

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Members
OF THE
Common Council of Cambridge.

Gentlemen,

We, the undersigned, memorialists, printers of Cambridge, and members of the "Franklin Cricket Club," beg respectfully to request the Common Council of Cambridge to grant us the use of a portion of "Cambridge Common," for the purposes of a cricket field.

We respectfully submit, that the Statisticians and other public authorities of every civilized nation are now beginning to recognize the necessity and wisdom of publicly encouraging all out-door sports and athletic exercises, which have a tendency to promote the health, improve the physical condition, or contribute to the enjoyment of the People.

To this end, the respective governments of England, France, Germany, and other countries, are now expending considerable sums of money in providing public play-grounds, parks, "gymnasiums, volunteer rifle-clubs, baths and wash-houses, and other provisions, for the purpose of promoting the public health and happiness.

Experience has already shown that this enlightened legislation (which is based on sound physiological science) has been attended with the happiest results, inasmuch as not only the physique but the moral condition of the people has been improved by its adoption.

It has been found that the healthy exercise of the cricket-ground and the rifle-range, and the manly and generous emulation stimulated by such-like exercises, tend to draw young men away from the less innocent attractions of the bar-room and the billiard-room, and to send them back with clearer brains and stronger limbs to renew their daily toil.

Impressed with these considerations, we, the printers of Cambridge, feeling the want of some out-door physical exercise, and relaxation, in the intervals of our daily labour, have organized a Cricket Club, which we have entitled "The Franklin Cricket Club."

Having been prohibited from playing on "the Common" we have been unable to find a ground, sufficiently near our places of occupation, to be easily or conveniently accessible.

This is having a depressing effect on the success of the Club, inasmuch as our leisure time is so short that it is impossible to get the members of the Club together, if the ground is at any great distance from their homes.

With the view of removing this difficulty we respectfully petition you to grant us the use of "the Common," for the purposes of practicing cricket.

We submit, that as Cricket is a game which affords entertainment to lookers-on as well as to the players, there is no substantial public objection to the use of the "Common" for such a purpose; while, if there were any, it would be more than counter-balanced by the good effects which would arise from the public authorities of Cambridge encouraging the indulgence in healthy out-door exercises.

Petition of Painters
for use of Cannon 57

May 8. 1846