

The Sin of Kicking

By Henry Chadwick

EDITOR'S NOTE—To his dying day Henry Chadwick, the father of baseball, protested against snarling criticism and faultfinding. He was requested by the editor of THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE to write an article for this publication setting forth his views. Although then weak from his final illness, he cheerfully complied. He had to give up, unable to finish the article. Even this fragment contains many hints to the chronic fault-finder. The regret is that the great old man was not spared his strength to finish his task.

THE public school teachers of Brooklyn, as a rule, are very fond of baseball, and I have the pleasure of knowing a few of them, whom I have taught to score the game. But what enthusiastic "fans" these girls are!

A few summers ago, I used to escort a dozen or more of women school teachers to see the games at Washington Park, the gallant president of the Brooklyn Baseball Club having cordially granted me the privilege, but of late years, in view of the "kicking" or fault-finding

propensities of Brooklyn teams, I discontinued the practice of escorting the women to the grounds. In fact, I did not see a game, either at Washington Park or the polo grounds, from June to the close of the season, owing to the evil of kicking which has been allowed to prevail. It was this proneness to kicking by the Brooklyn team last season which led to their record of one victory to sixteen defeats—the worst record ever known in the history of a Brooklyn club.

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