THE PUGILISTS PREPARING.

THE COMING FIGHT BETWEEN MESSRS MACE AND COBURN.

Developing Muscle for the Manly Art—Gentleman Jem's Little Morning Walk—Mr. Coburn's Gentle Exercise—The Battles of the King Pins of the P. R.

No match since the famous meeting between Heenan and Sayers has caused so much excitement in sporting circles as the coming fight between Mr. James Mace and Mr. Joseph Coburn. Both men have gone into active training, and both are using every exertion to work off all superfluous flesh and harden the muscles for the approaching conflict.

From present appearances there is every indication that the fight will come off on the 11th of May, the day last agreed upon by the principals at their meeting at the *Clipper* office. Canada is to be the fighting ground, the exact locality to be selected by the seconds of the two men ten days previous to the fight. The man failing to appear at the time and place specified is to forfeit the stake money. It was the desire of Mr. Coburn at the late meeting that both he and Mr. Mace should go to the fighting ground on the same steamboat, so that in case of any magisterial interference

BOTH MEN WOULD BE IN THE SAME BOX,

and also for the reason that should there be any difficulty in fighting at the ground selected by the referees on account of the police, it would be an easy matter for them to steam away and land at some other locality where the coast was clear. This was objected to by Mr. Mace, who seemed to think that Mr. Coburn was trying to put up a job on him to have both parties arrested and thus get out of the fight. Mr. Mace declares that he was forced into the fight against his will and after he had publicly retired from the ring; but now that the match has been made he intends that it shall be no fault of his if it does not come off. He insists that each man shall go to the battle ground in such manner as he chooses, but that failing to appear, he shall lose his money.

The direct cause of the approaching meeting between these two celebrated boxers arose from Coburn's entering the saloon of Mace some few months ago and making an assault upon Mace while he was sitting at a table engaged in a game of cards. The police were reported before any particular damage was done, but the trouble caused much excitement in the city, and bad blood between the two gentlemen finally resulted in a match to decide in a 24 foot ring which of the two was the better man, for $1,000 a side. The money has all been put up in the hands of Harry Hill, the final stakeholder, and the men have gone to work

TO PREPARE FOR THE CONTEST.

Mr. Coburn has selected for his quarters while training the place known as Observatory Hall, at the corner of Ninetieth street and Fifth avenue. He has hired the premises until the 1st of May. No better spot could have been selected for the purpose. It is located opposite the reservoir in Central Park, upon one of the highest points of ground on the island, where he is sure of breathing the purest air to be found anywhere near the city, and free from intrusion. Here he will be out of the reach of his host of friends who may desire to visit him while training. Observatory Hall is a large wooden structure, built for hotel purposes, with accommodations sufficient to lodge, feed, or drink as many of Joe's friends as may wish to call. There is a large bar-room on the lower floor, where Joe meets his friends when not taking his exercise, and the road to see the man who has the pluck to fight the champion of England is great. In the large yard surrounding the Halfian observatory has been erected, from the top of which as fine a view of the island of Manhattan can be obtained as anywhere in the city.

A SUN reporter visited the hall yesterday, and interviewed Mr. Coburn on the approaching fight. Mr. Coburn was not in when the reporter arrived, but he was politely received by Mr. Francis McIntyre, a handsome young man, who was doing the honors of the house, and, in the absence of the regular bar-keeper, dispensing drinks to thirsty visitors. The bar-room is furnished after the manner of those usually found on the road. Pictures of fighting celebrities and trotting horses adorn the walls, and comfortable armchairs for those who desire to sit down and chat or engage in a quiet game of cards.

MR. JOSEPH COBURN

made his appearance in a few minutes, looking the perfect picture of health. He has shaved off the handsome moustache which formerly adorned his upper lip, his complexion is clear, and his eye bright as an eagle's. He was dressed in his walking suit, consisting of dark woollen pants and vest, a red Woolen knit jacket, and thick, solid walking shoes. His hair he had cut short and laved in front. He is looking almost too stout at present for fighting purposes, but the long walks which he now takes every day will soon wear that off. When last weighed he turned the scale at 189 pounds, but expects to reduce himself to enter the ring at from 180 to 185 pounds.

Prior to his retirement from the ring he trained Mr. Coburn for his fight with Mr. Michael McCoole, again has him in charge. He is considered one of the best trainers in the country. He accompanies Mr. Coburn in all his walks, rubs him down after their return, and puts him through his regular gymnastic exercises. The ground used for walking is the top of the wall surrounding the reservoir, which is admirably adapted to the purpose. There is an entrance directly opposite the gate to Coburn's place on Fifth avenue, and he is only obliged to step across the road to reach his walking ground. The distance around the reservoir is exactly two miles. The walk is made of gravel, perfectly hard and smooth. Coburn retires at 9 o'clock at night, and rises at 7 in the morning. Directly after getting up he takes a cold bath, and is thoroughly rubbed with coarse towels until his skin is in a perfect glow. He then dresses himself, and accompanied by his trainer, walks once leisurely around his track, and then returns and

EATS A HEARTY BREAKFAST.

About an hour after breakfast he again begins walking, and continues until nearly dinner time, making altogether about from sixteen to twenty miles a day. He is then again thoroughly rubbed from head to foot, after which he dines. He is restricted in the quality of his food, but not in the quantity. Ardent spirits are strictly prohibited, but a glass of ale or porter with his dinner is sometimes allowed. After dinner he exercises in his gymnasium with clubs, pulleys, parallel bars, &c., and if not too tired walks once more leisurely around the track. Walking is now acknowledged to be the best exercise for prize fighters. It takes the fat from the stomach, thus improving the wind without reducing and weakening the system.

Mr. Coburn is said to be one of the most scientific sparrers in the world. He does not practise boxing to any extent, as he considers himself proficient. His fights in the ring, though not numerous, have been good. He is considered a first-class fighter. He was born in Middletown, county Armagh, Ireland, July 20, 1835. He is 5 feet 9 inches in height, and has generally fought at 154 pounds.

MR. COBURN'S FIRST APPEARANCE

in the ring was on Nov. 18, 1855, in Canada, where he met and vanquished Mr. Henry Grubben in 21 rounds for $500 a side. Winning this battle brought him prominently into notice, and he was next matched to fight Edward Price, Esq., then reading in Toronto. They fought for $500 a side on the 1st of May, 1856, at Still Pond, Mass. This battle was a drawn one; 101 rounds were fought.

His next appearance in the fistic arena was with Mr. Michael McCoole, at Charlestown, Md. They fought 67 rounds, when Mr. McCoole succumbed, and Mr. Coburn was declared the winner.

Failing to find another foeman worthy of his steel in this country, Mr. Coburn in 1864 resolved to revisit the old country and measure strength with the renowned Mr. Jem Mace. He accompanied by Mr. James Quick, the present trainer of Mr. Mace, and a match was made to fight at Princetown, county Tipperary, Ireland, Oct. 4, 1864, for £1,000 a side. Mr. Coburn to receive £100 for expenses. When the time for choosing a referee arrived, they failed to agree, and the stakes were drawn. Mr. Coburn proceeded on the ground at the time and place appointed. Mr. Coburn afterward returned to America and made a second match with Mr. Michael McCoole for $5,000 a side. It was to have been fought at Cold Springs Station, May 27, 1868, but the day previous Mr. McCoole was arrested, and on the day of the fight Mr. Coburn also fell into the hands of the officers of the law, and both were sentenced to forty days' imprisonment in the jail at Lawrenceburg, Ind. The stakes were eventually drawn. These are Mr. Coburn's battles and engagements since he made his appearance in fistic circles. If he should succeed in whipping Mr. Mace, he will not only whip one who is now considered the best living fighting man in the world, but will also secure for himself friends who will be of great financial assistance to him.

MR. JAMES MACE

has also gone into training, although for that matter he has been in good fighting condition for the past year. He returned from Albany about ten days since, and has taken up his training quarters at his residence at the corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue. He is looking splendidly and in condition to fight for his life. His hair is cut quite short, face clean shaved, and general health excellent. He has fought so many battles that he knows exactly how to get himself into fighting trim, but to make the matter more sure, he has placed himself under the care of Mr. James Cusick, probably the best and most experienced trainer in the world. This is not the Jim Cusick who has figured so often in the police reports as a barroom fighter, and quite recently as the keeper of a keno game. The similarity of names has been the source of much annoyance to the trainer. Mr. Cusick is a very quiet and strictly temperate man.

Mr. Mace takes long walks which average about twenty miles a day. He generally starts on Sixth avenue, goes around Central Park, and then walks down as far as Wall street on the Battery, and back home. He has a gymnasium in the upper story of his club house, where he exercises in what called to develop all the muscles of his body. He has sparred with Coburn so often that he says he is perfectly familiar with his tactics, and he anticipates an easy victory.

Mr. James Mace was born at Beccles, near Swaffham, in Norfolk, Eng., in April, 1831. He is 5 feet 6½ inches in height, and generally enters the ring at 150 pounds.

His first fight in the ring was with a gentleman named Glover for $50 a side. They met at Mildenhall, on the 2d of October, 1857. Nine rounds were fought, when Glover was declared the winner.

His next appearance in the fistic arena was with Mr. Bill Stout, for $500 a side, the stakes being the aggregate amount of money contributed by the friends of the respective parties. This battle was fought on the Isle of Sheppey, on the 12th of May, 1858, and was a drawn one, 101 rounds being fought.

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