

## CRICKET IN NEW ENGLAND AND THE LONGWOOD CLUB.

BY WILL ROFFE.

THE growth and progress of the Longwood Cricket Club is closely identified with the rapid advancement of the game in New England. During the fourteen years of the club's existence it has drawn into its ranks the best amateur players in that section of the country, and during the majority of seasons several of the best exponents of the game studying at Harvard University have been found upon its teams.

At all times the Longwood Club has striven to place the game of cricket upon the highest plane of amateur sport, and it has succeeded admirably in keeping it a "gentlemanly game" in every respect. The unquestionable superiority of its team on the crease has frequently aroused a feeling of jealousy among the New England players. "Anything to beat the Longwoods" has on more than one occasion been the motive for strong combination teams to try conclusions with them, and although there is still a little hard feeling against them in some New England clubs, no doubt the keen interest all of them take in the welfare of the game will always keep the spirit of rivalry within the bounds of good sportsmanship.

Like many a similar organization, the Longwoods began in a small way, and apparently an unpromising one. The old Boston Club, which enjoyed a more or less prosperous existence for some twenty years, had in 1874 reached a point where a split of some kind seemed inevitable, and early in April, 1877, the Longwood Club was organized with the following members: F. W. Lawrence, J. M. Clark, S. P. Train, H. G. Pickering, C. R. Fay, H. F. Fay, J. P. Farley, J. R. Leeson, Howe, Lyons, Kimball, Hubbard, Tyler, Walker, J. W. Dutton, Bixby, Dwight, F. W. Dutton, C. W. Sturgis and G. Linder.

The Harvards were invited to play at Longwood on June 16, and the Nonantum was played June 18, and on each team occurs the name of Chas. E. Mixer, who was successor to Henry F. Fay as secretary of the club, and to the untiring efforts of both the club owes much of its present excellence.

Mr. Mixer (now secretary of the Bos-

ton Athletic Association eleven) was previous to his connection with the Longwoods one of the leading men of the Alpha Club, of Salem, a team that for many years, with the able assistance of the professionals A. Eastwood and Mahoney, carried everything before it. On the Alpha team with him were those two old stand-bys of the now flourishing Mystic Club, of Medford, C. W. and Henry F. Perkins.

Among other challenged clubs in 1878 were the St. George, of New York, Staten Islands, Salems and St. Pauls.

One of the early home matches of the club in 1879 was a close one with the Bostons, which was won by the Longwoods by 11 runs only; scores, Longwood (Bixby 22, not out) 51 and 41; Boston 52 and 29. The teams were: Longwoods—"Edwards" Linder, Kimball, Bixby, Farley, Caton, Tyler, Hubbard, Fay, Dutton and Goddard; Boston—Ormiston, Lockhart, Furniss, W. Pettitt, O'Hair, Shaw, Haigh, Tom Pettitt, Bate, Roffe and W. Spragg. They then defeated the Wanskucks, of Rhode Island, at Longwood by 57 and 79 to 29 and 39; and their next match was a return with the Bostons, whom they defeated by 66 and (Kimball 40, Hubbard 20) 126 to 42 and 50. Tom Pettitt's score of 24 in the Boston's second inning first brought him into prominence in New England cricket.

The first two months of the 1880 season were passed on the ground at Longwood, after which a change of base was made, and the balance of the year found them at Beacon Park, the club forming a part of the Boston Driving and Athletic Association. This, the fourth year of active existence, was a very busy one on the crease, and besides meeting the Harvards, Fall Rivers, Bostons, Lawrences, Staten Islands, St. Georges, St. John (N. B.) and Columbias, they made a Canadian trip and defeated the Coburgs, Hamiltons and Montreals and lost to the Torontos, the season's record numbering ten victories and four defeats. This was George Wright's initial year with the club, and he led both batting and bowling averages, the former with 11.79 for 15 innings, and securing 92 wickets at an average cost of 3.34.

In 1881 they visited Philadelphia and played the Germantowns, Merions and Young Americas. They returned in 1882 to their old ground at Longwood, where they have played ever since, beautifying and improving it year by year, until it is a model ground, marred only by its narrowness, a defect which cannot be obviated, as there is a street on each side of it.

The standard of play at Longwood has advanced each season, and individual play has also improved, so that several on the team to-day have retained their places for many seasons. George Wright is the same dashing batter and effective bowler as of old, and his records in both departments are brilliant ones. It took the players of the New England clubs about two seasons to get the hang of his bowling, and just as they imagined that they had him sized up along came the invincible Chambers, the club's professional, and the two of them have kept their opponents on a continual hop ever since. New England players swear by Chambers, and it is treason to so much as hint that he has an equal (a superior is out of the question entirely) as a trundler on this continent.

George Wright leads the amateur bowlers of New England easily. His records for the years 1880, '83, '85, '86, '87, '89, and '90 show his bowling averages to be 3.34, 4.00, 4.01, 3.95, 5.80, 5.40 and 3.39; or an average for the seven years named of 4.27 per wicket. George bowls very fast round arm, and when bowling around the wicket works for chances to the off-side fielders, but when he changes to bowl over the wicket he gets in some masterly work, and his record of wickets clean bowled is a grand one. He is a dashing batter and for many years led the New England batting averages. His 120 in 1888 against the Thorntons, of Rhode Island, is the highest individual score in the New England States. As a captain he is a model, and he handles a team as but few men can. The following tribute to his merits recently appeared in the *Boston Globe*, and it is given here because it briefly sums up the excellences of the Longwood's captain: "For a true, keen sportsman of the highest type, all expert exponent of the game he loves, a square player all the time, and a model captain, give me 'Genial George' Wright."

R. D. Brown, of Germantown fame, and captain of the Harvard 'varsity



THE LONGWOOD CLUB GROUNDS.

eleven, was during his college career a prominent member of the Longwood team. He was the best batter in New England and did excellent service in Longwood matches. He is especially strong in driving and is a very rapid scorer. His record in England as one of the Gentlemen of Philadelphia is too well known to need recapitulation, and his partnership with Stoerer against the Gentlemen of Scotland, when the pair put together 99 runs in thirty-seven minutes, will be easily recalled. In the last match at Longwood in 1889 the Lowells batted first and ran up a score of 67. Caton, a player with masterly defense, but a slow scorer, accompanied Brown to the wickets, and so powerful was Brown's hitting and so fast did he put on the runs that when the first wicket fell, and Caton retired after making 7 runs, Brown's score stood at 62.

Brown is anything but a disciple of the passive style of play; he bats aggressively all the time, yet always in a safe and brilliant manner. He is also a very useful bowler, and was unquestionably the mainstay of the Harvards with both bat and ball. His batting average in all New England games in 1889 was: Eleven innings, two not outs, 278 runs, giving him 30.88 per inning, the highest of the season. During 1890 he played but little with the club, but he averaged with the Harvards 19.00 for a batting average and took 49 wickets at an average cost of 4.36. His batting averages with the Germantowns the past season were: In Halifax Cup matches, 51.75 for five innings, and in all matches 39.57 for eight innings.

C. A. Annand, a player with a reputation made in Canada and England, and a prominent member of the Canadian team which visited that country, came in 1888 to Boston and played with the Longwoods all through the 1889 season. His fine average of 20.20 captured the batting prize and his bowling record was a good one, the figures being: 679 balls, 33 maidens, 39 wickets, 187 runs; 4.79 average per wicket. He bowls swift over arm, with a great break coming up quickly to the leg bail. He is a hard bowler to score from, bowling a good length ball and always on the wicket.

L. Haughton shows great form with the bat, and ran Annand close for the lead all through the 1889 season and finished with an average of 19.94, but dropped to 13.40 for 1890.

Tom Pettitt, the world's champion at court tennis, brings into cricket the dash and brilliancy that distinguishes him in other sports. Nothing suits Tom better than hitting over the heads of the deep fielders and putting the ball 'way down the Longwood ground among the tennis players. It is a very great question if any bowler can get as much break on an off ball as Pettitt. Some three seasons back the writer was keeping wicket in a match in which the following laughable incident occurred. Pettitt bowled a ball that struck the ground not less than three feet on the off side. The batter stepped across and made for a low cut, and while he was stooping down in that attempt the ball broke magnificently, and coming across over his right shoulder it took the top of the wicket with such force that both ball and bails hit the wicket keeper in the breast. That batter's face was a study! He seemed overwhelmed with surprise that a ball could be made to break so far, and as he turned to leave the wicket he ejaculated in North of England vernacular, "Why, I thot it were a woide!"

Lott Mansfield has proved an efficient secretary for several seasons and is one of the leading batters on the team. He bats sturdily and almost invariably reaches well into double figures. He treats the bowlers opposed to him very impartially, and often surprises them by dispatching their choice ones to the boundaries. He keeps wicket in grand shape, and handles the difficult bowling of Wright and Chambers very smartly. He also bowled very successfully in all the matches in which he was put on. He leads the 1890 batting average with 17.20.

There are few better fielders to be found than Sam Wright, and he and George often give the boys a sample of their old baseball style. Sam plays cover point in a perfect manner, and numerous are the batsmen who fail to connect when they try to get a run off a cut in his direction. He is champion sprinter of the club between the wickets, and delights in having a lively partner (and there are many of them in the club) with whom to steal runs from unwary fielders.

Ex-Captain Dutton is a bowler with a terrific pace, and one who can send down a "shooter" about as often as he chooses; so batters invariably treat his bowling with proper respect, or their lives at the wicket are short and not always

sweet ones. He was captain of the club for several seasons.

Hubbard has relegated his swift delivery to the archives of the past, and now bowls a slow drop ball with any amount of twist and break, and as a slow bowler is very successful. Occasionally he shows some of his old dashing play at the bat; but it is as a short slip that he has gained undying fame, and his brilliant play in that position often gives rise to the query: "Is it possible that any man *can* play slip better than Jack Hubbard?"

M. G. Haughton, Jr., was never among the leaders in the hatting records, but as a wicket keeper he was invaluable, and he plays that position as a veritable master of the art. He is now located in a Southern city, and by his removal the club lost a good man.

The Longwood team is very strong in batting, and among those who make excellent records are: Lovett, Mudie, F. S. Mansfield, Tyler, C. A. Prince, Estabrooks, Train, L. Curtis, Atkinson, Wells, Stuart, King, McDonald, MacGregor and others. It is easy for the club to put a strong team into the field at almost any time and one always capable of putting up a good score.

C. L. Bixby is one of the most popular men in the club and he is well named "Old Reliable," for he seldom fails to score well when runs are needed. He is one of those dry, joking souls that tend

to keep a team in good spirits, and selecting him for captain of the team which recently visited the West Indies was a wise choice.

In 1889 nearly thirty matches were played and not one defeat experienced. In the match against the Thorntons, of Rhode Island, the Longwoods' inning totaled 412 runs, which was ten runs in advance of the record made by the Montreals in 1880. When the best American record was claimed for the Longwoods it was ascertained that the Germantowns had scored 418 in a match the previous year, and this now stands as the official record of highest score in a single inning.

The past season they did not fare so well, as of nineteen played they won eleven, lost five and had three drawn. This was mainly due to the energetic measures taken by the surrounding clubs to strengthen their teams and bring them nearer to the Longwood standard. The result has been better cricket all around, as the Longwood men have had to play their very best in many matches to insure a victory.

For some two years past a plan has been discussed whereby the club (or at least the cricket department of it) might enter the Boston Athletic Association in a hotly, and it is more than probable that the team will soon play under the unicorn insignia of the B. A. A.



THE NEW ENGLAND FIFTEEN.