

THE FIRST BASEBALL

HOW THE GAME WAS PLAYED IN THE DAYS OF ITS INCEPTION.

Then a Man Could Be Put Out by "Soaking" Him With the Ball—The Empire Took It Easy While the Teams Piled Up Half a Hundred Runs.

The first newspaper report of a baseball game that I remember reading was an account of a game played at Hoboken, N. J., in 1859. It appeared in an illustrated weekly and was such a novel and interesting event that the weekly gave a double page illustration. There was no baseball schedules in those days. All that was needed was an occasion such as a Fourth of July celebration, a county fair, a house raising or some other event of that nature. The occasion for this particular game was the entertainment given to a team of English cricketers then touring this country. We had evolved a game from the old English "rounders," which we called baseball, and we wanted to show our cousins what a high old game it was.

It may have been the "humors of the day" editor who wrote the report, which was as follows:

"Baseball differs from cricket, especially in there being no wickets. The bat is held high in the air. When the ball has been struck, the 'outs' try to catch it, in which case the striker is 'out' or, if they cannot do this, to strike the striker with it when he is running, which likewise puts him 'out.'"

"Instead of wickets there are at this game four or five marks called bases, one of which, being the one at which the striker stands, is called 'home.'"

"As at cricket, the point of the game is to make the most runs between bases. The party which counts the most runs wins the day."

"The fact that the reporter thought it necessary to explain how the game was played indicates the extent of the public's knowledge of baseball at that time, and even he wasn't quite sure whether there were four bases or five. When he says a base runner may be put out by hitting him with the ball he makes no mistake, for that was an actual fact, and it was considered a good play on the part of a base runner to draw a throw from the pitcher, for usually the runner would dodge the throw and gambol around the bases while the fielders were hurrying after the ball. This rule was abolished as soon as the game became popular, for a baseman, instead of touching a runner with the ball, would often "soak" him at short range, which generally brought forth unprintable remarks from the soaker."

The artist in illustrating this game was not far behind the reporter. The picture shows us several hundred spectators, and, with the exception of a few ladies and gentlemen seated in carriages, the only person sitting down in the entire assemblage is the umpire, and, as if to show the perfect tranquility of his mind and his contempt for foul tips, he leans gracefully back in his chair with his legs crossed. The basemen, instead of "playing off," are standing, each with one foot on his base, and a base runner is "glued to third," although the pitcher is about to deliver the ball. In short, the general aspect of the field is enough to give the modern baseball captain nervous prostration.

The year 1870 saw baseball well established and deserving the title of national game. Of the amateur clubs the Harvard university team was one of the strongest, virtually defeating the famous Red Stockings in one game. The score stood 17 to 12 in Harvard's favor at the beginning of the ninth inning, and with two Reds out, Goodwin, the Harvard pitcher, was hit by a batted ball and injured. He recovered suffi-

ciently to pitch the game out and then fainted, the Reds meanwhile piling up eight runs and winning. The game was played in Cincinnati.

Another notable achievement of a Harvard nine was the twenty-four inning and no run game in 1877 with the Manchester (N. H.) club. In this game Catcher Tyng of the Harvards (yes, Jim Tyng, perennial Jim Tyng) made the unprecedented record of thirty-one put outs and three assists. While this game was interesting and exciting in its early part, it grew somewhat monotonous after the fifteenth inning, owing to the fact that the dead ball used became "punky," and the batsmen were unable to knock it outside the diamond. The pitching of Ernest amused the spectators, however, and I think Ernest must have been the pioneer contortion pitcher.

It was customary in those days for pitcher to stand erect and deliver the ball with the hand below the shoulder, but Ernest had a way of tucking the ball behind his back, looking over his right shoulder and elevating his left leg as he pitched. That seemed to the spectators a bad case of monkey business and always called forth derisive remarks from the small boys. His record of fifteen strike outs and but four flies knocked into the 'outfield' also shows that he knew his business at all events.

The scores of a few games played by leading clubs in 1869 show that the player's occasional request for a substitute to run a few laps for him was not without reason:

Harvards, 39; Lowell's, 16. Clippers of Philadelphia, 87; Nationals, 9.

Lowell's, 102; Andersons of Lynn, 8. Cincinnati's, 70; Unions of St. Louis, 9.

Eckford's, 45; Atlantics, 25. These are fair samples of the scores made by the best clubs. Those of some of the minor clubs oftentimes resembled the scores of a billiard match.—Outing.

FORMIDABLE GUNS.

The Bombards Used by the Turks in the Fifteenth Century.

In 1478 Mohammed II., in forming the siege of Scutari, in Albania, employed fourteen heavy bombards, the lightest of which threw a stone shot of 370 pounds weight, two sent shots of 500 pounds, one of 750 pounds, two of 850 pounds, one of 1,200 pounds, five of 1,500 and one of the enormous weight of 1,640 pounds, enormous even in these days, for our 80 ton guns throw only a 1,700 pound projectile, our 100 ton throws one of 2,000 pounds, and the 110 ton throws an 1,800 pound shot with a high velocity.

The stone shot of Mohammed's guns varied between twenty and thirty-two inches in diameter, about the height of a dining table, 2,534 of them fired on this occasion weighing, according to a calculation of General Lefroy's, about 1,000 tons, and were cut out of the solid rock on the spot. Assuming twenty-four inches as the average diameter of the shot fired at the siege, the total area of the surface dressed was nearly 32,000 square feet. At this siege the weight of the powder fired is estimated by General Lefroy to have been 250 tons. At the siege of Rhodes in 1480 Mohammed caused sixteen basiliisks or double cannon to be cast on the spot, throwing balls two to three feet in diameter.—Chambers' Journal.

How He Won Her.

A Frenchman whose wife deserted him amused his neighbors by telling how he got her back without trouble. "Did I run after her and beg her to come back?" he dramatically asked. "No; I did not run after her. I zhust publish in ze papaire zat I have drawn fifty thousand francs in ze lottery, and she vas back much quicker zan in zo time."

Incident of the French Revolution.

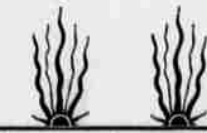
Mme. de Crequey, a French court lady who was imprisoned in the Luxembourg at the time of the revolution, tells in her diary of "a small, pale woman" who never said a word for the two or three days she was in the same room, never went to bed, but sat in a chair watching a casket she had brought with her. "One morning on returning from the yard," she says, "we found the little woman gone and only the casket remaining. A jailer came in about an hour after to fetch it. Mme. Buffaut boldly asked him whether the owner would return. His only answer was to pass his hand across the back of his neck. Then he proceeded to break open the casket. It contained a man's bloody shirt, without a collar, which was always cut off before an execution; also a handful of silky black hair and a piece of paper in which was written, 'For my mother.' Our jailer never would tell us the name of this unhappy woman, nor did we ever discover who and what her son was."

Keep the Mouth Sweet.

Nothing is more uncomfortable or even dangerous for an invalid than a neglected mouth. If the vitiated secretions are allowed to remain there is great danger of disease germs finding lodgment in the mouth and thence being absorbed in the stomach. A good mouth wash is eight or ten drops of tincture of myrrh in a glass of water. With this the mouth should be rinsed thoroughly two or three times a day. Another excellent wash is listerine. It is less expensive buying it in the seven ounce bottles. A half teaspoonful or more in a wineglassful of water is a refreshing mouth wash and a good tooth wash. If the mouth is very dry, a good wash is one tablespoonful of glycerin and one teaspoonful of lemon juice to a glass of water, as the glycerin does not evaporate and consequently stays on the tongue and in the mouth longer than clear water.

Adilpus—Don't you hate to be as lean as you are? Skindlens—No; sometimes I find it's a decided help. I can cross my legs in a crowded car without taking up any more room than I did before.—Chicago Tribune.

The noblest question in the world is, What good may I do in it?—Franklin.

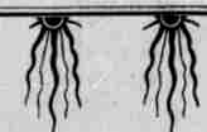


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Six pounds nice new meaty Prunes for 25 cents. Sold regularly 8 cents per pound.

Six pounds clear flinty Carolina Rice for 25 cents.

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VASTNESS OF RUSSIA.

The Great Size of the Empire Is Not Generally Recognized.

Few persons realize how vast is the area of the Russian empire. Into that enormous country you could put all of non-Russian Europe and yet only take up a little more than one-eighth of the czar's domains. Then you could add the United States, including Alaska, and still have almost enough territory left to place Canada in. In fact, the Russian empire comprises one-seventh of the land surface of the globe.

Though not comparable in extent of territory with the empire of the czar, the United States seems of enormous area when compared with the European countries other than Russia.

The state of Texas alone would take in Germany, Greece, Holland and Switzerland and still have room to spare. Belgium would simply be lost in the Maine woods. In fact, you could put two Belgiums into the state of Maine and have a state left as large as New Jersey.

France could be stowed away up in Montana and Wyoming, with enough territory left over to take in Portugal. Sweden would fit into California, with lots of room to spare, and Spain would almost, but not quite, fit into Nevada and Idaho.

To make Spain comfortable, we should have to borrow 4,000 square miles from Arizona, but that would still leave Arizona enough territory to take in Italy, leaving out Sardinia.

As for the British isles, we could stow them away in New Mexico and have land to spare afterward. The dual empire of Austria-Hungary would be a more difficult matter to deal with, and in order to give it elbow room we should have to devote the states of Colorado and Oregon to it and then borrow 43,000 square miles from Washington, which would still leave Washington room in which to put the kingdom of Serbia and have enough left over for a fair sized state.

The kingdom of Roumania could be placed in Arkansas, with about 5,000 square miles to spare, and Bulgaria would have more than enough room in Oklahoma.

Turkey's possessions in Europe are about as large as Missouri, and Norway could be placed in the two Dakotas, with lots of room left over. The pieces left over from the various states and territories mentioned would be more than enough to make an area as large as Denmark and the other odds and ends of non-Russian Europe not mentioned.

But if we did not want to spare so much territory of the western states and territories, we could economize by placing Germany, France, Italy and Belgium up in Alaska, and the British isles could be distributed among the Philippines, Hawaii and Porto Rico.—Washington Post.

Classified.

"Uncle Bill," said little Reginald, "did it hurt you when the men caught you with the dredge and grappling hooks?"

"Why, I don't understand you," said Uncle William.

"Well, that's the way the natural history book says they get 'em."

"Get what?"

"Sponges. When pa said you was coming ma said: 'What? That old sponge coming here again?'"

Not Always Popular. Grace—Why is it that Edythe is so unpopular in society? She's very careful to speak nothing but the truth about people. Gladys—And that's just what makes her unpopular.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Opportunity sooner or later comes to all who work and wish.—Stanley.

If you wish to please people you must begin by understanding them.—Reade.

He Lost His Case.

"Judge Emerson, one of the most eloquent men Illinois ever produced, was once taken down completely in a speech at Decatur," said an attorney of Chicago. "He had a case in which there were some peculiarly pathetic circumstances, the rights of a young girl whose property had been squandered and who was reduced to destitution being involved. Judge Emerson made the most of it, and as he closed his speech a solemn hush had fallen over the courtroom."

"Tears stood in the eyes of the jurors, and even the judge coughed sympathetically and hid his head behind the trial docket. His opponent, whose name I have now forgotten, saw that the spell had to be broken in some way or his case was lost. Arising slowly to his feet and in a voice of deep solemnity and with slow deliberation, he said, 'Gentlemen of the Jury, let us continue these solemn exercises by singing the One Hundred and Fifteenth Psalm.' A roar of laughter followed from the audience, and Judge Emerson lost his case."

Etiquette of the Smoker.

The etiquette of the smoker is not observed in Philadelphia, according to a globe trotter. In many countries, especially in Spain and Cuba, where such etiquette is most jealously guarded, a man who is smoking must be sure, when asked by another man for a light, to present his cigar or cigarette for the purpose. To offer a match is to imply the social inferiority of the man who asks for the light, so that between two strangers such an offer is a deadly insult and sometimes sufficient to cause a duel. When, however, the difference in social grade is so marked as to be visible in clothing and accoutrement the match may be offered without offense. When the lighted cigar is offered it must not be thrown away until the man who has offered it has taken at least one puff. Otherwise the insult is greater than would have been the offering of the match.—Philadelphia Record.

Visiting Cards.

The Chinese, who seem to have known most of our new ideas, used visiting cards 1,000 years ago, but their cards were very large and not really the prototypes of our visiting cards, as they were on soft paper and tied with ribbon. Venice seems to have been the first city in Europe to use cards. Some dating from the latter part of the sixteenth century are preserved in a museum there. The German cities followed the Venetian custom 100 years or so. Then London followed suit—actually followed suit—for the first visiting cards in Great Britain were playing cards or parts of such cards bearing the name of the bestower on the back. They were first used in England about 1700. We do not know when they were first used in this country, probably not long after their first introduction into British society.

Old Ocean's Joke.

"There's another bunch of bridal couples on that ship," remarked Father Neptune.

"Yes," replied the Atlantic ocean.

"I'm being crossed in love pretty regularly these days."—Philadelphia Press.

Of the best society it used to be said its conversation affords instruction, while its silence imparts culture.—Goethe.

Narrowing Response.

The Grammarian—It always makes me tired when I hear a man say "don't" when he should say "doesn't." The Other Party—Don't it, though?—Cincinnati Times-Star.

A worthless man always has his sign out.—Acheson Globe.

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