

THOSE PORTABLE SAFES.



YOUNG HUSBAND—"I've bought that portable burglar-proof safe for your birthday present, my dear." WIFE—"Oh, what forethought you have, George! I'll put all our valuables into it at once."

BURGLAR (five hours later)—"These small safes is great inventions. They saves us coves a deal of trouble. Kin take 'em home an' open 'em without fear of bein' disturbed by the coppers."

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

Thanks to Jimmy Kennedy's thoughtfulness, I had a very interesting talk with George Whitenect, Monday night. George seemed to be feeling badly over PROGRESS' allusions to him as a ball player.

I have heard such talk before. I never yet lost my sleep over it and have always managed to come up smiling to my meals. My conscience is clear and my life is insured. I try to be fair in my comments on sport, and when I know that I am right there are not slingers enough this side of Texas to make me take anything back.

If one may judge by the interest and enthusiasm displayed by those who were present, Monday night, there is a long life of success and usefulness ahead of the National club. It starts with a carefully-planned constitution and some good officers and the membership is already large enough to insure it against any such calamity as an empty treasury.

My friend Wilkins has great plans in prospect for the improvement of his handsome and home-like National, and the club will have the inestimable advantage of fine rooms and a model host.

It is a pleasure to hear our ball players talk of the coming season. They seem to be setting out with the intention of playing the game of their lives, and I think they will. If the weather favors us as it did last season, we shall see some great ball on the A. A. club grounds—and lots of it.

The season will have a first-class start when it opens with the South Portlands on the 24th of May. Their home part hasn't recorded any activity on their part as yet, but it may safely be taken for granted that they are already dreaming of the diamond. Manager Trefethen was married, during the winter, and it will give me great satisfaction to greet him as a Benedict—for he's the most too good a fellow to live alone. I shall be glad to see Griffin, too, who is a ball player from the ground up, and was one so long ago as we were both running around barefooted. It has been a long time since I had the pleasure of meeting the boys, but most of them are old chums of mine, and when they arrive I shall turn out and receive them with a brass band.

While the A. A. club is thinking about catchers, Griffin would be a good man to correspond with. He has held the best pitchers in Maine, is a reliable player and a gentleman, and, though I don't know what his plans are, I fancy that he could be brought here.

There will be three games with the South Portlands—two on Friday, May 24, and one on Saturday.

The Presumptuous and a good club it is, too—will likely play the A. A. nine, July 1 and 2.

That model officer, Secretary Barker, is already thinking and planning as hard as ever he can for the season's sport, and it goes without saying that he is brimming over with good ideas. There's no man in St. John who could fill his place. Next year, we must elect him for life.

It isn't necessary to call attention to those splendid letters of Jimmy Power's—they stick right out—but I just want to insinuate that Progress will be represented in Moncton and Fredericton this year, too. There's only one Power in the maritime provinces, but we shall match him as well as we're able.

I am sorry to hear that Sam Milligan will not be able to play regularly with the A. A. nine, this season. We shall all miss him.

The chances for a junior league this season appear to be good. In fact all the boys seem ready and anxious to go into one. With last year's experience they should be able to organize a good league and play a successful series of games. The juniors were rather green last season and many things cropped up during the series that caused considerable confusion; but the great trouble was that all the really good players seemed to drift into a few clubs. I do not wonder at this, because it was no easy task to get together enough men to make five good playing teams. New men had to be tried and some of them did not prove successful as ball players; others who were good players some years ago proved disappointing, and altogether the boys had considerable trouble keeping some of the clubs from falling to pieces.

This year everybody knows who the good players are, and in organizing clubs captains or managers will know what kind of a team they have got.

Most of the junior clubs made one great mistake last season, and that was in not appointing a manager. The successful clubs were those that had one or two men (not players) at the head of affairs; in the clubs that had no recognized managers everybody wanted to be boss.

Some of the clubs made another mistake in appointing captains who were popular, perhaps, but had little judgment, or played a position in the field that left them little or no time to look after the entire

nine. There is no reason why this mistake should be repeated.

From present appearances, the different playing nines will be changed considerably this year. The champions tell me they are going to have their old pitcher, Connolly, back again, if possible; but it is now rumored that he will play with the Franklins. Connolly himself told me, a short time ago, that he would not be able to give as much time to base ball this year as he did last season, and he had not made up his mind then where he would play. Should he go with the Franklins, however, that team would prove quite formidable, with such pitchers as Connolly and Kearns, for the latter is now with the Franklins.

Sam Tufts is trying to get the Lansdownes together again, but that club cannot decide on a pitcher. Stewart, who occupied the box for them last season, and did some great all-round playing, too, is now in Moncton, and, under Wagg, should make a tolerably good ball player. The reports in the daily papers to the contrary, I think Hatfield, who held Stewart last year, will do the Lansdowne uniform again. He did some excellent work, and there is no reason why he shouldn't play good ball with the team this season.

I hear that Williamson of the Franklins wants to join the Lansdownes. He made a good showing last year, and could be induced to make less noise on the field, the Lansdownes would do well to secure him.

There is some talk of amalgamating the Lansdownes and Thistles, but nothing very definite is known yet.

The Emeralds may bob up serenely this season, as I hear they have found some new players who promise well. St. Joseph's society also hopes to organize a club for the league, and then again the Y. M. C. A. boys talk of entering the ring. Out of the whole lot it should be possible to get five or six strong clubs.

I am told that the La Tours of Portland want to enter the St. John junior league this season. If all I hear is true, the La Tours can be commended on one point at least, they are a regularly organized and reliable club, properly officered and with some backing. I believe they have a good battery at present and talk of trying to induce Charlie Higgins to go into the box again. Make application, boys, and the league will give you fair consideration.

But is it not time the league was up and doing? Call a meeting, Mr. Maloy, and get the boys together. It will take some time to get everything arranged, you know.

The Moncton C. and A. club is about to fence in its grounds for the season's fun. I am informed that the contract calls for squared timber not less than nine inches in thickness or 25 feet in height. Make a good job of it, boys.

There are no fewer than three ball organizations in the city of smoke. The Mutuals are confident of the Maritime championship with Wagg in the box, the Electrics have been growing a star battery all winter—Burns and McDermott—and the Clippers have hired a hall and are prepared for business.

When I run across the player who can handle the quill as well as the bat the Moncton ball cranks will mob PROGRESS newshoys, Saturday mornings.

Mr. W. H. Fowler, secretary of the Missette Base Ball and Athletic club, of Amherst, writes to ask for a copy of the rules that governed our Junior league, last season. He adds that there will be a junior league between Sussex, Moncton, Sackville, Amherst, Spring Hill and Truro—which ought to do well. I may say to my correspondent that Mr. Ed. Maloy, of the Western Union Telegraph office here, is the secretary of our Junior league, and I am sure that he will be glad to give all the help he can. It's a way he has.

Ball Talk in Halifax.

HALIFAX, March 27.—The clubs are commencing to talk base ball, but almost everything concerning them is indefinite. It does not seem probable that the Atlantus will organize for the season, though they may play one game for benefit purposes, but present indications are that White, the Atlantus' old catcher, will backstop for Davison this season. Fitzpatrick, one of the Atlantus' out fielders, will probably guard the left garden for the Socials. Report says that Doyle of this city, who formerly played with the Socials, but last year was a member of the Gardiner, Maine, nine, will return here shortly and will cover second base. Graham, Smith, O'Brien and another will be the other members of the Social club, or the nine, which will give them three good catchers in White, Doyle and Graham.

The Socials are seriously considering the advisability of securing a coach this season. St. John, Moncton and Fredericton are all securing imported players, and the Socials feel they should follow their example. They had a letter from Wagg early this season, and Parsons, of Colby, but the former has gone to Moncton. I hear that he asked \$17.50 per week and Parsons wants \$20. The club are now corresponding with O'Reilly, of the St. Stephens, of Boston. If the Socials intend to engage a coach they should open correspondence with a number of pitchers and obtain the most suitable within the amount they feel disposed to offer. The Socials will endeavor to arrange matches with foreign clubs this

season, and they hope to have a team here May 24th and June 21st.

"Will there be a game between the Nationals and Socials, this year?" is a question often asked, and generally answered as though the prospects are very slim. The Socials, however, will be willing to play, and I do not doubt that if an umpire can be agreed upon, the Nationals would cross bats with them. I heard a prominent Social say, the other day: "There is no reason why the two clubs should not meet again. It was not the Socials who brought them here, last year, at the time of the trouble, and we ought to have more games between these two clubs, played with the same friendly feeling as before the match last fall."

Notwithstanding the many English ideas in this city, cricket is not nearly so popular as formerly. The Wanderers, however, are determined not to let the old English game drop, and are negotiating for a coach. They have written to J. W. Alcock, editor of Cricket, and he has informed them that he has placed their letter before several professionals who would like to visit America. They have also heard from Caesar, an Englishman who played with Lawrence, Mass., club last year, and who is highly recommended by Comber, the St. John club's old professional. The usual cricket match between St. John and Halifax may be looked forward to.

I have to give the Fredericton Capital credit for a very lively item which informs the general public that "Mr. Sewell, of the Stock farm up the Spring-hill road, has a horse which has lately trotted twenty miles an hour, or at the rate of two miles in three minutes." Maud S., you will please land down that flag.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 28.—The recent sale of California trotters at New York realized such a large amount that it has been a great subject of conversation among horsemen, and was of special interest to provincialists, in consequence of each of the three provinces having representatives present. New Brunswick, however, was the only one which secured horses from the sales, John McCoy, the prominent Fredericton turfite, securing a stallion and a filly, which had been purchased at the sale by Prof. C. G. Frazier, who paid \$520 for the stallion and \$460 for the filly. Both animals are finely bred, Governor Sprague, the sire of the stallion, having a record of 2:20 1/2, and is the sire of Kate Sprague, 2:15, and seventeen other 2:30 horses. His dam is by Belmont, sire of Wedgewood, 2:19, etc., and who is the sire of the dams of nine trotters and one pacer in 2:30. The filly is described as being a brown, good gaited, and has been broken double and single. She was sired by Le Grand (sire of Grandee, 2:23 1/2, at three years), trial 2:24, at five years, son of the great Almont; dam Hannah Price (a mare of great natural speed, but never trained), by Arthur (sire Arab, 2:15, and other 30 horses), son of Rhydysk's Hambletonian. Le Grand's first foals were foaled in 1885, and the only one trained as a two-year-old was Grandee, 2:31 1/2, at two years, and unbeaten in a single race in his two or three-year-old form. All of his get show much promise. Sir Wilkes, the sire of one of the other animals obtained by Mr. McCoy in New York, is a son of the great George Wilkes, dam by Len Rogers, son of Telegraph, son of Hill's Black Hawk. Breeders in New Brunswick will doubtless reward Mr. McCoy in his enterprise, who seems to be ready at every opportunity to assist the breeding interests in the province.

Dr. Sourlie, V. S., of Summerside, owner of Administrator 2:29 1/2, (sire of Catchpole, 2:19 1/2, and other 30 horses) and A. C. Rogers, also of Prince Edward Island, represented Prince Edward Island at the sale, but the prices of many of the animals they desired were too large.

George O'Brien, of Macaan, N. S., was also present, and bid some thousands on one animal, but the figures went beyond his range, and he also came home empty handed. Mr. O'Brien already owns one of the best bred stallions in the province, in Dearborn, by Gen. Hancock, son of George Wilkes, dam by Mambrino Star, son of Mambrino Chief. Gen. Hancock's second dam was the famous Water-witch.

Dearborn is a handsome stallion, and has been broken to harness, but he has a rival in his county in Good Luck, by Hernando, dam by All Right, owned by Henry Wood, of Macaan, and there is talk of a match between them for \$500 a side, to take place next September, which from present indications will result in a race.

Mr. N. H. Meagher and Veterinary Surgeon Jaheman were the Halifax representatives, but they did not go to buy, merely as spectators, as Mr. Meagher was bound for Forest City farm, Cleveland, Ohio, where there is a mare which he has had an idea of purchasing for some time, and on the reports of J. C. Mahon, of Truro, (who recently visited the farm and purchased Bronze Chief 2:36, Haywood, by Hermes, and Olive, by Lakeland's Abdallah) he decided to make the trip, as well as to transact some business at Buffalo. Mr. Meagher was greatly impressed with the mare, and though her price was close to \$2000 he made the purchase. She is a dark brown, 6 years old, named Hour, by Hermes 2:27 1/2, dam Jessie Douglass, being a full brother to Hero's, 2:27, and Haywood. Hour has no record, but she will be bred to Brown Wilkes, 2:21 1/2, and then brought to Halifax, where she will be trained and start in the 3 minute class, and will probably go through the same class throughout the circuit.

Mr. Meagher also visited Mr. Nelson's farm, Waterville, Me., and purchased Theresa, foaled 1887, by Nelson, 2:21 1/2, dam by Gen. Knox, 2:30 1/2, and Glimmer, foaled 1887, by Wilkes, dam by Gideon. Glimmer will be brought home, and probably trained, while Theresa will be bred to Red Hawk, by Red Wilkes.

Mr. Meagher is one of the leading lawyers of Halifax, and probably has a larger practice than any of his profession in this city. He is a devoted admirer of the trotting horse, and intends to engage in the breeding of trotters, owning a splendid farm at Shubenacadie, 45 miles from Halifax. Mr. Meagher also owns a large bay mare by Royal George, which he bred last year to Physician, but missed; Jessica, by Rydysk, son of Hambletonian, dam Lady Conklin, by Strathmore, now in foal to Melbourne King, and Nellie McCoy, which he will probably breed this season to Bronze Chief. Mr. Meagher says, in all the farms he visited, he did not see any mare superior to this handsome daughter of Sir Charles.

Forty-nine sons and daughters of the stallion Stamboul, 2:14 1/2, and Alcazar, 2:29 1/2, were sold at the recent sale for \$121,400, an average of \$2477.55. Both these stallions are sons of Sultan, whose only representative in the province is the black mare owned by J. S. McGivern, of St. John. Her dam was the black Mackey mare, which was at one time owned and driven by Mrs. J. W. Mackey, of San Francisco. The black Mackey mare was said to be of remarkable style and finish, and could trot in 2:40. She was by the St. Lawrence horse, and her dam was a daughter of Bell Alta, sire of California Belmont. A yearling colt, from the black Mackey mare, sired by Harvester, the son of Sultan, was not advertised to be sold at the recent sale but was not offered.

The Maritime Trotting circuit will be composed of seven tracks, Charlotte-town having obtained Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 2 and 3, for their dates. They will offer the same purses and classes as the other track, and will also offer purses for a number of local races. Their dates are during the week following the meeting at St. John, and the Nova Scotia horses, with a number of others in the circuit, are expected to cross to the island.

And still there's nothing the matter with Hughie McCornick. JACK AND JILL.

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These notes come from the Chicago Horseman, which is printing a good deal of matter about our flyers, now:

"Training is half the battle." Our readers will recognize this phrase as one that I have frequently used in pointing out the advantages of development in making known a trotting sire's merits. There is a marked influence on the progeny for generations. Many years ago a well-known local horseman of St. John, N. B., named George Stockford, bought the thoroughbred racehorse Southerner, by Oliver, and relegating him to the stud insisted that Southerner was superior to the so-called trotting stallions of that region, and to convince the public he drove him regularly to harness to show his trotting action, and trained his colts. But they did not succeed as track horses, and people laughed him to scorn. The laugh is beginning to turn after many years, through the offering of the white stallion Sir Charles, 15 1/2 hands, by Mambrino Charta, dam Lady Messenger, dam of Crown Prince, 2:25. Mambrino Charta was got by Fisk's Mambrino Chief, whose dam was almost thoroughbred, out of a mare by Magna Charta; second dam Maid of Forth, and the thoroughbred horse imported Monarch.

St. John, N. B., correspondent writes: "Sir Charles seems to nick best with mares of Southerner blood, as one of the most promising colts in Fredericton was got by him out of Sussex Lass, the half-bred running mare. Maud C's dam was also a daughter of Southerner. She has a record of 2:39 1/2, and could have entered the 2:30 list long ago on a good mile track." Sir Charles has trotted quarters in 34 seconds to a road wagon; his sire, Mambrino Charta 2:29 1/2, trial 2:23, and his grandsire, Fisk's Mambrino Chief, 2:20, are all good witnesses that speed development is not inimical to speed production.

Every town and country has its characters in walks of business or sport, and when their aims are well directed much good often results from their energetic efforts. That devoted horseman, John H. Reid, of Fredericton, has always bubbled with schemes and plans to advance the fine-horse breeding interests of the province of New Brunswick. One of his rewards is the satisfaction of knowing that the sire of the fastest trotter ever bred in the lower provinces of Canada. I refer to Robert R. Morris, sire of the brown gelding J. P. Morris, 2:20 1/2, and I may here call the attention of the owners of these colts to the fact that this gelding's dam was deep in warm blood. She was got by Billy, son of Retriever, and her dam, Lucy Long, was a daughter of John O'Gaunt. Mr. Reid's last importation, the stallion Kearsarge, by Volunteer, out of Dexter's dam, failed to find his affinity in the speed-getting line with the Empire State, but like Robert R. Morris, speed may spring from him in the country of the Queen's Own.

Prominent members of the New Brunswick cabinet have shown their faith in Com's Harry Wilkes by breeding their best mares to him. Profiting by the experience of our wealthy breeders in the intention of the owners of these colts to have them handled for speed, and in time 2:20 1/2 should be eclipsed. The four-year-old record seems to be the goal of the colt training ambition at present in Blue-Nose land. The top mark, 2:42, was made by Bayard Bright, son of John Bright, at Moosepath Park, near St. John, N. B., in 1880, and has stood unbroken, the closest call being 2:42 last season, by Lady Max, daughter of Sir Charles. Among the likely ones to make a new mark is the four-year-old Speculation, grandson of Mambrino Monarch, by Fisk's Mambrino Chief, dam by imp. Monarch.

"John McCoy leaves for New York this morning. He takes with him the horse Pomp, which it is stated he has sold to an American for \$5,000. I clipped the above from a Fredericton, N. B., newspaper, and have only to say in the vernacular of the Bowery, 'rats,' New Yorkers are not such gudgeons as to pay \$5,000 for old trotters like Pomp, nee Hudson."

W. S. Jewett, South Bay, N. B., is full of hope on account of the speed of his black gelding Sir Hector, foaled 1884, by Sir Charles, dam by a son of the thoroughbred horse Southerner. Sir Hector will be handled by Trainer Charles W. Bell, of St. John, with a view to starting him in the New Brunswick circuit in August next, and the Bangor and Lewiston, Me., meetings in the fall.

The American skater, Joseph Donoghue, is acknowledged to be a great man abroad, says the New York Sun, but his title to the championship is disputed more energetically since a Norwegian named Godlager, on Feb. 24, at Stockholm, did the great feat of covering 10 miles in 23 minutes 21.5 seconds.

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