

**NEW ORLEANS CHESS,  
CHECKERS AND WHIST  
CLUB, CHARTER AND  
BY-LAWS, MARCH, 1882**

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New Orleans Chess, Checkers and Whist Club, Charter and By-laws, March, 1882 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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NEW ORLEANS

CHESS,

Checkers AND Whist Club.

CHARTER AND BY-LAWS,

MARCH, 1882.

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## PREFACE.

Following the commendable example of their predecessors in office, the Governing Committee for 1882 take pleasure in laying before their fellow-members the second annual pamphlet of the club. While apologizing for the tardiness which has occurred in its issue, they feel that ample excuse therefor is to be found in the delays occasioned by the two widely separated and important general meetings in January last, the necessarily slow steps in the procurement of the new charter, and, generally, in the difficulties and detentions incidental to setting satisfactorily in motion, what is virtually a new system of machinery for the movement and direction of the club.

If the predecessors of this Committee, when issuing the first club-pamphlet in June last, felt that they had good cause to congratulate the club on its past prosperity and flattering prospects at that period, assuredly this Committee may, with even more reason, extend like felicitations to their fellow-members. Since the date above mentioned, in all that indicates vitality, expansiveness, development, progress—in a word, thorough and emphatic success, every phase of the club's history has been

most pronounced. Indeed, it may now be safely declared to have passed the experimental stage of its existence, and to have acquired a pleasing position of assured stability, never before attained by any similar organization in this city.

That its future may not dim the lustre of the past, nor disappoint the expectations of the present, is devoutly to be wished; that this is essentially dependent on the good-will and good offices of its members at large, is beyond dispute; and that in their every effort to advance its best interests, they may surely count on these, is the earnest hope and belief of this Committee.

## RETROSPECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE.

The nine months which have elapsed since the issue of the first annual pamphlet in June last, have constituted a period of marked prosperity for the NEW ORLEANS CHESS, CHECKERS AND WHIST CLUB. At that date, so far had its success surpassed that of any like organization, either here or elsewhere, so persistently had its progress overrun the farthest limits set by its most sanguine well-wishers, that a continued advance was scarcely to be hoped for—certainly not calculated upon. And yet in almost every direction that advance *has* been continued, and to *so* great a degree that it induces serious reflection at this time, as to what is, in fact, the extent of the void in the community which it requires precisely a club of this description to fill.

For it is evident to every member who will consider but a moment that the source, whence the principal strength of the club—its very large membership—has been derived, is far from exhausted, and that an ample field yet remains over which its beneficent influences may be extended. It is, therefore, the intention of its management, relying, as they do, upon the aid and encouragement of every good member, to energetically pursue the same policy of push and progress which has wrought the conspicuous successes of the past. For, after all, every success is only relatively complete, and much as has been done, much yet remains worthy our best efforts to attain. The formal incorporation of the club by charter gives it a definiteness and com-



compactness of organization which will enable its large membership to be wielded to far greater advantage than heretofore, and will facilitate the accomplishment of the objects in view. Foremost of these in point of pressing importance is the formation of

A STANDARD LIBRARY,

an object especially referred to, moreover, in the charter of the club. The separate establishment of the reading-room, in the latter part of the past year, and the great enlargement of its supply of the best newspaper and magazine literature current in this country and Europe\* have constituted a wise step in the right direction, but on which, it is believed, should be followed and supplemented by the creation of a library proper, as extensive as the resources applicable will permit, and composed chiefly of works of reference, standard authors and books of information in general. This addition of more solid substance to the large supply of lighter current literature already provided will place at the disposal of members, in close and convenient proximity to business centres, an ample fund of literary matter, either for the entertainment or information of themselves or their friends visiting the city. One of the first objects of the management of the club will be to compass this end, either by soliciting contributions of books from members or by purchase, or, possibly, by both.

EVENTS SINCE THE LAST PAMPHLET.

Most notable among these has been the large and constant increase in the membership of the club,

\*See List of Papers and Periodicals on file, p. —. It will be noted that it includes daily papers from nearly every principal city of the Union.

gratifying as evidencing alike the soundness of the principles upon which it has been built up, its wide appreciation by the community, and its assured permanence in the future. The net roll of the club in June last contained 299 names, since which period it has again nearly doubled, now showing a membership not far from 550. Naturally this marked increase has necessitated an enlargement of the club-rooms, and the three apartments, originally sufficient for its needs, have now been extended to cover two whole floors, comprising seven rooms and including a large and attractive billiard hall, all of which have just been completely renovated and refitted. Especial attention has been devoted to a thorough renewal of the two billiard tables, and a fine new one has just been added.

#### GENERAL MEETINGS.

The Second Annual, and Fourth General Meeting of the club was held January 5th., 1882. The election of officers for the current year resulted in the re-election by acclamation of all the incumbents, including the members of the Governing Committee. It was resolved that the club should be made a body politic under the laws of Louisiana, by procuring a charter, and that a complete revision of the existing Constitution should be made. For this purpose a committee of six were appointed and instructed to report at the next general meeting. Pursuant to adjournment,

#### THE FIFTH GENERAL MEETING

convened on January, 19th., 1882, and the new Constitution and by-laws reported by the committee

were, after much discussion and amendment, adopted. The new features embodied were mainly : the addition of four members to the Governing Committee, increasing its number to ten; the election of new members by ballot; the increase of the initiation fee to \$5.00, with the proviso that it should be \$10.00 after the roll shows 600 names; the introduction of other games of cards, especially two handed games; the change of the beginning of the current club-month from the 21st. to the 1st. of each calendar month; the inhibition of all representation by proxy at general meetings; the creation of the office of Librarian; and the delegation of the management of the internal affairs of the club to a special House Committee, consisting of four members selected by the Governing Committee from their own number. Messrs. Chas. DeRuyter, Charles Janvier, Jos. H. Spearing and Hon. Chas. G. Ogden were the additional members of the Governing Committee elected, and Dr. Paul Von Seydewitz was unanimously chosen Librarian.

#### TOURNAMENTS.

THE SECOND ANNUAL CHESS TOURNAMENT began July 31st., 1881, under very favorable auspices, and the Managing Committee, warned by the experiences of the preceding year, carefully avoided the mistakes fallen into by their predecessors. The tournament was fixed to end on the 12th. of November, 1881, and stringent rules, which were vigorously enforced, made it compulsory upon the contestants to play on stated days, at least twice a week. Sixteen of the principal chess players of the club participated in the contest for four prizes.