NO USE FOR FREEDMAN.

J. B. SPALDING RESIGNS AS A DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK CLUB.

Declares That the President Is Running the Club in an Unsportsmanlike and Unbusinesslike Manner—Part of a Plan to Ruin the Game and Punish the League.

There is serious trouble in the New York Club. A climax was reached yesterday when Walter Spalding sent his resignation as a director to President Freedman, with an explanation of his action that will not surprise the National League men who have been in touch with the local baseball situation for some time past. The first intimation that Spalding had resigned came to THE SUN reader in the shape of a rumor that circulated at the offices of the New York Club. When a reporter called on Spalding the latter at first was averse to making public the reason, but he wanted to give Freedman a chance to make an answer to his communication, and upon being pressed the former gave out the following letter, which is a copy of the one sent by special messenger to Freedman:

J. B. Freedman, President National Exhibition Company, New York City.

I hereby tender my resignation as a director of the National Exhibition Company, to take effect immediately.

I hesitate about taking this action for some time, as I had desired to be of some service to the game of baseball in the metropolis, but I realize that no director in the New York Club has any influence whatever with you. In the conversation I had with you on the elevated train, a short time ago on the elevated train, you stated that it was a matter of no consequence to you whether the club was successful or not, and that they would not be successful you intended to keep the poorest class of players possible, and I do not believe that you were in earnest, but I have heard from other reliable sources that this was your intention to operate the club in an unsportsmanlike and ruinous policy. Under the circumstances I cannot with self-respect remain a director in the club any longer. I therefore request immediate acceptance of my resignation, and I decline to further act as a member of your board whether it is accepted or not. Yours,

J. W. SPALDING.

NEW YORK, March 14, 1899.

When asked for further particulars Spalding said without reserve:

"At the time A. G. Spalding and myself sold our stock in the New York Club to Freedman the latter requested me to retain a share and also accept a position on the Board of Directors. He told me that he would like to consult me now and then and wanted my support. I consented to act in this capacity and was loyal to Freedman through various unpleasant controversies. I would still be loyal if I thought that Freedman intended to conduct the New York Club for the best interests of the national game. But when I became convinced that he intended to pursue an unsportsmanlike and unbusinesslike policy I felt it was time to make some action.

"The interview with Freedman on the elevated train some time ago was enough. I asked him why he did not strengthen the New York club and he surprised me by saying that he did not care whether the New York club was successful or not. He further stated that the club was not a success he would discharge all of his players and substitute a minor league team. He also intimated that he wanted to teach the other League cities a lesson by killing the game in this city.

"Knowing Freedman to be a man of hasty action and a hot temperament, I did not put much faith in his threats, but since then I have learned from other sources that he has made the same statements to various baseball men. His refusal to secure strong players who would be of service to the New York Club and his trouble with several of the members of the team over salary cuts have further increased my belief that he meant what he said. When we talked the matter over, at the two recent meetings of the National League in this city Freedman refused to attend. He would not allow any of the club's directors, all of whom are competent to represent the organization in the proper way, to be present and also denied this privilege to John B. Day, who is manager of the team and stockholder in the club, who is well posted on baseball matters.

"Instead of having a personal representative at the meeting who was solely identified with the New York Club, Freedman placed his proxy with Soden of the Boston Club and instructed him how to vote on every question, regardless of the merits of the case. In this way Freedman proved to me that he was showing a lack of interest in the welfare of the New York club, and as I am a lover of baseball I felt that it was imprudent for me to continue as a director or be connected with the club in any way whatsoever.

"The Board of Directors have never been consulted by Freedman and never meet except at the annual election of the club. I intend to send a copy of my letter to Freedman to each member of the board. I wanted to resign some time ago, but my brother prevailed upon me to postpone the matter. I am disgusted, we were in such a good way with the New York club has been managed and want to have nothing more to do with it. Baseball is a public enterprise and I believe that a club should be run for the benefit of the thousands of patrons who love the game and support it with their money. The management should be in such a way as to satisfy a large majority, but I have found that it is quite a rare case to meet a sportsmanlike and business man. The rights of the people who are the backbone of this city have some rights which should be respected. That has been my idea since I first got into baseball, and I hold to same opinion still. I am now out of the New York club and I am glad of it."

The Eastern League meeting there yesterday. President Freedman had threatened to disband his team and place it in the League for inflicting a fine of $1,000 for forfeiting a game to the Baltimore Club, in which the rules not occurred. Before John Brush went away he said:

"Freedman has threatened to kill baseball in New York, as he brag the League to his team, the announcement that by reducing his team and by showing a further lack of interest in the sport he can create a similar interest that there will be no [illegible] of the Polo Grounds which can be leased with existing clubs. In that way the League would soon be compelled to sue for peace. I regard the threatening Freedman in any respect as bright enough to have carried into effect. I believe that Freedman was willing to lose $100,000 in two years in order to punish the magnates for what he terms unfair treatment.

"Mr. Congdon, who did not wish to be [illegible] President Conant of the Boston Club at the meeting of the League with the result that the League would refund the fine if it was found because of the Holmes episode. Congdon was clearly in the wrong and was so decided, and received little encouragement. When he carried the information back to the President of the New York Club the latter declared with warmth that he would fix the League in such a manner that the dejected Congdon would come crying to him for help. He indulged at the same time in a tirade against the management of the Boston club. Freedman's proxy, Soden, by his instructions, he was informed that if the New York Club's vote resulted in the Board of Discipline, the President of the St. Louis Club and President Conant, that might be made by Brush. Von der Horst and others who heard him in the meeting. As a result, Brush left in a bad light, for he was in a position to do things which he was forced to do as Freedman's proxy."

It is said that the League will hold a meeting here next week. Although no call has been issued for a conference has been sent President Young, the attitude of the other matters demand the attention of the magnates. The sale of the St. Louis club to the Sheriff to Gustav A. Gruner, of Brooklyn, created some surprise in the organization, especially in view of the fact that Robison of Cleveland, who is said to be seeking the franchise, intends to run the St. Louis Club in the interests this season, he will first be asked to his terms with the League. The organization has passed a resolution that the purchase of the club at $[illegible] must be acceptable to the League. Nothing definite is known yet, however, it is believed that he has been fair-minded with Robison, who will be heard from later. President Hart of the Boston, who has been here ever since the meeting of the magnates, said he did not know what to expect in regard to what the outcome of the League would be, but he believed there would be a meeting next week. He said the trouble would be settled in the end.

"I remembered," Hart further said, "that the League is on record as regards the transfer of the St. Louis franchise to Robison, of the St. Louis franchise, and that