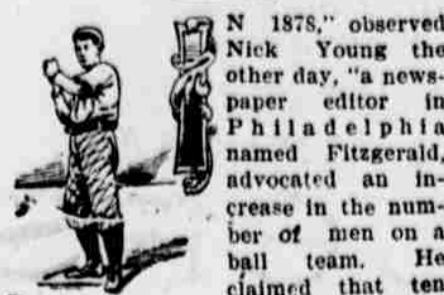


THE NATIONAL GAME.

SOME NOTES AND COMMENT ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Nick Young on the Rules—What Robison Would Do for St. Louis—Stories Told by a Veteran—Other Baseball Notes of Interest.



N 1875," observed Nick Young the other day, "a newspaper editor in Philadelphia named Fitzgerald, advocated an increase in the number of men on a ball team. He claimed that ten men were necessary to play a game of ball, and believed the tenth man should be located between first and second base and called a left shortstop. Mr. Hulbert knocked this argument by comparing a ten-man ball team to a four-ball game of billiards between such cue experts as Jake Schaefer and Slosson. You often hear old theories advanced about improvements in the game. When a change in the pitching rule was being agitated four years ago, John Gaffney suggested that the batting would be increased if the outfielders were confined behind a line to be located so many feet from the home plate. Gaffney probably overlooked the fact that such a rule would cripple one of the fielding features of the game. The suggestion of Mr. Hurst to allow the base-runners to overrun second and third base is now under discussion, though it is by no means a new suggestion. If Mr. Hurst's idea were adopted by the playing rules committee the base-running feature of the game would be almost destroyed. Another suggestion made by John Morrill, is not quite practical. Mr. Morrill believes the pitcher should be removed from his present position in order to give the base-runners a chance to steal more bases. I have studied the pitching rule carefully, and find that the present distance about equalizes the attack and defense; that is, the aggressor, which is the pitcher, and the defense, who is the batsman. Base-running would be enlivened if Tom Brown's 36x16 rubber frame were adopted and the pitcher was compelled to move from his slab every time he threw to the bases."

Quite a Graft.

Brooklyn's determination to play Sunday ball on its home grounds makes a nice little "sunfish hole" for the Orioles and the Senators. The three other eastern teams—Boston, Philadelphia and New York—do not play on the first day of the week. This of a necessity will give all the Eastern Sunday dates at President Byrne's park to Baltimore and Washington. Perhaps Ned Hanlon and Gus Schmeiz are not "smacking their chops" in anticipation of the fat Sunday gates at Brooklyn next summer. Instead of "laying up" on Sunday and playing to washday crowds on Monday, they will gather in enough at a Sunday matinee at Brooklyn to make a big dent in the semi-monthly pay rolls of their clubs.

What Robison Would Do.

President Robison has a wonderful scheme for strengthening the St. Louis team. He is willing to give up five of his Cleveland players, providing he can pick five as good men, if not better, from the other major league teams. At the same time he exempts Cincinnati and Baltimore. Why not let each club in the major league contribute a player if St. Louis must be made stronger? Baltimore and Cincinnati should do their share toward strengthening the Mound City team as well as the others. This is especially true in the case of Cincinnati, as that club has done more than any other in weakening St. Louis by purchasing its star players. What assurance would the major league clubs have that the players would not be sold after the



PRESIDENT ROBISON.

team had been strengthened? Robison made a rather funny break, if he is correctly quoted, when he said that Baltimore would hardly consent to give up any of its players as it wants a champion team, so that it can again win the pennant. Well, that is rich. That is as much as saying that Boston, New York, Philadelphia and other major league clubs didn't want champion teams so that they could win the pennant as well as Baltimore. It is pretty safe betting that President Robison would be doubly benefited if his scheme went through, which is hardly likely.

Byrne's Sensible.

President Byrne, of the Brooklyn Club, makes the following sensible suggestion that is worthy of consideration: "All sorts of rules can be framed for the government of baseball,

but they are useless if not enforced. I believe that a rule should be passed compelling the major league clubs to make their players obey the rules under a penalty. The trouble in the past has been a tendency on the part of certain club officials to stand by their players in violation of the rules. In other words, when an umpire has, in compliance with the strict wording of the rules, fined or ordered an offending player out of the game, an immediate howl for the removal of the judge of the play has been invariably sent to Mr. Young by the magnate whose player was made to suffer. This proved to be the heaviest kind of handicap for the umpire, who gradually allowed himself to be ridden over rough shod. If the major league could force the clubs to sustain the umpires and not their own players, a great deal of trouble would be averted."

Reminiscences of a Veteran.

Richard J. Pearce, the veteran professional shortstop, while in a reminiscent mood, recently related a number of interesting stories. Among other things he said: "Eddy Cuthbert was the first man I ever saw sliding to a base. This was in 1865, when he was a member of the old Keystone Club of Philadelphia. The Keystones were on a visit to Brooklyn, and played several games before they met the Atlantics on a Saturday, at the Capitoline Grounds. I was catching and Tommy Pratt was pitching for the Atlantics. Cuthbert had reached first base, and started to steal second, when I threw to Crane to head off Cuthbert, and Crane had the ball in plenty of time to touch him; but to our amazement Cuthbert made a great head slide for the base. This was the first time



DICK PEARCE.

we had ever seen the play, and it fooled us no little, but we laid for him and caught him after that. After Ferguson joined the Atlantics in 1866 he became very clever at sliding to any of the bases."

New York's Latest Surprise.

From the New York Herald: The New York Baseball Club has prepared a limited number of handsome silver souvenir complimentary cards entitling the holders to all the privileges of the Polo Ground during the season of 1897. They are very artistically designed and engraved, and are altogether the prettiest souvenirs ever made by a ball club. The silver cards will be presented to the most prominent friends of the club.

Diamond Gillets.

The players of the Cincinnati team are practicing at New Orleans. It is announced that all the Brooklyn players who have signed for the coming season have done so at reduced terms.

Shortstop Hulien and Outfielder Mertes, who were last season with the Philadelphia Club, have been transferred to the Columbus Club of the Western League.

President Von der Ahe had a great team when he was a member of the old American Association, but he has not had much of a one since the demise of that organization.

Gus Weyhing, the veteran professional pitcher, is no longer manager of the Fort Wayne team. He says that he has resigned, but does not give his reasons for doing so.

Illinois is now falling in line with Missouri and other Western states. A bill is to be introduced into the Illinois legislature to abolish Sunday ball playing. Ohio and Kentucky are yet to be heard from.

At a special meeting of the partly organized Southeastern League at Macon, Ga., President Bosche resigned. Little business was transacted, and the league adjourned to meet a week later.

Carney Flynn, who was on the New York Club's pay roll last spring, and who later figured with Farrell in a deal that took them to Washington and brought Joyce to New York, will play with the Virginia team of the Atlantic League during the coming season.

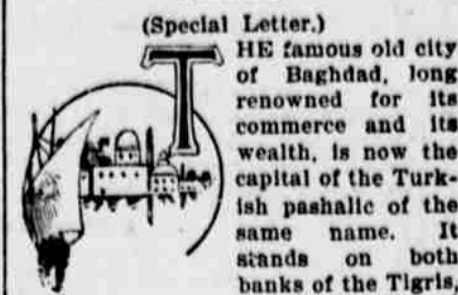
The Alameda Aleris defeated the Plute Indians by 6 to 2 the other day at San Francisco, Cal. McKee, who pitched seven innings for the victors, holding the losers down to two safe hits and retiring eleven of them on strikes, was relieved by Krug, who pitched the remaining innings and allowed the losers only one safe hit, from which they scored a run.

Captain Ewing of the Cincinnati does not agree with some others that bowling is a good thing for a pitcher. "My reason for thinking that bowling will not help a pitcher," said Ewing, recently, "is that the motion used in bowling is entirely different from that used in pitching. Bowlers use an underhand motion, while very few pitchers, if any, ever use an underhand ball. Once in a while it is tried, but the majority of pitchers depend upon the overhand motion."

THE CITY OF BAGHDAD

THE ANCIENT CAPITAL AS IT IS TODAY.

A Fitting Monument to Civilization That Followed the Rule of the Great Eastern Pictocracy—Fifth, Squalor and Touring Mosques.



HE famous old city of Baghdad, long renowned for its commerce and its wealth, is now the capital of the Turkish pashalik of the same name. It stands on both banks of the Tigris, and is situated on an extensive and desert plain, which has scarcely a tree or village throughout its whole extent. The city is surrounded by a brick wall five miles in circumference, and the Tigris is crossed by a bridge of thirty boats. The city has a most picturesque appearance from a distance. It is encircled and interspersed with groves of date and other trees, through which one may catch the gleam of domes and minarets. On closer inspection, however, the view does not improve. The streets are narrow, dirty, crooked and unpaved, full of ruts and strewn with the carcasses of animals. The task of removing this filth is left to dogs, the only public scavengers known in Baghdad. The whole town has been built without the slightest regard to regularity. The streets are even more intricate and winding than those in most other oriental cities, and with the exception of the bazaars and some open squares the interior is little else than a labyrinth of alleys and passages. The streets are unpaved, and in many places so narrow that two horsemen can scarcely pass each other, and as it is seldom that the houses have windows facing public thoroughfares, and the doors are small and mean, they present on both sides the gloomy appearance of



VIEW OF BAGHDAD.

dead walls. All the buildings, both public and private, are constructed of furnace burnt bricks of a yellowish-red color. A house is generally laid out in a range of apartments opening into a square, and furnished with subterranean rooms into which the inhabitants retreat during the day for shelter from the intense heat of summer; and with terraced roofs on which they take their evening meal, and sleep in the open air. The interiors of the houses of the rich are splendidly furnished, and decorated in a most gorgeous manner.

The inhabitants of the city are supplied with water from the Tigris, which is brought to their homes in the skins of goats; water works, cisterns and pipes being unheard of in Baghdad.

The population of Baghdad is said to number about a hundred thousand, and is a mixture of nations from various countries of the east. The chief officers of the government, civil and military, are of Turkish extraction; the merchants and traders are almost all of Persian or Arabian descent, while the lower orders consist of Turks, Arabs, Persians and Indians. There are some Jews and Christians, who remain distinct from other classes; while the strangers in the town are Kurds, Persians and desert Arabs in considerable numbers. As every nationality retains its own peculiar dress, it may be easily conceived what an extraordinary variety of costumes is to be seen daily in the streets of Baghdad. The dress of the female is mean; women of all classes being enveloped in blue checked cloth, with their faces covered by hideous veils of black horse-hair.

Baghdad has much declined from its ancient importance, but is still the seat of considerable commerce. The city today contains upwards of a hundred mosques, the domes and minarets of which are said to be finer than those of Constantinople.

A New Decorative Material.

Bedtickings for drapery and upholstery purposes has recently been launched upon the market. It is a decided success, says the Puritan. No one would dream of the lowly origin of the fabric thus presented. Of course the salesmen do not speak of it as bed-ticking, but describe it as an "art drapery" or an "art ticking." One shopman has named a striped pattern the "bedouin"—not a bad pun on its origin. The material is colored and designed very much after the order of chintzes and cretonnes, which it closely resembles. It wears like iron, and as it retails for about 10 cents a yard it is one of the most economical and satisfactory fabrics for all sorts of upholstery purposes. These tickings will soon appear in the various college colors, so that a Yale, Harvard or Princeton man may have things adorned in the hues dear to his heart.

WHEN WAMPUM WAS MONEY.

The Popular Token of Value in New York Two Centuries Ago.

When Stephen Van Cortlandt was in the money-changing business—1680 to 1690—the kind of money in most common use in the vicinity of Manhattan Island was seawan or wampum, says the New York Times. Almost all the store trade was done with seawan, either loose or braided, and all church collections were taken up in seawan. Van Cortlandt was frequently called on to change seawan into silver money, which was at that time the standard. Payments of interest and principal of loaned money were made in Dutch pieces-of-eight, realties and loan dollars, the value of all of which was reduced to guilders seawan. A piece-of-eight was worth 12 guilders in seawan, a realty was worth 1 guilder and 20 stivers in seawan, a loan dollar was worth 11 guilders in seawan, and an English pound was worth 40 guilders in seawan. The American dollar in its present relation to the English pound would have been worth 8 guilders in seawan. A Dutch guilder has 100 cents, or 20 stivers, and is equal to 40 cents in American money. A silver is equal to 2 cents American money. Contributions to the poor relief fund were usually made in seawan and provisions and clothing for distribution among the poor were paid for in seawan. The early Dutch settlers took generous care of the needy poor. For instance, in 1688, the deacons of the old Dutch Church of Bergen paid Dr. Robinson of New York 240 guilders in seawan for curing a destitute man of insanity. At another time the deacons of the same church paid Surgeon C. Viele of New York 130 guilders seawan for surgical attendance on a poor member of the congregation. In those days it cost 20 guilders in seawan "to send poor Johannes Kruyer back to Amsterdam." In 1673 the price of one shepel of wheat was 6 guilders seawan; 1 shepel of Indian corn, 4 guilders seawan; 1 shepel of rye, 3 guilders seawan; 1 ell of cloth, 5 guilders seawan; two blankets, 58 guilders seawan, and 2 shepels of salt, 6 guilders seawan. Whenever the col-

BEAR MEAT MARKET.

HOW SAN FRANCISCO IS SUPPLIED FROM QUIN'S HAUNTS.

Flesh Tastes Like Pork—Gamy Flavor—Bear-Fat Used by Perfumers and Boarding-House Keepers—The Hunting Season.



HE fact that bears bring from \$20 to \$50 each in the San Francisco meat market and that there is a lively demand for all that are sent there has moved many men who live in the foothills of the mountain ranges to scour the hills for them and ship them hence, says the San Francisco Chronicle. Cubs are taken alive, kept in pits and fed until they attain several hundred pounds in weight, when they are marketable. The carcasses usually displayed by butchers during the holiday season are of domesticated bears, as the wild bears at that season of the year are hibernating. A stall-fed bear designed for the market is treated in about the same way as a hog. He will eat the same food a hog will eat and about the same quantity and his flesh tastes very much like pork, except for a gamy flavor which it possesses. Aside from this the bear's blubber makes the finest lard, his hindquarters furnish superior hams and his ribs yield the best of bacon. The best bear grounds in California are in Tulare county, in the region of Mineral King, Homer's Nose and Hospital Rock. Bear meat is sold in San Francisco at from 40 cents to \$1 per pound. It is, of course, a delicacy reserved for the rich. Some leading restaurants have bear steaks on the bills of fare when the meat is on sale in town and they serve a steak for from 40 to 50 cents. The region on the coast most infested by bears is believed to be southern Oregon, near the California border, and from twenty to fifty miles from the ocean. In this district run the Illinois and Rogue rivers, and there, too, are many fresh-water lakes, notably the three great Klamath lakes. Fish lake, Game lake, Crater lake, besides many small creeks and rivulets, all of which teem with fish and about which are the breeding grounds for ducks and geese. On the banks of these fresh-water bodies and stretching away over the flat country are thousands of acres of bushes bearing huckle and salmon berries, and the low mountains are thick with the scrub oak, which in the fall of the year yields abundance of mast, all comprising the most toothsome provender for bears, as they will not eat flesh when they can get vegetable food or fish. In this country, bears—grizzly, black or brown—abound. They are a nuisance to the farmers, on whose pigs and sheep they often raid, but to the hunters they are a source of profit and delight. There are two seasons in the year for bear killing—one a long, and the other a short one. The first is in the fall of the year, after the mast is well dropped and Bruin is fat from feeding on acorns and nuts; the second is in the spring, just as he is coming out of his winter's sleep. When the ground in the fall becomes covered with snow Bruin wallows in fat and cannot find more to eat. Then he proceeds to hibernate. In that state his hair is sometimes betrayed by the steam which rises through the snow from his body. In that condition he can be easily killed, for he will make no resistance. When his hibernation is over, in the early spring, he is still quite fat and game for the huntsman. But he does not long remain in that condition. There being no berries or mast when he comes out, he finds nothing to eat and in about a week he is run down and as poor as the proverbial turkey of Job. In this low state of flesh it is wasteful waste to kill him and he is not hunted. Then the breeding season follows, which gives his bearship immunity from molestation. Bears slaughtered on the Oregon ranges are packed out on mules to the stations where they are shipped to butchers in this city. It sometimes happens that the location where the bear is killed is such that the hunters cannot get the carcass out of the country in good condition. Then the pelt is taken off and the meat is cut into strips and dried on wire netting suspended over a fire built in a hole in the ground, a piece of canvas being thrown over all during the process. The grease also is tried out, a bear weighing 400 pounds yielding about twenty-five pounds of lard. This is eagerly bought by hotels and boarding houses in southern Oregon for cooking purposes. In this city bear fat is used by perfumers. Dried bear meat finds a market in Oregon. Occasionally a shipment of it is made to this city. Of all the bears which come annually to this market the black bear is the most common. The grizzly and the cinnamon come in very rarely but the great bald-faced bear of Alaska is seen frequently strung up in front of Market street butcher shops, the dressed carcass always attracting much public attention.

MOTHER-LOVE IN SNAKES.

A Marked Exhibition of It Seen by a Naturalist.

Even the cold-blooded and clammy snake evinces maternal affection, and I am fortunately able to produce evidence corroborative of this statement that is fresh in my memory, says the Home Magazine. On March 29, while seated on my front porch, I noticed one of my dogs, a yearling puppy, acting in a peculiar way on my lawn. He was circling around a small circumscribed spot, every now and then thrusting his nose toward the ground and then quickly jumping back. On approaching the animal I discovered that the object of his playful assaults was a bunch or ball of snakes, a 3 or 4 year old mother and her last year's brood of young. The day was very warm, the sun shining clear and bright and these creatures had emerged from their den or nest in the ground, a foot or so away from the spot where they were lying, and were sunning themselves. When they observed me they made an attempt to regain their nest; I killed two of them, however, before they could enter. I had read somewhere that if a snake's young were taken and their bodies dragged along the ground the mother snake would follow the trail and, if she found them alive, would conduct them back to the nest. I took the trail, which I had killed and, after dragging them along the turf, deposited them on the pavement some fifty feet from the den. I then resumed my seat on the porch and waited developments. In a short while the mother snake emerged from the nest and, after crawling about for a second or two, struck the trail and at once followed it to the pavement and her dead young. Fortunately I had a witness in the person of my koman, who was delivering ice at the time and who was dumfounded at beholding such high intelligence in a creature so low in the scale of animal life. I killed the old snake (for these snakes—garden moccasins—become harmful after the third year, eating young birds, etc.) and ten of her progeny, leaving two pairs to carry on and perpetuate the race.

No Pie for Louie.

A Philadelphia woman has sued her heartless husband for divorce because he has forbidden her to eat pie.

FIGS AND THISTLES.

Every selfish joy dies young. It takes a hot fire to purify gold. He most lives who lives most for others.

It is still as safe to trust in God as it ever was. Don't give a tract where bread is needed most.

Life has most in it for those who know God best. Woe to that man-keeper.

Reflections of a

A woman would rather say more than she feels, him feel more than he you see a girl that doesn't let you see she was you may be sure she has there never was a married sympathized with an old b there never was a marrie didn't.—New York Press.

Parisian rag-pickers earn a year.