

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

The Thistles and Franklins play ball at 2.30 next Tuesday at the barracks. Admission free; but don't forget the contribution box at the gate. Ten cents is not much, and don't forget to leave it.

Mr. George Carvill and the Agricultural society do not appear to be on the best of terms. Last Friday's performance at Moosepath must have disgusted all true lovers of sport. The stamina of the judges, their unflinching attitude, and strict observance of the rules were the redeeming features of the unwholesome affair. Mr. Carvill should have known better than to buck against the rules and judges, because he has virtually ruled himself from the track by his ill advised act.

From what I can understand, the judges were the men to handle Mr. Carvill's protest, and because he was not satisfied, was the poorest kind of a lame excuse for his course. He must learn, however, that with such men as John Johnson and James McGivern in the stand he cannot run the track and all about it.

If I went to the records, there is evidence to show that hot water seems to be a favorite element of his. When three sulks were smashed Mr. Carvill got off very easily—too easily in fact.

Mr. Jewett, while acting as judge, remembers hearing some one tell him that he would "slap his mouth and pitch him off the stand." To consider it on no other grounds such talk is not that of a sportsman.

The fact that there were not enough entries in the last race to start it and the refusal of the managers to accept his proposal did not warrant Mr. Carvill in making such a disturbance in the gentlemen's driving race that the entries left the track. It does not do, gentlemen, to hurl back such words at the judges as "To hell with the rules. I've heard them until I'm sick and tired of them."

I brag on the men who stood on the stand with nerve enough to place a \$25 fine on every kicker. I believe the people who went to see that race would have been glad to have seen them fined to the full extent—\$100.

For the benefit of the gentlemen who made the trouble, I would call their attention to Rule 17 section 1, and Rule 51 section 3.

Now that the games with the South Portlands are over and we are all quiet again, there is a tendency to give every player a square show. I heard remarks made during the game that were, I think, prompted by excitement and forgotten as soon as the play was finished. But when ball cranks whose opinion is worth something speak of the players they should be as cool as an ice house, and not make a statement that would circulate as "what Mr. said of such and such a player."

I must congratulate the A. A. club upon the great bonanza the opening was. Nearly \$1,000 in cash. You had better get plans for that bank.

Dunning and Pickering appear to have done themselves proud in Halifax. I am sorry the Scotian capital hasn't an umpire such as we can boast of. I am not blind to Mr. Umpire Harrison's faults, but I give him credit for squareness and more ability to the inch as an umpire than any man east of Boston.

Just let me say here that his decision as the chosen umpire of the club respecting the third game of the Portland series, should stand. I have it from Manager Bell that no arrangement was made for a seven inning game; that St. John had nothing to do with the Portland's agreement with Halifax, but if it would convenience the visitors the game could be called half an hour earlier. That was a fair proposition, but it was not accepted or rejected, and the game was called at the usual hour. "Play ball" once called and with no previous arrangement between the managers, the umpire has charge. Umpire Harrison decided the game in favor of the St. John's, 9 to 0, when the Portland's refused to play longer, in the eighth inning. That they had plenty of time was evident from their earliness at the railway station and their leisureness about the hotel.

The South Portlands declare that Halifax is no town to play ball in with Pickering as an umpire.

I like to see visitors get a square deal, but let me tell my Halifax friends that so long as the Socials permit Pickering to appear upon the diamond in an official capacity, so long will other teams be suspicious. I confess to a hope some time ago that the St. John's and the Socials would allow their differences to blow over and meet again, but had I suspected that Pickering's act of last season would be endorsed by them this year, I would not have suffered such an idea to grow.

You must get rid of Pickering, gentlemen of the Social club, and when you do that little trick don't be afraid to publish the fact. New Brunswick boys will never go to Halifax with the chances of getting such a roasting as he gave last year's Nationals.

I cannot see any excuse for the Socials managers attempt to even up things by getting Pickering to umpire the second game. Halifax newspaper men agree that the umpiring was disgracefully unfair, for the regular Halifax correspondents of both the morning papers in this town roast Pickering's work. Give every club a square deal, and especially a strange club.

I have a letter from a well known commercial gentleman of this city, who was in Halifax last Tuesday and saw the South Portland-Social game. His talk is plain, and I print it as that of a gentleman who has seen good ball, who loves the leather and the diamond, as a true sportsman who is truly indignant at the disgrace brought upon them by such as Pickering. He writes:

I have just returned from a game of base ball, the contesting teams being Socials and South Portland. Six innings, score 3, 8, in favor of the Halifax umpire, the celebrated Pickering, play lasting from 4.45 to 6.15.

It certainly was the worst exhibition of umpiring that I ever witnessed. I really have not words to express myself; for bare faced robbery, rascality, and all that sort of thing Pickering takes the bun. Would hardly believe if I were not an eye witness that a man could umpire a game of ball and be backed up by the crowd, as this man Pickering did. Some here go so far as to say that Halifax and St. John will meet this season. I do hope that such will not be, and if you can in any way boom this club, (Socials) in a way to keep foreign clubs away, do so for I am satisfied that no outside club can come here and be treated in anything like a fair way. They deserve to be boycotted.

I have not time to write more at present, but feeling so thoroughly disgusted with the exhibition I saw this afternoon, I can't but drop you a line. The only way to learn this club and umpires here a lesson is to induce all outside clubs to boycott them, and to this end I would do all I could.

Power's Ball Talk.

HALIFAX May 22.—Halifax has opened the base ball season, and the circumstances show that Halifaxians have got the base ball craze. There were four games arranged for the Queen's birthday, two between amateur league teams, and two between the Socials and Lewistons, and all to commence at such hours so as one would not conflict with the others. There were people who had arranged to go to the four games, and their disappointment can be pictured when they arose in the morning and found the rain pouring in torrents. The rain almost ceased about 10 a. m., and throughout the streets the next hour on all sides, the questions were being contin-

ually asked, will there be a game? Will they play today? etc. It was soon announced that the morning games had been postponed, but that the afternoon games would take place as advertised, providing it did not rain. But soon after 12 the rain again began to pour, and everybody decided there would be no game. The Socials held a meeting about 3.30 p. m., and were considering whether they would hold the Lewistons over for the next day, when the rain suddenly ceased, the sun shone forth, and it was decided to have the game take place within an hour. Word was passed around and the members of the home club were provided with white beavers, on which was painted "game today," and then drove through the principal streets to advertise it. Being a holiday, and the weather unpropitious, there were few people out, but the fact that there was to be a game soon became noised about; crowds commenced to wind their way towards the grounds, and three quarters of an hour after the Socials had decided in their room to play, nearly 1900 people were outside the Wanderer grounds clamoring for admission. Better proof than this that Halifaxians are base ball crazy would be difficult to find. The game, however, did not commence at the time advertised; the Social's players, thinking there would be no match, had gone to various points of the city, and it was 5.15 before the game commenced, at which time there were 1200 people present.

Their great desire was to see Flynn in the box, and they expected to see an interesting game, but their ardor was dampened, as there was so much "kicking" that the game became tedious, and it was finished in the dark. Flynn is a great "kicker" and like his tutor, Capt. Anson, of the Chicago, strives to gain every possible point whenever the least advantage offers. But what interferes with his success in that respect is that he has not a strong voice and when he questioned the umpire's decision the audience could see that he was disputing, but had not the least idea what he was saying, and that is just where Anson makes his kicking a success. As his big burly form strides toward the umpire one cannot but feel impressed with his appearance, and his commanding tone can be heard almost all over the field. Flynn is small of stature, though thick set, and he has a mild voice. It is a great question though as to whether this style of playing will suit Halifax audiences, and from the expressions on Friday it would seem that they would be more satisfied if the players would endeavor to gain their points without delaying the game. The crowding about the umpire by several players every few moments made the spectators weary, and the game was drawn out to 2 1/2 hours, the last inning being played when it was so dark that it was difficult to see the ball.

Flynn worked a great many of the tricks practised by the Chicago league club. In his very first turn at the bat he made a step forward, and allowed the ball to strike him on the foot, thus securing his base. In going from second to home he did not go near third base, and with men on first and third, and the first baseman with the ball in his hand, he ran the third base coaching line, making out he was the base runner, and then endeavoring to have the first baseman throw home, so that the man on first could go to second. Another trick used in the game was with a man on base, and a long hit to right field, the baseman next to the leading base runner, as the latter comes near to him, holds his hands as though the ball is being thrown to him, while in reality the ball has not yet left the hands of the outfielder. This causes the base runner to stop, and when he sees his mistake it is too late for him to reach the next base, which he would otherwise have got.

As to Flynn's pitching abilities, Friday's game was hardly a fair test. Since his arrival here he has had but little practice, and then only in damp weather which is the worst thing possible for a man who has any trouble with his arm. Then again, on Friday the ball was wet, the air was damp and chilly, which of course was not favorable to his arm, and he complained greatly of the umpiring of his drop ball. He was batted for eight hits, but had been better supported in the field, five would have been about the number. The Socials were satisfied with his debut, and while not thinking he is a phenomena, they feel he can pitch good enough ball to win games for them. The crowd were disappointed; they never thought for a moment that Flynn had to leave the Chicago on account of a bad arm; they only remembered that he was a member of the Chicago League club, and they expected him to do pitching such as they had never seen before. As one man remarked to me, "If that is the kind of pitchers they have in the League clubs, I am not anxious to see League games." They did not seem to understand that if Flynn was suitable to League clubs at the present time, he would not be in Halifax. The game he pitched on Friday was about the same as that pitched by the best of the pitchers of the Maine clubs which have visited this city, but future games under more favorable circumstances will give a better opportunity to judge his abilities. He knows all the points of the game, and in this respect will prove a valuable man, and it is expected from what he can learn Davison, the latter will improve wonderfully.

The Socials have another valuable man this season in Doyle. He can put up a grand game at second, and his association with the Gardner Me. team last season has given him all the points, and he plays the bag just as it should be played. White is catching magnificently, and Graham and Smith are again at first and third. Davison covered short in Friday's game in great form, while the outfield, Fitzgerald, O'Brien and McPender is the only place that is weak. They are all right if they can get under the balls, as they are sure catches, but they might save several base hits if they would make more effort to get under the balls.

The Standards, the amateur champions of last season, had a narrow escape from defeat by the Wanderers on Saturday. Henry's arm was sore, and he made several wild throws which lost the game. He made a catch, however, which has not been equalled on the grounds. The ball was batted foul, and as soon as the ball went up in the air he started from third, and while running at the top of his speed, captured the ball. Nobody ever expected he would make the catch, and he was loudly cheered.

I see you have been trying the double umpire system in St. John, and while it is a great improvement in giving better decisions when they are close, from what I see of Essenden and Curry in Boston, I do not think it is a system which will please the spectators. For instance, if there is a close decision on second base, and the umpire giving the base decision is right alongside, certainly there is nobody who should know better than he as to whether the base runner was out or not. But the spectators see the play in a different light according to the position on the grounds they occupy, and this makes them think that the umpire did not give a square decision, while the chances are all in the favor of the latter. There is talk of a new base ball club being formed here, to include many of the old Athletics, and if rumor is correct they are negotiating with a well known professional player. POWN.

next man his base on balls, forcing in a run, and a moment later would not give Doyle out for not touching third base when he did not go within several feet of the bag. The visitors were disgusted and they had a perfect right to be. Pickering's calling of balls and strikes was something indescribable and enough to rattle any pitcher. We have several first-class umpires here, but from the treatment they have received they are not willing to act. But more of this anon.

Gossip of the Turf.

The following paragraph appeared in a Boston paper a few days ago: George F. Todd, of St. Stephen, N. B., has purchased of George Leavitt the mare Mary Anderson, in foal to Colonel Taylor, by Dictator. He also secured Lux, a two year-old son of Lumps, dam by Stockbridge Chief, jr., second dam by Billy Wagner, by Wagner. He has put him in the hands of Seward Hill at Brockton for handling and the youngster is said to be very fast.

Seward Hill belongs to Calais, Maine, and as well known to horsemen in the provinces. His son George, who is also in Brockton, drove the Amherst stallion Harry Baker in Nova Scotia some years ago. George has been seen on the frontier circuit this fall with some trotters, as stated in a previous letter. Frank, another son of Seward Hill, is doing a first-class livery stable business in Halifax. For a number of years the members of the Halifax and City clubs have been placing large sums of money—Derby sweepstakes abroad with but small returns, and they have decided to keep the money in the city, and will this year have a sweepstake of their own. The members of either club can secure tickets for any friend, but only in this way can the tickets be obtained.

Robert Bustin, the St. John horseman, who is now living in Boston, visited Canning, N. S., last week, to inspect the six-year-old Parkmont, record 2.57 at 4 years. He paid about \$200 for him. The owners of "ponies in this vicinity are busily engaged training their animals for the June 21st meeting. While the entries are not likely to be large in any of the races some interesting contests are expected.

In passing through Annapolis last week, I had an opportunity to take a glance at the stock owned by Dr. A. B. Cunningham, of the Annapolis drug store. His handsome residence is but a couple of minutes walk from the station, and his stock is kept on the farm adjoining. He has a choice bred animal in his three year old stallion Sir Breton, by Grand Sentinel, 2.27 1/4, by Sentinel, 2.20, by Jyls-Hys Hambleton, dam by Magna Charta, the sire of Hannah D., 2.22 1/4, and other trotters, and the dam of Belle F., 2.15 1/4, Geo. F., 2.20, and others. He is a boy of splendid disposition and his groom says he knows nothing else but trot. He also owns the black mare Black Rose, bred by H. L. Stunt, Dubuque, Iowa. She is seven years old, 13 1/2 hands and has a star and snip. She was sired by Manbrino Boy, dam Bonnie S., by imported Bonnie Scotland, 2nd dam by Morgan Chief. She has had two foals, both of which are at the farm. One is a two year old by Sentinel Wilkes, son of the great George Wilkes, and the other a yearling a full brother to the latter. The doctor also has two other mares, one of which he bred to Kentucky Prince but has not proved in foal. POWN.

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