

YE NEWE GAME BASEBALL YE OLDE GAME

Now that the baseball season of 1901 is well under way and the squabbles between the National and the American leagues have to a great extent subsided, it will prove interesting to turn back the pages of history and take a glance at the early days when the national game was in its infancy. The fifty-fifth anniversary of the origin of baseball will be celebrated June 19, for it was on that date in 1846 that the Knickerbocker and the New York clubs played the first match game on the Elysian fields at Hoboken, N. J.

The sport had begun to take form nearly nine months before that time. Like man, according to the Darwinian theory, baseball is the result of evolution. It grew gradually from the old English schoolboy game of "rounders," which finally "evolved" into "town ball." In the latter sport there were "corners" instead of bases. These were unattended, and the runners were put out by being hit with the ball, thrown directly at them by the fielders. The ball used was necessarily much softer and smaller than that of today. Unlike the rubber, yarn and leather spheres now in vogue, it was composed entirely of rubber.

In those days a number of New York gentlemen were in the habit of assembling every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon on a vacant lot then a long way out of town, but now covered by Madison Square Garden, to play town ball. At length some of them thought that certain modifications would greatly improve the sport. Numerous informal discussions took place, and it was finally decided to adopt proposed changes. Among these was the substitution of bases for corners, the adoption of a rubber centered hard ball wound with yarn and covered with leather, the placing of men to guard the bases and having the ball thrown directly to them.

the large cities was almost incredible. The whole nation appeared to have gone baseball crazy.

The grounds in those days were usually on some vacant lot or common, and admission was free to all. As a consequence, the crowds at these contests were very large, from 10,000 to 20,000 people being by no means an unusual attendance. In the city of New York, for example, there were five different baseball grounds within a stone's throw of each other. Scarcely a day passed during the season that there was not a match in progress on each of these diamonds. It is no exaggeration to say that 30 years ago there were 100 games played to one played now.

The encroachment of the professional player was gradual. The rivalry between clubs became so great that, in order to strengthen themselves against rivals, teams would leave nothing undone, as is true today, to secure the best players. Thus inducements were held out to men who evinced uncommon aptitude for the game to influence them toward affiliating with certain clubs.

A wealthy business man, for instance, desiring to see his club in the front rank, would proffer some good ball tosser or a position in his counting house, with the private understanding that his commercial duties were purely nominal, while his real obligations were to put up a rattling good game of ball. In this manner numerous clubs in the country were virtually professional long before such a class of playing was openly permitted and while stringent laws against it were on the code of the national association. This was notably the case between those famous old time opponents, the Atlantic club of Brooklyn and the Abolition of Philadelphia.

The number and influence of professional clubs became such in 1871 that their representatives met in New York March 17 of that year and cut loose from the national association. They also



Photo by Morceau, New York.

MILLIE JAMES, THE HIT OF "LOVERS' LANE."

Millie James in the role of Simplicity Johnson has made the hit of Clyde Fitch's pastoral drama, "Lovers' Lane." Miss James is the daughter of Louis James, the tragedian, and it is therefore not surprising that she should be possessed of histrionic ability. It is predicted that in the near future Miss James will experience the delight of seeing her name exploited in enormous type as the heroine and star of a specially prepared vehicle.

the Atlantic of Brooklyn and the Abolition of Philadelphia. In the latter city Oct. 1, 1868, the attendance inside and outside the grounds, the neighboring houseboats being covered with spectators, was estimated at 40,000. Although the price for the general admission to this contest, even to the bleaching boards, was \$1, the crowd inside the

THE REPORTER'S DILEMMA.

She was a wee wisp of a French girl, and when she hove in sight at the top of the grand stand at the Polo grounds, New York, with her curly escort the reporters down in the press box grew glad that they recognized the man who brought her and saw a dim chance that they might be introduced. One of the boldest of the group, forgetting that Davis had just cracked out a three base hit, sauntered casually around the grand stand and marked his route in such a way that it brought him directly past the seats occupied by the girl and her escort.

The lucky man with the girl was not at all stung. He halted the reporter from a distance, saying: "Hello, Fred! Just the fellow I'm looking for. Miss — has been in this country only a few weeks and wants some one who understands baseball to explain it to her."

With that he dropped into French and introduced his escort. It was not a warm day, but perspiration broke out all over the reporter. His French was collegiate French and had long ago been dropped for baseball language, but he plucked into his subject heroically, while the girl's escort slipped away "to see a man he knew."

Five minutes later the reporter, red in the face, with wilted collar, was gesticulating wildly, sporting French verbs, twisted out of joint, mingling baseball phrases with Gallic nouns and striding his hardest to make the girl understand why three runs only counted when she had seen ten men running.

Just then a big policeman walked over, tapped the reporter on the shoulder and said, "If yor can't bring yer young lady to the game wit'out abusin' her, youse'll have ter git outside! See!" The reporter gasped for breath and felt back helplessly. At that crisis the escort reappeared.

"Hello!" he said, addressing the girl. "Has Fred explained it all to you?" "Do you understand English?" demanded Fred.

"Oh, yes," she replied sweetly; "but I thought you could make the game so much plainer to me in French."

DANIEL FROHMAN'S PLANS.

Ada Rehan and Daniel Frohman were fellow passengers on the St. Louis latest voyage. Miss Rehan is in search of health and will go at once to her bungalow on the Irish coast.

There have been many number of books published by prominent horse trainers, such as Hiram Woodruff, John Sulan, Charles Marvin and A. J. Fick. The latest aspirant for literary honors is Ed Geers, the "silent man from Tennessee." This past master in the art of training and driving has just issued a book called "Ed Geers' Experience With the Trotters and Pacers." It is very interesting and instructive.

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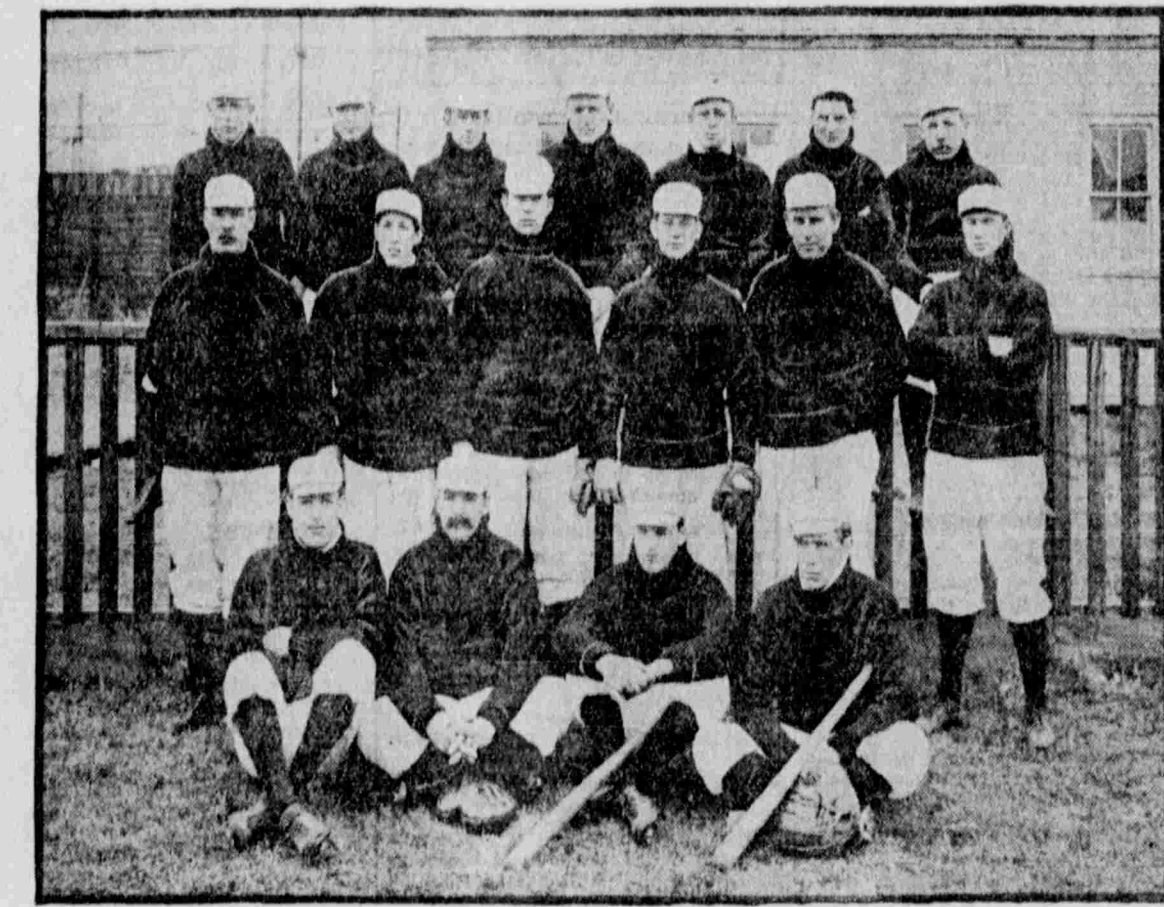
ED GEERS AS AN AUTHOR.

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THE CHAMPION BROOKLYN BASEBALL CLUB.



Back row—Kennedy, Kison, Keeler, Dahlen, Galtins, Daly. Middle row—McGuire, McCreery, McJames, McCann, Hughes, Davis. Front row—Donovan, Farrell, Sheppard, Kelley.

Instead of at the base runner. It was also decided to change the name of the pastime to baseball.

Sept. 23, 1845, the men who made these revisions formed themselves into an association which they termed the Knickerbocker Baseball club. Thus our national game was formed, and, although it has undergone innumerable modifications since then, it is doubtful if it has been made any more enjoyable as sport pure and simple.

Like weddings, one baseball club brought many. Soon there were a number of these organizations in and about New York. The first match games consisted of but four innings, the rule then being that the club first making 21 runs in even innings was the winner. The spreading of baseball from New York to other points was very slow at first, although two of the metropolitan newspapers did all in their power to foster the game.

Town ball continued to be played in other parts of the country, and its followers seemed reluctant to favor the substitute. It is remarkable that baseball was not introduced into Philadelphia until 1869. In that year the Olympic club of the Quaker City, which had been formed in 1833 for the purpose of playing town ball, resolved thereafter to play baseball. The first game in Philadelphia took place June 11, 1869, between the Equity and Winona clubs.

When the game began to be extensively patronized, the National Association of Baseball Players was organized. Any club was entitled to membership, with the privilege of sending delegates to the annual meeting. The playing rules adopted by this body were the standard ones for the game. They were respected and adopted by all clubs, whether members of the association or not.

Almost the first rule positively debarred from membership and rendered liable to expulsion any club in which there was a man who played baseball for emolument of any kind. The object was to make and keep the sport a gentleman's game.

Baseball took a wonderful spurt in 1866 and until 1871 flourished to an extent practically unequalled in subsequent years. The number of clubs was legion, and the record of the games in

adopted rules for championships, the most important being that the club winning the majority of games in a series of five with every one of the professional teams should hold the premiership.

The amateur championships were established in 1858. At the Elysian fields, in Hoboken, the Atlantic of Brooklyn had beaten the crack New York clubs, the Empire, Knickerbocker, Gotham and Eagle, and were generally regarded as the leaders. From that time until the establishment of the professional championship the club which won two out of three games with the then leading team became champion in turn.

To the "old timer" the modern baseball game as played, say, by Ed Hanlon's Brooklyn champions, is more or less disappointing. The multitudinous changes have made the original sport unrecognizable. For example, take pitching. The old rule required the pitcher to actually pitch the ball, and at the moment of his delivery his hand "must be below his waist." The word "pitcher" is now wholly a misnomer for the ball is always thrown to the batsman. In the "good old days" the man in the box was required to send the ball just where the batter wanted it. The latter could call for a ball "shoulder high," "knee high," "high ball" or "low ball," the last named being between the knee and ankle.

The latter day plan of curtailing the rights of the batsman and giving more license to the pitcher has resulted in the reducing of scores to a minimum. This has, in a measure, diminished the interest in the game. Good base running and batting are among the most attractive features of the sport, and games where man after man retires from the home plate on strikes and short flies or at first on feeble tips to the infielders, resulting in scores of 1 to 6 or 2 to 1, are somewhat wearisome. The frequent killing of the bases and the scoring of many runs—not by fielding errors, but by good base running and strong batting—would attract 30 people to every one now attending ball games. It would also give the outfielders an opportunity to earn their salt.

Some idea of the former baseball interest and attendance may be gained from the fact that at a game between

CURTAIN CALLS.

Henry Miller has decided to be his own manager.

Henry Harmon, better known as Herman, goes to Europe in August with William Gillette to play in "Sherlock Holmes."

Louis James and Kathryn Williams

have closed their tour in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." It has been uncommonly profitable.

Mme. Modjeska has ended her long and prosperous season. It has been the most successful ever known to the distinguished Polish actress. "King John"

has proved to be a novelty to the present generation of theater goers.

James K. Hackett is rapidly recovering from his recent illness, and his physician claims that within a short time Mr. Hackett will be in excellent health.

Ward and Vokes' new vehicle, "The Head Waiters," has been produced at Lafayette, Ind., and is now at the Great

Northern theater, Chicago. Manager Maistr says that it is the best production, stylistically, scenically and comically, that Ward and Vokes have ever presented.

Boloney Kiralfy has sailed from Liverpool for this country with a complete Italian ballet, scenery and costumes, of the Olympia (London) grand spectacle, "Constantinople," which will be presented at the Pan-American exposition, Buffalo. This will be Mr. Kiralfy's first visit to this country in eight years.

Edmund Gershen will act as agent for the enterprise.

May Yoh and Lord Francis Hope are said to have separated.

Wilson Barrett is writing a play to be called "The Christian King" for London next fall.

Marguerita Sylva has written a comic opera, "Illetto," and her manager, Kirke La Shelle, says he will produce it. Julian Edwards, the composer of "Princess Chloé," will do the music.

Frank Mills and Gertrude Elliott, sister of Maxine, will be Forbes' Robertson's leading assistants in his season at the London Comedy, where he will start in a few days with "Count Term."

Grace Fikins, who in private life is the wife of Commander Adolph Marx of the United States navy and who is very well known in Washington, intends going to Japan next fall to join her husband.

Pugilism S P Athletics SPORT Angling T The Turf

THE contract between James J. Jeffries and his manager, W. A. Brady, expired recently, and there is a great deal of conjecture as to what will follow. Stories of a split have been going the rounds, but are not generally credited. Jeffries and Billy Madden will soon be in the east. It is possible that something will be done toward settling the place of holding the Jeffries-Ruhlin fight. The National club of San Francisco has issued a statement that the men have agreed on its arena, but this is doubtful because they are still ready to entertain bids.

Billy Madden says that active preparations for the proposed heavyweight championship match are on foot. Madden says:

"Gus has been boxing regularly for several weeks and is in good health. I have received word from the Twentieth Century club managers that a date for the contest between Gus and Jim will be chosen very shortly."

"I wrote to the matchmaker to forward the articles of agreement and post a substantial forfeit with Al Smith. The reply stated that these requests would be complied with at once. From what I can understand the fight will not come off before July."

"Ruhlin is in great trim, and the work he does on the road with our show is a great help to him. He will do the bulk of his training at or near Bath Beach, N. Y. I will send the articles if everything is arranged satisfactorily."

"Ruhlin and Jeffries will fight at Frisco for a percentage of the gate receipts, and not for a purse, as reported."

"Don't go to Frisco and expect to get in on the ground floor in sporting affairs unless you are to the manner born."

The above piece of advice is probably being distributed gratuitously by Charles White, the widely known Queensberry expert, as the result of his recent experience. White is satisfied that his friends were right when they told him that his chances of refereeing the McGovern-Gardner fight were worse than slim. The fact that the principals and Matchmaker Kennedy of the Twentieth Century A. C. had agreed on the New Yorker cut no figure with the sporting fraternity. The "Native Son" feeling in San Francisco is very strong.

The long talked of match between Terry McGovern and Tim Hegarty is off. The Australian is still in his own home, and up to date there have been no assurances that he could be enticed across the ocean.

This leaves Frank Erne and Joe Bernstein as the possible opponents of Terry, aside from Tim Callahan. George McFadden says he will back Callahan for any amount against Terry and that Tim can "put it all over" the Brooklynite at 122 pounds.

A new question has come up in connection with the McGovern-Erne match which may prevent a meeting.

The story is given out in the McGovern camp that Erne has grown much larger, that he now weighs 145 pounds and that he could not possibly reduce to the lightweight limit.

If, as reported, McGovern weighed 121 pounds for Gardner, and Erne cannot make 122 pounds and hold his strength, there is no use in discussing the possibility of a match. Erne has not been heard from for some time. It may be that he has given up all idea of meeting Terry.

The National Sporting club of London, where the American pugilist, Billy Smith, recently met his death at the hands of Jack Roberts, is the fashionable boxing organization of the world. Its membership comprises nearly all the well known "bloods" of Great Britain who have a predilection for pugilism. Hanged around its ring when a notable contest is on will be found noblemen of every degree and at times even royalty. Princes of France, Stock Exchange brokers and a plentiful sprinkling of fast Americans are to be found there. Evening dress is required, and perfect order is maintained without the aid of the police.

An interesting series of contests has been going on the last month or two among the various colleges. This is none other than a round of

trials to determine the rightful claimant to the title of "strongest American college man." These tests have been conducted under the supervision of the Sargent system. Professor W. A. Sargent, the well known athletic director at Harvard university, is the man who invented the method by which the degree of a man's efficiency in this particular line of athletics is determined. Professor Sargent's system has been adopted by every educational institution in the country laying claim to a standing in athletics.

The importance attaching to the intercollegiate strength test will be accentuated when it is remembered that the results practically determine the amateur strong man of the world. The best athletes are produced in American colleges, and the best all around strong man in the world without doubtless be able to discomfit any other amateur Samson in the world.

The Sargent tests are now finished, and the reports have been compared. The results show two men ranking their competitors by a decided majority. They are Guy Carl Herbert of Harvard and Roy Wirt Allis of the University of Minnesota. The work of these men is so nearly equal that it is a difficult task to decide which is better. Each man has been stated to be the premier, but the pendulum has finally swung toward the east, designating Herbert as the strongest collegian. Herbert has succeeded in running up a record of 1856 points. The significance of this score will be appreciated when it is stated

that the average man can run only 100 points in the Sargent system.

The best thoroughbred horses sometimes need a good, hearty thrashing, and expert drivers do not hesitate to administer the punishment when it is necessary, although at other times they would not think of touching the same spirited animal with the lash. It is not a matter of public knowledge, but a few days before The Abbott lowered the trotting record to 2:03 1/4 at Terre Haute, Sept. 25, 1898, Ed Geers gave him as sound a beating as a horse ever got. It was at Fort Wayne and in his work The Abbott concluded to have his own way. Geers is ordinarily the last man in the world to use a whip, but when he does get it out he can hit a horse harder than almost any other man who drives.

Geers knew that The Abbott was going to try for the record at Terre Haute the following week and that he had every chance to get it, but this was not considered when the time came for the horse to find out who was the boss.

Geers whipped The Abbott soundly. The horsemen were surprised because all had apparently been going well between the great trotter and his driver.

"There's none of them too good or too costly for Geers to hit when it comes to the proper stage of the game," said an old horseman who saw the whole scene being thrown into the world beater, then the property of "Pa" Hamlin.

"If he beats the record at the Hut" next week, every one will be telling you what a great man Geers is, but if he performs badly they will all be talking about this thrashing. But that won't make any difference to Geers or to Hamlin either. The Village farm owner knows that he has the star trainer of the country—a man who controls his feelings so that he is sphinxlike on the tracks. It isn't four times in a season that Geers will touch a horse with a whip, and Mr. Hamlin knows that when

doing marvelous work for an amateur team around Indianapolis. He was then but 17 years old, but was as big as he is now almost.

"He signed a contract for \$25 per month. We took him to Cleveland the next day after he had signed and put him in against Tebeau's team. Well, he was as fast as a cyclone, but he could not locate the plate with a searchlight. He must have hit ten men, given as many bases on balls and, all in all, gave a very amateurish exhibition."

"Where did you get that big Rub?" inquired Tebeau of me, and I told him that he would show them before he was through.

"Well, we took Amos out and pitched him some more, but he could not get control of the ball, and we sent him to Fort Wayne to get seasoned. He did, too, and when he joined us later in the season he was a star."

"When you stop to think that he has never been bothered with a lame arm and has never injured his whip, why, there is no reason for believing that he will not be as good as ever for us. For, sir, he started out for \$25 a month, and I'll bet he gets more than three times that amount for a week's work now."

FOX T. CALLAHAN.

Timothy Callahan, the Philadelphia featherweight, is a young man possessing wisdom beyond his years. He was recently invited to go to California and permit himself to be used as a punching bag by Champion McGovern, but declined the offer.

"I'm not going to California at all," said Callahan. "I have authorized me to make a match for me, and if McGovern wants to fight me he can come to 122 pounds. If he's a limit he should make feathers, that's a limit he should make weight, why does he continue to conceal the fact? I have a good offer to meet McGovern at 122 pounds, but will not take it. He likes good men to come down to him, and I guess he can come down to me if he wants to fight."

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THEODORE T. MAXFIELD AND HIS CHAMPION PACING TEAM.

These pacers, Monopole, 2:58 1/4, and Amekin, 2:14 1/4, can cover a half mile straightaway in 1:05. Mr. Maxfield is a prominent eastern horseman, having stables in Bloomfield, N. J. He will race his unbeaten team at Elkwood park, Long Branch, during the summer.