

SPORTING



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HAPPY HARRY'S HIT.

HE TELLS WHY HE STOOD BY HIS LEAGUE FRIENDS.

Interesting Comment Upon the Recent League Wrangle—Strong Endorsement of Messrs. Byrne and Brush—A Few Side Remarks About the Orioles.

Treasurer Harry Von der Horst, of the Baltimores, was caught on the fly, as it were, by a reporter while spending a few happy hours in New York last week, and made to unbosom himself briefly about base ball affairs. Of course, his very first remark was about his champion ball team, of which he said:

THE "CHAMPS" ALL RIGHT.
"I feel quite confident that the Baltimores will win the pennant next year for the fourth successive time. The deal Hanlon made for Stenzel, of Pittsburg, was a good one, although Pittsburg got two first-class men in centrefielder Brodie and third baseman Donnelly. We let Brodie go because he had been in Baltimore too long. He is excitable and caused considerable friction in the team, so Hanlon decided to make a change. In Stenzel the Baltimores get one of the greatest hitters in the country, although he is not, perhaps, as fast a fielder as Brodie. Our pitching corps is stronger than last season, with the new men, Corbett, Nops and Brandt to depend upon."

MIGHT FAVOR A NEW BOARD.
When asked what he thought of the recent battle in the League over the Board of Arbitration membership genial Harry said: "I am thoroughly satisfied with the present make-up of the board, but if harmony can be brought about in the League I would be willing to vote to create a board composed of outsiders, men who are conversant with base ball law, but who have no financial interest in clubs or minor leagues. By this I mean that possibly men of the calibre of A. G. Mills, E. B. Talcott, George W. Howe, John B. Day and others, would be satisfactory to all members of the League, and there could be no good reason for objections by certain club owners."

GOOD MEN BOTH.
Mr. Von der Horst further volunteered these noteworthy remarks concerning the two most famous men in base ball: "At the recent League meeting there was a great deal of adverse comment made on Brush for being identified with the Western League's affairs, and I did not side with him until I was convinced that he had been doing right, but had been grossly misrepresented. As for Byrne, there is no more honorable man in base ball to-day, and I stood by him in every move he made. At the coming meeting of the League at Baltimore I anticipate very little trouble."

A GOOD MOVE.
Von der Horst expressed a hope that the Brooklyn Club would be able to play Sunday ball at home, and declared that such a move would become popular with the base ball public. He added that Nick Young couldn't give the Baltimore Club too many assignments for his team at Maspeth, if that is the place selected by Messrs. Abel and Byrne.

IN GREAT LUCK.
A Famous Player Who Seems Exempt From Accident.

Kid Nichols, of the Boston team, seems to be possessed of a charm that wards off all accidents, for during his ten years on the diamond he has never met with the slightest kind of an injury, despite the fact that he is a nervy player, a bustling fielder in his position and a daring base runner. No ball player in the major League has been more fortunate in this respect than Nichols, which accounts for his great effectiveness as a pitcher after so many years of service.



ARTHUR H. SODEN,
The Famous President of the Boston National League Club.

SULLIVAN'S SELECTION

Said to be the Franchise of San Antonio.

Cincinnati, Jan. 4.—Ted Sullivan, who, next to Chris Von der Ahe, has furnished more funny base ball stories—Bancroft, you know, heads the record for real, good, solid base ball literature—than any man now connected with the game, will "magnatize" once more next season. The jovial Ted has gone right into the country of his enemies—the Texas League—and plucked a franchise, which the majority of magnates would have preferred to go elsewhere for the reason that Ted is too wise and too independent for the majority of minor league magnates. His team will be located in San Antonio, and, as usual, he will corral several Cincinnati boys to play on the team. The little Irishman always has had a fondness for local graduates, and they never have disgraced him. Ted has appointed Eddie Ashenback, the popular outfielder, his local recruiting agent, and there are several players whom Ashenback will line up for Sullivan in the next few weeks. Sullivan places great reliance in Ashenback's judgment, and the confidence is deserved. Other Texas League teams also will draw on Cincinnati for talent for next season.

VAN DER BECK PROTESTS

Against Having Detroit Represented as a Philadelphia Fan.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 5.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Kindly favor me space in your valuable paper to contradict reports that have been published relative to Detroit being a "fan" for Philadelphia. If you will remember I was one of the first to complain of this practice over a year ago and I will be the last to favor it. Every player who signs a Detroit contract will be subject to draft or sale to any National League Club at the close of the season of 1897, thereby placing them in a position to "advance in their profession."
I dislike very much that these reports have gone out and cannot discover their identity, but you can gamble all you have that every player signed by Detroit will belong to them pure and simple.
Very truly yours,
G. A. Van Derbeck,
President Detroit Club.

Just Like Some Magnates.

"It doesn't matter if I'm strapped or not," said the old razor; "I generally manage to get into a scrape."

ROBISON REDIVIVUS.

HE COMES TO THE FRONT WITH A NEW IDEA

As a Substitute For His Anti-Coaching Scheme, Which He is Now Satisfied the League Will Not Endorse or Adopt.

President F. DeH. Robison, of Cleveland, is now thoroughly convinced that his pet hobby regarding the abolition of coaching will not be in the race next season, but he will give due notice that the time is coming when he can say, "I told you so," and he will say it loud and often. As all the members of the Rules Committee oppose the anti-coaching rule suggested by Mr. Robison there is no chance of its adoption, but he has a substitute that will be offered as a suggestion to the Rules Committee, and if there is any sincerity in all the talk about preventing rowdiness on the diamond, Mr. Robison's suggestion will be considered.

THE NEW IDEA.

"I told the members of the National League some time ago," said Mr. Robison the other day, "that a very simple rule would prevent most of the troubles between the umpires and the players. My objection to coaching is not regarding what is said by the man on the lines to the base runners, but to the everlasting wrangling with the umpire. The coaches leave the lines and run up to him as if bent on murder, and the players leave their positions and make the same kind of a rush. The game is delayed and later the umpire complains of the language addressed by the players to him. Now, my idea is to have a line between the coaches' box and the home plate, say sixty feet from the latter, and allow no one to talk to the umpire unless he occupies this box."

TO PREVENT ABUSE.

"Then the public may hear all that is going on between the player and umpire. If the fielding team has any objection to make it must be made by an infielder other than the catcher, and no player must leave his position. I do not believe the umpire will be abused in a voice loud enough to be heard by the spectators nearly as much as he has been when the players imagine their talk is not being overheard, and I believe that a rule of this kind would do away with many of the objectionable features of base ball."

"I have spoken of this plan before, but it has never been regularly submitted to the Rules Committee; this time I hope it will. Such a rule would work splendidly with the new one regarding an overseer of umpires, for then the supervising official could know exactly what is going on between the player and the umpire, and be able to judge how the latter is filling his position."

ANSON HAS A CINCH

In the Opinion of His Star Pitcher, Clark Griffith.

Chicago, Jan. 4.—"It looks to me," said us. The batting strength of the team is all little Clark Griffith, the star pitcher of the Chicago Club, as he made ready for an indoor ball game, "as if Anson cannot lose next year, barring hard luck, fortified in every department, and I can't see any club, excepting maybe Baltimore, that has any license to beat right—a crowd of good hitters. Base running, first class. Fielding excellent. Back of the bat the team is fielding equal to any. The pitcher's box, of course, is the point most to be considered, and it seems to me as if we stood on a safe basis there at last. Briggs, so all the critics say, is the coming pitcher, and will stand way up in front next season. Friend proved his value last summer, and Terry is a good, reliable veteran. This man Denzler is destined to be a second Rusie, and they say great things of Callahan. If these two men turn out well there is nothing to stop us marching right on over all of them."