

horses will not be without its value to your readers:

John Philip Wiser was born in Trenton, Oneida County, N. Y., in 1825. His genealogical tree shows a direct descent on both paternal and maternal side a hardy ancestry.

From his early training on the farm he acquired not only a perfect physical development, but a taste for agricultural pursuits, which in later years the accumulation of wealth enabled him to gratify. His first financial success was achieved at the age of twenty, when he closed his first year's engagement with A. S. Egert & Co., of Gouverneur, N. Y., with a balance of \$1.19 in pocket, and with the possession of riches came a sense of responsibility, and never was money more conscientiously squandered. I am quite sure that he has never since enjoyed such perfect consciousness of wealth.

It is safe to assume that Mr. Wiser's reputation and manhood was established in this school in Eden, for at the end of six years or in 1837, he was admitted into partnership with the firm of Egert and Everill, who then owned the distillery at Prescott. At that time its capacity was scarcely equal to 200 bushels per day, but with steady diligence and bold but prudent ventures, his undertakings were crowned with success, and the business prospered.

In 1863 he purchased the whole interest of his partners, and became the sole proprietor of the establishment. In 1864 the entire works were consumed by fire, and although the loss sustained was great they were re-built, since when its business has steadily increased to its present proportions. Its capacity at this writing is equal to about 900 bushels daily. The refuse from the distillery is utilized to fatten 1,000 head of cattle, annually, which find a ready market upon being shipped to England.

The magnitude of the business may be better comprehended when it is understood that the duties paid to the Government daily, average over \$2,200 in gold.

The excrement from one thousand oxen being sufficient to fertilize and improve large tracts of land annually, and as rich grazing lots were essential for the cattle shipped to him from abroad before going into their stalls, Mr. Wiser decided upon the purchase of his first farm, which, with subsequent additions, led to the final consummation in 1873 of his long cherished plans for establishing a breeding stud which should be second to none in the quality of its productions.

The Rysdyk Stock Farm consists of 600 acres of the richest and most perfectly cultivated lands in Canada, beautifully located on the St. Lawrence River, just opposite Ogdensburg, not a half mile out of Prescott.

There is abundant supply of never failing water, accessible to every lot on the farm, and the enormous production of hay and grain would seem almost incredible to those not familiar with the fertilizing process going on continually.

The buildings erected are of the most substantial character, and occupy the most commanding view of that noblest of all rivers, the St. Lawrence.

Two double and three single dwellings occupied by the gentlemen and efficient Superintendent, Mr. H. W. Brown, the attendants and laborers employed on the farm.

The capacity of the hay barns are equal to 300 tons. There are two barns used for the accommodation of stock, erected in 1874-5, one is built of stone and the other of brick, and are capable of sheltering one hundred and fifty head of horses.

The buildings are richly and substantially furnished throughout, with an eye to the comfort of their valuable inmates. There is material for an elaborate detailed description of these elegant surroundings, of the luxurious pastures, of the gently sloping hills, of the twelve distinct and separate paddocks in which the young things acquire the knack of "bending the knee" while exercising in the snow; of the wells, one of which extends to a subterranean lake at the depth of fifty feet, from which an occasional fish, frog, shell or piece of wood is pumped, of the perfectly constructed half mile track, and of the three hundred feet of sheltered walk over, which the stock is exercised during inclement seasons. But I imagine your readers are already impatient to know if the executive mind, capable of organizing and conducting enterprises which necessitate the employment of a small army of assistants, has been equally astute in the selection of the principals of this great stud.

Let the curious first examine the matrons of this establishment, note the entire ancestry of

strong in the blood of the thoroughbred ancestry. The fact that hundreds of stallions, possessed of the instinct to trot, failed to sire trotters on account of their low breeding, had not escaped his notice.

The history of Jackson, a stallion once negotiated for by Mr. Alexander, of Kentucky, and formerly owned in Northern N. Y., one of the fastest and most perfect trotters for sixty rods the world ever produced, substantiates these views—his action was simply perfect; his progeny inherited with great uniformity his marvelous qualities. They all possessed the action and instinct to trot, but having descended from a low origin they did not possess the nerve, courage and endurance so essential, and yet unattainable except through the race horse to train on or trot out the mile.

The family of Bluchers bred hereabouts are distant descendants from Duroc, and are somewhat noted as roadsters, and in a few instances Blucher blood has nicked kindly with that of the trotter, as in the case of Ripon Boy, but Mr. Blucher was never known to sire a trotter until quite recently, when an obscure stallion as the Hunsell Horse, standing at \$10, and covering not to exceed a half a dozen mares annually, suddenly jumps into notoriety through his sons Deck Wright, (2:28), McAllister colt, (2:30), and more recently the green one brought out at Watertown, that has shown a mile in 2:21.

This Hunsell Horse was a grandson of Wait's Blucher, and his dam was by imported Emigrant. It is not to be presumed that he acquired the trotting knack from the Emigrant mare. The action and instinct to trot comes unquestionably from Blucher, but the will and stamina to train on, which his get seem to possess, is certainly attributable to the thoroughbred blood of his dam.

Upon further examination it will be seen that the Morgans, with an abundance of action and unquestionable trotting instinct, would hardly have maintained their reputation as a trotting family had it not been for the noted sire Vt. Black Hawk, Goldust and Magna Charta.

The dam of Black Hawk was a handsome English mare. Goldust's dam was by the Arab Zileade, while Magna Charta's dam was by the renowned race horse Gray Eagle; with the assistance of this thoroughbred blood through the dams of these distinguished sires, the Morgan family can boast of its Ethan Allen, its Lucille and Fleety Goldust, its Hannah D., and scores of other fast trotters.

Mambrino Patchen, whose dam was by Gano, is another example of the value of high breeding in trotting sires. The pacing element has been found a valuable auxiliary in the production of trotters, but the thoroughbred blood through Cadmus seemed essential for the development of a Smuggler or Pochontas.

In the Hambletonian and Star families the same theory will apply with perhaps equal force. Edward Everett, that great sire of Judge Fullerton, Mountain Boy and Joe Elliott was out of a mare by imp. Margrave; doubtless he acquired the instinct to trot from Hambletonian, but the ability to transmit it with intensity, together with the requisite nerve force, is doubtless largely due to the blood of his dam.

It is, perhaps, true that the running blood in the veins of Volunteer has detracted somewhat from the high kee action of his offspring, so much admired by some. Nevertheless, Volunteer is confessedly a successful and very superior sire of trotters.

I am aware that the theory for keeping alive the trotting instinct by breeding instinct to instinct, regardless of staying blood, is supposed by some to be desirable to insure an immediate return of trotters. This will only answer, however, because of our inability to thus maintain a high standard of physical excellence, with the requisite wind, limb, and blood, to insure continued improvement in each succeeding generation.

As I view the matter there are many stallions possessed of trotting ability, unable to transmit the same, because their diluted blood is not strong enough to perpetuate the instinct to trot which they have inherited.

I believe Mr. Wallace has said, "When we get the best trotting horse the world will produce, he must have the courage, the will, the speed and the endurance of the four mile thoroughbred, which qualities he can only obtain by partaking largely of his blood."

A successful sire must therefore possess a sufficiency of Hambletonian or other trotting blood to inherit the requisite action, speed and trotting instinct, which should be powerfully sustained by a generous infusion through the dam or

by-stander, and with one exception to the rule, get of Rysdyk are in color a rich bay.

Rysdyk was bred by A. Welch, Esq., of Chestnut Hill, near Philadelphia, foaled in 1866, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, by Abdallah, by Mambrino, by Messenger, dam Lady Duke, by Lexington, by Loston, by Humbleton, thereby combining the blood of the best trotting sire and race horse sire ever produced on this continent. From his dam Rysdyk requires much of the coveted Messenger blood through the renowned Sir Archey and the great American Eclipse, son of Duroc, and a grand son of Miller's Damsel, by imp. Messenger.

Sired by the great progenitor of trotters (the old Hero of Chester) and possessed of a rich inheritance of the true trotting blood, derived from the fountain head through Lexington, the best known thoroughbred source, it is not possible that Rysdyk may yet be recognized as the Shakespeare of the equine race.

This horse stands 15.3 in height, and weighs 1,200 lbs. He is a rich bay with black points, except the two white pasterns behind. His head is straight, lean, bony and free from coarseness, wide between the eyes and at the jaws; ears blood like and active, and eyes prominent but soft and gazelle like in expression. His neck is of moderate length and well joined to oblique shoulders; withers rather low; join broad and powerful; barrel round, hips level and oval, with the characteristic Bellfounder quarters. His legs and feet are sound and smooth, and stand under him most perfectly. His stiles and hocks closely resemble those of his illustrious sire. Viewed from any point Rysdyk is an animal of power.

Although untrained as a trotter, Rysdyk was given a trial at Hartford in 2:36, for Mr. Wiser's benefit, while in stud condition, and at the time of purchase, which, considered in connection with his perfect and frictionless way of going was satisfactory evidence that he had inherited his full share of natural speed. His action is square, bold and fearless, with an immense stride, while his hock movement is not inferior to that of his father, Jay Gould.

While in the hands of Mr. Welch, up to and including his eight year old form, Rysdyk had access to but twenty four mares, among which was the noble old Flora Temple. From these covers Mr. Bonner owns the fleet colt out of Flora Temple, already equal to 2:22 to the mile. Beatrice, owned by Mr. Pond, of Hartford, trotted in 2:35, when three years old, in 2:30 as a four-year old, and in 2:26 when five years old.

Chestnut Hill, by Rysdyk, although accredited with a record of 2:37, is capable of 2:30 when called upon. The Philadelphia filly, trained by Ben Daniels, could trot in 2:40 while a mere baby; but from a communication recently received by Mr. Wiser from Mr. Robt. Steele, of Philadelphia, it may reasonably be supposed that he owns one of Rysdyk's best get. He writes, "I have a mare by Rysdyk which I am giving careful work. I consider her as promising a mare as I have ever seen; she has a wonderful turn of speed. I am satisfied she is the fastest one you have ever seen or ever will."

Another of Rysdyk's get, owned by Mr. Steele, was sold by that gentleman to go to Indiana for \$1,500.

There is still another at Amble Park in the hands of Mr. Clark, reported to be exceedingly fast. In short not one of his get has thus far failed to give satisfactory evidence of being a natural trotter.

If Rysdyk is capable of producing such results from mares not especially selected for their breeding and in advance of his having himself been trained, may we not look for real flyers with unerring certainty from the richly bred matrons of this great stud, now that his trotting powers have been sufficiently developed to intensify the transmissible instinct to instruct to trot.

That there is a fund of pent up reserve power possessed by this excellent son of Hambletonian, only awaiting an opportunity to vindicate its supremacy upon the turf is apparent in every motion, and conceded by all who have been fortunate enough to witness his flights of speed when occasionally indulging in his exercise.

With a view of relieving Rysdyk of his arduous stud duties that he may receive the education his great speed seems to warrant, and for the purpose of introducing another element of blood into his stud Mr. Wiser purchased from Mr. Dalzell during the summer of 1876 for \$10,000, one half interest in the renowned stallion

PHIL SHERIDAN.

The commendable enterprise and foresight

of Mr. Wiser, who has ventured the assertion that Phil Sheridan would not have been the greatest sire of trotters on the globe, could he have but enjoyed the opportunities afforded at Backen or Alexander's.

Phil Sheridan was foaled in 1862, the property of Robt. Dalzell of Westchester, N. Y., in whose hands he acquired his reputation as a trotter and sire of trotters. He was sired by Young Columbus, and his dam was a well bred mare by a son of Tippu. He stands sixteen hands high and is at our reach higher at the withers than he is in the rump. This combination is peculiar to the family should be termed the Sheridan Patch to distinguish it from the Hambletonian Patch of which we read. He is a horse of much determination, and has a will of his own, and yet he is so intelligent and level-headed that nothing short of absolute atrocity will provoke him to retaliation. He stands on remarkably sound legs and feet, his hocks are not as well let down as many would desire, but the muscular development at the stifle and through the quarters is indeed wonderful.

The forearm is of immense length and is muscled like that of the thoroughbred.

The varied turf experience of Phil Sheridan would cover more space than I have a right to ask. His life has been one of activity in the stud and on the course, often without any special preparation for either duty.

His position and record in the great stallion race of 1875, at Mystic Park, won by Smuggler, secure for him hosts of new admirers, who had scarcely heard of him prior to that time.

The young stallion

CHESTNUT HILL.

by Rysdyk, dam the Miller mare, by Bully King, son of Geo. M. Patchen, granddam believed to be by Duroc and out of a mare of Messenger descent, is a trotter of the first water.

Although but five years of age he has acquitted himself handsomely on the turf acquiring a record of 2:57, which is not the measure of his ability, however, as he has showed trials in 2:30. This horse is a blood bay, 15 1/2 hands high, commanding in appearance, and shows unmistakable evidence of the blood of the two distinguished families from which he derives his wonderful turn of speed.

He is powerful, yet smoothly made, and inherits the mild temperament of his sire, with the same determination "to do or die in the cause."

WILLIAM D. SMITH

is perhaps the best entire son of the "black whirlwind of the East," Thomas Jefferson. His dam was imported Heatherbloom, by Tally Ho.

He is six years old, full 16 hands, a rich chestnut, and a model for an artist. His size, action, courage and style cannot be surpassed and he is as proud in his bearing as the steed of a Roman Emperor. He is not only a trotter capable of doing his mile in the forties, but a stayer, and bred just strong enough to make one of the most successful sires. The bay stallion

HARTFORD.

foaled in 1874, is looked upon by many as the coming horse. He is certainly an excellent representative of the mixed strain, sired by Rysdyk, by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, dam Belle by Rysdyk's Hambletonian, granddam by C. M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed. Hartford is plumb 16 1/2 hands high, remarkably well made, broken to harness and able to show speed that will satisfy the most critical.

Before considering the brood mares and young things of this princely stud, a brief reference to the trotters of public notoriety who have been owned or brought out as the Rysdyk Stock Farm within three years may not be out of place. The list comprises that great sire of trotters Phil Sheridan, 2:26 1/2, Orient, 2:24, Hiram Woodruff, 2:25, Chestnut Hill, 2:37, North America, 2:36, L. H. Daniels, 2:11, and others that do not occur to me at this moment.

Two following have no public records, but have shown trials as follows: Decent, 2:25, W. B. Smith, 2:40, Byron Cole, 2:37, Barbara Patchen (3 years old), 2:38, Rocket, 2:20. This horse is by Mambrino Pilot, and it is believed that he can trot a mile in 2:16, at any rate Mr.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1866, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1867, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1868, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1869, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1870, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1871, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1872, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1873, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1874, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1875, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1876, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

July Patchen, b. m., foaled 1877, by Geo. M. Patchen, dam Lady Fashion, by Geo. M. Patchen, granddam by M. Clay, Jr. Belle, the dam of Hartford, obtained a 4 year old record of 2:44, and was very promising, she is, without doubt, one of very best brood mares of this country, being elegant in proportions, rich in breeding, and endowed with a high order of speed.

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