

Editorials

Addie Joss Day

The benefit day at the Cleveland ball park in grateful memory of Addie Joss was a touching and beautiful instance of the human side of the national game. The Cleveland owners freely gave the use of their park, the Cleveland team offered their services gladly, while scores of star players throughout the league vied with one another in their efforts to secure a place on the opposing team and thus show some slight token of their esteem for a fellow player who had passed away. In short all the varied interests of organized baseball united in the noble purpose of giving such assistance as lay in their power to the bereaved family of a man who was universally beloved.

Manager McAleer of the Washington Club, who generously volunteered to lead the opposing team, said,

"The memory of Addie Joss is sacred to every one with whom he ever came in contact. The man never wore a uniform who was a greater credit to the sport than he."

Elks and Masons and the Cleveland Athletic Club joined hands with the interests of organized baseball in this most worthy movement.

Secretary Barnard said,

"It seemed as if every player in the league were anxious to show how much he loved Joss by doing something to help in making the day a success. If all the volunteers who offered their services for the Joss day could have been accepted we would have had enough players to furnish several teams. It merely went to show how universally Addie was esteemed by his fellow players."

To every one who took part in Addie Joss day, whether in the spectacular role of player or the more humble province of mere spectator, must come the satisfaction of knowing that he has done his part however obscure in bringing about the day when baseball shall not be selfish nor grasping in any sense, but kind and generous and beneficent as becomes the favorite pastime of the most generous people in the world.

Sherwood Magee

The case of Finneran vs. Magee has aroused a storm of protest which is a healthy sign of progress in the national game. The day has come when the last remnant of the old-time lawless element in baseball must be made to realize that the days of rowdiness on the diamond are over. The whole sport-loving public must approve the decisive action of President Lynch in the recent controversy at Philadelphia, and support him without question in his labors to uphold law and order in organized baseball.

The players on the field are under constant strain, and it is not to be wondered at that they sometimes give way to nerves. Word combats between umpires and players are more or less a necessity so long as human nature is what it is, but so brutal and uncalled for an outbreak as that made by outfielder Magee cannot be too severely dealt with.

The Philadelphia papers and the Philadelphia players, as well as the St. Louis Club, unite in proclaiming the attack as entirely unwarranted. Magee is a brilliant player, and he was last year our own selection for all-America leftfielder. He was no doubt suffering under

a strong conviction that he was being mistreated, and there may have been provocation for some objections on his part, but there could not have been sufficient cause for the act he committed, as he clearly stepped outside and beyond the bounds of all baseball law.

We may well hope that the drastic lesson applied to Magee may be of lasting benefit both to himself, for he doubtless has a brilliant career before him as a ball player, and also to all other players who are prone to yield to acts of rowdyism on the ball field.

Baseball vs. The Churches

There is a cry going up all over the country "The churches are losing their influence." Good people everywhere deplore the fact, and speak in mournful accents of the old days. True, the churches are changing in policy and thought, but there is small cause for the tremendous amount of discussion this change has brought about.

The church in the days of her greatness was the leader of human progress. She blazed a broad path through the superstitions of the early ages out into the broad field of social improvement and development. She carried the human race far on its upward journey, but when she reached a certain point, she became crystalized in her own time-worn theories. She grew self-satisfied and non-progressive. She who had been the source of all enlightenment became the great force of conservatism which frowned on scientific research and mental progress.

And thus it follows that the innovations of the twentieth century have come largely from without the fold of the church, rather than from within. In view of this fact, it is a bit startling to note such a paragraph as the following.

"The Rev. Franklin Baker, pastor of the First Unitarian Church, of Sacramento, Cal., last night spoke to a large congregation in defense of Sunday baseball. He declared that the \$15,000,000 spent for baseball last season was better spent than the same sum in foreign missions, and that the game is America's mental shower-bath."

It is quite possible the press notice has made Rev. Franklin Baker's statements more radical than they really were, but there is no question of his firm stand in favor of enlightened sport.

The church is neither weaker nor less influential than it was. It has been the *only* great civilizing force the world has known. It is now sharing its influence with *other* great civilizing forces. New centuries bring new conditions, and new opinions. The laws that were good in the days of the apostles are no longer fitted in their strict interpretation for the needs of the twentieth century. People are better educated and broader minded, and they now demand that it be the spirit, and not the letter, of Christianity that shall guide and control their conduct.

People are not less religious than they were. True, they are preaching less of the theory of religion in its mere empty forms, but they are practicing more of the spirit of religion by alleviating distress and promoting happiness among the great masses of the human family.

The tremendous strides of progressive outdoor sport have been a strong factor in the progress of physical, mental and moral uplift. The religion of the future will be one of healthy bodies, and clean minds, of high conduct and right living. It will be governed by good sense and sound judgment, even though much-venerated creeds suffer in consequence. And throughout this movement for the betterment of the human race, the great mission of fresh air and sunshine and exercise, and healthy outdoor sports becomes every day more apparent under the guiding and dominating influence of the national game.