

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

Prof. F. C. Smithurst, now of Harvard University, but lately of Halifax, whom the *Globe* calls "a gentleman very familiar with Canadian yachting affairs," tells that paper:—

Although we often hear that the Canadians will build a yacht to contest for the cup, I do not think it will ever amount to anything. To begin with, the interest in yachting is different from that which it is in America. The sport is not so universal, nor has it attracted the attention of the young men as much as it has here. Besides, there are fewer men who can be called yachtsmen in Canada. The attempt has been made several times in Canada to raise sufficient funds to build a boat for an international race, and it has failed each time. When this is the case, it indicates a lack of sentiment, at least of interest.

Again, there are no builders in Canada who have had any experience in the construction of yachts. In case a boat was contemplated, it would have to be built by some shipbuilding concern who would be likely to furnish design and all. Probably Mr. Lynch has suggested the subject more than any boat-builder in Canada, and I think it will be quite impossible for him to design anything to compete with Mr. Burgess.

Since the new conditions were adopted by the New York Yacht Club all the Canadian clubs have been practically debarred from making a challenge, with the exception of the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Club. If a boat were built it would be very hard to find a fit crew for racing as experience has well shown. While perhaps we cannot expect a challenge from Canada for some time yet to come, it is still to be hoped that some day we may see a Canadian yachtsman enthusiastic to build a boat to compete with America, and so create a national and international interest.

Ed? what did you say, Mr. Lynch?

The Nationals began practice last Monday, and almost every day since then the boys have had an hour or two of ball-tossing. They say they are getting limber, and will be able to play well together and make a good show in the first game.

I am sorry to hear of the accident that befell our crack pitcher, Robinson, Thursday night. It is no joke to have two inches of a pin imbedded in one's flesh, as Manny found out when the doctor got at him. He will be all right, I hope, for the opening game.

The grand stand will be completed on Monday or Tuesday of next week, and I expect to see 400 citizens comfortably watching the National-Oromo game, May 24th.

Mr. Comber's engagement begins Monday, and he will have plenty to do the first week in getting the ground ready for the boys to begin work. It is not probable that the wickets will be up before next Saturday.

One of the most interesting local matches of the future will be that between the members who joined the club before 1886 and those whose membership dates from last year. There are many good players to select from.

Fred. Jones, who joined the club this year, learned good cricket in the Merchiston school, where he became one of its best bats. Some of his scores have reached three figures. If he can repeat the performance on our grounds, Mr. Jones will be in demand for every match.

The Wanderers of Halifax have followed the good example of their brother cricketers, the Garrisonians, and have arranged matches with the St. John eleven for Aug. 20 and 21.

The Zingaris, among whom are some of Canada's best cricketers, including Geo. W. Jones, of this city, and W. A. Henry, of Halifax, will arrive in St. John in July. About half of them went to the old country last year with the Gentlemen of Canada. Of course the maritime members will play against the Zingaris in St. John and Halifax.

The managing committee of the C. & A. club can be congratulated upon the conditions it has imposed upon the winner of the McLellan cup. The winner must have the best batting average and take part in two-thirds of the outside games.

The best article I have read on the art of bowling is an interview with Mr. C. T. B. Turner, who accompanied the Australian cricketers to England. He is so good a bowler that his sobriquet is "The Terror." He says bowling is a pure gift—a knack which to possess a man must be specially constituted: be strong, robust, healthy, have all his nerves about him, and a perfectly true eye. Lots of men have all these qualifications, but still they are not bowlers, and would not be no matter how much they tried.

Mr. Turner adds:—

In bowling I have always made it a point to commence with a new man with a view of finding out his weak points, and then go for him with a break. With the wickets we have now on our best grounds it is all nonsense to suppose you can get a man out by straight or fast bowling. If you send them dead for the wicket you are knocked about all over the place, and that is a sort of thing you cannot afford. Now again, there is the old theory that everybody talks so much about just now. For myself, I don't believe in it, for a good batsman may let every ball pass. The object, of course, is to induce him to try to hit them, and for a certainty the ball rises and gives some one an easy chance. When I go out to bowl, as I told you just now, I first of all find out the weak points of the batsman, and then I go for the batsman for the ground. No, I do not change the style much, for if one ball fails to get him, I argue the next may, and as a rule, it does. In breaking a ball your eye must be true; you must pitch it exactly in the right spot, and keep it up time after time, and to do this you must have energy and endurance. Strength is not an absolute necessity, though you are better off if you have got it, of course. As I was going to tell you that, others have asked me if I am as tired of a match as the wicket before I start bowling in order to find out soft places. No, I let the ball do it all. It doesn't take very long to convince me that it could not be done, or so you can find out all you want to. There is another thing, too, that, strange to say, a great many people believe—that is, that we put the twist on the ball with our hands. I once thought there was something in that, and for a long time I tried in every way that was possible, and the result of all this work was only to convince me that it could not be done. The break must be got after the ball touches the ground. I never practice, and only bat about once a week, except in matches. Six balls to the over? I like it. Men who tell you that it wears the bowler don't know what they are talking about. I suppose I ought to know, for I do as much as anyone at it, and I am no more tired of a match with six balls to the over than with four. It has a wonderful tendency to shorten the game, and as one who believes that cricket is the best sport, I am naturally anxious to see it go ahead again, and this shortening I find increases the interest tenfold. There is one other little matter I should like to mention before we part, and that is the rule about log before-wicket. You know it is particularly interesting to a bowler like myself, who plays more for the wicket than the field. Now, as to the alteration of this rule so as to give the bowler some reward for his skill, there is much to be said on both sides. It would be wise to alter it for the reason I have named, but it would not be wise on the other hand, because

too much discretionary powers would be placed in the hands of the umpires. Mind, I do not say that their decisions are not fair, but you know how often it happens that a man is given out for something that only the umpire can see. In this you have the great knot in cricket, and if you can unravel it you are a smart man. So long as men can go in front of the wicket to a break ball, there are some of them who will do it, though to my mind it is very mean cricket; but of course, I look at it from a purely bowler's standpoint, and I may be selfish, consequently; but, at all events, I have the interests of the game at heart.

I am sorry that we are about to lose that good cricketer, J. L. Thomas. A good bowler and at times a splendid batsman, his departure will be felt by the first eleven.

The sparring exhibition which was to have taken place in the roller rink, Thursday night, was forbidden by the chief of police, and will probably be given in the Victoria rink, Monday evening. Why chief Marshall sat on it is not clear, and it is doubtful if he himself could give a reason. No one pretends to believe that there would have been any disorder.

"Are you the horse editor?" inquired an innocent looking young woman, approaching the desk of the *Progress*. "I have that pleasure, Miss," he replied, taking off his hat. "Can you answer all sorts of questions about horses?" "Well, I rather think I can," he said, with a playful smile in his eyes. "Oh, I'm so glad," she twittered. "Will you tell me the difference between a bay horse and a sea horse?" As she went out of the office she smiled back at him, but he sat gloomily at his desk and said nothing.—*Washington Letter.*

Kilrain writes from England to Johnny Murphy, of Boston, that he will be ready to fight Ashton or Sullivan when he comes home.

Chicago stood one game ahead of Boston at the close of play, Thursday night, while Philadelphia had climbed above Pittsburgh and Indianapolis had moved a little further from the bottom of the column. The averages were: Chicago, 800; Boston, 750; New York, 687; Detroit, 500; Philadelphia, 500; Pittsburgh, 375; Indianapolis, 235; Washington, 143. It might be worse.

Boston has signed Radburn—for \$5,000, and the amount of his fines last season, it is said—and everybody is happy. Clarkson says that Souders is going to make one of the best pitchers in the league. If that is true, then, with the batteries it will have, Boston ought not to be afraid of anything.

Hear Henry Chadwick:

What a fable it is to charge the pitcher with an error in the error column on a base on balls, and yet make a base made that way a factor in scoring earned runs. Just think of an earned run being scored on four balls given on four successive bases on called balls, with not a base hit made or a base stolen.

A New York paper says:—

Nine young ladies of Utica have organized a base ball club. They will attempt to win their honors at the bar in a blue and white costume. The waist is a house-fitting blouse-like garment of dark blue serviceable cloth, trimmed with white braid. A semi-skirt of the same pattern will be worn. The players will be shod with strong field shoes, which, with black hose and a soft felt cap, will complete the uniform.

I understand that sliding to bases is strictly forbidden by the playing rules of the club.

Jim Macé contemplates an early visit to the states. His principal object is the acquisition of coin, and negotiations are now being made by Ed. Holske for a glove contest between England's scientific ex-champion and the redoubtable Jack Dempsey. Such a meeting should attract a full house of sports, and in view of the recent boxing bout between Joe Coburn and the champion middle weight, should prove especially interesting to those who knew Joe and Jim when at their best, and who would like to see how they compare now.

The American Jockey club has adopted additional rules, providing that all jockeys on and after September 1 next shall be licensed by the executive committee before they can ride at Jerome, and that all trainers must also be licensed by the same committee on and after the same date before they shall be allowed to stable or train on the grounds of the club, or enter horses for its races. Let every honest turfman take off his hat!

Norman L. Munro, the New York publisher, is trying for the distinction of owning the fastest steam yacht in the world. His new one, *Say When*, which has just been launched, is 138 feet over all, 115 feet on the water line, 14 feet beam, and 4 feet 6 inches draught. She is equipped with a quadruple expansion engine, which will be furnished with a tube boiler, developing a pressure equal to 800 horse power, and she is expected to attain a speed of from 28 to 30 miles an hour.

Ned Hanlan, the luckiest man that ever sat in a boat, was forsaken of fortune last Saturday when Peter Kemp, defeated him by five lengths in a 3 miles, 330 yards straightaway race. Thus the championship goes to Australia for the time.

I have no fear that it will remain at the antipodes. Kemp is a good man—but Beach says he is the fastest in the world—but this continent has good men, too. The best of them, John Teemer, is already after the Australian. He offers to row Kemp in Australia for \$2,500 a side, under the same conditions as governed the Beach-Hanlan race, and over the same course, on the Nepean river, near Sydney. The only stipulation outside of this is that Kemp shall allow \$500 for expenses; or, if Kemp will come to this country and row for \$5,000 a side, Teemer will allow him \$1,000 for expenses. There is nothing the matter with that.

Mayor Roche, of Chicago, notified the managers of the recent Lewis-Wannop wrestling match that the stakes must be taken down before the contest came off, and that no betting would be allowed. Not only that, but the two men must not maltreat each other in any way. Lewis must not use his "strangling" tactics, and if the wrestling was conducted too roughly the participants would be arrested. It is suggested that the mayor is thus paving the way to an order that slugging matches and entertainments of that sort shall be opened with prayer.

The offer of the Rochester Driving park to add \$3,000 to a sweepstakes of \$1,000

each between Prince Wilkes, Harry Wilkes and Belle Hamlin, the race to be trotted July 4, will probably end in smoke. Mr. Singler will not enter Prince Wilkes unless assured of the action of Mr. Hamlin, and Mr. Hamlin has written Mr. Hamilton Busbey that: "I would not trot a best three in five race with Harry Wilkes on Fleetwood track if I knew I could win it and they would make me a present of Harry Wilkes at the finish. I saw nine or ten stallions, worth in the aggregate perhaps \$100,000, trot a three in five race of six or seven heats on the Rochester track one Fourth of July for \$10,000. That race just about used the whole of them up. The winner has never been worth anything since, either as a trotter or in the stud, and the others that remain are comparatively worthless." Mr. Hamlin's head is level.

Chicago has dropped her historic white stockings. She now plays in black stockings, black caps and suits of pigeon blue. Mike Kelly trusts that she will be black and blue all over when the season ends.

Gen. Paine is going out of racing, and the *Volunteer* is in the market. I hope the big boat will be bought by somebody who knows how to sail her.

The four leading yacht clubs of the country have decided on their annual events, and the dates have been selected. The Atlantic Yacht club leads off with its annual regatta June 12, over the New York course. Next comes the big regatta of the New York Yacht club June 21. The Seawanhaka Yacht club's regatta takes place June 23, and the Eastern Yacht club June 28. In the first week of October there will be an open regatta, under the auspices of the New York Yacht club, for \$3,000 in prizes. In addition to the above, there will be the races for the Goelet cups, off Newport, in early August. There will be no trial races, as the America's cup will not be sailed for.

Senator Palmer, of Michigan, sent an agent to Asia, a year ago, to buy some Arabian horses for his stock farm. The agent has just returned, bringing one stallion and the sequels to lots of fairy tales. When we were boys we used to think that every Arab possessed a blooded horse, but Senator Palmer's man says that the Arabian steed of literature exists in infinitely small proportions, and these are harder to buy than the favorite wives of the rich sheiks who own them. Thus perishes another illusion.

JACK AND JILL.

The Squeezing Point.

It occurred at the ball given at the Mexican legation on Monday evening last. It was so clever that half the town has been laughing at it ever since. The night was oppressively warm and the weather was the principal topic of conversation among the guests. General Greeley, grave, sedate and dignified as if on dress parade, stood talking with one of the brightest women in Washington society. The latter, suddenly shifting her position, struck the chief of the Signal bureau with her fan playfully upon the arm and exclaimed with a pretty blush:—

"Speaking about the weather, General, answer me this: If 32 above zero is the freezing point, what, pray, is the squeezing point?"

General Greeley, who is one of the most modest men living, replied with some embarrassment that he did not know, and then he added, "Do you?"

"Why, certainly," the pretty woman replied. "It's two in the shade, of course."

—*Washington Letter.*

Robert Louis Stevenson's last novel, which he has been completing up at Saranac, in the Adirondacks, has been sold to a newspaper syndicate for \$10,000. It is called *The Outlines of Tinseltown Forest*.

PROGRESS PRIZE PROBLEM.

A Competition That Gives Base Ball Cranks a Chance to Win Twenty-five Dollars.

Which club of the National Base Ball league will win the championship pennant, this season? In what order will the clubs finish?

Don't you wish you knew? If you did, it would be just \$25 in your pocket.

So many persons have a habit of asking for "points," during the base ball season, that the sporting editor of *Progress* has decided to turn the tables for once and refer these questions back to the readers of the paper. To stimulate interest in answering them, *Progress* offers a prize of \$25, to be divided between the successful guessers, under the following conditions:—

First—All slips must be filled out on blanks published in *Progress*, one of which will be found below.

Second—The name and address of every person entering the contest must be written in full on each slip, and no person will be allowed to enter more than one slip.

Third—Slips may be forwarded to this office immediately, and none will be received for the league series after July 10.

It will be necessary to cut out the slips from *Progress*. Tags, when filled and forwarded to the Base Ball Editor of *Progress*, will be placed on file.

At the close of the season the distribution will be made, and the lucky contestants will receive due notice of their success. If there be more than one successful guesser, each will receive an equal share of the \$25.

The League Problem.

1.
2.
3.
4.
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8.
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Outstanding Assurance.....483,029,562 00
Paid Policy Holders in 1887 10,062,509 81
Paid Policy Holders since organization.....106,610,293 34
Total Income.....23,240,849 29
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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