

BELMONT PARK.

FIFTY-MILE RACE.

RACING MUSTANG CONTEST IN SAN FRANCISCO
—THE WINNING RIDER TO VISIT PHILADELPHIA DURING THE CENTENNIAL.

From the San Francisco Call, April 28th.

The fifty-mile mustang race at the Bay District Course was, as far as possible, a success. This species of turf business, somewhat unusual at this day and age, is the most presentable relic of the semi-barbarous amusements in vogue in the days of early California, and certainly has its merits outside of its novelty. As an exhibition of skill, endurance and reckless horsemanship, it was worth the attention of all people of metropolitan habits to whom is given the advantage of a trifling insight into the habits, manners and general style of those rough riders of the Southern plains whose lives are spent among the great cattle ranges which have in the new past, if they do not now, filled the important place in the industrial economy of the State and coast. The race was for a stake of \$500 a side, fifty miles out, each contestant to be allowed ten horses and required to change horses every mile. The parties to the match were H. N. Mowry and J. P. Smith, both men whose business is in the saddle, and who have become mired by years of experience to the rather disagreeable firmness of the Spanish saddle and the various unpleasant peculiarities of the mustang horse. They were assisted by a numerous company of men of their profession, the direction of Mr. Smith's affairs being in the hands of a young man named Dabney, who proved such an efficient lieutenant to Mowry last year in a race similar to this. Mr. Mowry was represented yesterday in like capacity by Mr. Charles Reed, who was in every way equal to the occasion. The quarter stretch was crowded with a gang of bucking, rearing and kicking half-bred horses, among which it was "dangerous to be safe," and that certain set of individuals who are always found upon this portion of the course on other race days retired behind the fence without special invitation yesterday. The attendance was quite up to the general expectation, the threatening state of the weather in the early part of the day making a trip to the track rather an uncertain venture; but at the eleventh hour the clouds rolled away, and when the race was called no finer day or track for such a race could be desired. A considerable business was done in the pools, Mowry having the call at two to one over Smith.

At three o'clock the judges ordered the riders up, and they set off with promptness for the race. The race itself presented little material for description. The horses used by Mr. Smith were notably superior to those of Mowry; but he was deliberate to a degree in his mounts and dismounts, while Mowry threw himself from one horse to another almost without losing his headway. By this means he was enabled to gain time to equal, or more than equal, the disadvantage in the speed of his horses. He was repeatedly timed, and occupied from three to five seconds in the change. At the close of the tenth mile, Mr. Smith, in attempting to mount an evil-disposed bronco, received a severe kick just below the right knee, which made him very stiff and sore before the finish. To this mishap he ascribes his defeat. With few exceptions Smith led to the end of the fortieth mile. At this stage Mowry turned loose his choicest horses, and at the end of the forty-eighth mile was a full quarter ahead. Smith rode desperately to close it up, but without success, and Mowry came under the wire winner of the race and money by two hundred yards.

Mr. Mowry, the winner, insists that he won the race upon his merits, and that Mr. Smith's accident made no difference in the result. He has ridden several races of this character in this state, and made himself a reputation as a daring, skillful and plucky horseman. It is his intention to visit Philadelphia during the Centennial, taking with him a number of California horses, and there challenge any man or the whole world to ride against him in long distance races. He will also attach the quietly disposed Grangers with some hair-raising equestrian performances not met with in any ordinary or extraordinary circus.

BAY DISTRICT FAIR GROUND ASSOCIATION,
San Francisco, Cal., April 22, 1876—Purse and stake \$2,000; 50 miles, in saddle, on California bred horses; the riders to use ten horses each.

Miles.	H.M.	Miles.	H.M.
10.....	0:26	30.....	1:17
20.....	0:51	40.....	1:43
25.....	1:05	50.....	2:08

PROFESSOR BLACKIE ON AMUSEMENTS.

Professor Blackie, in his speech to the

Many children are born dramatists, and would it be right to train them up by hearing proxy sermons? I will quote Dr. Norman Macleod—that's the D.D. for me—that's what you call a jolly priest, and unless a priest is jolly I will not look at him. We don't want a fellow with a death's head, who is always looking grim. Quite the contrary. We are sent here for the purpose of doing noble work, and to amuse ourselves; not, however, like pigs, for pigs do not get drunk systematically. Well, Norman Macleod says, "If we are ever to have a Church in Scotland that shall appeal to and satisfy all the noblest instincts of our nature, that shall gratify our taste and educate all the powers we have as men, wed together the truthful and the beautiful, and the holy and the sublime, and the graceful—though, if such a Church in this country is to be a visible Church, it will neither be a broad kirk nor a free, but something bigger than both." We are sermonising snobs. That is to say, you don't understand the use of amusement. I say eternal sermonising won't do without wise and consecrated amusement, for whatever we do, whether we sing, dance, drink or abstain, it should be part of our religion. We should, therefore, have a Church that will consecrate dramatic amusement and all other amusements. Try to get up private theatricals in your halls of public amusement. Begin in the first place with singing the fine dramatic songs of our Scottish ballads, which are small dramas—for instance, "The Bonnie House o' Airlie." Then dress in character, and have "Tak' your auld cloak about you," and you could follow that with "Wood and married and a' wood and carried awa'." (The Professor caused a burst of laughter by singing these two lines and the two following.) "That," he proceeded, "would be the commencement of drama, and you will find nothing so delightfully occupies an evening as private theatricals. It requires a little preparation certainly, whereas to get drunk requires no preparation at all. A man may drink, and smoke, and soak, and die in a ditch, like a beast, without any preparation."—*Extract from Era, 26th March.*

WE DRIVE HORSES TO EXCESS.

By driving to excess we mean that horses are pulled and hauled, jerked and twitched too much with the reins. There is too much guiding with the lines. Concerning this subject the Prairie Farmer says: (in truth) that the "most vicious and inexcusable style of driving is the manner which so many drivers adopt, to wit: Wrapping the lines around their hands and pulling the horse backward with all their might and main, so that the horse, in point of fact, feels the weight back of him, with his mouth, and not with his breast and shoulders. This they do under the impression that such a dead pull is needed in order to 'steady' the horse.

"The fact is, with rare exceptions, there should never be any pull upon the horse at all. A steady pressure is allowable, probably advisable; but anything beyond this has no justification in nature or reason. For nature suggests the utmost freedom of the action of the head, body and limbs, in order that the animal may attain the highest possible rate of speed. In speeding a horse the lines need seldom be grasped in both hands when the road is straight and free from obstructions. The true way to drive is to let the horse drive himself, the driver doing little but directing him and giving him that confidence which a horse gets in himself only when he feels that a guide and friend is back of him."

TROTTER AGAINST BICYCLE.

There was a fair attendance on Friday afternoon at Deerfoot Park, New York, as considerable curiosity had arisen to witness the five mile match between Stanton, the champion bicyclist, and the trotting horse White Cloud. The match was to have taken place at three p. m. sharp, but as it had at that time just commenced to rain they waited a half hour. Then, finding no change for the better, they decided to start. Stanton was advised not to go, as the track was getting heavy, but he did not think the rain would effect the sandy soil. A portion of the track about seven feet from the pole had been rolled for his use, and it was agreed that the trotting horse should have the pole and Stanton 264 yards start, in consideration of his taking the outside track. It was raining quite heavily when the horse and the man came on the ground. Billy McMahon was driving the quadruped. Stanton took up a position on the backstretch 264 yards from the Judge's stand, and when the horse was given the word Stanton was signalled to go by the dropping of a flag. The rain was falling fast, making the track heavy. Before they had gone a half mile it was apparent that Stanton had no chance. In two laps the horse gained the 264 yards' start, and on the fifth lap was a quarter of a mile ahead. He kept improving his lead and finally won

snaffle was used by our ancestors and by the ancient Greeks—the curb is an Asiatic invention and was probably brought into Europe with the Moors. The difference in the bit modifies the whole style of riding, and as there are two sorts of bits, so there are two styles or schools of horsemanship, which may be called the Eastern and the Western styles. The type of Eastern is best seen in the modern Bedouin Arab, with his short stirrups, peaked saddle and severe bit; and the Western type in its simplest form is beautifully exemplified in the Elgin marbles, where naked men bestride barebacked horses. The balanced seat of the Arab, and the more complete command over his horse which follows from the greater security of his seat, would make him infinitely more formidable in war than the European, in spite of the superior size and strength of the latter. History teaches us how the cavalry of the Saracens—small men on small horses—rode down the Christian horsemen till they learned to ride with the bits and saddles, and lances of the Moslem cavalry. The invention of the curb bit necessitated the stirrup, for a man sitting upon a barebacked horse is forced to bear, at times, more or less heavily upon the bridle; and if so riding, he were using a curb bit, and he were to lean any part of his body upon it, his horse would stop, or he would rear, or would flinch. The ancient Greeks and Romans are believed not to have known the use of the stirrups.

Lacrosse.

The annual meeting of the Hamilton Lacrosse Club was held at Fairchild's, when the following officers were elected:—President, J. H. Park; Vice-President, G. W. Griffin; Secretary-Treasurer, D. Steele, jr.; Managing Committee, Messrs. F. W. Gates, W. E. F. Caddy, J. R. Ambrose, G. Bristow and J. A. Mackenzie.

A largely attended meeting of the United London Lacrosse Club was held, when the following officers were elected:—Hon. Patrons, Col. Walker, J. Waterman, Esq.; President, J. H. Fraser, M. P.; 1st Vice do., Wm. Carling, Esq.; 2nd Vice do., W. Woodruff, M. D.; 3rd do., John Taylor, Esq.; Captain, W. M. D. Williams; Secretary, H. A. Smith; Assistant do., A. Campbell; Treasurer, W. R. Vining; Committee—Wheeler, Nichol and Angus.

THE CONVENTION.

The convention held on the 4th inst. in the Toronto lacrosse club rooms was very numerously attended, the following clubs being represented:—Montreal, Shamrock, Sarsfield, Caledonia, Emerald, Athletic, and Independent, of Montreal; the Orillia; Excelsior, of Brampton; St. Regis Indians, of Cornwall; London; Young Canada, of Toronto; Hamilton; Union, of Whitby; Bowmanville; Atna, of Toronto; Cayuga and Onondaga Indians; Tecumseh, Ontario, and Toronto, of Toronto; Acme, of Yorkville. Mr. James Hughes was elected chairman, and Mr. J. Massey, secretary to the meeting. After a committee to examine credentials had reported, it was resolved "That an association be formed to be called the National Lacrosse Association of Canada." The election of officers was then proceeded with, which resulted as follows:—W. K. McNaught, Toronto, President; 1st Vice-President, Geo. Massey, Toronto; 2nd Vice-President, Hugh W. Beckett, Montreal; Secretary and Treasurer, R. B. Hamilton, Toronto; Council, Messrs. R. W. Craig, Brampton; W. L. Maltby, J. Davey, A. H. Woods, and P. Enright, Montreal; W. DeKay Williams, London; W. B. Douglas, Orillia; C. W. Mulligan, Hamilton; W. S. Spotton and F. Walker, Toronto. A constitution was then drafted by a special committee. The rules of the game were then taken up *seriatim*, and a great many changes and improvements made. The laws affecting rough play were most strictly defined, and were made so stringent as to render it hopeful that foul and rough play are now things of the past. The delegates were entertained between the afternoon and evening sessions by the city clubs at Messrs. Jewell & Dennis', where a pleasant time was spent. The best of feeling prevailed throughout the meetings, and it is extremely probable that the Canadian national game will have received fresh impetus, through this friendly convention.

THE TECUMSETH CLUB.

At the annual meeting of the Tecumseth Lacrosse club the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, R. H. Boulton; Vice-President, F. H. Armstrong; Captain, F. G. Dexter; Field Captain, W. Hook; Secretary, R. Ross; Treasurer, J. D. Shaw; Captain of Juniors, M. McPherson; Committee, W. Griffin, J. Aird, W. H. Hall, W. Spotton. The club have secured the Cricket Ground for practice, etc., and the first game will be a scratch between east and

Miscellaneous.

The Burlington (Vt.) Free Press says: "John Hall, of North Troy, has seven children, four of whom, under fourteen years old, weigh exactly 200 pounds each. The youngest are twin girls ten years of age, healthy and intelligent. Two boys one about twelve and the other something over thirteen, are so much alike that they would pass readily for twins. These children have each ten well-formed fingers, two thumbs, and twelve toes."

The first prosecution by the recently formed "Fish, Game and Insectivorous Birds Protective Society," of London, took place before the Police Magistrate a day or two ago. C. Thompson, hotel keeper, was charged with shooting a robin on Good Friday, at the "Ivy Green." Mr. Taylor, counsel for the society, asked that a small fine should be imposed, as this was the first case. A fine of \$1 and costs, in all \$4.45, was inflicted. The society has handed over the fine to the Orphan's Home.

At a public meeting held in Picton on Friday afternoon last, a society for the protection of fish, game, and insectivorous birds in the county of Prince Edward was formed. The society will commence work at once. Such a society would be of great use there in preventing the slaughter of game out of season, and insectivorous birds. It would also be of great assistance to the Fishery Overseer in the discharge of his duties.

It is announced that Messrs. H. & J. Gowan, proprietors of Gowan's Opera House at Ottawa, and large dealers in musical instruments, have made an assignment. This will be regretted, as they are public spirited men.

PRESERVATION OF GAME.—For the information of pot hunters who kill deer out of season, running the animals into the deep snow, and then mercilessly slaughtering them, it may be as well to state, that Mr. Lett, of Ottawa, has set on foot a subscription for the purpose of defraying the expense attendant upon the detection and prosecution of the offenders. He has already received \$25, and scouts will soon be on the warpath.

KENTUCKY MULES.—The best mules are bred in Kentucky, and it is not uncommon to find teams here sixteen hands high, and weighing 1,400 pounds each. Although occasionally there are larger mules, even as high as eighteen hands, such are rare and undesirable. The use of mules is rapidly increasing in this country, their being over 1,150,000 in use in 1870, against 570,222 in 1850. When properly and kindly treated, the mule is not the vicious animal he is generally supposed to be, and it is a mistake to be prejudiced against him on that account.

A RACE DECLARED VOID.—In the great hurdle race at Sandown Park, near London, Sir Charles Rushout's horse Arbitrator came in first. Arbitrator's sire was the American thoroughbred Umpire, formerly the property of Mr. Ten Broeck, and the first favorite for the Derby of 1860, won by Thormanby. The race was declared void by the stewards on the ground that the horses had been started from the wrong post. Sir Charles Rushout claimed the stakes, and has served writs on the stewards, Sir John Astley and Mr. Chaplin, with a view of testing the matter in a court of law. At the same meeting Lord Marcus Beresford's horse Chimneyweep, ridden by himself, and carrying 159lb, won the Grand National Steeplechase, beating Palm (second), Sheppard (third), and three others.

We have this week a very interesting letter from our London correspondent, "Thames," who writes for us on "English Rowing and Athletics." Amongst his reports of the Inter-University Sports, will be found the contest for the "high jump," which was won by Mr. M. J. Brooks, Oxford, who cleared the extraordinary height of 6 feet 2½ inches. This is the highest jump on record, and unless authenticated by veritable witnesses would almost seem incredible. Mr. Brooks stands six feet in his stockings, and it must have been a sight we believe never before witnessed to see a man walk under the bar he had just cleared, without even his hair touching it, by an inch. This great feat could only have been accomplished by long practice and a wonderful development of muscular power. The bicycle race was won by the Hon. J. Keith-Falconer, Cambridge, he doing the four miles in 18m. 15 s. 5s., the best amateur time on record. Now that we have the champion bicyclist of England out here, David Stanton, this will be a guide to us as to what time he should make to beat the amateur.—N. Y. Sportman.

WRESTLING.—There are prospects of an international wrestling match for \$2,500 and the championship of the world between John Graham, champion of England, and J. H.