

# Our Fans' Department

## *Comment from Grand Stand and Bleachers*

This section of our Magazine is reserved wholly for the use of our readers. We should be glad to have anyone who has suggestions or criticism to offer on any phase of the national game write us their ideas and so far as our space will permit we shall be glad to produce them. It makes no difference whether we agree personally with the opinions of our correspondents or not. In fact we would like to have some who do not agree with us so that our readers may have a fairer view of all sides of the question. Our only requirement is that such letters deal with some matter of general interest relating to baseball.  
Editor Baseball Magazine:

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In your Fans' Department you have at once an interesting and helpful scheme. But why cheapen this and even turn it into a thing to laugh at by publishing letters voicing the opinions of men who do not even know the rules? For instance, in your June number B. B. H. writes that in his opinion a man who walks should not be credited with a time at bat and wishes this made a rule.

Then, in a former issue some one wrote to say that he thought the fielder's gloves should be made smaller and lighter. Well, just let him try to stop a hot drive through the infield, or even in the outfield with an ordinary player's glove. But aside from that he says that one often sees a hit good for two or three bases knocked down by a fielder throwing his glove at it. This, he says is awful. It certainly is. I would refer him to Spalding's 1911 guide, rule 54, Sect. 6.

Hoping that you will realize that such epistles would make more of a hit under one of your readings such as "foul tips," than under one supposed to contain serious ideas for the betterment of the game, I am,

C. P. S., Bloomfield, N. Y.

Boston, Mass.

Baseball Magazine:

Gentlemen:—You print in your magazine, "We would like to have some who do not agree with us, so that our readers may have a fairer view of all sides of the question" (in Fans' Department). So I believe *you mean what you say*, and are willing to stand by it and act honorably about it. Therefore, believing you to be honorable men, and not afraid to give somebody else a fair chance, I have written you a letter on Sunday baseball, founded on the Old Testament, which I send you herewith.

You have a fine magazine, and I shall continue to take and advocate it in spite of our difference of opinions concerning Sunday games, etc.

Now, gentlemen, I ask you to give me a chance and publish this *article in full*, and I am done with the *Sunday* subject. It will confirm your reputation as fair-minded men. It won't hurt anybody to read it; it will be just, and will greatly oblige,

Yours very truly,

N. S.

("I just want my fair turn at bat.")

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## Why is it Wrong to Play Baseball on Sundays?

I will give a few of the most important reasons as to why it is wrong to play baseball on Sundays.

There is a large class of people in this country who know that it is just as wrong to disobey God's Commandments nowadays as it was when they were first written by Him. They know that it is just as wrong to lie, steal, murder, commit adultery, desecrate the Sabbath Day, worship other than God, use bad language of any kind, dishonor parents, covet any person or thing belonging to another, etc., etc., nowadays, as it was at any other times. Let us turn to the Third Commandment, and what do we see?—"Remember The Sabbath Day To Keep It Holy. Six Days Shalt Thou Labour And Do All Thy Work": etc.

Engaging in baseball, or any other amusement on Sundays, is most decidedly *not* remembering the "Sabbath Day To Keep It Holy."

There are a number of places in the Bible where we are commanded by the Lord not to pollute the Sabbath Day. That is,—to drop all work and give up all pleasures on Sundays; meaning, of course, all work that is not absolutely necessary to sustain life and to preserve and protect property. I have in mind one particular passage in Isaiah, viz:—Chapter 58, verses 13 and 14.

History shows us that the life of a country (the soul, so to speak) is its religion. History shows us that whenever a nation gives up religion, and lives only for dominion, money, and pleasure, then the downfall of that nation begins. By religion I mean the obeying of whatever spiritual and moral commandments the nation has in its possession—the Christian nations the Bible, the Eastern nations the Koran, etc., from an unselfish motive.

We have two great examples to-day in the Jewish and the Spanish nations. What a fall theirs has been—from the most powerful on earth when they obeyed God, to what they are now. The Jews are wanderers on the face of the earth—and the Spanish a miserable fourth-rate power.

It is wrong to play baseball or have any other amusements on Sundays because it is striking a blow at the Christian religion by disobeying God's Third Commandment. It is also disobeying the First Commandment, viz: worshiping pleasure instead of the Lord. This worship of pleasure is one of the three paths that history shows us have caused the downfall of nations who have taken those paths—the worship of dominion, the worship of money, and the worship of pleasure.

This country has started on two of those paths, viz: the worship of money, and the worship of pleasure. "He who runs may read."

I call on you as a fellow-man and citizen of this fine country to raise your voice and use your pen (with me) against the desecration of Sundays; that is, against the devoting it or any part of it to ball playing and other pleasures. Let us try and do our part to drag back our noble land from the destructive paths of money-and-pleasure-worshipping, which she has entered upon, before it is too late.

I am a baseball fan myself. I was once a player. It has a very bad effect on children to see ball playing and other amusements being engaged in on Sundays.

We, who are trying to live right, most decidedly *do* believe that Philadelphia and Boston are better than Cincinnati and Detroit because of no ball playing on Sundays.

We must try and save our country from the fate of those who have gone before in the selfish worship of dominion, money, and pleasure.

I hope and believe that you have the welfare of our country at heart as well as the rest of us, and that you will raise your voice and pen in defense of her welfare and future life.

N. S., Boston.