

Cricket.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE GAME.

Under the title "Cricketers," Mr. Robert Macgregor has an article in this month's *Belgravia*, in which he deals with the history of cricket in England. Mr. Macgregor says: In the infancy of cricket there were no stumps at all; instead of wickets the early players put in the turf two circular holes, and the batsman was put out in running, not as now, by putting down a wicket, but by the ball being popped into this hole (whence "popping crease," says Mr. Pycroft) before the point of the bat was grounded in it. It is most probable that originally the single stump was placed at the hole to point it out to the bowler and fielders very much as the "flag" used for this purpose at the holes in golf. In process of time the frequent disputes as to whether bat or ball reached this hole first, as well as injuries received in the unseemly tussles, would naturally suggest that the beacons stump should be made more useful, and that the runner should be out if this were displaced as well as by holeing the ball. It is uncertain when the second stump was added, but it was a very obvious step from a single stump to one on each side of the old block-hole. In 1700 we find Mr. Gale's "skeleton hurdle" only a foot high, though two feet wide. There was no middle stump till a match of the Hambledon Club in 1775, it was observed that at a critical part of the game the ball went three times between the stumps without knocking off the ball; then a third stump was added, and by degrees inches were added to the dimensions of the wicket, till, in 1817, it attained to the size at which it has ever since remained. In 1797 the Earl of Winchestef, a good cricketer and great supporter of the game, attempted to introduce a fourth stump, that "the game might be thus rendered shorter by easier bowling out," but nothing came of this except on one memorable occasion, when, in July, 1837, Mr. Ward proposed, as a method of equalizing the gentlemen and players, that the former should defend wickets of 27 by 8 inches, the latter four stumps 36 by 12. This was called the "Barn-door Match," or "Ward's Folly," and notwithstanding the great odds against them, the players won in a single innings by ten runs. Undoubtedly the greatest and most pregnant innovation in cricket was the introduction of round-arm bowling. The credit for its invention appears to be due to Tom Walker, a professional of the old Hambledon Club; but his throwing was pronounced unfair and was suppressed and forgotten, till, about a quarter of a century afterwards, it was again introduced by Mr. John Willes, a Kentish amateur, who, it was said, learned the delivery from his sister, who used to throw the ball at him in practice. Mr. Willes' bowling figured in one or two great matches, notably in one on July 20th, 1807. Thirteen of All England against twenty-three of Kent, for a thousand guineas, on Penenden Heath. Kent won by 162 runs, and Willes' bowling greatly helped to bring this about. As with Tom Walker, so with Mr. Willes. He and his bowling "were frequently barred in making a match," says Mr. Pycroft, "and he played sometimes amid much uproar and confusion. Still he would persevere till the ring closed in on the players, the stumps were lawlessly pulled up, and all came to a standstill." It was not till Mr. Knight, of Alton, espoused the cause of round-arm bowling in 1825 that it became a permanent institution, after much controversy though, and no little ridicule of the "throwing" style. Hampshire was clearly the first county to study cricket as

a science. The first cricket club in England was the famous Hambledon, which played on Broad Halfpenny and Windmill downs, near Hambledon. This club appears to have been founded about the beginning of last century; the heyday of its prosperity was in the latter part of the century, when it had on its books most of the principal players of the kingdom, and could play and beat All England. It practically broke up in 1791, though it was kept up in name till 1825. In London the earliest cricket fields were the Artillery Ground at Finsbury and the White Conduit Fields. A club was formed of the players on this latter field, and from among its members in 1787 was established the Marylebone Club, which at an early period seems to have set itself to discuss and formulate the laws of the game.

CRICKET NOTES.

One of the smallest county professional innings ever made was that of Surrey, when playing Notts at the Oval, London, Eng., on July 27 and 28. Seven failed to score, one made 1, another made 2, a third 3, and the top score was 9, which, with a leg bye, made the grand total of 16.

The Juniors of Peterboro' and Cobourg played at Cobourg on Monday, and Cobourg won by 116 on the first innings.

Brampton defeated Guelph by six wickets at Brampton on Monday.

Cobourg v. Toronto, set for Friday of this week, has been declared off.

Belleville will entertain the Onondago Cricket Club of Syracuse, N.Y., next week.

Arrangements are being made for the visit of a Canadian team to Philadelphia to play an International match. The date is not yet fixed, but it will probably be about the 11th of September. It is to be hoped that the best team possible will be selected.

St. Mary's beat New Hamburg by 99 runs on the first innings last Saturday.

Ottawa lost the match with Kingston, played at Ottawa on Monday, by 5 runs. Score, 86 to 81.

Picton visited Belleville on Aug. 6, and the game was drawn. Belleville, 122; Pecton, 95, for eight wickets.

The Gananoque cricketers went to Kingston on August 4, and came home beaten by an innings and 90 runs.

Wingham visited London on August 5, and played the Asylum Club. Scores were small, Asylum 89 and 64; Wingham 63 and 42 for six wickets.

Cobourg played Port Hope at Cobourg on Thursday last, and Port Hope won by an innings and 98 runs. Logan made 73 off the bat, and played the deuce with the Cobourg balls.

The Longwood Club of Boston play the Toronto C. C. on the Toronto Cricket Ground to-day and to-morrow.

East versus West will be played on the Toronto Cricket Ground August 30th and 21st. Mr. Swinyard will captain the East, and Mr. Townsend the West.

Nelson C. C. of Toronto, and the Stars of Parkdale played a draw on Saturday.

The Victoria Club got a well deserved licking on Saturday from the Bank team. The financiers turned up with nine men, and although Victoria had Behan, Howard and Campbell as aids, they declined to let the Bankers put on a couple of outsiders. Result, Bankers 71; Victoria 58. Verdict, served them right.

Toronto v. Grimsby was drawn last Friday with the score as follows: Toronto 71 and 105, Grimsby 84 on the first innings.

Milton played a good game when they went to Barrie on the 3rd, scoring 110 and 86, to 59 in the first innings for Barrie.

At Sarnia on the 3rd, the home club defeated Windsor by 49 runs.

Elora defeated Arthur by ten wickets at Elora last Wednesday. Score: 30 and 80, to 64 and 7, without losing a wicket.

The St. Thomas cricketers wanted Messrs. C. S. Hyman and J. S. Gillean, of London, to play cricket with them against Detroit, but both had previous engagements.

The Australian cricketers, who are now visiting England, will return to the Antipodes in September via the United States, and on their way between New York and San Francisco will play four or five matches. Already Mr. Alexander, the manager of the team, has communicated with Mr. Moran, acting secretary of the St. George's Club, and suggested September 13 and 14 as the dates for the matches to be played in New York.

Whitby and Newmarket played an Association Cup match at Toronto on Aug. 3, and Whitby won by 114 runs.

Millbrook defeated Omamee by 118 runs at Millbrook on August 3.

Cobourg is out on a tour. Yesterday (Tuesday) they were to play Whitby at Whitby, Barrie at Toronto on the 11th, Guelph or Toronto Lacrosse on the 12th, and Toronto Cricket Club on the 13th.

Base Ball.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

Between three and four hundred people assembled on Tuesday of last week on the base ball grounds of the Maple Leafs, of Guelph, to witness the game between the Mutuals of Galt and the Maple Leafs for the amateur championship of Canada. The playing of the Maple Leafs was rather loose. For the first five innings it looked as if the Galt men were going to be芝加哥ed, but in the sixth innings Cushman opened the ball and scored a run for Galt. In the next two innings Galt was blanked, but in the ninth innings they went to the bat and pounded Dyson for eight runs before three men were retired. Barbour made a fine catch at left field, for which he had to run close up to third base. McFeiggan played a good short stop and made a fine line catch with one hand. Wagner pitched well. The playing of Guelph was not up to their usual standard. Mr. W. W. Jeffers, of the Toronto Clippers, umpired the game in his usual satisfactory manner. Following is the score:

MAPLE LEAF.				MUTUALS.			
	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.
Dyson, p.....	1	10	0	Cushman, 1b..	2	6	0
Hunter, c....	1	8	0	Smith, 2b....	1	2	2
Blockers, 3b..	1	0	0	McFeiggan, ss	2	2	0
Head, 1b.....	1	11	0	Potter, 3b....	1	2	0
Maddock, 2b..	1	5	4	Wagner, p....	0	2	2
J. Haver, s s..	2	0	1	Cochrane, r f.	0	0	0
Tyson, r f....	2	0	1	Blake, c f....	1	0	0
Smith, c f....	2	1	1	Barber, 1 f..	1	3	0
E. Haver, 1 f.	0	1	0	Sangster, c...	1	9	4

Totals.....11 27 20 8 Totals..... 9 27 15 11
Maple Leaf..... 1 0 2 3 0 1 0 3 1—11
Mutuals..... 0 6 0 0 0 1 0 0 8—9

Total base hits, Leafs 11, Mutuals 8.
Struck out off Dyson, 6; Wagner, 8.
Balls on Dyson, 91; Wagner, 118.
Strikes off Dyson, 50; Wagner, 60.
Left on base, Guelph 11, Galt 5.
Passed balls, Hunter 1, Sangster r 6.
Time of game, 2h. 30 min.
Umpire, W. W. Jeffers; Scorer, J. Henry.

DIAMOND SPARKS.

The Athletics, of Guelph, played a picked nine of the Agricultural College Boys on Saturday. The playing of the Athletics was too much for the Students, the score at the end of the game standing 24 to 2 in favor of the Athletics.

To-morrow being Guelph's Civic Holiday, the Actives of Woodstock play the Leafs for the championship. As the Actives have recently defeated the Harriston Browns, one of the strongest teams in the Association, a good game may be expected.

On Monday next the Maple Leafs, of Guelph, will visit Toronto, and play the Clippers on the Cricket Ground. As the Clippers have made some changes which greatly add to their strength, a good game may be looked for.

There is some talk about London starting a Club for next year.