

Our National Sports.

THE GAME OF BASE BALL—CONVENTION OF THE VARIOUS CLUBS OF THE CITY AND VICINITY—THE LAWS TO BE CODIFIED—CENTRAL PARK COMMISSIONERS AND THE BASE BALL CLUBS.

A convention of the Base Ball Clubs of this city and the vicinity was held last evening at Smith's Hotel, Broome street, for the purpose of discussing and deciding upon a code of laws which shall hereafter be recognized as authoritative in the game. Base ball has been known in the Northern States as far back as the memory of the oldest inhabitant reacheth, and must be regarded as a national pastime, the same as cricket is by the English. It is a manly and healthful exercise, and if generally known would become popular, being full of excitement and rendering the body lithe and hardy. It is played in most of the New England schools, and those who have once engaged in it never lose their interest in the game. We should hail it as a favorable omen for the next generation if that bright specimen of humanity, yclept Young New York, would join the base ball clubs and quit his billiards, bar rooms and other unmentionable night amusements, and seek the open air, the heavy bat and the 6½ oz. ball. We might then hope to be rid of those pale, consumptive five feet three inches attempts at men, which are the making of the jeffers and the laughing stock of the women of Broadway.

The Knickerbocker is the oldest base ball club now existing in this city, and seems to be the most influential. The present convention was called by that club, and is composed of three delegates appointed by the various associations. Fourteen separate and independent organizations were represented last evening by the following gentlemen, and it was stated that others would have been present but for distance, or the impossibility of getting home the same night.

Knickerbocker—Messrs. D. L. Adams, Wm. H. Grinnell, L. F. Wadsworth.

Gotham—Messrs. Wm. H. Van Cott, R. H. Cudlip, Geo. H. Franklin.

Eagle—Messrs. W. W. Armfield, A. J. Sibby, John W. Mott.

Empire—Messrs. R. H. Thorn, Walter Scott, Thomas Leavy.

Putnam—Messrs. Theo. F. Jackson, Jas. W. Smith, Edw. A. Walton.

Excelsior—Messrs. Jas. W. Andrews, Jas. Rogers, P. R. Chadwick.

Atlantic—Messrs. C. Scribner, W. Babcock, T. Tassie.

Harmony—Messrs. R. Justin, Jr., G. M. Phelps, Frank D. Carr.

Harlem—Messrs. E. H. Brown, John L. Elker, C. M. Van Voorhis.

Eckford—Messrs. Chas. M. Welling, Francis Pidgeon, James M. Gray.

Bedford—Messrs. John Constant, Chas. Osborn, Theo. Bagot.

Nassau—Messrs. Wm. P. Howell, J. R. Rosenquest, Eph. Miller.

Continental—Messrs. John Sibby, Nath. B. Law, Jas. B. Brown.

The Convention met together shortly after the hour appointed, and being satisfied with each other's personal appearance, (justly so, for most of them were splendid looking fellows,) the delegates proceeded to elect a President and officers, when the following were appointed:—

President—Dr. D. L. Adams, of the Knickerbocker.

Vice Presidents—Reuben H. Cudlip, Gotham; John W. Mott, Eagle.

Secretary—Jas. W. Andrews, Excelsior.

Assistant Secretary—Walter Scott, Empire.

Treasurer—E. H. Brown, Harlem.

After some remarks from the President, a brisk discussion ensued on the motion that a committee of five be appointed to prepare a code of laws which shall be authoritative on the game. An amendment was offered, that twenty should form such committee; and, again, that the Convention should go into Committee of the Whole upon the laws. The various propositions were sweated down to two, and, being put to the vote, it was finally determined that the delegates from each club should appoint one member to sit on said committee. The gentlemen so appointed are as follows:—

Committee to Draft a Code of Laws on the Game of Base Ball, to be Submitted to the Convention—Messrs. L. F. Wadsworth, W. H. Van Cott, W. W. Armfield, Theo. Leavy, Theo. F. Jackson, Dr. Chas. W. Cooper, P. R. Chadwick, T. Tassie, F. D. Carr, E. H. Brown, Francis Pidgeon, John Constant, Wm. P. Howell and Nathaniel B. Law. This committee will meet next Wednesday.

Mr. ARMFIELD moved that an assessment of \$2 be made from each club, in order to defray incidental expenses, and referred to the proposed Central Park as a most suitable spot for playing matches. Provision had been made there by the Commissioners for the national English pastime of cricket, but none for base ball, and he trusted that this convention would put itself in communication with the authorities on the subject.

Mr. R. G. CORNELL submitted three specimen balls of various sizes, 6½ oz.; 6¼ oz. and 6⅓ oz.; the convention will eventually be called upon to decide which is orthodox of the trio.

Mr. FRANCIS PIDGEON proposed that a committee of five be appointed by the Chair to confer with the Central Park Commissioners in relation to a grant of public lands for base ball purposes. This being carried, the Chair named the following:—

Committee to treat with the Commissioners for a plot of ground in the Central Park—Francis Pidgeon, E. H. Brown, George H. Franklin, John W. Mott, L. F. Wadsworth.

A motion was then made and carried that each club forthwith pay the Treasurer \$2, when that officer remarked, "I shall be under the necessity of notifying that I don't take Spanish quarters." The Secretary read over the names of the clubs, the money was forthcoming, and the Convention adjourned at 9¼ o'clock until the third Wednesday in February.

Base ball is about becoming a great national institution. The gentlemen assembled last evening at Smith's Hotel were engaged in a work not of that trifling importance which a casual observer might suppose. *Mens sana in corpore sano* is a maxim worthy of notice in this age, when young men are forsaking the fields and out door exercise for the fumes of cellars and the dissipation of the gaming table. Let us have base ball clubs organized by the spring all over the country, rivaling in their beneficent effects the games of Roman and Grecian republics. Schoolmasters and clergymen, lend a helping hand.