

The Opening Today—The Prospects for the Season—The Leading Clubs and their Champions—The Athletics Base-Ball Club will to-day weather permitting, open the Philadelphia season by a game at 8 o'clock in the afternoon, on their grounds at Seventeenth street and Columbia avenue.

The coming season promises to be a very lively one in every respect. The victoriate of the team of the Western "Reds" of last season had the effect of making the leading clubs put forth extra exertions for the mastery. Should the Red Stockings of Cincinnati again come this way, they will probably meet with a much warmer reception than they received last season.

A new professional nine of great ability is said to have been organized under the auspices of the Chicago Club. It is composed of the very best men, as it may well be for it is an ten thousand dollar party. It is, however, nothing but a picked nine at the best, not a club, but the Red Stockings are. It is composed of the best players in the country.

The four leading professional clubs of the country now are the champion Athletics, of Brooklyn; the Red Stockings, of Cincinnati; the Athletics, of Philadelphia; and the Mutuals, of New York. These four took the lead last year, and they now have the four strongest nines in the country.

The ball-playing fraternity is, as every one knows, divided into the two classes of "professional" and "amateur." The members of the first class are compensated for their field services either by a regular salary, a division of the gate money received, or by appointing to public or private offices.

There are now about one thousand regularly organized clubs throughout the country, of which number about five hundred have been enrolled as members of the national association or of its State branch associations. The total number of the club which favor the professional system is about thirty, which is not more than twenty are at all prominent.

The English professional cricketers who are coming to this country in September to play the Germantown and other clubs will play a series of base-ball games with leading clubs. These cricketers are to be selected with especial care to this duty as well as that of cricketer, and the American base-ball clubs may not find it so easy to vanquish foreigners at the American game as on a former occasion.

The annual rules of the convention have a radical change in the form of batting, which will alter considerably what was before the superior batting of many players. Formerly it was the custom for the pitcher to deliver the ball at a point required by the batter, but this is no longer in force.

The Continental Hotel presented an exciting scene all yesterday. The fact of the Presidential party, consisting of Generals Grant, Sherman, Belmont, Cox, Birdland, McCall, Humphries, Heintzelman, Sheridan, Porter, Dent, King, and Kirtland being the guests of the house attracted a large crowd of our citizens, and these mixing with the uniformed colonels, majors, captains, etc. reminded one of the early days of the war.

The President slept rather late, arising about 9 o'clock. He breakfasted privately, and after smoking a cigar visited St. Stephen's Church, Tenth street, above Chestnut, accompanied by General Belmont, General Sheridan and other persons of interest in the eloquent sermon preached by Dr. Rutter. Strange as it may seem, but few of the congregation noticed the advent of the distinguished visitors, and those that did had the good sense to keep the matter to themselves.

and currency fee. The 6s of 1892 show an advance of 3/4 as compared with Saturday. Local stocks were not so active to-day, but the market was quite steady. Securities of State bonds, first series, at 103. In city securities there were sales of the new issue at 102 3/4; 50 1/2 was offered for Lehig gold loan, but without sales. Reading Railroad was quiet, but firm. Sales at 49 1/2-49 5/8. Pennsylvania was strong, but the sales were pennant at 58 1/4. Sales of Lehigh Valley at 55 1/2; and Oil Creek and Allegheny at 42 1/2. 110 was bid for Canada and Amboy, 37 1/2 for Morris preferred; and 38 1/2 for Philadelphia and Erie.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE SALES. Reported by De Haven & Bro., No. 40 S. Third street.
\$200 Pa. Co. N. 100 100 1/2 24 1/2
\$300 City Co. New 100 3/4 34
\$2000 C & A in 60 95 100 40 3/8
\$100 do 95 100 40 3/8
\$100 do 95 100 40 3/8
\$100 do 95 100 40 3/8
\$100 do 95 100 40 3/8

and Secretary Belmont are expected this evening, and Secretary Belmont tomorrow. The New Arctic Expedition. WASHINGTON, April 11.—Dr. Hayes, Arctic explorer, addressed the House Committee of Appropriations on the propriety of the Government sending out an expedition to the Polar region.

The Senators and members who went to attend the funeral of General Thomas returned to-day. The President and his party will return this evening. The Funding Bill. The Ways and Means Committee are working steadily on the Funding bill. They passed a resolution to-day not to allow any news of their action on the bill to go outside the committee room so as to prevent operations by outsiders.

Philadelphia Trade Report. Monday, April 11.—Seed—Cloverseed is in steady demand and 80 bushels sold at \$9.87 1/2. Timothy ranges from \$6 to \$6.25. In Flaxseed no sales were reported. Bark.—The last sale of No. 1 Querceron was at \$27 per ton. The Flour market is less active, but prices are well maintained.

Philadelphia Cattle Market. Monday, April 11.—Receipts of Beef Cattle were again light. Demand was steady, but not very active. Prices were quiet. Receipts of hogs were also light. Demand was steady, but not very active. Prices were quiet.

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Baltimore Produce Market. Monday, April 11.—Cotton firm and stock scarce; and decreasing. Howard Street superfine, \$4.25; do extra, \$4.20; do family, \$4.20; do medium, \$4.20; do coarse, \$4.20.

THIRD EDITION TO-DAY'S WASHINGTON NEWS. The Funding and Military Bills. Military and Naval Orders. FROM EUROPE BY CABLE. The French Ministerial Crisis.

FROM WASHINGTON. WASHINGTON, April 11.—The following named officers have been ordered to report to General McDowell, President of the Retiring Board, for examination: Major Thomas W. Sweeney and Captain S. C. Green, unassigned, and Captain George Lancaster, 17th Infantry. The following officers are relieved from duty at the Artillery School, Fortress Monroe, and are to join their companies: First Lieutenant Ransom P. Foster, 4th Artillery; William F. Stewart, 4th Artillery.

FROM EUROPE. PARIS, April 11.—Unusual preparations were taken by the police yesterday to guard against threatened disorders, but the city was as quiet as usual. THE FRENCH MINISTERIAL CRISIS. LONDON, April 11.—A despatch from Paris states that the ministerial crisis is due to the objections of a portion of the Cabinet to the continuance of plebiscitary power in the hands of the Executive.

CONGRESS. Home. The Speaker put the question on executing Mr. Eldridge, and announced that the votes had it. Mr. Eldridge—As this is not a Congressional duty, and not required by the House, I will not serve on that committee. The Speaker—Is the gentleman serving on two committees? Mr. Eldridge—I do not put it on that ground, but on the ground that I am not required by my official position to render any such service, and I shall not render it.

FROM NEW YORK. NEW YORK, April 11.—The court convened at 10 o'clock. Mr. Justice Day presided. The trial of the case of the Commonwealth vs. Oliver was continued. Mr. Justice Day presided. The trial of the case of the Commonwealth vs. Oliver was continued. Mr. Justice Day presided.

LEGAL INTELLIGENCE. Opera Clowns. United States Circuit Court—Judge McKennan and Appeals. This morning an appeal was made by Messrs. Harding and Sheppard in behalf of Mr. Dolan, the manufacturer at Kensington, for an injunction to restrain Landeburger and others from manufacturing a peculiar opera cloak which Mr. Dolan claims is an infringement upon his patent right.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE SALES. R. C. Styles & Co., 200 Market St., 40 S. Third St.
\$200 Pa. Co. N. 100 100 1/2 24 1/2
\$300 City Co. New 100 3/4 34
\$2000 C & A in 60 95 100 40 3/8

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