

strait or strains of blood in the pedigree of that animal."

Now, all this may seem very plausible to a reader who does not know anything about horses or horse-breeding, but it is such peculiarly shallow sophistry that it is surprising any journal that circulates among horsemen and breeders should offer it to its readers through its editorial columns.

No horseman of average intelligence would understand the *Turf, Field and Farm's* article to mean that Fanny Witherspoon's phenomenal speed was attributable to the staying inheritance she takes from Wagner. Even the sentence quoted does not contain anything that can be tortured into such an expression of opinion. It says that it was the four-mile race-horse blood that enabled her to carry her stride to victory. From her sire, Almout (himself, by the way, no cold-blooded mongrel), Fanny Witherspoon inherited splendid action and a wonderful turn of speed, others have inherited these gifts from him, but the *Turf, Field and Farm* would intimate that the courage, the endurance, the "stay," that enabled Fanny Witherspoon to cut down the two-mile record, came from the four-mile race-horse blood of Wagner.

The advocates of the mongrel, the Canuck pacer, the Narragansett myth, and, in short, of anything other than the original fountain of all speed (whose streams fill the veins of ninety-nine out of every hundred race-horses, and which mingle liberally with other elements in those of nine-tenths of our successful trotters), appear to think it quite unnecessary that a successful trotter should inherit anything except speed, pure and simple. This Chicago editor, for example, tells us that Fanny Witherspoon was able to trot a fast two miles because she could trot a fast mile, and that she inherited her ability to trot a fast mile from a trotting ancestry. He says:—

"The secret of her ability to perform that feat lies in the fact that she is a natural trotter gifted with extraordinary speed, and it is no more wonderful that she should go two miles in 4.45 than it would be for Maud S. to do the same distance in 4.35, which is no doubt within her capacity. Fanny Witherspoon has a record of 2.16 $\frac{1}{4}$, and when it was made Dan Woodmansee ran out on the quarter-stretch and motioned the mare's driver to take her back, so apparent was it that she would beat 2.16 if not pulled up, and when she went under the wire in 2.16 $\frac{1}{4}$ she was not travelling at anything like her best rate of speed. Previous to this—and in the month of June, when trotters are usually far from being at their best—she had been driven a public trial in 2.15 $\frac{1}{4}$, so that we know her to be capable of a mile in about 2.15. For a horse with that amount of speed to go two miles at the rate of 2.22 $\frac{1}{2}$ should not be a difficult feat, since the old adage, 'it's the pace that kills,' is never more apropos than in the case of horses asked to go a distance beyond the one for which they have been trained. A 2.15 horse of high quality ought to be able to go two miles in 4.42 or better. Indeed the performance of Fanny Witherspoon was not as creditable as the 4.46 of Monroe Chief, as that horse had never gone a mile better than 2.18 $\frac{1}{4}$, which is three seconds slower than the trial

shown by Fanny Witherspoon, and yet at two miles she beats him only one second."

If such reasoning be sound, then it would matter little how cold-blooded a trotter might be so long as he had a fair turn of speed. While it is quite true, however, that a horse that cannot trot a fast mile cannot trot a fast two miles, it does not follow that a horse that can trot a fast single mile can show proportionately well in a two-mile heat. Maud S. might be able to trot two miles in 4.35, or she might not. She is fast, however, and is liberally supplied with race-horse blood, and therefore the feat might not overtask her, but the dunghill mongrel never was foaled that could do it.

The theorists who make such a fuss about trotting inheritance and trotting action should remember, that in order to trot one or two miles, a horse must have courage and endurance as well as speed. Apropos of this view of the case, Wm. McLaughlin, of Detroit, could tell the Chicago editor a little story illustrative of the delusiveness of a dependence on speed alone. In 1867 or 1868, McLaughlin was training the big black gelding, Victor Hugo, by Big Legged Warrior, out of a little Canuck mare. The big gelding showed a quarter in 31 seconds (fast enough for an "awful" two miles, if the Chicago editor's theory be sound), and he was matched against Dan Hibbard's Grey Gazelle, mile heats, three in five. The track was good, the day fine, and the big black in tip-top form, but he was beaten off in 2.37 or 8; not because he was rank or unsteady, for he never made a break; not because he had lost any of his wonderful speed, but simply because he was a cold-blooded mongrel and had neither the courage nor the endurance to trot his heats out.

The trotters of the Hambletonian, Mambrino and Abdallah families inherit warm blood from old *Messenger* and certain lateral branches of these families, but if this warm blood is to be perpetually diluted to please the whims of "cold-blood" theorists for all time to come, our trotting families will so degenerate that the production of such a two-miler as Fanny Witherspoon will be quite out of the question.

This Chicago editor is averse to race-horse blood in the trotter, and no wonder, as he does not appear to know much about thoroughbreds. Here is a sample illustrative of the learned manner in which he will discuss race-horse pedigrees. He says:—

"And now comes the 'four-mile race-horse blood' part of the story. The dam of Fanny Witherspoon was by Gough's Wagner, a son of the thoroughbred race-horse Wagner that could and did run four miles in remarkably fast time, and that bred Lexington, a great race-horse and a greater sire. It is the diluted Boston blood in the veins of her dam that makes Fanny Witherspoon trot, say the race-horse enthusiasts."

It will surprise race-horse men to learn that Wagner sired Lexington, or to find out where the "diluted Boston blood" drops into Fanny Witherspoon's pedigree, if he has stated it correctly in the above paragraph. Wagner traces back to imported Druid, and so does Boston, but that Wagner does not trace back through either Lexing-

ton or Boston, the merest novice in turf matters ought to know, to say nothing of a writer who assumes the role of mentor.

NORTH WEST RANCH LANDS.

Slowly but surely are Canadian capitalists allowing their chances of becoming cattle kings to slip away from them, and yet it appears impossible to wake them up in the subject. Men who have money appear to prefer almost any kind of an investment to cattle or horse ranching. They will lend their money on landed securities, and wait for slow but sure returns, or they will venture upon the thin and brittle ice of the stock exchange, where they can run great risks for the chances of large profits, and they will be found trying all sorts of investments between these two extremes, but not one in a hundred is willing to put up a dollar in cattle or horse ranches in the Canadian North-West. Indeed, if a Canadian stockman be disposed to put his money in a ranch it is more likely to be in Kansas or Texas than in his own country. The reason of this may be that while through the agencies of railway rivalry and political spite he has heard and read some slanderously damaging reports concerning his own country he has not heard a word against Kansas and Texas. Our neighbors will fight each other politically, and the railways will cut rates and carry on ruinous competitions, but they will all give the country a fair chance. The Union Pacific may fight the Northern Pacific bitterly but it will not traduce Dakota, Montana, Oregon, or any state or territory through which the rival road passes. In our country, however, rivalries, both of great corporations and political parties, are carried on with such intense bitterness that all other interests are apt to be lost sight of in the all-absorbing struggle for supremacy. Both the purely agricultural and the stock-raising resources of our North-West Territories have been grossly and persistently underrated. Men who have dashed through the country in a Pullman car at the rate of thirty miles an hour have come home and condemned the country in the face of direct evidence to the contrary, based on the testimony of practical, competent and accurate observers, who have patiently examined the country mile by mile as they have traversed the old hunters' and traders' trails, on foot, on horseback and in wagons.

And how are ranching experiments turning out in the Canadian North-West? Does any cattleman located there want to sell off his stock, transfer his lease and go out of the business? Certainly not, so far as heard from. Those of them who want money want it for the purpose of extending their operations. Some of the wealthy cattlemen are now talking against the country, but they do not want to sell off and get out of it, oh, no! they want to acquire more territory, and as nearly as possible a monopoly of the business, and so they strive, by every means, unpatriotic, untruthful, or otherwise, to accomplish their selfish and unworthy purposes. There are many large and very valuable ranges in Alberta now under lease, but unstocked through the inability of the lessees to obtain capital