

**BASEBALL JOE AROUND
THE
WORLD: OR, PITCHING ON
A GRAND TOUR**

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Baseball Joe around the world: or, Pitching on a grand tour by Lester Chadwick

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LESTER CHADWICK

**BASEBALL JOE AROUND
THE
WORLD: OR, PITCHING ON
A GRAND TOUR**



THE WRESTLER CAUGHT IT FAIR "ON THE SEAM."

Baseball Joe Around the World

OR

Pitching on a Grand Tour

By LESTER CHADWICK

AUTHOR OF

"BASEBALL JOE OF THE SILVER STARS," "BASEBALL
JOE IN THE BIG LEAGUE," "THE RIVAL PITCHERS,"
"THE EIGHT-OARED VICTORS," ETC.

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Baseball Joe Around the World

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BASEBALL JOE AROUND THE WORLD

CHAPTER I

IN DEADLY PERIL

"GREAT SCOTT! Look at this!"

Joe Matson, or "Baseball Joe," as he was better known throughout the country, sprang to his feet and held out a New York paper with headlines which took up a third of the page.

There were three other occupants of the room in the cozy home at Riverside, where Joe had come to rest up after his glorious victory in the last game of the World's Series, and they looked up in surprise and some alarm.

"Land's sakes!" exclaimed his mother, pausing just as she was about to bite off a thread. "You gave me such a start, Joe! What on earth has happened?"

"What's got my little brother so excited?" mocked his pretty sister, Clara.

"Has an earthquake destroyed the Polo

Grounds?" drawled Jim Barclay, Joe's special chum and fellow pitcher on the Giant team.

"Not so bad as that," replied Joe, cooling down a bit; "but it's something that will make McRae and the whole Polo Grounds outfit throw a fit if it's true."

Jim snatched the paper from Joe's hands, with the familiarity born of long acquaintance, and as his eyes fell on the headlines he gave a whistle of surprise.

"'Third Major League a Certainty,'" he read. "Gee whiz, Joe! I don't wonder it upset you. That's news for fair."

"Is that all?" pouted Clara, who had been having a very interesting conversation with handsome Jim Barclay, and did not relish being interrupted.

Mrs. Matson also looked relieved and resumed her sewing.

"Is that all?" cried Joe, as he began to pace the floor excitedly. "I tell you, Sis, it's plenty. If it's true, it means the old Brotherhood days all over again. It means a fight to disrupt the National and the American Leagues. It means all sorts of trickery and breaking of contracts. It means distrust and suspicion between the members of the different teams. It means—oh, well, what doesn't it mean? I'd rather lose a thousand dollars than know that the news is true."

"But perhaps it isn't true," suggested Clara,