

THE WEEK IN THE CLUB WORLD

The unusual heat has been responsible for the sudden transference of club interest to the country and the subsidence almost entirely of the previous animated discussions relative to the Raines law in the New-York clubs the past week.

The question now asked and unanswered is: Which of the New-York clubs will offer itself as a sacrifice, or, in other words, allow its officers to be arrested for distributing liquor at times forbidden by the Raines law on May 1, and, banking on the Adelphi Club decision, give opportunity for a test case and argument on the question?

Only two more Sundays, to-day and to-day week, remain, therefore, when clubmen are sure of obtaining what drinks they may wish in their clubhouses on Sundays and between 1 and 5 A. M. on week-day mornings.

The case of Mr. George W. Smalley vs. the Governors of the Metropolitan Club, or, to speak more correctly, of the Governors of the Metropolitan Club vs. Mr. George W. Smalley, having now become public property and leaked out as most club secrets generally do in time, it may not be amiss to comment upon it this morning, especially as it revives the question of a club member's duty and respect to the officers of his club and the relative amount of freedom allowed to their members respectively by the English and American clubs.

Club members not only of the Metropolitan, but of other New-York clubs, are now asking whether Mr. Smalley would have taken a party of ladies and gentlemen through one of his London clubs, and whether, even with the greater freedom of manner allowed in the London clubs, a committee of any such London clubs would have overlooked conduct as disrespectful to such committee as was that of Mr. Smalley to the Metropolitan Club committee.

The truth is that the House Committees of the larger New-York clubs are as a rule disposed to be very lenient toward offending members and very often overlook technical violations of the smaller rules. They have to guard most jealously, however, the privacy of the clubhouses, and in this they are supported by a majority of the members, who resent nothing so quickly as the bringing into clubhouses of persons not eligible under the rules.

The country clubs around New-York have presented an unusual scene of life and animation during the past week. The late Winter and cold Spring kept everything back, and when the warm weather came with a rush it brought almost too large an influx of members and guests, especially as there had not been sufficient time for preparation to receive them.

The time approaches for the annual meeting of the Union Club, which falls on the fourth Wednesday in May, and there is already some discussion of the ticket which probably will be put up for new officers. The terms expire this year as Governors of Messrs. Frank S. Bond, David Crocker, Clarence A. Seward, John Lawrence, Lispenard Stewart, Peter Cooper Hewitt, John J. Townsend, and Osgood Welsh, and of these it is understood that Messrs. Seward and Welsh, at least, do not desire reelection.

H. Grinnell, who came before Mr. Everts, held the office for six terms. Mr. John A. King was elected President in 1854 and held office for thirteen years, or terms, and Mr. John C. Stevens, his predecessor, held office for one year, while the first President of the club, Samuel Jones, was elected in 1836 and held office until 1853.

It is rather a far cry from such an old and dignified institution as the Union Club to such a light and frivolous organization as the Michaux Cycle Club, but, as many of the members of the Union, even of the older and staid members, such as Townsend Burden, Buchanan Winthrop, and Frank Otis, are members of that organization and ride their wheels at the Michaux with dignity and grace, it may not be amiss to state that the last-named club will give a fancy-dress carnival on wheels on Tuesday evening next, April 21, in which some of its more prominent members will appear appropriately costumed.

CLUBMAN.