

GOSSIP OF THE CLUBS.

There is general satisfaction freely expressed in the clubs over the judicial action of Judge Barrett and Justice Murray in the Gebhard-New-York Club case. That the club is a private institution with laws of its own which should not be meddled with by outside parties is the general sentiment. Men who join a club are presumed to agree to accept and abide by its by-laws and constitution. There is always an appeal to the club from the decisions of the Board of Directors. It is an easy matter to call a club meeting. A club meeting can reverse the action of the governing body. It is folly and an insult to the gentlemen composing a club to suppose that they could be so biased in their appreciation of justice not to be able to judge between the appellant and the Governing Committee in a case of this kind. The cases where club matters of a personal nature have been taken into the courts are so few that they really establish no precedent. But the ruling of Judge Barrett will establish an important precedent, which will offset that of another Judge in the famous Loubat-Union Club case. These club troubles are always of such a personal and private character that there is no excuse, except, indeed, a desire for revenge, for taking them into the courts. If the appeal to the courts should become common the theory and fundamental idea of the club would be destroyed; its inviolate privacy that bars the door to all except the privileged few, even the officers of the law, would be nullified by an injunction. Both Mr. Loubat and Mr. Gebhard had many friends in their respective clubs whom they lost when they appealed for redress to the courts instead of to a club meeting, when they could have served them loyally and true. While the bearings of the two cases are different the principle of club etiquette and law involved in both are identical. A man who seeks to remain in a club notwithstanding the decision of its Governing Committee, approved by a club meeting, through a legal technicality, demands a privilege that would be denied him, with much less formality, in a public barroom, and from which he would only have the redress of a case of assault and battery against the "bouncer," is not likely to have much sympathy among club men. It is likely that if Judge Barrett had granted Mr. Gebhard his injunction, a new rule would be introduced in the by-laws of the clubs requiring members to sign an agreement or take an oath to abide by the laws of the organization, and not in any case to appeal to the courts. The personal matters revealed in these cases injure the prestige and reputation of the club system in the eyes of the community. A club is an association of affiliating gentlemen, who are governed, except in details, by the unwritten law concerning the conduct of "an officer and a gentleman;" and there are no more skeletons in their closets than in the private household, and the personal license of speech and action is not as liberal, while there is the discipline of the Governing Committee, elected by general ballot for that purpose. It is a mistake of the outside world to suppose that the privacy of a club shields a personal liberty of speech and action that would not be tolerated in public. The club is a well-ordered household. All good club men, therefore, approve of Judge Barrett's recent decision.

To club men the reports in sensational newspapers of the high play at cards in the clubs are simply preposterous and amusing. In the first place the rules limit the stakes, and prevent anything of the kind. Except in a very few clubs none of the so-called "gambling games" are allowed excepting poker, and even this is prohibited in a large number of the clubs because of the troubles it always occasions. Baccarat, roulette, or faro are not permitted in any of the regular social clubs. The Turf Club, founded some years ago to introduce all kinds of gaming, failed because of the trouble arising from the license. There is no privacy among the members of clubs, and whenever any of the members wish to play poker or baccarat for high stakes they go elsewhere, knowing full well that if they were to play in the club, even behind the closed doors of the private dining room, the result would somehow mysteriously become the common gossip before the next setting sun. The poker coterie in all the clubs, except the Manhattan, the Union, and the New-York, always have a room in some public resort, where they repair when they wish to play their favorite game, and it is consequently no longer a club matter any more than any of the outside doings of a member might be. The favorite game of cards in the clubs is the amiable hearts. Billiard playing is the principal pastime in the clubs for those who do not repair there for social intercourse or reading. The Whist Club is composed almost entirely of members of other clubs, who assemble solely for the purpose of playing their favorite game. The conclusion will be correct that there is not much done or permitted that would not be permissible in a household or at a private dinner table. When there is, the offenders are always disciplined either by the gentle reminder of the warning from the House Committee or by suspension or expulsion.

The Lambs will signalize their dinner to Henry Irving to-night by inviting all the managers, the prominent stars, and the leading Judges, including Gov. Hill. The dinner will be the most elaborate ever given in the club. Five dollars is the price of the tickets.

So many members of the New-York Yacht Club have been enrolled in the Larchmont Yacht Club that they are almost practically amalgamated. Nearly all the yacht owners are members of the two clubs. The new house at Larchmont will be ready for occupancy early in the Spring.

There are two fine clubs in Richmond, Va., occupying mansions in the fashionable part of the city—the Richmond and the Westmoreland—the latter the largest and the most prosperous. The present cook of the Westmoreland was long employed by the late Judge Smith at his roadside hostelry.

The Lotos Club has not yet decided on its new location, though the committee is expected to report soon.

The Harbor Island Club, on the coast of North Carolina, is, through the Chairman of its Executive Committee, Mr. Larry Pike, well known in the Lotos and the yacht club, making extensive arrangements for this season.

The Anglo-American Club, at Dresden, is a flourishing institution.

The Mohican will not disband, but reorganize, and the "professional" element will once more assert itself.

The St. Nicholas Club has so many members belonging to other clubs that only a portion of its numerous enrollment make it their resort.

The Manhattan Athletic will need the proposed enlargement of the "I," if they continue to increase the membership so rapidly. Another entertainment is announced for next Saturday evening.

The scheme of Republican Clubs in each city, to take an active part in the next Presidential campaign, is progressing under the auspices of the Republican Club of this city.

The Union League will give its second art exhibition Dec. 8, consisting entirely of American works. If a satisfactory number of paintings cannot be obtained from the studios—and the committee is properly inclined to be critical and exercise judgment in accepting the works offered—the private collections will be drawn upon to complete the exhibition. It is a mistake which the Union League no longer makes of accepting all the pictures offered by the artists always anxious to secure an exhibition and a sale, and the consequence is that there is merit in all the works displayed and the sales frequent.

The Salmagundi has decided not to give any exhibition this season, and a movement is on foot to turn the organization into a social resort for the artists belonging, especially since the failure of the Renaissance leaves an opening for such a club. It would be well to let the fate of the Renaissance serve as a warning. It is asserted that the artists are contented with the exhibitions of the Water Color Society; that there are only amateurs or beginners in the Kit-Kat, and that there is room for a social retreat for artists that the Renaissance did not provide in admitting so many business men.