hotel keepers of London and St. Thomas were pitted against each other at St. Thomas, the other day. There was a keg of beer on each base, and a barrel at the home plate, and every time a runner got to a base he was supposed to refresh.

To win the New England league pennant was a great thing to do last year. This season Lowell had some hard work at the beginning, and the finish was not without its element of interest, in the big jump taken by Worcester; but, after all, Lowell's victory has been a foregone conclusion from the first.

Base ball in the cities that owned the New England league clubs has been pretty well done for by exorbitant salaries. A salary-list of \$3,000 a month will be supported only when the club is at the head of its class; and as there can be but one champion, the other clubs are bound to suffer.

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Saint John, N. B., 12th and 13th September, 1888.
Saint Stephen, N. B., 19th and 20th September, 1888.
Houlton, Maine, 25th September, 1888.
Woodstock, N. B., 29th September, 1888.
Fredericton, N. B., 3rd and 4th October, 1888.

MOOSEPATH PARK,	ST. STEPHEN PARK,	HOULTON PARK,
Wednesday, 12th Sept., 1888	Wednesday, 19th Sept., 1888	Tuesday, 25th Sept., 1888
3-minute class—Purse \$150	3-minute class. Purse \$175	3-minute class. Purse \$100
2-40 " " " 200	2-40 " " " 200	2-40 " " " 125
Thursday, 13th Sept., 1888	Thursday, 20th Sept., 1888	Free for all class. " 175
2.50 class. Purse \$150	2.50 class. Purse \$175	Entries close 20th Sept., '88
Free for all class. " 300	Free for all class. " 300	M. D. PUTNAM, Sec'y, Houlton, Maine.
Reserved for special races. 200	Reserved for special races. 150	
Entries close 5th Sept., 1888	Entries close 12th Sept., '88	
A. M. MAGEE, Sec'y, St. John, N. B.	J. E. OSBURN, Sec'y, St. Stephen, N. B.	

WOODSTOCK PARK,	FREDERICTON PARK ASSOCIATION,
Saturday, 29th Sept., 1888.	Wednesday, 3d Oct., 1888.
4-year old class. Purse \$100.	3-minute class. Purse \$125.
2.50 " " " 125.	2.40 " " " 175.
Free for all " " 175.	Thursday, 4th Oct., 1888.
Entries close 22d Sept., 1888.	2.50 class. Purse \$150.
FOSTER BROWN, Sec'y, Woodstock, N. B.	Free for all class. " 300.
	Reserved for special races 250.
	Entries close 25th Sept., 1888.
	W. P. FLEWELLING, Sec'y, Fredericton, N. B.

General Conditions.
All Races will be to harness, mile heats, best three in five, and be governed strictly by the rules of the National Trotting Association.
Entrance money will be Ten per cent. of the purse, payable 5 per cent. with nomination and 5 per cent. the evening before the race. Entries to be made with the secretaries of the respective tracks for the races thereon. Five to enter and three to start.
A horse starting the field will receive first money only. Horses starting in the circuit will be eligible to enter the same classes throughout the remainder of the circuit.
Purses will be divided with 60 per cent. to first, 30 per cent. to second, and 10 per cent. to third.
Negotiations are pending with a view to having United States horses admitted in bond to attend these races in New Brunswick, and vice versa.
Arrangements will be made for special freight and passenger rates on the different lines of travel.
For further information address either of the undersigned, or the secretaries of the different tracks.
W. P. FLEWELLING, Secretary,
W. F. TODD, Chairman,
St. Stephen, N. B.
Fredericton, N. B., 28th June, 1888

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ASSETS.....\$84,378,904 85
LIABILITIES, 4 per cent. 66,274,650 00
SURPLUS.....\$18,104,254 85
New Assurance.....\$138,023,105 00
Outstanding Assurance.....483,029,562 00
Paid Policy Holders in 1887 10,062,509 00
Paid Policy Holders since organization.....106,610,293
Total Income.....23,240,849 25
Premium Income.....19,115,775 47
Increase in Assets.....8,868,432 09
Assets to Liabilities, 127 1-2 per cent.
On the less rigorous standard adopted by the Canadian companies (which assumes that four and one-half per cent. will be realized on investments) the surplus of the Equitable is as follows:—
ASSETS.....\$84,378,904 85
ESTIMATED LIABILITIES (4 1-2 per cent.).....61,582,000 00
ESTIMATED SURPLUS (4 1-2 p.c.) \$22,796,904 85
Percentage of Assets to Liabilities, 137

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