

**THE WEEK IN THE CLUB WORLD**

Holy Week in the New-York clubs, it must be confessed, was, paradoxically speaking, somewhat gay and more animated than the same period has been in some years past. The causes already detailed in this column which generally make the season of Lent one of the liveliest of the year in the club world, and which may be all comprised in the one that there is little outside entertainment at that period, of necessity operate most strongly during the most solemn week of the penitential season. The tedium of a dull week is relieved by a visit to the club, and even the "faithful" find their clubs convenient and comfortable resorts after church hours. The Church Club, itself composed of loyal members of the Anglican community, finds its rooms better attended during Lent and especially in Holy Week than at any other time in the year.

This year, however, Holy Week brought an interest and excitement it never has before, and again, as during the preceding week, Mr. Raines and his bill have drawn to the clubs an unusual attendance. When it was learned that last Sunday three of the larger social clubs, the Union League, Century, and Republican, had closed their bars and, in the vernacular, "gone dry," the agitation and excitement measurably increased. The officers of these organizations argued that as the bill had been passed and been signed by the Governor it was the law, and felt that they should at once obey it, whether or not its constitutionality should be afterward tested. The large German clubs, together with the Metropolitan, Union, Manhattan, Calumet, New-York, Knickerbocker, and the smaller institutions, decided, as was stated in this column last Sunday, to take the chances of the law not being enforced before May 1, and its possible amendment before that time permitting them privileges which the law, as it stands at present, will not grant when it goes into effect. The published opinion of Corporation Counsel Scott that the law would not take effect as far as clubs are concerned before April 30 or May 1 brought a grain of comfort and relieved them from any penalty as to last Sunday's opening. Some more timorous Governors in the Union, Metropolitan, Calumet, and New-York were rather disposed to follow the example of the Union League and Century Clubs, especially as a policeman had called the preceding day and left a copy of the bill at each of these institutions. They were overruled, however, but, notwithstanding the serving of drinks on Sunday, most of the clubs which did so refused to serve drinks between the hours of 1 and 5 A. M., and at the Calumet and New-York servants were instructed to inform the members a few minutes before 1 o'clock that the bar would close at that hour and that drinks must be ordered before that time.

The discussions over the Raines bill have continued to be as prolonged and as animated as when it was first passed. The question of taking out a hotel certificate has been one of the most lively topics. As the bill now reads, club members under the regular club license cannot be served with wines or liquors, even at their meals on Sundays. A hotel certificate would make this possible, and as most of the larger clubs have at least ten bedrooms this certificate could be obtained by them. The Metropolitan, New-York, Union League, Manhattan, Knickerbocker, Calumet, Catholic, Union, University, and possibly the Players, could comply with the law as to bedrooms—but a hotel must admit casual guests, and it is quite within the bounds of possibility that, should any of these clubs take out a hotel certificate, Mr. "Weary Waggles" might like to try a night's lodging in their comfortable rooms, and if any room was empty could not be refused without danger of the license being vitiated. A Bowers lodging-house tramp in the Union, Knickerbocker, or Metropolitan Clubs, making use of their billiard rooms, parlor, library, and restaurant, and sleeping in any of their bedrooms, would cause about as much sensation as did the tramp who passed a night in Mrs. Astor's house last year. Seriously speaking, this would seem to be a fatal obstacle to the club's taking out a hotel certificate, and some other plan must be devised to enable thirsty clubmen to have wine with their dinners—on Sundays.

The members of the Union League, Century, and Republican Clubs, who for the first time in the history of those institutions felt the effects last Sunday of absolute prohibition, speak of the day mournfully and look back upon it with gloom. Men who ordinarily have not been in the habit, perhaps, of taking even a glass of sherry in their Sunday visits to those clubs, state that they were possessed that day of a most unaccountable and phenomenal thirst. There were many conversations on the subject of the Sahara, and doctors were humorously appealed to as to the exact progression in suffering of a man dying of thirst. The opinion of Corporation Counsel Scott, which seemed valid, caused him to be called "the oasis," and when it was announced on Monday that for the next four Sundays at least, drinks would be served, joy succeeded to despair. It was felt not only in these clubs so quick to obey the law, and in the others which lagged, that Easter would not be as dreary a day as had been anticipated, and there was a universal expression of the sentiment "For this relief—much thanks."

The committee of nine, appointed week before last at the conference of clubs held at the Arion Club, sent out fifty invitations to a further conference, again at the Arion Club, for Thursday evening, and was gratified to find that no less than thirty-five clubs were represented at this second conference. It will be remembered that at the first conference only the Manhattan, Union League, and Lotos Clubs of the distinctive large American clubs, were represented. To Thursday's conference, however, the Riding, United Service, D. K. E., Engineers, New Manhattan Athletic, and Century Clubs all sent representatives. Frank R. Lawrence, President of the Lotos,

who presided over the first conference, being absent from the city, Edward N. Burghard of the Arion Club took the chair, and James H. Taylor of the Harlem Club was made Secretary. After an animated discussion of an hour and a half, which brought out a unanimous expression of opinion that the Raines law was a menace to the privacy of club life, and thus threatened the best feature of its existence, a resolution was carried instructing the committee of nine to frame an amendment to the law which would meet the objections of the clubs, and to have such amendment introduced at once into the Legislature. The meeting expressed the hope that the various clubs would send representatives to Albany to argue in favor of the amendment.

The discussion at this meeting as well as its results, confirmed the statement made last week that clubmen generally oppose the new law chiefly and primarily because it strikes directly against the most cherished and essential tradition and custom of club life—namely, that a man's club, like his home, is his castle, and that he with his fellow-members has a right to privacy there, and shall have the say as to who shall and who shall not be admitted into his clubhouse. The clause of the new law permitting access to clubhouses at any and all times of special agents or detectives—call them what one may—is resented most vigorously and strenuously, and the New-York clubs at least, whatever may be the result of the agitation over the other clauses of the law affecting them, will fight this particular regulation tooth and nail. It remains to be seen what the extent and power of club sentiment and influence, when once aroused and unanimous on such a matter, will be. Rather an amusing side incident to the Raines bill club agitation is the voting by the Town of Pelham, Westchester County, for prohibition, which cast a small bombshell into the New-York Athletic Club, whose handsome Summer clubhouse is on Travers Island and partly within the Township of Pelham. The New-York Athletic Club men had been congratulating themselves that if the new law prevented their procuring drinks on Sundays in their New-York house, they could run up to their Summer clubhouse outside the city limits, and quench their thirst. This new development, as may be imagined, therefore, caused a decided sensation. It is now stated, however, that the island is divided by the line between New-Rochelle and Pelham Townships, so that if the Town of New-Rochelle will grant a license, which is likely, drinks can be procured on that side of the line even if the bar has to be moved out of doors.

The annual meeting of the City Club last week developed the fact, through the Secretary's report, that the club has sustained a decided if not alarming loss in membership, and the faces of the members present looked grave when it was announced that over 100 members had sent in their resignations during the last few months. The argument has been advanced that this falling off in the membership is due to loss of interest in the club and to the formation of the many Good Government Clubs, of which the City Club is the head and source. Clubmen generally, however, agree that the falling off is due almost directly to the action of certain prominent members and officers of the club in the political campaign last Autumn, and which it is not necessary to recall in detail now. Edmund Kelly, who was really the founder of the City Club, and who first conceived the idea of the Good Government organization, in which the founding of the City Club was the first step, it is said, has resigned from the club, and disapproves of the step taken last Autumn. There are so many good and strong men, however, remaining in the club, that it will probably live through its present time of depression, and unless, as is not likely, a similar mistake to that of last Autumn is again made, will regain its old strength. The Trustees elected at the annual meeting were Robert W. De Forest, Elihu Root, Joseph Larocque, John E. Parsons, William J. Schieffelin, William B. Hornblower, James W. Pryor, J. H. Van Amringe, and Gustave H. Schwab.

The Seawanhaka-Corinthian Yacht Club will hold its third regular meeting for this year at Delmonico's on Tuesday evening next. Some amendments to the racing rules, making them conform to those of the Yacht Racing Union of Long Island Sound, will be presented and probably adopted. The recent "smoker" at the New-York Yacht Club was even more a success than had been anticipated by its promoters, and developed the fact that there is an unusual amount of musical talent in the club. The handsome model room was crowded to the doors during the rendering of the programme, and upward of 300 members of the club were present. The amateur orchestra which Capt. Oscar Smith organized, and which, in compliment to his well-known boat, he called the "Social" Orchestra, notwithstanding the fact that it had only one rehearsal, played so delightfully as to receive rapturous applause from the club members and guests. A haughteous supper was served after the entertainment.

There is considerable feeling in the New-York Yacht Club over the suit brought by F. Cooper Clark of the Idlewild against his fellow member, Bayard Thayer of the Constellation, for personal injuries received during the run from New-London to Newport in August, 1894, when the latter yacht came in collision with the former, and in which Mr. Clark was awarded a large verdict. This verdict has now been set aside, and a new trial ordered, so that the case will have to be fought over again. It is almost an unprecedented thing for one member of a New-York yacht club to sue another for damages resulting from an accident, especially where the sailing regulations of the club admit a doubt as to which yacht was at fault. Mr. Thayer is determined to contest the case in the new trial as vigorously as he did in the first.

Joseph H. Kernochan and other members of the Calumet Club who are believers in the efficacy of a rabbit's-foot charm, and who feel assured that the recovery of their jewelry, recently stolen from the clubhouse and found in a Battery Park closet, was directly due to a rabbit's foot of marvelous power, owned by B. R. Bayne of the Calumet, are pleased to find that their faith in this particular charm is evidently shared by the public, for rabbits' feet, tipped with silver, are among the Easter novelties in the shops, and are meeting with a large sale.