

# THE BAT AND BALL.

Devoted to our National Game.

SECOND SEASON,—No. 1.

HARTFORD, MAY 1, 1867.

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## The Bat and Ball

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THE BAT AND BALL.

MAY 1st, 1867.

Greeting.

To the Ball Players of the United States.

Once more, at the opening of a new season, the Bat and Ball is able to salute its friends; while we have been obliged, through the long and dreary winter, to sleep like a bear in his mountain cave; we are now once more among our brothers of the bat and ball to record your trials and your triumphs. To aid the weak and to uphold the strong, to advise and be advised, that we all may profit thereby. For another season we ask your aid and assistance in our work.

The issue of this paper was not, during the season of '66, a sufficient success to induce the proprietors to issue it another year. At the request of our personal friends, we have been induced to open for another campaign; but in order that we may be able to give full and minute account of the season, it will be necessary that we have a much larger subscription list than we had last year. We do not intend to be guilty of egotism, but we think we may safely say that our effort of the past season was perfectly satisfactory to our patrons—and with the experience we then had, we hope to be able to improve our paper very much this season. It is issued on a larger sheet, with much better paper and clearer type, and though we have not issued it of the size which we expected to, it is only because we were not warranted thereto by the interest taken in it by the clubs of this part of the country.

To our friends and patrons we appeal to aid us in our object; subscribe yourself and get all your friends to do the same,—and not only this, but keep us informed of the doings in your place in matters of the bat and ball. If you will all do this, and it is but little for each one to do, we shall be able to give you a perfect record of what you all want to know.

### The Season of '67.

This season, which is now opening, bids fair to be one of the most exciting that our National Game is likely ever to know. And it is well that it should be so, for there is no more worthy object of public attention now before the American people, than this same national game. It is to be hoped that it may be the means of bringing forward a new and better physique among the young men of this country, for it involves in its pursuit

those two great blessings, fresh air and physical exercise, so little known to the young, or for that matter, the older men of our cities and larger towns.

And while this object is accomplished as well by the smaller clubs, as by those which are larger and in some cases professionals, these clubs have a work that is indispensable to do; it is for them to arrange and to fix the rules and regulations that all may be benefited by a uniform manner of playing, and it is also for them to set a standard so high that all must attend to the pursuit with diligence to attain even a respectable position. All of this is positively necessary in order to keep up the enthusiasm required to make anything popular in this country.

From all quarters we learn of movements on foot for the opening of the season. While we on the Atlantic coast are talking of the opening of the season, we find on the other coast of our great country, that the birthday of the father of his country was celebrated by a match game in San Francisco, between the Eagles and Pacifics, which resulted in a victory for the Eagles by a score of 70 to 32 for their opponents.

The old clubs of last year are getting in trim for play; the Atlantics will open the season with the same name which they had in the close of last season. The Athletic of Philadelphia, has reorganized, and have ere this began to practice; they will have this year a formidable opponent in the new club, "the Quaker City," which has some very fine players, among whom we may mention Tom Pratt. Here in our city the Charter Oak boys have begun to practice, and will probably play very much as they did last season. The Chesters and Uncas of Norwich, have consolidated. The Pioneers of Springfield, we learn, do not expect to play this season.

### Cricket.

Although not exactly in our department, we have no doubt but that a few items in regard to this game will be of interest to our subscribers. Cricket is undoubtedly too slow a game for this country, young America can ill afford to take two days to play a match game of ball. There are other reasons why it can never become a popular game in this country; but it has its devotees, not only among those from the old country, but of our own native Americans. Not many years since, it was necessary to select a double number of players to compete with an old country "eleven," but for a year or two past it has been different, as the success of Young America Club of Philadelphia will show.

The old veterans, the St. George Club of New York, is the most prominent of the organizations in this country. It was the St. George's who introduced the All-England players into this country in 1859. Next year it is the intention of this club to offer inducements to bring out another first-class All-England eleven cricketers, to make a tour

throughout the States, playing a series of matches yet to be arranged. This club also brought about the annual international matches, Canada vs. United States, which were played annually some few years since. The last of these friendly bouts was in 1865, when the St. George's, at Hoboken, defeated the officers of the garrison of Canada. For many years the "Dragon Slayers," as they are sometimes termed, rented the grounds at the Red House, Harlem, and many were the fierce battles that took place there. In 1859 they leased from Mr. Stevens an elevated site of ground in close proximity to the New York Yacht Club house, which was converted into a magnificent cricket ground. Now that the lease has expired, the St. George has purchased an extensive plot of ground on Bergen Hill, which is at present under preparation, but will probably be opened on the first of May for playing. The club numbers now about 300 members; they have lost this year two of their professional players, but they have others on their way to New York, who, with Sammy Wright, their old trainer, will be able to hold their own.

The New York Club is another of the old clubs, and was at one time the leading club, but owing to various causes they have not been able to play very much or very well.

The Willow Club of Brooklyn, is a young club, which will turn out this season a very fine eleven, though they play more for practice than for match playing. Their members are mostly young gentlemen engaged in mercantile business in the city, who can indulge in practice one or two afternoons in the week, but do not wish to sacrifice two days at a stretch. Before the season is over, however, doubtless the Willow's will give a good account of their achievements on the green sward. Wm. Crossley is again engaged as their professional, and is now busy preparing the ground for the opening day.

The other clubs of note in and around New York, are the Manhattan of New York, the American of Brooklyn, the Satellite of Williamsburg, and the Newark of Newark, New Jersey.

In Philadelphia there are the Young America, who will shortly be in the field. The Philadelphia City Club, who are to have an imported professional to assist them, and the Olympians, which, as usual, will not be behind in match games.

In Boston, the only club is the Boston, which is making great preparations for the season. They are said to be stronger than ever, and will visit New York during the summer, the New-Yorkers owing them a return game for both first and second elevens. They also will play their annual match game with Shelbourn Falls, and probably give the Canadians a turn before "winding up."

Wm. Hammond is retained as their professional. The Cincinnati Club has 300 subscribers belonging to the organization, the club being in a most prosperous condition. During the season they will make a tour of the Western districts and



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the Canadas, for the purpose of playing initiatory matches. Harry Wright, formerly of St. George's, is their professional.

In Connecticut, we have several clubs, but are not sufficiently informed in regard to their strength, to make any note thereof.

### The Umpire.

We have received the first number of the Umpire, a new candidate for the favor of the base ball fraternity. It is published at Ionia, Michigan, every Monday morning, price one dollar per year. It is to be a paper of much merit, and will not only chronicle the ball news, but give a good selection of miscellany. We have no doubt it will be well received by the boys of the Northwest and elsewhere.

### Musical.

Our N-R-Getic young man has lately been in the *musé-sick* line, and desires to offer a few comments on some popular airs. He thinks the author of "Humbag is the Fashion," evidently did not live in the 4th Congressional district of this State; our readers will observe that he is a violent Copperhead by the above. He thinks its rather superfluous to ask, "Can there be any harm in kissing," and if any one differ, he would respectfully refer them to the first young lady they meet. We are desired by him to call the attention of the Workingmen's Union to the author of "Five o'clock in the morning," who evidently does not favor the eight hour law. He thinks the young man whom he heard last night, singing "I'm very fond of water," is an outrageous liar, or else a very singular specimen about here; and farther, ~~he is positive that there was no use in the other chap to waste his breath in saying, "I'm a young man from the country," when the fact was perfectly patent to everybody at first sight. Going down town the other day, he says he heard a forlorn damsel singing "The Girls are all married but me," and he thought it was really too bad, she ought to emigrate to Oregon; but when he came back he found that "At last I've found some one to love," and concluded it was all right. In conclusion, he desires to advise the fellow who "Never does nothing at all," that though there are plenty of fellows in his trade, it is not a remarkably profitable one.~~

**A PERPLEXED IRISHMAN.**—A few days since, a gentleman connected with one of our railroad corporations, while taking a ride through one of our country towns, accompanied by an Irish servant had the misfortune to have his vehicle smashed and himself and his companion thrown to the ground, by his horse taking fright and running away. The gentleman was somewhat bruised, but not seriously. His principle loss being that of his wig, which had been shaken off; and on picking himself up, he found Pat in a much worse condition, holding on to his head with the blood trickling through his fingers, which he was surveying with the most ludicrous alarm and horror. 'Well, Patrick,' said his employer, 'are you much hurt?'

'Hurt, is it! Ah, Holy mother, sir, dear, do you see the top of my head in my hand?'

Pat, in his terror and confusion, had mistaken the gentleman's portable head piece for his own natural scalp, and evidently regarded his last hour as arrived.

## BALL SUMMARY.

**A GRAND BASE BALL TOUR.**—The National Club of Washington, this summer will make one of the most extensive tours ever made by a ball club. They will leave Washington on the 21th of July, arrive at Cincinnati on the morning of the 14th, and remain there during the 15th and 16th. On the 17th they are to be in Louisville, and in Indianapolis either on the 18th or 19th. On the 21st they will arrive at St. Louis, staying there until the 23rd, when they go to Chicago for a three day's visit, leaving there on the 28th for home. During their stay in Chicago, among other games they will play one each with Detroit and Milwaukee clubs. They will play two clubs at Cincinnati, two at St. Louis, and one each at Indianapolis and Louisville.

**THE PROPOSED TOURNAMENT IN RICHMOND.**—We regret to learn that the grand tourney which was proposed to make the base ball event of the year at Richmond, Va., will not take place. Changes are being made in the clubs of Richmond, the formation of a new and strong club being in progress. We hope some one of the Richmond clubs will visit Washington this summer. Why do not the Virginia clubs get up a State Association? There are enough clubs in the State.

**THE CAPITOLINE GROUNDS.**—This fine base ball locality has been greatly improved for the coming season. The large field has been divided into two grounds, the lower ground for practice games, and the upper field for matches; besides which a fine enclosed croquet ground for the exclusive use of ladies and their invited guests, has been laid out back of the club house. The rooms occupied by the Excelsior and Enterprise Clubs last year have been thrown into one for the consolidated club.

**THE KNICKERBOCKER CLUB.**—This veteran club has obtained the services of a first class pitcher—A. Brainard, of the Excelsiors, having joined them—we hope to see them organize a nine for the season and take part in match games.

**THE IRVINGTON CLUB.**—At a meeting of the Irvington Base Ball Club on Tuesday, April 2d, the following officers were elected:—President, D. G. Smith; Vice-President, Walter Kimber; Corresponding Secretary, M. Stockman; Recording Secretary, D. A. Pilonbet; Treasurer, C. Zeldier.

**THE ACTIVE CLUB.**—This club is to organize a fine team for 1867, and will go into training for two months, not playing any match games until July 4th. They have lost Stockman, who is Secretary of the Irvingtons this year. Howes is a first class short stop, however.

**A NEW BALL GROUND.**—A fine ball ground is being laid out on the flats between Jersey City and Hoboken, which bids fair to rival the Hoboken fields this year. Next season it will probably be the ground of the season as the Elysian Fields are to be built upon.

—At a convention of the base ball clubs in and around Chattanooga, Tenn., held March 3, 1867, it was determined to call a meeting of all the base ball clubs in the State, for the purpose of forming a State association under the recent provision of the national association of base ball clubs. The time for the meeting was fixed on April 3, 1867,

but on account of the recent heavy flood it has been postponed until May 1, 1867.

The N. Y. *World* comments thus on the prohibition of champion games, by the national association at the last convention:

"Base-ball, which is distinctively an American pastime, had nearly fallen into the hands of a few experts, but the timely prohibition by the American Base-Ball Association, last fall, of matches for the championship, will arouse increased interest in the game among the people at large. The tendency of these matches was, of course, to restrain the ardor of the many by limiting the glory to a few, to say nothing of the unavoidable interchange of bets and ill-feeling which always attended contests for the championship. The action of the Association is therefore to be commended, and it will be strange if one of the results be not a more general participation in this healthful sport.

It is a matter for congratulation that within the past few years out-door sports have engaged so much attention in this country. Their beneficial effects it were hard to over-estimate, since, while they afford a vent for the exuberant spirits of youth, they are beneficial to health. Like all sports in which chance forms an element, there was danger lest base ball, cricket, rowing, and racing might degenerate into mere opportunities for betting, but the reforms which have been inaugurated in the conduct of each, afford evidence that this danger has been foreseen, and, as far as possible, provided against."

**THE POWHATTAN CLUB.**—This club, formerly one of the strongest of the South Brooklyn clubs, will have a good nine this season, and they will open play for the season very soon. Shields is going to pitch for them, and he is a troublesome customer in the position to first-class batsmen. Shields knows how to use his head in pitching, and that is going to be a point of play this season. Twist is played out, and speed only answers when the pitcher has first-rate command of the ball.

**THE EAGLE CLUB.**—This club will take an active part in the season's sport. They intend getting up a good nine, and among their first games will be those with some country-clubs, there being more sport in taking trips than in city-games.

**THE LOWELL CLUB OF BOSTON.**—This club, under the leadership of that energetic ball player, John A. Lowell, is going to visit New York early this summer, and they will bring a nine with them that will give the New York clubs all they want to do to win a ball from them. That fine pitcher, Lovett, will handle the ball for the nine, and he can send in ripping balls, and that, too, under the new rules.

**THE MOHAWKS OF BROOKLYN.**—This active young club, who went through their first season in 1866 so creditably, opened play for the season on the Carroll Park grounds, on Saturday, March 30, and had quite a lively time of it.

**THE UNION CLUB.**—This crack club of New York State will no doubt take as leading a position this season as they did last year. They will still occupy their old field, the club being unable, as yet, to procure a new locality. The chances are, however, that before the close of the season, they will have a fine inclosed ground. The nine for 1867 will include Birdsall, Faber, Smith, Martin, Ketcham, Hannegan, Akin, Austin, Goldie, etc.,



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with Hudson, Abrams, and others, to fill up. Abrams has always been among the first in the average each year. The Unions will visit the western part of the State in July, and also go to Washington.

**THE RESOLUTE CLUB, OF BROOKLIN.**—We learn that the Resolute Club are going to take an active part in the approaching summer-campaign. They have secured two days on the Sattellite grounds, and will have in their nine Storer, A. Rogers, Weeden, Warnack, Wilson, McCutcheon, Allen, Bush, Lockwood, Gignour, and quite a number of other first class players.

## MATCH GAMES.

Secretaries and Umpires of match games are requested to transmit the score of the game so soon as played, in order that this department may be kept up to the times.

**RALEIGH, N. C., March 7th, 1867.**—A match was played between the National Club of Raleigh, and the Meteors of Newburn on March 7th, for the state championship, and resulted in a victory for the nationals by a score of 49 to 40, the following were the innings:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
National,	2	1	5	8	0	11	12	6	4=49
Meteor,	13	0	4	4	4	1	11	2	1=40

Mr. Easton, of the Alert Club of Richmond, acted as Umpire.

**ATLANTA, Georgia, March 14.**—A match was played between the Gate City and Atlanta Clubs of that place, which gave a score of 108 to the Gate City, to 32 to the Atlantas.

**ATLANTA, March 25th.**—A very interesting match took place between the Gate City of Atlanta and the Lookout Club of Chattanooga, the champions of Tennessee. The Atlanta boys were the victors by a score of 77 to 40.

**MOBILE, Ala.**—On the 26th of March, the first nine of the Dramatic Club of Mobile, and a picked nine of the Star Club of that city, played a lively game of six innings together, the result being the success of the Thespians by a score of 28 to 24. The game opened favorably for the Stars, and they led the score until the fifth inning, when some "heavy business" at the bat was attended to by the Dramatists, to the tune of eleven runs and hence their ultimate success. The game only occupied one hour and forty minutes.

**ATLANTA, March 26th.**—The second nines of the Gate City and Lookout Clubs played, the Gate City scoring 92 to their opponents 85.

**NEW YORK, April 4th.**—The first game of the season was played at Hoboken, between the Experts and Neighbors Sons, the Experts winning by a score of 37 to 32.

**MOBILE, April 10th.**—The Lone Star Base Ball Club, of New Orleans, and the Dramatic, of Mobile, played a match game to-day—the former winning by a score of 92 to 7.

A story is told of an old Virginia planter who was missing corn from his crib. One night he told a colored boy to set a trap in the crib. The next morning the boy came running to the house, exclaiming:

"Massa, if dare isn't a white fellah out dare at the corn-crib, shaking hands with dat steel trap!"

## CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW YORK, April 18th, 1867.

**MESSRS. EDITORS.**—I send you a few "jottings by way" in regard to what is to be done this season by the ball fraternity of Gotham. Our clubs are now organizing, and will nearly all be in order by the 1st of May; the various grounds are being put in shape for play, and some of the clubs have already been out for practice. In addition to the Capitoline and Union ground in Brooklyn, a new and inclosed ground will be opened by the Satellite Club in Williamsburg, and the St. George's Cricket Club will open a new field back of Hoboken. The Elysian Fields have been closed by the proprietor, for any but practice games; this stand has been taken on account of the unruly crowds that have congregated there on the occasion of match games.

The Excelsior's played an opening game on April 6th, between the junior nine and a field nine, in which the junior's scored 29 to 1 for the field—time of game, one hour and thirty minutes. The Mutual's opened on the 15th at Hoboken; the boys were all on hand, and quite early a large crowd was gathered there who had gone over for a little practice.

There was probably 1500 persons on the ground when the Mutual's were ready to play. That the interest in the game will not flag this season, we think is very evident from the above fact. The day was a superb one, and only the lack of foliage suggested the fact that it was not the later part of June. The sides were chosen at three o'clock, Messrs. Waterman and Hunt being the captains; seven innings were played, which resulted in a score of 21 for Waterman to 9 for Hunt. The Mutual is in a very prosperous condition, numbering about 300 members.

As usual quite a large number of changes will be made in the clubs this season. The more prominent ones announced as yet, are as follows:

PIKE, formerly of the Athletics, and STOCKMAN, of the Actives, have joined the Irvington Club. GEORGE WRIGHT has left the Union Club, and joined the Nationals, of Washington. ASA and HARRY BRAINARD, of the Excelsiors, have seceded and joined their fortunes to the Knickerbocker Club of this city. The Star Club will play their old catcher (MORRIS) this season, and JACKSON as short stop. SWANDEL, of the Eckfords, has joined the Orientals. The Mutuels have reinstated TOM DEVYR, as an active member, and this season he will play his old position as short stop. The Athletics having got rid of their salaried players, will play none but Philadelphians in their nine this season. TOM PRATT, the famous pitcher, has joined a new club in his native town, called the Quaker City. Very little is heard about the Atlantas. Their nine for the coming season has not been announced, but it will undoubtedly contain the most of the favorites. The Excelsior and Enterprise Clubs having been consolidated, the playing strength of the new club—the Excelsior—will be considerably augmented.

Yours,

MANHATTAN.

A country grave-digger was asked how he liked the business? He said he liked it pretty well, but should "like it much better if he could have steady employment."

## MISCELLANY.

### The Dutch Blacksmith.

Colonel P—, a very irritable and impatient had occasion once, while passing on horseback through a small town in the West, to patronize a Dutch blacksmith.

"Are you the smith?" he asked of a stout, black, bearded, smoking, dirty old man, who came out of the shop to look at the horse's defective shoes.

"Yees; I been dur shmidt," replied Meinheer, steadying his long pipe with his left hand, when he lifted one of the horse's feet with his right.

"You will him to have the new shoes?"

"No, sir," said the Colonel, in his quick way, "set the shoes on the fore feet; that's all."

"Set the shoe on his four feet—yah, I onderstan'. I will have him in vun hour shoed."

The Colonel went away, and returning at the appointed time, found the Dutch smith still at work on his horse. He was very wrath when he saw the state of affairs; but he went away again with the promise that in "vun half hour" longer the shoes would be set. After dinner, in no very mild humor, he again made his appearance at the shop, and asked "what was to pay?"

"Four shilling," was the reply.

"Four shilling! it is an imposition!" exclaimed the fiery Colonel. "I never paid over a shilling for setting a shoe in my life."

"Werry vell," nodded Meinheer. "Vun shilling for de vun shoe—I set de four shoes—dat ish four shilling—nichts?"

"Nick! the Old Nick!" roared the excited traveller. "Who told you to set more than two shoes?"

"By doonder!" said the smith, "you tell me yourself."

"I? It's a falsehood—a lie—a—"

"Mine Cott! You say set de shoe on do four feet—"

"So I did! The two shoes on the fore feet—"

"Cott in Himmel! ish der man crazy? Two shoes on four feet! Vun hat on dree heads, as mootch!"

"You eternal f-f-fool!" exclaimed the Colonel, who stuttered a little when much excited; "I said set the fore shoes on these two feet, you b-b-b-blundering Dutchman!"

"Set four shoes on two feet! Ha, ha, ha!" laughed the smith, scornfully and angrily. "Hundert tausend blitzen! you tam Yankee!"

"You w-w-w-wooden-headed Dutchman!"

"You Yankee goose! monkey! vun jackass—fool!"

The Colonel replied, stuttering worse than ever; the smith struck his fists and jabbered Dutch, his knowledge of English being exhausted; and thus they had it, "back and forth," until a mutual acquaintance came up and explained the matter.—The Colonel paid the charge laughing at the mistake; while Meinheer smoked fiercely, cursing copiously the language which made four feet two feet, or two feet four feet, "any way but der right way—doonder and blitzen!"

Why are two young ladies kissing each other an emblem of Christianity?

Because they are doing unto each other as they would men should do unto them.



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An Irishman, from Battle Creek, Mich., was at Bull Run battle, and was somewhat startled when the head of his companion on his left hand was knocked off by a cannon ball. A few moments after, however, a spent ball broke the fingers of his comrade on the other side. The latter threw down his gun and yelled with pain, when the Irishman rushed to him, exclaiming: "Blasht yer sow! ye owld woman, shtop crying; ye make more noise about it than the man that losht his head."

At a religious meeting among the blacks, a colored preacher requested that some brother should pray. Thereupon half-witted Mose commenced a string of words entirely without meaning. At this the pastor raised his head and inquired: "Who's dat prayin'? Dat you, brudder Mose? Jest hold on, brudder Mose, you let somebody pray that's better acquainted wid de Lord."

A young fellow once offered to kiss a Quakeress.

"Friend," said she, "thee must not do it."

"Oh, by Jove, but I must!" said the youth.

"Well, friend, as thee hast sworn, thee may do it, but thee must not make a practice of it."

The skeleton in the theatre—The dead head.

Solitary employment—Clerk in a loan office.

An Italian, being accused of marrying five wives, was asked by the judges why he wedded so many?

"In order to meet with a good one, if possible," replied the fellow.

A woman quarreling with her husband, told him she believed if she was to die he would marry the Evil One's eldest daughter. "The law does not allow a man to marry two sisters," was the reply of the tender husband.

Old Skinfint, of Troy, says the very first time he changes a cent, he intends to do "something handsome" for the Orphan Asylum. Skinfint is the same old gentleman who squeezes every half dollar he gets hold of, so that you can hear the eagle shriek half way to Lansingburgh.

A quarrel occurred between two neighbors, and a death occurred in the family of one of them some time afterwards, when offenders were not asked to the funeral.

"Never mind," said the other, as the *cortege* moved by the door, "we'll have a corpse of our own at home by and by, and see then who'll be invited."

To make money plenty and cheap has been the study of Statesmen for the last ten centuries; and yet when a counterfeiter steps in and shows them how it is done, he is bundled off to States-prison for a dozen years or more. What an ungrateful world.

The girls out west frequently ride a tame wolf to meeting, and it is not unusual to meet a lady astride a domesticated crocodile. A Western girl sometimes sits down to tea with a rattlesnake coiled up in her lap, the animal thrusting up his head occasionally to take a view of the company.

Why was Moses the worst man that ever lived?

Because he broke all the ten commandments at once.

Who first introduced salt pork into the navy? Noah, when he took Ham into the ark.

### Rules of the Connecticut Base Ball Player's Association.

1. All match games for the championship shall be played in accordance with the rules adopted by the National Convention.

2. The season for play shall commence on the first day of May, and continue until the first day of November.

3. All challenges shall be sent to the secretary of the club at the time holding the emblem.

4. The champion club must be prepared to play within fifteen days after receipt of a challenge, provided that they be not required to play a game oftener than once in ten days, and shall play clubs in the order of the dates of their challenges, the champions being allowed choice of time, ground and ball for the first game, the challenging that for the second game; and the third game, if such game be necessary, shall be played upon neutral ground in the State, with a ball furnished by the champion club. In case of any dispute relative to grounds or rules, the difficulty shall be referred to the committee on rules and regulations, and their decision when given shall be final.

5. The expenses of every champion game must be defrayed by the challenging club.

7. No challenging club, being defeated, shall challenge again the same champions during the same season.

8. The champions, being defeated, may challenge immediately after the defeat, and be allowed a match in the order of their challenge.

9. In case the champions shall change hands during the season, all outstanding challenges shall be assumed by the new champions.

President—John A. Sterry of Norwich.

Vice-Presidents—1st, Gershom B. Hubbell of Hartford; 2d, S. M. Knevals of New Haven.

Recording Secretary—R. E. Crane of Agallian Club, Middletown.

Corresponding Secretary—Thomas M. Haven of Pequot Club, New London.

Treasurer—Alexander Hawley of Bridgeport Club, Bridgeport.

### Umpiring under the Amended Rules.

The principal amendments made to the rules of the last Convention were those referring to dead balls and to the movements of the pitcher. Despite the fact that every effort was made by the committee to so word every rule as to make its definition clear, it has been found necessary to "explain the explanations" as regards the definition of one or two of the amended rules. This explanatory revision has been given in the "Book of Reference," but we proceed to comment on the subject here to a brief extent.

First, in regard to dead balls. According to the new rule on the subject, every ball delivered to the batsman on which a "balk" or a "ball" has been called is "dead," and not in play until it has again been settled in the hands of the pitcher, while he is standing within the lines of his position. This dead quality of the ball refers, of course chiefly to the striker, no dead ball being allowed to be used to put the striker out, even if the ball be hit by the batsman, and neither can a dead ball put out a player running the bases; at the same time, too, it cannot prevent a player from making his bases, if he has first ceased to be the striker. Let us give a case in point, and at the

same time give young umpires a lesson. The first striker is at the bat, we will suppose, and he has just taken his position to begin the game. The duty of the umpire is, first, to see that the striker places his feet on the line of the home-base, and sufficiently far from the base, to the right or the left, as to admit of a ball being pitched over the base, "fairly for the striker," without going too close to him. This done the umpire then asks the batsman where he wants a ball, whether "knee-high"—the lowest legitimate ball—"hip-high" or "breast-high." Suppose the batsman calls for a low ball, then the pitcher is required to send in the ball not lower than a foot from the base "as near as possible over the base, and fairly for the striker." If he fails to do this repeatedly—twice in succession, for instance—then the umpire calls out "ball to the bat," or some similar word of warning. After doing this, if the pitcher send in first, a ball too high or too low, or too far off or too near, and the next ball be one touching the ground, pitched to the wrong side, or over the head of the batsman, then "one ball" must be called, and if the very next be in any way an unfair ball then "two balls"; and if a third is so pitched in succession, then "three balls"; and when the third ball is called, the striker is given his base, even if he undertake to strike at a ball and hit it, and it be caught on the fly; for the ball being a called-ball, and therefore "dead," no player can be put out on it; and yet, being the third ball called, the striker—and all men on the bases at the same time—is entitled to a base on it.

Secondly. Suppose a player is on the first base, and the batsman having called for a knee-high ball, and not having one sent to him, "two balls" have been already called; and suppose that, getting tired of waiting, he strikes quickly at a ball not sent in as low as he indicated, but near enough to hit foul, and just as the umpire calls "three balls" the batsman hits at the ball and tips it, and the ball be caught on the fly or bound, then the striker is given his base on three balls, the man on the first base takes his second likewise, and the foul ball and the catch is null and void, and not counted; for an unfair ball cannot be struck at fairly, and no dead ball can be hit foul.

Umpires should study this rule over in all its bearings, and get thoroughly familiar with the true intent and meaning of the rule, for it is a more important one than a cursory examination of it would lead one to suppose. Remember first, that every balked or called ball is a dead ball, and cannot either put a player out or be hit fairly by the batsman; and unless a ball can be fairly struck at, no foul hit can follow, for it is only when the batsman has the power to hit a ball legitimately that an opportunity is afforded to hit a foul ball. Last season, under the old rules, the anomaly existed of a ball being called a ball for not being delivered fairly, and yet "one strike" or "foul ball" followed immediately after, if the batsman attempted to hit it and either failed to hit it, or hit it poorly. This obstacle to a fair and correct decision, the new rule (section 10) has removed. It would take a column to explain the rules as clearly as we wish to do, but this branch of the question will serve for the first lesson to umpires.—*S. Mercury.*

Barnum may be a pious man, but he failed to make his "election sure."