

had been for a long time a constant sufferer from a cancer in his face which at last proved fatal. Ex-Alderman Hawkes has returned from Kentucky, where he purchased a fine lot of 17 horses for shipment to Canada. They are receiving exercise on streets and attract universal attention. "Pat" is still a quiet in "billiard circles"; "Pat" still holds the fort, and is about the best player we have here. Amusements have been very much lately but show prospects of brightening up. The following are named but not yet billed. 14th, John Gough; 17th, Fanny Davenport; 18th, Prince in "The Mighty Dollar."—ELL.

## MR. WISER ON "RINGERS."

Mr. J. P. Wisner, Rysdyk Stock Farm, Scott, in a letter to The Spirit of the Times, expresses himself thus on the "ringer" question:—  
"I notice the crusade on the ringers, and it will be followed up until the last one even from the turf. They are a curse to the country, and I expect Canada will be of them this winter. We are anticipating good racing on the ice at Ottawa, and in other places, and were it not for the rangers that will be sure to be at these meetings, they would be no doubt a great success. There is very little encouragement to bring young and legitimate horses, knowing they will have to compete with the thieves of the turf, who, if they had their desserts, would be doing service for the State, instead of stealing our money, as they will do, if they can. If they have no better success than they had at Boston last fall, they will get rich all at once. I sincerely hope the plan may be adopted to abate this very serious nuisance."

## THE GAME OF BILLIARDS.

In looking over the game of billiards it is difficult to come to a conclusion as to where the greatest improvement has been made; in the progress of the game itself, or in the perfection to which the tables have been brought. In speaking of the table, of course, its appliances are considered. For a time the game had to contend against the prejudices of the people; but it gradually, and on its own merits, became recognized as the most popular indoor amusement of the age, and, breaking down the barriers of fanatical opposition, worked its way into the homes of our best citizens, the public salons, the recreation rooms of leading educational institutions, and the gymnasia of the Y. M. C. A., and the Mechanics' Institutes. Now and then, even at this late day, in some localities where the benign influence of the civilization of the nineteenth century does not appear to have penetrated, we hear of opposition being offered to the introduction of the game of billiards, but as travel is becoming more general, and advanced ideas of liberality are taking possession of the public mind, it must necessarily be only a short time before the game will be as welcome in these localities as it is now objected to.

The game is of great antiquity, but the skill and accompaniments of even a few years ago compare very unfavorably with the manufacture of to-day. The invention of the discovery of the use of the billiard tip caused a complete revolution in the game. The discovery is, by some, imputed to a French player named Mingot, about the commencement of the present century. It is said that the late Wm. Lake was the first man to put a leather tip on a cue in America. With the introduction of the tip came the draw shot, which was considered a marvelous movement of the balls, indeed much more so than the *masse* (which is a higher development of the "draw") is looked upon now. Previous to this improvement on the cue, the strokes were all plain caroms and follow shots, so the tip may also be considered the parent of the side or "English" stroke. The early tables were gigantic affairs in size, and even now the English use a much larger standard than the French or

than a modern bevelled carom billiard table. It is not our intention to enter into dissertation of the game, but more especially to draw attention to one of the finest establishments in Canada—the billiard table manufactory of Mr. Sam. May, Toronto.

The factory is situated at No. 81 Adelaide street west, and we speak by the book when we say it is the most complete in America, devoted to the manufacture of billiard tables and their paraphernalia. Here every section of the table, except the cushions and the cloth, is worked from the rough. Mr. May being a practical billiardist, knows exactly what is required in his line, and having the facility to produce everything connected with the billiard trade, it is not strange his tables have reached such a high degree of popularity. Unlike many other manufacturers he is not contented to be at a stand-still, but is constantly making improvements, and is the patentee of several inventions in his line. Probably the most useful of these is the improved leveler, a contrivance doing away with the necessity of blocking up the legs of a table with pieces of shingle or other unsightly material. His patent lamp is also a very valuable one for billiard rooms, being cheaper and tully as good as gas. Only the very best seasoned material is used in the manufactory, and the cloths and cushions are the best that money and experience can procure. In the matter of tips and chalk alone, a careful agent in France personally selects them. In looking through the factory one is struck with the many divisions of labor required to produce the perfect table. Here may be seen in all the various stages of construction the different styles of tables manufactured by this house. The prevailing demand, of course, is for the standard American carom table, some elegant specimens of which in rosewood, birds-eye maple, and other fancy woods, can be seen in the showroom. Just now Mr. May is devoting considerable attention to the manufacture of English pocket tables with round cushions, after the old country model. Formerly the demand for this kind of table was supplied from "home," but now Mr. M. is able to furnish a superior article in all respects at a much lower figure. His combined dining and billiard table is an ingenious contrivance, being a perfect dining and billiard table in one. Bagatelle tables with slate beds with improved cushions are another speciality. They are vastly superior to the old style, while the cost is about the same. In cues, an immense number in all stages of finish are shown the visitor. Thousands are to be seen suspended by their ends undergoing a proper seasoning. In the matter of balls, cloths, and the other et ceteras which go to make up a billiard table, the number is surprising. In cloths alone a large amount is invested, Simoni's being the most used. Balls are seen in all the stages of manufacture, and they are carefully seasoned before being sent out. To give a passing description of all that may be seen in this model establishment would require quite a book. In addition to his billiard business, Mr. May does a large trade in ten pin balls and pins, bowling-green balls, Indian clubs, India rubber exercising bands, horizontal bars, and gymnastic fittings. In all these departments the same care in selection and manufacture that is exercised in the billiard section is observable. From the large stock Mr. May carries, orders can be filled on receipt, and vexatious and annoying delays are avoided. On the score of economy alone, Canadians should support such an establishment, while it should be a national pride that we have such an industry in our midst. Not the least attraction about the factory is the courtesy with which the visitor is received in all the departments, and the care shown in exhibiting the resources and working of the establishment. It is a pleasure to draw attention to such a complete and model place, and gentlemen desiring any of the classes of goods which are here produced can do no better than give Mr. May a call, and we feel satisfied they will be suited in quality, material and price.

## To Correspondents.

We would particularly request our correspondents and advertisers to send their favors as early in the week as possible—so that they will reach us by Wednesday morning. We

ged her until she became quiet. Then he returned to the track and finished working her. By pursuing these tactics he gradually stopped her from lugging on the bit. She knew the touch of his hand; it seemed to have a soothing effect upon her; let a stranger get up behind her and she would become restless and take to pulling. Tallman drove her four races in one year, and in three of these she grabbed her feet shoes off. One of these accidents occurred in her race with Princess, she lost two of her shoes before reaching the quarter pole. The trouble was that Tallman did not have sufficient confidence in her. He held her too hard. Flora was one of the first trotters ever properly taken care of during the winter. Every fall she was sent to Charles Lloyd's, at Holmdell, New Jersey, where her shoes were taken off. Then she was allowed to run until spring, having the freedom of the lot each fair day. When Mr. McMann went down to see her she would recognize him and trot around him for joy. She seldom missed a feed, and in the spring appeared to be possessed of new vitality. She grew better, faster and stronger every year of the seven in which she was owned by Mr. McMann. She had not trotted faster than 2:28 when she entered his stable. When she left it she was the acknowledged queen of the trotting turf. Her famous record of 2:19 1/2 was not the full measure of her speed. McMann says that had she been driven for all she was worth on the fast tracks of the present day, she would have made a mark even as low as the 2:17 1/2 of Dexter. She was a mare easily conditioned, and not hard to keep in condition. She could not trot better than 2:50 as a five year old. Her development was gradual and sure. Mr. McMann says that a horse which is well wintered is half-trained. He attributes much of the improvement of Flora to the manner in which he treated her during the cold months. He thinks that she deserves a monument.—Turf.

## INTERESTING TO FARMERS AND OTHERS

## LIABILITY FOR RUNAWAY HORSES—A HORSE PURCHASE CASE.

Among the cases tried before Judge Squires at the Division Court, Clinton, last week, were two in particular the judgment on which are of public interest. One was Marshall vs. Aikenhead; the particulars in this case being that some time since a span of horses belonging to defendant ran away, running into and badly damaging a buggy that stood on the side of the road, belonging to the plaintiff, who sued for \$30 damages. After a very patient hearing of the case the latter was not suited, on the ground that no negligence on the part of the owner of the team had been proven. It has generally been supposed that the owner of a team was always responsible for accidents occurring through a runaway, but the verdict in this case, will no doubt remove the illusion. The other tried was that of Worthington vs. Hill, in which it was shown that Dr. Worthington wished to purchase a horse, and informed Mr. Weir, a machine agent, to obtain one for him, suitable for farm work, &c. Weir learned that Hill had a mare for sale, and in the course of business asked about it. Hill offered to sell the animal, and represented that it was in good working order, serviceable, &c., but did not warrant it to that effect. On the strength of the representations Weir took the mare at \$80, and turned it over to Worthington, who on attempting to use it, found it to be worth little or nothing, and accordingly brought suit against Hill to recover damages. The case was tried by jury, they giving a verdict of \$40 in Worthington's favor, the ground on which this was done being that the horse was sold under misrepresentations.

## TIME AS A TEST OF MERIT.

The following communication to the Spirit of the Times from the pen of an able, most astute, and experienced turfman upon the question mooted by us, that time as a test of merit should be abolished upon all American running courses. Our intercourse with turfmen for twenty years past has convinced us that the general verdict is, that time is not now, and—from the very nature of things, some of which are pointed out tersely by our correspondent—never can be a reliable test of merit. It would long since have been abolished had a move to this end been made. Such a move will not want for seconders and supporters from every section of the country. It is a mere appendage to the American turf, entirely ornamental. It is impossible to point out a single practical benefit that it contributes to it, but it overflows with untold evils, and misleads the uninformed. It is true that it does not unfrequently add to the reputation of an inferior colt, and induces a sale of him at a price far beyond his value. It rarely leads the judgment aright, but almost invariably misleads as to the character of performance, but we invite the attention of the reader to the suggestions of our correspondent.

## BILLIARDS ! BILLIARDS !



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tained his certificate from that fallacious and absurd official time-board. It is a fraud on the public that thoughtless writers should proclaim the lucky horse instead of the best one as the proper sire. Time will, as now, always be taken by everyone that carries a timer—it is useful to the trainer in his work, even more so, perhaps, than a trial horse, but he does not need the official. There are many other reasons (one of which the judge can give, if he chooses) why the timer's stand should be abolished.

"I trust that you will continue to drive the wedge that you have started until you shall have exploded this great absurdity, which, even in the days of our grandfathers, was a folly.

Yours, "B."

## FLORA TEMPLE'S DEATH.

She was beyond all question the best trotter of her day, and nothing could surpass the determined spirit with which she vanquished all her opponents. Flora was a very bloodlike and beautiful little mare. When we first saw her, many years ago, she was very elegant as well as powerful and strong. The great thoroughbred ponies of the running turf in England and America, such as Rowton, Underhand, Trillo, Maggie B. B., &c., showed no high characteristics of blood than Flora Temple. Her head and eyes were especially fine and expressive. Her neck and throat were exactly like those of the famous English race-horse Cremorne, and like that son of Parmesan and J. J. Holochie, Flora was powerful in the back with fine shoulders well laid, and she stood over a vast amount of ground. In fact, she was a brilliant instance of a long, low, bloodlike mare, with immense power in the quarters and stifles. Her legs were like hammered steel and whal-bone. Her action was very square and rapid when she was going fast, but in slow jogging she hitched a little. She was a very game mare, and when she got off, as of course she sometimes did, she recovered and regained condition with amazing rapidity. Flora's idiosyncrasies were very marked. She hated strangers of the male sex, and would not let them come near her in her box, but with ladies she was singularly gentle and familiar. Another of her curious characteristics was that she would not consort with the trotting mares at Mr. Welch's and to keep her quiet and content they had to let her mingle with the thoroughbred mares. After her last foal was weaned she had a great fancy for taking charge of young thoroughbreds, and whenever she was seen in the field she always had a couple with her. She was obliged to content herself with one at night, as the boxes were not large enough for three. About two years ago she began to lose flesh, and all they could do was insufficient to keep her from wasting. Her appetite was good the day before she died, but she had been very ill for some time and could not get up. On the day of her death she was up, even with assistance, and failed. The last thing she ate was given her by John McNeely shortly before her death.

Paddy became a sporting man. Every summer he went to Saratoga and Long Beach, where he bet heavily on races and games. The "Sport" While in New York he lived in handsome apartments in the Stevens House, and he had a wardrobe probably unequalled in this vicinity. It used to be said on Wall Street that Paddy the Painter had a suit of clothing for every hour in the day. By degrees he allowed his money to slip away from him, and in 1872 the need of the banking-houses for his expensive services was diminished with the complete banishment of such thieves as Dutch Henrich, Dan Noble and Chancery Johnson from the street. Soon after he became impoverished by unsuccessful ventures on race-courses. Some friends procured him the position of detective at the Metropolitan Hotel. But his habits were too expensive for the proprietors of that house to retain him. Since then he was supported by contributions from his former employers. He died in a pauper's bed in Bellevue Hospital.

AMERICAN HORSES IN ENGLAND.—American horses may be seen now in London in front of English drags and carriages. It will not be many years before the American trotter will rule the roost at the principal trotting meetings.

## Amusement.

CITY

Mr. George Haggard commenced his second week at Mrs. Morrison's Grand Opera House Monday evening last. He presented Hamlet for the last time. On Tuesday and Wednesday the bill was Amos Clarke, in which the star appeared in the 4th role. Thursday evening a parliamentary banquet to Mrs. Morrison, and the patronage of the Lord-mayor. The programme consisted of Marryat's "The Maid with the Milking Pail," a song from Mrs. Morrison, and a musical selection in which several young stars appeared. Friday and Saturday, Amos and Black-eyed Susan. Next week the Father Pant-mime Trup will commence their second engagement. Business has been very good.

The attraction at the Royal Opera House has been the sensational drama of La Harkaway in the former part of the week. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the opera "Carmen" was the attraction. The first two nights were produced with great success, and the third night, the opera of Mr. Harris, the "The Maid with the Milking Pail," was the attraction. The opera was very good.