

CENTENNIAL
HISTORY OF CINCINNATI

AND

REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS

BY

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"History is Philosophy Teaching by Examples."

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actually built it was 103 feet in the clear at a medium temperature of 60 degrees, rising one foot in extreme cold and sinking one foot in extreme heat. The bridge was 36 feet wide with two ways for pedestrians, two carriage ways and a double track for street railroads. The cables contained 10,400 wires weighing nearly two million pounds. The total length of the bridge was 2,252 feet, of which 1,057 feet occupied the center span. The towers about 230 feet high were higher and contained more stone than the Bunker Hill Monument. The total cost of the bridge was \$1,800,000. At the time of its completion, this structure had the largest single span of its class in the world and it was said by James Parton that the whole population of Cincinnati could get on it without danger of being let down into the water. It has since been rebuilt and considerably strengthened. Since the completion of this bridge, four others have been built connecting Cincinnati with the Kentucky shore,—that of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, the so-called Central Bridge connecting the city with Newport, the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Bridge terminating in Covington and the Cincinnati Southern Railway Bridge connecting the city with Ludlow, Kentucky. Within a space of about two miles and a half five bridges serve to accommodate the large population living and traveling to the South.

THE INVINCIBLE "RED STOCKINGS."

During the years 1867 and 1868 began the interest in the newly introduced sport,—baseball. The first game of baseball in Cincinnati is said to have been umpired by Dr. John Draper and during the years 1866 to 1870 he probably umpired more games than any man in the West. He was a delegate to the National Association of Base Ball Players at the annual convention held at New York in 1866. In 1867 he organized what was known as the "Cincinnati Juniors." This club was made up of boys ranging from 15 to 20 years, who wore the same uniform as the Cincinnati Base Ball Club and played on its grounds. Among the first players of this club were George Chenowith, William H. Stewart, John V. Ellard, Charles Dean, Oscar Rammlersberg, E. W. Walker, Samuel Kemper, George Draper (familiarily known as "Scoop" from the way in which he fielded the ball), Julius Hargrave, John Griffith, Charles A. Marsh, Edward Bradford and Smiley Walker. In 1868 the regular nine of the "Cincinnati Jun-

iors" was composed as follows: George W. Draper, short-stop and captain; Edward Dunlap, first base; Miller Outcalt, second base; Frank Dunlap, third base; James Shannon, pitcher; Southey Holmes, catcher; Joseph Blair, left field; Ed. Marsh, center field, and Ollie McGrew, right field. This club played for three years with great success. During the year 1869 they did not lose a game. Harry Ellard (from whose article in the *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune* of October 26, 1902, this account is taken) says that our well known citizen, Judge Miller Outcalt, "played as pretty a game at second base as McPhee ever did." There was a "first" nine of Juniors which did not have so long a career as this, technically the "second" nine.

The Ohio Federation of the National Association was organized September 25, 1867, with Aaron G. Champion as president. Fourteen clubs from Cincinnati were represented in the convention. During the winter of 1867-68, the grounds of the Cincinnati Base Ball Club were flooded for skating purposes and here was played the first game of baseball on skates. Just previous to this the first regularly organized nine of the Cincinnati Club was formed with Harry Wright as pitcher; Douglas Allison, catcher; Charles H. Gould, first base; Asa Brainard, second base; Fred Waterman, third base; John C. How, short-stop; J. V. B. Hatfield, left field; Rufus King, center field, and J. William Johnson, now the well known attorney, right field. The uniform of the club was decided upon at a meeting held at Mr. Champion's office from a design submitted by George B. Ellard. The red stockings adopted at that time have ever since been characteristic of the Cincinnati Base Ball Club. In 1868 the *New York Clipper* offered nine gold medals to be given to the players making the best averages in their positions. Three of these came to Cincinnati,—to Harry Wright, Fred Waterman and J. William Johnson. Mr. Johnson was the best right fielder of his time and the swiftest runner on bases. He circled the bases in 14½ seconds. It is said that he was never put out on base and on a number of occasions stole home from third base. He also played infield positions with great success.

In 1868 this team composed partly of professionals and partly of amateurs played many exciting games; one of the closest of these was that with the "Unions" of Morrisania, New Jersey, which the Cincinnati team won by a score of 13 to 12. The baseball grounds were just in back of Lincoln Park, having been moved

from the foot of Richmond street which was not so convenient to the horse cars. A large octagonal building designed by James McLaughlin was erected at the cost of \$2,350. Another game was that with the "Hickory" club of Morgan County. This club was supposed to be a very strong one and it was thought that the contest would be bitter. The score was 59 to 16. The large score is explained by the fact that the ball known as the Ross ball contained two and one-half ounces of rubber and that curved pitching had not been heard of.

An event of this summer was the game of raquette played on the ball grounds by a club of Northwestern Indians especially imported for the occasion.

During the year 1868 the Cincinnatians played 24 games of which they lost but three.

An organization that made the name of Cincinnati known throughout the country was the famous "Red Stocking Base Ball Team" of 1869, whose career of victories has never been equaled in the history of that or any other athletic sport. Previous to this time, the game of baseball had almost been entirely given up to amateurs. In fact our modern national game at that time had a hard struggle to supplant the imported game of cricket. At a meeting held in the fall of 1868 in the law office of Tilden, Sherman & Moulton, the Cincinnati Base Ball Club was put upon a professional basis. George B. Ellard and Alfred T. Goshorn were appointed a committee to secure the services of Harry and George Wright for the coming year. Other well known professional players were also engaged and as a result the baseball team which began the season of 1869 was the first regular professional nine in the United States. The officers of the club were Aaron B. Champion, president; Thomas G. Smith, vice-president, and John P. Joyce, secretary and treasurer. Harry Wright was the captain and played center field. His brother George was short-stop, Asa Brainard was pitcher, Douglas Allison, catcher. The bases were filled by Charles H. Gould, Charles Sweasy and Fred Waterman. Calvin McVey played right field and Andrew J. Leonard, left field. The substitute was Dick Hurley and scorer, Oak Taylor. Of this team but two,—Gould and Waterman,—were residents of Cincinnati.

The team started on an Eastern trip on Monday, May 31, 1869, after having played several practice games in this city. It was accompanied by a special correspondent of the local *Commer-*

cial newspaper, Harry M. Miller, who also at times acted as scorer. Its first regular game was at Yellow Springs, where it defeated the Antioch Club nine by a score of 41 to 7. Games followed at Mansfield, Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, Lansingburg, Boston, New Haven and Brooklyn, in all of which the "Red Stockings" were victorious. The first game of importance and the one looked forward to by all those in the country interested in this sport was that with the "Mutuals" of New York, at that time regarded as one of the strongest nines in the country. This was played in June at the Union grounds in Brooklyn in the presence of over 10,000 people. Neither team had suffered a defeat up to the time of the opening of this game and betting ran very high with odds a little in favor of the "Mutuals." Much feeling was aroused because of the prominence of both clubs and particularly from the fact that on the New York team was playing a former "Red Stocking," Hatfield, who it was thought was familiar with the play of the Cincinnati team to such an extent as to give him a great advantage. The audience too was quite boisterous and determined that the local nine should win. This was in the days of straight pitching and large scores, but so fiercely was the game contested that the score was very small. At the end of the eighth inning it was two to one in favor of Cincinnati and in the ninth inning the New York team made one run and Cincinnati two, making the final score four to two. The news of this victory caused great excitement in Cincinnati. Salutes were fired and a general rejoicing indulged in. The "Red Stockings" proceeded on their way, playing at Philadelphia, Washington, Wheeling and other places and maintaining their unbroken record of victories. This great tour ended by the arrival home of the team on Thursday, July 1st. In an account given in the *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune* of November 3, 1902, by Harry Ellard, we are told that: "The reception given the players was one long to be remembered. They were met by all the members of the club with a band and escorted through the streets, which were decorated on all sides. One firm made a unique design of the letter 'C' of red stockings. Cheer upon cheer went up for the invincible champions, and pandemonium reigned throughout the town. The next day the club played a picked nine for an exhibition game. When the game was completed a wagon drove onto the field with a huge bat, in shape the same as a regular bat, but it was 27

feet long, 19 inches at the butt and 9½ inches at the wrist. On the side was painted 'Champion Bat,' in gilt, while underneath were handsomely inscribed all the names of the players of 1869.

"It was presented by the Cincinnati Lumber Company, and the presentation speech was made by Carter Gazlay, the secretary of the company, in which he stated that 'the Cincinnati Base Ball Club players were recognized as the heaviest batters in the country, and, on that account, it gave him much pleasure to present them with a bat which, although not of regulation size, was not so heavy but that they could easily handle it.' He also said that it was not purchased from Ellard, but was grown to order for the occasion.

"That evening a large banquet was given the visitors at the Gibson House. The hall was profusely decorated with flags, bunting and flowers. At the head of the hall was a large inscription, 'Welcome Home, Red Stockings,' with the names of all the players and the officers of the club underneath. Currier's Zouave Band discoursed music while the sumptuous repast was served. Thomas G. Smith, the vice-president of the club, sat at the head of the table, while on his right was Aaron B. Champion, the president, and on his left John P. Joyce, the secretary and treasurer. Mr. Smith acted as toast-master, and when he arose he said: 'In addition to the fact that the Cincinnati Base Ball Club, is the champion of the United States, it is also Champion's club.' When Champion was called upon for an address he made a neat and appropriate speech, and said: 'Some one asked me to-day whom I would rather be, President Grant or President Champion, of the Cincinnati Base Ball Club; I immediately answered him that I would by far rather be president of the baseball club.' This brought forth loud applause. Murat Halstead responded to the toast, 'The Press.' Alfred T. Goshorn paid a handsome tribute to the players. Judge Cox responded to 'The Judiciary,' in which he said: 'May there always be impartial umpires in this great game of life.' S. S. Davis, a former mayor, made a neat address and last of all Drausin Wulsin covered himself with glory when he arose in response to the toast, 'The Ladies, God Bless Them.' Upon this subject Mr. Wulsin was fully equal to the occasion. Judge E. F. Noyes was also one of the speakers."

Later in the season came several more exciting games. On July 24th the Forest City Club of Rockford, Illinois, of which A. G. Spalding

was pitcher, was defeated by a score of 15 to 14. A game with the "Hay Makers," which occurred on August 26th in this city, almost resulted in a riot. At the end of five innings the score was a tie,—17 to 17. At the opening of the sixth, McVey who was at the bat struck a foul tip and the ball bounded three times. The catcher of the "Hay Makers" grasped a handful of gravel instead of the ball and held it up, claiming that he had caught the strike out. The umpire decided against him, whereupon the visiting team refused to continue the game. A riot almost ensued and it became necessary for the police to interfere. It is supposed that there had been collusion between a number of New York gamblers and the ball players by which the latter had agreed to stop the game on some pretext. The game was awarded by the umpire to the Cincinnati nine.

In September the club made a trip West, playing with the principal nines of the Pacific slope. While in California they also played a game of cricket with the crack eleven of that State, winning by a score of 39 to 18. The home coming of the team from this trip was again made the occasion of rejoicing. In the fall several exciting games were played on the Union grounds back of Lincoln Park, two of which were with the "Athletics" of Philadelphia in which the scores were 55 to 16 and 17 to 12. The last game of the season which made the 60th victory was played on November 5th, with the "Mutuals" of New York. The "Red Stockings" won by a score of 17 to 2. In the evening a banquet was given by Albert G. Corre, proprietor of the Gibson House, to the members of both nines and the officers of both clubs.

Noteworthy events of 1867 in financial circles were the consolidation of the Ohio National Bank with the Merchants' National under the name of the latter, with a capital of \$1,000,000, and the incorporation of one of Cincinnati's greatest institutions,—the Union Central Life Insurance Company. During the year 1868 the Farmers' Insurance Company was incorporated and also the Safe Deposit Company and the Clearing House Association. In this year the well known banking firm of Espy, Heidelberg & Company began its career.

By 1868 the Cincinnati Hospital and the Work House and a great part of the Eggleston avenue sewer had been completed. One of the great thunder storms in the history of this city came on June 18th of this year, in which one house was burned and a number struck by

lightning. On July 9th the Varieties Theatre was once more visited by fire; this on the site of the present Emery Arcade was the first vaudeville theatre of the city. The Widows' Home was burned on November 4th.

THE YEAR OF NEW ENTERPRISES,—1869.

The year 1869 has been regarded as one of the great years in the history of the city. In the first place this was the first great year of annexation, beginning with the addition to the city of Storrs township, Camp Washington and Lick Run, which were followed in a few months by Walnut Hills, Mount Auburn, Clintonville, including Vernonville and the west end of Spencer township. In this year too was passed the act authorizing the projected Cincinnati Southern Railway. The Louisville, Cincinnati & Lexington Railroad was completed July 1, 1869, crossing at Newport on the second bridge thrown over the river in front of the city. This gave a line to Frankfort and Lexington and to Louisville and by way of that to the South via the Louisville & Nashville road, into whose possession the Louisville, Cincinnati & Lexington Railroad passed in the fall of 1881. The Board of Trade was organized in 1869 and ten years later was consolidated with the Board of Transportation organized in 1876, the new organization taking the well known title,—Board of Trade and Transportation. On August 3rd of this year in the new Sinton Building near the Burnet House was opened the exhibition of textile fabrics which was the forerunner of the great industrial expositions which have made Cincinnati known throughout the world. This too was the year of the organization of the Weather Bureau. Accounts of the Cincinnati Southern Railway, the expositions and the Weather Bureau are given at the close of the narrative of this decade.

BURNING OF THE COLLEGE BUILDING.

Another celebrated fire took place October 20, 1869, at which time the College Building on Walnut street between Fourth and Fifth was once more the victim of the flames. The fire began a few minutes after one o'clock in the afternoon at a time when the streets were thronged with people and thousands of spectators witnessed the scene. The first sign of fire was some smoke pouring from the roof a little north of the cupola. The ladders of the hook and ladder company were found to be too short and the account of the efforts of the firemen to use them is quite thrilling: "It was about two o'clock

when the long ladder was raised at a point south of the main entrance of the Library and Exchange rooms. It just touched the cornice. Up this perilous ascent the firemen mounted with a heavy hose. In front was John Bray of Company No. 17 and he was followed by John Moorwood of the same company. When Bray had reached the top of the ladder and Moorwood the middle, it slipped and was about to fall. The gazing crowd was seized with horror and every spectator held his breath in fearful suspense. Coolly as if it was a matter of little importance, Bray reached for the cornice, swung himself up and reached down and caught the falling ladder, thereby saving his own and his comrade's life. The feelings of the multitude below expressed themselves in a deafening cheer as the smoke hid them in from view." For a time an effort was made to save the books of the library, but after many had been taken out this attempt was given up. Within the building a terrible tragedy was taking place entirely unobserved by the spectators. Capt. Matthew Schwab of the hook and ladder company had groped his way with a party carrying a hose up the double stairway. He had lifted the hatch of the roof when flames struck the firemen in the face and made them retreat. All were thought to have been dragged out of the smoke by their comrades although six or seven were badly burned and some disfigured for life. Several persons stated that they had seen Schwab carried downstairs and away, although his hat and lantern were found in the building. At about three o'clock the north half of the roof of the Merchants' Exchange room fell in and a half hour later the fire was under control. In the evening it was learned that Captain Schwab could not be found. Finally the chief, Megruc, and his assistant, Lewis Wisbey, headed a party of firemen and searched the building. Schwab with his forehead and hands terribly burned, and his chest badly scalded was found at the extreme southern end of the corridor in the fourth story. He was near a window in a crouching position with his face in his hands. He evidently had been blinded by the flash of flames and had started to run but had been cut off by the walls on the one hand and the suffocating smoke on the other. His death at the age of 28 created a profound impression on the city and his funeral was largely attended by the different organizations of the city and citizens. He had served four years in the Civil War in the Fifth Ohio Regiment and had risen from the ranks to the