

BASE-BALL.

The Northwestern League Champion-
ship—The New Western
League.

A Talk with Captain Anson—Gossip of
Clubs and Players from Different
Cities.

[CHICAGO CORRESPONDENCE.]

The past week has been a busy one for the management of the Chicago Ball Club. The task of signing such of the players of the past season as it was thought desirable to retain for another year and of securing new men by which to strengthen the team for coming struggles has not been an easy one. President Spalding has had his hands full twelve hours out of the twenty-four, and when asked by your reporter last evening what men had been engaged thus far, he said:

"Of course you know that the work of signing our men has not yet been completed, and may not be for some months to come. Up to date I have

Anson, Burns, Van Haltren, Ryan, Darr, Sullivan, Baldwin, Pettit, Tebeau and Sprague of the old team. The following new players have been signed: Bryan, of Duluth; Fielder Duffy, of the Lowell club, said to be the best general player in the New England League; Pitcher W. H. Clark, of Des Moines; Catcher Charles F. Hoover, generally considered the best catcher and general player in the Western League, making fourteen men that have been signed to date. In addition to the above we expect to sign Pfeffer, Clarkson, Williamson, Sunday, Flint and Daly. We are also negotiating for two or three crack pitchers."

Last week delegates to the annual meeting of the Northwestern League assembled at the Tremont House. Manager Hart, of the Milwaukee team, was present to protest the game between the Milwaukee and Minneapolis teams in which Con Murphy had played against Milwaukee. Hart claimed that Murphy was under contract with the Oshkosh Club, and therefore had no right to play in a championship game with the Minneapolis club, and that the game in question should, therefore, either be declared off or awarded to Milwaukee. The meeting, however, declined to recognize the protest, and Oshkosh, therefore, remains the champion Northwestern League club of the present season. Had the claim been allowed, Oshkosh would have been relegated to second place, and Milwaukee would have taken the championship as well as first claim upon the handsome \$500 cup offered by A. G. Spalding & Bros. to the team winning the championship three seasons.

Following the meeting of the Northwestern League, a meeting of delegates for the formation of the much-talked-of new Western League was held and the organization of the same was completed. The new association will consist of clubs from Chicago, St. Louis, Des Moines, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Omaha, Kansas City, and Milwaukee. The promoters of the new association are Samuel G. Morton, of Chicago; T. J. Loftus, of St. Louis; E. G. Briggs, of Omaha; E. E. Menges, of Kansas City; James A. Hart, of Milwaukee; A. M. Thompson, of St. Paul; R. O. Foster, of Minneapolis; and C. M. Sherman, of Des Moines.

Your correspondent met Capt. Anson the other day and had a chat with him concerning the new players the club had signed and which are still to be signed for next year.

"Does the accession of all this young blood mean the release of any of the older players?" asked your correspondent.

"Not necessarily. We shall probably hold on to all of the old men we have got now, and sign anywhere from six to ten youngsters, retaining the best of them through the season."

"Will Clarkson and Pfeffer be with us next season?"

"Such is my belief: yes."

"Are you on good terms personally with both?"

"Perfectly."

"How about that fine against Fritz?"

"I have never reported any fine against Pfeffer to the club. But even if I had that would not affect his contract for next year?"

"Williamson, Burns and 'Old Silver' will be with us just the same next season?"

"You can bet every dollar you have got that will."

"And Darling, Daly, Van Haltren, and Sullivan?"

"Every one of 'em."

"How about Mark Baldwin. Will you release him to Pittsburg?"

"No, sir. We will release him to nowhere. We will keep him right where he is. I'll bet that you'll say I was right when I declared some time ago that none of them can beat Baldwin when Baldwin settles down to the work he is capable of doing. Baldwin will be one of the best of the League pitchers yet, mark my words."

"How about Sprague?"

"A good little man; but I am afraid he is not heavy enough for work in the League."

"Will you keep him?"

"I hardly think so."

"Were there any men you wanted this year but slipped up on?"

"Yes. One League club captured three of the men I had set my heart upon."

"Which was that?"

"The club is New York. The men are Foster, Crane, and Slattery. I wanted every one of those fellows, but we just did not happen to get around into their section of territory at the right time."

"What do you think of Foster?"

"He is a ball-player, through and through, but I understand he is a bit unreliable in his habits."

"Has Indianapolis any just claim upon his services?"

"Not a claim. New York has got Foster and will keep him. Indianapolis dare not press a claim, and will not."

"What do you think of the Detroit-Browns series?"

"It turned out just as I expected. I must admit, however, that I did not expect to see the Browns laid out so flat."

"Tommy Burns, the clever little third baseman of the Whites, came in at that moment and was asked what his plans were for the winter."

"I am going to California," was the reply.

"Who else will go?"

"Ned Williamson, Jimmy Ryan, Martin Sullivan, and Pfeffer. Maskrey, of Mil-

waukee; Carroll, of Pittsburgh; Mullane, of Cincinnati, and one or two others will make up the balance of the team. Tom Daly is down to Hot Springs just at present, and may join us later on. We leave Saturday."

"By the way, Tom," I asked, "what do you think of the world's championship series?"

"Just what I thought of it before it commenced. St. Louis cannot play with Detroit."

"What is their shortcoming?"

"They can't hit Detroit's pitchers, in the first place, and they can't run bases on Bennett in the second."

NOTES AND COMMENT.

Walter Spalding, the New York end of A. G. Spalding & Bros., returned from England last week, after a month's sojourn there on business. He secured the agency of the Lillywhite Cricket House while there.

Weidman has been signed by the New York Club as one of their pitchers for 1888. He will be a good man in the box with the New York field to back him. His percentage of victories while in the League was .564.

Anson's market value as manager, captain, first baseman, and batsman of a team has been run up to \$25,000. Nimick, of Pittsburgh, bid \$15,000 for his release last week, but Spalding said that Pittsburgh would have to begin the bidding at \$25,000. The fact is Chicago and Anson are inseparable.

It is almost an assured thing that White, of Louisville, will play short stop for the St. Louis Browns in 1888. Gleason will be one of the St. Louis nine in the Western League. Werrick, of Louisville, too, is mentioned as likely to take Latham's place in the St. Louis team, and Latham to play in Louisville in 1888.

Manager Mutrie has greatly strengthened the New York team for next season by the engagement of Crane and Slattery of the Toronto Club, Cleveland and Foster of the St. Pauls, and Hatfield of the Portlands, all young, promising players. Crane is the noted long-distance thrower, and distinguished himself last season in pitcher's position.

The Philadelphia Club led the National League in shunting out their opponents, they beating in this manner: Indianapolis three times, Boston twice, and New York and Pittsburgh once each. New York was second in this respect, and Chicago third. Every National League club was blanked in at least two games.

THE NORSE COLUMBUS.

The Sturdy Navigator Who Found His Way to the New World 500 Years Before Him of Genoa.

There was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies, at Juneau Park, Milwaukee, a few days ago, a splendid statue of Leif Ericson, the bold Icelandic navigator who, it is pretty well established, discovered the American Continent nearly 500 years before Columbus sighted its shores. The statue is by Miss Whitney, of Boston, and is a replica of one which was unveiled in Commonwealth avenue, Boston, at the same time. It is said to be an excellent work of art, and will establish an enviable reputation for Miss Whitney in a field in which



members of her sex have rarely excelled. It is of bronze and will weigh about 1,200 pounds. The granite base upon which it is to stand is eight feet square at the base and weighs fourteen tons.

Leif was son of Eric the Red, one of the Norse sea kings who flourished in the end of the tenth and the beginning of the eleventh century. Fired by the report brought by one of Eric's followers that in seeking for Greenland a great land further to the west had been seen, Leif set sail for the new continent in the year 1000, and landed somewhere in the neighborhood of the island subsequently known as Nantucket. A brother and a sister of the venturesome Norseman followed him in independent voyages several years later, and with their retainers explored the coast of the mainland for several hundred miles, becoming familiar with parts of Rhode Island, Connecticut, Long Island, and New York. These voyages are now as well authenticated as those of Columbus, which they preceded by nearly five hundred years.

The fact that they resulted in no permanent settlement at the time is the reason why they have failed to occupy a place in history as prominent as that secured by the later discoverers of America.

Now, however, that the children of the old Norsemen are flocking to this country to establish themselves, and that the study of Norse literature is coming to be considered of account in the universities, the fame of Leif is likely to grow wider from year to year.

SILVER was first coined by Phidias, King of Argos, about 860 B. C., the epoch of the building of Carthage, and 140 years after the building of Solomon's Temple.

GEORGE ENGEL.

THEY DON'T WANT MERCY.

Fischer, Lingg, and Engel Write Letters to the Governor of Illinois.

COOK COUNTY JAIL, CHICAGO, Nov. 1, 1887.
To Mr. R. J. Oglesby, Governor of the State of Illinois:

DEAR SIR—I am aware that petitions are being circulated and signed by the general public asking you to commute the sentence of death which was inflicted upon me by a Criminal Court of this State. Against this action of a sympathizing and well-meaning portion of the people I solemnly declare that it has not my sanction. As a man of honor, as a man of conscience, and as a man of principle, I cannot accept mercy, and I do not desire the imputation of being a murderer, and cannot apologize for an action of which I know I am innocent. And should I ask "mercy" on account of my principles, which I honestly believe to be true and noble? Not I am no hypocrite, and have, therefore, no excuses to offer with regard to being an Anarchist, because the experiences of the last eighteen months have only strengthened my convictions. The question is, Am I responsible for the death of the condemned? I am not, and I do not desire to be held responsible for the deeds of John Brown. Therefore, I could not ask or accept "mercy" without lowering myself in my self-estimation. If I cannot obtain justice from the authorities and be restored to my family, then I prefer that the verdict should be carried out as it stands.

Every informed person must, I should think, admit that this verdict is solely due to class prejudice, and inflaming of public opinion by the malicious and unscrupulous, and a desire on the part of the privileged classes to check the progressive labor movement. The interested parties, of course, deny this, but it is nevertheless true, and I am sure that coming ages will look upon our trial, conviction, and execution as the barbarities of past generations—as the outcome of intolerance and prejudice against advanced ideas. History repeats itself. As the powers that be have at all times thought that they could stem the progressive tide by hanging a few leaders, so do they now hang classes to-day fearing that they can put a stop to the movement of labor emancipation by hanging a few of its advocates. Progress in its victorious march has had to overcome many obstacles which seemed invincible, and many of its apostles have died the death of martyrs. The obstacles which bar the road of progress to-day seem to be invincible, too; but they will be overcome, nevertheless. At all times when the condition of society had become such that a large portion of the people complained of the existing injustice, the ruling classes denied the truth of these complaints, but have said that the discontent of the portion of the people in question was due only to the "pernicious influence" of "malicious agitators." To-day again some people assert that the "d—d agitators" are the cause of the immense dissatisfaction among the working people! O, you people who speak thus, can you not or will you not read the signs of the times? Do you not see that the conduct of the people is becoming more and more thickening? Are you not for instance aware that the control of industry and of the means of transportation, etc., is constantly concentrating in fewer hands; that the monopolists, i. e., the sharks among the capitalists—swallow the little ones among them; that "trusts," "loots," and other combinations are being formed in order to more thoroughly and systematically fleece the people; that under the present system the development of technic and machinery is from year to year throwing more workingmen out of employment; that the great and fertile land a majority of the farmers are obliged to mortgage their homes in order to satisfy the greed of monstrous corporations; that, in short, the rich are constantly growing richer and the poor poorer? Yes?

And do you not comprehend that all these evils find their origin in the present institution of society which allows one portion of the human race to build fortunes upon the misfortunes of others; to enslave their fellowmen? Instead of trying to remedy these evils, and instead of ascertaining just what the cause of the widening dissatisfaction is, the ruling classes, through their mouthpieces, the press, pulpit, etc., defame and misrepresent the character, teachings, and motives of the advocates of the working-class, and, through the influence of their clubs on them, and, if opportunity is favorable, send them to the gallows and prisons. Will this do any good? As an answer I may as well quote the following words with which Benjamin Franklin closed his satirical essay, "Rules for Reducing a Great Empire to a Small one," which he dedicated to the English Government in 1776: "Suppose all their 'kickers' complaints to be invented and promoted by a few rascals demagogues, whom you can catch and hang all would be quiet. Catch and hang a few, and you will see the blood of the martyrs shall work miracles in favor of your purpose—i. e., your own ruin."

So, I say, society may hang a number of disciples of progress who have disinterestedly served the cause of the sons of toil, which is the cause of humanity, but their blood will work miracles in bringing about the downfall of modern society and in hastening the birth of a new era of civilization. *Magna est veritas, et advenit!*

ADOLPH FISCHER.

To Mr. R. J. Oglesby, Governor of the State of Illinois: Against the fact that the progressive and liberty-loving portion of the American people are endeavoring to prevail upon you to interpose your prerogative in my case, I feel impelled to declare with my friend and comrade, Leif Ericson, that demand either liberty or death. If you are really a servant of the people according to the Constitution of the country, then you will, by virtue of your office, unconditionally release me.

Referring to the general and inalienable rights of men, I have called upon the disinherited and oppressed masses to oppose the force of their oppressors—exercised by armed enforcement of infamous laws enacted in the interest of capital—with force in order to attain a dignified and manly existence by securing the full return of their rights. This—and this is the "crime" which was proven against me notwithstanding the employment of perjured testimony on the part of the State. And this crime is guaranteed not only as a right but as a duty by the American Constitution, the representatives of which you are supposed to be in the State of Illinois. But if you are not the representatives of the Constitution, but like the great majority of office-holders, a mere tool of the monopolists or a specific political clique, you will not encroach upon me, the thief for blood, and hang all who are guilty of the same offense. The ruling classes which you represent are themselves abashed at the monstrousity of my condemnation, and, consequently, of their own violation of the most sacred rights of man.

Your decision in that event will not only judge me, but also yourself and those whom you represent. Judge then! LOUIS LINGG.

Dear Sir: I, George Engel, citizen of the United States and of Chicago, and condemned to death, respectfully request that you, the highest executive officer of the State of Illinois, to commute my sentence from death to imprisonment. I protest emphatically against this on the following grounds:

I am not aware of having violated any laws of this country. In my firm belief in the Constitution which the founders of this Republic bequeathed to this people, and which remains unaltered, I have exercised the right of free speech, free press, free thought, and free assembly, as guaranteed by the Constitution, and have written and recited in the existing condition of society, and accorded my fellow-citizens with my advice, which I regard as the right of every honest citizen. The experience which I have had in this country, during the fifteen years that I have lived here, concerning the ballot and administration of our public functionaries who have become totally corrupt, has eradicated my belief in the existence of equal rights of poor and rich, and the action of the public officers, police and militia, have produced the firm belief in me that these conditions cannot last long. In accordance with this experience I have taught and advised: "Those who are guaranteed by the Constitution, and not being conscious of my guilt, the 'powers that be' may murder me, but they cannot legally punish me. I protest against a commutation of my sentence, and demand either liberty or death. I renounce any kind of mercy. Respectfully,

GEORGE ENGEL.

TOMMY ON AUTUMN.

Y ANNA CERES FRITSCH.

Hi is Thee third season of thee year. It has 2 mains, faul And ughtum, punkins And Winter squashes Is ripe in ughtum and is redditi to be hauld. Punkins is fed ti the Cows moastli, but Squashes is cookd fur thea family tu Ete. Sum of them is giv awa to the nabers whats bin too lazy tu rase there own. Thea que member Bugg rases Hob with the squash vines, and it goes for melleens and things when it gets a chance. There is Lots of kinds of buggs in natcherel histri. They is driftrn shap and koller naimli: Thea potater Bugg, thee Joon bug, The chinch bugg, thea inch bugg, the Litening Bugg, Thee dride beefe bugg. There is a hull drove of Bugs besides, but i kant Think of thare names, just now. In aughtum squirrels is fat and maik good Pott Pi mi Bruther joshway shot 8 thea uthur Da, mi Pa set Him to plowing and he sneaked off And Wente hunting. Pa Felt riled Up and promist Him a thrashing, but Hee never Got it, caus ma took joshes part and sed so Mutch, that pa Let Him go. Wimmin is poore Hands tu rase A family of Boys, in the aughtum the skoole Dereckters Hire a man techer for our skool, in the summer we allwaiz have a Ladi Teecher; cause its cheaper, but it Taiks a stout feller tu teach thea winter skule; caus all the Big boys then, a skulemon cuudt Handel them. Skule Teachers expectt tu git Licked about speling, Reeding, Ritefay, mi Pap ses, He donte See no yoose in a Boys studding grammer; It aint No benifit tu Him in Reel life. I like jograf Best, a oshun Is a boddi of Watur surrounded By Land, a eyland is a boddi of land surrounded By watur.

Ships sala On the oshun. When Fokes aint yosoed tu Riding in a bote, it moastli allwaiz maikes them sick tu Thare stumicks. Seesickness is worse than Luvsicks, i Hurd mi sister her Intamist jung Ladi frend so.

TOMMI.

James Beauregard Goode.

James Beauregard Goode, the humorous contemporary Southern poet and writer, is the son of M. W. Goode, long and favorably known in Mississippi before the war. He was born July 21, 1861, was educated in Upshur



County, Texas, and was married to Miss Lucinda J. Sanders Jan. 1, 1882.

She died April 7, 1883, and he became a morose and silent man. In January, 18