GOSSIP OF THE BALL FIELD.

THE UMPIRE QUESTION IN THE LEAGUE AND AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

Two or Three of the Clubs and All Base Ball Lovers Want the Double Umpire System Adopted—A Great Gathering of Ball Players at Chicago—News Alive.

The most important thing to be done at the coming meetings of the League and American Association is in regard to the umpire question. After so many changes in the staff of umpires in both the League and American Association during the past season some steps should be taken to prevent the renewal of the trouble. The umpire can either make a game interesting or uninteresting by his decisions; no matter how close the game may be, or how pretty the plays, if the umpire renders poor decisions, the game will result in disputes, and the chances are that the poor man behind the plate, who no doubt has been doing his best, will need protection from the police.

The law-abiding spectator does not pay his money to see a row between the players and the umpire, but he wants to see a game of ball, and that, too, on its merits. At the last meeting of the American Association a committee was appointed to arrange some plan to overcome the trouble it heretofore experienced.

President Byrne of the Brooklyn Club, as one of this committee, has already begun work on a scheme, by which he hopes to secure four of the best umpires in the country for next season. To carry out this scheme the salaries of the umpires will be increased.

But will this do away with the trouble? The very best of umpires is apt to make mistakes. Gaffney was selected to umpire the world's championship games, yet he made a pretty bad break in a game at the Polo grounds.

The only way in which to remedy the umpire trouble is to use the double umpire system, as it was done in the world's championship games. With two umpires, one at the plate and the other at the bases, it would be impossible for poor decisions to occur. There was no kicking in the games between the Detroit and St. Louis Clubs, for this reason. The managers of the Association say they can afford the double umpire system, while the League managers have not yet been heard from.

NEW YORK WILL HAVE FOSTER.

"It is all nonsense for the Indianapolis Club to make such a row over Foster," said Manager Mutrie, the other day. "They were merely outdone. I took Foster away up into the country and kept him there until five minutes after 12 o'clock on Oct. 20, when he placed his name on a New York contract. He told me all about his agreement to sign with the Indianapolis Club, and I explained to him that the agreement was no good, and, to back up my word, I telegraphed to President Young and Mr. Day, and they both answered that I was right. He then signed the contract." President Young sent to the office of Foster signing with the Indianapolis Club on the strength of a telegraphic despatch from the manager of the Indianapolis Club.

The following day, however, Foster's contract with the New York Club was received by President Young, and he at once sent to the New York managers for an explanation. Of course there was no explanation to be made, as the New York Club signed the player according to the rules, while the Indianapolis Club secured the man on a personal contract before they had a right to do so, in direct violation of the rules. In doing this they have made themselves liable to be fined $500.

MEETING OF THE BROTHERHOOD.

There is little known as to what was done at the recent meeting of the Base Ball Brotherhood. The meeting was not called wholly for the purpose of drawing up a contract, for this had already been attended to by Mr. Blackiston, of counsel for the players. The real object seemed to be to appoint a representative of the players to confer with Mr. Reach at such a time as the League may see fit to meet the players. About all the executive officers will be in San Francisco about the time the League may agree to meet the players. It is pretty certain that Mr. Blackiston will represent the players when the managers are ready, and that before this is done he will confer with John I. Rogers, of counsel for the League with regard to the new contract.

CLEVELAND, Oct. 29.—The Cleveland Club favors and will ask at the next meeting of the Association that the double umpire system be adopted. The question of economy cannot be raised against it, for with a great deal of money if the trouble with the umpires, which has caused so much dissension in the past, can be obliterated. That it can be is certain. Under the double umpire system the only chance to kick is on the calling of balls and strikes, which is not the usual kicking post. Both men will be on the bases when the trouble, and there is no longer any need that they should be made. The umpiring of the St. Louis-Detroit series proves that.

A GATHERING OF THE GREAT.

The Chicago *Herald* says: "There are more base ball players, managers, directors, and umpires in Chicago to-day than the city has ever held before. The crowd at Spalding's wigwam yesterday suggested a national convention of the peerless of national game. Lal Stockwell, the blond catcher of the St. Paul Club, attracted much attention. He has not yet signed for next year, and may go to the Pacific slope this winter under Jim Hart's management. The bright little city of Des Moines, Iowa, is represented by C. Sherman, O. Wardell, and Chas. H. Morton, manager of the club. Morton says that Will S. Clark, whom Anson signed on Saturday, was the best pitcher in the Ohio League. His age is 22. Bill Sunday, in speaking of Clark's delivery said: 'It reminds me of Mickey Welch. Clark has Welch's motions, curves, and his tactics in the box.' Capt. Frank Hatch of La Crosse is here with Manager Frank G. Seelee of the Oshkosh Club. St. Paul is represented by A. M. Thompson and John S. Barnes. John Brennan of Indianapolis, who would like to be an umpire in the Western Association, came to the city with a band of musical enterprise yesterday. S. P. Hagan of Chicago is also willing to wear an umpire's uniform for the new league. There are no less than a score of young men in the city who aspire to the doubtful honors of umpireship, and fresh candidates come on every train.

"Pete Hyle, the pitcher, was in the city yesterday en route for his home in Reading, Pa. The La Crosse Club was represented by Moriarity right field; Corbett, second base; Fred Jevne, second base; and George Rooks, left field. 'Kid' Earle, the Duluth catcher; Taylor Shafer, St. Paul's second baseman, and Rudolph Kaufman of the same club crowded in out of the cold and gazed admiringly on Fred Pfeffer's gold-headed badge, silver-headed cane, and double-headed diamond. Fred is not well. He has had a bad cough for the last six weeks, and the exposure of the recent trip has affected him unfavorably. Burns is seriously indisposed, and Baldwin's voice is uncertain.

"Joe Quest, second baseman and manager of the Eau Claire Club, is here with E. B. Putnam of that city. 'I see,' said Quest, that Oshkosh, Eau Claire, La Crosse, and Duluth are to be dropped. That's all right, but we shall have base ball in those cities just the same. Sir Toby Belch is made by Shakespeare to ask Malvolio: "Because thou hast grown virtuous shall there be no more cakes and ale?" In the place of Sir Toby Belch Sir Joseph Quest now asks the four secodin'gcities: 'Because thou hast given us the cold shoulder shall there be no more base ball in our towns?'

"'Your four towns, Oshkosh, Eau Claire, La Crosse, and Duluth, are all right, Joe,' said a bystander, 'but Chicago, St. Louis, Omaha, and Kansas City hold over you.'

"Quest couldn't think of anything in Shakespeare that dovetailed with the situation, and so proceeded to change the subject by making a list of the members of the Chicago Club. The array is as follows: Anson, Sunday, Burns, Darling, Ryan, Pfeffer, Williamson, Flint, Daly, Clarkson, Baldwin, Sprague, Sullivan, Pettit, Tebeau, Hoover, Duffy, Brynan, Farrell, O'Connell, and Clark."

THE ATHLETICS MAY NOT BE SOLD.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 28.—The future of the Athletic Club still hangs in doubt. There is now a probability that the club franchise will not be sold, but that a syndicate of Philadelphians will purchase a share in the club. The club is divided into thirty interests, held by William Sharsig, Lew Simmons, and Charles Mason. The former, acting for his partners, made an offer of their interests to President Von der Ahe of the St. Louis Club for $30,000 just one week ago.

At a conference held at the Grand Central Hotel, New York, between Von der Ahe, Sparsig, President Byrne, and Directors Abell and Doyle of the Brooklyn Club, it was agreed that Von der Ahe should have the refusal of the two-thirds interest until March 1. It is said that Von der Ahe has endeavored to cut the price down, and that Messrs. Simmons and Mason now decline to sell him. The new scheme upon which it is proposed to run the club provides that Mr. Sharsig is to retain his one-third interest, and that Messrs. Mason Simmons are to dispose of enough of their interests to place the club upon a sound footing.

Both Simmons and Mason are to retain an interest in the new management. Mr. Sharsig has been to work upon the new plan during the past five days. The present managers refuse to say anything for publication. In a recent interview Lew Simmons said: "We have had tough luck during the season, and have not done so well financially as heretofore. Still, I suppose we should not complain. The people manifested a desire to support us, but the fates were against us. The men on the Schedule Committee did all they could to make our lot unhappy, and even when we had a chance the weather was against us."

The reorganization of the Athletic Club was the subject of general conversation in base ball circles to-day. The people of Philadelphia will be perfectly satisfied with the Athletic Club next year," said Mr. Sharsig. "We will have some financial backing, good management, and a good club. When our new prospectus is made public everybody will be satisfied with what I have done."

President Byrne of the Brooklyn Club and Manager Barnie of the Baltimore Club were in the city to-day. They were supposed to be here in connection with the new Athletic deal, but Mr. Byrne said he had come to Philadelphia to get measured for a suit of clothes. "It only cost $4 to come over here," said Brooklyn's little President, "and I can save $15 on an overcoat." Manager Barnie said he had come over from Baltimore to look around.

WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION PLAYERS.

According to the official averages of the American Association in the *Sporting Times*, O'Neill of St. Louis has done the best work with the bat, making 270 base hits in the 117 games he played. Browning of the Louisville Club made 277 hits, but he played in 133 games. The record of the first twenty men is as follows:

Players.	No. of Games.	Times at Bat.	Runs.	1st B. Hits.	Per ct. B. H. to Times at Bat.
O'Neill, St. Louis	117	545	169	270	.495
Browning, Louisville	133	611	139	277	.461
Caruthers, St. Louis	95	417	99	183	.446
Mack, Louisville	128	546	117	237	.434
Robinson, St. Louis	122	510	107	217	.425
Lyons, Athletic	126	621	133	257	.414
McKean, Cleveland	126	498	84	201	.404
Horgan, Metropolitan	32	144	26	58	.403
Burns, Baltimore	126	602	120	240	.399
Radford, Metropolitan	128	576	120	226	.392
Burch, Brooklyn	46	210	44	81	.386
Foutz, St. Louis	96	423	74	163	.385
Orr, Metropolitan	84	379	62	146	.385
Boating, Cleveland	122	539	103	205	.373
Larkins, Athletic	127	541	105	198	.366
Fennelly, Cincinnati	130	585	128	214	.366
Griffin, Baltimore	133	586	144	213	.363
Latham, St. Louis	133	603	155	242	.365
Nason, Metropolitan	67	293	90	107	.363
Stovey, Athletic	124	567	129	205	.361

In fielding, Bushong leads the catchers with an average of .924 in 52 games. The leading men in the other positions are: Reilly of Cincinnati, first face, average .982 in 113 games; Knowles of the Metropolitan Club, second base, average .966 in 16 games; Pinkney of Brooklyn, third base, average .898 in 133 games; Nelson of the Metropolitans, short stop, average .893 in 31 games; Corkhill of Cincinnati, centre field, average .953 in 115 games; D. O'Brien of the Metropolitans, left field, average .916 in 117 games; Purcell of Baltimore, right field, average .934 in 127 games.

Of the pitchers, Ramsay of Louisville leads with an average of .279 in 63 games. In club batting St. Louis is first and Baltimore second. In fielding the St. Louis and Cincinnati Clubs are a tie for first place.

SOME CLEVELAND GOSSIP.

CLEVELAND, Oct. 29.—All the Western managers are wailing because of the upward tendency of salaries, and declare that unless they come down several of the League and Association clubs may as well quit the business, because their expense accounts render it impossible to make large profits, while the possibilities for large losses are always out. Three years ago the salaries of a crack League team footed up from $16,000 to $18,000. The same team in these days would be cheap at $35,000, and Louisville's team—a strong, but cheap one—will cost $26,000. It will be the cheapest, as it always has been, in the Association. Cleveland's will cost $30,000, and the other clubs will pay between $30,000 and $40,000 for salaries. The St. Louis players have eaten up all Von der Ahe's profits in salaries. Of course, such a state of things cannot continue, and willing eyes are being turned toward the plan, which provides for harmonious action, equalization of playing strength, graded salaries, and general economy. It is likely to be modified and adopted by the American Association at the annual meeting. If it is, it will not go into effect until 1889, owing to the many contracts under the old plan already made.

Only the rush and competition for young blood has caused the big advance in salaries. Here are two well-known and authentic instances: First—Cincinnati offers Pitcher Sowders of St. Paul $3,100, which he refuses, and signs with St. Paul. Second—There was a competition for Fielder Crane and Fielder Slattery of last season's Torontos. New York gets them by force of cash, paying $3,500 for Crane and $2,400 for Slattery. The same club also gave Fielder Foster of St. Paul $2,700, swelled by the newspapers to $4,000. Not one of the three is a finished ball player, and the knowledge of their salaries force up those of the older men, and endless financial trouble is engendered. Something must be done to check the evil or the game will go to the wall, all the players of great ability will be confined to a few great cities, and all the other men will be without employment.

There is a good deal of club news this week. The four men needed to fill out the Cleveland team were all members of the Torontos of this season. They were Crane, Slattery, Faatz, and Alberts. The crowd promised to come. But at the last moment a split came, and Crane was the traitor, persuading Slattery to go with him to New York. Faatz and Alberts signed with Cleveland, however. Faatz will play first and captain the Clevelands of 1888. He is the best loose man in base ball for the place. Alberts will go to short, McKean retiring to centre field of his own accord. Of the men reserved, Snyder, Stricker, Gilks, Crowell, Oberlander, and Hotaling have already signed 1888 contracts and all the men are satisfied. Another pitcher and an outfielder who can catch will be engaged, and both are selected. The pitchers will play in right field next year. Allen may be signed. Simons will not be. He isn't enough of a hitter for the Association. Jim Toy will go to next season's Torontos.

It is probable that within the next few days Cleveland will have signed Peter B. Wood of the Hamilton Club of last season, a very strong pitcher and fine general player. If Wood is secured he will be a great addition to the Association. He is a Philadelphia and not on Boston's reserve list. He, too, may be signed. Before the Cleveland Club disbanded the players presented Manager Williams with a handsome umbrella, on the gold head of which was inscribed: "The Babies—to Jammie."

BASE BALL NOTES.

Exterbrook has again disappeared.

Will Jim Hart get the Louisville Club?

The New Yorks will keep Pitcher George.

Duffy will not prove a great find for Chicago.

The Louisville Club come out just $400 behind.

The Lincoln (Neb.) Club lost $25,000 this season.

McPhee will join the St. Louis Browns next week.

The Cuban Giants are making a fine record in the West.

Louisville has signed Sam Smith of Denver to play first base.

The New Yorks will play their first game at New Orleans to-day.

Mullane and Smith have signed with Cincinnati for next season.

Burdock will play second base on the Polo ground toboggan slide this winter.

President Day thinks that the New Yorks will win the championship next season.

The New Yorks will have enough players next spring to make two or three nines.

There will be many new faces in the different clubs when the next season opens.

For playing with Brooklyn next season O'Brien will get $1,800 and Holbert $2,500.

There seems to be a large sized base ball combination in the West as well as in the East.

Klopf, the kid pitcher of the Minneapolis team, was offered $2,200 by Mutrie, but declined it.

There has been $7,000 raised at Davenport, Iowa, for a Northwestern League team next season.

The series of games between the Chicago and St. Louis Clubs have been postponed until spring.

Chief Roseman intends to open a gymnasium in the rear of his saloon, where he will practise this winter.

Mike Kelly—Boston is a pretty good town after all, and I guess I'll be there next season, just the same.

A Boston paper devotes a whole column in showing how the Boston Club failed to get Crane, Slattery, Farrell, and Shoy.

George Gore—I am well pleased with my treatment in New York, and am perfectly satisfied to stay here another season.

It is said that Jimmie Peoples will probably be released by the Brooklyns, as Manager Byrne and Jimmie are not the best of friends.

Cleveland, New York's new acquisition, had a fielding average of .800 in 125 games, and a batting average of .373, including bases on balls.

It is not yet settled whether Paul Hines will be released to Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, or New York. His personal preference is New York.

It looks very much as if the San Francisco base ball business will be overdone this winter, and that some of the players will have to walk home.

Ward and Keefe will watch the talent while in San Francisco, and if the proper third baseman and catcher can be had, they will bring him back.

Ferguson of the Philadelphias is a base ball wonder. He is fourth among pitchers, second in second basemen, third in batting, and has the best record in a run around the base lines.

The Cincinnati team is likely to be strengthened in the only department in which it has been weak. Vian, one of the star pitchers of the Northwest, has been secured, and it is thought that he will help the team out.

It is given out by one of the best of authorities that Radbourne is to go to the Philadelphia Club next season, that Ward will not play in New York, and that Pfeffer and Williamson will not leave Chicago next season.

Manager Karpf of the Atlas Club would like to hear from several first-class players for his team for next season. He will do extensive travelling next year, and good men are needed. Address Nathaniel Collins, 304 East Forty-ninth street.

President Day says that he does not think that President Brush of the Indianapolis Club is responsible for one half the stories charged to him in the Foster matter. He says that President Brush understands the rules too well to make such a break as credited to him.

If "The Only" Kelly becomes an interlocutor for a minstrel company this winter, as it is said that he contemplates doing, he should try and find out from the end man, if he can, why a base ball club with a $10,000 player comes out fifth place in the race.—*Boston Post.*

The managers of the New York Club have an offer of one of the prettiest pieces of ground to be found anywhere in the vicinity of New York for a ball ground. It is suitable for Sunday as well as week-day games, and the owner will fit the whole thing up at his own expense.

The St. Louis Browns, the New York and Philadelphia combinations, and Jim Hart's Milwaukee aggregation will have a whole winter's fight on the Pacific slope, beginning about the 20th of November. They will all start in walk home about the 20th of December.

Says a Detroit special: "It is thought that both White and Rowe will retire from base ball at the close of the year. The former has amassed a competency of $35,000, and is tired of the business. Rowe, on the other hand, is worth about $20,000, and has a $2,000 clerical position offered him in Buffalo."

It is almost an assured thing that White of Louisville will play short stop for the St. Louis Browns in 1888. Gleason will be one of the St. Louis nine in the Western League. Werrick of Louisville, too, is mentioned as likely to take Latham's place in the St. Louis team, and Latham to play in Louisville in 1888.

President Byrne says Radford must play Sundays next season, and Orr must live altogether in Brooklyn. He will have to back down on the Radford proposition. Paul will quit the profession and go into business before he will play on Sunday. If there were only a few more Radfords it would benefit the profession.

The deal with the Indianapolis Club for Second Baseman Bassett is off. Bastian is to be retained, unless Chicago wants him in a trade for Pfeffer, but if the latter is not secured Manager Wright thinks very seriously of making Ferguson a permanent fixture on second base and keeping Bastian as a substitute infielder.

In case Jim Hart gets the Louisville Club he will keep Ramsey, Kerins, Cook, Hecker, Collins, White, Meade, and Werrick. He will give him, with men in the Milwaukee Club, such strong batteries as this: Shenkle and Broughton, Ramsey and Kerins, Hecker and Cook, Cushman and Broughton, Anderson and Broughton.

Andy Cummings, an old ball player, whom Harry Wright tried to reform some years ago, is now in jail for petty larceny. "Old Boone" has been the ruin of Andy. He has been up time and again for burglary.

The *Cincinnati Enquirer* has the latest excuse for the Browns. It says: "Bushong and Boyle are no longer the premier catchers of the Association. Their work in the world's championship series has been very rank. At least a dozen different Association catchers would have done better, and Baldwin and Keenan would have discounted their work."

Von der Ahe and Searns propose to play a championship series with their respective teams through the South next season before the regular League season opens. They also favor the idea of having the regular League and Association clubs close on Sept. 15, in order to give the pennant winners time to play off the world's championship series in better weather.

A story comes from Rochester of a movement to purchase the Washington franchise and transfer it to Rochester, and make it a National League city. The price asked for the franchise is $18,000. Eighteen thousand dollars would not let the Washington Club out whole financially, and Rochester is not big enough for a great organization like the League.

J. D. L.—The men reserved by the New York Club are: Brown, Connor, Dorgan, Ewing, Gore, Hatfield, Keefe, Murphy, O'Rourke, Richardson, Slocum, Tiernan, Ward, and Welch. The players signed by the New Yorks so far are: Weidman, Crane, Slattery, Foster, and Cleveland. Two or three of the New York players whose names do not appear on this reserve list will remain with the club.

The Philadelphia players are very saving of their earnings. Says a Philadelphia paper: "Casey saved $1,500 the past season; Maguire is said to have laid $1,000 aside; Ferguson increased his bank account $1,800; Farrell laid $2,100 aside; Irwin can draw his check for $1,200, the fruits of his season's labor; Gunning and Buffington took $1,000 away each with them; Clements saved Andy Lewis's share, and Andy is glad he was when the season opened, and Wood and Mulvey each saved a comfortable sum."

It certainly does look as if the League clubs were preparing for a strong bluff at the Players' Brotherhood this winter. It's certain that unless the present contract is amended there will be trouble, and plenty of it. Some of the clubs, more intelligent than others, know the gravity of the dispute. Others do not, and are engaging young men and preparing to say to the oldsters, "Go your ways; we are fixed." Such tactics will not do. The contract must and will be made equitable or there will be a base ball war of large proportions.

The New Yorks have secured Pitcher Crane and Fielder Slattery of the Torontos. The club now has under engagement as fielders, Foster, Slattery, Gore, Tiernan, and Dorgan, not to speak of O'Rourke and Crane, who are also fielders. Gillespie and Rainey have been released. The club will have Keefe, Welch, Crane, and Titcomb as pitchers next season; Ewing, Murphy, Brown, O'Rourke, Connor, catchers; Connor, Richardson, Ward, Hatfield or Cleveland in the infield; Tiernan, Gore, and Foster or Slattery as outfielders. Gore will probably be held in reserve.

At a meeting of the Lowell Base Ball Association on Wednesday night, the President said the property owned by the association was valued at $4,800, and the treasurer reported that the indebtedness was $725.97 on Sept. 1. The association has no other debts, and the additional expense was caused by the amounts expended in securing additional players to assist in winning the championship pennant. The games with the Boston Club which were dropped would assist in clearing the indebtedness, did not pay as well as expected, and the Boston Club is still owing the Lowell Association about $50. After some discussion the question was voted to have a base ball team in Lowell next season.

At the annual meeting of the Manchester Base Ball Club on Wednesday night it was clearly indicated that next year's team will be one of superior merit. A motion was carried that the salaries of the players be increased from $1,100 to $1,500 as the maximum. The report of Treasurer Garland showed that the receipts for the past year amounted to $7,[illegible], and the expenses $7,067. E. H. Riedell refused to become President for the ensuing year; that office was in consequence left open. The officers elected were: Vice-President, Frank Stearns; Secretary and Treasurer, H. S. Clough; Assistant, Charles Howard; Directors, P. H. Kelly, F. L. Sleeper, E. H. Chadbourne, E. T. Woodbury, and F. R. Varick.

The negotiations between the Washington and the Indianapolis managers of the Association have broken off, and clever centre fielder of the Washington team—Paul Hines—to Hoosiertown will be the result. Hines long and earnestly with President Hewett, but could not induce him to look favorably upon the proposition to exchange Hines for a player whom the Hoosiers would contract to deliver. Hewett had his eye on Jack Glasscock and Jack Boyle, the champion shortstop, and tried to make a conditional bargain with Fogel for the transfer of one or both of them while arranging the Hines deal. Fogel, who is a very astute young man, has made up his mind that Glasscock will play in Indianapolis next season, no matter how much he may desire to get away, and therefore refuses to consider any proposition involving the release of the great short stop.

WHAT BASE BALL LOVERS THINK.

That they would like to know what O'Rourke will do next season.

That the League is backing out of the fight with the Brotherhood.

That it is hardly possible that Brooklyn paid $25,000 for the Indians.

That a few men are trying to get control of the Association clubs.

That some of the Brotherhood men would like to sign contracts at once.

That the trouble between the Brotherhood and the League is all talk.

That Paul Hines will be with the Washington Club next season, just the same.

That President Day is about right in saying that there are too many state nine teams.

That the New York Club will have enough players to select a nine from if they keep on.

That the Detroit Club will make a strong effort to cut down its high salaries next season.

That the New York managers are going the right way to work for a good team next season.

That if the League Brotherhood makes a success of it the Association clubs will be asked from.

That Danny Richardson will do as much solid work at second base, take the season through, as Dunlap.

That Gore will not like to see Foster playing centre field for the New Yorks. George, however, may look after that part of the field nearer home for Foster.

Some idea of the result of the world's championship series has shown the League to be the better class of ball players, the Association backers should do a little less blowing.

SOME OTTERS LEFT.

A Number Shot About Moosic Lake in Eastern Pennsylvania.

SCRANTON, Oct. 29.—Phil Murray and Steve Miller wanted a day's exercise last Friday, so they shouldered their rifles and left the city for a tramp to Moosic Lake. They chose to take a dog along to start game up for them, their plan being to shoot whatever came in their way and let the rest go to the old Nick, as far as they were concerned. Within a mile of the lake, just as they were about to emerge from a piece of woodland into a stumpy field, they saw a gray little animal with a slim body and a bushy tail hopping around among the stumps as though it was in search of mice or chipmunks. A strong wind was blowing from the northwest, and they were on the southeast side of the field, so their presence was not noticed by the spry little beast. In order to get two shots at it, Murray tiptoed around from the south and Miller to the east, the latter agreeing not to shoot until he had heard the former's gun go off. Murray blazed away at the gray little animal and it ran limping toward Miller, who sent a bullet through its hips. It was a gray fox, and its skin was worth 75 cents in this market. Red foxes are numerous up there, but gray ones are seldom caught.

Between there and the lake the hunters shot seven gray squirrels, in a beech tree on which a little farm, a thicket of laurels they routed up not less than a dozen partridges, one of which they got. They had got a good deal more sport and several times as much game as they expected to get when they started out, and, when they reached the shore of the lake, they sat down to eat their lunch.

"What kind of an animal is that nosing around over there?" asked Murray, as he pointed to a moving object on the bank across a point of the lake. "I guess I'll fire at it."

So he sent a bullet whizzing over that way, and the strange animal turned up its toes and lay still. Both then ran over to where it lay. The animal had been shot through the lungs. It had a glossy brown coat or fine fur, but neither of them knew what kind of an animal it was.

"I wouldn't give three shucks for that beast," said Miller. "Let it remain where it is."

"Well, I would," said Murray. "And I'm going to skin it and take the hide down to Scranton."

Murray then skinned the animal, and, after they had got a few more squirrels, they marched down to Dunning and took a train for this city. At the station they met a man who lives not far from Moosic Lake, and they showed the skin to him. He said that it was the skin of an otter. Come to find out, a number of otters were trapped and shot on the shores of Moosic Lake last winter and the winter before. Those who heard this statement were of the opinion that otters became extinct long ago in this part of the country. In such a short time, he walks home and sits down over the evening papers. He reads them all. He reads all the morning papers also, crowding them into the time when he is at breakfast and receiving callers. Dinner is called at half past 6 o'clock, and after that he shuts himself in his library and works, that is to say, reads the newest or the oldest books, until bed time, with frequent excursions into Thackeray or Dickens when other books begin to tire him or he finds himself hard to please. Of course evenings thus spent amid his books are only those wherein he has no dinner or meeting to attend, or does not walk around to the Union League Club, of which he is the President for a second term. But the evening in the library is what he likes best, for books are his mainstay and reliance, his best friends, the companions of that only sort of exercise or dissipation—the intellectual—that he ever gets. It is delightful to hear him talk about books, for each understands them so well, is so completely the master of them. He makes them suit his moods or change his moods, as a musician with an instrument.

HOW HE BUILDS A SPEECH.

For instance, when Mr. Depew has a serious and careful speech to prepare, like that for the Major André centennial, for instance, which it is said he framed only after three weeks of reading, he tunes his mind for it, so to speak, by studying Macaulay. He takes Macaulay's essays and skims them over, touching this, dipping into that, glancing at another, and finally coming upon one that interests him and serves his purpose. This he reads until at the end his pace is set for his work, his mind is on an elevated plane, he grasps great subjects, and looks at them broadly.

But if he had to do all that for all his addresses, or for a tenth part of them, he would not have time for any other business. The fact is that the ordinary little task like that of introducing young Dickens the other night is never thought of until after dinner, when he walks up and down in his library for half an hour, turning the subject over in his mind until his speech takes both general form and substance. He makes no notes, neither does he carry any phrase or paragraph or trick with words in his head, for he has no verbal memory. He simply makes up his mind in a general way what he is going to say, and in what tone or manner he will say it.

Suppose it is the Union League Club dinner or the St. Nicholas Society's annual affair, or that of the New Englanders. Mr. Depew would be apt never to think of the speech until the day arrived, when he would leave the office at 3 or 4 o'clock, go to his library with orders that he would see no one, no matter whom or about what, and would then develop his speech in the same way by dinner time—walking up and down, thinking; making sure of a point or date and setting his thoughts to breeding.

"I am so prepared that I could make a speech two minutes after I reach the dinner," he once said, "but it would be nothing like what I would make when the right time came."

There is a space of nearly two hours at the average public dinner during which the courses are being served and eaten, and in that two hours Mr. Depew does the most important work on his speech. He has a man on each side talking to him, but it does not matter. He is getting the local flavor, the coloring that will make his speech harmonize with the occasion; he is noting the other men, and thinking how he can poke a little fun at this one or uncover the sore spot of that other one in such a way as to entertain all the rest and not hurt the victim; if the dinner is starting out pretty slow and flat, and it is not one that is being reported for the papers, Mr. Depew will often pick out a sharp or irritable or sarcastic man in the company, and so refer to him as to arouse him to the very border of anger; then the fun and fire of life of the dinner are aroused. The speech that is made after two hours of sympathetic contact with the crowd is as different from a written speech as day from night, and it is also just as different from the speech of a wooden man who has sat in a company the same length of time. But Mr. Depew is not wooden, and never writes those speeches. To be able to make such a speech as well as he does a man must have had a wide experience with men, must have been a politician and something of what is called a sport or rounder, something of a club man, a college society man, a business man, and a lover and student of his kind.

Some of the speeches that have done the most to extend his fame have been almost wholly impromptu. He is most quoted for a short address at the Nineteenth Century Club on an infidel night. Blasphemy always angers him, not merely because he believes in the Christian religion, but because of pious parents whom it reverences; so that an assault on the word of God is an attack on persons and scenes now enshrined in the memory of a very happy childhood. What he heard at this Nineteenth Century Club aroused him, and he talked fifteen or twenty minutes with his intellect more than usually exerted. Not being prepared to meet the scientists with science, he fell back on homely thought, and began a vigorous address with the words: "The Bible that was good enough for my mother is good enough for me." The only reporter present, as is so often the case, was one from THE SUN. He took about a thousand words of the address in shorthand, and it was printed next morning, reprinted next day in the near-by dailies, next week in the religious papers, and so it ran on until it is said to have been published in nearly every newspaper in America. It reached England, and was quoted from three times, millions upon millions of copies having been struck off on the presses of a great Evangelical society. Mr. Depew is a Presbyterian but most frequently attends the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, with his wife.

In impromptu speaking he is distinguished by an ability to instantaneously concentrate his mind on a subject and to bring to bear on it everything he ever heard or read. He is happy at this, but his intimates say that he never makes such a speech without feeling afterward that he has failed lamentably or said unwise things. He is prone to discontentment with his work.

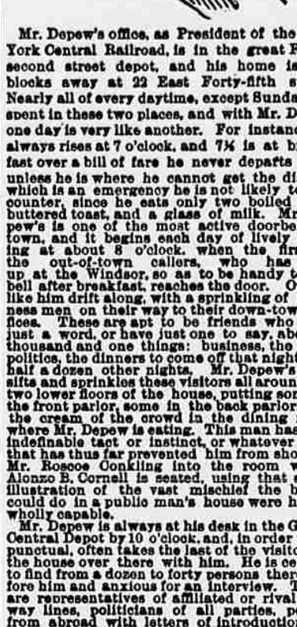
A personality more difficult to analyze than Mr. Depew's or a status in society at large more unique than his it would not be easy to find among the living or the dead. The largest encyclopedia notice of him calls him an orator, a lawyer, and a statesman, and yet goes on to show that he is forty other things as well. From Maine to California and from Mexico to Minnesota he is incessantly quoted with unwavering respect in the newspapers of every political faith, of every trade union or guild of labor or creed or ism. Were he to stand for office it is certain that assailants would develop against him, but he has none now anywhere. He seems not even to arouse criticism. Though he is a Republican, the Democrats crowd the hall in the Capitol where he is to speak of some dead pillar of his party. Though he is a clubman, the religious press prints almost whatever he says. Though he is the manager of a railroad and the agent of the capitalistic combination, he is spoken of seriously for the Presidency, and those who call themselves Anti-Monopolists, Anti-Povertyites, and Anarchists all leave him alone or treat him tenderly. He is a politician, the associate of statesmen, a financier, a student, a practical business man, a wit, an after-dinner speaker of the high order, a lawyer, a thoroughly domestic, home-loving man, the President of a club and of a college society, a writer, and an orator. Perhaps the best and only way to classify so remarkable a combination of talents is to say that he is a typical and representative American citizen. What he has done for the Vanderbilt system all who read and all who ride are well acquainted with, and it is considered evidence of wonderful ability even in a man who had attended the birth of every new link of the system and had inhaled the atmosphere of the enterprise for more than twenty years.

In 1884 the Republicans of the Legislature tendered the United States Senatorship to Mr. Depew, and he declined it. He had a Presidency that was of more renown and importance than even that great gift. But a friend who had followed his progress for many years said to a reporter that he had parted with politics, so far as seeking advancement in public life was concerned, long before this asked him whether he had not determined against a political career at the time that Seward offered to make him our Minister to Japan.

"Why, yes," said he, as if surprised at the question. "That was when I made the decision. I saw that I had got to make a choice. If I made politics my career, there was a chance that I would be thrown out when fit for nothing else, and would become a public pauper. I therefore decided to make business my career and politics its diversion. The choice was deliberately made, and explains, also, why I did not go to the Senate."

You do not often hear Mr. Depew talk about himself. He is a great deal more keenly interested in the life around him. If any one see in him that degree of vanity which philosophers hold to be essential to self-improvement and advancement, it must be the charming little woman to whom alone it is safe for him to disclose the weak spots in his armor. Certainly his friends never find him out in this regard. He is a tall, broad-shouldered man, solid without pronounced stoutness, through with some desire to spare anyone, with a careful carriage and easy bearing. His face, if it could be classed in any school, somewhat suggests the ministerial. He would costume well for a contented and prosperous Church of England clergyman. That is only when his face is in repose, however. At other times it assumes a score of expressions, for it is as mobile as a good actor's ought to be, and he makes it cry and laugh and express all the delicate shadings of all the emotions when he is helping out his stories and speeches. A little tuft of grayish brown hair over his forehead conceals a bald crown when he is erect, and his smooth-shaven front face is framed with a pair of thick, broad, short-cut iron-gray side whiskers.

His home is a living and not a show place. The doors are rather gay with stained glass, but admit you to a parlor as plain as it is substantial in its appointments. The opposite wall is lined with tall bookcases on either side of a chimney piece supporting a huge sheet of lookingglass. On one bookcase there is a bronze and the great Sèvres vase the French Government gave him for his speech at the unveiling of the Bartholdi statue. The books on the shelves are of the true and tried varieties—Dickens, Thackeray, Irving, Scott, Brougham, the encyclopedias, and that ilk. There is a little huddle of unpretentious pictures opposite one bookcase on the other wall, and in front of the other bookcase is a cabinet collection of chinaware.



Mr. Depew's office, as President of the New York Central Railroad, is in the great Forty-second street depot, and his home is two blocks away at 22 East Forty-fifth street. Nearly all of every daytime, except Sundays, is spent in these two places, and with Mr. Depew one day is very like another. For instance, he always rises at 7 o'clock, and 7½ is at breakfast over a bill of fare he never departs from unless he is where he cannot get the dishes; which is an emergency he is not likely to encounter, since he eats only two boiled eggs, buttered toast, and a glass of milk. Mr. Depew is one of the earliest risers in the town, and it begins each day of lively ringing at about 8 o'clock, when the first of the out-of-town callers, who has put up at the Windsor, so as to be handy to the bell after breakfast, reaches the door. Others like him drift along, with a sprinkling of business men on their way to their down-town offices. These are apt to be friends who want just a word, or have just one to say, about a thousand and one things: business, the club, politics, the dinners to come off that night, and half a dozen other nights. Mr. Depew's man sifts and sprinkles these visitors all around the two lower floors of the house, putting some in the front parlor, some in the back parlor, and the cream of the crowd in the dining room where Mr. Depew is eating. This man has that indefinable tact or instinct, or whatever it is, that has thus far prevented him from showing Mr. Roscoe Conkling into the room where Mr. Depew is normally engaged, but is an illustration of the vast mischief the butler could do in a public man's house were he not wholly capable.

Mr. Depew is always at his desk in the Grand Central Depot by 10 o'clock, and, in order to be punctual, often takes the last of the visitors to the country train at 5 o'clock. It is certain to find from a dozen to forty persons there before him and anxious for an interview. These are representatives of affiliated or rival railway lines, politicians of all parties, people from abroad with letters of introduction, inventors, agents of railway supply makers, beggar men and women, and all the rest that have some, or no right to bother him. They are handled quickly between Mr. Depew and his private secretary, Mr. Duval, but the stream flows into the office all day. At 1 o'clock Mr. Depew takes his luncheon. He is spoken of as the only conspicuous New Yorker in business who does not go out to his luncheon, and yet the fact is that he seldom finds time to do so. The janitor of the depot used to cook a chop or steak for any officer who wanted it, but this is not so any longer, and Mr. Depew's meals are sent in from a neighboring restaurant. The appetite that suggests eggs to him for each morning has by noon developed into a desire for chicken, and so he usually lunches on that.

Particular friends among the callers are shown in even while he is at luncheon. But in between all these visitors the routine business of the Vanderbilt railroad system is carried on. The heads of various departments come in for a service drop in with their reports, or are sent for that matters may be referred to them, or come with suggestions requiring executive action which they wish to discuss, or with requests for authorization to do things they think necessary. A personal mail of fifty letters a day is opened, letter by letter, as opportunity offers, and the answers that are necessary are dictated to a stenographer on the instant.

Mr. Depew once told the writer that there are certainly ten letters a day in his office mail requesting him to make addresses at cornerstone layings, conventions of the clergy, railroad men, college societies, Young Men's Christian