

# SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

If the present intentions of the A. A. club hold good what a gala week there will be in July for the ball cranks! The best clubs east of Boston will be too good for that occasion, and with from ten to twenty thousand strangers in town there will be big money in good ball. I think the managing committee's ideas run toward a game every morning. That's the stuff!

Fewer of our friends will tire their legs and bodies hanging outside the ropes this season. The grand stand is to be enlarged—extended, I believe, to the present press stands for about 40 feet, or until it reaches the bicycle track. The new stand will be more elevated than the present structure, and under it two team compartments will be fitted up. This is a good idea, for basking on the players' bench unprotected from the sun will even with a ball tosser.

The grand stand paid its way last year handsomely—in fact, it paid just 100 percent, on its cost. If it pays in the same proportion this season, the club will be able to start a bank in the fall.

St. John is the only city that I know of that permits its fair residents to see a ball game for nothing. So far, no person has objected, and I do not imagine anyone will. I heard a suggestion, a few days ago, that a coupon ticket, costing 20 cents, and entitling the holder to a seat on the grand stand, should be issued to ladies. What do you think?

The managing committee didn't "think," but acted, and deserve a wreath from their fair friends for voting them, Monday night, free entrance to the grounds on all occasions, save holidays, when they will be privileged to deposit one dime, "just for the fun of it." I would advise all girlish ball cranks to begin to hoard their 10-cent pieces.

These members of the club who have lost their sporting outfit from their boxes—the "Heard Box" on the grounds, through the agility of agile borrowing and forgetful friends, will prick their ears at the news that this season the open spaces at the top of the boxes will be covered with wire netting, which will permit the entrance of nothing more insinuating than tobacco smoke.

There's a proposition before the members of the Lawn Tennis club to join the A. A. club. They are, I believe, offered quite an inducement in the promise of their dues extended in asphalt courts, since the old grounds of the lawn tennis people are theirs no longer. I understand that the lot opposite their favorite spot could be had for two years, but that is not desirable.

One objection that has been urged strongly by one of the club is the remoteness—good word, that,—of the club's grounds, but that falls to the ground when you have the street cars to the gate and five or ten cents in your pocket.

"To the gate," I say, because there is a kind of a tacit understanding with manager Zebby that the street railway will be extended that far early in the season.

"Lacrosse, and what are its chances in St. John," is the subject a sub-committee has to handle in the near future. I won't anticipate the report, but you know as well as I do what it will be.

Let me give my friends who carry sporting goods on their counters a pointer. Spalding's base ball goods have the grand pull on the ball players, and C. Flood & Sons, of this city, have the exclusive maritime agency for them.

Our old friend M. J. McLaughlin, formerly of Fredericton, now of Dover, is fixed for the season. He will be a Southern league umpire.

Waggs has been taking a vacation on his back—though not seriously ill, I am glad to say—but writes me from Danville Junction that he expects to return to Waterville, in a few days.

Parsons is one of us. That's good news, too.

And I am glad that Whitenet has come to time. When he plays at all, he plays to win, and under proper discipline he will prove one of the stars of the nine.

Robinson's refusal to take "second place" to Small is the funniest thing I have read this year. I can imagine the smile that will suffuse Small's amiable countenance when he hears of it. I don't dare to comment on it. I can't laugh so hard that I drop my pencil and burst my buttons, whenever I think of it.

However, though the big head is a dangerous disease, it is seldom fatal.

It is pleasant to know that the Shamrocks have found excellent grounds, covering more than three acres, extending back from the present site of the La Tour rink, and on the line of the street cars. They hope to christen the place on the Queen's birthday, but it will take money to do the necessary work and the club should have a liberal patronage for the bazaar which opens on Easter Monday. I congratulate the boys on the prospect of a professional battery and I hope they will go a step further and elect a captain who knows his business. I could name a half-dozen members of last year's nine who are capable of filling that position—and the players should choose a man who will fill it and not rattle around in it.

Ah there, Monoton! Stay there! (That \$450 surplus, I mean.)

Well, Brother Jennings, how do you feel about the Junior league, this year?

The Royal Darks of Indiantown met, the other night, and organized for the season. I have a full and interesting report of the meeting, and regret that space won't permit its publication. I note, however, that "Mr. George W. Davis informed the club that the grounds they used last summer could not be obtained, as Mr. Stewart had built a log-house near the pitcher's box. Mr. Samuel Hector moved that the club proceed in a body and remove the log-house by force, and then send a letter of condolence to the owner—which was voted."

The Chicago Horsemen, which reads PROGRESS regularly, has the following compliment for the maritime provinces:—

In no part of the dominion of Canada has the game of horse racing been so popular, and the local governments have shown great enterprise and an intelligent determination to improve the stock in their respective provinces, by the purchase of highly-bred stallions, of which Conn's Harry Wilkes is a conspicuous example. The coming season promises to be a very busy one. The popularity of the maritime trotting circuit is proven by the fact that several other associations wished to join, but could not at the present time definitely decide upon the dates. Trotting sport is evidently prospering in the cities by the sea.

From the days when Colonel Russell paid \$25,000 for Pearlman, 2,231, and stood him at the Home Farm, Milton, near Boston, Mass., to the present time "The Hub" has been the gravitating point for New England breeders, who wisely choose stallions possessing three most desirable recommendations: a strong inheritance of speed, proof positive of its possession, and evidence of the ability to transmit the same. These qualities in a sire "come high," but wealthy down East horsemen stand ready to supply

When one great horse gives another comes. Wedgewood, 2,19, and Kentucky Wilkes, 2,21, are now succeeded by the brown stallion Lumps, 2,21, by George Wilkes, 2,22, dam by Pearlman, an old-time Long Island stallion, not only standard-bred, but with so many producing strains that he was taken to Kentucky late in life. The second dam of Lumps was got by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, and the third dam by Roe's Abdullah Chief, by Abdullah, sire of Hambletonian the great. Banker, sire of Rymuda, 2,20, was out of Lady Banker, by Roe's Abdullah Chief. She also produced the noted Central New York sire Lysander, sire of Vanderbilt's Lysander Boy, 2,20, 1/2. Thus we see that Lumps has producing blood, and nothing but producing blood in root and branch, and it is already budding in his offspring. First in the very speedy bay gelding Snooks, and last season in Bessie P., four-year-old record 2:29 1/2. Lunette, by Lumps, was sold by B. J. Tracy to Hon. C. M. Reid, of Erie, Pa., for \$7,000. It is stated that she showed a trial last season in 2:23, and it is whispered that she will be in the four-year-old stakes at Rochester and Fleetwood, ready to take a tilt at Repetition, Marie Hansen and all comers. Then again the yearling filly Kitty Wilkes, by Lumps, was sold a few weeks ago at Woodard's sale for \$750, chiefly on its showing of speed, as the dam's breeding is not of roseate hue. An Eastern breeder who intends to patronize Lumps somewhat extensively this season, having investigated his claims, remarked: "I am satisfied Lumps is going to be a great sire. He seems to transmit speed with a large majority of mares of different breeds, and in numbers of cases phenomenal speed."—Chicago II



This is a picture of John L. Sullivan as he used to look when he was a boy—for John has been sober, though you'd never think it to see him now.

There will be trotting on July 4, forenoon and afternoon, at the Augusta, Me., Driving park, when efforts will be made to have some of the best horses in the state on the track.

A report has been going the rounds that W. T. Campbell, of New York, has sold the black gelding J. Q. 2,17 1/2, to European parties, through C. G. Fraser. As a matter of fact, J. Q. has been recently purchased from Mr. Campbell by George Hammond, of Middlebury, Vt., and will be taken to South America along with several other trotters of lesser note designed for the Buenos Ayres market. Mr. Hammond is a well-known breeder of good stock in his native state, and a prominent politician as well, having been at one time a member of the Vermont legislature. He will ship his string from this port in a few days.—New York Correspondence Horseman.

An interesting fact, as showing the difference in value between standard-bred horses and those not entitled by breeding to that name, is gathered from the report of one of the large sales recently held at Lexington. There were 263 standard-bred horses sold for \$266,620, an average of \$1,010; 50 non-standard-bred horses brought \$29,520, an average of only \$590.50.

The Yankees seem to be tickled to death over the Royal Yacht squadron's challenge to another international match for the America cup. They may not feel so well, next September. The British yacht that will contest for the cup is to be named the *Valleyrie*. She is being built at Fay's yard, Southampton, on the design of G. L. Watson, for the Earl of Dunraven, and will be launched about April 21. Her dimensions are as follows: Length 53 feet; beam, 15 feet; depth, 11 feet; tonnage, 56.75. The length on the load water line is just under 70 feet, 3 1/2 to come within the second or 70 feet class of American yachts. In concession to the American idea the boat is fitted with a place for a centerboard, but Lord Dunraven says he won't use it. In a letter which accompanies the challenge it is understood that Lord Dunraven suggests that the winning average should be the best three out of five, instead of two out of three, and that the sailing date of the final race should be Sept. 20. He also desires that the races should be sailed on the outside course, starting from Sandy Hook lightship. It isn't decided yet, what yacht will carry the stars and stripes.

## Base Ball in Halifax.

HALIFAX, April 3.—It is a pleasure to note that as long as the Socials intend to secure a coach, they will endeavor to secure a good one, and for this purpose are now corresponding with several parties in the United States. They do not altogether despair of having another game with the Nationals, and intend to be prepared, and will make an effort to secure a pitcher, whom they hope will be at least as good as Small. With a good coach and several of the Nationals, the Socials should show great improvement over last year, when it happened that when the Socials were to play against a visiting team several of the Nationals would assist them, but who they would be, or how the team was to be placed, would not be definitely known until the evening before, and this, of course, prevented any team play. Another benefit of a coach is the practice likely to be obtained from men who, under such guidance, will take an interest in their work, and not, as has generally been the case here, of some men practising only every odd evening, while others would hardly deign to practice at all. The great improvement that can be made in base ball by diligent work could not be more clearly shown than in the case of several of the Nationals, who, on their first visit to this city, gave a terribly weak exhibition of batting, but who now handle the ash in a scientific manner.

The recent changing of the name of the St. John club to the Amateur Athletic association, together with their admission to the Maritime Province association, has caused considerable talk as to whether they were violating the amateur laws in engaging a number of base-ballists at salaries. The Nationals consider that these men are the same as professional coaches who play with amateur cricket clubs. The Maritime association specify the various games they have jurisdiction over, but they do not include base ball, while their definition of an amateur is as follows:—

An amateur is one who has never competed for a money prize or stated bet, or with or against any professional for any prize, or who has never taught, pursued or assisted in the practice of athletic exercises as means of obtaining a livelihood.

While this rule makes the coach professional there is nothing there to prevent amateurs playing on a team with them, unless they play for a prize. The question is just now being discussed in Philadelphia, and Henry Chadwick, the veteran base ball writer, in referring to the subject, says:— "In these days of the vast improvement of the game and of the great increase of trained teams, together with the amount of fatigue, labor and even danger connected with the work of the batteries of a nine, it has become a question whether it is not to the interest of amateur clubs, desiring to achieve any championship honors in league organizations, to incorporate with them some of the best of the professional players, and to establish a fixed rule admitting of two professional players to fill the two battery positions. This rule would not, of course, exclude genuine amateur players from filling the positions, if such players are found competent for the arduous duty in a club, while at the same time it would place the status of club members claiming to be strictly amateur organizations. This rule of admitting professional battery players has been adopted by the Amateur league of Athletic clubs, of New York, and that league includes such genuine amateur nines as those of the Staten Island Athletic club, the Staten Island Cricket club,

the Orange Athletic club, and the Crescent Athletic club, of Brooklyn, whose nines are largely composed of old college players of the metropolitan district. All these clubs have enclosed grounds and charge an admission to their fields on match days, just as the college clubs do on their grounds on such occasions, and yet they all rank as genuine amateur clubs.

## A Chapter on Horse.

HALIFAX, April 3.—What rapid strides trotting has made in the Maritime provinces may be gathered from the great decadence of running races, which at one time were looked forward to in every provincial town which had a race track as an annual event, but while there are still quite a number who delight in seeing the "jumpers," the majority prefer the trot, unless this city is excepted where English customs and English ideas are so complete, and trotting not yet having got a stronghold in England, the runners still hold their sway. Halifax accordingly will hold its annual running meeting on the afternoon of June 21, the anniversary of the settlement of Halifax, and purses will be offered for horses and ponies, including a race open to all horses. There are not many animals in the province just now to compete in such a race, still there are several and, perhaps, by the date of the race there will be others, though at present there are no indications that there will be. The old St. John favorite, Yorktown, is confidently expected to be present with his owner, E. LeRoi Willis, who has friends here by the score, and who is looked for annually by the fashionable gathering on these occasions. It is regretted that Golden Maxim will not be present; she is in foal to Harry Wilkes, and if it is correct, her owner has been offered \$400 for her offspring as soon as weaned. Another animal which will probably start in this race will be the stallion Yardley, which was recently brought here from Scotland, and sold at auction to Thomas Robertson for \$425. He is by Blanford, dam by Oxford, and won a race in England two or three years ago. Strabismus is now owned in Port Elgin, N. B., and if he will stand training may be brought on here.

Two of the other races will be for cups, held by the trustees of the old Riding Ground. When the managers of the latter wound up their business, there was a balance in the treasury, and they decided to purchase two silver cups, one for horses, the other for ponies, to be competed for annually, open to horses the property of members of the Riding Ground in 1886, Halifax and other city clubs, officers of the army and navy, members of Montreal Hunt club, and Country club, of Boston, and to be ridden by gentlemen qualified by trustees. Such races as these bring forth all the fashionable people of the city, and probably in no other place in America can such a scene be witnessed in consequence of the large number of the military present, and everything being of the most English style. Suggestions have been made by those inclined to American customs to introduce a trotting race on this occasion, but it would never do, as the audiences have no liking for the trotter.

Most of the ponies taking part in these races are bred in New Brunswick, the majority being sired by the old horse Wanderer, the winner of every pony race at the meeting last year—Tramp, Traveller and General Babcock—being the progeny of that horse. Major Lea, of the commissariat department, now owns Traveller, and the Moncton mare May Queen, which was also sired by that horse. He may take his horses to Boston, May 24, to compete in the Country club races, and there is some probability of the stallion Yardley, before referred to, being present at that meeting.

Trotting ought to boom in Halifax this year, as it will inaugurate the new circuit, and A. L. Slipp, the noted driver and trainer, who has his headquarters in Truro, will spend considerable time here, and handle several horses. This will be a new departure for Halifax, as there never has been a professional driver at the track.

In your last issue you quote from a correspondent of the *Chicago Horseman* who remarks that one of the most prominent colts in Fredericton was got by Sir Charles, dam Sussex Lass. A fine colt, similarly bred, is owned in this city by J. A. Leane, the Truro horseman, former owner of Long John, Albert D., etc. The correspondent also refers to J. P. Morris, which horse did a great deal in causing American horsemen to know that trotters are bred in this country. He was a wonderful campaigner, and in the season of 1882, when I saw him trot, he was a great horse in his class. Imagine a horse trotting thirteen heats, within four days, and every heat faster than 2:25, and you will have an idea of his work. He started at Mystic, on Sept. 16, of that year, in a race with Driver, Forrest Patcher, Kentucky Wilkes, Clemmie G. and others. Kentucky Wilkes won the first heat in 2:25, Driver the second and third, and T. P. Morris and Forrest Patcher crossed under the wire together in the fourth heat, in 2:20 1/2, which is still Morris' record. Morris won the fifth and sixth heats, when the race was postponed until Monday, when Driver won the heat and race. With the exception of the first heat, every heat was trotted between 2:20 1/2 to 2:23 1/2. The next day I was at Beacon park, when he started against Parana, Driver, Forrest Patcher and Kentucky Wilkes. Parana won the first heat in 2:19 1/2, but she acted badly afterwards, and was drawn in the third heat. Morris won the second and third heats, trotting in 2:20 1/2, but at the close of the third he broke and ran away, and despite the efforts of the famous "Knapsack McCarthy," his driver, to hold him, he was not stopped until after he ran a mile and three quarters. The horse was uninjured, but McCarthy was so distressed that he could not drive again that day, and Jack Bowen took his place. The horse, however, could not get better than fourth and third the next two heats, which were won by Driver. Darkness caused a postponement until the next day, and as there were thousands of dollars wagered on the result, there was great interest in the final heat. There were only the two starters—Driver and Morris—and the latter, delighted his backers by winning quite handsomely. His performances in these two days spoke volumes for the ability of his sire to transmit speed, and since then R. R. Morris is a familiar sire to a large number of American horsemen, especially in the East. J. H. Reid, the Fredericton horseman, made no mistake when he purchased R. R. Morris.

## Why It Is Unlucky.

Apologies of thirteen at table, may not this superstition, like many others, have had a very practical origin in common affairs? What could be more unlucky for a hostess, whose china cups and saucers, spoons, forks and napkins were all reckoned by, and perhaps limited by the dozen, than to have a thirteenth guest appear at her board? Let us not throw down or try to peer behind all the little convenient screens that harmless superstition provides us with.—*Magazine of American History*.

## Effect of the License Law.

In the parlor at 12:20 a. m. "Excuse me, Harry; papa is calling." "Certainly, Eveline." Eveline (on her return to the parlor)—"I'm sorry, Harry, but you'd better go. Papa says he hasn't got a license for running an all-night place."—*Chicago Herald*.

## Returning the Favor.

Mrs. Blane de Peele—So good of you, Agnes, dear, to pour out the tea for me to-morrow. I've given you a lovely corner right here with your back to the light. Agnes (equal to the occasion)—"Thanks, awfully, dear! But what will you do?" *Teal Times*.

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[For particulars, see Annual Statement.]

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Liabilities.....74,248,207.81	New Assnrs.....153,935,935
Surplus (4 per cent.).....\$20,794,715.15	Income.....26,958,977
Surplus Earned in Five Years (1884-1888).....\$21,824,766	
Surplus Earned in One Year (1888).....\$5,067,124	
Increase in Income.....\$3,718,128	
Increase in Surplus (4 p. c.).....2,690,460	
Increase in Assets.....10,664,018	

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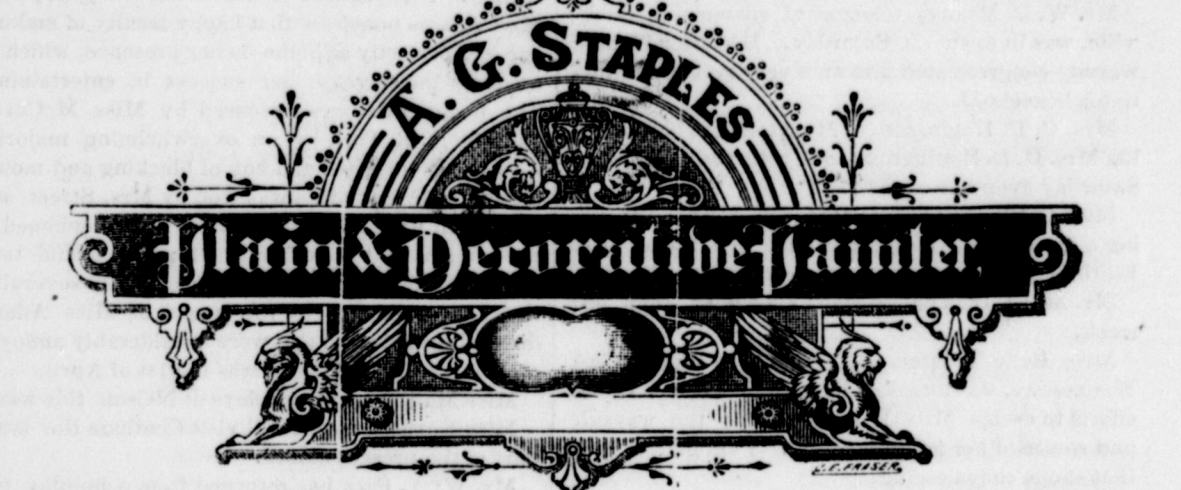
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