OUTDOOR SPORTS.

THE PROSPECTS FOR 1867—RACING—YACHTING—ROW-ING—BASE BALL—CRICKET—THE CLUBS OF NEW-YORK AND VICINITY.

To write of racing when the roadways are covered with snow, of yachting or rowing with the mercury at 40°, or of base ball and cricket while the turf is soggy with March snows and storms, may seem absurd; but the coquettish suns of April and the bright days of May are at hand, and from the merchant who guides his pleasure-yacht through the channels of the Sound to the *gamin* who swings on the railings of the City Hall Park, there is a fellow-feeling in favor of out-door sports. The progress in popular favor of muscular amusements has been very marked within the past few years. The sudden fortunes made during the war, or in the midst of the speculative excitements of 1864-5, has undoubtedly had much to do with the increased attention given to horse-racing and yachting, but to the most widely popular sport—base ball—this reasoning does not apply, as no large outlay of either time or money is required of its votaries. Whatever may have been the controlling reason, it is certain that ten persons are now directly interested in field sports to one at a date of twenty years ago. The Englishman, to whom a fervent belief in racing and in cricket is a religion, is not more enthusiastic in the pursuit of the Derby or of a sight of the All England Eleven, than the Americans in this city were last year of Fordham Park and the "Mutuals" practice ground. Yachting received a powerful impetus last year in the 3,000 mile race through the wind and waves of the Atlantic in December, and the vitality of our rowing clubs is evinced in the desire of the oarsmen of Massachusetts to enter the international regatta at Paris. To the multitude of these muscular devotees, the following sketch of the prospects of the favorite sports during the coming season will be of interest:

THE TURF.

Racing has been established upon this continent for over a century and a half. For many years it was patronized by statesmen and scholars, who brought with them to this country, or inherited from European ancestors, a love for the sports of the field. Washington was a connoisseur of horses, and a lover of racing and hunting. But as the American people devoted themselves more exclusively to the labor of developing the resources of the country, these sports fell into disrepute, and the Turf of a few years ago was largely controlled by such characters as made the race-track a place to be avoided by the refined of either sex. Year by year racing declined in character and in popularity, save with the vicious, for with some honorable exceptions the racing grounds were apparently managed in the interests of speculation or dishonesty. But as wealth has increased, and scientific knowledge extended in this country, there has grown up an appreciation of the value of thorough breeding. Persons who have no more knowledge of the horse than may be obtained by sitting behind one for an occasional hour on the road, or in casually witnessing his strength and docility on our thoroughfares, know nothing of the comparative merit of a thoroughbred animal and a common hack. But, to those who have made the subject a study, blood is of the highest importance. During the Crimean war, the English cavalry horses suffered extremely from exposure, want of forage, and hard work, but it was found that those that survived the service were nearly all thoroughbreds. In Australia, where the mounted police are frequently called upon to make long and rapid marches through a country often scant in herbage and destitute of water, no other than thoroughbred horses have been employed for years. The thoroughbred being thus the acknowledged superior of all other breeds for all purposes except for heavy draught, his propagation should be most encouraged, and the principal means by which public interest may be increased in this propagation is by offering premiums for the most thoroughly developed specimens. For the awarding of these premiums, the race is the test or ordeal. It was to foster the national interest in thorough breeding that the Saratoga races were established, and we believe they have been honorably conducted toward the accomplishment of this end. New-Jersey followed New-York by the establishment of the meetings at Hoboken and Paterson, and the Western States have also taken steps in the same direction. Although New-York city, from its aggregation of wealth and population, would naturally be considered the most favorable location for successfully establishing horse-breeding associations, the difficulty of securing proper grounds at a convenient distance from the city, and the great expense of maintaining such grounds have been opposing circumstances, which, until recently, have been too powerful to be overborne. The inauguration of the American Jockey Club ground at Fordham, more particularly alluded to below, has shown that in that case the difficulties have been overcome.

The coming season opens with brilliant prospects. The noted horse Asteroid, who was incapacitated from racing at Jerome Park last year in consequence of an accident, is so far recovered that hopes are entertained of his entering the lists this year. In England an international match between that country, France, and America, is being discussed. Should such a meeting be arranged, England being represented by Lord Lyons, France by Gladiateur, and America by Kentucky, the race would be an event of a life time. Thus far we have spoken principally of the running races. For the trotting purses the prospects are equally promising. The season of last year was distinguished by the best time ever made—Dexter's mile in 2:18 over a new course, beating the historic 2:19¾ of little Flora Temple. Twenty years ago, a mile in 2:40 was considered extraordinary time; now, many a gentleman's private road horse can surpass it. To have asserted then that a horse would be able to trot a mile in 2:18 or at the rate of 27 miles per hour, would have been thought an insane boast. At the closing of the lists for the Union Course, a week ago, the entries are unprecedently large, and there is every indication that the season will be as lively as the most ardent horseman could desire.

THE AMERICAN JOCKEY CLUB.

Holding first rank among all American sporting or field clubs is the American Jockey Club, which has its grounds and Club in the pleasant little village of Fordham, just outside the suburbs of the great city, and within an hour's drive of the City Hall. In September, 1865, this Club held its inauguration ceremonies at Fordham, in the presence of what is termed the best society of New-York City. A very handsome race-course, a comfortable club house, and racing and grand stands, with judges' tribunals, equalling in magnificence and perfect attention to detail the Derby Course, are the principal attractions, founded by the financial prince Leonard Jerome. The ground was purchased at a cost of $250,000 from Charles Bathgate, esq., and the improvements made by Mr. Jerome to create a race course cost that gentleman $250,000, in addition to the sum paid by him for the ground to Mr. Bathgate. The Club was originated for the purpose of improving the breed and blood of American horses, and the finest stables in the country are now the property of the Club. The Club-House at Fordham is now thoroughly furnished, and new and costly furniture, elegant glass and silverware, and some very fine pictures, the contributions of individual members, will be placed in the rooms of the Club. The American Jockey Club has about 700 members at present, and it is the intention of the Club to increase the number to 1,000, after which the list will be closed. The Jockey Club is essentially aristocratic, and the members believe that the Club, and only the Club, should decide who are properly qualified for membership. The Jockey Club has 56 life members, who each pay a subscription of $250 to the treasury of the Club, which entitles them to a life-membership, and secures them from all further dues. A member is proposed by two life members, in writing, for election. Two black balls reject a candidate for membership, so that it is impossible for any person to be elected whose standing in character and society is not good. The *personnel* of the Club is excellent, and a list of members is but a representation of the best known and oldest names in New-York life. There are five permanent stewards, who have the power to appoint race stewards. The five are Leonard Jerome, the great pioneer and founder of the club; William Butler Duncan, of the firm of Duncan, Sherman & Co., a house which, it is said, controls directly or indirectly twenty-five millions of capital; August Belmont, the agent of the Rothschilds in America, one of the principal backers of George B. McClellan in the last Presidential canvass, formerly Minister to the Hague, and William R. Travers, the present owner of Kentucky, purchased by him for the sum of $40,000, one of the wealthiest and keenest brokers in New-York. Mr. Travers also owns or did own the racer Asteroid and the schooner-yacht Restless, which ran a race up the Sound last year against the Henrietta. The fifth steward is John F. Purdy, a wealthy Beaver-st. merchant, one of the best judges of horse-flesh. The roll of membership is full of notabilities. There is Francis Skiddy, one of the great steamboat men of this city; John Hunter of Hunter's Island in the Sound, who is said to have once valued Kentucky, when owned by him, at the fabulous sum of $100,000. Hunter's Island, one of the beautiful islets which dot the shores of Long Island Sound, is about 100 acres in extent, and was formerly worth $600,000. Here Mr. Hunter at one time dispensed a baronial hospitality to all comers, and kept in his stables 30 of the finest blood horses in America. Alexander Hatcheson, famous on Kentucky racing-grounds; Paul S. Forbes, a good judge of horse-flesh, and the most elegant and fastidious of sporting men; Larry Jerome, a bluff yachtman and broker, who accompanied Bennett on the Henrietta to England; Gardner Howland of the great house which has made millions in the East India and China trade; Craig Wadsworth, son to the gallant officer who fell in the terrible fight of the Wilderness; W. H. and W. W. Appleton, celebrated book publishers in New-York City; Robert Bonner, proprietor of *The Ledger* and owner of *Lodbrok*; Dexter Bradford, owner of the beautiful yacht *L'Hirondelle*; Oliver Cherlick, President of the Long Island Railroad Company; H. B. Claflin, the great dry goods rival of Stewart, whose receipts amounted, for the year 1865, to $49,000,000; Henry Clews, the 7.30 man and banker; Hiram Cranston, owner of the New-York Hotel, and about to build another huge caravansera in the vicinity of the Central Park; William T. Forrest, who drives a mare in 2:18, a Wall-st. broker; C. K. Garrison, the Pacific Mail Steamship millionaire; John Hoey, Superintendent of Adams Express, at an enormous salary, and husband of Mrs. Hoey, formerly of Wallack's Theater; S. L. M. Barlow, lawyer, member of the Manhattan Club, who is said to dispute the palm with James Lennox of having the finest private library in New-York; Henry J. Raymond of *The Times*; Manton Marble of *The World*; Gen. Dick Taylor of Confederate notoriety; Simeon Leland of the Metropolitan Hotel; Theodore Moss of Wallack's Theater; Sylvester Mowry, formerly a brother officer of Gen. McClellan, who wrote a book about army life, and is at present a very rich proprietor in the Arizona mines; Jas. Murphy who made a fortune in the manufacture of boilers; and Benjamin Nathan, a leader of the Jewish aristocracy of the Empire City. Beside this long list there is Charles O'Conor, the legal celebrity; Royal Phelps, the banker; Gen. Pleasanton, famous for his raids among the Virginia hills; Gen. R. B. Potter, formerly Commander of the historic Ninth Corps; Edwards Pierrepont; Anthony L. Robertson, Chief Justice of the Superior Court; Richard Schell; Stetson of the Astor House; Edwin W. Stoughton, a well-known barrister; Baron Louis Von Hoffman, the great German banker; Chauncey Vibbard, another steamboat and railroad man; Adrian Iselin, the French banker; Lewis J. Jennings, correspondent of *The London Times*; and, last of all but not least, Lester Wallack, the comedian. For the information of outsiders interested in the Club, it is well to know that by the rules of the Club the Board of Direction is authorized to invite members of the Diplomatic Corps at Washington as guests. The rules so providing, as well as that a member may invite not more than two strangers at a time to the privileges and accommodations of the club, with the provision that the member shall register the strangers names in the books for that purpose, and the member shall be responsible for any debts incurred by visitors while at the Club-house. Rule tenth of the Jockey Club states that "no game of mere hazard shall be played in the Club; nor shall any game be played for money, *except* Billiards, Whist, Euchre, Ecarte, Piquet, Bezique, All Fours, Chess, Backgammon, Draughts, and Dominoes." This is perhaps, intended as a pleasant joke by the framers of the rules. The Club-house shall be open from 7 a. m. in Summer, and 8 a. m. in Winter. The bar shall be kept open until 1 o'clock a. m., and the kitchen to be in use until midnight; after which cold provisions will be served until 1 o'clock, except on Sundays, when both bar and kitchen will be closed at midnight. A magnificent Club-house of white marble, with a French *renaissance* roof, for the use of the Club, is now nearly finished, in East Twenty-sixth-st., near Madison-ave. Entries for the coming meeting of the American Jockey Club will be received by Mr. John B. Irving, the Secretary, at his office, No. 46 Exchange-place, on the price list.

THE YACHT CLUBS.

The New-York Yacht Club is preeminent among the Yacht Clubs of the United States for the celebrity which its vessels have won in the numerous races for which they have been entered since its organization in 1844. The officers of the Club consist of a Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Rear-Commodore, Secretary, Treasurer, and Measurer. The Commodore takes command of the squadron, assisted by the Vice-Commodore. Candidates for membership are proposed in meeting, notice being posted in the Club House ten days before an election. The representative of each yacht is entitled to one vote. A quorum consists of the representative of seven yachts, two black balls defeating the election of a candidate for membership. The Secretary of the Navy and the Commander of the Brooklyn Navy-Yard are considered ex-officio honorary members of the Club. Each member pays to the Treasurer of the Club on his election $40, which includes his annual dues for the first year. Subsequently, the annual dues are $25 a year. The Squadron is divided into two classes of vessels, schooners and sloops. The first Commodore of the New-York Yacht Squadron was John C. Stevens, who made American yachting famous the world over, while owning the yacht America. John Jay owned the yacht La Coquille when the Club was formed in 1844, and his vessel was one of the first to join the squadron. The first sea race of the Club was sailed in 1858, the yachts Zinga, Madgie, Rebecca, Ann, Manersing, and Narragansett participating in the race. The Rebecca won the race. The Club House is situated in the Elysian Fields, at Hoboken, in a very pleasant location. The rooms of the Club are filled with models and paintings of the fastest and most celebrated yachts, and a great number of rare and valuable curiosities. The squadron consists of 29 schooners, eleven sloop yachts, and one steamer. The largest yacht in the squadron is the schooner L'Hirondelle, 202 tuns, owned by S. Dexter Bradford, a wealthy dry-goods dealer, doing business in Worth-st., in this city. The smallest yacht is the sloop Annie, of 26 tuns, owned by Mr. John Beard of Ipswich, Massachusetts. The L'Hirondelle beat the Vesta in a match-race on the 31st of October, 1866, in a race from the light-ship off Sandy Hook, running, 20 miles to windward. The race was for a piece of plate. The L'Hirondelle is the most magnificently furnished yacht in the squadron. The Henrietta is now world famous. She is a schooner yacht, 205 tuns burden, built in 1861, and owned by James Gordon Bennett jr. He formerly owned the Rebecca, a very fast yacht. Mr. Bennett has sailed in a number of races in his yacht, and has the reputation of keeping the best crew and cook in the squadron. The Vesta is another famous yacht, 201 tuns burden, owned by Peter Lorillard, the tobacconist. The Vesta came out of the great international race second best. The Lorillards are evidently a yachting family, for while Peter Lorillard prides himself on being the proprietor of the Vesta, his brother George L. Lorillard is also, or was some time since, owner of the pretty little sloop-yacht Eva, of 81 tuns. George Lorillard, although but a youth of 20 years, was venturesome enough to take part in the great ocean race in his brother's yacht, the Vesta. The Lorillard family is one of the wealthiest in New-York, having been engaged in the snuff trade for six generations. The Restless is a schooner of about of 95 tuns, owned by W. R. Travers, the broker. The Fleetwing is one of the most beautifully modeled and fastest yachts in the squadron, owned by George A. Osgood, a Wall-st. broker. The Fleetwing, in the ocean race, lost by an unfortunate accident several of her crew. She is 206 tuns burden. The schooner N. B. Palmer, 194 tuns, named after one of New-York's most successful shipping merchants, is owned Capt. R. B. Loper of Philadelphia, a veteran sailor, who has a very handsome residence at Stonington. Capt. Loper is as proud of his exquisitely modeled yacht as he is fond of the briny element on which he has lived the greater part of his life time. The Palmer sailed a race against the Henrietta for $200 on the 16th of October, 1865, from the Light-Ship, off Sandy Hook, to Cape May and back, and was beaten by the Henrietta. The Josephine, a schooner yacht of 143 tuns, was owned by the late Daniel Devlin, who died worth, it is said, $3,000,000. Mr. Devlin was very proud of his yacht during his life, although he was beaten in a race of 20 miles by the Magic, owned by Commodore McVickar, a representative of one of the oldest Knickerbocker and Episcopalian families of this city, from Sandy Hook 15 miles to windward and back on the 19th of June, 1865, for a purse of $1,000. The Rambler is a very fast schooner yacht of 164 tuns, owned jointly by H. S. Fearing, the broker, young Francis Skiddy, and S. Sandy, all of New York. The Haze is a schooner yacht, 91 tuns, owned by John E. Develin, a son-in-law of Stetson of the Astor House, formerly Consul to the Corporation, and at present in Albany, dividing the doubtful honor of leading the Democratic delegation in the Legislature with Tom Creamer. The Phantom is a schooner yacht owned by Henry S. Stebbins, a broker in Exchange-place, and the Halcyon, a schooner yacht of 130 tuns, is owned by J. M. Hubbard, of Westchester Co. The Halcyon sailed a race for a piece of plate on the 23d of October, from Sand's Point Lighthouse, in the Sound, to New-London and back, against the Vesta, the latter winning by fourteen minutes, allowing for the great difference in tunnage and measurement.

The Brooklyn Yacht Club ranks next to the New-York Yacht Club in the celebrity attained by the former having three schooners and 13 sloops of the first class, second and third class bearing the pennant of the Commodore. A new schooner yacht of 200 tuns burden, to be called the Calypso, and a schooner of 108 tuns, are in process of construction at present as additions to the Brooklyn yacht fleet. The officers of the Brooklyn Yacht Club for the year 1867 are: Commodore, R. M. Whiting; Vice-Commodore, J. Peters; President, G. S. Haight; Secretary, William T. Lee; Treasurer, Edwin Underhill; Assistant Secretary, Wm. M. Ringwood; Measurer, John M. Sawyer. The names of the yachts, their tunnage, and their owners in the Brooklyn Yacht Club, are as follows:

Schooners—Mystic, 45 tuns, Troy & McNamee; *Comfort*, 25 tuns, Dixon & Wood; *Marie*, 25 tuns, H. B. Jackson.

Sloops—First Class—Isaac Wilson, 25 tuns, N. F. Waring; *Restless*, 20 tuns, J. Jones; *Early Bird*, 15 tuns, S. A. Cooper; *Ocean*, 14 tuns, J. J. White; *Carlton*, J. M. Weeks.

Sloops—Second Class—Mary, 12 tuns, T. W. Lamson; *Lizzie*, 10 tuns, J. Ellsworth.

Sloops—Third Class—Sophia, 23 feet, J. D. Fowler; *Carrie*, 27 feet, J. H. Dixon; *Unknown*, 27 feet, H. Sneedler; *Midge*, 27 feet, S. Long; *Twilight*, 28 feet, J. Lennon; *Linda*, 26 feet, J. J. Joy; *Robe*, 26 feet, M. M. Van Dyke; *Ada*, 26 feet, E. H. Davis; *Mist*, 26 feet, G. H. Hobby.

The Atlantic Yacht Club of Brooklyn has a very fine fleet of vessels. Mr. Edward Harvey has building at present a sloop yacht of 25 tuns, to take its place in the squadron. The officers of the Club are as follows: Commodore, T. C. Lyman; Vice-Commodore, W. M. Brasher; Secretary, C. C. Lippitt; Treasurer, J. R. Maxwell; Measurer, Edward Harvey.

Appended are the names of the yachts and their owners:

Sloops—First Class.—Annie Laurie, C. P. Low; *Lois*, Commodore Lyman; *Black Hawk*, J. R. Maxwell; *Foodie*, C. J. Lippitt; *Dolphin*, T. W. Sheridan; *Lizzie*, W. H. Langley; *White Wing*, T. Hussing; *Pyxie*, F. B. Taylor; *Alarm*, T. Sheridan.

Sloops—Second Class.—Agnes, E. Harvey; *Martha*, Vice-Commodore Brasher; *Alida*, P. Brasher; *Hector*, W. Peet; *Amelia*, H. A. George; *Imp*, S. W. Hubbell, jr.; *Homeless*, S. Romans; *Loiree*, S. F. Speir; *Tip-Top*, J. Travers; *Mist*, A. A. Willis.

The Hoboken Yacht Club embraces the following yachts:

Glance, 25 tuns, J. Gillet; *Ida*, 18 tuns, J. B. Rolston; *Cornelia*, 15 tuns, Conrad Fox; *Broadhill*, 15 tuns, — Rennick; *Nellie*, 15 tuns, S. Griswold; *Carrie*, 7 tuns, V. Vuillaume; *Cub*, 7 tuns, Wm. S. Bow; *Gipsey*, 10 tuns, E. Bourdertheu.

The following are the officers of the Hoboken Yacht Club: Commodore, Victor Vuillaume; Vice-Commodore, Simeon Griswold; Recording Secretary, Eugene Marcilc; Corresponding Secretary, F. Kienen; Treasurer, George L. Clark; Measurer, E. M. Cook.

The Jersey City Yacht Club was founded in 1856. The Club has a very handsome club-house in the vicinity of the Central Railroad pier, at Jersey City, looking out upon the bay and its surrounding beauties. The officers of the Club are: I. G. Hill, Commodore; J. T. Schoonmaker, Vice-Commodore; Treasurer, A. B. Reynolds; Secretary, Wm. Clarke, jr.; Measurer, S. P. Hill. The names of the yachts composing the squadron, and their owners, are as follows:

Sabas, H. C. Walton; *Virginia*, S. P. Hill; *Severn*, A. D. White; *Jessie*, S. W. Hill; *Lizzie*, — Schoonmaker; *Lotus*, W. & F. Janeway; *Psyche*, E. Miller; *Nameless*, S. Hermance; *Tony*, W. Woodruff, Walton, H. C. Walton; *Comet*, S. C. Ketchum; *Sunbeam*, J. R. McComb, jr.; *Sea Bird*, Reynolds & Joy; *Gazelle*, A. Clark; *A. Clark*, W. F. Clark; *Lizzie Smith*, George Smith; *Jessie*, — Murray; *Neptune*, H. Tesser; *White Wing*, S. Hermance; *Zephyr*, C. A. Smith; *Who'd-a-thought*, J. Baylis; *A. Sanders*, — Van Duser; *J. Wells*, — Wells; *Alice*, J. Jardine; *Pauline*, J. G. Hill; *Van Duser*, D. Berrian; *F. H. Zabriskie*, R. A. Wood.

The Rowing Boat Clubs of New-York are 16 in number, as follows: the Atalanta, Columbia, Waverley, Gulick, Atlantic, Alcyone, Bergen Point Boat Club, Neptune Boat Club, Hudson Boat Club, Alcyone Boat Club, and Passaic Boat Club of Newark, N. J. As a rule, these clubs are vastly inferior, in everything that constitutes rowing clubs, to the Yale and Harvard University and Boston rowing clubs, though it is but justice to state that some of those mentioned, particularly the Atalanta and Columbia Boat Clubs, are striving arduously after perfection. Rowing has not as yet attained that high standard of honorable mention in New-York City which is but deserved by the New-England clubs. The Atalanta is the oldest club of rowers in New-York, having been organized in 1846, since which time it has achieved several honorable victories and a few defeats. The Atalanta has 20 active and 20 honorary members, and owns the barge Excelsior of eight oars, 44 feet long and 4 feet 6 inches wide, with the lapstreak out-rigger Atalanta, of six oars, 45 feet long, 3 feet 4 inches wide. The club has also two double-scull and four single-scull boats. The club-house is at the foot of Christopher-st., North River.

The officers of the Atalanta Club are: President, Alden S. Swan; Vice-President, W. C. Mainland; Secretary, Jas. W. Edwards; Treasurer, Charles Devoe.

The Waverly Boat Club was organized in 1859, and has 20 active and a long roll of honorary members. They have a boat-house at the foot of Christopher-st. 60 feet long by 16 in width. The Waverley Club has a four-oared out-rigger barge 36 feet long, named the Twilight; the six-oared barge Wave, 38 feet long; the four-oared out-rigger, George Washington; a four-oared out-rigger barge named the Ivanhoe, and the eight-oared barge, Meg Merrillies, 41 feet in length.

The Gulick Boat Club was organized in 1859, and is nearly or altogether composed of members of the old crack Volunteer Hose Company No. 11 of this city. The Gulick Club owns a lap-streak out-rigger boat of six oars, and has its boat-house at the foot of Christopher-st.

The Atlantic Boat Club of Jersey City was organized in 1858, and has 33 active and 2 honorary members. The boats are as follows: Lightfoot, a six-oared out-rigger barge, 42 feet 10 inches long, 2 feet 10 inches wide, and 13 inches deep; and Our Jessie, four-oared barge, 28 feet long, and 3 feet 6 inches wide. The boat-house is at the foot of Fourth-st., in Hoboken. The Alcyone Boat Club of Brooklyn was organized in 1859. This Club has 24 active and 5 honorary members, and owns the following boats: "Alcyone," eight-oared, lap-streak barge, 40 feet long and 4½ feet wide; "Kelpie," four-oared, smooth-built barge, 22½ feet long; "Little Darling," double-scull working boat, 17 feet long, and "Ripple," double-scull, lapstreak out-rigger, 22½ feet long. The boat-house is at the foot of Court-st., Brooklyn.

The Columbia Boat Club was organized in 1861, and has 30 active and 4 honorary members. The "Columbiads" have the following boats: pleasure barge Annie, 6 oars, 30 feet long; Columbia, 6 oared, out-rigger, 46 feet long; a 6 oared racing lapstreak, 45 feet long; a 6 oared shell, 43 feet long; two single scull shells; three single scull working boats, and five double scull working boats.

The Bergen Point Boat Club was organized in 1863, and has at present 11 members and 2 boats; the gig "Bayonne", 35 feet long, lapstreak, four oars, and the barge "Evangeline," 6 oars, 24 feet long and 4 feet wide. The boat-house is at Bergen Point, N. J.

The Neptune Boat Club of Port Richmond, Staten Island, was organized in 1863, and has at present 15 members. Neptune Club owns 2 six-oared boats of 40 and 45 feet in length. Boat-house at Port Richmond, S. I.

The Hudson Boat Club of Jersey City was organized in 1865, and has 20 active and two honorary members. The "Hudsons" own the lapstreak Hudson, formerly belonging to Yale College, 46 feet in length, 34 feet inside, carrying a coxswain. Boat-house foot of Van Voorst-st., Jersey City.

The "Alcyon" Boat Club of New-York was organized in 1865. The Alcyon Club owns the barge Alcyon, pulling six oars, 30 feet in length, and four feet 10 inches amidships.

BASE BALL.

In the game of Base Ball as now played we undoubtedly have a strictly National pastime. What cricket is to an Englishman, base ball is to an American. Unreflecting people may regard base ball as "a very good thing for boys, perhaps," or, a suitable sport to "pass away an idle hour or so on a holiday." Those, however, who intelligently consider the matter, see in this game the means to an end which has been sought for in vain for years past on this side the Atlantic, the end in view being the popularizing of physical education and healthy out-door exercise and sport. As a means of cultivating the physical powers, base ball is one of the most commendable exercises in vogue. As a remedy, too, for many of the evils resulting from the immoral associations the boys and young men of our cities are apt to become acquainted with, the game merits the approval of Christian men and women. The fact that it is a sport the ladies can patronize and grace with their presence is another strong point in its favor. Of course, like every other good thing it is liable to abuse, but the reputable class of the fraternity are too lagely in the majority to allow the evil influences to creep into power.

Since the close of the war of the Rebellion the game has made great strides in popularity, North, East, South, and West. Especially in the South and West has base ball become popular, and probably nothing could have been introduced into the South better calculated to benefit Southern young men than this our now National game. Requiring courage, nerve, pluck, and endurance to excel in it, the youth of the South find in the game the very field for an exciting sport which they had previously sought in amusements of a more objectionable character. The game will this season be very popular through the South. Even in those parts of the country where general distress prevails, the people will find recreation in it. As late as the year 1860, base ball was confined to one or two of the Middle States—New-York being the center. Now it is played in every State in the Union, from Maine to Oregon. New-York has in a measure lost its ascendancy in the game, Philadelphia now being the base-ball center of the country. There are ten clubs in the Quaker City to one in the metropolis, and last year the best record made by any club in the United States was made by the champion club of Pennsylvania—the gallant Athletics of Philadelphia—whose average score of 51 runs to a match, against the strongest clubs in the country, and of over 6 runs to a match at the hands of their best individual players, presents the best record known in the annals of the game.

The season of 1867 will soon be commenced, and the prospects are that it will be fully as interesting as any we have had. In New-York, our city clubs are gathering their clans for the Summer campaign, and as soon as good weather really sets in, and old Winter has ceased further dalliance with fair Spring, we shall see the various ball grounds placed in proper condition, and crowds of ball-players on them busily engaged in ball-play. The prominent club of the city is the Mutual Club, which this season proposes making further improvements in its fine grounds at Hoboken. The club will muster a strong nine again, including Jewett, Martin, Reed, Hatfield, Waterman, R. Hunt, Zeller, Patterson, and McMahon. Some new men will take prominent positions in the nine, however, before the season is far advanced. The other city clubs, viz.: the Active, Empire, Gotham, Eagle, Eclectic, Monmouth, Social, Jefferson, New-York, &c., who all will play, with one exception, at Hoboken, promise to present strong teams this Summer. The Eclectic will play at the Red House grounds this Summer, and will make up a strong nine, taken chiefly from leading junior players of the upper district of the city. Some of these clubs will occupy the St. George Cricket grounds, as that club has purchased a new ground on Bergen Hill.

The Union Club of Morrisania, the rival of the Mutuals for metropolitan supremacy, will occupy its old grounds this year, the Club being unable to procure a locality suitable for a permanent ball-ground as was anticipated. The Union nine will include Birdsall, Pabor, Smith, Martin, Goldie, Hannegan, Akin, Austin, and Hudson. Wright, we believe, has joined an out-of-town club. The nine of the Active Club will be strong. This is a fine young club of gentlemanly players, and they have the material, properly managed, to stand second to none. The veteran Knickerbockers will meet as usual for enjoyable exercise games, they ignoring match-games altogether. The Hoboken grounds are reached by the Barclay-st. ferry, and by cars to the Elysian Fields. The Second-ave. cars go direct to the Red House Grounds, and the Harlem Railroad passes Morrisania. The Central Park grounds are used only by the schools in the vicinity, match-games by senior clubs being prohibited on account of the crowds which they attract, and the destruction that would result to the turf.

The game of base-ball in Brooklyn and suburban towns has always been played more frequently than in New-York, the facilities in the way of grounds being greater. There are three permanently inclosed ball-grounds in Brooklyn, viz: the Capitoline, Union, and Satellite, the former being the largest, and located near Fulton-ave. on Nostrand-ave., the Fulton-ave. cars going direct to the grounds. The Union and Satellite adjoin each other in the Eastern District, Marcy-ave. and Broadway bounding the eastern sides respectively. The Carroll Park grounds—vacant lots adjoining Carroll Park, South Brooklyn—is the locality at which the opening games of the season are played every year, the hard sandy soil of the lots admitting of play before the turfy fields are in condition elsewhere. At these latter grounds the Star, Independent, Mohawk, Powhatan, and Typographical Clubs will open play as soon as the weather permits, probably the first week in April. The late Spring we are having however will doubtless prevent active operations on the inclosed grounds, until May. The Excelsior Club, with which the Capitoline consolidated, will play on the Capitoline grounds and the Atlantic Club also. Several prominent players of these two clubs will not take active part in the club matches this season, so it is rumored, but no such arrangements preventing the necessary leisure time. Among these absentees will be Pike, Chapman, and Crane of the Atlantics, and Leggett, Whiting, Norton, and Brainerd of the Excelsior. This will, of course, weaken them as playing clubs, although the Excelsior will not feel it so much as the Atlantics, the former having their Enterprise reserve to fall back upon. The Eastern District, the Eckford club will put out a good nine, including Beach, Sprague, Klein, Wood, Butler, Grum, Manolt, Snyder, and Ryan; they have a good reserve corps to fill up vacancies, however. It is uncertain which ground they will play on. They will remain on the Union if the ground is not built upon. The Resolute will have a strong nine this year, and will occupy the Satellite grounds, the Fulton Club also playing there. At Greenpoint the Orientals will take the lead, and they are already open for challenges, being the first in the field for 1867.

At Newark and vicinity, the Eureka and Irvington Clubs will be rival candidates for the State championship this year. The former will have a strong nine, and will probably occupy new grounds or have their old one inclosed for the season. In the vicinity of Albany, the Knickerbockers and Nationals are the strong clubs, but the Unions of Lansingburgh—the conquerors of the Mutuals of New-York—are going to shine this season. At Auburn ball-playing is going to be quite a feature. Frank Wright, the celebrated pitcher and batsman of the Harvard College Nine, is at home there, and is going to raise a fine club, and it is rumored that with his splendid cottonwood bats he is going to astonish the Gotham folks.

The features of the season of 1867 will be a series of visits among the prominent clubs of the several seaboard cities. The Lowells of Boston—John A. Lowell's champion team—intend visiting New-York in June. Several Philadelphia clubs, too, will pay us visits. Our clubs will also go out of town considerably. The Excelsiors are to visit Washington and Richmond in September—not June, as stated in some papers—and the Nationals of Washington will start upon a grand South-Western tour in July, via St. Louis, Louisville, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, and Chicago. Some of the Richmond clubs are to visit Washington during the Summer, and there is to be a grand tourney in Richmond in the course of the year. But it would fill columns to give half the programme of the season, and it must, therefore, suffice us to glance at it briefly as above.

Base Ball has quite a literature of its own now. First there is the Annual of the National Association, with its rules of the game, list of delegates to the Convention, and proceedings thereof. Then there is the "Dime Book of Base Ball," the feature of which is the averages of association clubs for the past year. Then we have "The Book of Reference," a complete text-book for the fraternity; all of these works being prepared by Mr. Henry Chadwick of Brooklyn. Mr. Peverelly's Book of Pastimes also contains matter very interesting to clubs, such as the lists of games played during the last ten years, &c. It will be seen that there is no lack of reading matter for ball-players. Add to these the biographical sketches of ball-players in one of the illustrated papers and the list is full.

CRICKET.

The national game of Englishmen, somehow or other, has not flourished in this country. One cause has been that cricketers have been too exclusive in regard to their encouragement of young American players. Played strictly up to the true rules of the game, and thereby rid of much of the tedious delays which obstruct its popularity among Americans, the game ought to flourish here to a large extent. As it is, however, for nearly 30 years it has been in vogue in this city, and to this day it has scarcely advanced a step further in popularity than it had achieved 20 years ago. As in base ball, so in cricket, Philadelphia takes the lead. Before the war there were nearly 50 clubs in Philadelphia, while New-York has never yet numbered ten, all told; indeed, three find it difficult to maintain an existence.

The prominent club of the country is the St. George Club of New-York, numbering, as it does, nearly 500 members, among whom are some of our most influential English residents. This club recently purchased property on Bergen Hill at a cost of $20,000, for the purpose of a permanent play-ground. This, however, will not be in tip-top condition for use until 1868, when the club proposes to get up a cricket excitement by a game bringing out the noted All England Eleven. The New-York Club used to be a powerful rival of the St. George Club, but of late years it has lost ground considerably. A new club has recently been organized, we understand, on a basis calculated to make it a popular institution. The Manhattan Club is now one of the best clubs of the city, next to the St. George. They play on their own field at the foot of Ninth-st., Hoboken. In Brooklyn, the Satellite and Willow Clubs are the only existing organizations; so it will be seen that there are but five clubs in and around the Metropolis. There are two clubs at Newark, and one at Paterson, but none in the condition they ought to be in.

In Philadelphia, the gallant Young America Club takes the lead, the Philadelphia Club being next in rank. The Olympian and Chippewa Clubs have strong elevens. The American of Washington, Boston of Boston, and the Cincinnati Clubs are among the other leading Cricket organizations of the country. It is to be regretted that clubs representing so fine a game as Cricket is should be so easily counted in this ball-playing country. Cricket can be played by men too old even to play base ball much less to be distinguished in it, and that too in a manner that will earn them applause. Retired ball-players make good cricketers; and there is no better fielding school for cricketers than base ball affords.

CONNECTICUT.

The election in Connecticut will take place on Monday next. A Governor, Lieut.-Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Controller, four Members of Congress, 21 State Senators, and 237 Assemblymen are to be chosen. The following are the rival State tickets:

	Republicans.	*Democrats.*
Governor.....	Joseph R. Hawley.	James E. English.
Lieut.-Governor....	Oliver H. Perry.	Ephraim H. Hyde.
Secretary State...	William T. Elmer.	Leverett E. Pease.
Treasurer.....	Henry G. Talmor.	Edward S. Moseley.
Controller.....	Leman W. Cutler.	Jesse Olney.

The following table shows the comparative vote for Governor in 1866 and 1865, and for President in 1864:

Counties.	—1866.— Hawley. Rep.	English. Dem.	—1865.— Buckingham. Rep.	Seymour. Dem.	—1864.— Lincoln. Rep.	McClellan. Dem.
Fairfield.....	7,694	7,337	6,876	5,323	7,368	7,193
Hartford.....	8,618	8,037	8,232	6,618	8,622	8,640
Litchfield.....	4,771	4,623	4,858	3,801	4,997	4,429
Middlesex.....	3,206	2,939	3,012	2,287	3,113	3,107
New Haven.....	8,520	10,784	8,272	7,225	8,761	9,698
New-London.....	5,610	4,807	5,181	3,068	5,662	4,919
Tolland.....	2,479	2,032	2,427	1,691	2,430	2,153
Windham.....	3,566	2,144	3,416	1,356	3,568	2,173
Total.....	43,974	43,443	42,274	31,330	44,691	42,283
	Rep. maj. 531		R. maj. 11,035		R. maj. 2,406	

The following are the names of the candidates for Congress:

Dist.	*Republicans.*	*Democrats.*
I.....	Henry C. Deming.	Richard D. Hubbard.
II.....	Cyrus Northrop.	Julius Hotchkiss.
III.....	Henry H. Starkweather.	Earl Martin.
IV.....	Phineas T. Barnum.	William H. Barnum.

The table below shows the vote for Governor in the Congress Districts in 1866, as compared with the vote on Congressmen in 1865:

	1866. —VOTE FOR GOVERNOR.— Hawley, Rep.	English, Dem.	Rep. maj.	Dem. maj.	1865. —VOTE FOR CONGRESS.— Rep.	Dem.	Rep. maj.	Dem. maj.
I.....	11,607	10,969	128	—.....	10,619	8,693	2,596	—.....
II.....	11,836	13,723	—	1,887	11,236	9,521