

SPORTING LIFE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL
Devoted to
BASE BALL, BICYCLING, SHOOT-
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LATE NEWS BY WIRE.

CORBETT CHIPS IN

And Revamps His Old Ambition to Figure in Base Ball.

Special to "Sporting Life."
St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 21.—Pugilist James J. Corbett is ambitious to shine as a base ball magnate and should he win his coming fight with Bob Fitzsimmons he will try to purchase a franchise in the National League.
"There is no reason why I should not be successful as a base ball magnate," said Corbett while talking to Theodore Breitenstein. "I am well posted on the game and have a personal acquaintance with all the leading players and managers of the country. I play the game myself and consider it the grandest of all outdoor sports. If I can get control of a franchise I will be a magnate before the season of 1898 opens, and you can wager that I would soon have a winning club, for I would spend money enough to get the right kind of players together."
"Why don't you come to St. Louis?" asked Joe Durfee, a well-known local admirer of the game. "We need a good team and an up-to-date manager here, and this is the best base ball town on earth."
"I would be more than pleased to locate in St. Louis," said the big boxer, "and I would pay a reasonable price for the franchise. If the present owner will sell out I will guarantee to have a first division team here inside of two years, and if money and tall hustling would secure a pennant-winning team I would try and have the championship flag located in St. Louis inside of three years. Yes, I am serious in my intentions of engaging in the base ball business."

THAT SECRET CONFERENCE.

More Expressions by the Magnates Interested in the Confab.

Special to "Sporting Life."
New York, Jan. 21.—John T. Brush left town last night after another long confab with Byrne and Abell, of the Brooklyn Club. All three magnates emphatically denied the report that they are heading a movement to break up the present circuit of the National League by the formation of an eight-club organization, including Brooklyn, Buffalo, Baltimore, Washington, Cincinnati, Cleveland, St. Louis, and Louisville. They declared with emphasis that they were in favor of continuing the present circuit, and that they wanted peace in preference to war.

BROOKLYN'S MINORITY WEAKENING.

Byrne and Abell later in the day held an extended consultation with their attorneys, Redding & Kiddle, but they would not say whether they had decided to apply for a receiver or not. Their lawyers have advised them to make one more overture to the minority stockholders in the Brooklyn Club before resorting to radical measures. In a day or two it is probable that negotiations will begin for a transfer of stock whereby Abell will own the club. Henry J. Robinson, one of the leading minority stockholders in the club, said yesterday that if Mr. Abell would offer a fair price the minority stockholders would sell all their holdings at once. He attributes the ill success of the club to the team's poor playing and to the League's 50 cent admission tariff.

COL. ROGERS' VIEW OF IT.

Philadelphia, Jan. 21.—Colonel John I. Rogers, of the Philadelphia Club, said today regarding that Cleveland conference: "There is absolutely no fight in the League at present regarding the playing of Sunday games, nor will there be one. That question was settled finally at the fall meeting of the League in 1895. As matters now stand it is

optional with the clubs whether they play Sunday games or not. I do not believe that the question of Sunday base ball was even broached at the conference which Brush, Robinson and Abell attended in Cleveland. In fact, I know the meeting was called for another purpose altogether."

In regard to the report that the "Big Five" expect and are prepared for a clash with the "Big Seven" at the coming meeting in Baltimore, Colonel Rogers said: "All these stories in regard to dissension and dissatisfaction in the League are groundless. In the first place, there is no such organization as the 'Big Five.' Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Chicago and Pittsburg voted together at the last meeting in Chicago, but we have no interests in common nor have we ever held a caucus of any kind. From all indications the February meeting of the League will be harmonious in every way, and those persons who are expecting something sensational to occur will be disappointed."

ROBISON ALSO DENIES.

Cleveland, Jan. 21.—Regarding the recent conference with Byrne, Abell and Brush President Robison said to-day: "I assure you that the conference did not relate to Sunday ball. All that was said about it was on the part of the Brooklyn man present. He said that Brooklyn would like to play Sunday ball and so would Baltimore, and, of course, everybody knows that Cleveland would like to play Sunday ball. There is also nothing in the talk of a new eight-club league. The subject was not even broached, and there is not the slightest prospect of a change in the League circuit. An exchange of players was the main matter considered."

A NOVEL TRIP.

League Players to Invade the Land of the Aztecs Next Fall.

Special to "Sporting Life."
Baltimore, Jan. 21.—Manager Hanlon and "Ted" Sullivan have arranged a tour of the Continent for the Baltimore base ball team, and a picked team of the other 11 League clubs, to be known as the "All America Club," provided the Orioles win the pennant again. The trip is intended to begin a few days after the season of 1897 is over, the party leaving Baltimore and making stops of one, two and three days in all the large cities en route for California by way of St. Louis. A week or 10 days will be spent in San Francisco, after which the party will move Southeast, playing the various cities along the line of the Southern Pacific Railway to their Southern terminal, the City of Mexico, returning by way of New Orleans. An itinerary covering six weeks has been arranged. The party will travel in first-class style in a special car and everything will be done with an eye to comfort for the players and the good repute of the national game. "Ted" Sullivan, the projector of the trip, will have general charge of the tour, while Ned Hanlon will act as treasurer.

OFFICIAL NEWS.

The Latest Bulletin Sent Out by President Young.

Special to "Sporting Life."
Washington, D. C., Jan. 21.—Headquarters National League and American Association of Professional Base Ball Clubs:
CONTRACTS.
With Cleveland—J. O'Connor, C. L. Zimmer, J. J. Pappalau, J. Powell.
With Richmond—O. E. Foster, Geo. Schabel, A. M. Stimmel, J. O. Chesbro, — Ludly, J. McCord, N. Elerfeld, C. Ebley.
With Athletics—C. McVey, G. Cain, A. Moran, E. Ames, B. Conn, C. Hamburg, J. Lever, F. Schaub, R. Schaub, J. Rafter, H. Berry.
With Paterson, S. McMaackin, W. D. Robinson.
With Reading—J. J. Lawler, T. J. Madigan, R. Gray, H. P. Tate, J. C. Barekley.
RELEASED.
By Philadelphia to Detroit—H. Burnett, T. Thomas, G. Nichols.
By Louisville to Columbus—C. J. Crooks; to Indianapolis, H. W. McFarland.
By Cincinnati—Wm. Earle.
By Portsmouth to Richmond—Wm. H. Hargrove.
By Pawtucket to Milwaukee—J. Hannivan, E. Waldron.
By Richmond—C. Groves, D. J. Boland, N. E. YOUNG, Secretary.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

Special to "Sporting Life."
Shortstop Rothermel has signed with the Galveston Club.
The Savannah, Ga., Club has signed catcher Thomas Dowse.
Manager Rowe declares that Buffalo has not drafted pitcher Mains.
Frank S. Haller has signed to manage the Shreveport, La., Club.
Manager Ewing and infielder McPhee have resigned with Cincinnati.
The Des Moines Club has added outfielder Willis Wilson and catcher Wattles to its roster.
Manager Denny Long, of the Washington Club, has signed pitcher Peter Anderson and outfielder A. Spratt.
H. E. Rhinehart, of McKeesport, Pa., has organized a club at Springfield, O., which will apply for admission to the Inter-State League.
Manager Arthur Irwin has signed pitcher George Bradford, of Guelph, and catcher William Baker, of Hamilton, for the Toronto Club.
Chairman James A. Hart, of the Playing Rules Committee, has forwarded to President Young the report of the Committee on Amendments to the rules.
The San Antonio Club has signed pitcher Frank Herbert, catcher Stanley, first baseman Mike O'Connor, third baseman Win Clark and outfielder George Keefe.
Frank Torreyson, Clarke Armour and Henry Young, of Pittsburg, have purchased the Inter-State franchise of the Dayton Club. Torreyson will be team manager.
The Paterson Club has signed the noted left-handed pitcher, Alexander Jones, formerly of St. Paul; also centerfielder W. D. Robinson, a hard hitter, late of Wheeling.
At Pittsburg, Jan. 20, after three days' trial of the Baldwin-Von der Ahe suit, the jury rendered a verdict, awarding Baldwin \$2525, which is \$2500 more than Baldwin recovered in the first trial.

TO PROSE AND POETRY

MAD, MERRY MR. MOTT TUNES HIS TUNEFUL LYRE,

And Sits Him By, With Laughing Eye, to See Unhappy Men, Impaled on Caustic Pen, Wriggle, Squirm and Twist, With Every Move of Albert's Wrist,

Baltimore, Jan. 19.—Editor "Sporting Life":—"Oh, he is, is he? Patsy has hired a man out of Hot Springs to bat up flies for him, has he? Well, what is he going to do with them after they are batted? The only flies Patsy ever caught was with molasses. Send him a snow shovel. He may catch something when the snow flies.
But, in the meantime—one of the meanest times "Sporting Life" ever has—why don't you discharge that man Elmer Bates? What you want is something reliable. Did you ever get any such fly story as that from Baltimore?
Will De Hass ever get a move on? Or will he Stand Pat?
INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.
Yes, they played that game of indoor base ball at Electric Park last Saturday. There were only a few hundreds present when thousands were expected and might have been there, too, except for the weather, which was bad—worse than Fatty Childs' playing. What's that? Biggest score? Well, it isn't base ball anyway. Nobody ever said Fatty couldn't play some games—blindman's bluff and such things. Fatty was stuffed as full of oysters as a Maryland roast turkey, and he was so round that Robble came near kicking him for the ball.
LASHED TO THE MAST.
The pennant? Yes, for the fourth year, but it's Old Hutch that's referred to. That spasm of Pachel's need not have been, had he consulted ancient Anse. Jim Hart don't let things get away from him like that. He had Hutch, spavins and all, haltered to the stall and he is going to lead him to the trough. Chris will have another dutch chill. That makes Chicago stronger.
Will De Hass ever get a move on?
Boys, boys, don't scrap. If Jake Morse wants to criticize Ned Hanlon, and he thinks he's strong enough to do it, he is welcome. But Jake should put himself in Colonel Jack Saunders' place and try and find out how he would feel if Boston was the caudal appendage of the League dog and everybody was kicking that end of the dog. And Jack Saunders should remember that the fighting part of the animal is on the other end. When Louisville is attacked Jack should wag. Don't scrap, don't scrap.
Is De Hass getting a move on?
What does that meeting in Cleveland mean? Is he going to move part of the team to Brooklyn, part to Cincinnati and part to St. Louis? Don't break up. Don't be discouraged. Think man, think. You have done better than Louisville. For gawd sake, Mr. Editor, encourage him. He lost the Temple Cup, and he's never been the same man since. There's a thought, by gosh.
BE QUICK AND GET DEAD.
You never can tell how soon you would like to go up to glory. Perhaps you will feel a pain and want to die right away after reading this letter. Changes are frequent except in the schedule. Yesterday you felt like a new man. Something happened. You have never been the same man since.
When the cup was hanging on a pitcher's wrist, and Patsy swiped so hard at Hoffer's twist (To state the case is simply to convince), He was looking very solemn, For he bust his spinal column, And he's never been the same man since.
When the Cleveland trouble breeder took a boil, To annihilate that double-twisted coil (You may call it "take a bath or take a fluse"), He kept himself a-boiling, And the atmosphere a-boiling, But he's never been the same man since.
When the Cincinnati Lally called the Bud, Went up high enough to tumble with a thud (Sic Semper—let the galled jade vince); He was doing something risky, With a load of dope and whisky, And he's never been the same man since.
When he tackled sweet and gentle John McGraw, And popped a little stopper on his jaw (You can bet a sour apple or a quince), He hit a keg of powder, That exploded all the louder, And he's never been the same man since.
When Andy made an elephantine rush, And buckled onto little Johnnie Brush (What's the use of handling English just to mince), There was a monkey and a parrot, And a rat up in the garret, And he's never been the same man since.
AURORA BOREALIS.
Said Elmer Bates to Pat one day, referring to that double play (and said it on a wire that brings good red hot lightning to Hot Springs), they say things, Patsy, makes me boil—you caught that play from Ned's Jack Doyle, "caught it" like you'd catch the croup, by sitting on a cold back stoop; that when you saw the quick return (the things they tell just make me burn, and swear a lightning "by gosh darn," and cuss I will and pay the toll, if cussing sinks my living soul; will pay the telegraphic rate, to hell or to the pearly gate; will take a long galvanic lark, to swear by hot electric spark), that when you saw that quick return, you stopped and studied how to learn, a trick that seemed to you so sleek (and now it hurts me to the quick, that

every Harry, Tom and Dick, ascribe the play to Pa Chadwick—to Pa Chadwick when quite a lid—I swear to you he never did—believe me, Pat, for just this once, I'm not a mummy base ball dunc and if — — — But here Stand Pat cut in by wire, and yelled with all his fielding ire—my God, shut off, the town's afire, we've had enough of that hot stuff—the water's boiling in the springs, until it like a kettle sings, and I have just jumped out the bath, to wire you word to shoot your wrath—and don't you know just who is "they?"—to me it's plain, as plain as day—that oyster muff that writes such stuff, and has no call to write base ball—well, say, that's "they"—that's Tommy Rot, from ALBERT MOTT.

BURLINGTON'S BOYS.

Berryhill Now Has Enough Men Under Contract.

Burlington, Ia., Jan. 18.—Editor "Sporting Life":—"The following list of players was received from Manager Berryhill Saturday morning by Secretary Norton:
Catchers Raffert, Williams and Bryant; pitchers, Nichols, Packard, Herr, Thompson and Herbrand; second base, Healey; short stops, Quan and Bree; third base, Berryhill; left field, Ellis; centre field, Bob White, Williams and Bryant will alternate at first base and right field. The youngsters who will come on trial are pitchers Phillips, Beal and Otto; catcher Evans; second base, Donovan; fielders, McCann and Fisher.
Out of this number of players Manager Berryhill expects to pick a rattling good team. He says the team will be completed in a few days if the man he is after can be induced to sign a contract.
Williams will be used as general utility man. He played in the Indiana State League teams for a while, and in '96 went to Roanoke until that team went under, and played such a good game there that Watkins signed him to finish at Indianapolis. He played there the balance of last year. They released him at his own request, and Berryhill grabbed him for us.
Second base will be cared for by Healey, who was with Minneapolis until they secured "Jimmy" Connors. Healey played in the Ohio League in '94, and Columbus, O., in '95. He is considered a good hard hitter and fine fielder.
Breen, who will likely be found at short, is also considered a fast player at short and in base runnings. An average hitter, fine bunter and good thrower.
Bryant is "a little fellow," stands six feet one inch high. He caught Goar and O'Connor one season, and last year caught Kullper, low with Indianapolis. He is a good hitter and number one base runner.
Packard, pitcher, was with the old I. I. League, Virginia and Atlantic Leagues. Has had several years' experience, good control of the ball and a hard hitter.
I am told Bob Carruthers was the first man appointed as umpire in the Western Association. He is at home now nursing a broken bone in his ankle, the result of a friendly wrestling match some time since. JAMES H. LLOYD.

A KANSAS LEAGUE.

A Movement on Foot to Organize a Six-Club League.

Leavenworth, Kas., Jan. 18.—Editor "Sporting Life":—"Never before have I seen base ball interest so feverish in Kansas as it is now. It is more than probable that a six-club league will be organized consisting of Atchison, Leavenworth, Topeka, Juniata City, Emporia, Independence and either Wichita or Hutchinson. The league will probably be in Class C, under National League protection, and a \$500 salary limit.
Charles McDonald has signed with Peoria, Ill., of the Western Association. Dugdale has secured a prize in this man, as he is one of the best left-handed pitchers in the West.
Frank Conlin, a clever infielder, will probably play in Atlanta, Ga. He is a clean hitter and a fast runner.
George Dureya will pitch for Sheridan's Atlanta team in the Southeastern Association. Dureya will duplicate Sheridan's feat of having Atlanta at his feet. He won 25 out of 28 games last year. His control is wonderful, rarely giving a base on balls, and is also a Barker at the bat. Sheridan is to be congratulated. SHERLOCK.

DAMMAN'S RISE

From a Coxy Army to a National League Club.

Upper Sandusky, O., Jan. 19.—William Dammann, the left-handed pitcher who last week signed to play with the Cincinnati base ball nine, had his start in this city. He marched through this part of the State during the year 1894 with Randall's Army, and being on the ragged edge offered his services to the manager of the Upper Sandusky Base Ball Club. He was paid \$10 a week, and his clever work soon won for him a wide-spread reputation. He pitched for Upper Sandusky when Cincinnati played here in October that year, and for the first three or four innings proved a puzzle to even the best batters of the professionals. Manager Bancroft watched him carefully and was surprised to find such a clever pitcher under such circumstances. He congratulated Dammann on his work, placed his name in his memo book and told him he would bear him in mind.

THE OLIVE BRANCH

Extended by Abell, of Brooklyn, to Kerr, of Pittsburg.

Interview in New York "Telegram."
"There is one man in the League who is entitled to more recognition than he receives," says Vice President Abell, of the Brooklyn Club, "W. W. Kerr, president of the Pittsburg Club, is the man I mean, and there is no club representative who is more highly respected. Kerr has been hoodwinked right along at the League meetings by certain big clubs, which make all sorts of promises to him and give nothing. The Pittsburg Club is one of the pillars of the National League, and its delegates to the annual meetings of the League can justly demand their rights. The 'Little Seven' have the friendliest feelings for Pittsburg, which was formerly an American Association city, and they will support Kerr in anything he may ask for."

Manager McGinnigle announces that he had a verbal contract for two years with Vice President Debler, of the Louisville Club, in presence of witnesses, and that he proposes to hold the club to it, even if he must resort to the law for his rights. He considers that the club still owes him \$500 and expenses.