ATHLETICS AND THE STAGE.

SAILOR SHARKEY VERSUS "KID" M'COY.

How They Compare In Measurements. Many Challenges but Few Contests Between the Heavyweights.

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A distinguished Englishman recently said, while examining the personnel of the United States army and the high degree of intelligence of our soldiery, that men of every profession and walk in life from millionaires to day laborers might be found among the ranks of the private. He was probably correct in his statement except in one small detail. He would not find any personnel pugilists in the ranks of the army. Fighting is too hard work for the modern loafer. It is hard enough for him to face his opponent once a year or so in his own time and a fight in the boiling heat of a tropical summer, during which he must suffer from all the disadvantages of a hard campaign and carry a gun and do a 30 pounds of baggage, is a fight that is not to be taken on under any circumstances. He prefers to be on "easy" street every day of the week, even if now and then he is compelled to go through the arduous task of training and the ordeal of the ring.

It is a curious fact, but nevertheless in most cases a true one, that the "fighter" a boxer then in his business. Outside, the more prominent he becomes—the harder it is to get him to fight. When he starts out as a boxer or light-weight, he is willing to fight at the drop of the hat for any stake purse or just for the fun of the thing. As he gets on and wins—or loses—battles it becomes more and more difficult to get him inside the ropes except to meet a perfect challenge, which he knows will never be taken up. At last, when he nears the top of the heap or has had enough advertising to make his starring tour a financial success, the types of the ring give preference to royal chords, and the only fighting he is really anxious to do is with his mouth.

For some weeks past there have been rumors of many pugilistic encounters in the air. It is not unusual, however, for these challenges and portions of battles to occur so frequently at this time of the year, when the theatrical season is over and prize agents are getting up material to advertise their shows next fall.

There are now eight men who claim to be the championship of the world on this portion or that, and no one seems to have every one and then of a bombastic challenge or a frantic speech at the ringside by one of them men in his manager. These eight battles are Fitzsimmons, Corbett, Sharkey, Mitchell, Jeffries, Jackson, Maher and Choynski. Since Fitzsimmons defeated Corbett at Carson City, Nev., the latter has announced his willingness to meet his rival, either portsmouth or not, to set on another go with the Australian. The chances of their ever meeting on the ring again are very slight, however.

Since Mitchell landed Hanlon some weeks ago at Coney Island a number of challenges have been issued, and many of opponents have been wanted by pugilists who never intended to fight or expected their bluffs to be taken in earnest. One of these varying was the challenge issued by "Kid" McCoy to Corbett. McCoy did not have any intention of fighting the champion, as he does not intend to try for the championship with Corbett another four years at least. He was making a bluff at Corbett, and to get a contract arranged with Choynski, who has been fighting out of town all of this season, however, seemed a good thing and a chance to take a rise out of Sailor Tom Sharkey. Sharkey did not intend to fight McCoy either. McCoy did not have any intention of fighting the sailor