

SPORTING LIFE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

Devoted to
BASEBALL, BICYCLING, SHOOT-
ING, BILLIARDS, Etc.

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TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

All correspondents of the "Sporting Life" are requested to return their credentials for renewal for 1897. Prompt compliance with this request is necessary in order to facilitate the annual labor of reorganizing the correspondence corps, which is, by the way, quite a task, owing to the immense number of contributors the "Sporting Life" has upon its staff. Failure to return the old credentials will be considered a declination of further service as correspondent.

CHICAGO GLEANINGS.

Figuring Out a Fast Team For the Windy City—The Baltimores Too Strong—A Trade Which Would Prove a Good One.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—Editor "Sporting Life:"—And the gladsome holidays are over, and we can settle ourselves down to speculate on what we want, what we got, and what we may get next year. I was talking with Clark Griffith yesterday. The little fellow seems remarkably well satisfied with the Chicago team as it now stands, and says he can't see any chance for any improvement, unless we could get a swell left fielder somewhere. Both Griffith and myself have an idea that we will see Callahan in left field before the season is very far advanced, for if all we hear is true the new man is not only a good pitcher but a corking fielder and heavy batter. That's what we want, and a heavy hitting outfielder with pitching ability would be a lovely addition to the nine. And what a pitching staff we ought to have. All the critics seem agreed that Briggs will be one of the best in the land next summer. Allowing such to be the case, and remembering the great good work of Danny Friend, there seems to be no team in the League better fortified in the box than the Chicago Club, Griffith, of course, will be the star. Suppose Callahan and Denzer pan out as well as everybody tips them. Suppose Terry remains as effective as last season—how are you going to discount us on pitchers? Will there be any pitching staff to beat Griffith, Friend, Briggs, Terry, Callahan and Denzer?

THOSE ORIOLES.

I don't like the way those Baltimores act. What right has a team that has already won three pennants to go and grab such a man as Jake Stenzel for their outfield? What business has Ned Hanlon, after developing Pond—isn't one pitcher like that enough in one season—to dig up the hottest wheat cake on the fire in Joe Corbett, and a warm baby in Nops? One tip to Ned—don't fire Esper. Keep him. He may be lazy and all that, but I notice that he won games right along last season. And games won are what count. Hoffer, Pond and Corbett will be the best trio of young pitchers in the business. I fear, and with seasoned McMahon and Hemming to back them, and Esper and Nops—oh, dear, oh, dear, how are we ever going to stop Mott's gang? Demmitt, but I hate to see those Skates, Kelley and Keeler and Jennings banging the ball, and it will be all the worse when Stenzel goes after the leather. And how I hate to see that fellow Reitz playing ball. Cause why? Oh, because he used to play right out here on the prairie, and learned all the ball he knows on the vacant lots. He was a catcher and pitcher back in 1890—never thought of playing the infield. He used to let his little brother cover short, while he went back of the bat.

A GOOD TRADE.

I see your Cincinnati correspondent wants to trade Holliday for Roger Connor. Well, that's not half a bad idea. The exchange would be a good thing for both teams. But what would Chris do for a first baseman? Let him make a reach, open his heart and get young Goeckel.

There's a corner. Or he might do worse than try Harry Davis, whom he could get without much trouble. Davis is going to be a winner yet, and will be a great batter some day. Turner, too, is apt to recover that great batting eye of his. With Davis, Dowd, Hartman and Cross for infield, Holliday, Turner and Sullivan, outfield; Murphy and McFarland behind the bat, and Douglas utility, all Chris wants is a couple of good winning pitchers. That's his cue. Let him scour the woods and get a couple. Besides, I firmly believe that the upper powers intend to be good to Chris before many moons, and that at least three good players will be sent his way.

GENERAL NEWS.

Herman Long did not show up at the indoor ball game the other night, but the excuse he sent was perfectly satisfactory. I have not yet heard whether it is a girl or a boy, but Herman sent word that it was a beauty.

Harley Parker is grandly hoodooed at indoor ball. He loses right along, and his team was walloped lately 8 to 1. Dahlen played with the winners, and guyed Ryan, Griffith and Parker unmercifully.

I have lately received so many letters from minor league managers asking me to act as agent in securing various players that I am seriously thinking of starting a base ball bureau. One letter, which came yesterday from a manager of some note, showed much judgment and close observation of players. He wanted me to secure five men, all of A1 calibre. Just one thing prevented my helping this gentleman along—other managers had already viewed things the same way he did, and every one of the men he wanted had been signed for 1897 a week or more ago.

Jackson, the Chicago boy, who signed with Indianapolis, is speculating on his chances against four other outfielders, all noted players, whom Watkins has under contract. It looks shaky for a new and untried player when a bunch of veterans are against him. The boy, however, is destined to be a corker, a great natural batsman, capable outfielder and fair catcher.

By the way, what New Year's swear-offs did the base ball gang make? I wonder if any of them pledged themselves to these resolutions:

Pat Tebeau—No more bad language on the field.

Adrian C. Anson—No more bets that are cinches for the other fellow.

Ned Hanlon—No more pennants.

Albert Mott—No more poetry.

Elmer Bates—No more claims for that tag.

Bill Lange—No more soubrettes.

Peace and prosperity to all—barring John B. Foster. As long as I have a voice, let Foster say what he will, I will claim that Burckett's batting average was padded—and Foster called me a long-eared beast once.

W. A. PHELON, JR.

SCRANTON SCRAPS.

Manager Griffin Fixing up Without Help of a Brass Band.

Scranton, Jan. 4.—Editor "Sporting Life:"—Manager Griffin came to this city Saturday morning for a conference with the Board of Directors of the club, and at the meeting held in the afternoon the team's affairs were thoroughly discussed. Manager Griffin detailed what he had done and was doing in the way of strengthening the club, and the owners were well pleased with the progress he has made. "Sandy" has several deals on, which he does not care to make public at present, but seems confident he will have an aggregation the coming season he need not be ashamed of.

LAST YEAR'S MEN.

who are sure to be retained are: Gunson, catcher; Gillon, pitcher; Maguire, third base; Eagan and O'Brien, fielders. If O'Neill, the Minooka youngster, comes up to expectations, our jovial friend Berger will have a chance to play elsewhere. Bill Massey is not an absolute fixture on the initial bag, but the chances at present favor him for the place. Charlie Moss, shortstop and captain, is well thought of by the directors and manager, and unless a hard-biting phenom, is secured, he will again ornament that position. One of the new men is outfielder Jack Walters, from the New England League. He is no stranger to the fans here, and should be able to keep up his end even in the fast Eastern League.

NEWS NOTES.

Just now it looks as if Pat Meaney will not play with the Bisons this year. Franklin wants the hard-hitting fielder badly, but he also wants the man Scranton has its eyes "set on," big Jim Fields, and there will probably be no deal.

Manager Griffin is now arranging exhibition games for the team. The players will be on hand April 15, and put in two weeks touring the neighboring States before the season opens.

Tom McAndrew, the crack all-around amateur player, has reconsidered his determination to play professionally this season and will enter Niagara University instead. There is no danger of his getting rusty there, as his playing ability assures him a position on the college team. Managers will do well to keep an eye on this youngster.

EKIM.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

Special to "Sporting Life:"

The Buffalo Club has drafted Pitcher Mains.

The Youngstown Club has signed Third baseman R. A. Koyce, of Hamburg, Mich.

Manager Comiskey, of the St. Paul Club, has \$8,000 tied up in the suspended Bank of Minnesota.

The Wilkesbarre Club has signed Outfielder Chas. Collins, of Ft. Wayne, and Second baseman Sam Mills.

The Detroit Club has drafted Pitcher Hahn from Mobile, and Pitcher Steinfeld from Galveston.

The Louisville directors have elected Barry Pulliam as president, and James Rogers as manager-captain.

Pitcher Miles Standish, late of the Metropolitan and Fall River clubs, has been signed by the New York Club.

George Blackburn will not manage Austin's team. He has purchased his release to pitch for an Eastern League club.

The Cincinnati Club has exchanged catchers Kehoe and Gray, and Pitcher Frank Furman for Pitcher Damman, of Indianapolis.

Manager Sharsig, of the Athletics, has signed Catcher Fred Schaub, third baseman Robert Schaub and first baseman Hanburg.

The Philadelphia Club has released Pitchers Keener and Thomas, third baseman Ellis and outfielder Burnett to the Detroit Club.

The contract for the Harry Wright Monument has been awarded to the P. Reinhalter Company, of Philadelphia. The monument will be completed on or about May 15. The sculptor will be Edmund T. Quinn. The accepted design represents Harry Wright standing in citizen's dress, with glasses in one hand and hat in the other.

BALTIMORE BULLETIN

MOTT MENTALLY SKIPS THE LIGHT, FANTASTIC TOE.

More Airy Persiflage Anent Base Ball Men and Measures in Which Diligent Search Will Reveal Some Kernels of Wisdom.

Baltimore, Jan. 5.—Editor "Sporting Life:"—Force things. Make 'em sell out. The maggots will get together at Baltimore and tell De Hass if he don't brace up and put a club in Cleveland the franchise will be transferred to Buffalo. This thing has gone on long enough. On the division of receipts racket every maggot will squirm on his own hook. You can't catch fish without good bait. Bait the hook with a fat maggot and a good club and public fish will swallow the whole business and get caught by the gills.

WHAT IS IT?

What's a dress suit—that thing Elmer Bates wants to bet? Has it anything to do with knickerbockers? If he'll make it a nightshirt the thing is a go. Don't believe Elmer Bates wants to bet anything, anyway. If he made the proposition with an idea of being taken up he would have made it to Adrian and not to Albert. Of the two A's the former is the Alpha and the latter the Omega of Wagnermania. Besides, your Baltimore end wouldn't bet on base ball anyway, because it is considered unsportsmanlike to bet on a sure thing. Awfully sporty, that Baltimore end.

SPRING, SPRING, BEAUTIFUL SPRING.

All right, you fellows stay up North and refrigerate. The Baltimores and Ned Hanlon will be Macon pennant grapples in Georgia. And they won't drop McGraw at Atlanta with typhoid either. The Orioles won the two prizes last season, and yet this year they will be stronger by McGraw, Stenzel, Corbett and Nops.

Will De Hass ever get a move on?

They say Andy would win the pennant with Rusie. And yet Andy won't take him. Make him. Caylor says Andy will smash things because the great cycle chief is his friend. So Ike Potter has been getting off some of his practical jokes on Andy. Let the poor man alone. He has troubles of his own.

The Clevelands are going South to practice, Louisville.

The Baltimore players will soon be in demand as coaches for college teams. If Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, Pittsburg or any of the Western clubs want their services as coaches before the championship season opens they should write and engage them immediately before they are snapped up in the curriculum. Those in Baltimore are Robinson, Clark, McGraw, Kelly and Pond, and a letter addressed to headquarters will reach them. Pond is available to give Young and Cuppy new points, and as he loves them his terms will be reasonable. If Patsy wants Jack Doyle for private instruction on how to make return double plays in modern style he wants to speak, and speak pretty quick, too.

DISAGREEABLE GRILLS.

A man never ought to get himself disliked. No one in Baltimore ever does. We, the club, the maggots and the heelers, are all great, but we are modest under our surfeit of honors.

You would never think from Ned Hanlon's deportment that he ever won a pennant or indulged in a Temple Cup.

Although McGraw is the greatest in the world he humbly rides a bicycle.

The Baltimore correspondent never says anything sassy.

Now, how different it is in Boston. Simply on spring expectations and the possession of Wardance, Tim Murnane owns the "Globe," and won't give anyone else a show. Tim once said the Baltimore men were haughty. They are neither haughty nor naughty and Tim is both.

By the way, Tim can tell Elmer Bates something about that return double play as it was operated in antique times and just as Patsy does it now. Jake Morse, on anticipations, will score in an evening suit.

Tom Tucker is already strutting. Of course, Boston has no idea of beating Baltimore out—that would be absurd—but the boys are dead certain on Cleveland.

SCHEDULE.

Nick Young telephones from Heydlerberg that he has bought a sausage machine and is grinding up railroad time tables and maggoterial correspondence together and will have a schedule mixed up in ample time for the Baltimore meeting. It will be a lash, anyway, because every maggot wants Baltimore on every holiday, Saturday and Sunday, but the maggots don't believe in a sausage grinder, anyway. They will pump the pulp into a concrete mixer and try and make something out of it.

What do you think?

Cleveland asked to be scheduled for the Temple Cup.

Well!

That's a snap.

You know you'll be on the other end, don't you?

IN A BOX.

What do you want to put him in a box for? A pitcher should not be put in a box until he is dead, and then it should be very tight. By the way, did you know that all kinds of pitchers, sweat when they are full and you set them in the sun?

But let the pitcher alone, will you? You want to box him and you want to make a gun of him and he is a son-of-a-gun, anyway. He did just about the right thing to make a good game last season, and you will spoil the whole business if you

monkey with it a bit. Besides, every change knocks some of the best pitchers out, and the Lord knows the good ones are scarce and the price high enough now. There are tinkers enough about this racket to make a tin dam around Hades. Rule tinkers can kill more pitchers and just as good ones as Andy Freedman.

ALBERT MOTT.

MANNING'S MOVES.

He Provides Himself With a Farm and Goes After More Big Players.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 4.—Editor "Sporting Life:"—With the thermometer registering zero or almost that, at the present writing the average fan is not inclined to give much thought to base ball, but to keep up the enthusiasm a few of us have been indulging in an afternoon's talk on the future, present and past.

JIMMY MANNING.

"Our own Jimmy," who has played the national game all over the two continents, is an entertaining talker on any of the different histories of the game, but just now he prefers looking into the future. All his hopes are now concentrated on next season's team, and every week adds strength in some manner to his efforts to build up what we hope will be a winning crowd.

About the only thing of local interest that has transpired in the week just ended, however, was Manning's interest he has placed in the St. Joseph Club, of the Western Association. He has no financial interest in it, but he has a number of promising young men under his wing whom he will be able to dispose of to the minor organization.

FRED PALMER.

of Kansas City, has bought the St. Joseph franchise, and has made a deal with Manning for players. As a result he will be sold such men as can be agreed upon between him and the Kansas City magnate, and others who are not for sale Manning is making arrangements to loan him. Manning now has under contract or reserve about 20 men and has strings upon four or five more whom he is almost certain to land before the season opens. This number will be reduced to 13 or 14 men, so it will be seen there will be quite a surplus of players. Just who the St. Joseph man will get is yet entirely unsettled, but there does not appear to be a reason why any or all of Manning's surplus players would not be fast enough and welcome in our neighboring city.

MORE GOOD ONES COMING.

Manning said this afternoon: "I have the promise of one of the best National League second basemen, three pitchers and an outfielder, who I confidently expect to sign within the next two weeks. I do not wish to claim everything, but if I get these men I can assure the other managers in the League that they will have to hustle to keep in the race with the Blues next season. As I have said before, I have promised the Kansas City patrons an entire new team. The signing of these men I have in mind will enable me to keep my promise. I cannot give out the names of the men I have in view, but will be able to give them to the public soon. Other managers are after some of them, but I have the inside track, I think, and I believe I will come out first under the wire."

M. J. NIXON.

ST. JOSEPH'S FRANCHISE

Has Been Purchased by a Kansas City Man With Capital.

St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 5.—Editor "Sporting Life:"—In my last letter to the "Sporting Life" I stated that St. Joseph would not be represented in the Western Association this season. At that time it looked rather gloomy, but I am happy to say that we were all mistaken. A Moses was found in the personage of G. Palmer, of Kansas City, December 31 was the last day of grace. If the people of this city had not secured Mr. Palmer, the team would have gone to Ottumwa, Ia., where the people were awaiting the franchise with outstretched arms.

On Dec. 29 Gus Alberts, a former manager of the St. Joe Club, went to Kansas City and had a long conversation with Mr. Palmer about buying the St. Joe franchise. Mr. Palmer consented to come to St. Joe the next day, and if he could make satisfactory arrangements, he would buy the club. He was true to his word and came to this city, and went into consultation with Messrs. Dye & Keller, the owners of the club. The meeting did not last long, when it was announced that Mr. Palmer had secured the franchise.

The price paid for the franchise was very low, some say it was only \$200. It did not take the news long to spread, and the most ardent lovers of the national game held a jollification meeting. As soon as the deal was made President Hickey called a meeting of the club for Wednesday, Jan. 6, to take place at Burlington, Iowa.

From what can be learned, Mr. Palmer will put in a first-class team in this city. He is a close friend of Jimmy Manning, of Kansas City, and has the assurance of all Jimmy's extras. Some of the Blues that he will likely get are Johnson, Beris and Vore, pitchers; Viox, s.s.; Sawyer, 3b. Al Fisher, of last year's Distillers; or Buck Ehrhart, late of Lincoln, will manage the team. Both are good men, and it would be a hard matter to choose between the two, although Buck is guilty of playing some very rotten games; but then, when a hit means a run and the game, Buck is always ready to perform his part of the contract. N. E. EDWARDS.

A SETTLED FACT

That Cleveland Will Play Sunday Ball at Home.

Cleveland, Jan. 6.—Some weeks have elapsed since anything has been said in regard to the Sunday ball grounds that the Clevelands are to play on next season, and in consequence the fans are becoming worried for fear that the plan will not be carried out.

There is no question, however, that Cleveland will play Sunday ball at home. The life of the game here depends upon it, at least, such is the impression of the management. There are several reasons why no active steps are being taken at present. In the first place, it is exceedingly desirable that the Sunday games be played at the same park as the weekday games. If the club can play on the Lexington-avenue grounds, so much the better, but this can hardly be determined until after the Mayorality election in the spring.

Were it definitely ascertained that the club cannot play Sunday ball at the Lexington Avenue Park, there is a strong probability that this park will be abandoned entirely and a new park erected in Glenville, where both the Sunday and week-day games will be played. The electric cars on St. Clair street would take the crowd to Glenville even more quickly than the cable cars transport them to Lexington avenue.