

Correspondence.

THE ENGLISH SPARROW AND ALBINISM.

To Editor of Sporting Times:

In your last issue (Dec. 20th), you mention a "semi albino" sparrow discovered at Goderich, and assume such to be a rarity. In this you are in error, as no form of animal life, from man to the lowly mollusc, is exempt from these peculiarities; and no species present them so often as the English sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). In August, 1877, when connected with one of the New York sporting papers, a gentleman of Jersey City presented me with an albino sparrow, shot by him in the suburbs of Newark, New Jersey, and which now ornaments my mantle, having been mounted by that prince of taxidermists, Bell of Broadway. The entire plumage is of a pure white, though with a faint metallic gloss, having much the look and feel of talc or steatite; the bill and legs have a faint roseate tinge. During the past summer I purchased a second specimen from a Hebrew taxidermist in Cincinnati, also of a pure white, though there is a faint roseate tinge to the plumage as well as bill and tarsi. In Brooklyn in 1877, I saw a flock of sparrows, perhaps twenty or more of which nearly, or quite one half, had prominent white markings; and Mr. Conklin, Director of the Zoological Garden of Central Park, informed me that white sparrows were almost as common in the Park as those of natural plumage. A gentleman—the name has slipped my memory at the present moment—residing in Boston, and who is devoted to ornithology, tells me that on an average of every second nesting of sparrows there is at least one albino, or partial albino.

I am also the possessor of a melanotic sparrow "black as a crow," though wanting entirely in the gloss to the plumage observable in *Corvus Americanus*, resembling rather the dead line of granulated or hydrogenized iron.

Albino squirrels, quail and robins (*turdus migratorius*, not the English bird of the same name), are by no means uncommon, and there are few taxidermists that have not one or more specimens. Mr. Bell, the taxidermist before mentioned, has an albino ruffed grouse, though there are a few rusty markings.

Melanism or melanosis, the adverse of albinism, is also a frequent phenomena, though not so common as the latter. Both are physiological phenomena, due entirely to natural causes. One is an excess of pigment, the other its entire absence. Color depends upon the admixture of pigment cells with ordinary cells. The different races of man owe their varied hues to the relative amount of pigment in connection with the ordinary epidermic cells, and to the particular tint of the pigment which the mixture forms. We frequently see human specimens presenting the fair complexion of Europeans who are of Negro parentage, particularly in museums and peripatetic shows. Such are usually white from birth, but the following very curious example is recorded on unquestionable authority:

A negro slave in Kentucky, aged forty-five, was born of coal black parents, and was himself black until twelve years of age. At that time a portion of the skin an inch wide, encircling the head just within the hair, gradually changed to white; also the hair occupying that locality. A white spot next appeared near the inner corner of the left eye; and from this the white color gradually extended over the face, trunk, and extremities, until it covered the entire surface. The complete change from black to white occupied about ten years; and but for his hair, which was crisp and woolly, and the flattening of the nose, no one would have supposed at this time that his progenitors had offered any of the characteristics of the negro, his skin presenting the healthy vascular appearance of a fair complexioned European. When he was about twenty-two years of age, however, dark copper-colored or brown spots began to appear on his face and hands; but these remained limited to the portions of the surface exposed to light. About the time that the black color of the skin began to disappear, he lost his sense of smell, the olfactory nerve seeming to be entirely paralyzed, though a pungent sensation was excited by irritating vapours, and the application of snuff induced sneezing. The other senses, however, were unimpaired. Also after acquiring his white complexion, he had measles and whooping cough the second time. Those who would wish to know more of this interesting case, will find full particulars in the American Journal of Medical Science for January, 1852. A like case was exhibited also by Dr. Inman before the Zoological Section of the British Association at Liverpool in September, 1854.

Your readers may think this a strange jumble—sparrows and negroes—but the inference is the same. I may add also, that albinism in the human subject is not confined to the negro race. We read that the Spanish conquerors

G. Gibson. Mr. Robert James has the bay gelding John A., record in the 40's, moving, and he thinks well of him. Among the many excellent road teams which came under my observation was the team of Mr. Booth, contractor, composed of the grey gelding D. I. K. Rine, and the chestnut gelding Orange Blossom. They are a speedy pair and can trip along in :50 to the pole. The bay gelding Alexander, the prince of ice horses, appears on the road occasionally, and delights his many admirers by his wonderful bursts of speed up and down the road. He is not in training this winter, and consequently will not start at any of the meetings. He is indeed a *Rarus* on the ice, and no doubt has not escaped the memories of some of our eastern horsemen, whose equines he so gallantly defeated all over the country—at Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal—with apparent ease, in the winter of 1876. Next season he may favor us with his presence upon the turf, when look out for a trotter. He is in superb condition, and fully merits the title of King of Ice Horses. Among the young stock growing up in our midst are a great many fine colts and fillies, sired by such sires as Fulton, General Stanton, Douglas, &c., and my attention was particularly attracted to a blood bay stallion, rising 2 years old, and sired by Messrs. Batten & Gould's favorite Hambletonian stallion General Stanton. He is a perfect model of a trotter, and bears a great resemblance to his grandsire, Ryadyk's Hambletonian. Mr. Maloney of our city, is the happy possessor of this rich prize. I depict great things for him when matured.

Let my article should begin to be dreary, and thanking you for this valuable space in your favorite journal, I will bring it to a close, not forgetting to acquaint you with any tit bit which may occur. Again wishing you all success in your enterprise, and the compliments of the season, I remain, yours, &c.,

Baurus.

MONTREAL HUNT.

The usual annual meeting of the members of the Montreal Hunt took place on the 16th ult., at the office of the Montreal City Passenger Railway Company. Present: John Crawford, M. F. H., in the chair; J. R. Hutchins, Secretary; Dr. Fisher, Charles and Henri Bouthillier, John S. Allan, C. Alloway, J. Paton, H. & O. Gallarneau, Alexander Eadale, and Geo. Swinburne. After disposing of the financial question, Mr. Allan, seconded by C. Alloway, proposed that John Crawford be re-elected M. F. H. for the ensuing year, but Mr. Crawford having positively declined the candidature owing to his previous long term of office, it was then moved by Mr. Hutchins, seconded by Mr. Gallarneau, that Mr. Chas. Bouthillier be elected M. F. H., which was carried unanimously. Mr. Bouthillier, however, having very gracefully declined the honor, it was then moved by Mr. Allan, seconded by Mr. Alloway, that Mr. J. R. Hutchins be elected M. F. H. Carried unanimously. It was then moved by Mr. Eadale, seconded by Mr. Bouthillier, that Mr. Allan be elected Secretary. Carried unanimously.

Athletic.

THE RAINE-IRVINE RACE.

RAINE'S STORY.

The following is an account of the four-hours go-as-you-please race between Raine and Irvine, of Ottawa, which took place at the Temperance Street Skating Rink here on Christmas Day, taken from the Ottawa Citizen, the points of which were evidently furnished by Raine:

"The four-hour go as you please race between John Raine, of this city, and George Irvine, a former resident of this city, came off in Toronto. The contest was won by Raine, who covered about 28 miles in the specified time, Irvine being three-quarters of a mile behind. Raine returned to the city yesterday, and has given an explanation of the affair, which shows he has been thoroughly duped by some designing and money making sharpers. Raine received a letter from one Sandford, of Orillia, in which the writer stated he had matched him (Raine), against Irvine for \$200 a side, and that the money was in the hands of a responsible stakeholder. Sandford made him an unex-

going on we protested against it, but that at present in operation is a great deal worse. We do not blame O'Leary, for if somebody came forward to back a cripple on crutches against him, his temperament is such that he would make the race. We will, however, state very plainly to him, and solely for his benefit, that the present proceedings are simply disgraceful to all concerned except himself; and that any renewal of them in any shape will be a gross insult to the people of New York. The fact that there are fools enough found to fill the building, and to still believe the incredible lies told about Campana, does not excuse the false pretences that must have underlain the affair. It is incredible that anybody could have been found to back the man Campana, bona fide, against O'Leary; and when the latter fails to do 450 miles, as he will fail, it will be simply to afford a pretext to give Campana some of the gate money under the provisions of the pretended articles. O'Leary could have gone 500 miles if he had tried from the beginning, and everybody knows it.—*Sportsman*.

THE LONG DISTANCE WALKERS.

DANIEL O'LEARY.—This famous long distance walker is 38 years old, 5 feet 8½ inches high, and weighs about 140 lbs. His long-est performances are as follows:—

In June, 1875, in Chicago, he walked 500 miles in 156 hours. In October, the same year, in Chicago, he walked 503 miles, while Weston was covering 451½, in 148½ hours. In April, 1876, in San Francisco, he covered 500 miles in 189 hours and 28 minutes against time—140 hours. The next month, in the same city, he walked in a six days' match against Henry Schnechel.

After Schnechel had walked 288 miles he was taken sick and withdrew. In September, 1876, he walked 500 miles in 141 hours against time, in this city, in the American Institute. In October, 1876, he walked 508 miles, in Liverpool, inside of 144 hours, beating Weston's walk there of 501½ miles in the same time. In March, 1877, in a match against Weston, in Agricultural Hall, London, he walked 520 miles in 140 hours, Weston covering 510 in 148 hours. In August, 1877, he walked against two men, who took the track on alternate days, relieving each other. O'Leary went over 518 miles in 144 hours, while they covered jointly only 498 miles. In the struggle for the champion belt given by Sir John Astley, in London, O'Leary covered 520½ miles in 188 hours 52 minutes. In his late match with Hughes, O'Leary went over 408 miles while Hughes was leaping 810.

PETER NAPOLEON CAMPANA.—"Sport" was born at Petersburg, Va., Sept. 17, 1886, stands 5 feet 8 in., and in his best days was wont to scale about 150 lbs., but on commencing his present arduous undertaking kicked the beam at but 142½ lbs. In the issue of the Clipper bearing date Oct. 3, 1857, appears a portrait of Campana—and a very trim-built, likely-looking young fellow he was in his running costume—with his record underneath, from which we glean the following particulars concerning his performances up to that time:—Won a mile race against time, \$50, June 4, 1855; time, 4 min. 58 sec.; beat Billy Lee, \$20, around Tompkins' square, New York city, June 11, 1855; beat Lee, \$50, half a mile, July 2, 1855; time, 2 18½ sec.; ran 1,600 yards in 4 min. 11 sec.; \$25, Jan. 20, 1857; beat Murray, \$40, half a mile, Red House track, Harlem, N. Y., May 25, 1857; time, 2 min. 18 sec.; won champion belt of New England, offered by James Hart, five miles, defeating Lambert and another, Providence, R.I., July 10, 1857; beaten by Patrick Buckley, ("Lynn Buck"), \$200, five miles, Union Course, L.I., Sept. 8, 1857; time, 29 min. 21 sec. Not satisfied with this defeat, Sport sought another race with the Buck, and they ran the same distance on the track at Saugus, Mass., Oct. 9 following, Campana being allowed a start of one hundred yards, and being beaten by over two hundred yards, in 28 min. 8 sec. On St. Patrick's Day, 1858, Sport had a benefit at the Circus, in the Bowery, this city, (where the new Bowery Theatre was afterward located), when he defeated Attinelli (afterward a burly, good-natured member of "the force"), Langstaff and Indian, in a two-mile race; time, 10.18. In November, 1858, Sport defeated W. B. Denison, one mile, at Copake, N.Y.; time, 4 min. 49

seconds. Between two walkers it was absurd. Everybody knew on the second day as well as it is known now that O'Leary could beat the other man. As a test of endurance it was also a failure, unless it be considered a test of the endurance of the public, which, in New York, has often been tested and never been known to fail. Walking is a wholesome practice, besides being a pleasure to healthy people. But there is nothing either wholesome or pleasant in the spectacle of two men following each other around a track sustained by stimulants and the hope of 'gate money,' and ending in a condition unpleasantly near *delirium tremens*. But so long as the public will pay gate money to see this spectacle, the public has no right to complain.—*World*.

"MICKEY FREE'S" DAUGHTER'S MISTAKE.

Elizabeth Harriott, daughter of the late pedestrian, "Mickey Free," of Jersey City, was informed that arsenic would improve her complexion. Having bought arsenic, she was advised by a young physician to take as much of it as "she could get on the end of a knife." She measured the arsenic with a table knife, and a few days ago took a teaspoonful. She was affected with vomiting, and had all the other symptoms of poisoning. The next morning she felt better, and took more arsenic. She became so sick that her mother became alarmed, and called in Dr. Lochner. He administered antidotes.

SPRINTS.

O'LEARY—CAMPANA.—The O'Leary-Campana six day walk terminated on Saturday. O'Leary covered 4001.9 miles, and Campana 357½; the latter was very extensively "used up," and blames his trainers therefor.

THE RING.—It is stated that Mr. Barney Aaron, the Boston trainer, is coming to Montreal shortly to put in condition for the arena two aspirants to pugilistic honors. The fight is supposed to come off in April in the vicinity of St. John's, Que.

LONDON.—The 100-yards foot race between Messrs. George Bradley and John Tracey, came off on the 23rd ult., and was hotly contested. Mr. Bradley gave Mr. Tracey ten yards start, and overtook his opponent at the 75 yards distance. He could not keep up the steam, however, and Tracey came in the winner by about a foot and a half. The stakes were \$25 a side. Mr. Hugh Martin and Mr. H. Hunter have been matched to run a hundred yards race on the 23rd of January.

Aquatic.

N. Y. HERALD AND THE HANLAN CLUB.

The Toronto correspondent of the New York Herald has sent a long communication to that paper from which the following extract relative to the Hanlan Club muddle is taken. This correspondent, in common with the Evening Telegram, of this city, sets his foot on the Globe's statement that the opposition to the management of the Hanlan Club emanated from an outside source, and clearly establishes that the dissensions are all internal:—

"... Courtney, whom we Canadians consider a man who has suffered much and unjustly, though we cannot deny that the exceedingly unsportsmanlike manner in which his race was conceived and brought forth afforded sufficient ground for doubting the genuineness of the contest. ... That there has been trouble brewing for some time back has been well known, and Hanlan's Lachine race is the cause of it. Out of that race the members of the club did not receive one cent, but had 'they received anything like a reasonable amount for their investment out of the other races it is not likely that there would have been any dissatisfaction. In forming the club there was much difficulty in getting twenty members to put in a comparatively small sum. The risk that they apparently ran was great, and all the return which they have got for their investment is a sum equal to that originally contributed. This, itself, was enough to arouse dissatisfaction, and it did, but the dissatisfaction came from the club itself and not

SPLASHES.

ENGLAND.—Geo. Tarryer and W. Spencer are matched to row from Putney Aqueduct to Mortlake, on the Thames, Eng., for £200 a side, April 8, 1879. The former has the best record, 22m. 55s., over this course.

MONTREAL.—Some sixteen of the delinquent guarantees of the Hanlan-Courtney boat race having failed to pay up, the Committee have at last put the case in the Court, actions having been entered by lawyers Bethune and Bethune.

THE HALIFAX CLUB.—The Halifax Rowing Club has been re-organized, and intends to back Warren Smith in several matches next year. Riley, Wallace Ross, and Evans Morris will probably be among the first challenged. Many Halifaxians think Smith can walk over them as Hanlan did last season.

ASSESSED.—The Toronto correspondent of the Hamilton Times informs that journal that a meeting of the Hanlan Club was held on the 23rd ult., and agreed on an assessment of \$250 each to furnish the funds for the champion's trip to England, and for backing him. He will take no shells with him, but will have two built expressly while there by Messrs. Swaddell & Winslip. Messrs. David Ward and James Heasley will accompany him to look after his requirements.

THAT LETTER.—The Spirit of the Times speaks thus of Hanlan's letter:—"Mr. Hanlan's managers have published over his signature a card in which he is made to state that a recent editorial in The Spirit was without truth or foundation from beginning to end. We shall, in due season, prove Mr. Hanlan's spokesman to be in error, and would meanwhile suggest to him that all the facts on which the article was based were published in Toronto newspapers, and from thence transferred to our 'Rowing Department.' That he should have paid no attention to these statements when published under his nose, day after day, and should only have thought them worthy of answer when found in The Spirit is the most sincere compliment he could have paid us."

NAME CLAIMED.

DOLOMITE.—I claim the name of Dolomite for my chestnut colt, star in forehead, foaled April 18, 1878, by Southerner (he by Oliver), dam Aerolite, by Revenue, out of Rhoda, by imported Glencoe.—Dr. J. G. CHRIST, New Brunswick.

Before leaving England, Mr. R. Ten Broeck owed Fordham a considerable sum for riding. He liquidated the account by handing over to him a bill of a London manager's, which was not met. Eventually two shillings in the pound was recovered on it, and this did not find its way into Fordham's pocket, his agent appropriating it. Fordham never communicated these circumstances to Mr. Ten Broeck, who has through out been under the impression that the payment he made his jockey was a complete one.

Amusement?

CITY.

The Grand Opera House is presenting this week the illustrated drama of The Deluge, or Paradise Lost. The scenery is truly magnificent and the settings and dresses surpass anything ever seen in this city. The story of the play commences with the garden of Eden and terminates with the Flood. The ballet and other accessories, outside of the cast of characters, are under the direction of the Kralffy Bros. The attendance has been large. To-morrow's matinee and evening performances conclude the present season of the spectacular. Next week Miss Genevieve Ward supported by Jarrett and Palmer's New York Company.

Mr. Oliver Doud Byron in his sensational drama of Across the Continent has been well received at the Royal Opera House. Mr. Joe Banks as Knucklebone Johnny shares the honors with the star. The play is one of the best of the kind on the stage and the interest is kept up to the end. Mr. Byron will remain over for three nights next week. The usual matinee to-morrow afternoon.

The Lyceum has been doing a large business this week, due to the holiday season and a first class variety programme. The leading features are presented in a