

**NEW ORLEANS. CHESS,
CHECKERS AND WHIST
CLUB. CONSTITUTION, BY-
LAWS, ETC,. JUNE 17TH, 1881**

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New Orleans. Chess, Checkers and Whist Club. Constitution, by-laws, etc., June 17th, 1881 by Various

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VARIOUS

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CHECKERS AND WHIST
CLUB. CONSTITUTION, BY-
LAWS, ETC.,. JUNE 17TH, 1881**

NEW ORLEANS

Chess, Checkers & Whist Club.

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, RULES, ETC.

JUNE 17TH., 1881.

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PREFACE.

In issuing this pamphlet to their fellow-members, the Governing Committee have been actuated by various reasons. In the first place, they consider it, if not absolutely essential, at least highly expedient for the members of the club that its constitution, rules, and by-laws should thus be placed before them in a convenient and readable form. They believe, moreover, that the roll of membership, recorded in the following pages and gratifying alike in its length and *personnel*, will not only serve as a species of introduction between members, but will likewise induce, among them and among the public at large, a juster appreciation of the prominent stand which the club has now attained among the kindred social organizations of New Orleans. That the present publication may contribute alike to its membership and to its prominence, is the belief and trust of the Committee. At all events, it is ever a pleasant task to record and commemorate the history of our successes, and to congratulate those who have divided with us the labors of an arduous beginning, and who must equally share with us the credit of a successful end.

ISIDORE DANZIGER.

HORACE DUFOUR.

EDGAR H. FARRAR.

WM. E. SCHUPPERT, M. D.

JAS. D. SÉGUIN.

N. B. TRIST.

Governing Committee.

A BRIEF RETROSPECT.

Considering the present flourishing condition of the NEW ORLEANS CHESS, CHECKERS AND WHIST CLUB, and viewing its rapid and unprecedented growth in the brief space of its existence—all denoting beyond doubt that it has supplied a want long felt in the community, it is hard to realize that its inception was almost a mere matter of accident. Yet such is actually the fact.

In the early summer of 1880, a few earnest devotees of *Caissa* conceived the project of forming a small club and securing a room somewhere in the business portion of the city, which might serve as a convenient meeting-place during the summer and thus facilitate opportunities for whiling away the dog-days in the practice of their favorite game. They had witnessed the hapless endings of so many similar organizations that the permanence of the new attempt was hardly discussed, and its utmost existence was fixed at a period of not more than three months. The limited circle of those whose co-operation was assured gave promise of a dimly small income; recruits were few and far between; and the search for quarters, suitable for the pur-

poses and within the expected resources of the proposed organization, was naturally a trying and laborious one. Indeed, after nearly a month's effort, the committee,* who had voluntarily assumed the task, had almost given up in despair, when, through the fortunate suggestion of a friend, application was made to Mr. Eug. Krost, of No. 128 Gravier street and, after some negotiation, a room over his saloon engaged on very liberal terms. The quarters, thus secured, though somewhat contracted, were very neat and cosy, and forthwith an initiatory meeting of those interested was called, drumming for recruits being energetically pursued in the interim.

On the evening of Thursday, July, 21st., the first meeting of the proposed club was held, and twenty-seven gentlemen, in person or by proxy, answered the roll—a somewhat larger total, after all, than had been expected. A considerable majority of these were chess-players, but the project of widening the scope of the club so as to include checkers and whist had already been happily suggested, and representatives of those games were not lacking. Mr. A. E. Blackmar, one of the veteran chess-

*Messrs. Chas. A. Maurian, C. F. Buck and Jas. D. Séguin.

players of New Orleans, was called to the chair; definite organization was partially effected by the election of Messrs. Chas. A. Maurian and Jas. D. Séguin, as President and Secretary, respectively; and a committee was appointed to draft a Constitution to be reported at the next meeting, which was fixed for the following Saturday evening.

But having thus secured "a local habitation and a name," the club at once began to exhibit that vitality and expansiveness, which have ever since characterized it. A call of the roll at the ensuing meeting showed that the membership had nearly doubled in the brief interval, and its history from that period on is simply the recital of unvarying increase and prosperity. After remaining until October, 20th, in its original quarters, the club removed to No. 168 Common street, with a membership of about 110. On December, 31st., another removal was made to No. 166, next door, and within a few weeks afterwards (January, 24th., 1881), the Governing Committee notified the members that the roll had reached 150 names, and that future entrants would be subject to the initiation fee of \$2.00, recently incorporated in the constitution. About this period, many even of the

most hopeful members expressed the belief that the development of the club had reached its climax; but they were destined to an agreeable disappointment. In the early part of February, the club, having secured a lease (with privilege of renewal) of its present elegant quarters, on the 10th. of that month took formal possession of the new premises, and forthwith began an era of expansion and prosperity, surpassing everything in its previous history and exceeding the most sanguine anticipations of its well-wishers.

To particularize all that has since occurred and been done would be more than space will permit. Suffice it to say that within the little over four months intervening to the present date, the membership has again nearly doubled, now closely approximating 300 names; and with the consequent increase in the revenues of the club, many additional improvements and conveniences have been added. Numerous articles of furniture, pictures, hangings, etc., have been bought, and much repairing and refitting done. In the whist-rooms additional tables have been supplied, until eight *parties* can now be accommodated. The old chess tables have been neatly remodelled, renewed and fitted with pockets for