

A VIEW OF THE CHICAGO LINKS.

THE GOLFER'S CONQUEST OF AMERICA.

BY CASPAR WHITNEY.

SOME lore-laden disciple of golf has recently declared, with more enthusiasm perhaps than accuracy, that it is the most popular game in the world—and I shall not be the one to question his assertion. There was a time when I burned the midnight oil in painstaking endeavor to determine the respective popularity of different games, but sporting research brought wisdom, if not learning, and now I deny the claims of no enthusiast, be they never so sweeping. I have not forgotten the disquieting experiences attending the rôle of statistician, temporarily assumed in '94, during my "sporting pilgrimage" to England.

The history of American sport being an open and familiar book, I entered with confidence upon the seemingly simple task of settling upon the most popular sport in England. But what with hunting, football, and golf, I found myself in a sadly perplexed state of mind, with many misgivings as to my discernment in the eventual conclusion. At all events, I learned enough to spare me a second ex-

periment, and I record here a renouncement of all pretensions to statistical greatness, and proclaim a respect for the qualities of golf too profound to question any possibilities of its astonishing popularity.

Apropos of that popularity, it is a fact that one can start from Liverpool and go around the world, playing golf in every port. There are courses at Hong-kong, Ceylon, Aden, and even under the shadow of the time-worn Pyramids may one play the ancient and royal game.

Of history there is literally no limit, and its authentic beginning seems as distant as its probable ending. Whence its origin and wherefore, many men have said many things. The first golf appears to be lost in obscurity, and its earliest history entwined with that of several countries claiming its parentage. Whether as a distinct game it came originally from Holland, or whether it is the evolution of several games born in England and Scotland—no man knoweth. There are ancient Dutch tiles picturing what

might have been a prototype, and there is recorded a royal decree of the Scots Parliament in 1457 condemning golf as distracting the soldiers' attention from archery. James VI. of Scotland placed a tariff on the feather balls which came from Holland, and Charles I. was in the midst of an exciting match when the news of the Irish Rebellion reached him.

And this is not all of history. "Klobe" is German for club; "kulban" Gothic for a stick with a thick knob; and "kolf" is Dutch for a game that by some is set up as the original of present-day golf. "Chole," still played in northern France, and a game of undoubted antiquity on the Continent, is also upheld as a possible source of ancestry; while the ancient "*jeu-de-mail*" has likewise a place in the well-filled list of golfing forefathers, because it is played with a boxwood ball—batted to extraordinary distances—and a club somewhat of a compromise between a croquet and a polo mallet.

Thus ineffectually we grope in the shadowy past for a tangible sponsor of

the game that has set us all by the ears in this nineteenth century.

Is not the history of nearly all our games lost in the shrouded years of the long ago? And history is so readily made!—some study of isolated data, a little skill with the pen, and a vivid imagination—and who is there to gainsay your completed work? Why, indeed, should not golf be traced to Biblical times; for may not David's strength of arm and accuracy of eye with the sling have been acquired by driving off the tee and holing out on the green?

Undeniably golf was an established game for the people at about the middle of the fifteenth century, and by the last of the sixteenth had become so popular that Sunday playing disturbed the Edinburgh City Council, just as now, some four hundred years later, it is agitating the constabulary of certain provincial districts of the United States.

Nevertheless there are a few generally recognized epochs of golf, which afford definite links of evidence in the game's history. We know that James VI., besides placing a heavy tariff on the feather balls brought from Holland (*gutta-percha* balls were not used until 1848), appointed in 1603 a royal club-maker, and fifteen years later a royal ball-maker, and that during James II.'s reign a forecaddie became an institution.

Although golf was played in Scotland at a much earlier period, the honor of the first club rests with England, where the Royal Blackheath was organized in 1608—possibly by James VI., possibly only as an outgrowth of that convivial "Knucklebone Club." The Edinburgh Burgess Golfing Society, with more social than sporting predilec-



THE SCOFFER'S FIRST ATTEMPT.

tions, dates from 1735, and St. Andrews, popularly regarded as the *alma mater* of golf, was founded in 1754, while the Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers set up links at Musselburgh in 1774.

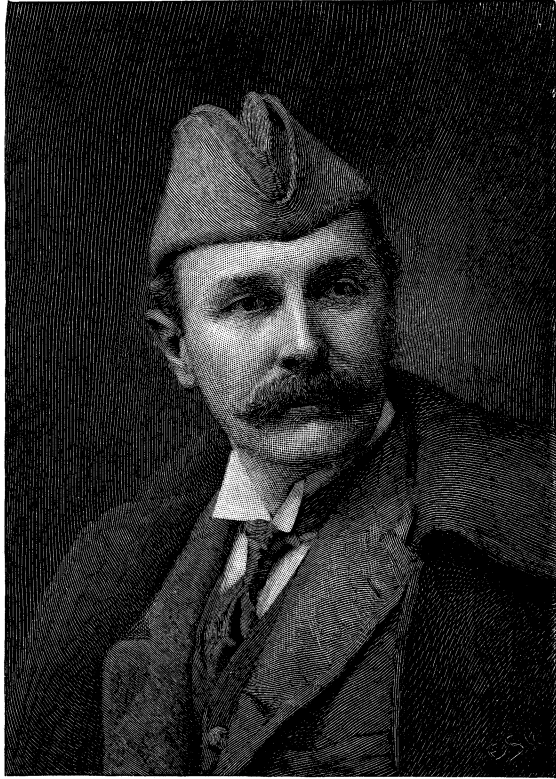
For the following one hundred years the golfing of England and Scotland seems to have left no particular impression on history. Blackheath outlived the Scottish Kings, but Englishmen appear to have entirely ignored the game, and of golfing activity there was scarcely any until the birth of the Royal North Devon Golf Club, Westward Ho, in 1864. The Wimbledon Links, near London, was laid out in '65, and Hoylake, for the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, established in 1869. Wimbledon added a woman's course in '72, and thereby gave first recognition to the golfing ambition of the gentle sex. There were at that time something like fifty clubs in Great Britain, and curiously enough the increased interest in England had no appreciable effect on play in Scotland, where clubs were comparatively few, though of long establishment.

For ten years English interest in golf multiplied at a moderate rate, and by '80 the number of clubs had increased probably twenty per cent.; but not until about '87 did the golfing boom descend upon England, and then it came with such resistless force, that in '94 the number of clubs had increased to 792 in Great Britain, 72 of these being in Edinburgh alone.

What started the popular wave is more than any man can say, but the sudden and inexplicable awakening, after a century of slumber, spread through the kingdom like a prairie fire, and thence to very nearly all the corners of the civilized world. It was sweeping England at the time of my visit in '94, and I shall not soon forget the impression made upon me by the exhibition on all sides of the golf-entranced Briton. By the light of the generally accepted traditions which picture the Englishman an invariable and indifferent devotee, the sight of his uni-

versal and enthusiastic attachment to golf was disturbing.

An open championship belt had been annually contested for from 1860 to 1870, with Willie Park, Tom Morris, Sr., Tom Morris, Jr. — famous names on golfing annals — and David Strath as the win-



CHARLES B. MACDONALD, U. S. CHAMPION, '95.

ners. And during this period the senior Tom Morris won the belt four times, the junior Tom Morris and Willie Park three times each. There was no championship in '71, but in '72 the St. Andrews Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers and the Prestwick Club jointly offered to replace the belt by a championship cup worth one hundred pounds, which would remain a perpetual-challenge trophy, in an annual tournament, open, as had been the contest for the belt, to both amateurs and professionals. The very first amateur tournament was held in 1885 by the Royal Liverpool Club on its links at Hoylake, following which the clubs of England and



ON THE GREEN BY MAIN STRENGTH.

Royal Gazette, April 21, 1779—the Tory paper published in New York during the Revolution—will bear witness to perhaps the first recorded suggestion of the game in America:

TO THE GOLF-PLAYERS.

The Season for this pleasant and healthy Exercise now advancing, gentlemen may be furnished with excellent CLUBS and the suitable Caledonian BALLS by enquiring at the Printers.

It may be in years to come, after the present living witnesses have gone to solve the great perplexing problem, that earlier trace of an American golf will be added to the game's constantly expanding history. It may be that individuals unknown to fame have driven and putted in the seclusion of their own back yards; but certainly, so far as the present historian is able to discover, the first man to attempt modern golf in the United States was Charles B. Macdonald; and the two names most closely connected with the beginning of its subsequent invasion are

those of Mr. Robert Lockhart and Mr. John Reid.

When Mr. Macdonald returned from Scotland in 1875 he brought with him his clubs and an affection for the old game that could not be chilled even by unsympathetic reception. There was no one to play with until a St. Andrews University friend—a Mr. Burgess—came to Chicago, and then those two would steal away to old Camp Douglas, back of the site of the Chicago University, lay out a few holes, and amuse themselves in the twilight playing at golf. They did not enlarge the course, because the hoodlums tore up the holes every evening after Macdonald and Burgess had gone; and their friends were not at-

Scotland united in giving a challenge cup, under tournament conditions, for the annual amateur contest that continues to-day.

But it is the game's conquest of America that interests us at this time, rather than its ancient history or its British rejuvenation. What with shinney—perhaps the most primitive of all games—and lacrosse and hockey, just across the Canadian border, it is passing strange something akin to golf should not have been evolved in this country.

There was, indeed, golf—British golf, if you please, but golf none the less—in this country while yet it was fighting the fight of independence. The following advertisement from the Rivington

tracted in sufficient numbers to make organization possible. Thus their play never got beyond the tentative period.

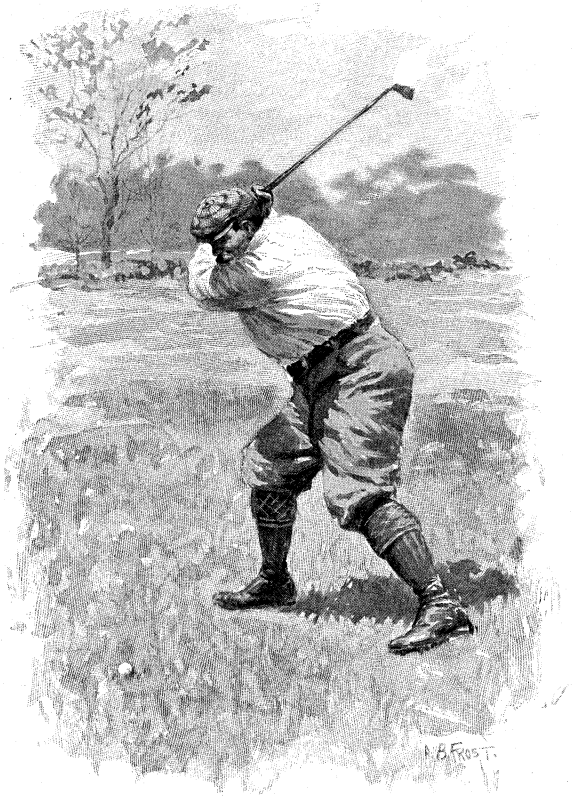
In the East the game found more sympathetic spectators. It was in the early part of the summer of 1887 that Mr. Lockhart, whose business twice a year took him to England and Scotland, fetched over an assortment of golf clubs, which, together with Mr. Lockhart himself, very shortly found their way to Mr. Reid's house at Yonkers, in the suburbs of New York. Being a Scotchman, golfing blood flowed in the veins of Mr. Reid; being a sportsman, the absence of a prepared course was not permitted to stand in the way of a game which Mr. Lockhart told him had enlivened phlegmatic John Bull; and so they at once started playing in the fields near by Mr. Reid's house. If there was a deal more fun than golf in this first attempt at the game, at least it was good, healthful, out-of-door fun, which shortly developed into real golfing enthusiasm.

The spectacle of knocking an unresisting ball over and across and about a vacant lot in an attempt to lodge it now and again in one hole of an irregular series, was viewed in good-humored contempt by those who looked and went away, and with surprise by those who lingered long enough to observe how eccentric on occasion was the course of that apparently passive ball. Of these earliest spectators who came oftenest and lingered longest were Messrs. H. O. Tallmadge, the first secretary of the United States Golf Association; Mr. J. B. Upham, Dr. Henry Moffatt, and John C. Ten Eyck. From interested on-looking to tentative playing was a natural and easy stage, and before the summer was well under way all these and some others had clubs of their own, and a well-developed case of golf mania. And this was the beginning of the conquest.

So thoroughly did the game appeal to

this little band of golfing forefathers and their intimates that the next year, 1888, they organized the first golf club in the United States, located it at Yonkers, and called it St. Andrews, after the generally recognized (incorrectly so, however) first Old World home of the game.

Yonkers is but one of the many sleeping-places for New York business men, and it was to be expected the golfing contagion would spread to the associates of the St. Andrews men, and by them be carried to the other abiding-places of New-Yorkers. From septic to convert, and from convert to missionary, was the usual



THE DUFFER'S FAVORITE SWING.

course, which, before two years had passed, many times multiplied the original golfing crew. From St. Andrews the fever was carried to the far end of Long Island, at Southampton, where, in 1890, play began on ground more than any other in

this country adapted to golfing. Here, too, was repeated the Yonkers experience—a few faithful ones, loyal despite much good-natured quizzing, and, finally, general adoption of the ancient and royal game. Once converted, Shinnecock was second to none in enthusiasm; interest increased, players doubled, and in 1891–2 the present links was laid out, and one of the best-appointed club-houses in this country erected.

Simultaneously with the conversion of Shinnecock, Boston played its first golf. But not until two years later was a course laid out on the grounds of the Brookline Country Club, near Boston, and the game established in permanent form.

Forthwith began the first real golfing movement. The fame of the game travelled to the several country-club centres; visitations were made to Yonkers, Shinne-

cock, and Brookline, and in quick succession followed the establishment of links at Newport, at Tuxedo, at Essex, and at Chicago. At St. Andrews the game had attained such popularity that the fields which originally answered for Mr. Reid and Mr. Lockhart, and for a time, too, during the first months of the St. Andrews Club, became inadequate, and a larger and better-appointed course was sought. So in the spring of 1894 St. Andrews leased new grounds, and from that time to the present day its growth has been continuous.

Meanwhile the golfing wave was sweeping over the country. The game had been established in 1893 on a firm footing, but in 1894 it set out upon its real invasion. Clubs formed so rapidly, and the interest grew to such depth and to such width, that the need of a governing body was felt, and supplied, December 22, 1894, by the birth of the United States Golf Association, organized by the then five leading clubs: St. Andrews, of New York; Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, of Southampton, Long Island; Brookline Country Club, of Brookline, Boston; Newport Golf Club, of Newport, Rhode Island; and the Chicago Golf Club.

And now golf took unto itself a genuine American "boom." Old-country professionals, most of them second or third rate, descended upon us like gulls on a biscuit thrown overboard; club-makers became too numerous for peace of mind; course after course was laid out, club-house after club-house built; and on the close of the year 1896 the list of members of the association numbered sixty, while some twenty-five applications for membership were in the hands of the secretary. How extensive this growth one can realize only by familiarity with the area over which play has been carried. That clubs should have been rapidly organized on the Atlantic coast or east of the Mississippi River is not surpris-



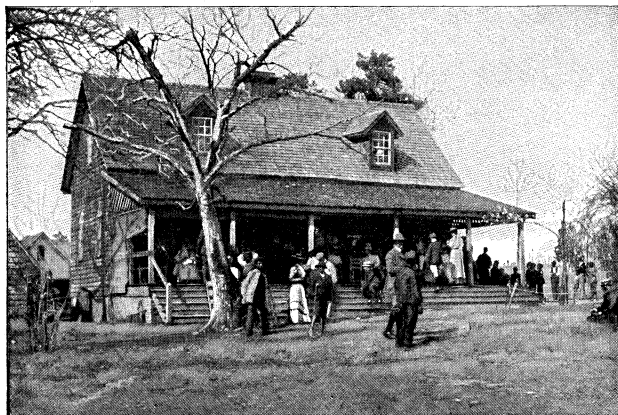
FORE!



GIVING WAY TO HIS FEELINGS.

ing, but the spread North, South, and West proves the sterling qualities of the game, and, incidentally, how thoroughly awake we Americans have become to the benefits of wholesome sport. Besides five in the immediate vicinity of Chicago—the Chicago, Onwentsia, Riverside Washington Park, Highland Park, and Evanston—there are courses laid out at Cincinnati and at Cleveland, Ohio; at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; at Denver and at Colorado Springs, Colorado; at Los Angeles and at San Francisco, California; at Tacoma, Washington; and at Aiken, South Carolina; and several other Southern points. And this, of course, does not begin to record all the clubs in this country, but is merely a short catalogue of a few widely separated ones, to illustrate the spread of golfing activity.

Throughout the more populous of the Eastern States nearly every town with any pretensions to modern progression has its golf, while private courses are frequent in the sections where large country estates obtain. Immediately around Boston there are at least a dozen different clubs, while as to the number within a twenty-mile radius of New York I should not care to venture even a guess. Most of the Association clubs have houses, all of them sufficient unto the needs of the players, some of them handsome, and the ones at Newport and at Ardsley luxurious. In many instances the golf course is an adjunct to the country club, and then has the use of all the paraphernalia which belongs to this modern health-assuring institution. It has even been linked with yachting, the Larchmont



PALMETTO CLUB HOUSE, AIKEN.

Yacht Club having recently opened a very sporty course. But then the Larchmont Club is unique. It is yachting in name, but all-round sporting in fact. It is a yachting club with the equipment of a country club, and has one of the most beautiful locations and completely appointed club-houses in America.

Perhaps the most indubitable evidence of golf's popularity in America is furnished by the recently established public courses at Franklin Park, Boston, and at Vancortlandt Park, New York, where for a small fee the enthusiast who is not fortunate enough to be able to afford a club can none the less have his game.

With all this activity around it, the pioneer club, St. Andrews, has not been standing still; its membership limit, originally three hundred, has been raised to four hundred, and is likely to be still further increased another one hundred when the club moves to larger quarters. The present grounds have been found insufficient to the needs of the players, and on the 1st of July, 1897, the club moved into its new home, near Mount Hope, about one and a half miles north of its old course. When finished, as it will be before this story appears in type, this will be among the best of our

inland eighteen-hole courses, quite varied in character, and in length about the same as the Scottish St. Andrews. The old Yonkers links, on which most of the members learned their game, gives only fair golf, for there are too many stone walls and trees and small greens, and the course is too generously covered with stones, to afford best playing results. The quality of the old St. Andrews links is in a measure characteristic of American courses,

and explains somewhat the stiffness and jerkiness which, generally speaking, is more or less a feature of American playing form.

Without taking into consideration the difference in soil, the recency of our conversion, and the absence of tradition, it is manifestly unfair to compare the form of American golfers with that of the players in the old country, where true golfing soil abounds, the atmosphere is surcharged with tradition, and daily play favored by precept and example. That form in the United States has improved immeasurably in the last year, for instance, is of course true, and so expert a golfer and so accurate an observer as Mr. Charles B. Macdonald has said that, taking everything into consideration, he thinks the form in America is better than in Great Britain, and more promising. If this is



A BIT OF THE TACOMA COURSE, MT. TACOMA IN THE BACKGROUND.



COLORADO SPRINGS COUNTRY AND GOLF CLUB HOUSE.

true—and Mr. Macdonald should know whereof he speaks, since he is as familiar with the courses of Scotland and England as he is with those of America—it is the more commendable to our players; for, except on a very few of our sea-shore links, we have none of the turf such as obtains in England and Ireland and Scotland. As a rule, the ground of our courses is hard and oftentimes rocky, and so “cuppy” that good brassy lies are infrequent. Hard ground underneath a fairly good covering of grass is, indeed, one of the most serious disadvantages to the attainment of the best golf on American links. Too many of our teeing-grounds are built up of clay and earth, and rolled so hard and baked so thoroughly by the sun that their surface becomes almost like flint. It is these hard surfaces that disconcert the beginner, particularly once he has broken a club, and are the reason why we tee higher, and why so often in America we see the ball hit instead of swept away. On the best courses in Great Britain teeing-grounds are on the natural turf, and are shifted about from place to place as they become worn. Fixed teeing-grounds made of clay rob the game of much of its pristine charm.

British tournament players are more consistent in their form and steadier in their play—the result of longer experience, more frequent practice, and better

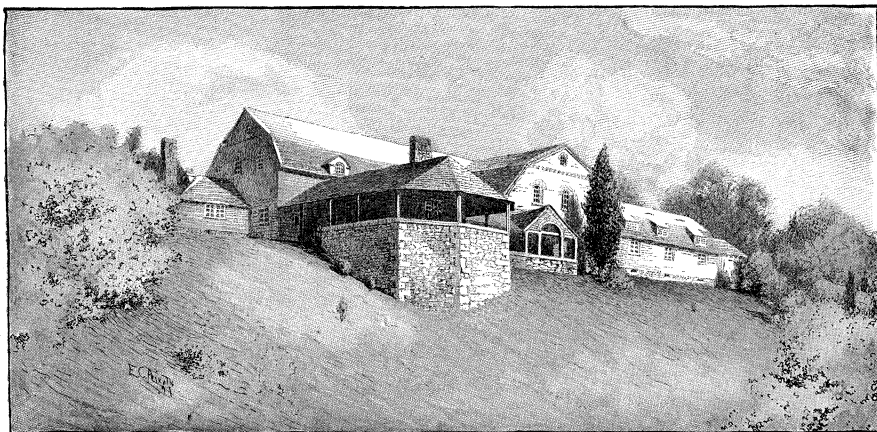
links. If we compare the American, Scotch, and English players of the same age and equal golfing experience, we find the American the most promising, because of his greater natural adaptability and quickness to grasp situations. It is impossible for Americans to obtain the same amount of practice as do Englishmen or Scotchmen: first, because our serious vocations take more of our time than the Briton finds it needful to give to his; and secondly, because, under the most favorable conditions, there are not more than seven months of our year that our climate permits of playing, whereas in Great Britain they have at least three months more, and the added advantage of a long twilight we know not in America.

Yet despite these handicaps it is a somewhat comforting assurance of our progress to record that of eighty men who drove off the first tee at the Amateur Championship Meeting at Shinnecock Hills in 1896, twenty did thirty-six holes in one hundred and eighty or under, and of these twenty, fourteen had learned their game in America, and only a very small percentage had ever played outside of this country. It is not possible to draw comparisons between American and English golfing form, except where individuals of equal experience are taken in illustration. The British first class and the American first class are far apart, and

probably there are not a half-dozen players in America who would reach the semi-final round in a British championship tournament.

Golf is quickest learned and longest remembered by carefully studying the play of really high-class performers, and patiently practising along the lines they reveal. But golfers whose form could be safely accepted as an example to beginners have been few on this side the At-

reasonable to include in one lot those golfers who have learned their game abroad and played it from boyhood. In this division are Messrs. H. J. Whigham, the champion of '96; C. B. Macdonald, champion of '95; L. B. Stoddart, champion of '94; H. J. Tweedie, A. M. Coats, L. P. Tweedie, and D. R. Forgan, all (with the exception of Stoddart and Coats) of Chicago. But of this division Whigham and Macdonald easily outclass the others.



THE NEW HOME OF THE ST. ANDREWS CLUB.

lantic, and that fact, coupled with our so recent conversion to the game, accounts for the small number of really first-class players. Mr. Macdonald, and after him Mr. Whigham and one or two others, who learned their game abroad, have done much towards raising the standard of American play by providing an example of correct form and in putting up a mark, through their superior performances, for the attainment of others. But the majority of American golfers have worked out their own salvation, aided here and there by a professional green-keeper of more or less, generally less, knowledge than conceit. At the close of 1896 there were probably thirty men and half a dozen women who had shown good enough play throughout the season to entitle them to recognition in the year's golfing classification.

Undoubtedly the fairest and the most definite method of classification is a division of the players so as to indicate in a measure the conditions under which they played their game. Accordingly it is

In a second division are the older men, who have taken up the game within the last three or four years, and learned it on American greens. Such a list includes: J. G. Thorp (Cambridge), H. P. Toler (Baltusrol), H. R. Sweny (St. Andrews), W. H. Sands (St. Andrews), A. H. Fenn (Palmetto), J. A. Tyng (Morris County), H. C. Leeds (Myopia), James Park (St. Andrews), J. R. Chadwick (St. Andrews), J. Lynch (Lake-wood), B. S. de Garmendia (St. Andrews), H. G. Trevor (Shinnecock), A. L. Livermore (St. Andrews), and Dr. E. C. Rushmore (Tuxedo).

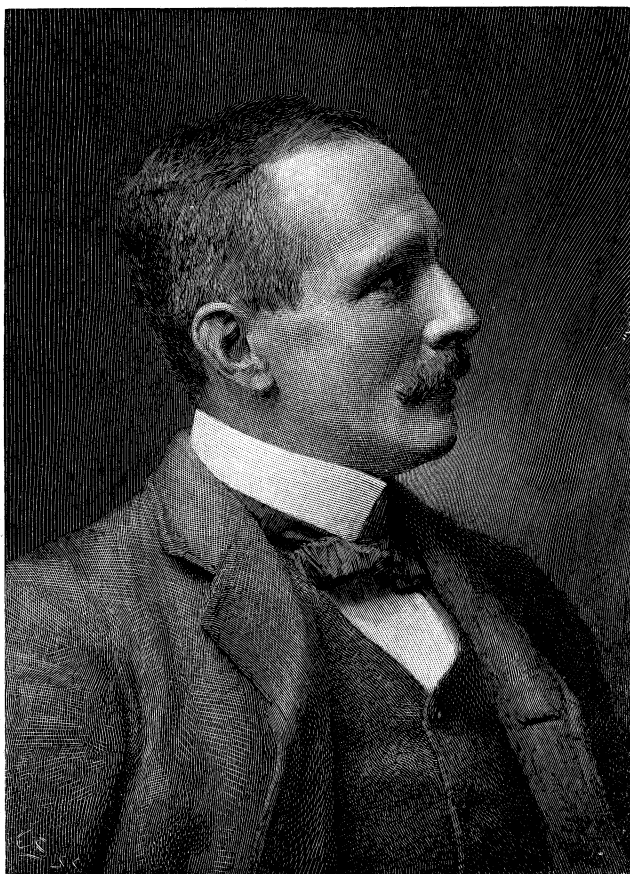
In a third division are the young players, who are virtually the new additions to the scratch list. L. P. Bayard, Jr. (Princeton), the '97 inter-collegiate champion, properly heads this division, and following his name come those of H. B. Hollins, Jr. (Westbrook), W. Bayard Cutting, Jr. (Harvard), Roderick Terry, Jr. (Yale), R. H. Dickson (Niagara), F. C. and H. O. Havemeyer (Newport), C. L. Tappin (Westbrook), and Beverly Ward, Jr. (Baltusrol).

Among the women, Miss Hoyt (Shinnecock) won first honors (championship) in '96, and on public form unquestionably stands at the head of the list. Mrs. Charles Brown (Shinnecock), Mrs. Arthur Turnure (Shinnecock), Miss F. C. Griscom (Philadelphia County), Mrs. William Shippen (Morris County), Miss Cora Oliver (Albany), Miss F. K. McLane (Baltimore), Miss Sargent (Brookline), Miss Sands and Mrs. W. Butler Duncan (Westchester), Miss Gannet (Essex County), and Miss Brooks (Ardsey), make up a second group. And the general improvement in play by the women over last year was even more pronounced than that shown by the men.

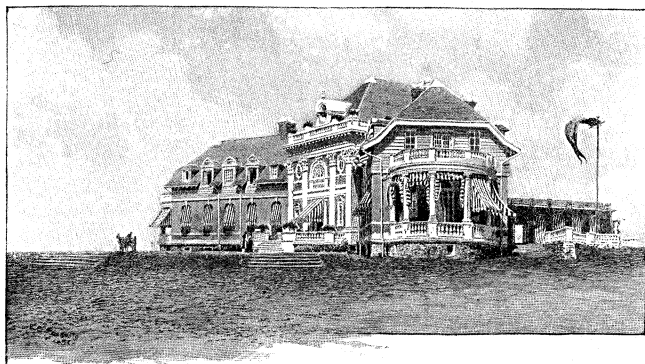
The younger players are coming to the front too rapidly to remain long stationary in any classification, and probably before this paper (which is being written in the first days of the opening spring of '97) is published, some of them will have caught and passed in the race for golfing supremacy several of the older ones here given. There are, too, on this list, among the older players, some with eccentric and peculiarly individual styles, at total variance with accepted golfing form, and it remains to be seen whether, in the course of another season or two, these will not have descended a grade lower than that on which they now travel. There can be no doubt that the accepted style developed from generations of experience is the one best calculated to put the golfer on the road towards substantial improvement and eventually consistent form.

It will not be possible within the scope of this article to comment upon all or even a fair share of the golf courses of America. I shall confine my remarks to the

few best known. I have already said our average course is not so favorable to golf as the average one on the other side. We have little of that true sandy soil and less of the splendid turf which obtain to such a great extent in the old country. And our courses are too plentifully supplied with stones and trees, which spoil their golfing possibilities. San Francisco, so far as sandy soil goes, has all the natural advantages for an excellent course, and there is indeed a small but thoroughly sport-giving links at the Presidio, the U. S. military reservation on the outskirts of the city. There are parts of Oakland, across the bay, admirably adapted for golf, and that will be put in use possibly before another year has gone by. In New Mexico and Arizona there is sand enough, but enthusiasm has not yet reached the point of accepting rattle-



H. J. WHIGHAM, UNITED STATES CHAMPION, '96.



NEWPORT CLUB HOUSE.

snakes and cacti in lieu of more conventional if less negotiable hazards. Local talent is otherwise engaged for the time being, and therefore undeveloped. In this section, but a little north, is Colorado, with its sport-giving course, ravishing in its picturesque location at Colorado Springs—that Mecca for those short in health and long in purse.

In the East, nearly all of Long Island is a links, and the course of the Shinnecock Hills Golf Club truly partakes of Scottish golfing. It is a natural links, not laid out to the best advantage, but beautifully located on the great rolling sandy hills which lie between Peconic Bay on the north and Shinnecock Bay on the south, with the ocean just beyond. The spring and autumn air is deliciously invigorating, and the natural possibilities of the course suggest eventually the best golfing soil in America. By proper fertilizing and the sowing of grass through the fair green they will have a soil at Shinnecock to compare favorably with the sea-side links in Great Britain. But the holes are of bad length, the putting-greens rather small, and where artificially made too level.

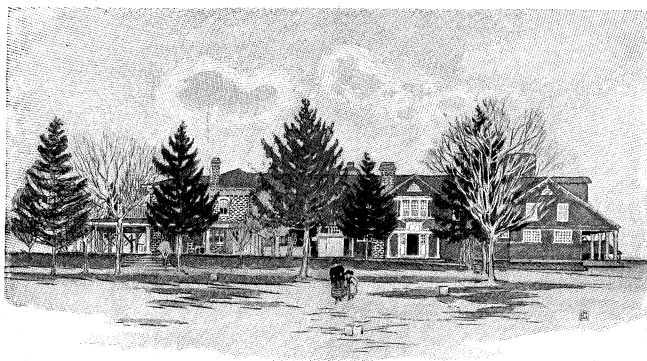
Golfers who have played on the leading American links incline to the belief that the course of the Chicago Golf

Club is the best in America. Its eighteen holes are almost identical in distance with those of St. Andrews, Scotland; the country is rolling, with an old, rich turf; there are large, natural putting-greens, and between the two short holes is a good-sized pond. The other hazards include bunkers, cops, mounds, and a ditch kept full of water, which are all artificial,

but placed so that every hole presents a new feature, and brings out the truest golf; there are neither trees nor stones, and there is a handsome and thoroughly equipped club-house.

Nine good holes are better than eighteen indifferent ones, and Meadow Brook's nine more nearly answer this description than any in the country. The soil and putting-greens are very good, the distance between the holes generally excellent, and the picturesquely located club-house of the Meadow Brook Hunt is close at hand and affords ample cheer.

One sport-giving links on Long Island is that of the Rockaway Hunt Club of Cedarhurst, where its nine holes are close to the sea, and the majority of its hazards natural. There is more opportunity for using the brassy here than is provided by the majority of American courses, and though the holes partake of the general



CHICAGO CLUB HOUSE.

American failing, and are rather short, they call for fair golfing.

In picturesque environment few links in America are more favored than Newport. From its handsome club-house the entire course is visible. On one side stretches away the ocean, and on the other Newport Bay, whose shores are covered with the most imposing summer residences to be found in all this country. Like Meadow Brook, it is a course of nine holes. There are stone walls covered with turf so as to make bunkers, some natural hazards, and soil of a good golfing quality.

The course of the Essex County Club, at Manchester-by-the-Sea, has eleven holes, which run over a country with plenty of fences, a winding brook, and a small valley that is sandy. It is a very fair links, and has a soil that furnishes good golfing possibilities.

Myopia has many attractive features, and the making of a very "sporty" course. The distances are better than the American average, though there is not sufficient turf through some of the greens, and stones are too plentiful. There is a pond that tries the soul of the golfer, and natural hazards of great variety and number, while the surrounding country shows many handsome residences.

The Tuxedo links calls for accurate driving, and is more trying to the nerves of the beginner than possibly that of any other club. The Ramapo Hills overshadow the course on either side, and there are the Ramapo River and the Tuxedo Brook, which the course crosses four times, and stone walls, hills, and apple-trees to add to the picturesqueness of the setting and to the detriment of good golfing.

On the other side Tuxedo probably would not be regarded as a golf course.



J. G. THORP, RUNNER UP IN THE '96 CHAMPIONSHIP.

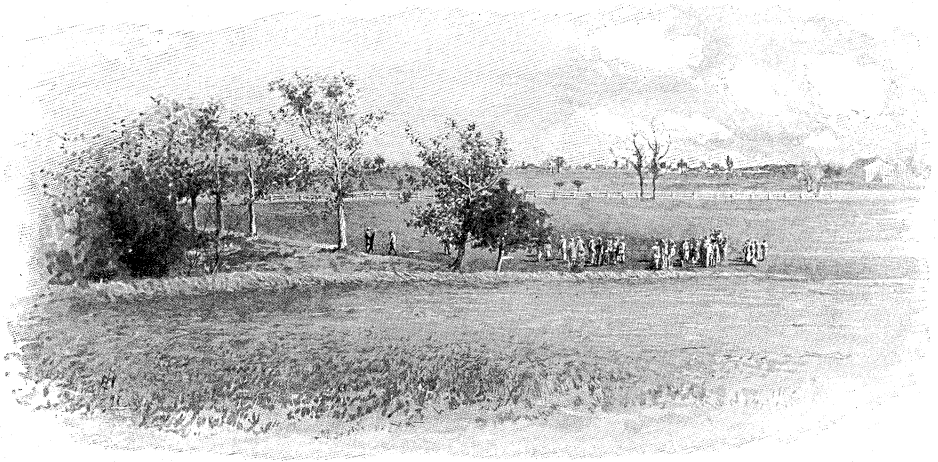
Next to Tuxedo the course of the Brookline Country Club is the most formidable to the duffer golfer; and it is by no means overeasy to the expert. There are hazards galore, stone walls, sandy bunkers, water, and, most terrible of all, a huge sand pit, which looks like the crater of an extinct volcano, and has brought sorrow to more than one golfer. You are not a golfer until you have graduated from the novitiate period. The surroundings here are beautiful, for few country clubs in America equal Brookline in its picturesque environment. The holes are a bit short, and while the hazards are sufficiently formidable to still the heart of the tyro, as a matter of fact to the expert they are fairly easy to negotiate if the drive be true or the cleek shot well executed. The prospect of either the Brookline or the Tuxedo course being developed

into a first-class golfing course seems remote.

Morristown and Knollwood are both prettily surrounded, and in their perfected form promise fairly good golf; but there, again, the holes are too short, particularly at Morristown, the putting-greens small, and in many instances terraced. At

beautifully situated greens in America, and its environment is among the best. To a first-class golfer the course is easy, but he of uncertain form is severely penalized.

The Philadelphia Country Club has a small but excellent course, and though one of the more recent converts to the



A VIEW OF THE MEADOW BROOK LINKS.

Morristown trees abound, while at Knollwood the course is too full of stones, both abominations to the golfer. Both courses are being improved immensely by lavish expenditure, and promise well in a year or two.

Nearly all these courses reveal the common error made by most golf clubs in laying out their putting-greens with the spirit-level; whereas, while the green must be fairly level, the surface should partake somewhat of the undulations of the general country, by which means the putting-greens differ and the quality of the golfing increases correspondingly. It is in this particular that the course of the Chicago Golf Club excels.

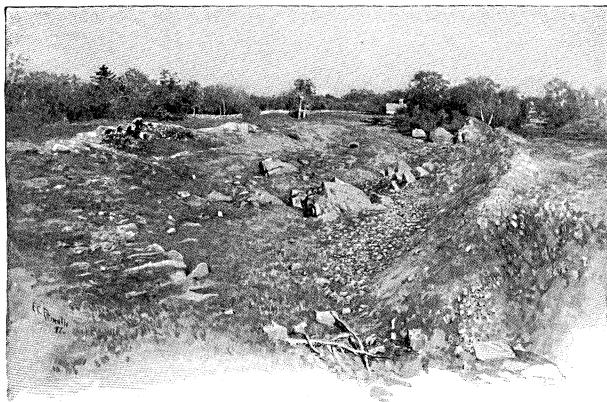
Ardsey-on-the-Hudson has a handsome country club house, and a course that commands an entrancing view throughout its entire length of eighteen holes. Its hazards are well placed, and the course is practically free of the rocky character which spoils good golf. Indeed, one may use the brassy between all the holes. There are, however, trees in abundance. It has perhaps the most

game, there is no lacking in enthusiasm, and the form is of a very fair grade.

So from a handful of clubs in 1894, and possibly not over two or three men of first-class form, we have come in two years to have some eighty clubs belonging to the Association, and there is no knowing how many outside of it, while of good form there is a most encouraging showing.

Thus is the conquest of America complete!

It would be interesting to discover what it is that has given this game, after a century of indifferent life, such emphatic popularity in the last few years. It would be satisfactory to learn why a man once a golfer is always a golfer. The explanation of its only moderate success for so many years may probably be found in the fact that the world moved slower and people lived easier and life demanded less of them then than now. And not golf alone, but every other sport has shared in the modern movement. The last ten or fifteen years have witnessed a tremendously increased popularity in all depart-



THE GRAVEL-PIT BUNKER, BROOKLINE.

ments of athletic endeavor. As men use their brain more, there is the greater need of some use of the body. Out-of-door life, exercise, sport, generate the oil that keeps the human machinery moving smoothly; without it the bearings wear out untimely.

Golf has achieved success because it is clean and honorable and healthful; because it takes men out of doors, brings them in touch with nature; because the game is adapted to all conditions and character of man and woman kind; and because a poor player can get as much fun out of it, as much exercise, and as much air and health as an expert. There is no danger of golf being monopolized by a few skilled performers. Any man, the veriest duffer, can enjoy himself on the links to his heart's content. He may go over the same course a dozen times, and have differing situations to contend with on each round. Once the golfing germ is planted there is no respite. He is a golfer in spite of himself. Its fascinations are manifold, and chief of them is the variety of situations which rise during the course of play. Variety

is the spice of golf as it is of life.

You may view it with contempt, as most men did; you may call it the putting of little balls into little holes; but you may be sure, once you have taken up the club and essayed to drive that little ball into those little holes, your peace is undone until you have attained sufficient form to enable you to do it with at least a fair degree of accuracy and some cause for satisfaction. The secret of the game's hold upon man

lies in its elusoriness, and his altogether human vanity is not to be appeased short of mastery. And so he tries and fails, and tries again, and keeps on trying until he can drive that ball in the direction and to the distance he wishes it to go.

The experience of one scoffer turned golfer is the experience of nearly all that have succumbed to the game's allurements.

At first you viewed your friend's enthusiasm with disdain barely concealed. One day he persuaded you to go out to the course and see some play, and with an



THE ARDSLEY CLUB.

air that suggested a superior intelligence you perhaps stood at the teeing-ground wondering at the seriousness of the man addressing the ball. Possibly you smiled pityingly if its flight was less accurate than you thought it should have been or the player hoped it might be. Perhaps you followed the player over the course, impatient at his repeatedly unsuccessful attempts to drive safely beyond a bunker, or disgusted at his inability to keep the ball out of some trees that lined the distance between a couple of the holes. No doubt you thought him a very poor specimen of the genus golfer, and became convinced of his stupidity when he reached the putting-green and made several ineffectual attempts to hole his ball. It all

seemed so absurdly easy you told your friend you would try a round—just to please him. You accepted his club, and with fitting condescension a few preliminary instructions on how to hold it; with a patronizing swagger you reached the teeing-ground, and with smiling complacency addressed yourself to the ball.

And now your vanity received the greatest shock it had ever been called on to sustain. You swung that club in full determination to drive the ball at least over the bunker about fifty yards away, and were astonished, if you hit it at all, that your supreme effort was rewarded by a puny flight of probably ten or twenty yards, and many yards to the left of where you intended it to go.



GETTING OUT OF A BUNKER.



A TRYING MOMENT.

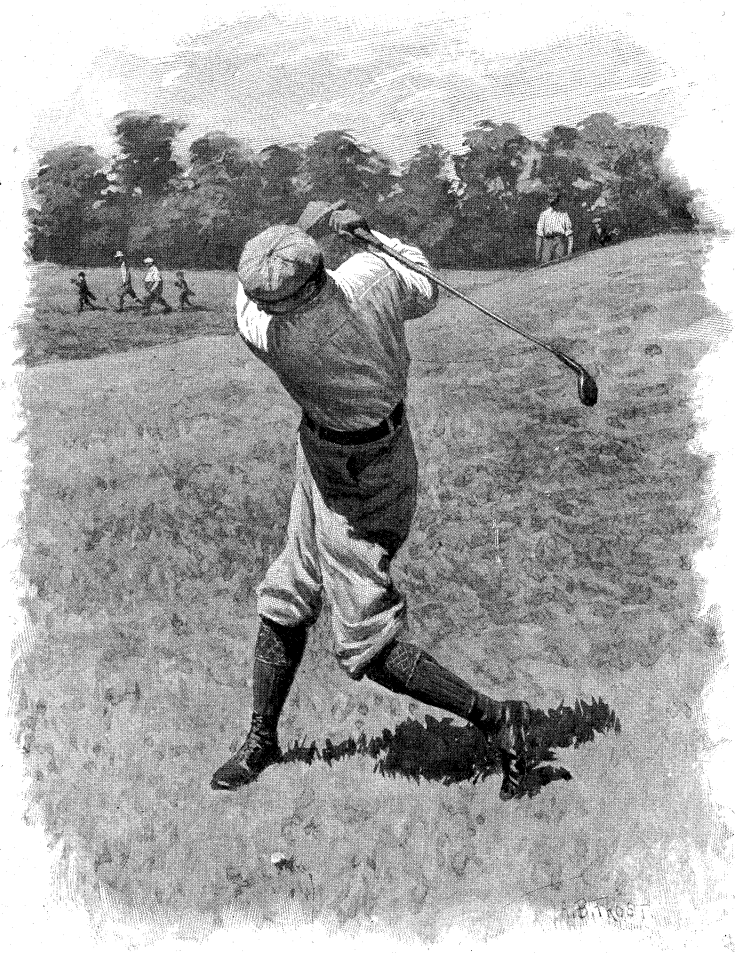
You made sure it was only a case of "hard luck" on the drive; that you would do better through the green; but the ball responded to your iron as erratically as it had to your driver. You could not understand why it persistently went into the long grass to the right or left, or why you found all the stone walls and ditches throughout the course. And when you finished you were certain something had been all wrong which you could rectify on a second attempt.

So there you are,—a convert, with no rest for you henceforth until you have overcome the obstinacy of that gutta-percha sphere.

You were surprised to find in how many different ways you could hold that club, and in how many different directions you could drive the ball except the one in which you desired it to go. And so surprise follows surprise, and the greatest surprise of all, if you stop to ponder, is that a game which seems so easy should

prove so perplexing. Your wrath will wax strong and your soul be torn with vexation, yet will nothing turn you from your now deadly earnest pursuit of the mysterious "something" which you must needs capture to achieve your now dearest wish. There is no explosion,—the little gutta-percha is unmindful of your most highly colored expletives,—just a fervid,

form. You will see many extraordinary styles on the course, but beware how you copy the eccentricities of experts, and remember that while genius knows no rule, the chances of success for the ordinary mortal lie along conventional lines. Good driving form is probably the easiest to acquire. It is in approaching the green, in the three-quarter and one-half



A GOOD BRASSY LIE.

silently registered vow to become the master rather than the mastered.

Time, patience, and careful practice under skilled instruction are the only means to the end of attaining proper

and wrist shots, where skill and experience count. You will find it easier to attain skill on the putting green, although, strangely enough, this branch of the play is the most ignored; many



LOFTING A STYMIE.

games are won and lost on the putting-green.

There has been, and continues to be, much discussion as to the proper manner of the swing, of holding the club, and of the position of the feet, and this paper is not a didactic treatise. The surest way to attain good golfing form is to supplement instruction by the imitation of some golfer who plays in accepted good form. Hard practice will do the rest.

In the old country the caddie is a distinct institution; he is the adviser and the father-confessor, and his suggestions and criticisms are accepted by the player in silent acknowledgment of his office. In this country the caddie as yet is just the ordinary small boy, with no peculiar individualism, unless it be evinced in a

supreme indifference to the precise flight of your ball. On the other side, generations of service have schooled him to conceal his contempt for the hapless golfer; on this side he has not attained so high a degree of refinement; more often he is an unreliable guardian and a disconcerting counsellor. But we have no fault to find with him; he comes of a quick-witted race that promises well for the caddies of the days to come. Meanwhile we are adjusting ourselves to the requirements of this Old World game that has made so complete a conquest of the New World. And if golf has defied tradition and overrun barriers, it has set up the better ideal of wholesome sport healthfully played.

We need not resist the invasion of such a game.