A. G. SPALDING TO THE LEAGUE

HIS SPEECH AT THE RECENT BASEBALL MEETING.

Comes to the Rescue of the Old Organization—One of Its Founders, He Demands the Right to Perform the Autopsy—A Plea for the National Game.

A. G. Spalding, the enjoined President of the National League, left town on Saturday for a rest. Before his departure Spalding, following out his policy to make all matters pertaining to the League public, gave out a letter addressed to each of the eight clubs. He refers to the legal proceedings in his letter and then says:

ALBEMARLE HOTEL,
NEW YORK, Dec. 21, 1901.

I had many things in contemplation which to my mind seemed to require immediate attention in the interest of the National League as a body and its individual club members, among other things urging the various clubs of the League to immediately secure a strong corps of playing talent before all the desirable players had been permitted to go to rival organizations, but under present conditions I can take no further action in this direction, so it is up to each club to do that which in its judgment may seem best for its own interest.

I have done nothing during my sixty-six hours of uninterrupted incumbency of the office of President-Secretary-Treasurer involving the League in any financial obligations, or interfering in any way with the property rights of the League itself, or the individual club members, except the following telegrams which have passed between myself and Umpires O'Day and Emslie, which were sent before the papers in the court proceedings were served upon me.

There are copies of letters to O'Day and Emslie notifying them that they may consider themselves appointed for the season of 1902 and asking for a reply with terms. O'Day said: "Three per month and expenses." Emslie replied: "Two thousand and legitimate expenses."

One week ago last Wednesday Spalding entered the National League meeting at the Fifth Avenue Hotel and made a speech. The text of it was not made public at the time, but THE SUN now presents it in part as a matter of interesting baseball history, as follows:

Gentlemen: I find myself placed in rather an awkward position by the announcement that has been made during the last few days, weeks and months, mentioning my name in connection with the Presidency of this League. I have just learned that my name has been placed in nomination before this League for the office of President. I understand that I was nominated last evening. The gentleman who placed my name in nomination had no authority to do it from me, and I was not aware that he was going to do so. I have been informed that it is now before this meeting and has called forth some discussion, and I feel, under the circumstances, that I am entitled to insist on this League's coming to an early vote on this matter I don't ask you to vote for me; I have not asked any one to vote for me, nor has any one been asked to do so in my behalf so far as I know.

If you will stop for a moment and think, you will readily see that I am placed in a rather peculiar position before the public. I might go on and say in connection with this matter that a very prominent President of one of the League clubs here assembled, a gentleman for whom I have the highest regard and in whom I place great confidence, asked me as a special favor yesterday morning, before this League assembled, to refrain from making any comment or withdrawing my name through the public press, as it might tend to injure the National League and might be used as ammunition by the American League, with whom you are at war. I told him, that in deference to his wishes I would comply with his request. I mention this that you may fully understand that I am not seeking this office. I don't want it, and to comply with its duties would cause me great personal inconvenience, and from what I hear there is little chance of my being elected, but now that my name has been placed in nomination, without my knowledge, consent or direction, I insist that you get it out in the same way for me that I am unwilling that my name shall be football around this room and through the press of this country, and held up for the purpose of trying to pass other legislation.

Gentlemen, I was present at the birth of this organization. I was present when it first saw the light of day twenty-six years ago and if this is to be the last day of this grand old body, I ask the privilege of closing its eyes in death. I claim this as a right as well as a privilege. In the event of death I will take the body and have an autopsy made on it with the hope of ascertaining the cause of its death.

This National League had two fathers; one, William A. Hurlbert, the other, myself. I deem it my duty when I see this organization is in trouble to come to its rescue and that is another reason why I am here to-day.

What does this National League stand for? I answer, its object is to foster, perpetuate and maintain the integrity of baseball. What is this baseball that we talk about? Baseball is a distinctly American sport; the national field sport of the American nation, suitable to the American character. The National League is the natural guardian of this national sport. Sometimes I think the gentlemen do not realize the responsibility, for in our bickerings and wranglings you seem to forget the responsibility that is reposed in you and I am inclined to subordinate everything to the financial side of the game. This game first appeared by the name of baseball in this country back in the '40s.

Of course the sudden popularity of this game necessitated some form of government to guide it. The first organization that attempted to legislate for baseball was the National Association of Amateur Baseball Players, organized in the 60s. This association soon got into troubles, because a man would come with one or two hundred proxies and elect himself President; the one who had the most number, Secretary, Treasurer, and so on, and it is easy to imagine how long such an organization could last. In March, 1871, the National Association of Professional Baseball Players was organized, and here before me is the person of N. E. Young, as the first Secretary of that professional league. This association served its purpose for a time but soon outgrew its usefulness and one detrimental influence after another gradually crept into the game, the principal and most demoralizing thing being the gambling that was carried on in the game during that period. The gamblers had a large interest. The public were interested in the game but the gamblers would not permit it to be played except under their demoralizing influence.

During the five years of the existence of this original professional association I had the honor to be the pitcher of the original Boston baseball club and I look back to it as five of the pleasantest years of my life. In the fall of 1875, in company with White, McVey, Barnes and Anson, I cast my lot with the Chicago club for the season of 1876. We took certain chances then of being crippled, but Mr. William A. Hurlbert said to us, "Boys, I will attend to that. Your salary goes on whether you are crippled or not. I defy this association to expel you players, because you are stronger than the association, and further more there are certain iniquities and demoralizing influences in this association itself that need correcting." The result was that before the annual meeting of this professional association, which took place in March, Mr. Hurlbert and myself decided to organize this National League.

Now we seem to be up against new conditions. If this body does not intend to stand for the man who is responsible for it, and the rest of you who have sat quietly by and permitted manslaughter to be committed.

The most deplorable thing that was ever done in national baseball legislation was the abrogation of the national agreement. I don't care who the members of the National Board of Arbitration are, except that I think they should be shot for the crime they have done. They have violated all of obligations of trust reposed in them by the National League in abrogating that national agreement which for years has been the very foundation stone of this whole baseball structure. I feel especially incensed at this outrageous act, because practically the first national agreement in effect was one that bore my name, back in 1876.

Notwithstanding the efforts of Spalding to get his name voted on Wednesday afternoon in accordance with his request, it was permitted to drag along while the trust scheme was being discussed, until late on Friday night.

Driving Club Nominations.

The Parkway Driving Club of Brooklyn's election of officers is to be held the first week in January and from the nominations it would seem that Frank Jacobus is likely to be the next President, with D. J. Kenyon for Vice President and W. C. Allen Secretary. The President of the club for the last five years has been Frank D. Cromer, formerly Sheriff of Kings county.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Bay Ridge Driving Club will be held on Jan. 8. The nominees are: For President, J. E. Lewis; for Vice President, Frank Thomas; for Secretary-Treasurer, Matt Bellows.

The following ticket has been named to be voted for at the Pleasure Driving Club: For President, Capt. A. F. Allen; for Vice President, E. J. Edland; for Treasurer, H. Riley. The term is one year. Frank Thomas is likely to be nominated for President, with Frank Todt for Secretary.

News of the Minstrels.

Sweet Pea, the new "Handicap King" of the bicycle tracks, is now in Bristol, Conn., and has been in a part of the town where he was not recognized. He has been insulted and taken for various the dickens.

It is the report of Fair Commissioner Lyman that the Louisiana Purchase Exposition will be a success financially. The receipts of more than one million dollars, the hundred of the visitors who have come from all parts of the country and the benefit of money circulating among the public contractors.

Promoter to Form International League.

[illegible] Dec. 22.—A prominent sporting man of this city is preparing to form an international league, composed of teams from Montreal, Toronto, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Utica, with a number of big cities in Canada and the United States. Montreal will be withdrawn from a similar organization formed in Canada, and will join the new one. J. J. Sweeland, captain of the football team at Bryanston University, will return home and take charge of the athletics of the university.

JACK MAHONEY KNOCKED OUT.

Jack Dorman Beats Him in Eight Rounds in Private—Mack Wins Preliminary.

On Saturday night two rattling glove contests were held in private at a New Jersey resort close to Fort Lee. The conditions under which the fighters met were decidedly better than those which have attended mills of a similar nature of late and all those present seemed to be satisfied. A regulation-sized padded ring was at the disposal of the scrappers and they clashed in a heated hall under the glare of an electric light.

About two hundred and fifty sports, who paid $1 and $2 for choice seats, were present and they got their money's worth. The affair was under the auspices of the West Shore A. C. and promoted by John Donahue, a follower of the game from this city.

The main event was for twenty rounds or more, and the principals were Jack Mahoney of the New West Side A. C. and Jack Dorman of Melrose. The pair weighed in at 124 pounds at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The "go" was for a purse of $200, of which $150 went to the winner. A local sport was referee. Both fighters were in good trim and no time was lost in coming together. Dorman, who has a good left, jabbed Mahoney on the mouth. Mahoney returned with a right drive under the heart and a hot mix-up followed. Near the close of the round Mahoney hammered Dorman in the ribs and the Melrose man looked weary. Mahoney began the second with a rush. He feinted with the right after a clinch and broke through Dorman's guard, landing hard with the right on the mouth. Dorman countered and in a rapid exchange Mahoney almost went to his knees.

In the third round Mahoney went for Dorman's stomach. Dorman jabbed Mahoney's mouth and when the round closed Mahoney's lips were puffed up. The fourth round was uneventful. In the fifth Mahoney started by swinging right and left. Most of the blows landed. The Melrose lad recovered quickly. A left hook on the jaw came near capsizing Mahoney. Mahoney was active in the sixth, but could not connect with effect. Dorman came up strong in the seventh. He made Mahoney shake with straight ones on the nose. Mahoney attacked Dorman's body, but his blows did not seem to feaze his rival, who had a great aptitude for taking punishment. Dorman landed two heavy right swings on the jaw which shook Mahoney up. Mahoney was weak and tired when the round ended. Mahoney was not much refreshed when he faced Dorman for the eighth round. The latter realized this and went after Jack with a vengeance. He pummeled away at the body and Mahoney hugged. Dorman shook him off and with a number of swings had Mahoney groggy. Two jolts with the left sent Mahoney staggering and a fierce right hook on the point of the chin sent him down and out. The time of the round was 2 minutes and 37 seconds. Mahoney was looked after by Paddy Moran. Johnny Burnes and Jimmy Donohue. Dorman was handled by Frank Meyers, his manager; Joe Lynch and Billy Mahood.

A 10-round preliminary bout took place between Johnny Black of the New West Side A. C. and Danny Mack, a pupil of Marty McCue. They met at 122 pounds. Mack did the better work and was returned the winner on points.

HARRIS AND M'GOVERN AT ODDS.

Manager Does Not Fancy the Way Pugilist Is Acting, and There Is Talk of a Split.

From the remarks dropped by Sam Harris, manager of Terry McGovern, in the presence of a number of horsemen and sports on the Brooklyn Speedway yesterday afternoon, it appears that there is trouble brewing between McGovern and his manager and that the two will soon go different ways. Harris does not fancy the way McGovern is handling himself and says that unless he takes better care of himself, he will quit him. It is no secret that since his defeat by Young Corbett on Thanksgiving Day, McGovern has not given his health and condition the best of care. McGovern is fat and his skin has not the healthful glow of a conditioned athlete.

Harris, who has been disconsolate since McGovern was dethroned by Young Corbett, said: "Terry will have to leave fast horses alone, or else I will quit him. No athlete can stick to horses and enjoy himself and keep in trim." Harris was emphatic and impressed his hearers that he meant every word he said.

McGovern is now matched to meet Dave Sullivan on Jan. 30, and bids for the fray are to be opened on Dec. 30. According to all accounts McGovern by this time was to have begun work for the mill, but it is understood he has not exercised a bit as yet for the contest. Sullivan is laboring diligently and is said to be in excellent condition.

Harris and McGovern have been together ever since McGovern became prominent as a pugilist. It was through Harris's piloting, many sports think, that McGovern was able to get to the top of the ladder. Three years ago the pair signed a contract in which it was stipulated that Harris was to look out for McGovern's interests for a certain period. It is understood that the time will soon expire and that the contract will not be renewed. McGovern has made money and is credited with being worth $80,000.

Gossip of the Ring.

J. J., Brooklyn.—He was only champion of America.

Tim Callahan of Philadelphia and Billy Ryan of Syracuse have signed articles to box six rounds before the Industrial A. C., Philadelphia, on Dec. 27.

Bob Bruce, manager of Hugh McFadden, the Brooklyn featherweight, says McFadden is ready to meet either Kid Broad, Terry McGovern or Dave Sullivan.

Sol Levey of 133 Sixth avenue informs THE SUN that he has taken Joe Hopkins, the colored boxer, in charge and that he is ready to match him against any 126 pounder.

Otto Siegmpie, New Haven.—1. They met at Coney Island and Griffiths won in eleven rounds. 2. He knocked him out in the twenty third round with a left upper cut on the jaw.

Joe Bernstein, the East Side featherweight, and Tommy White of Chicago have signed articles to box 15 fifteen rounds at St. Louis on Jan. 1. Benny Yanger the "Tipton Slasher" is to face the winner at St. Louis on Jan. 14.

Jack McCormick, the Philadelphia wrestler and pugilist, has signed articles to meet Jim Jeffords of California on Dec. 30. They will come together at Merchantville, N. J. The pair met a few weeks ago and Jeffords won.

Lou Houseman of Chicago, who has Jack Root under his wing, says that Root is willing to box "Bill" Hanrahan. Root offers to make a match on a basis of 75 per cent. to the winner and 25 per cent to the loser, or winner take all.

Artie Simms, the scientific Western lightweight, has not been successful in his efforts to get a contest with any one in his class at San Francisco and is now on his way East to meet some good man. Simms is slated to meet Martin Duffy of Chicago at Detroit next month for fifteen rounds.

Al Neill, the San Francisco welterweight, added another victory to his string by knocking out Tom Tracy of Australia at Portland, Ore., the other night. The two were to have clashed for twenty rounds, but in the eighteenth Neill upper cut Tracy on the law and put him to sleep.

Tommy West, the local middleweight, who went abroad several months ago, had a fine in private at the National Sporting Club, London, a few nights ago. He met Alf Ireat and made a good impression. West has challenged Philadelphia Jack O'Brien and it is quite likely that the two will come together in the near future.

An investigation is to be made by the Canadian officials relative to the Ferris Walcott bout which was decided at Fort Erie the other night. It is understood an attempt will be made to prove that the affair was nothing but a prize fight contrary to the laws of Canada. The result of the inquiry will depend on the holding of future boxing in the arena at Fort Erie.

Oscar Gardner, the "Omaha Kid," and Jack Whitaker of Cleveland met in a twenty round bout at Cleveland the other night. The "Kid" had a great advantage in the ring in some four pounds of superior good form. He was the aggressor from the start. Jim of the Nile, and a Grace which the spectator thought was called at eleven.

Harry Ferris is not at all satisfied with the result of his recent bout with Joe Walcott, in which it was announced he had won a decisive victory. Ferris claims that the referee, Charles Eyton, of Philadelphia, had no right to give the decision to Walcott, as he (Ferris) had the better of the bout. Ferris is now training hard and has challenged Walcott to a return bout, which he is willing to take place at any time and place the champion may select.

Bob Fitzsimmons, who is now in Australia, has signed a contract with the promoters of the Sydney Athletic Club, Sydney, New South Wales, for a 25 round bout with Bob Fitzsimmons, the Australian champion, for a purse of $2,500 a side, the fight to take place on Jan. 27, 1902. Fitzsimmons is now training for the bout, which promises to be the most important event in Australian ring circles since the Corbett-Fitzsimmons battle.

Jack Dempsey, the middleweight, who was knocked out by Kid Broad in the first round of their bout at Philadelphia last Friday, has challenged the Kid to box a return bout. Dempsey says he was not in condition when he met Broad, and he feels sure he can do better if he gets another chance. Dempsey says he will be in condition when he meets Broad again.

Every Home Is Restored Intellectually through reading THE SUN and Evening Sun "Woman's Page." Tables are compiled and an accurate knowledge of events gained. No better papers are published. Ads.

STEPPING ON THE SPEEDWAY.

THE CHESTNUT PACER FRED W. HAS A GOOD DAY.

Miss Meander and Mignon Engage in a Very Close Encounter—Lord Derby Jogs Over the Harlem Course—Several Other Fast Ones on the Drive.

For the first Sunday in three weeks there was brushing on the Speedway yesterday. It was evident that much care had been bestowed on the road to get it fit for the fast steppers, for in good condition it certainly was. Those who had not been on the course for some time were agreeably surprised at the state of the footing, which, although hard, was not too much so to prevent speedy going. There were a good many spectators out, and they found standing still chilly work, but the sport was entertaining and few left before the brush brigade headed for home. Sealskin caps and buffalo robes were in demand among the drivers, and those who were able to keep warm had plenty of fun. It looked for a while as if there would be little going on as the road drivers were later than usual in arriving. It was not expected that the cold would keep them away, since there had been driving on much colder days. Real fast movers were on hand, but two of them, Lord Derby, 2:06¼, and Chain Shot 2:06½, did nothing more than jog. George Spear was behind Lord Derby and the crack gelding looked in good condition. Charles C. Lloyd was behind the other trotter.

W. S. Clark, driving Bartello, 2:29¾, was on hand early looking for competition, when along came the big bay mare Dundess, 2:28¼, and the next moment the two were under full headway over the half-mile stretch. It was very close, with Bartello the winner. Charles Welland was busy with his chestnut pacer Fred W., and won nearly all of his brushes. Blue Bells was the first one to come in second in a test of Fred W.'s speed, and then came a keen contest between Fred W. and the brown pacer Gunsalus, with H. B. Guthrie driving. The clip was warm from the bend to the finish post, the side-wheelers seeming particularly to fancy the footing. Fred W. whizzed over the line first by a length. Fred W. tackled and won from Edgar Bronk's Bow Rene, but was in the rear when he brushed with J. E. Meyer's Muscovite. Mr. Welland's handy pacer met the black side-wheeler, Gus Barrett, 2:09¼ twice, and each time showed the way to the latter by a close margin.

The black mare Maud C., 2:10¼, the property of Dennis Harrington, had a brisk encounter with Too Soon, driven by A. E. Thompson, and won. Just behind came three trotters, William E., owned by Michael Reid; Dundess and John Timmins's gelding, Harry Davis. They finished in the order named, and close enough together most of the way to make the issue doubtful. One of the best brushes of the morning found Too Soon and the green mare Hazel F., driven by Dr. H. D. Gill, engaged. They rounded the bend head and head and stuck together to within a few yards of the finish. Each reinsman was driving vigorously and a dead heat was proposed, but Too Soon's nose was in front as they shot over the finish line. Hazel F. and George Huber's mare, Susie Earl, stepped together a couple of times in lively competition and the honors were divided. Susie Earl was first the first time and Hazel F. reversed the order in the second heat.

David Lamar brushed with both Red Lawn and his rapid pacer Nathan Straus, 2:08¼. With Nathan Straus he beat Bicycle Girl and Gunsalus, but was not successful with Red Lawn. When Jack Curry drove Red Lawn he won from the trotter You May, 2:23½, in a stirring brush, but J. P. Balter's chestnut pacer Fire Girl, hoofed it down the road at a clip so smart that Mr. Curry and Lamar on Red Lawn had to accept second place. George Coleman, with the bay mare Miss Meander had a brush with the black stepper Mignon that was so close opinions were divided as to the winner among those just opposite the finish post. The tilt bore as close a resemblance to a dead heat as it possibly could. When M. Sonn, who was driving Mignon, brushed with Bartello there was no room for doubt, though it was a close finish with Mignon winning. Turner Stevens, with Replica, won from Bartello.

Others on the drive were the following: Gabe Case, with a pair of trotters; William Parsons with La Belle Rosa; David McNeice, with Dandy; A. E. Kricker, with a trotter, chase, the bay trotter, Prestina; T. K. Egbert, with a cross-matched pair; A. T. Miller, behind Aldine Medium; John Howell driving Tudor Chimes; I. N. McGehan, with the mare Duchess; L. G. Haight, with Colonel Nutley; Straus's trotter Colowebs; Ed. Marshall, with Comet; Charles Lloyd, with Maizour and Dr. Tuggles, with the brown mare Ila.

ON THE BROOKLYN SPEEDWAY.

Group of Nine in a Brush Which Is Won by Oldham's Frank Knapp.

A frozen and crusty surface on the Brooklyn Speedway did not deter the regular drivers from getting out on it yesterday. There was not much doing in the way of speeding. Apart from its being a "between times" date the surface was fit only for hardy racers. C. K. Robinson's Hindoo Boy, driven by Joshua Rogers, had a turn down with Tom Sharkey's Merry Pat and Merry Pat might have just as well "stood pat" and tried to make a bluff. Terry McGovern was out with Miss Eleanor, 2:15¼, but he did not attempt any fights to a finish. The most interesting brush of the day took place when nine other came down together along the road, that at the time, about 3.45 o'clock, was entirely clear. Of the nine there were only three of the well-known horsemen who were holding leather over real steppers. The others were strangers who thought they had discovered an off day. Tom Sharkey was one of the bunch, but its general character was of a confused variety, although the incident caused considerable excitement. Out of it all J. O. Oldham's Frank Knapp drove through with a wrap on his reins. John McGuinness was out with a green colt, one of Axworthy's get, and he certainly looked like a future winner. He went down the course several times without a skip, was beaten by C. D. Stripp's best colt, but managed to win out by half a length from F. T. Dinger's Midway. R. E. Boland, with his mare Viola, was one of those who made the most of the road and helped to furnish good sport. Boland drove a good half dozen, in, trimmed a number of strangers and was in the going when the string of nine raced down, but Viola had to yield to Strange's Chester when they turned and went the half mile together. Chester won by an open length.

CHESS.

English papers, which came to hand on Saturday, announce the death of the Rev. John Owen, one of the foremost amateurs of Great Britain. He died about a fortnight ago at the age of 78. The Rev. Mr. Owen was born at Marchington, Staffordshire, and went to Trinity College, Cambridge, was graduated in 1850, took his M. A. degree three years later and entered holy orders, his first curacy being at Putney. Mr. Owen was then making such rapid strides as to be included in the ranks of the leading English masters, such as Staunton, Buckle, Barnes, Bird and Boden, and he was deemed worthy to be one of the opponents of the American player Morphy during the latter's memorable visit to London in 1858. He played a series of four games with that youthful genius, winning one, lost in a subsequent series of five games, Morphy conceding the odds of pawn and move. Mr. Owen drew twice, and did not win a game in the famous British Chess Association tournament at Birmingham in 1861, but in the first Hastings tournament in the same year he was second to Lowenthal, beating the winner with his accustomed brilliancy, and in 1862, each winning four games, drew with Kolisch, the second, and with Steinitz, the third, prizes of the Hastings tournament of that year. Mr. Owen was a frequent contributor to the chess columns of the London Field, and was editor of the chess column in the Cambridge Chronicle, and published a few chess works, the last edition of his "Chess Fugitives" being published in 1896. He was a member of the Cambridge University Club, and was president of the Cambridge University Chess Club in 1854. He was also president of the Cambridge University Club in 1857, and was president of the Cambridge University Club in 1858. He was also president of the Cambridge University Club in 1859. He was also president of the Cambridge University Club in 1860. He was also president of the Cambridge University Club in