

A dwelling house of George Bockius, of Britain, Penn., narrowly escaped destruction by fire on Wednesday night week. During the night Mrs. Bockius was awakened by loud and peculiar screams from her canary bird, which hung in its cage in the kitchen. Arousing Mr. Bockius, they listened for a few minutes, when a noise was heard as of the fall of the cage to the floor, and Mr. Bockius hastened down stairs. On arriving at the kitchen he found the room on fire, the flames having spread around the cage and burned off the string that secured the bird cage. By the application of water Mr. Bockius succeeded in subduing the flames. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is supposed to have originated from a lingering spark from the previous day's ironing fire, lodged somewhere about the ironed clothing. Considerable clothing was destroyed.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Frank Buckland, writing respecting the capture of a West African python on board a vessel in the London Docks, says: "I wish this latest arrival had been a little smaller, as he might have afforded a meal to the ophiophagus, or snake-eating snake at the Zoological. This fellow has now eaten 110 common English snakes in fourteen months."

Manitoba offers a good market for thoroughbred stock. The local papers say that if some enterprising Ontario breeder will be on hand at Winnipeg at the time of the Provincial Fair in October he can meet all the farmers of the North-West and make sales at good prices. The crops promise to be good, and farmers will then have the cash to buy.

An English correspondent describes a scene of which he was an eye witness: Five large rats were started by the ferrets from a hollow tree growing near the mill dam. They undertook to swim across the river, but were detected and pursued by a pair of swans. The swans struck vigorously with their bills, often catching the rats and shaking them after the manner of a terrier dog. The chase was an exciting one, the rats diving without avail. Three of the vermin were killed, and the other two landed in a badly crippled condition. As the swan is such a good ratter, the bird has an extra claim to the fostering care of man. But will all swans boldly fight rats?

During the first half of every month, while money is plenty with the miners of Virginia City, sixteen gambling saloons in that place never close. Three sets of dealers a day and assistants keeps the games going without cessation. It became common for restaurant and lodging house keepers, grocers, and others to sue the miners for debt, and thus gave the clerks of the mine companies so much trouble going to and from the justices' courts with their books, that an order was given to dismiss any man on whose wages a garnishee was placed. This rule has hurt the business of the gamblers, because the miners are less reckless with their wages.

THE TALLEST OF ALL THE TEXANS.—The newspapers are speaking of a tall man named Thornton, who now lives on White Oak Creek, Titus County, Texas. The Stoughtland Bulletin says: "We are well acquainted with Henry Thurston. He is 7 feet 6 inches high standing barefooted. He went to California some years before the war, and his companions had a deal of fun with him. When they saw a train of wagons coming, they carefully concealed Henry in a wagon, and when the train came up, they managed to introduce the subject of tall men. They proposed to bet any sum that they had the tallest man in the crowd. Most of Henry's companions were men of medium stature, and it was not hard to get up a bet. The money having been staked, they produced Henry, and the beaten never failed to enjoy the joke."

is the property of Mr. George Martin, who lives about three-quarters of mile northwest of this village. The colt died Monday morning last, and we are informed that Mr. Martin has sent the hide to Michigan to be stuffed.

Capt. Jenks, by Norfolk, his dam by Belmont, was purchased a day or two ago by Messrs. Purney & Gray. He is spoken very highly of by all who have seen him, and there is little doubt of him making a first-class trotter. He has had very little training yet it is claimed a 2:30 gait is not much more than a jog for him. He ran in several races a couple of years ago, and was broken to harness when thrown out of training as a race horse. He is a fine looking bay gelding about 15½ hands.

Bodino, who swept everything before him in 1874, but who was kept in retirement last year owing to lameness, made his first appearance on the turf this season in the free-for-all race at Jackson, Mich. His competitors were Frank Reeves, General Garfield, Observer and Badger Girl. Fred Hooper, Mollie Morris and Kansas Chief were entered in the purse, but they declined to start owing to the heavy condition of the track. A severe rain had fallen, which rendered the work very difficult. Bodino could not make much headway through the mud. He was third in the first heat, second in the second, fourth in third and fifth in the fourth heat. The fastest heat was the first, 2:40½, which was won by General Garfield. The three next heats were taken by Frank Reeves. Although we do not report Bodino as a victor, it is gratifying to know that he is able to appear on the track this year.

MAMBRINO HUNTER.—Mr. Peter Duryea, of Port Richmond, Staten Island, has sold a half interest in his chestnut stallion Mambrino Hunter, to Mr. John Feeks, of Syracuse (N.Y.) Driving Park, for \$8,500. Mambrino Hunter is an elegant specimen of the representative American trotter, in form, general appearance and pedigree. He is four years old, stands 16 hands, strip in face and both hind ankles white, deep-chested, finely coupled, tremendous stifles and gaskins, long from point of hip to neck, showing immense driving power; short back and flat, tapering legs, finely cut head, piercing eye and a good neck, fitting on to well inclined shoulders. He has never been handled for speed, but has trotted to wagon in 2:41½, and after making a short season in the stud will be regularly trained by Mr. Feeks for the late Fall trotting season. The following is his pedigree: Mambrino Hunter, chs, foaled 1872, sired by Herr's Mambrino Patchen (sire of Lady Stout, record of 2:29 as a three-year-old), dam Kate Hunter, by Kinkad's St. Lawrence (son of Old St. Lawrence, out of a thoroughbred mare).

The latest Detroit Free Press story is of a raw-boned, spavined, knock-kneed old horse that limped along, smelling of hitching posts and nibbling at the street car track. Three blocks behind him was a man with a rope halter, who was enquiring if anybody had seen a stray horse. The old brute stopped in front of a grocery to snuff at some bars of soap. The clerk ran out with a broomstick, and in trying to dodge a blow the horse fell over, struck a bushel basket full of eggs, and a great quantity of crockery, and the crash was terrific. He didn't make an effort to get up, and just as the clerk's yells had gathered a crowd the man with the rope halter came up. It was his horse, and \$10 wouldn't pay the damages. "Here's the man who owns the horse!" "No I don't!" was the calm reply. "Then what are you doing with that halter?" yelled a policeman. "I'm going a fishing!" was the ready answer. The clerk tried to detain him, but he jumped into a wood yard and escaped, calling out as he went over the fence:—"Gentlemen, these are mighty curious times when a man can't take a halter on his back and go after a few bass!"

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The proprietors of the SPORTING TIMES have much pleasure in announcing to their patrons that they have made arrangements to present a magnificent horse picture to their advance paying subscribers for the year 1876-7. Realizing the importance of this undertaking, and being determined to offer our subscribers a picture that should in itself be worthy of the paper it represents, and which should be treasured as a work of art; after culling over the finest productions of the American press, we selected the beautiful chromo of GOLDSMITH MAID, printed in nine colors and innumerable shades, size 18½ by 24 inches, believing, as our friends will when they see it, that it is the finest horse picture ever published in America. It is not to be confounded with the miserable pictures hawked around the country by some journals, but is really a work of high art and intrinsically of more value than we receive for our yearly subscription. She is represented standing in a box stall stripped, and in this position the picture, from which the chromo is reproduced, was painted by one of the first artists in the profession in America. When varnished and mounted it is impossible to distinguish between the chromo and a very fine oil-painting. It is a work of art worthy of a place in the finest collection in the country, and what adds to its value is the only correct likeness of GOLDSMITH MAID ever published. As a memento of the most remarkable trotting equine in the world, shortly to be relegated from the turf, it will be treasured by every horseman in the country, more especially by those who have seen the little mare in any of her races. This picture was sold by subscription only a few months ago for \$5 a piece, and copies of it were in great demand. We expect in this liberal gift to more than double our subscription list in the next three months, and if our friends who receive the picture will only show it to their acquaintances and inform them how they may get a copy, we are sure our anticipations will be realized. The picture can be procured in no other way; we do not sell it; and only give it to those who remit Yearly in advance for the SPORTING TIMES.

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