

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

THE BASE BALL AND TURF GOSSIP OF THE PROVINCES.

General Notes on City Ball Players—What the Shamrocks Say About Pickering—Halifax Papers Get Mixed Up on the Social-Atlanta Question.

There is dissatisfaction among the players and friends of the St. Johns. "The club does not appear to be doing as good work as it should," is quite a general cry.

Grumblers can always be found in any town where there is a ball club. It seems to be a part of the duty of the intimates and admirers of one player to talk about, sneer at, disparage other men's work and run down the general management. As a rule it is best to smile at the talk and work along in a steady kind of a way.

But there is a little blaze in this case I am afraid. The smoke is not too thick as yet, and the best policy in my opinion is to put out the fire and clear the atmosphere.

Was Small engaged to coach the team or just as a pitcher? or was he engaged to do what he is asked to do on the diamond? The club lacks coaching! and yet we have four professionals!

This should not be. Neither should the professionals have a chance to say that they have no chance to practice; that there seems to be no guiding hand to the practice games; that no one has charge of the preparatory work.

The season is young yet, but I am inclined to doubt the wisdom of asking the boys to play in any position at any time. Second base seems to have no owner, and first and third are in an equally bad box when Bell and Kennedy are absent. When they are on their own bags, no one doubts that they will get in all the fine work needed, but if Parsons is in this box who is going to cover second, and when White handles the leather, with Kennedy as back stop, short and third are fearfully weak.

There is no use denying the fact that the best clubs can lose easily by transferring its men from their regular positions. Let me suggest, then, that Capt. Bell take this matter into his serious consideration and settle several things now in doubt.

The weak batters—the men who know they are weak—say that they feel no effort is being made to improve their work, that the plate is occupied too often and too long by the heavy hitters, who seem to think of their own enjoyment rather than the club's practice. Give the wind fanners a chance, captain.

The Halifax Echo quotes Prognostics' remarks of last week upon the Shamrocks alleged bid for Pickering as an umpire, and Pickering, the distinguished pitcher of the diamond, rises to remark that should he complete arrangements with the Shamrocks he will come to St. John.

Well, this is funny. Let me tell Mr. Pickering that the Shamrocks are not aware of his intentions. I am assured by the managing committee that they have not corresponded with Pickering, and have held no communication with him relative to umpiring or anything else.

I print this with a good deal of satisfaction. The prospects of any new club that opened the season with Pickering behind the catcher wouldn't be worth speculating about.

It would be the height of folly for any friends of the Shamrocks to entertain any such idea as this. If they are encouraging Pickering to come, they are not acting in the interest of their club and good square ball.

The ball tossers of Halifax appear to be a little mixed. Each one of them has belonged or does belong to so many clubs that he is not quite sure of his correct base. I remember last season when they formed the Social-Atlanta-Pickering combination to knock out the Nationals, that the Halifaxians spoke of their star nine as the Atlantas! It was quite an original idea, as is proved; for, considering the events that followed, it was quite convenient for the Atlantas to shoulder all the odium of the transaction, then break up, and reappear this season on the Social diamond, in the Social uniform, as members of the Social club.

My friend Power, in his letter this week, seems to labor under the impression that the Socials are entirely guiltless in this matter and are much surprised at President Skinner's comments that I printed last week. And the Mail seems to be somewhat disturbed also, for it says:

It is needless to say the Socials were a surprised lot when they read the above. It was the first intimation they had received that they owed the St. John club any money. President Skinner no doubt refers to the game the Nationals played in this city with the Atlantas. The agreement was for two games but the Nationals left for home after the first game. We understand they have never been paid for this game. But why put the blame on the Socials? President Skinner must surely know that the agreement was with the Atlantas club, and that the Socials had nothing whatever to do in the matter. A few of the Social men played in the Atlanta team, but the arrangement was a private one between the players themselves.

A few of the Social team, be pleased to observe, stayed by private arrangement.

The Echo finds it convenient to abuse President Skinner. If the Echo is ready to champion the act of last year, its abuse is preferable to its praise. Its paragraph reads:

The Nationals came over here early last July and played a game with the Socials, for which they received \$90, and that was the only game they played here last season with the Socials. People would think that a man like the president of the St. John A. C. would be above such work as this, but there it is in black and white, and it will probably interfere with the efforts of the Socials in getting teams to visit here. A member of another club that played here this season appeared surprised when his club's manager was paid without any trouble. He said they had been warned in St. John that they would have great trouble in getting their money. There are some nice people in St. John!

Yes, a few, and they are always square. They contract debts and pay them. They bring ball clubs here week in and week out, treat them as gentlemen and pay as they agreed to. If it rains and only one game is played, when two were arranged for, the home club suffers the loss; or if the visitors prolong their visit, the home club pays an extra amount. Do you catch the idea, Halifax?

And now, in a later issue of the Echo, "An old Atlanta" writes, abusing Mr. Skinner and New Brunswick in general. "His blatant opinions are mere buncombe," says he, referring to his statement in re the Socials and St. Johns. But he admits, in the following sentence, that the Socials are responsible, that it was as much the Socials' teams as the Atlantas:

The Socials are able to defend themselves, and they have facts sufficient to prove that the Nationals were not entitled to \$100, owing to a breach of contract. Having been beaten in one game, they feared an ignominious defeat on the morrow, and cowardly left for home.

I have heard some story like this before, the only difference being that a fellow called Pickering was asked to umpire the games; that it was arranged in fact, that he should umpire the games before the St. John boys arrived; that every Halifax man who could find a dollar was to bet it on the Social-Atlanta.

Latest and most accurate foreign and local base ball news at the "National," the ball tinker's retreat

ta-Pickering combination; that a well-known gambler, after the farce was ended, flung it into the faces of the St. John boys that they had bought the umpire; that it would have made no difference if the New Yorks had played in the National's place—the Socials were to win; and that, disgusted at such an unfair and unportsmanlike treatment, the St. John club returned home after filling their two days' contracts, one of which was raining and the other fine.

Ever since that day there has been a wide breach between the ball tossers of the two cities. On several occasions Maine clubs have received a little roasting from Pickering, whose decisions have been so rank that even Halifax has refused to allow him on the diamond. Is there any need of further evidence?

But talking of umpires, the Shamrocks want Jimmy Christie, and will have him if money is any object. I understand that he does not want to umpire, but prefers to stick to business. In that event, the boys may have some trouble finding the right man to call ball and strikes.

Lane has a mortgage on the first bag of the Shamrocks diamond. He won't be disturbed. Costigan will probably not play in the regular line. There is some trouble over the second bag, and I hear that Guthrie has wearied of the capital and wants to cover that particular bit of canvas and sand for the Shamrocks. It is always well to go slow in a matter of this kind. Guthrie may be a good man on the diamond, but he is not apt to keep in proper trim for good work.

The London Times, in comparing base ball with cricket says: "Defending a wicket is more lasting joy than sliding to third on your shirt bosom."

The Boston club has now made enough money to carry the team through the whole season, as well as to pay for the Detroit players. All the money they take in from now on will be clear profit.

The wonderful work of the Cleveland team is easily accounted for. The team's strength lies in its batteries, fielding and team base running. To Manager Loftus may be charged much of the improvement. He has systematically drilled the men in his way to make runs. Every player works on his orders. Your correspondent has seen the men in all their games and in practice, and knows the value of Loftus's work, and the perfect harmony among the men. Of the last 17 games the team won 14, against Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, and Indianapolis, by waiting for its opponents to wobble. Loftus's instructions are: "Wait; they'll fall apart in one inning, and then make your runs. But don't you fall apart yourself." Loftus directs the team work from the bench. Faas and McKean carry out his orders strictly. The members of the old team, and specially McKean, Stryker, Zimmer, and O'Brien, have greatly improved under Loftus's drilling, in both batting and general play.

Everything is on a system and by sign. The club is very strong in its batteries. No club has five pitchers to equal O'Brien, Beatin, Gruber, Sprague, and Bakely, and all are on edge and ready to go in at any time. Snyder has a lot to say about battery work, and is always around to offer his advice and coach the pitchers. There has been some luck with the team, but it is the luck associated with hard endeavor and steady work. The outfield is a wonderful one. Tolson has balanced up the infield, and the men at all of confidence. They fight to finish in every game, and Loftus expects to be among the first four club, unless he strikes a very bad snag. He says: "We may surprise the old timers. We will fight along as hard as we can, and as long as the team does as well as it is doing we'll win more games than we lose."

The appearance of Thomas Bond as umpire in recent college games in Hartford carries one back to the days when he pitched for Hartford in 1874, and later for Boston. While with the Bostonians some learned Cincinnati claimed that curve pitching was impossible. During a visit of the Bostonians to Cincinnati a test was made. Three stakes were set in the ground and Bond stood to the left of one. He made the ball curve to the right of the centre stake and pass to the left of the third stake. Mitchell, a left-hand pitcher, of Cincinnati, performed the same feat on the reverse side. Both curved the ball to the satisfaction of the crowd and all the professors but one. He refused to give in, although he said it seemed to curve. He afterward died in the belief that he was the victim of an optical delusion. Cummings, who was Hartford's senior pitcher at the same time with Bond, was generally credited as the discoverer of the curve, and made the ball perform in a graceful manner, whether swift or slow. Bond is still young, and a fine specimen of manhood. He informed the New York Sun correspondent that he was 33 last April, and that he weighed 225 pounds.

"Do you know that no accurate record of high jumps has ever been kept?" said an old athlete. "No jumper can say exactly how high he has jumped. A man is credited with having cleared 5 feet 10 inches because he has gone over a pole stretched at that distance above the ground; but how far above the pole was he before he began to descend? Nobody can tell, for his heels leave no mark in the air. If the pole is raised an inch and his feet strike it, he has obviously failed to jump 5 feet 11 inches, but the fact of his having cleared it at 5 feet 10 inches is the proof that he jumped higher than that, though it is impossible to judge how far he went above it. Thus every high jumper is a little ahead of his record."

I called on John L. Sullivan at his training quarters. He is the picture of good health. He has no desire for liquor since his arrival, and says he has no desire for it. He weighs at present 220 pounds, and looks to be a perfect mass of muscle. There seems to be no fat on him. Barnett told me that he would step into the ring in the finest condition he was ever in, and would make the fight of his life. Sullivan gets up at 6, and he takes light exercise and a short walk, and has breakfast at 8 o'clock. At ten his trainers put on him three heavy sweat shirts, a heavy double-breasted coat and vest, and heavy shoes, and he starts on his daily walk. He carries while walking a club weighing six pounds. His walk consists of twelve miles over the hills, through the woods, getting back about 1. After dinner, and after resting a while, he exercises at putting the shot, using iron balls weighing 18 pounds and 12 pounds. At 4 he strips and punches the ball. I saw him pound a ball for nine minutes without a stop, and he appeared fresh when he stopped. This is the longest I ever saw a man punch a ball, and he hit it with terrific force. He is put to bed promptly at 10. He weighs after the ring weighing about 205 pounds.—The Clipper.

BALL GOSSIP IN HALIFAX.

Haligonian Ball Tossers Playing Quiet Ball

HALIFAX, June 20.—The recent games played in this city between the Socials and Bates College team were a great contrast to those with the Portlands and Lewistons. There was no "kicking," not one of the umpire's decisions in either game being questioned, both teams conducting themselves like gentlemen. The spectators were also most impartial in their applause, and were also most impartial in their praise for their plays as the home team. They were model games of ball, and such that persons who had never seen a game before would be bound to make themselves admirers of the sport.

Nobody was more surprised than the visiting team. From what some of them said, some persons in St. John used their best endeavors to keep them from coming to this city. One of them said they were told so much about the way they would be treated here, that they had almost decided not to come, until one St. John gentleman assured them they would receive fair treatment. With such assurances, they naturally supposed they would not enjoy themselves, but, as one of them said the night after the second game, "We were delighted with our treatment in St. John, and can only speak in the highest terms of the manner in which we were entertained there, but nothing could surpass the kindness extended to us here by the players and the people, while the umpiring was the best we had on

Turf Gossip from Everywhere.

News of Horsemen and Horses Compiled by a "Progress" Correspondent.

The colt by Wilton, dam Alma Mater, owned by May Overton in California, not Calais as you had it last week.

Col. R. P. Pepper, of Frankfort Ky., has sold to J. S. Coxer, Ohio, his five year old colt Acolyte, by Onward, by George Wilkes, dam Lady Alice, by Belmont, 2nd dam Lady Mambroin, by Mambroin Chief, 3rd dam by Gray Eagle. The price is said to be \$40,000.

The blind trotting stallion Tom Patchen, 2:27 1/4, is now doing service in a grocery wagon at Portland Me. Such a game, speedily little trotter as Tom was, deserves a better fate.

The phenomenal 2 year old Suttle, 2:18, has broken down, so report says; the extreme speed of so young a horse was too severe a strain for the tendons of the fore legs, which caused the collapse.

Mr. Bonner says that he will not start Maud S. this year unless some horse trots in 2:08 1/2, and then will he start the Queen to lower the record a notch. It is thought by many expert judges that Guy is the only one that can come near the top record, though the driver of Jay Eye See says he has something to say about it as he is going to give the "whirlwind" a chance to beat all records for a trotting horse.

Miller & Sibley, Prospect Hill Farm, Franklin, Pa., have offered Senator Stanford \$7,500 for every colt that Beautiful Belle produce, if by Electioneer, the money to be paid as soon as the colt can stand, the agreement to commence with this year's foal.

Gen. John Turner, the celebrated driver, it is said will next year manage a stable of runners. He has a string of yearlings, richly bred, at Amber Park, and would be a great loss to the sport.

Mr. P. Ketchum, Brighton, Ont., has a son Willie who has a trotting dog that at Picton, Ont., May 24, defeated two 12-hand high ponies in two straight half-mile heats, in 2:07 and 2:05, over a soft track. People that have seen "Doc," trot and Willie driving him home in a close finish, say it is as grand a sight to see the efforts both make to win. Willie has refused a bona fide offer of \$1000 for the outfit, but offers are of no avail.

Mr. Davis, superintendent of the High Lawn Stock Farm, Lee, Mass., says that if nothing serious happens this season to the get of Alcantara that at the end of the season there should be ten new ones added to the credit of Alcantara in the 20 list.

It is said that the horse Dr. C., that is trotting in Massachusetts, is the old horse Hector that made a record of 2:3 in 1880, and in a race at Sangus, May 23d, he got ninth position in 3 1/2, 30 1/2, 29 1/2. In this case ringing meets its own reward.

The Horseman has succeeded in capturing J. W. Healy, who has been fraudulently collecting money for the paper in Canada. Healy is now serving time on two charges at London, Ont., and should be a wiser man when he gets out of quod.

John Murphy, the famous driver, is done with the turf forever, and has driven his last race. He has only a few months to live, as he has a bad case of consumption. Ere the summer fades away, as true and honest a driver as ever breathed the pure air will have passed away, leaving a great name behind him.

As a driver, he had few equals and never a superior.

At Waterville, N. Y., on May 31, in the 29 class, DeBarry won the first heat in 2:01 1/2, and Frank T. won the next three and race; best time 2:01 1/2. DeBarry is the one horse that caused the Nova Scotian representatives to the Maritime circuit to kick against the free-for-all and substitute a 25 class, while they claim they have three or four over in their section that can beat 30.

George F. Todd has arrived home with Lux, by Lumps, dam by Stockbridge Chief, Jr. Lux is a two-year-old, black, and very large, and while not a handsome horse, is still a grand horse. He stands over fifteen hands high, is a very quiet, nice-dispositioned fellow, with a good head, splendid ear, well set out under the throat; nice, long neck, well set on to a splendid set of shoulders; a back that denotes no weakness across the loins—he has one of the strongest backs that is to be seen on a colt—well coupled, and a splendid hip, very strong and nicely turned; a set of legs that cannot be beaten. With plenty of bone and muscle, he has a grand gait, and will make a splendid 16-hand, 1,200 horse. With his breeding, he should be a very desirable stock horse to cross with Trusty Boy and Olympus Billie.

Little Queen, by King Herod, on May 28th foaled a large black perfect in every respect, by her half-brother Herod. Queen is 21 and Herod is 23 years old, and it was predicted that the colt would be a weakly, small boned, sickly object, owing to the closeness of its relationship, but the result proved the opposite and was the largest colt the mare ever foaled, and has been sold for \$2500.

Enlah H., by Gilbreth Knox, dam by Gideon, won two races at Mystic park last week, and trotted six heats better than 20, getting a record of 27 1/2. Lulah was bred in Maine and is the sixth of Gilbreth Knox get to enter the 20 list, and is also the sixth of the produce of Gideon's daughters to reach the same.

J. C. Graves, Keena, Ky., had a mare die that would foal in a month and, as the colt would be very valuable, he decided to open the mare and save the colt, which is a fine bay, as lively as a deer and is being brought up by hand on cow's milk and is doing nicely.

St. Croix.

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FREDERICTON, N. B. \$350 in Purses.

The Directors of the above Association would announce a TROTTING MEETING, on Monday, July 1st, 1889,

at which purses to the amount of \$350 will be offered.

No. 1-3 Minute Class.....\$150  
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3-Gentleman's Driving Race, prize-Set of Harness

Nos. 1 and 2 Races will be mile heats, 3 in 5, in harness, and Nos. 3 will be half mile heats, 3 in 5, to Road Wagon, unless otherwise allowed by the directors.

All races governed by the Rules of the National Trotting Association.

A horse distancing the field will receive first money only.

Five required to enter and three to start.

In Nos. 1 and 2, the entrance money will be 10 per cent of the purse. Five per cent to accompany nomination and 5 per cent to be paid before the race is started. Entries will close with the secretary on the evening of THURSDAY, 20th June.

Purses will be divided with 60 per cent to first; 30 per cent to second, and 10 per cent to third.

No. 3 will be opened to named horses only, and to such of the Directors may choose to admit. The Directors may also decide as to what kind of a vehicle may be used, and may handicap any horse if they see fit. Owners or amateurs to drive.

The Directors reserve the right to postpone races on account of unsuitable weather.

Passenger and Freight rates on the different lines of travel, will be announced as soon as possible.

Admission to Park, 50 cts. Grand Stand, 10 cts. Carriages Free.

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