GOSSIP OF THE BALL FIELD.

PLENTY OF DEALS IN THE LEAGUE AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

The New York Club Bracing Up—The Southern League Will Not Disband—Columbia Drops Out of the College Race—What the Minor Leagues Are Doing—Manager Bob Ferguson On Old-Time Ball Playing.

The New Yorks have braced up somewhat during the past week, and are now doing better. The players are getting in condition, although Dorgan's arm is still very bad and Ewing's hand is not near well. Still, the club has done well enough without those two men. In fact, Richardson has done by far better work than Ewing did at second. There is still need of a third-base man. Ewing will go there when he is well, but it is not certain that he can cover the base as it should be covered. He is a masterly catcher, but when it comes to base work he is not equal to the occasion. With a clever third-base man the New York Club would be in position to face any club, that is, if they would put some life into their work. But, as said, they have done better during the past week. Ward has braced up in his work at short stop, and the men have been taking chances at base stealing with success. An out field consisting of Tiernan, Gore and O'Rourke would fill the bill to perfection, while the addition of a third-base man would complete the field. For catchers there are Deasley, Brown, and Ewing. The two first named are doing remarkably clever work. Brown has proved himself equal to any of the New York catchers, and can bat and run bases equal to any one in the team.

The team is weak in the box, however. Mickey Welch seems to have petered out; he has none of his old-time effectiveness. The club, on the other hand, has been very fortunate in securing young George to take Mickey's place. George was very wild when he began pitching, but with every game he seems to improve. He bids fair to become one of the greatest pitchers of the day. The new rules seem to have caused him to lose some of his effectiveness, as he is being batted hard at times; but all pitchers may expect to be hit hard, for the great strain on them must tell.

The club has a great man in Tiernan. He is one of the best base runners in the country, and as a batter he is first class.

IT LOOKS LIKE A DEAL.

Managing Director Watrous was found in his office down town yesterday. The usual jolly smile played about his face. "The Metropolitans have not decided to sell out, nor do I know why the several base ball Presidents have been in town," he said.

"Is there any deal on hand?" we inquired.

"Not that I know of. The gentlemen dropped in to see me, and inquired what was to be done with the Metropolitans. I plainly told them that they were to play ball on Staten Island either as an association club, a League club, or on the go-as-you-please plan. I do not wish to use strong language, but I will say that it will be a remarkably cold day that sees the Indians frozen out of the Association. I do not expect any trouble, but then you see we are one of the parties in the Association, I don't think there is any truth in the report that the League and American Association will consolidate.

"There is something in the wind," said a well-known base ball man, "and you may look out for some startling news before the season is over. It is safe to say that the base ball President did not come to this city, all at the same time, for nothing. I do not think that the League and American Association will consolidate, for the League has too much of a good thing as it now is. But there is not the slightest doubt that the League would take in at least two of the stronger Association clubs. You want to keep your eyes open, for the shock will be a great one."

At a later interview with Managing Director Watrous, he acknowledged he had a deal on hand. He said that if it succeeded he would be a great man, but he refused to say what it was.

GAMES FOR THE COMING WEEK.

The coming week promises to be one of the greatest of the season. Each club will begin to mortgage by playing two games. The New Yorks will begin as the Chicagos do, on Monday, while the St. Louis and Brooklyn Clubs will test their strength at Washington Park. In the mean time the Metropolitans will play two games with the Association infants at Cleveland. The schedule for the coming week is:

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE.

On Monday and Tuesday—Chicago at New York, Detroit at Boston, Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, Indianapolis at Washington.
On Wednesday—Boston at Philadelphia.
On Thursday—Chicago at Detroit, Pittsburgh at Indianapolis, New York at Washington.
On Friday and Saturday—New York at Washington, Chicago at Detroit, Pittsburgh at Indianapolis, Boston at Philadelphia.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday—St. Louis at Brooklyn, Metropolitan at Cleveland, Louisville at Philadelphia, Cincinnati at Baltimore.
On Tuesday—No games.
On Wednesday and Thursday—St. Louis at Brooklyn, Cleveland at Staten Island, Louisville at Philadelphia, Cincinnati at Baltimore.
On Friday—Cleveland at Staten Island.
On Saturday—Cleveland at Brooklyn, St. Louis at Staten Island, Cincinnati at Philadelphia, Louisville at Baltimore.
On Sunday—Cleveland at Brooklyn.

SOME DECORATION DAY GAMES.

At Ridgewood—Lee and Nassau Clubs.
At West Farms—Morrisania and Adelphia Clubs.
At Union Course, Long Island City—Keeseys and Dexter Park—Keeseys and Dexter Park Clubs.
At Hoboken—(A. M.) Cuban Giants and Flushing Clubs, (P. M.) Cuban Giants and New York Reserves.

THE COLLEGE LEAGUE RACE.

The struggle for the pennant in the College League has narrowed down to Yale, Harvard, and Princeton, with the chances in the order named. Columbia is out of the race, and probably no one regrets more than that college its self the fact that it was over in a day. Yale's score of 20 to 1 in six innings is the worst defeat it has suffered so far, but Harvard and Princeton have both shown that they can toy with its team on the diamond. Between the leaders it seems to be more a contest of pitching than anything else. Stagg is the only one that hasn't been batted out of the box so far. Boyden of Harvard was knocked out in the first Yale-Harvard game, and Mercur of Princeton was treated to the same sort of indignity in the Harvard-Princeton game at Cambridge. But Stagg has puzzled them all successfully, and unless he or Dunn, his back stop, are injured before the end of the season it looks as if the pennant would come to New Haven again this year. Henshaw, Harvard's catcher, out his hand in at Princeton Hotel some time ago, and his loss weakens the nine greatly, as Campbell has to leave third to go behind the bat, and Harvard has no man except Campbell who can cover third. Henshaw will probably be able to play in the last games of the season.

Stagg's remarkable success in holding Boston's best batting teams down to three hits has set the League managers elbowing each other to secure him for their teams. Early in the season Stagg told the Bergen Points that he might play with them, but of late he has given them no encouragement at all, so he says, and has practically put an intention of playing with them. He has not yet made up his mind what to do, and although the New York and Indianapolis teams have made him quite liberal offers, he does not want to turn professional if he can find some other work to do during the summer. The secret of his success as a pitcher is to be found in his ability to discover the batsman's weak points, his perfect control of the ball that enables him to pitch just such a ball as a batsman is least likely to hit squarely, and a variety of deliveries that puzzle a batter more than anything else. He does not weaken toward the end of a hard game because he rests his arm by varying his delivery.

The games this week are Harvard vs. Princeton at Cambridge and Yale vs. Columbia at New Haven to-morrow, and Harvard vs. Columbia at New York and Yale vs. Princeton at New Haven on Saturday. If Princeton beats Harvard, the fight between her and Harvard will be evened up a little, while Yale will have a good lead over both; but if Princeton is beaten she will be practically out of the race. Yale's critical week is the one after next. She plays Harvard and Princeton on their home grounds, and, if a winner in both games, will be practically sure of the championship.

ALONG THE HUDSON.

NEWBURGH, N. Y., May 26.—Base ball matters are not as lively as they were last year and in 1885 along the Hudson River. Some of the towns and cities have good teams and others but fair, some of them are playing excellent ball, but the thing seems to drag in spite of this fact. Notable incidents of the summer are shown by the teams of Poughkeepsie and Newburgh. Poughkeepsie only a few days ago snowed under the Monitors of New York, one of the best teams outside of the Leagues, while the Newburgh team has defeated handily such nines as the Cuban Giants and Long Islands. They came within ace of defeating the New York Reserves, and have defeated both Poughkeepsie and Yonkers on their own grounds, the former by the score of 6 to 1 and the latter by 9 to 7.

With these clubs there are also good teams at Nyack, Peekskill, Yonkers, Fishkill, and Wappinger's Falls, the home of big Dan Brouthers of the Detroits. Of the river towns, where in past years base ball has boomed lively, Hudson and Kingston seem to be the only two cities where the base ball fever has not yet taken hold. Still, with all the activity that is displayed in the lower Hudson, or from Poughkeepsie south there yet remains that lack of interest on the part of the people that is highly essential to make the game a success. Some of the places named can hardly be said to have got under full headway, yet those that have find it uphill work. At the start an effort was made to get the river towns into a Hudson River league, but it was too early, only one or two were really ready to go ahead, and because of this the others failed to enthuse. There are several who are still anxious to organize a League, and only yesterday Manager Best of the Yonkers Club visited Newburgh and Poughkeepsie to push the matter along.

It is said, however, that while both were not indifferent to the matter, nor against it, they were very cautious about the movements they made. They are undecided as yet as to what to do. Some of them hold to the opinion that a good League can yet be formed, but the ultimate result is mere conjecture.

OUTLOOK IN THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

CHARLESTON, May 28.—The announcement made during the past week that the Southern League had gone to pieces owing to poor umpires and other causes was a little premature. It is true that during the week the League was on the verge of dissolution, and that bad umpiring had something to do with it. The immediate cause of the threatened dissolution, however, was the breaking down of the Mobile Club and the evident weakness of the Savannah Club. Since then, however, things have taken a change, and the League is once more on its legs. The Mobile franchise has been turned over to the growing young city of Birmingham. The wealthy men in that city have subscribed $10,000 capital stock, have organized a team, and will put it in the field on June 1, when the regular schedule of games will be resumed. Savannah is still in a shaky condition, but no fears are entertained on her account. If she withdraws from the League her dates will be filled by Charleston, and the regular schedule will be played.

The umpire question, too, bids fair to be settled satisfactorily. The most recent trouble is with Tony Such, the umpire who can't read. The very first game of the second series that he was called upon to umpire at Savannah ended in a disturbance. New Orleans was playing in the Forest City, and the game was very close. In the eighth inning, as was stated in THE SUN of Tuesday last, Tony's rulings, which had been decidedly off from the beginning, became decidedly bad, and finally became so outrageous that the Savannah team threw up the game, and withdrew from the diamond, in order to prevent a riot on the grand stand and bleaching boards. Deisfel, another Nashville umpire, who umpired the Charleston-New Orleans series here, was so utterly incompetent that both clubs united in requesting him to absent himself from the grounds. He had the good sense to take the hint, and his place was filled by Atkinson, the only competent umpire in the League. Fortunately, the Birmingham team was about to be organized, and Deistel, who was released from the Nashville team (where he played centre field) to be appointed umpire, was offered a place in Birmingham.

He accepted the offer and resigned his position as umpire, thus relieving President Munro from a delicate embarrassment. Such will also be compelled to resign, and it is hoped that the new appointees will be selected with more regard to their qualifications. When this shall have been done there will be no reason why the League season should not be played out. Of the six clubs in the League all are in a flourishing financial condition, Charleston, Nashville, New Orleans, Memphis, and Birmingham are solvent, and are all playing ball at a profit. Savannah is a little weak, but will be assisted in tiding over the season if assistance is needed.

In addition to this the change in the position of the pennant race has aroused a good deal of interest in the game. The first series of 20 games was so arranged that the three strongest clubs were pitted against the three weakest. New Orleans had 8 games with Mobile and 8 with Savannah, winning them all and getting a big jump on the leaders. Their first defeat was at the hands of Charleston. Then Memphis and Nashville both tackled Savannah and New Orleans, and they too had a big jump, especially as the Charleston team, one of the strongest in the League, were playing miserable ball. In the second series, however, there was a change. The strong clubs are now pitted against each other, and the result is a considerable difference in the winning. The Kappel incident mentioned in this correspondence has reduced the Memphis average. Charleston is playing great ball at home, and has already beaten Savannah and New Orleans four straight games each, Memphis 3 out of 4, and will probably get 3 out of 4 from Nashville. This will put Charleston in the lead for the flag, and will make the race lively.

The anti-base ball crusade started by some of the sickly sentiment in Chicago has not panned out as seriously as it was feared it would. For the first week of the season the attendance of the ladies showed a perceptible falling off, but the coming of New Orleans and the prospect of good ball playing proved too powerful, and for the past ten or twelve days the park has been crowded to its utmost capacity, and the club directors are happy. In addition to this the game attracts large numbers of visitors from the interior of the State, Charleston being the only city in the State where professional base ball can be seen. The railroads, quick to avail themselves of the chance, have organized regular excursion trains which bring often between 600 and 1,000 persons each to witness the games, many of the excursionists coming from a distance of over 200 miles.

Under these circumstances there can be little doubt of the future of the League. Everything looks bright and promising, and base ball in the South is again booming.

WHAT THE EASTERN LEAGUE IS DOING.

WATERBURY, May 27.—The week has seen some changes in the Eastern League, which have had the peculiar effect of making the croakers say, "I told you so," and the backers of the League say, "We're getting there now." The dropping out of Springfield on Wednesday was the bursting of a bubble of the Arsenal City. But it did not take President Robert Weber long to make the move so much dreaded by the other clubs, and get the New York Reserves in place of the Springfields. When the Springfields failed to file their $250 bond they were promptly expelled. No action has been taken yet as to how the games will count which have been played with them. They are mostly victories for the other nines. The Danburys are in danger of being killed as they do not get a fair show. New Haven has a somewhat similar evil to contend against, but the sturdy material there stands it better. Hartford pulls along good-natured after the departure of the popular Charley Daniels as manager. They are perhaps the best appearing nine of the whole lot, paying attention strictly to their own business. Waterbury hopes to have taken a new lease this week. The seven injured men are recovering. Richmond has come, and the manager has at last concluded that another good pitcher must be obtained. In the opinion of the public, Campion, the quondam pitcher, is a heavy load and is never fitted for the box in this city. Still, he plays a good game on first or second, and, if he is true to his record, will be a good pitcher along in August. The horse car company has hurt base ball here as much as any other one thing this year. The new grounds at their western terminus are the largest and handsomest in the State, but they have been too slow in furnishing facilities to get to them.

Bridgeport still serenely holds her grip on first place. So strong is it that a prominent Bridgeport base ball man said to-day that people would not go to see the games, they were so one-sided, another reason which he assigned for back of support. In his opinion, which he said was that of many, the management would make money two ways by selling Pitcher Lovett, first by his sale directly, and secondly by an increased attendance at the games. Another two weeks may make still greater changes. The Reservers are a strong nine, and may push Bridgeport. If the two together should succeed in pushing the others too low down the result might be very serious. Be it remarked, however, that there is not one of the other nines, save it be Danbury, that thinks such a thing can occur.

BALL NEWS FROM CLEVELAND.

CLEVELAND, May 28.—All the various rumors of deals and changes in clubs and associations are vehemently denied by the clubs interested. Yet there is some truth and a good deal of romance in nearly all the stories. The most important of all is that relating to the move among such leaders in base ball as A. G. Spalding, G. Von der Ahe, J. H. Byrne, and John B. Day in favor of one great league of twelve clubs. All the men named say they favor the plan, and hope to restore harmony to professional base ball by means of it. Yet it is very questionable if a twelve-club league could be a success, unless the twelve clubs were so evenly matched that the championship flight could be kept up longer than it is with eight clubs. Some time ago Jim Mutrie, manager of the New Yorks, got to the root of the matter by tersely saying: "There's too many tailers," and he was more analytical than elegant. There are too many tailers in both League and Association even now. No one seems to have a chance against Detroit in the League or against St. Louis in the Association.

The drift of base ball seems to be in the direction of one gigantic stock company, with one Board governing all the clubs in one big League. The idea is A. G. Spalding's, and he has recently secured a convert in Von der Ahe. Spalding coolly proposes one great company with a capital of $1,000,000. If this could be done, evenness of strength among the clubs would come sooner than by any other method. But the public wouldn't be likely to enthuse over such a cold-blooded way of fighting for supremacy for revenue only. And the public couldn't be kept in the dark. This is the weak point of the Spalding plan. It is beginning to be put in operation even now, for three clubs in the National League are certainly financially interested in each other. It wouldn't be surprising to see the one League of twelve clubs scheme tried, even though it may fail. The plan is to drop the weakest member of both the League and Association, presumably Indianapolis and Louisville, and amalgamate the clubs in New York and Philadelphia. The would leave but twelve clubs. But before the end of June six or seven would be "tailers," and all hope of making money would be gone so far as they were concerned.

The rumors about the sale of the Athletic Club are not all false. The fact is that the three men who own the club, Lew Simmons, Charles Mason, and William Sharsig, are not in harmony this year. Sharsig is especially anxious to break the partnership, and has found a man in President Von der Ahe of the St. Louis Browns, who is willing to pay Simmons and Mason $10,000 or more each for their interests in the Athletics. So the Cleveland Club understands the matter, and from the best source. The sale is likely to be made, and Von der Ahe and Sharsig will own the Athletic franchise.

The Cincinnati Club played Cleveland a similar trick to that she played Brooklyn over Corkhill. Kappell was sold to Cleveland for $1,000 when the Mullane trouble came up, and President Stern calmly declared everything off.

Manager Bancroft sent Hart, Atkisson, and Flanagan home from Cleveland.

The coaching of the Association clubs still causes trouble. Umpire Valentine stopped it on Saturday, and the Athletics protested against his serving the Association longer.

ABOUT DEALS.

PHILADELPHIA, May 28.—Every day brings stories of new deals. There are wheels within wheels in official base ball circles as well as in other sporting organizations. At present it is a hard matter to judge just what the intentions of the leaders of the two big organizations are, and it is very likely that they themselves are at loggerheads on the subject. President Spalding of the Chicago Club is the recognized leader of the National League, and to him is ascribed the credit of every new move made by that organization. Spalding has been in the East for some time, and his presence here has caused considerable suspicion and speculation. It is known that he has been in consultation with the leading lights of his own League and some of those of the American Association. Those in a position to know claim that Spalding's actions mean but one thing—a complete revolution in the base ball organizations of 1888. It is claimed that Spalding will be satisfied if he can induce Cincinnati or the St. Louis Browns to join the National League, but if this fails he will try to push his favorite hobby, the one-league scheme.

While Spalding is busy looking after what he considers his own interests, there are other men who are working in different directions. President Soden of Boston is said to be working out a plan for the organization of an Eastern League, to include Boston, Brooklyn, Baltimore, New York, the Metropolitan, Athletic, Philadelphia, and Washington clubs. Soden received some encouragement last season when he suggested his scheme, and he claims that he will succeed in having all the Eastern clubs under one head in 1888. Byrne of Brooklyn is not averse to the scheme, and it is possible that Erastus Wiman has been won over to it. The Philadelphia Club officials were not opposed to the scheme a year ago, and it is possible that they may aid in its organization. Washington is said to favor it, while the Athletics and Baltimores say they will do what seems for their best interests.

The organization of an Eastern League is not pleasing to Spalding and the other Western clubs. While it would not be impossible for them to form a Western League, it could not be placed upon such a good footing as an exclusive Eastern League. The jumps in the West are greater than in the East, and if the rivalry that now exists between the two sections is taken away it is feared that very few of the Western clubs would be self-sustaining.

THE COLORED LEAGUE.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

The Colored League has hauled down the flag. No more will they battle for supremacy as a League organization.

The Pythians of Philadelphia failed to meet their engagements according to the schedule arranged at Baltimore when the League was organized, and then the Resolutes of Boston, the club that started out with a greater blare of trumpets than any of them, were stranded on their first jump.

The Resolutes made a big bluff that they were starting out the season with $7,000 in the treasury—and yet they were unable to fill their engagements after striking Louisville. For the past two weeks they have been trying to get up the river to fill their engagements here. President Brown of the League received despatches from Boston inquiring if he knew anything as to the whereabouts of the Resolutes. He could not enlighten the inquirers. The team had boarded the Katie Stockdale at Cincinnati, which port they seem to have reached in some manner, and they should have arrived here Sunday, but for some unknown reason they disembarked at Marietta. Whether their work on the boat was unsatisfactory to the skipper or not is something that cannot be learned.

But they are lost, and Boston is anxious.

By some of their friends it is said that the forage on the route between this city and Louisville at this season of the year is not good. The farmers along the route have little else available but young corn to feed, while they are nutritious and strengthening for the breath, they are not much for strengthening the legs and toughening the feet. Consequently the Boston boys are not as swift along the road as they thought they would be.

At any rate, wherever the Boston boys may be wandering, the Colored League is no more. The New Yorks, Baltimores, and Keystones will remain together as clubs, but will play exhibition games only.

The Keystones will keep their best players, allowing four men of the team to go, and will play exhibition games with the other clubs of the minor League whenever opportunity offers, and the chances are that they will attract larger crowds than they did in their regular League games.

The management of the Allegheny Club promised to play a game with the Keystones, and President Brown has received a check from He thinks that, with his club strengthened, as it is, with Gross in the box, Walker behind the bat, Allen at first and Gant, the dandy coacher, together with other members of the team, he can give the Alleghenies a pretty lively hustle for their white alloy.

It's a great pity the Colored League has retired, for many lovers of the game thought they would win the championship, for which they were in the lead, and thus show to the world that Pittsburgh could make up a winning base ball team.

SPALDING AND THE NEW RULES.

In an interview with the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* reporter, President Spalding said: "The rules of the new pitching rules will be to drive the managers of the base ball clubs to adopt the old pitching rules of ten years ago, when straight-arm delivery was the proper rule." He says that the present system of pitching is ruinous to the pitchers, and that the supply cannot be kept equal to the demand. The method of throwing the ball now injures the muscles of the arm, and once they are ruined they never can be made sound enough to do the work again. The old rule of straight-arm delivery might make greater batting, but that was what the public wanted. There was always more enthusiasm when the batting was heavy and fielding had to be done, as for that matter, however, the ball could be deadened. In conclusion Mr. Spalding remarked: "Of course, if you publish this as coming from me the managers of the other clubs will say that I want the rules changed because our club is behind. This is not the case. I am sure that pitchers after pitcher will be laid up this season with injured arms. It cannot fail to be otherwise. And then again, in the matter of expense. It costs more to hire a pitcher now than formerly, simply because the man knows that he is likely to be permanently disabled. Take my word for it, the entire system of pitching will have to be changed."

MANAGER FERGUSON ON BASE BALL.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

"It's all a mistake to think that ball players do better work now than they did years ago," said Bob Ferguson, manager of the Metropolitan Club, yesterday. "The fact of the matter is that the players do not stand the work as well as they did formerly. Why, just notice when a player nowadays makes a base hit, before he crossing the plate he is completely exhausted, and out of breath. He rushes to the water bucket, takes off his cap, fans himself, wipes off the beads of perspiration, and is not fit for playing until ten minutes later. Now, when I played ball, the scores reached anywhere between twenty and fifty for each side, and a good player often made nine or ten runs. The batting was tremendous, and all the fielders had to work hard on their feet. Yet we played day after day without fatigue. I remember when I was a member of the old Atlantic Club we played one day against the Indianapolis team. McVey did the pitching for them, and I made fourteen scores out of fifteen times at the bat. That night I felt as fresh a school girl."

"Has the game improved the past few years?"

"No, sir; the game of my time was just about as scientific ten years ago as at the present. The men played better then, too, but I can't account for that. The outfielders thought nothing of throwing out a man at home plate, and they drove in the ball like a rifle shot, straight to the plate—very much unlike the style of fancy throwing in from the field you see nowadays. Of course, the men practiced this sort of thing and became proficient.

"Then, again, we used to handle to perfection those hot balls that go to the infield, such as Browning, Orr, Larkin, and others every day knock through the fingers of the players. The ball was a very lively one, and you may well believe that it came down the turf like a cannon ball. We became used to hot hits, however, and picked up the lively ball better than the players do the dead ball to-day.

"The only difference between the game now and then," continued Ferguson, "is in the pitching. The rules then allowed only the underhand throw, and that enabled the pitchers to command but a single outcurve. Cummings had this to perfection, and pitched about as well as the best twirlers of the present day. It is all nonsense to think that a great pitcher must have the drop curve, inshoot, and other puzzling balls. The best pitcher is the man who uses his brains to the best advantage. Keefe and Hecker, two of the leading pitchers you have to-day, use straight balls, but they vary the speed and use the same motion of the arm in pitching both a slow and a simple ball, so that the batter can't tell which ball is going to have. They also judge by the batter's position, the length of the bat, and the weak points of the man himself as to what kind of a ball will best puzzle the man who faces them. Thus, you see, the pitchers nowadays have no decided advantage over McVey, Cummings, Spaulding, Bond, and the other famous old-timers. Had overhand throwing and an unrestricted form of delivery of the ball been allowed in their day, the pitching would have been much superior to that of the present.

"No, there is very little more science now in the game of ball than there was ten years ago. The foul bound is out of date. The fair-foul ball, that is, the ball which hit inside the diamond and bounded out of the foul lines is also obsolete. Ross Barnes, the greatest batter and ball player that ever lived, used to knock that fair-foul ball at his own sweet will, and he made it pay, often getting two and three bases on that kind of a hit. Barnes always said I was his evil genius, for when I played third base I used to creep up on him and gather in all those short hits and throw him out. After I had learned how to take advantage of Barnes's batting he never liked me, as it placed him to a disadvantage. He couldn't bat into the field worth a cent."

Mr. Ferguson is full of reminiscences of the days when the national game was in its infancy. He organized the Atlantic, Mutual, and Hartford Clubs—all famous old-time teams. Bob took the Atlantics on its famous tour through the country when base ball was on the wane. He left his business to revive the interest in the game, and did much to reinstate the pastime into the public favor. Ferguson thinks the ball players of the present day drink too much intoxicants. He practices a total abstinence principle, and suggests that therein may be the secret of the success of the famous old timers.

NOTES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Titcomb already ranks with Stovey and Parsons in his record as a pitcher.

Rochester is said to draw the largest crowds of any city in the League.

There are now two mutes playing in the International—Dundon of Syracuse, and James of Oswego.

Doc Kennedy, Rochester's first baseman, is shoulder bound and cannot throw across the diamond.

Manager Dischler of the Uticas favors Sunday games, but Buffalo would be horror-stricken at the idea.

Oswego was not so lucky in getting a crack twirler. The deaf mute, James, was badly pounded in his first games, and Oswego remains fighting for the hindmost honors with the ex-champions of Utica.

Jersey City has been coming to the front within the last week, now taking rank with Syracuse and Hamilton. This prosperity is due chiefly to the advent of Titcomb, the new pitcher obtained from the Athletics.

Binghamton and Syracuse have lost a little ground in the race. The Stars tried a colored left-handed phenomenon at Toronto on Wednesday, but he was a decided failure. The Binghamton team is said to be badly coached; Kappel and Ely are certainly batting well.

Of the two Canuck clubs, Hamilton has kept her place near the little end of the procession, and Toronto has been working hard to regain second place, which Buffalo won from her last week. The Hamiltons, like the Uticas, are not playing as good ball as last season.

Great interest was excited last week in the games between Buffalo and Toronto, and Hamilton and Utica. Monday's game at Buffalo was precluded on account of rain, and was played Thursday. Both clubs show up well and will make Newark take steps to keep first place. The crowds at these games were larger than usual, and much money is said to have changed hands.

The Newark Club still has the lead in the International League, having an almost unbroken succession of victories since the start. Their club is by all odds the best in the League, and so ambitious are they for new fields to conquer that it is rumored that they wish to jump the International League and join the American Association at the first opportunity that offers. So far they have had a little advantage in playing most of their games on the home grounds, but they are likely to meet with some setbacks early next month, when they visit the Western cities of the League.

BASE BALL NOTES.

Tiernan is getting in fine condition to pitch.

The Cincinnati Club feels the loss of Mullane.

Constant Reader.—It will not be known until June 10.

J. M.—The standing of a club is decided by percentage.

George has not got the head to face the Detroits.

President Stern of the Cincinnati Club is in the city looking for pitchers.

A son of former President Garfield is pitching for the Oberlin (Ohio) College Club.

Bad weather at the opening of the season helped to break up the colored League.

The Metropolitans would like to trade Esterbrook for Collins of the Louisville Club.

Something like 200 base ball games of all kinds will be played hereabouts to-morrow.

The New Havens will give the Bostons $1,000 for the release of Conway or Madden.

Little George is getting command of the ball. He gives promise of being one of the greatest of pitchers.

To insure publication, the scores of games played to-morrow must be sent to this office by o'clock P. M.

Morgan Sears has resigned as an Eastern League umpire in place of Walter Canfield, resigned.

Managing Director Watrous of the Metropolitans is thinking about sending a challenge to the Detroit Club.

In the Amateur League race Staten Island and Bergen Point have each won a game, and the Nassau Club has lost two.

Wild rumors of a consolidation between the League and American Association are still coming in from every direction.

The Buckingham Drum and Fife Corps of Forty-seventh street would like to arrange a game with the Elphabet Club.

James Kelly, umpire in the Connecticut League, has resigned, and has been appointed manager of the New Haven Club, in place of Mr. Tray, resigned.

When George is pitching his face is a study. When he hits one of the balls he half starts a peculiar resin on his face, and he does not move a muscle until the ball hits something.

The Rosehill Base Ball Club of Yorkville has been reorganized, and would like to arrange games with first-class teams. Address, P. Ryan, manager of the club in Alex May of 1,333 Third avenue.

Indianapolis has signed a pitcher named S. H. Morrison, who hails from Pawtucket, R. I. Nothing is known of him here except that he was recommended by Hassett, in charge of the basement. Burnham has telegraphed that Morrison will pitch in one of the three games with Philadelphia the latter part of the week.

The hearing of the Brooklyn Club at Cincinnati for playing games on Decoration Day was postponed until June 15 in the Cincinnati Police Court. After Judge Caldwell had heard that the Brooklyn players were arrested a week after their offence, and on the eve of their departure to all impromptu engagement, he dismissed the case. Their bonds will not be forfeited.

WILKESBARRE, May 28.—A telegram was received here to-day from the manager of the Indianapolis Club seeking what Wilkesbarre would do if the club should release Centrefielder Hoover, and at a meeting of the directors of the club this evening it was resolved not to part with Hoover under $2,000. Hoover played with the Baltimore Club last season. He is the best centrefielder and most popular player in the Pennsylvania League.

PITTSBURGH, May 27.—President Nimick of the Pittsburgh Club arrived home from the East yesterday. He says that many stories about the troubles of his club have been circulated. He did not go East to investigate any trouble in the club, nor did he say that he made the discovery that there was any dispute between Manager Phillips and Second Baseman Miller. On the contrary, they have been on excellent terms, and the best of feeling prevails between Manager Phillips and the players.

There is said to be a movement on foot looking toward the transfer of several of the Boston and St. Louis players to some of the weaker clubs of the Association. It has become such a steady thing for the Browns to win that the interest in the fight for the pennant has already begun to lag, and the fear is expressed by some people that it is impossible for them to work up an interest in the fight while the Browns are so strong. President Byrne of the Brooklyn Club, it is said, intimates that he has been in consultation with President Von der Ahe, who has almost convinced him that it would be to the best interests of all concerned if the Browns were reduced in strength so that other clubs might encourage their own clubs. The idea is to transfer Robinson and one or two others, and replace them with men from inferior clubs. We definite steps have been taken in the matter, although some startling developments may be expected soon.

President Spalding says: "The Chicagos may be rather low in the list at present, but they are slowly climbing up the ladder. Two out of three games with Philadelphia has brought them up one round, and it may not be so bad off for pitchers, after all. If we secure Bob Barr, and I think we shall, we will have Clarkson, Hynes, Ryan, Baldwin, and Barr. Now we can play one manager and two catchers, and have Ryan in the right field to relieve the pitcher one or two innings. Oh, I guess we can pull through, and if we don't get up to the first place, we can get up close enough to shake hands with the winners. I still think we shall have to return to the old style of straight-arm pitching, and no matter where we stand at the close of this season, I propose to make that fight." We think the Chicagos will not win the championship. Well, suppose they do not. They have a record that cannot be beaten by any other club in this country in ten years. I doubt if we shall ever see a club win the championship six times in ten years."—*Inter-Ocean.*

The St. Louis make their first appearance in Brooklyn this season on Decoration Day, and, in expectation of having a large attendance, the managers are making many improvements for the convenience and better accommodation of the patrons. The first free stand to the right of the grand stand has had new seats put in, and has a railing running in front, so that entrance is only obtained at either end; spectators now sitting on the first row will have their elbows encroached upon by those who might be standing in front of the stand. The second free stand has been altered in the same manner, and is being extended one row of seats, making an increased accommodation for 1,200. As a great many spectators like to sit in the shade during the game without being compelled to go on the grand stand, a stand has been erected on the fourth avenue embankment 221 feet long, with five rows of seats, which will seat between 1,200 and 1,500. This stand will be entirely in the shade during the game. The total seating capacity of the grounds on Decoration Day will be as follows: Two grand stands, 3,000; three free stands in shade, 2,000; two free stands exposed to sun, 3,000; total, 8,000. Vehicles will not be allowed in the grounds on Decoration Day, and ropes will be stretched so that the crowd will not interfere with outfielders.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS.

Judge Dillon, the legal adviser of the big Union Pacific system, is a nephew of Mr. Sidney Dillon. He is a well-built man of about 55, with dark brown hair, gray whiskers, and large black eyes. He first met Jay Gould in 1879. He had come to the city expecting to take a professorship in Columbia College. One evening he was coming out of the Fifth Avenue Hotel with Sidney Dillon just as Jay Gould was going in. Sidney suggested that Judge Dillon would make a good man to advise them in the great undertaking of building up the Union Pacific system. Mr. Gould thought so, too, and Judge Dillon is now as familiar with the complicated history of the road as he is with his alphabet. He drew the celebrated articles of consolidation.

When Electrician and Inventor Tom Edison was sick he was much annoyed by the constant taking of the temperature of his body by the nurse. One day he slyly slipped the thermometer in a boiling hot cup of tea and enjoyed the horror of the nurse when she found how high his temperature had risen in a few minutes.

Jay Gould and Ex-Gov. Pattison made an interesting picture when they stood up to shake hands at the office of the Pacific Railroad Commission. Mr. Gould's head was about on a level with the ex-Governor's middle vest button. Gov. Pattison sat down, and, leaning his head on one hand, listened with close attention to all that the railway magnate said. Mr. Gould talked in a gentle, unassuming way of how he had bought and sold and built railroads, showing his familiarity with every detail. He never was at a loss for an answer—never stammered as if fearing that he would make a wrong answer. For a Pacific Railroad man he had forgotten comparatively little. He was dressed in a plain dark cutaway suit, and his solid-looking boots were well polished. He sat almost from the beginning to the end of his testimony with one leg thrown over the other. He showed no more interest in one question put to him than another, but he never failed to grasp one of them as soon as it was put. A paper was handed him he coolly slipped on his gold-bowed spectacles, and read it from beginning to end, took off his spectacles, and then answered. When his testimony was finished he walked up Wall street and Broadway to his office with Judge Dillon.

A George Club Challenges the Y. M. C. A.

The Progress and Poverty Club of the Twenty-third Assembly District challenged the Young Men's Christian Association to a debate on the question "Would the existence of a third party be beneficial to this country?" The association has accepted the challenge, and June 4 was fixed for the date of the debate. Dr. Mcglynn has been invited to preside at the meeting, which will be in Cooper Union. Courtlandt Palmer will be asked to be the referee. The debaters for the club are Prof. Molinas, A. J. Steers, and W. Eastlake. The association has not as yet chosen its debaters.

BICYCLES AND TRICYCLES IN NEW YORK

Curiosity Caused by a Tricycle Seven Years Ago—Favorite Roads of New York and Brooklyn Wheelmen—A Coming Race.

It is about seven years since Wentworth Rollins, a famous bicycler of those days, together with a member of the New York Bicycle Club, started out one Sunday for a trip to Judge Smith's. Rollins rode the wheel on which he made his journey to Albany, and the other man rode a very great curiosity—the first tricycle in the city. Bicycles were rather strange then, and people stopped to watch them and wonder how the rider kept his balance. A tricycle was unknown, and the appearance of one on Fifty-ninth street created great excitement. People ran together from all sides, and crowded around the abashed rider. Boys followed it for blocks, and everybody laughed a great deal at seeing a bicycle with three wheels.

Nowadays, a bicycle, a tricycle, a tandem, or a sociable, or any other machine propelled on wheels by human power would attract no particular attention. Horses and goats ignore them, and one is hardly conscious of their presence unless they run into him.

They have become as common as ordinary vehicles. Every schoolboy has his small wheel, and many school girls have their tricycles, and when they grow up they graduate into the perfect machines. This has undoubtedly done much to improve the health and develop the the muscles of school children. We don't hear of any serious accidents, and consequently it must be a fairly harmless sport.

On any fair day great numbers of wheels may be seen on the west drive of Central Park, in Prospect Park, and on all the roads which lead from New York and Brooklyn into the country. The bright glinting of the polished steel spokes and the varied uniforms of the riders form a pleasing picture as they dash by. Hundreds are alone, and hundreds more are in parties, intent perhaps on a jaunt of from twenty to fifty miles. It is no uncommon thing to see ladies riding tricycles, and two of the clubs, the Harlem Wheelmen and the New York Club, have lady members. Sunday is the great day for wheeling, and where there was one bicycle seven years ago there are fifty to-day. Then there was only one club, the New York Club, and pretty much all the riders knew one another. Now there are too many riders to make that possible, and there are four clubs with hundreds of members.

In this pleasant weather it is quite common for parties to leave New York on Saturday afternoon and make their way into the country. They go as far as possible and return on Monday morning. The most popular short route is to Yonkers and Tarrytown. At Tarrytown on a Sunday as many as fifty wheelmen will meet at the Vincent House and dine together. Other routes are to Fort Schuyler, to Stamford, to White Plains, across the Kinetquetzin street ferry to Long Island, and thence on a level road to Patchogue; through Prospect Park to Coney Island, across the Fort Lee ferry, and thence to the Oranges, Nyack, Monclair, Englewood, and other towns in the vicinity. There are plenty of places to go to and no end of fine roads. If a party wishes to make a long tour extending over weeks, a road book issued by the State Division of the League describes every road and outlines a hundred delightful trips.

There are about 2,500 riders in New York city and half as many in Brooklyn. The majority of these are amateurs, that is, they do not belong to any club, although they may be members of the League of American Wheelmen—an organization which covers the United States and has 11,000 members. Perhaps one-tenth belong to the clubs.

The most important club in New York is the Citizens' Bicycle Club, with its 140 members. It occupies a handsomely furnished building at 26 West Sixtieth street, where every convenience for ri