



Stories of the wildest description are making the rounds and it would keep one busy to keep track of all of them, writes a Boston correspondent of Sporting Life. One beautiful Sunday a visiting correspondent flashed home that Somers was to be bought out here. He got the idea from the same quarter that credited Ned Hanlon with buying out Stallings' interest in the Detroit club. Somers thinks he has a good thing in Boston and Stallings is evidently of the same opinion as far as his venture in Detroit is concerned. Certainly in his correspondence with his representatives here Mr. Somers has not given the least indication that he has any intention of quitting this field in favor of anybody else. President Ban Johnson has the first option on the club and if there is to be a change its manipulation would be entirely in his hands. If Mr. Somers desired to

Get Rid of the Club.

It would be only because he had so many irons in the fire that he cannot keep track of all. He is an extremely busy young man, and is kept on the hustle all the time. He is very fond of base ball, and his greatest ambition was to have a winner. Mr. Somers has kept in touch with his club at all times, and has not only taken an active part in its handling, even at a distance, but has been planning earnestly to strengthen it. So everything would tend to indicate that he does not intend to relax his grasp upon the reins. There is no doubt that Mr. Somers has been offered big money to get out of the ring. But for him the present expansion of the American league could scarcely have been accomplished. It took chunks of nerve to come into Boston, find a suitable ground and equip it, but he was equal to the task.

Both Clubs Hustling.

Every effort is making on both sides to have the better team for 1902. The Boston American people have not been idle, nor have the Nationals, for that matter. Parent has been sounded by National league agents, and is said to have put his figure up as high as \$4,000. On the other hand, Duffy is said to have landed three of the Boston National leaguers for next season. Who these are can scarcely be told. Duffy had a finger in this pie, as he was in the city under cover, and did his work very much on the quiet. It is said that Tenney is one of these men. Tenney had an interview with President Soden last week, and said he was not ready to sign at that time, and this can be taken for what it is worth. Another story had Herman Long down for an American berth. Long has been seen by his present employer, but has not yet signed a contract. Another man is said to be Moran, the catcher. The men who have signed contracts thus far are Pittenger, Kitzredge and Demott. Doubtless these men were wanted on the other side. "Pitt" could have a good thing in the American ranks, and both the Boston Americans and Athletics were after him. There is no doubt the competition for players has boosted the salaries immensely, and will boost them even more.

McCann's Great Showing.

The Brooklyn club has decided that young McCann will be fast enough for its team next season. The wonderful showing he made during this season pitching for the Hartford Eastern league team has convinced the former to that effect. McCann was born January 3, 1876, at Baltimore, Md., and learned to play ball while attending Rock Hill college, at Ellcott City, Md. His professional career began with the Hanover (Pa.) team in 1895. He re-



EUGENE McCANN.

mained with it two seasons. In 1897 he signed with the Hamilton team, of the Canadian league, and during that campaign participated in twenty-eight championship games. He stood second among the outfielders, with a percentage of .943, just a single point behind the leader. He began the season of 1898 with the Hamilton team, but finished it with the Chatham, of the same league, he having been loaned to the latter by the former, and again participated in twenty-eight championship contests with the two clubs, filling the pitcher's position for both. He was with the Hamilton team in 1899, and during that campaign he took part in forty-eight championship games, and made such a creditable showing as a pitcher as to attract the attention of

the management of the Detroit club, of the Western league, who signed him, but later sold his release to the Minneapolis club, of the same league, and during the season of 1900 he participated in twenty-four championship contests with Minneapolis, and pitched some very effective games. His best pitching performance in any one game in that campaign was in holding Buffalo to four safe hits, Minneapolis winning by 3 to 0. That fall the Brooklyn club, of the National league, drafted him, and he remained with the latter until late in May, 1901, when he was released to the Hartford Eastern league team. After joining the Hartford he pitched some excellent games, making the fine record of eleven victories and six defeats, besides pitching a thirteen inning game with Rochester as an opponent on June 14, at Hartford, in which not a run was scored by either team.

GRACEFUL CONGRATULATIONS.

After a hard battle between Bristol and Bridgeport for the Connecticut League championship had been settled in favor of Bristol in the very last week of the campaign, Manager O'Rourke, of the Bridgeports, had the courtesy and sportsmanship to send the victors the following neat letter of congratulation:

"Mr. John Kennedy: Dear Sir—I want at this time to extend to you, and the gentlemen associated with you, my sincerest congratulations for the success achieved in winning and



JAMES H. O'ROURKE.

bringing to your enthusiastic and most deserving people the championship of the Connecticut State League. The honor is a coveted one. You have won it under admirable circumstances and conditions, free from taint and suspicion, and by the strictest observances of every principle of fair play. May the example you have given us in 1901 be an incentive for emulation in 1902. The race was a great one, the best in the history of our grand little league, and to you do we willingly present our acknowledgments and kindly greeting. May your financial standing be proportionate with your professional success—great. You deserve all the good things that can and will be said of you, and none. I assure you, will rejoice more than. Yours truly, JAMES H. O'ROURKE."

FREEDMAN MUST GO.

New York critics are trying hard to settle for Mr. Freedman whom he shall select for manager next season. One set of critics has it that Manager Frank Selee of the Bostonians—notified that he will not be with that team next season—surely will be engaged. Another faction says that "Watty" Watkins, formerly Brush's manager at Indianapolis, is the man for the place. It makes little difference to the baseball world who manages the pygmies next season. If Freedman's policy prevails in Gotham there will be no one but the manager to sit on the bench to watch the play of the team. New York is due to "wake up" and "do something real and earnest" in base ball. It is not "Whom shall Freedman engage to manage the team?" but "How long will Freedman be permitted to run a National League team?" that the critics will have to spend their time discussing.

TO BE FURTHER STRENGTHENED.

T. J. Hickey, president of the Western League, was in Kansas City last week in consultation with Manager Tebeau of the Kansas City team. Mr. Hickey thinks that there will be a stronger association next year. Some of the present cities in the league will be dropped, but the president can't say yet which ones. The transfer of the Milwaukee American League team to St. Louis, he said, if accomplished, would leave an opening in that city, and it is more than probable that the brewery town will be placed on the Western League circuit. Indianapolis and Louisville are two other good cities that are considered by Western League magnates. If these towns can be secured it will mean, probably, that Denver, Colorado Springs, and possibly Des Moines or St. Joseph will be dropped next season.

SOCKALAXIS' SORROWS.

Flat on his back, unable to move either hand or foot, and a confirmed cripple from rheumatism, lies Louis Sockalaxis, who became famous as a star on the Holy Cross baseball team, where he played for three years. His career afterward in professional ranks was dazzling. He is dragging out a painful existence in the modest home of his father on a little island in the Penobscot river, not far from Old Town, which is set apart as an Indian reservation. For months Sockalaxis has been suffering from rheumatism. Little hope is given that he will ever be much better.



JOSEPHINE LUDWIG'S SUCCESS.

Josephine Ludwig was born in St. Louis, Mo., where she won local fame for her excellent voice. She finally went abroad and studied under Bouhy, Capoul, Marchesi and other noted vocal teachers. A year and a half ago she was secured by Henry W. Savage and made her debut with the Castle Square Opera Company last October in Chicago, appearing as Marguerite in "Faust," in which she scored an immediate success. Her next appearance was made in her native city, where as Juliet in "Romeo and Juliet," she duplicated that success. Since that time she has sung all of



JOSEPHINE LUDWIG.

the leading female roles in the grand opera repertory of the Castle Square Opera Company, winning other special successes as Aida, Elsa, Nedda and Musetta. Her first New York appearance was made at the Broadway theater the other day as Musetta in "La Boheme."

BOSTON GIRL'S LUCK.

A Boston girl of 19 years has been engaged by the management of the Berlin Royal Opera House to sing the trying role of Marguerite in "Faust," says the Boston Journal. And what is more she has been engaged for a period of three years, and will be allowed to present the part in Italian, something absolutely unprecedented upon the official German stage. Six months of each year this silt of a girl, not yet, even, woman grown, may have for her own sweet self to travel where she wills it, to sing whenever she wishes. Geraldine Farrar has been engaged at an almost unbelievable price, a price so large, in fact, that her own parents will not yet let their friends on this side of the water know the exact amount. At least it is \$8,000 a year, for that is what Maurice Grau offered two years ago—and he did not succeed in booking her. Probably the salary is nearer \$10,000 annually! Think of it. Truly a prospect so alluring as to invite the envy of some of the foremost operatic singers in the world today.

Takes Berlin by Storm.

Miss Farrar has taken Berlin quite by storm. There, where dwell some



GERALDINE FARRAR.

of the finest musicians in the world; where criticism is most acute; where encouragement of foreign talent is the great exception, not the rule; where hundreds of "prodigies" fall each year by the musical wayside—there, Miss "Jerry," only daughter of a Yankee base ball player, whose name was upon the lips of every sporting man a dozen years ago, has made, within two

years, a name which nothing can obliterate; which must, barring, of course, physical disability, grow into a reputation not one whit less glorious than Nordica's and Melba's and Jenny Lind's.

It is pleasant, too, to note that generous-spirited Boston people, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Bond of Commonwealth avenue, have made this triumph possible. "Jerry" has for years been a protegee of theirs, and Mr. Bond has furnished, in large part, the money for her musical education abroad. To Mr. and Mrs. Bond's acquaintance and kindly interest is due the opportunity of the girl's meeting the grand opera stars while they were in Boston. And it was an engagement at the Parker House that first made known to these great singers the marvelous voice that she has.

"PAPA'S BABY."

An original musical farce comedy, in three acts, had its first production at New Bedford, Mass., recently, entitled "Papa's Baby." It was written by Harry Watson and C. Herbert Kerr. The scene of the first act is at Rhine-

beck's flat, and depicts the trials of Peter Rhinebeck, a German brewer, and his friend, Reuben Green, an inventor. The complications are many and laughable and hinge on a baby that Rhinebeck finds in his home and hides when he hears some one coming. The servant finds the baby and in her hurry to dispose of it puts it in an incubator which Green has invented. When the mother demands the child it is finally traced to the servant who acknowledges having had the baby and says she put it in the incubator. The incubator is opened and out steps a full grown boy, which makes a laughable climax of the first act. Act second takes place at Selter's Park, where a masquerade and Summer festival is being held. This act is given up entirely to specialties. The cast: Peter Rhinebeck, Harry Watson; Reuben Green, Ed. Edwards; Billy the Biter, John Roland; postman, Robert Hart; Burt, Master Redcay; Reuben McCluskey Green, the baby; Sophronia Cecelia St. Clair, Lulu Nichols; Mrs. Green, Mabel Nichols; Mrs. Rosy Rhinebeck, Alice Hutchings; Mrs. Green, Mabel Nichols; Tottie Fresh, Lulu Nichols; Maggie, Lottie Uart; Mrs. Milby, Frances Gerald Miss Morgan; Theo. Leon; John Robert Hart; DeFreezington Smyth, John Roland; Charlie New, Edward Duffin. During this act Watson, Hutchings and Edwards gave a sketch, entitled, "The Dramatic Agent"; the Nichols Sisters sing their lullaby duet, and Mr. Roland sings "Davy Jones," with a chorus by the company. The end is reached by the collapse of Green's patent folding bed and Rhinebeck being carried up in the flies by a monster bat.

A CLEVER PRESS NOTICE.

"If anybody should tell you about a crop of corn growing within half a block of Broadway—what would you think of him?" inquired Willard Holcomb, literary representative for Mr. Hackett at Wallack's.

"Well, I should say he had been dallying the distilled spirit of corn, until his imagination had become disordered," was the reply.

"Well, you just take a little walk and see for yourself, for otherwise, I know you would doubt my statement unproved."

Sure enough, we found in a little grass plot adjoining the stage door of Wallack's theater, on Thirtieth street, a small patch of green corn just coming into ear. There were not more than a dozen stalks, but they served to prove the statement that agriculture is possible within six doors of the busiest street in the big metropolis.

By the way, there may be grass in the little plot, but it does not grow under the feet of Mr. Hackett's representative, Willard Holcomb.—New York Clipper.



"The most remarkable exhibition of team work in connection with target shooting probably ever witnessed in this country came to my attention during the big tournament just closed at Sea Girt, N. J.," remarked a member of the detachment that so creditably represented the District of Columbia on the Jersey range, to a Star reporter. "I make reference to the team of the Ulster Rifle association of Belfast, Ireland, that crossed the ocean for the express purpose of competing in a special match at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards with a team made up of members of the New Jersey State Rifle association.

"After landing on this side the Irishmen had about ten days to devote to practice before the match in which they were to compete was reached on the program," continued the district sharpshooter, according to the Washington Star. "The captain of their team was an elderly gentleman, with long, gray beard. But he certainly knew his business and had complete control of the members of the Ulster association working under his direction. It was most interesting to hear him call out to the men about to fire the windage and elevation to take and to note that the riflemen obeyed his direction promptly and implicitly. It was really educating to observe that every shot hit the center of the target. The captain of the Irish team, to all intents and purposes, pulled the trigger of the rifle of every member of his team for every shot.

"The Irishmen won the match handsomely and the victory was in large measure due to team work. The members of the Jersey team had had no opportunity for practice together, all their preliminary work having been done individually. But just wait until next year. We have learned a thing or two on this side of the water through the visit of the foreigners."

DUNN CHARGES IRREGULARITY.

Jerre Dunn lodged a protest against Leonora Loring, winner of the great Gilly Stakes, on the ground of irregularity of entry, she being owned jointly at the time of nomination by L. M. Myers and John Daly, and the former's name being given as the sole owner, which is contrary to the rule. On Sept. 18 the stewards of the Coney Island Jockey Club sustained the protest and disqualified the filly, thus giving the stakes, \$24,000, to W. C. Whitney, whose filly, Blue Girl, was beaten a short head by the winner. Mr. Myers says he will take the matter into the courts and try to have the loss of the money shouldered by the breeder, whom he holds responsible for the error in entry. Sun Flower now receives second money and Far Excellence third.

DONOVAN IS DISPUTED.

M. H. Donovan, the professional walker of Glens Falls, N. Y., defeated Ernest M. Campbell, a colored man, in a five mile race on the one mile track at that place the other day in the stated time of 37m. 29s. Donovan claims to have walked the first half-mile in 3m. 1s., one mile in 6m. 30 1/2s., and two miles in 13m. 31 1/2s., in proof of which he forwards an affidavit that is not properly drawn up, and which lacks the necessary seal of the notary public whose name is attached thereto. If Mr. Donovan wishes to convince the public that his claims to record are entitled to credit he should secure the services of officials known to be disinterested and thoroughly competent, and to make trials against the record under their supervision, and on some track in or near the metropolis, which will be found superior



M. H. DONOVAN.

to that at home. This would put an end to all disputes about the remarkable times he claims to have made at different distances.—New York Clipper.

ENGLISH ATHLETES DEFEATED.

The athletes of Yale and Harvard met the representatives of Oxford and Cambridge at New York and defeated the English collegians in six out of nine events. This result is strictly in accord with precedent. It is a curious fact that in all the international athletic contests between English and American collegians the visiting athletes, whether on one side or the other, always have been worsted to a greater or less degree. The first of these con-

tests was held in London in 1894, when Yale met Oxford and was beaten in five and a half out of nine leading events. In the following year the contest was held in New York, and Cambridge was defeated by Yale in eight out of eleven events. In 1896 the Yale-Harvard team sent to London lost five out of nine contests.

In every case the Englishmen have had the majority of the honors when playing at home and the Americans have had a similar advantage when meeting their opponents on this side of the Atlantic. Apparently there is something in the effects of the ocean voyage or of the change in climate that unfits the visitors from doing their best. The difference in training will not account for the phenomenon, since both nationalities seem to suffer alike from transportation. Probably the partial interruption of training during the voyage, coupled with the change of food and the lack of the familiar home facilities, will go far toward explaining the weakening of the visitors in each case. The curious regularity of the see-saw at least indicates that the college athletes of the two countries are quite evenly matched.

BENNY YANGER'S VICTORY.

Bennie Yanger, the Tipton Slasher, received the decision in St. Louis at the end of a fifteen round bout with George Dixon. The contest was a spirited one from start to finish and Referee George Slier had much trouble during the contest's paring the fighters.

Yanger was made the premier choice



BENNY YANGER.

at 2 to 1, and Clarence Held took all the Dixon money offered at that price. Yanger was the favorite with the crowd, and from the second round he went after Dixon's wind and soon had the ex-champion badly colored over the stomach and kidneys.

In the introductory round both sparred cautiously. Yanger's com the outset led for the stomach, but Dixon countered nicely, and the round broke evenly. In the second both men fought very fast and the fighting was the speediest ever seen in St. Louis. Yanger landed body blows at all times, but the colored boy took his punishment gamely.

The third, fourth and fifth rounds were speedy, but neither man was hurt. From the sixth to the concluding round the fighting was of a cyclonic nature; it was a case of give and take. Yanger was at all times the aggressor. His effective blows were on Dixon's stomach. Dixon's groans could be heard all over the hall.

In the concluding round Yanger tried to finish Dixon, but the going saved the little colored boy. Slier's decision met with the approval of over 3,000 persons who were present.

THE CHAMPIONS OF CANADA.

The annual championship field meeting of the Canadian Amateur Athletic Association was held at Toronto, Ont., the other day, the winners being as follows: 100 yards run, J. D. Morrow, McGill University, in 19 2/5 seconds; putting the shot, F. G. Beck, Yale University, 42 feet 10 1/2 inches; pole vault, G. McK. Hall, Buffalo University, 11 feet 2 inches; one mile run, Alex Grant, New York A. C., in 4 minutes 31 seconds; running high jump, S. S. Jones, N. Y. A. C., 5 feet 11 1/2 inches; 220 yards run, J. P. Craig, Montreal, A. A. A., in 23 1/5 seconds; throwing 55 pound weight, T. O'Rourke, Toronto, L. A. A., 28 feet 5 inches; throwing the discus, T. O'Rourke, T. L. A. A., 103 feet 11 inches; 880 yards run, Alex Grant, N. Y. A. C., in 2 minutes 11 1/5 seconds; running long jump, H. A. Bray, T. L. A. A., 21 feet 8 inches; 440 yards run, J. D. Morrow, McGill University, in 51 1/5 seconds; throwing the hammer, J. McArthur, Montreal Police A. A. A., 123 feet 7 inches; 120 yards hurdle race, S. S. Jones, N. Y. A. C., in 16 2/5 seconds.

AQUATIC NOTES.

Two records at swimming 500 yards were made in England recently. J. A. Jarvis won the amateur championship at Swindon, in 6 minutes 35 seconds, and J. Nuttall won a professional race at Doncaster, in 6 minutes 36 1/4 seconds, each man beating his own previous best figures.

The Metropolitan Rowing Association held its annual Fall regatta at Boston the other day. Winners: Senior single sculls, C. S. Titus, Union B. C., in 11 minutes; junior single sculls, Ernest George, Boston A. A., in 12 minutes 28 seconds; senior fours, St. Joseph's A. A., in 10 minutes 31 1/2 seconds; intermediate fours, Columbian R. A., in 10 minutes 13 1/2 seconds; intermediate sculls, George Lee, Union B. C., in 12 minutes 12 1/2 seconds; junior double sculls, Boston A. A., in 11 minutes 21 seconds; junior eights, Shawmut B. C., in 8 minutes 40 seconds; senior eights, Riverside B. C., in 8 minutes 2 1/2 seconds; intermediate eights, Jeffries Point B. C., in 8 minutes 22 seconds.