

Golf Prospects.

A year ago it was reported that another season would reveal a decay of the interest taken in golf on this side of the ocean, and that the sure sign of the decay would be the absence of any new clubs and a halt in the progress of the clubs formed last year or the year before. There is no question, it seems, that the report found ready belief among even some of the closest observers of the game.

We are glad to say, for the sake of this hardy and healthy sport, that the latest facts gainsay this report most emphatically. In the first place, from New York to Florida golf was played steadily throughout the winter. There is nothing more helpful than sustained enthusiasm, particularly in new organizations, and, consequently, the beginning of spring finds the '98 and the '97 clubs strong and prosperous as ever, and with prospects that become fairer every day. This is equally true of the west and the east. It is especially noticeable in the changes of the courses. Clubs that, when they were formed, made a nine-hole course enough to serve their ardor, now, in most instances, use a course twice as long. Besides, the club-houses are becoming more and more substantial, and, with few exceptions, they have all been made suitable for the scene of championship tournaments. Nor is it to be overlooked that the Scotch professionals, who talk and act with a manner of importance passed down from father to son for many generations, are increasing in number.

Now these are only the signs that appear at the private links. So far as the public or semi-public links are concerned, golf is moving along with wide and rapid strides, and evidently the sport in the suburban parks of the big cities this season will be lively beyond all precedent.

All in all, golf promises to surpass here this summer the dreams of even its most fervid lovers, that is to say, it will reach a greater height of popularity than it has reached since its ancient foundation.—*Boston Journal.*

A Pleasant Gathering.

Last Friday evening the parlors and dining room at the "Berkshire" were the scene of a very pleasant gathering, when Dr. Hersey, whose birthday was so elaborately celebrated on St. Patrick's Day, gave a musicale to the guests there. The Holly Inn orchestra furnished music, Miss Bates gave a piano solo and Mr. Ellis of the orchestra gave several vocal solos. The festivities ended with a dance in the dining room. During the evening ice cream and cake were served, and the occasion proved very enjoyable for all present.

President Meserve Lectures.

President Meserve, of Shaw University of Raleigh, gave an interesting talk on "The Present Aspects of the Negro Problem" to a small but very attentive audience in the Village Hall last Wednesday evening. His hearers were mostly Northern people and were anxious to hear the subject discussed by a man so well qualified as President Meserve. A collection amounting to more than \$30.00 was taken for the use of the university.

PINEHURST ODE.



(Tune "The Old North State.")

Hail to Pinehurst! Favored Pinehurst! Where we find cheer and comfort!

Such a welcome as thine quickens life and gives health. Like the balm of the ancients are thine air and thy sunshine, Gifts that cannot be purchased, though countless the wealth.

REFRAIN.

Hurrah! Hurrah! Then three times three for Pinehurst! Hurrah! Hurrah! For Pinehurst our host!

When old Winter holds sway, in the home which we cherish, And the North-land is fast in the Ice-King's tight grip, But for thee and thy solvent, our hope e'en would perish, And despair from our life all its pleasure would strip.

REFRAIN.

To no fountain of youth, (still a snare and delusion) Are we led by the offer of health thou dost give; But to realms ever peaceful, far from noise and confusion, And to scenes bright and cheery, that command us to live.

REFRAIN.

Hail to Pinehurst! Favored Pinehurst! At thy hearth sits Hygeia, Fabled goddess of old, scattering health all around; As in days which are gone, so in time's largest future, May thy blessings continue and ever abound!

Dr. Hale Educational Fund.

Last Wednesday two more students were sent to Raeford academy by the managers of the Dr. Hale Educational Fund and there are now three young people receiving the benefits of that school by aid of this fund. Mrs. L. W. L. Goff of Bridgeport, Conn., who is spending the season here, has contributed enough for the support and tuition of one child (little Lena Bunnell) and no doubt will be interested in her future welfare.

Efforts will be made during the summer to provide industrial training for the students and improve the school in every way possible.

Stingy, Well Rather.

The stingiest woman in the state has been discovered in a small town in the eastern part of Maine, if the story told by a drummer at the West End hotel the other night can be relied upon. He said a woman storekeeper in weighing a dime's worth of crackers observed that the scales were slightly overbalanced. She removed one cracker, and then the scales overbalanced.

The customer was already worked up to a pitch of amazement; but when the woman placed the cracker she had taken

from the scales between her teeth and bit off the corner and placed the remainder on the scales, he nearly dropped dead. The scales balanced exactly after the piece had been bitten from the troublesome cracker, and of course the stingy storekeeper was satisfied. The above story is a fact, and can be vouched for by the person who purchased the crackers, said the traveling man.—*Portland Courier.*

Reed's Opinion of It.

At a dinner party at which Speaker Reed and Ambassador Choate were present the latter spoke of his share in drawing up the new Constitution of New York. He said that it was a noble document, and in no part was he so much interested as in that which prohibited the members of the New York Assembly from accepting passes from railroads. In conclusion he said: "I am happy to say that never in my life did I ride on a railroad pass." One of the members of the dinner party looked at Choate with hearty admiration, and said: "Well, I wish I could say that." Speaker Reed looked at the speaker in his whimsical way for a moment, and then solemnly said: "Well, why don't you? Choate did."—*Ex.*

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