

Obituary.

COMMODORE VANDERBILT.

Commodore Vanderbilt, whose health was feeble for so many months, and whose death was frequently announced, finally departed this life in New York, at 10.50 A.M., Thursday, January 18th. He was born on the 27th of May, 1791, there, and was fast approaching his seventy-third birthday. It was on Staten Island that he first saw the light, and the home in which he was born is still standing. His beginning was humble. He felt the pangs of poverty, and it was only by unremitting toil that he made headway in the world. It was sixteen years old when he persuaded his mother to invest her scanty savings in a two-masted sail-boat without a deck, which he run as a ferry between Staten Island and New York. The venture was successful in only for the reason that young Vanderbuilt watched over his boat with tireless energy. From running a small ferry he rose step by step in maritime enterprises until he was known as one of the greatest managers and builders of ships in the world. After amassing a great fortune, he turned his attention from naval to railroad duties. His wonderful energy made him successful in this as it had made him in other fields. At the time of his death he was properly regarded upon as the most powerful railroad director in the country. He was the President of the New York Central and Hudson River, and the New York and Harlem railroads. After he had grown to be a man of fortune he became to be interested in trotting horses; he used them as a recreation from business. He was an excellent judge of horse-flesh, and one of the most skillful and courageous drivers who frequented the road. Even in his old days he would take a brush in a brush which a younger and more timid man would avoid. Until the recent illness which confined him to the house, his face was familiar to all who took their daily drives in Central Park, and out upon the broad avenues which now divide into sections the Harlem flats. At one time there was intense rivalry on the road between the Commodore and Mr. Robert P. Bonner, and out of this rivalry came the long price which gave such wonderful stimulus to the breeding interest. It is gratifying to know that the feelings of the two gentlemen were softened toward each other before one of them closed his eyes and passed into the shadows. Mountain Boy, probably was the best and fastest horse ever owned by Commodore Vanderbilt; and when the Commodore was loudest in extolling the merits of his blood, Mr. Bonner turned the tables on him by quietly purchasing his sire, Edward Everett. There were many sharp passages in the rivalry; when two aggressive spirits and keen intellects come in contact, you may look for sparks of fire; but this is hardly the proper place to call them up in detail. We repeat that it is gratifying to know that the bitterness engendered by the rivalry was succeeded by softer feelings.

Curling.

THE GRAND BONSPIEL.

"Report," the Hamilton correspondent of the Toronto Mail, gives his opinion on the "curling game" in the following style:—  
Curling is a nice game. I know it is a nice game, because 499 Scotchmen told me so yesterday, and Scotchmen, like figures, can't be lied, and I know it is an ice game, because it is played upon the ice. But it is an awful hard game to score. Two thousand people saw the bonspiel yesterday; four hundred players participated; 100 men kept tally and it was nearly midnight before over the general result of the West's victory over the East was known to the select few, and up to the present writing I have been unable to obtain what the enthusiastic term "all the details." Why, it is as bad as a Presidential election in the United States, and it occurs to my suspicious intellect that the victory of the West may be largely due to the fact, at the "Returning Board" live in Hamilton, and it would be no trouble at all for them to throw out a few of the Eastern rinks and make it a solid West. However, the latest explorations amongst the archives of the media give the Western players a majority of 84, they having scored 969 to their opponents' 884.

ADMINISTERING A BALL.

There is some difficulty in administering a ball to a horse. The best method of doing so is to get a man to hold the horse's mouth open, he standing at the right hand side of the animal. The person to give the ball should stand at the left-hand side, and draw with his left hand the horse's tongue out on the side of the mouth about four inches, with

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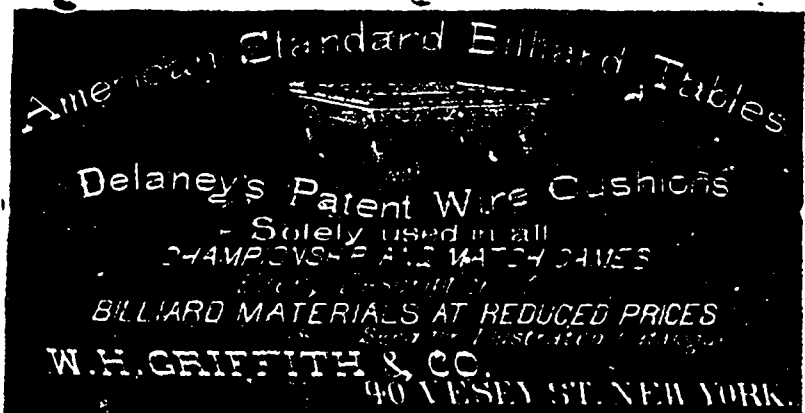
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