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The S. S. ROSALIND will sail from St. John's at one o'clock sharp on Saturday, September 4th.
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Passports are not necessary for British subjects or United States citizens for either Halifax or New York.
No freight will be received after 11 a.m. Saturday.
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The Origin of Cricket.

(John o'London's Weekly.)

The beginnings of our premier English summer game appear to be "wropt in mystery." But there is plenty of evidence that it is an old national pastime. It can be traced back under its present name to the seventeenth century, though cricket as we know it was not played until the eighteenth century. In a rudimentary form, something like the game existed in the fourteenth century.

The Crooked Bat.

There is an MS. in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, dated 1344, which shows a figure, a female, in the act of bowling a ball (modern cricket-ball size) to a man who raises a straight bat to strike it. Behind the bowler are several figures waiting. In attitudes grossly eager, for a "chance." The game is called club-ball, but the score is made by hitting and running, as in cricket, for in a later MS. the writer refers to a similar game, and remarks that the club-bearers change places if the bat (a piece of wood 4 in. long and 1 in. in diameter) be struck, and each change of place counts one to the score like club-ball.

In old engravings the bat is represented as crooked, and as the Saxon word for a crooked stick was "crice" we may fairly assume that the game got its name in this way. This crooked weapon of defence was probably borrowed from a game known as "bandy," when wickets were introduced in place of a block-hole (1 ft. in diameter, 7 in. deep), which could be guarded with a club.

A Chaplain's Diary.

Coming to a much later period, very definite and in some instances interesting references to cricket by its modern name are to be observed. One of the earliest is from the "Diary of Henry Teonge," chaplain on board His Majesty Charles II.'s ships Assistance, Bristol, and Royal Oak, A.D. 1675-1679:—

This morning early (6th May, 1676), as is the custom all the summer long, at least of the English, with his Worship the Consul, rode out of the city (Antioch) about four miles, to a fine valley by a river side, to recreate themselves. There a princely tent was pitched, and we had several pastimes and sports, as duck-hunting, fishing, shooting, hand-ball, and cricket, and then a noble dinner brought thither, with great plenty of all sorts of wines, punch and lemonade; and at 6 we all returned home in good order, but soundly tired and weary.

There is a reference to cricket in a remarkable book written by a nephew of John Milton in 1688. The title of the book is remarkable, at least: "Mysteries of Love and Eloquence, or the Art of Wooing and Complimenting, the Treatments of Ladies at Balls, Sports, Drolls, the Witchcrafts of their Persuasive Languages, etc." But cricket is only mentioned in a casual way in the sentence, "Would my eyes had been beaten out of my head with a cricket-ball the day before I saw thee."

In 1710 a gentleman named Thomas D'Urvey wrote a book called "Pills to Purge Melancholy," in which occur the lines:—

Herr was the prettiest fellow,
At football and at cricket;
At hunting chase or nimble race
How feisty Herr could prick it.
And about the same period more familiar writers glanced at the name. Pope in the lines:—

The Judge to dance, his brother
Sergeants' call,
The Senators at cricket urge the ball.
Whereas Duncombe, laying the scene of a match, be it noted, near Canterbury, exclaims:—

An ill-timed cricket match there did
At Bilshobourne befall.

The reference of Jenyns, another poet of the period, suggests that the game then stood among the least respectable class of sports.

England when once of peace and wealth possessed,
Began to think frugality a jest;
So grew polite: hence all her well-bred heirs
Gamblers and jockeys turned, and cricket players.

Dean Swift, in 1712, in his essay on "John Bull," has a lively passage, in which he describes this typical Englishman as pursuing his way despite



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many impediments, dropping some of his acquaintances, knitting his brows, putting on a serious air, and making considerable progress in politics, considering that he had been kept in the dark. "However," he concludes, "he could not help discovering some remains of his nature when he happened to meet with a football or at a match at cricket." Neither Swift nor Pope ever saw real cricket played.

Keat v. All England.

It may seem a little strange to those who have heard or read within recent years pronouncements on the modern craze for gambling and amusements to read the following of 170 years ago:—

An action in the Court of the King's Bench to recover two bets of £25 each, laid on a match of cricket played by Keat against All England, was brought in the year 1748. The question raised was whether cricket was a game within the meaning of the words of the statute, "or any other game or games whatever," by the 9th of Anne. The court held that cricket was a game, and a very manly game too, not bad in itself, but only in the ill use made of it by betting more than £10 on it; but that was bad, and against the law.

The evidence as to the respectability of the game seems a little mixed. Robert Southey remarking that the game of cricket "was not deemed a game for gentlemen" in the middle of the previous century. And yet, indeed, another writer tells us—and who can doubt the respectability of a game countenanced by dukes?—"Dukes at Marybone bowled time away, and ladies sat and watched them."

The game of cricket may surely claim to be both "ancient" and "honourable." Ancient we have shown it to be, and, despite a dissenting testimony here and there, invariably held in high favour by the noblest of our race.

When you feel so "blue" that even the sky looks yellow, you need BEECHAM'S PILLS

A sluggish liver and poorly acting kidneys fail to destroy food poisons, which affect the mind as well as the body.
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Nye Was 'Way Off.

How Humourists Were "Stang" in Business Ventures.

Among the many comical stories told of James Whitcomb Riley's experiences with Nye was the history of a book called "Nye and Riley's Railway Guide," which gave them a broad personal and legal experience with publishers. From their first tour in 1886 their fancy ran riot with the idea of a comic railway guide for just such poor, ill-fated travelers as they themselves proved to be, for the man, as they wrote in the introduction, "who erroneously gets into a car which is sidetracked and swept out and scrubbed by people who take in cars to scrub and laundry."

"Nye and I," Riley used to say, "thought a little book made from our readings might perhaps stanch a long-felt public want. In fact, we grew enthusiastic as our eyes swept the prospect. Nye, indeed, thought there was money in it. I remember that, in his optimism, he wrote: 'Let us make some money, by gosh, and put it in our inside pocket. It feels bully.' Riley always chuckled reminiscently at this point in the story.

"Well, we went to Chicago to look for a publisher, and there we found one Ketchum & Skinnem who had a sign on the door, 'Drop MSS. Here.' We dropped ours and went away feeling pretty good."
Riley then told of a long wait, during which they wondered whether the manuscript would be accepted; then how glad they were to find the book on sale at the news stands, and finally how they paid a visit to the publishers to inquire timidly into the matter of royalties. The door was locked. Some months later, in response to their letters, came an invitation to a banquet given by the publishers in their honor. Hopefully they presented themselves. "As we fed into dinner Nye whispered to me, 'Think they'll hand us checks with the cigars?' Well, when the cigars were passed at length the publisher at the head of the table pushed back his chair, put his finger tips on the cloth, beamed on us, and said:

"Gentlemen and publishers, we have met to do honor to our two illustrious humorists to-night in an unusual way. We appreciate their humor, especially that which has made our book so successful. And in token of our appreciation we now present to them one hundred shares apiece in our great company. Ahem—I believe that is all."

"It was all, Nye and I hoped at first for the best, but neither of us secretly could find any market for our shares and the company never paid any dividends before it went out of business."—Harper's Magazine.

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The Kaiserin's Baggage.

The Kaiserin seems to have been more fortunate than some queens in the matter of luggage in her flight to Holland, since her luggage, though described as rather shabby, was ap-

pears to have been badly provided. When Charles X and his entourage were turned out of France one who went down to see them remarked that they had nothing in the way of "furnishings," though they had money. Louis Philippe and his queen crossed the channel as Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

were ill-provided, and there is the case of the ex-Empress Eugenie, whose message to a friend when she reached England was "Come to me; I have nothing—not even a handkerchief!"

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