

## PILFERING A BASE

One of the Most Closely Calculated Plays in Baseball.

### WORKING A DELAYED STEAL

The Way This Clever Trick, That Was Invented by Harry Stovey, Used to Be Pulled Off by "Big Bill" Lange, Anson's Wasted Sacrifice Bunt.

"Base stealing, the gentle art of sprinting and 'hitting the dirt,' is the finest drawn and most closely calculated play in baseball and the one that, above all others, reveals the mathematical exactitude of the national game," says Hugh S. Fullerton in the American Magazine. "A player who can run eighty-five feet in three and one-third seconds from a flat footed start ought to reach second base exactly tied with the ball, nine times out of ten starts, if the play is perfectly made by the runner, pitcher, catcher and baseman. The slightest inaccuracy or hesitation decides the play."

"It seems a simple matter to run ninety feet while a ball is being thrown sixty-eight feet and caught and thrown back approximately 132 feet, caught again and held in position to touch the runner. Yet there are art and science in the feat."

"There were great base runners in the old days. This was chiefly because in the early days stealing second base was the chief aim of the game. Mike Kelly, Billy Hamilton, who in two successive seasons stole over 100 bases, and 'Big Bill' Lange, who stole 100 times in one season, were all great runners who would be great under present conditions. I recall vividly Lange's one hundredth stolen base, which established his record. He was on second base with no one out, and Chicago needed one run to win the game. Anson was at the bat, and, after his stolid, businesslike style, he poked down a perfect sacrifice bunt and went lumbering toward first base. Lange started for third base, stopped and trotted back to second. Halfway to the bench Anson discovered where Lange was and came near having a stroke of apoplexy. Lange had deliberately permitted his captain to sacrifice without advancing. Then by a wonderful dash start Lange stole third base, scored on a fly, and the game was won. Because he won the game Anson forgave him, but the modern player who attempted such a thing would be suspended and fined."

"The most effective steal ever devised is the 'delayed' steal, which, although used during the early development of the game, was neglected for many years until revived by Manager Chance of the Chicago Cubs. It was used with great effect by Bill Lange and appears to have been invented by Harry Stovey, a wonderful base runner of the early days. The theory of the steal is to catch the catcher and the infielder unprepared and out of position, and its success lies entirely in its unexpectedness."

"Lange, the leading exponent of the delayed steal, made it after this fashion. As the ball would be pitched he would leave first base at top speed and sprint as hard as he could perhaps twenty-eight to thirty-five feet, then stop short, hesitate and act as if he had blundered and intended to try to regain first base. If he succeeded in drawing the throw to first base he proceeded to second at top speed. But in the great majority of cases the catcher would not attempt to throw to either base, but would keep motioning as if threatening to throw, and all the time Lange would be edging back, inch by inch, toward first, jockeying with the catcher. The catcher, satisfied that danger was past and that it was useless to throw to first, would relax from throwing position, ease down his arm and get ready to toss the ball back to the pitcher. The moment Lange saw the arm drop and the catcher change the position of his feet he would dash at top speed for second base. The catcher would leap back into throwing position, raise his arm again and throw, provided the shortstop and second basemen had not deserted the base and walked back toward their regular positions. If they lost a fraction of a second in recovering the base Lange would beat the ball. The fatal hesitancy of the catcher and basemen gave him his opportunity."

"Stealing third base from second is much easier in reality than stealing second from first, although it is attempted much less frequently. The runner 'moving up with his arm' can take more than twice the lead from second base than from first, and, besides that, it is much easier to gain a flying start. It has, however, been declared bad judgment to steal third except in close games with one out and the opposing pitcher going well and preventing hitting. In such cases, where one run will win or tie, stealing third is advised by many. It is more difficult to see the pitcher's movements from behind him than from one side. Still, the runner need not start as quickly, but can start at top speed when he sees the pitcher swinging his arm, advance a third of the way to third base and then retreat in safety because the catcher's throw is much longer. Also he is in much better position to take advantage of any slight slip in the work of the battery."

**Wife's Mother, of Course.**  
Mabel—If your grandmas has lost all her teeth, how does she eat? Willie—I heard pa say she had a biting tongue.  
—Exchange.

## BLUNT ANDREW JACKSON.

"Old Hickory's" Caustic Advice to James Buchanan.

Stories of Andrew Jackson are likely to be pointed and to have a practical application, as do the stories told of Franklin. In Mr. J. W. Forney's "Anecdotes of Public Men" there is given a story as it was told by James Buchanan at his own table. Although it contained a reproof from the president to one who was to succeed him, it is said to have been a favorite story at that board.

Shortly after Mr. Buchanan's return from Russia in 1834, to the court of which country he had been sent by Jackson in 1832, and immediately following his election to the senate he called upon "Old Hickory" with a fair English lady whom he desired to present to the head of the American nation.

Leaving her in the reception room downstairs, he ascended to the president's private quarters, where he found General Jackson unshaved, unkempt, in his dressing gown, with his slippers on the fender, before a blazing wood fire, smoking a corncob pipe of the old southern pattern.

He stated his object, and General Jackson said that he would be very glad to meet the lady whom Mr. Buchanan desired to present.

Mr. Buchanan was always careful of his personal appearance and in some respects was a sort of masculine Miss Fribble, addicted to spotless cravats and huge collars, rather proud of a foot small for a man of his large stature and to the last of his life what the ladies would call "a very good figure."

Having just returned from a visit to the fashionable circles of the continent after years of thorough intercourse with the etiquette of one of the starliest courts in Europe, he was somewhat shocked at the idea of the president meeting the eminent English lady in such a guise and ventured to ask if General Jackson did not intend to change his attire.

Thereupon the old warrior rose, with his long pipe in his hand, and, deliberately knocking the ashes out of the bowl, said to his friend:

"Buchanan, I want to give you a little piece of advice, which I hope you will remember. I knew a man once who made a fortune by attending to his own business. Tell the lady I will see her presently."

The man who became president in 1857 was fond of saying that this remark of Andrew Jackson humiliated him more than any other rebuke he had ever received.

He walked downstairs to meet the lady in his charge, and in a very short time President Jackson entered the room, dressed in a full suit of black, cleanly shaved, with his stubborn white hair forced back from his forehead, and, advancing to the beautiful visitor, he greeted her with almost kindly grace.

As she left the White House she said to her escort, "Your republican president is the royal model of a gentleman."

**Napoleon's Tribute to Frederick.**  
When, after the battle of Jena, Napoleon invaded Prussia he visited Potsdam, which contains the mortal remains of the Prussian king. The sepulcher of Frederick the Great occupied a prominent site in the mausoleum. When entering the latter Napoleon uncovered his head and went directly up to the sarcophagus of the noted warrior. For a moment the conqueror stood still, seemingly absorbed in deep thought. Then with the forefinger of his right hand he wrote the word "Napoleon" in the dust of the huge stone casket and, turning to his marshals, said:

"Gentlemen, if he were living I would not be here."

**A Joke That Failed.**  
Once when Henrik Ibsen was engaged in writing a play he by chance dropped a scrap of paper on which were the words, "the doctor says."  
Mrs. Ibsen determined to have a joke and one day casually remarked: "Who is that doctor in your new play? I suppose he'll say some interesting things?"  
Ibsen at first was silent with astonishment. Then he broke out into a fit of rage, full of reproaches for her spying.

**Tenuity.**  
The convivial boarder as he sat down explained that if anybody present noticed an odor of cloves it was due to his having been trying to relieve a toothache.

"Among the permissible synonyms for 'thin,'" observed the taciturn boarder, breaking the long silence that followed, "are 'gaudy,' 'diaphanous,' 'exiguous' and 'anguilliform.'" Mrs. Irons, where are the pickles?—Chicago Tribune.

**Different Ivories.**  
"Let's go down and have a game of billiards."  
"Excuse me, but I'm a greenhorn at billiards."  
"Greenhorn? I am surprised, sir. Why, you told me you were at home with the ivories."  
"So I am, sir. I am a dentist."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

**One Comfort.**  
"Nothing is so bad that it couldn't be worse," quoted the wise guy.  
"Yes," agreed the simple mug, "we can't suffer from insomnia and nightmare at the same time."—Philadelphia Record.

Life is a campaign, not a battle, and has its defeats as well as its victories.  
—Don Platt.

## AN ELUSIVE BONE.

Lux Is Said to Be Indestructible, but It Is Hard to Locate.

Much scholarship and anatomical knowledge have been employed from time to time in efforts to identify the bone lux, said by ancient Hebrew writers to be the nucleus from which the body is reconstructed at the resurrection. There are many marvelous stories of the indestructibility of lux, and the bone has been located by rival claimants to the honor of discovering it in various parts of the human skeleton.

The most careful searching of the last published and amplest treatise on osteology will not result in the discovery of the bone called lux. It will be necessary to go to the Frankfort edition of the "Theatrum Anatomicum" of Caspar Bauhinus (1621) for a description: "It is stated by Hebrew writers to be a bone which cannot be destroyed by fire, water or any other element, nor be broken or bruised by any force. Its site is in the spine from the eighteenth vertebra to the femur."

"We read that the Emperor Hadrian once asked Rabbi Joshua, the son of Chanah, how God would resurrect man in the world to come. He made answer, 'From the bone lux in the spinal column.' When Hadrian asked him how he came by this knowledge and how he could prove it the Rabbi Joshua produced the bone so that the emperor could see it. When placed in water it could not be softened; it was not destroyed by fire, nor could it be ground by any weight; when placed on an anvil was broken in sunder, but the bone remained intact." Hieronymus Maginus represents that, according to the Talmudists, the real bone is near the base of the skull, whether it be in the base itself or in the spine. Vesalius writes that this ossicle is described by the Arabs as resembling a chick pea in size and shape, and Cornelius Agrippa describes it as "magnitudine ciceris mundati" (the size of a shelled pea). Different anatomists have held it variously to be the sacrum, the coccyx, the twelfth dorsal vertebra, one of the Wormian bones in the skull and one of the sesamoids of the great toe.—London Lancet.

### LIFE OF THE WORLD.

Traditions That It Will Last Only Six Thousand Years.

There is a general and widespread notion, which the curious investigator will find scattered throughout both medieval and modern literature, that the world will last 6,000 years from the date of its creation. An inscription in one of Martin Luther's books reads as follows: "Elijah, the prophet, said that the world had existed 2,000 years before the law was given (from Adam to Moses), would exist 2,000 years under the Mosaic law (from Moses to Christ) and 2,000 years under the Christian dispensation, and then it would be burned."

In the Etrurian account of the creation (by Suidas) there is a similar tradition. "The Creator spent 6,000 years in creation, and 6,000 more are allotted to the earth."

In the black letter edition of Foxe's "Acts and Monuments" (1632) there is a whole sermon given with the 6,000 year limit of the earth's duration as a text.

Some writers contend that the "six days" referred to in Holy Writ really mean 6,000 years and that the "seventh day" is a type of the coming millennium, or "Sabbath of a thousand years." The palmist says, "For a thousand years are in thy sight as yesterday" (Isaiah xc, 4. See also II Peter iii, 8).

**Chinese Nomads.**  
In the plains on the western borders of the Chinese empire, in the heart of Asia, there live roaming tribes who seldom visit towns except for trade. They dwell in tents made of rawhide and usually low, small and conical. The wooden door frame is no higher than half a window frame in English houses, but the tent, although not equal to the wants of a large family, is snug and comfortable in summer, but cold in winter.—London Graphic.

**A Change of Venue.**  
"I never was so surprised in my life as when I heard that County Treasurer Bilkes had absconded with \$30,000 of the county money," said Bilthers. "When he was nominated it struck me it was a perfect case of the office seeking the man."  
"It is yet," said Dobbiegh, "only this time it's the district attorney's office that's seeking him."—Harper's Weekly.

**Flattery.**  
"How does that stupid fellow happen to make such a hit with the girls? Why, he looks like an ape."  
"That's just it. Notice how long his arms are? Well, he makes each girl think that her waist is about three sizes smaller than it really is."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**Drawing a Conclusion.**  
"And on what do you base your conclusions that she is not a lady?"  
"Upon what I overheard her say when she heard that another lady had said she was no lady."—Houston Post.

**Fought For Peace.**  
Doctor—Did that medicine I gave you agree with your stomach? Patient—Yes, finally, but it raised an awful row before it came to terms.  
**In Tune.**  
"What a rasping voice that lawyer has!"  
"No wonder. He's filing charges."—Baltimore American.



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