

A WORD FOR OURSELVES.



The Gentleman's Journal

TORONTO, FRIDAY FEB 15, 1878.

P. COLLINS & CO., PROPRIETORS
OFFICE: -No. 90 KING-ST. WEST.

All Communications intended to the "Sporting Times" should be addressed to P. Collins & Co., Sporting Times Office -and of course of our employees. This will avoid any delay.

Managers, Agents, Doorkeepers, &c., of Amusements, and Managers and Secretaries of Racing Associations, Shooting Clubs, Athletic, Base Ball and Cricket Clubs, &c., &c., are respectfully informed, that all Correspondents of the Sporting Times are supplied with a card of a yellow color, with the name of the city or town and correspondent, signed by the proprietors of this paper, with a punch stamp of a horse's head upon the right upper corner, and dated January, 1878, each card running for three months. No person is authorized to use any other credential on our behalf. Managers will save themselves from imposition by demanding an exhibition of said card, and refusing to accept any excuse whatever for its non-production. The card is not transferable; and if it be presented by any person other than the one whose name it bears, managers and others will retain it and mail it to this office.

Persons applying for the position of Correspondent are respectfully requested to consider SILENCE A NEGATIVE.

DATES CLAIMED FOR 1878.

CANADIAN.

Cashawa.....May 24
Clinton.....May 23 to 24
Istowell.....May 24 to 25

ICE MEETINGS.

Ottawa.....Feb. 12 to 16
Port Perry.....Feb. 14 to 15
Woodbine.....Feb. 15
Brighton.....Feb. 19 to 20
Beaverton.....Feb. 25 to 26
Bradford.....Feb. 28 to March 1
Bell Ewart.....March 7 to 8
Barrie.....March 14 to 15
Lepine Park, Montreal.....March —

ENTRIES CLOSE.

Brighton.....Feb. 18
Bradford.....Feb. 27
Bell Ewart.....March 6
Barrie.....March 13

AMERICAN.

RUNNING MEETINGS.

Nashville, Tenn.....April 30 to May 4
Baltimore, Md.....May 21 to 24
Louisville, Ky.....May 21 to 27
Cincinnati, Ohio.....May 31 to June 5
St. Louis, Mo.....June 4 to 8
Columbus, Ohio.....June 12 to 15
Baltimore, Md. (Fall).....Oct 23 to 26

TROTTING

Coldwater, Mich.....May 15 to 17
Hillsdale, Mich.....May 22 to 24
Freeport, Ill.....May 28 to 31
Hudson, Mich.....May 29 to 31
Prophetstown, Ill.....June 4 to 7
Milwaukee, Wis.....June 4 to 7
Adrian, Mich.....June 4 to 7
Kalamazoo, Mich.....June 11 to 17
Grand Rapids, Mich.....June 18 to 21
Akron, Ohio.....June 19 to 21
Jackson, Mich.....June 25 to 28

[From the Sporting Times, Dec. 14th, '77.]

The third year of our proprietorship of the SPORTING TIMES is drawing to a close. During the time it has been under our management it has been a regular, and we hope acceptable, visitor to the reader. It has been our practice to issue drafts in September on those who were in default with their subscriptions; but this year, instead, made a call through the columns of the paper requesting all who were indebted to remit the amounts due. With regret, we are obliged to acknowledge the appeal was not responded to with that alacrity which we anticipated would be shown. During this and next week we will issue drafts upon all of our subscribers who are in arrears for subscriptions, that can be reached through Express offices, and we expect they will be promptly paid. There are thousands of dollars due us, and the want of this money seriously impedes our efforts to bring the paper up to our ideal. Those who are indebted for over a year will, we hope, see the necessity of prompt payment. The terms of subscription are in advance, and when we wait for a year or two consider ourselves very ill repaid when we receive an excuse instead of the money, and have the cost of sending and returning the draft to pay besides. It is our intention to collect this money, and if subscribers in arrears will not recognize our drafts, we will be obliged to proceed in a more unpleasant and costly way.

PROFESSIONAL ROWING IN CANADA

It is said the difference between an amateur and a professional is one of money. The amateur indulges in sport for the fun of the thing or for the reputation that a successful athlete enjoys. But with the professional it is different. His bread and butter and maybe that of his family depend upon his exertions. In this way it becomes necessary that the professional athlete in any department should seek to make the best terms possible for himself, and, at the same time, extort every facility to his backers to recoup themselves for the money advanced in his behalf. It may not be generally known, but it is no less the fact, that in the great majority of prominent matches the principals engaged in them have no direct interest in the stake money, that financial portion of the programme being attended to by their friends; the principal's interest being confined to a certain percentage, usually one half, of the winnings. It is of interest then to the backers of both men that the contest should take place in whatever locality the most money (other circumstances being any way near equal) can be made out of it. It is no secret that the main stake in any match of note is but a trifle of the money that is invested on the result of the race. As before stated in making up the stake money, the friends of either man are virtually betting the odds of 2 to 1, as they are obliged to pay over one-half of the winning money to the fortunate one. To repay them for this heavy but necessary percentage against them, they are obliged to indulge in outside speculation, and this is done in many cases to such an extent as to reduce the net percentage in the main

inset that any contest in which their men are engaged with Canadians must take place where the greatest freedom is allowed for investments. And it is quite possible that this reason will not prove distasteful to Canadian backers. With this view of the case it will be seen that no place in Canada will suffer anything in comparison with Toronto from the effects of the ill-advised, and unnecessary pool-bill, with which our law books will be encumbered after May 1st. From the experience in the Hanlan-Ross race of last fall, it is quite easy to assume that a first-class boating contest on Toronto Bay, is worth, at least, \$50,000 to the city, and if this foolish law had never had an existence, it is probable there might have been three or four races of equal moment to the one last year in our waters. But all this benefit has been legislated out of existence by a set of sapient Solons, who either never gave the subject any consideration, or were incapable of distinguishing the effect of their worse than foolish law making. However much we would like to see Hanlan, Ross, and Brayley maintain their names and reputations on Canadian waters, the fanatical anti-pool bill will drive them to the other side to seek the laurels which have been denied them here.

DEATH OF MR. ARCHIE FISHER.

We are called upon this week to perform one of the most melancholy duties of our journalistic experience, in announcing the death of Mr. Archibald B. Fisher, the well-known horseman of this city. Mr. Fisher was one of the leading representatives of the turf in Canada, indeed it might be said America. His name and face were well known on almost every race track in this country and throughout New York State. He passed through the various stages of a turfman's career, and either as a rider or an owner, his memory will be respected. He was successful in both, and many an eye will be dimmed while reading this imperfect announcement of his early demise. His death occurred on Tuesday morning last, at the residence of his friend, Mr. Frank J. Martin, Turf Club House, No. 40 King St. west. That insidious and flattering disease consumption has added another to its list of victims in Mr. Fisher's case. For some time past Mr. F. has not been very strong, and it is supposed the progress of the disease was accelerated by uncalled for exposure last winter. During last summer his friends noticed a marked change in his appearance, but it was not until late in the Fall that alarming symptoms set in. The disease as usual flattered its victim, and had become so strong as to defy all medical assistance in its work of death. Later in the Fall he removed from the old Newmarket course (Gates') to Norway, where he resided up to a few days of his decease. About the middle of last week he came to the city for medical treatment, but his malady developed so rapidly, that no relief could be given, and on Tuesday morning he sank gradually, and his immortal spirit winged its way to a happier home.

Mr. Archibald B. Fisher was born in the town of Lancaster, Ont., in 1845. At a very early age he showed a strong passion for horses, and while quite a boy we find him employed with Mr. Nelson Littlefield, a brother of Mr. Chas. Littlefield, at present superintendent of Mr. Sandford's American stable in England. Shortly after he became identified with Mr. Denis Ready. During this engagement such horses as Thunder, Verge, Lady

Mr. Charles Gates, who, with one child, survives him.

The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, and the long cortege of mourning friends amply testified the high opinion in which the deceased was held.

We cannot close this brief and incomplete memoir without paying a tribute to the high respect in which Mr. Fisher was held by all classes of our citizens. In his death his family have lost a kind protector; our country a good citizen; and the turf of Canada one of its strongest supporters.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

During the past month or two we have sent out the great bulk of our subscription accounts for collection. A large proportion of them have been handled by the different express companies, and from this section we have returns either in money or unaccepted drafts. We regret to state that the result of these collections has not been up to what we had a right to anticipate. While thankful to those who were kind enough to respond to our appeal, we think we have just right to complain of the manner in which many of our drafts were returned. The most frivolous excuses in many cases were used, while of the whole lot in which there was default not a single one had a reasonable endorsement why it was not paid. The expense to us of the return of these unpaid calls by the Express Co.'s has been great, and we certainly have no disposition to take these negative replies as final answers. Therefore we request all who are indebted to us for subscriptions to remit us the amount due at once. In many cases this default extends over two or three years, and the want of this money hampers us in our business. It is our intention at no distant day to enlarge the SPORTING TIMES to sixteen pages, but if our friends who are so behind hand in their obligations to us do not promptly meet their indebtedness, there is very little inducement to go on with an improvement which will cost such a large sum of money. Thousands of dollars are standing out, in small sums from \$4 to \$12, all over the country, and we have a right to expect that when our subscribers know we want to use this money in their interest as well as our own that a hearty and immediate response will be given to this appeal.

To those we could not reach by the Express companies, we mailed their accounts. Every facility was used for returning the remittance. A printed reply and envelope were enclosed, and no excuse can be had for delay on the part of subscribers. If the hundreds we sent out this way, tens have not been heard from. Now the payment of this subscription money is insisted upon, and we hope we may not be forced to adopt harsh measures for its recovery.

Sporting Gossip.

A correspondent at Picton sends us an account of the races at Campbellford, and criticizes severely the judges and drivers, but neglects to attach his name to the fulmination. While we are thankful to our unknown Picton friend for the extended report he was kind enough to favor us with, we cannot permit our columns to be used as a masked battery. The names and addresses of all contributors, correspondents, and enquirers must be known to us, or their work serves to fill our waste paper basket.

A grand pigeon-shooting tournament will take place at Woodstock, commencing on the 27th inst. \$500 in prizes are offered,

Mr. James Valentine, known as "King," one of the oldest living old-time horsemen, died in New York on Friday. It is said that for more than half a century he has not missed a leading race on the American turf. His practical career began with the Eclipse-Henry race on Long Island in 1822. He was very fertile in his race descriptions, and his account of Lexington great race against time is one of the American racing classics. He will be missed and missed on every course from New Orleans to Saratoga.

Owing to the tightness of the money market, Mr. Chubb's sale of horses at Goshen last week was not so successful as was anticipated. The local papers attribute this fact, and the terms being practically cash. Abdallah Chief and Lucy Abdallah were not submitted to competition at a sale. Abdallah Chief is a valuable horse, and Mr. Chubb was doubtless correct in not putting him up to be withdrawn at an inferior bid.

At the annual meeting of the Buffalo, Y., Driving Park Association held at the Tift House on Monday last the following were elected a Board of Directors for the ensuing year:—C. J. Wells, M. P. Bush, Henry C. Jewett, R. L. Howard, C. J. Hamlin, J. H. Metcalfe, O. McCullom, L. L. Crockett, Sheldon Pease. The Board will hold meeting at an early day to elect officers.

The United States Trotting and Pacing Record of 1877 will be issued about the first of March. The greatest care has been taken in its preparation, comparisons have been made with official reports whenever possible, and it will surpass in fullness and accuracy any former publication of the kind. In addition to other special features, it will contain the Rules and Regulations of the National Association, as amended at Congress this week. The price for a single copy will be \$1.50, and four copies will be furnished to associations or clubs for \$5. Orders should be sent to the Spirit of the Times, New York, by Feb. 25, as only limited edition will be published.

A sweepstake trot for Butchers' and Druggists' horses will take place at Woodbine this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Mr. D. McNaught, V. S., of Seaforth, lost his fine young stallion Captain Eric. Mr. McNaught was out driving the horse when it became frightened at something breaking away from his driver he ran home. While turning in an alleyway leading to the stable the horse struck against a post and fractured his leg. He was immediately shot.

"Archer," Dr. Stockwell, of Port Huron, a valued contributor to the SPORTING TIMES has an interesting article on the Maples and Sycamores in a late number of The Country published in New York.

Senator Morrissey has discharged his physician, and is driving in the streets of Jacksonville.

ANTICIPATED LEGISLATION.

After a season's trial of the Pool Bill in New York State the great injury it has inflicted has been made quite apparent. So palpable is this that a general move will be made at the present session of the State Legislature to have so much of the law amended as to permit the sale of pools inside the enclosures of racing associations. The expediency of this will not be decided by any one has given it the least consideration. So far as the morality of betting concerned, pool selling can be no more objectionable than book making, or under-