THE WEEK IN THE CLUB WORLD CLUBMAN.

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THE WEEK IN THE OLUB WORLD H. Grinne held the

The unusual heat has been responsible for the sudden transferrence 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. There is beginning to be a feeling, however, that because the operation of the law so far as it affects clubs has been postponed until May 1, and the Court of Appeals decision in the Adelphi Club case was favorable to the law being inoperative as regards the clubs, clubmen have lulled themselves into a condition of false security, and that the delightful mint juleps, Remsen coolers, and other hot-weather drinks of last Sunday, and the small morning hours of the present days may be summarily cut off when May 1 arrives. Then, too, there is the growing apprehension of Mr. George Hilliard and his deputies walking through the most sacred of the clubrooms at any hour of the day or night which may best suit their fancy, and so the closing hours of the week have not been entirely free from anxiety among the more conservative of club members.

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? This has given rise to the further question as to whether the other clubs will have to obey the law during the argument of the test case or pending the decision. It must be remembered that the Adelphi Club decision, favorable as it was to the cause of the clubs versus the Raines law, was not a decision on any violation of the Raines law, but simply of the old excise law itself, and there must be a new test case and a new decision on the Raines law provisions before the clubs of the State can afford to ignore them. It has been ignorantly assumed on the part of many clubmen, an ignorance fostered by careless and inexperienced writers, that the Adelphi Club decision settled the status of clubs under the Raines law, when it does not necessarily do anything of the kind.

day week, remain, therefore, when clubmen are sure of obtaining what drinks they may wish in their cluthouses on Sundays and between 1 and 5 A. M. on week-day mornings. So, as a bibulous clubman remarked yesterday, "There looms at present over this devoted town the terrific possibility of an insatiable but unquenchable Sunday thirst in the near future."

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The case of Mr. George W. Smalley vs.

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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. It is generally assumed that a man who joins a club makes himself sufficiently well acquainted with the constitution, by-laws, and rules of such club as not to transgress the same through ignorance, and it is further assumed that, if with a knowledge of these rules he violates them, he has no cause for complaint if the penalties provided by these rules are enforced against him. It hardly seems possible that Mr. Smalley could have been in ignorance of the rule common to all the larger New-York clubs forbidding residents of the city not members being taken through their houses, and especially of the unwritten law that ladies are not admitted through the main houses at any time, except possibly at an occasional reception, for which especial cards of invitation are issued. Yet Mr. Smalley took his men and women guests, for the most part New-Yorkers, from a dinner he gave in the ladies' annex through all the main rooms of the clubhouse, even into the smoking room; and in his letter to the House Committee, replying to the one in which he was summoned to appear before it, he is said to have expressed the opinion that the rule against the admission of New-Yorkers not members "was more honored in the breach than in the observance." Whether or not he erred through ignorance or willfully, the House Committee of the Metropolitan might have overlooked his error with a mild rebuke had it not been for his having been disco

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.

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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 Metropolitan House Committee, it is said, received complaints from several members relative to Mr. Smalley's action before it even met to consider the matter, and certainly Mr. Smalley's best friends must admit, apart from his violation of the rules, that his attitude toward the House Committee was, to say the least, ill advised.

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. Such clubs, of course, as the Tuxedo Country, and even the Meadowbrook Club, which are more or less attended and even filled during the Winter months with members and guests are always in good running order, but some of the smaller clubs found their force of servants all too small and their facilities greatly overtaxed on Sunday last and during the week. So many members of the New-York clubs have joined one or more of the country clubs for the advantage they provide of running out of town and having comfortable quarters on warm nights that any sudden heat brings too great a rush together and occasions consequent complaint. The golf clubs have as a rule limited sleeping accommodations, but several of them are contemplating the building of annexes where members who mights and play before going in to business in the morning can have comfortable sleeping quarters. Yesterday afternoon the scenes at the St. Andrew's, the Elmhurst, the Baltusrol, and the Morristown Golf Clubs were very animated ones, and both golfers and bicyclists were out in force at both places. T uxedo is looking its best this Spring, and the club is exceedingly well run. It promises an unusually prosperous season for itself, and has every reason to look forward to such. Messrs. George Post and Grenville Kane continue to manage the club well.

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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 re-election. This would make a new President necessary, as Mr. Seward now holds that position, and the President must be elected from the Board of Governors. It is quitt probable that Mr. James G. K. Duer, who is now Vice President, would, in the even of Mr. Seward's declining the election, be chosen in his place. Mr. Seward will have completed six years of service as President when his term expires, on June 11 next Mr. John J. Townsend, who preceded him served seven terms. Mr. William M. Evarts, who preceded Mr. Constable, wa President for eight terms, and Mr. Mose

H. Grinnell, who came before Mr. Everts, held the office for six terms. Mr. John 4. 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 erganization 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. It has been suggested that Mr. Burden should assume the character of the "hero of the great diamond robbery," and that Mr. Frank Otis should disguise himself as a "scorcher." The Michaux Club will have a meet in Central Park early in May and will wheel to the second annual bicycle tea at Claremont on May 2. The new Turf, Field and Farm Club, which is to occupy the old Morris Park Clubhouse, will be a favorite point for the members of the Michaux to wheel to this Spring and Summer. Mr. Perry Belmont and other gentlemen who have taken great interest in this new club, hope to have everything completed for a formal opening of the same at a near date. Extensive improvements have been made and the club will be one of the best appointed of the many country clubs near New-York.

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