

Amherst baseball

AMHERST EXPRESS.

EXTRA.

WILLIAMS AND AMHERST BASE BALL AND CHESS!

MUSCLE AND MIND!!

July 1st and 2d, 1859.

THE ORIGIN OF THE MATCH.

At the commencement of this term, it was privately proposed among the Amherst students to challenge Williams College to a game of Ball. In the second or third week the challenge was given by the committee of the College. Notice had been privately sent to Williams of this intention, that both parties might have equal opportunity of practice. The challenge was readily accepted, and in turn Williams challenged to a game at Chess, that there might be "a trial of mind as well as muscle." This being at once agreed upon, the agents of the two colleges met at Chester Factories on the 8th of June, to discuss and settle preliminaries. Some difficulties were found, Williams declining to play, except at Pittsfield. As the challenge provided that the match should be played "at some intermediate place," the Amherst agent thought it should be understood as fairly and equally intermediate, and insisted on this. Several places were spoken of, but the agents separated without any positive agreement. At this time, the Base-Ball Club of Pittsfield offered, by their President Mr. Plunkett, their grounds for the match; and the Chess Club, by Mr. Davis, their rooms. These courteous offers decided the question of a meeting of the colleges, and were accepted with thanks. The 1st of July was chosen for the game of Ball, the following day for the Chess. The rules of Ball were, in substance, those of the Massachusetts Association recently adopted. The number of players was fixed at thirteen; the number of tallies on the score at sixty-five. The rules adopted in Chess were those of the New York Club.

ARRIVAL AT PITTSFIELD.

On Thursday P. M., the representatives of Amherst took cars by way of Palmer, and reached Pittsfield at 9 o'clock in the evening, having made a journey of 90 miles. They proceeded to the United States Hotel where they were well received, and expressed great satisfaction in their accommodations. The Williams players came generally on the morning of Friday, as they had only 20 miles to overcome. They put up at the Berkshire Hotel, where we doubt not they were handsomely lodged. The Chess players were most hospitably received by the Pittsfield Club, and entertained during their entire stay.

THE TWO PARTIES.

Ball play, in the memory of the present generation of students, is a recent thing at both colleges, originating, we understand, in each, with a match played last Autumn between the Junior and Sophomore classes: certainly, it is only so old at Amherst. Neither college was represented by a regularly organized club, both sides were chosen by ballot from the students at large. We state this, to correct reports to the contrary. Williams appeared in the uniform of club belts, Amherst decidedly in undress. In size and muscular development, we thought Amherst, on the whole, superior; while in agility, in running and leaping, the Williams boys excelled. By some ridiculous mistake a report was spread that the thrower from Amherst was the professional blacksmith of the place, hired for the occasion. This rumor afforded great amusement to that very fine player, and his comrades. A bystander remarked that the story seemed probable, for nobody but a blacksmith *could* throw in such a manner, for three hours and a half. Each party furnished its own ball for throwing. The Amherst ball weighed 2½ oz., and was 6½ inches around. It was made by Mr. Henry Hebard of North Brookfield, Mass., and was really a work of art. The Williams ball, we judged to be 7 inches in circumference, and not to exceed in weight 2 oz. It was also covered with leather of some light color, drab or buff, so as not to be easily distinguished by the batter.

THE GROUNDS. THE DAY.

A field had been hired for the occasion, north of the "Town lot," and east of the Maplewood Institute: the ground lay smooth, and was well adapted to the long, front-and-back play of the Massachusetts game. The weather was glorious. Either party might have taken the omen of Austerlitz from the magnificent rising of the sun of that day. It rose for Amherst.

THE SPECTATORS.

A large and excited company of ladies and gentlemen from the place watched the whole progress of the game, and cheered the players by their presence, as well as by loud applause and the waving of signals. The beauty of Pittsfield was gathered to grace and honor the chivalry of the two colleges, if we may take our quotation from the report of another Ball-game.

The venerable Dr. Humphrey seemed deeply interested in the play, and afterward sent his congratulations to the victors. Profs. Lincoln and Bascom of Williams College were present, while the instructors at Amherst regretted their inability to attend. The young ladies of the Institute appeared with kindly signals, and were greeted with hearty and respectful cheers.

THE NAMES OF THE PLAYERS.

Amherst .—J. F. Claflin, (captain,) E. W. Pierce, S. J. Storrs, F. E. Tower, M. B. Cushman, J. H. Evans, E. W. Fenn, H. D. Hyde, J. A. Leach, H. C. Roome, H. Gridley, J. L. Pratt, T. Tomson, (umpire, L. R. Smith.)

Williams .—H. S. Anderson, (captain,) G. A. Parker, H. B. Fitch, G. P. Blagden, C. E. Simmons, B. F. Hastings, A. C. Brown, A. J. Quick, S. W. Pratt, J. H. Knox, J. E. Bush, R. E. Beecher, H. F. C. Nichols, (umpire, C. R. Taft.)

Referee.—W. R. Plunkett, Esq., President of the Pittsfield Base Ball Club.

SYNOPSIS OF THE GAME.

Amherst held the first inning by lot, and Williams played the last by turn. Williams played best at first, making ten tallies to Amherst's one; when the latter went in to win, and made twenty to their one, and kept the advantage throughout, making more than two tallies for one.

THE GAME BY INNINGS.

1st. Amherst opened: Claflin—home run, back-strike, Tower caught out by Bush, (W) Parker put out on 4th base by Storrs—Amherst. 1 tally.

2d. Evans caught out by Pratt, (W) Parker caught out by Tower—A. 1 tally, W. 9.

3d. Cushman caught out by Pratt, (W) Fitch caught out by Claflin—A. S. W. 0.

4th. Evans caught out by Pratt, (W) Blagden put out by Cushman, 2d base—tallies 0.

5th. Roome ticked out, caught by Pratt, (W) Pratt the same by Claflin—A. 12, W. 1.

RECESS.

6th. Gridley caught out by Hastings, longfield, (W) Anderson caught out by Claflin—A. 0, W. 2.

7th. Roome caught out by Anderson, (W) Fitch by Claflin, several fine knocks from Amherst. Amherst leads 29—12.

8th. Gridley caught out by Bush, (W) Blagden hit at 1st base by Claflin—tallies 0.

9th. Pratt hit on 1st base by Anderson, (W) Hastings caught out by Evans—tallies 0.

10th. Cushman hit between 1st and 2d bases by Beecher, (W) Pratt on 4th base by Storrs—Amherst 5, Williams 2—loud cheering in favor of Williams, from the students; the ladies appearing for Amherst.

11th. Hyde caught out by Parker on back knock, (W) Parker hit 2d base by Evans, long knock from Fenn—A. 0, W. 4.

12th. Roome ticked out, caught by Anderson, (W) Blagden caught out by Evans, (very fine play,)—tallies 0.

13th. Pierce put out by Brown at 1st base, (W) Brown caught out by Leach 1st base. Simmons made a fine home run on a straight knock—A. 3, W. 1. Great rivalry in cheering between the students and the ladies.

14th. Evans hit on 1st base by Anderson, (W) Fitch put out by Hyde on 1st base, one on each base, quite exciting. Fenn made the longest knock of the game—A. 2, W. 5.

15th. Hyde caught out by Anderson, (a splendid play), (W) Simmons hit on 2d base by Cushman, tallies 0.

16th. Roome caught out on tick by Anderson, (W) Brown hit on 3d base by Evans, considerable delay on a reference to the umpires, Storrs made a home knock, on the front field, fine run for Amherst, making 12 tallies, W. 0.

17th. Gridley caught out by Simmons, (W) Quick caught out by Hyde—tallies 0.

18th. Tomson out on 3d base, (W) Beecher caught out by Claflin, each makes 1 tally.

19th. Storrs out by Fitch, (good catch,) (W) Parker caught out by Claflin—tallies 0.

20th. Cushman caught out by Simmons, (W) Fitch hit by Evans on 4th base—tal. 0.

21st. Hyde hit by Fitch on 3d base, (W) Brown hit on 4th base by Storrs. Each makes 3 tallies.

22d. Pierce caught out by Quick, (W) Beecher put out by Cushman on 2d base—A. 4, W. 1.

23d. Evans put out by Blagden 2d base, (W) Fitch put out at 1st base by Hyde—A. 2. W. 1.

24th. Pratt ticked out, caught by Anderson, (W) Blagden caught out by Claflin—A. 2, W. 1. Amherst boys within two tallies of winning, the strife was then to determine whether they should make two for one which seemed not unlikely.

25th. Tomson caught out by Anderson, (W) Bush caught out by Gridley—Williams 3 tallies.

26th. Gridley ticked out, caught by Anderson, (W) out by player unknown. The last inning. The Amherst boys ran around, entirely regardless of danger or appearances. They made their bases as if they were thinking of 75 tallies, which was the number proposed by them for the game. However they only reached 73 in the inning, which was 8 more than the limit of the score. The game closed at 2 $\frac{12}{12}$; o'clock, having lasted 3 $\frac{12}{12}$; hours.

AMHERST WINS!

Amherst 73. Williams 32.

SCORE.

AMHERST CLUB. WILLIAMS CLUB. Players. Tallies. Outs. Players Tallies. Outs. Claflin, catcher, 7 0 Parker 0 4 Pierce 5 2 Fitch 0 5 Storrs 7 1 Blagden 1 5 Tower 7 1 Simmons 4 1 Cushman 4 3 Brown 3 3 Evans 5 4 Hastings 4 1 Fenn 5 0 Quick 3 1 Hyde, thrower, 4 3 Pratt 2

2 Leach 6 0 Knox 4 0 Roome 5 4 Bush 4 1 Gridley 5 4 Beecher, thro. 3 2 Pratt 7 2 Nichols 2 0
Tomson 6 2 Anderson, catch. 2 1 Total 73 52

THE VICTORY

Was fairly acknowledged by the Williams players. Capt. Anderson presented the ball as a trophy to the winning party. The ladies, who had manifested a sympathy so active and kindly with the party which was far from home, and without friends, presented

Mr. Claflin with a beautiful boquet in token of regard for his efforts.

HOW IT WAS WON.

Amherst certainly played the better, we think in nearly every department of the game. Indeed so great a victory can not be accounted for otherwise. In knocking they had the advantage of side-strikes and back-knocks—in running, Williams certainly excelled as far as speed is concerned, but lost at least eight or ten innings, by premature efforts, while the Amherst players ran only at the word of the captain—in fielding, Williams made equally good catches; but in passing in, they threw too wildly, each where he pleased, and nothing is more injurious than bad out-play. As to throwing, we must differ from the report of the Adams Transcript. Mr. Beecher certainly threw a swift, strong ball, but as he was suffering from a lame shoulder, he did not attain his customary success. Many of his balls were too high to be caught, and gained many tallies for Amherst, in passing over. Mr. Hyde threw every ball at the beck of the catcher, with a precision and strength which was remarkable—more faultless and scientific throwing we have never seen. The catching on the part of Amherst was undoubtedly much superior, no balls were allowed to pass the catcher which were within his reach, very few allowed to drop which he had once touched. He missed but one ticked ball in the course of the game, which is a great feat when the striking is as quick and strong as was that of Williams. It was a fine display of muscle and nerve. More than all, Amherst took the lead by its perfect, military discipline. All was done with the accuracy of clock work. The Amherst captain governed his men with great skill. There were not half a dozen bad plays, on that side, in the course of the game. on the whole, it was the confession of the Pittsfield and Williams clubs, that they had never seen so fine amateur playing.

DINNER AND SPEECHES.

The generous dinner given by the Pittsfield Base Ball Club to the contestants of the match was honorable to their hospitality, and agreeable to all parties. Mr. Plunkett, the President, presided with very pleasant dignity, he alluded to the fact that the Pittsfield Club had originally proposed to play a match with the victors, which was rendered impossible by the difference in the games which the clubs are accustomed to play, as Pittsfield uses the New York rules. He expressed some satisfaction as a player in Pittsfield, that the match was thus found to be impracticable, and congratulated both parties on the excellence of their playing.

Mr. Claflin, the Amherst captain spoke very pleasantly of the game of ball in its history, and its own value. He paid a just tribute to the deportment of the players for Williams, and promised that the ball won that day should be kept and honored.

Mr. Nichols made a manly acknowledgment of the superior playing of the Amherst party, and paid a valuable tribute to the conduct of its representatives. He also promised that the game should be cultivated still further at Williams College, with a very decided intimation of the possibility of another match.

Messrs. Anderson and Beecher from Williams, Hyde and Smith from Amherst spoke in terms of welcome and congratulation. The meeting was characterized by good feeling, and kind fellowship. Other brief addresses and college songs closed the entertainment.

THE GAME OF CHESS.

AMHERST WINS AGAIN!

On Saturday, July 2, the Match Game of Chess was played in the rooms of the Pittsfield Chess Club. The Amherst players occupying the office of Dr. Cady, and Williams a room adjoining.

THE PLAYERS.

Amherst .—J. F. Claflin, A. Maddock, A. G. Biscoe [Umpire, F. A. Walker.]

Williams .—C. E. K. Boyce, H. Anstice, Jr. E. S. Brewster, [Umpire, E. B. Parsons.]

Referee.—Geo. B. Hunt, (Canaan, Ct.,) of the Pittsfield Chess Club.

THE METHOD OF PLAYING.

The moves were made by three players on each side, in consultation, in their private rooms, and were reported to the referee in the club room, where each received the move of the opposing party: fifteen minutes were allowed for a move. Several boards were set, to follow the progress of the game, and watched, throughout its wearisome length, by crowded rooms.

ANTICIPATIONS.

The unanimous opinion was that Williams would win. Mr. Brewster, their youthful champion, is held in great repute as a chess-genius, but was obliged to yield to the mathematical discipline of Amherst. Neither party was in very good condition. Mr. Brewster having suffered from illness on the previous evening, Mr. Claflin being exceeding weary from his effort of the day before, especially as he had just arisen from a severe sickness. Chess is played only as a social game at Amherst, and nothing was known of the strength of its representatives.

RESULT.

The playing commenced at 9. 20 A. M. The opening was, the King's Gambit Declined, Amherst having the attack. The game was well contested and was resigned to Amherst on the 48th move after a play of eleven hours, Amherst occupying the greater time in its moves. Each party was called to time once by the referee.

THE MOVES.

AMHERST— *White*. WILLIAMS— *Black*.

1, P to K 4th P to K 4th

2, P to K B 4th K B to Q B 4th

3, K Kt to B 3d P to Q 3d

4, Q to K 2d Q Kt to B 3d

5, P takes P P takes P

6, P to Q B 3d K Kt to B 3d

7, P to K R 3d Castles

8, P to Q Kt 5th B to Q 3d

9, Q to K 3d Q Kt to K 2d

10, B to K 2d Kt to Kt 3d

11, P to K Kt 3d K to R sq

12, Q Kt to R 3d K to R sq

13, Q takes Kt P t K B 4th

14, Q to K 3d P to K B 5th

15, P takes P Kt takes P

16, B to B sq P to K 5th

17, Kt to Q 4th Kt to Q 4th

18, Q to Kt sq P to K 6th

19, P takes P Q to K R 5th *check*

20, K to Q 2d R to K B 7th *check*

21, B to K 2d P to Q B 4th

22, K to K B 3d Q to K B 3th

23, Q takes B Q takes P *check*

24, K to Q sq Q takes R

25, K Kt to Kt 5th B to K 2d

26, B to B 4th Q to B 3d

27, Kt to B 7 *check* K to Kt sq

28, Q takes Q Kt takes Q

29, P takes P K B takes P

30, P to K 4th K to B sq

31, Kt to K Kt 5 P to K R 3d

32, P to K 5 P takes Kt

33, P takes Kt P takes P

34, Kt to Q Kt 5 B to Q 2d

35, R to K B sq R to Q sq

36, R takes P *check* K to Kt 2d

37, R to B 7th *check* K to Kt 3d

38, R takes B R takes R *check*

39, K to B 2d P to Q R 3d

40, Kt to B 3d R to Q B 2d

41, B to Q 3d *check* K to R 4th

42, B to K 2d *check* K to R 5th

43, B to K Kt 4th P to Q Kt 4th

44, B to Q 2d B to B 7th

45, K to Q 3d K to Kt 6th

46, B takes P B to K 8th

47, B to K B 4th *check* K takes B.

48, Kt to Q's 5th *check* And Williams resigns.

And thus the match ended. Amherst obtained an unexpected and a brilliant victory. The entire match was hardly fought and nobly won. We are confident that it was pleasant to all, with only the slight drawback of defeat to the vanquished. It was a matter of much regret, that the students of Amherst College could not obtain a holiday, and thus meet their fellows and rivals in this pleasant intercourse of manly contest. As it is, the Colleges have become better acquainted with each other, by the representatives, in these few days than in all the former years of their existence. A greater freedom of communication is needed to elevate and quicken the tone of our College life, and excite a generous enthusiasm of effort, and the College match has, we trust, accomplished this in no small degree.

CELEBRATIONS AT HOME.

Previous to the departure of those who were to engage in the match games at Pittsfield, no special interest was manifested by the students of Amherst College in regard to the approaching contest. Those who had been delegated to take part in these trials of muscle and of mind had indeed been undergoing a good degree of preparatory discipline; but the body of the students neither evinced any anxiety, nor gave vent to any premature exultation concerning the coming encounter.

FIRST NEWS OF THE VICTORY AT BALL.

But when Friday came, the day upon which the match at ball was to take place, no small interest was excited to hear the earliest news from the seat of war. It was expected that a telegraphic dispatch would arrive in the early part of the evening, and announce who were the successful party; but ere it came, nearly every light in college balls was extinguished, and our little college world lay dreaming.

It was not until after 11 o'clock P. M., that a special embassy arrived, bearing the laconic message, "Amherst wins—71 to 31!"^{*}

Fortunately the members of this delegation were blessed with lungs of tolerable strength; and no sooner had they entered the village, than they commenced a series of vigorous elocutionary exercises, and this was their only cry, "Amherst wins! 71 to 31!" And it was not uttered in vain, but soon was echoed and re echoed from street to street, from house to house, and from room to room. Students rubbed their drowsy eyes—leaped from their quiet couches, and from their open windows made the welkin ring with the shout, "Amherst wins! 71 to 31!" In a few moments the students were assembled *en masse* upon the college hill. The chapel bell joined in the general jubilee, and sent forth its merriest peals. A large bonfire was kindled, and the event was celebrated with a copious display of enthusiasm and rockets.

PUBLIC RECEPTION OF THE VICTORIOUS BALL PLAYERS.

Upon the morning of Saturday, a dispatch was received, announcing that the ball players would return in 3 ½ o'clock train from Palmer. Accordingly upon their arrival they were welcomed with hearty cheers by a large assembly of students. A "Coach and four" was in readiness for them. And the victors were escorted from the depot by the students in procession. The procession was headed by a banner bearing the expressive motto: Amherst wins! 71 to 31! From this banner the ball used by the Williams players was suspended as a trophy. The company finally halted in front of East College. Songs, congratulations, speeches, and familiar accounts of interesting incidents followed. Messrs. L. R. Smith, F. E. Tower, H. D. Hyde and H. C. Roome, spoke in behalf of the ball players; and Messrs. H. M. Holmes J. W. Ward, jr., and E. P. Dyer, jr., in behalf of those who remained at home.

FIRST NEWS OF THE CHESS VICTORY.

It was not until Monday noon (fourth of July) that the long expected news reached us, announcing the result of the match at Chess. Tidings had been so long delayed, that every one was prepared to hear of a defeat.

But when at length the messenger came post haste from Northampton, he bore a banner on which was printed the following bulletin.

CHESS.

AMHERST WINS!

This announcement, so unexpected, was a signal for a new outburst of enthusiasm, which was not out of place upon our great national holiday. There was a universal ringing of bells, and firing of cannons; and throats already hoarse, shouted again amid the general rejoicing.

PUBLIC RECEPTION OF THE VICTORIOUS CHESS PLAYERS.

At 3 1–2 o'clock, the train arrived bringing with it Messrs. Maddock and Biscoe, two of the chess players, also Mr. Walker the umpire at chess for Amherst.

* This dispatch, as will be seen, proved to be not precisely correct—73 to 32 were the actual number of tallies.

Upon alighting from the cars, they were saluted by a storm of cheers, conducted so a barouche, in which they were drawn by the hands of their fellow students, with the sound of music, to the residence of President Stearns. After three hearty cheers, the President responded to the call with a few pleasant and appropriate remarks. The procession next proceeded to the house of Dr. Hitchcock and listened to a pertinent speech from him. Thence the chess players were carried to college hill; where speeches were made and various interesting incidents related by Messrs. F. A. Walker, A. Maddock and A. G. Biscoe. After cheers had been given for the chess players, the ball players, Amherst College, Williams College, and the people of Pittsfield, the company separated with the best of feeling.

RECEPTION OF MR. CLAFLIN.

Upon the afternoon of Tuesday, Mr. Claflin, the other member of the chess delegation, also captain of the Amherst corps of ball players, returned to Amherst after a pleasant sojourn at Pittsfield. At about 6 o'clock, P. M., his room was besieged by a large throng of students; and amid hearty cheers he was called on for a speech. Mr. Claflin appeared and responded in a humorous and entertaining manner, and was answered by the applause of his audience.

COMMENTS.

Thus has ended a match, which has brought with it many incidents not soon to be forgotten.

The students of Amherst rejoice not merely in the fact, that in this contest their Alma Mater has borne away the laurels; but also in the belief that by such encounters as these, a deeper interest will be excited in those amusements, which, while they serve as a relaxation from study, strengthen and develop body and mind.

And we are assured, that, while as rival colleges we contend with one another in manly emulation, still, with a true spirit of chivalry on both sides, these trials of strength and skill will only serve to increase our mutual good will and friendship.

A CARD.

To the officers and members of the Pittsfield Base Ball Club, for the offer of their grounds in the recent match between Williams and Amherst Colleges, and for their generous entertainment; to the Pittsfield Chess Club, for the use of their rooms, and, for their abundant hospitality; to the ladies and citizens of Pittsfield, for their courtesy and kindness, and particularly to the young ladies of Maplewood; to the gentlemen who consented to act as referees, and to Messrs. Davis, Plunkett, and Kellogg, to all who have forwarded the match, or united to make it pleasant, the students of Amherst College desire to present their heartfelt thanks. Respectfully,

Committee of the College.

E. W. PIERCE,

J. W. WARD, JR.,

J. A. LEACH,

Amherst, July 4, 1859.

A CARD.

As many comments have been publicly made upon the fact, that the representatives of Amherst Chess, in the late match with Williams, declined a further trial, and upon the fact, that the college has declined the challenge to a second match, I desire, in behalf of Amherst, to offer the following reasons in explanation.

We declined playing more than one game.

1st. Because, as the challenged party we chose that number, and communicated our decision to the Williams party nearly three weeks before the match.

2d. Because, a continuance of the match would require a further absence from college duties, already interrupted for four days. In this, neither the permission of the Faculty, nor our duties to ourselves could allow us.

3d. Because we deemed a game of eleven hours a fair test of relative strength.

We decline a further match, at present, for these reasons:

1st. As Williams was the challenging party in the first match, we consider it altogether beyond its province to challenge again.

2d. Because, had it been just for Williams to send another challenge, no proper interval is proposed. We have won the laurels, and we intend to wear them for some time, enough to compensate us for our trouble. We are under no obligation to play for the championship once a week, or once a term. At the end of a year, should Williams see fit to challenge, however irregular that would be, the college would be happy to consider it.

3d. It would be impossible for us to accomplish any such match at present.

F. A. WALKER, Umpire.

Amherst College, July 8th, 1859.