

Aquatic.

NICHOLSON AND LUMSDEN.

A DEAD HEAT.

The meeting on Monday last between two such well-known scullers as Wm. Lumsden, of Blyth, and Wm. Nicholson, of Stockton, in an open boat race for £100 a side, over the mile course on the Tyne, extending from the High Level Bridge to Waterston's Gates, proved one of exceptional interest to north-country aquatic patrons. The contest which then took place was productive of as fine a race as has ever been witnessed on the great northern river, and ended in a most remarkable way; the distance judge declaring that the men were dead level at the finish—a hitherto unexampled occurrence in an important race on the Tyne. Lumsden, for his race of Monday, was trained by James Taylor, who is his principal backer, and, in addition, J. R. Hymes, of Stockton, has accompanied the Blyth sculler in his exercise on the river. The present match was made some two months ago, and, according to the articles, Mr. J. H. Clasper, of Oxford, was commissioned to build specially for the men a couple of open boats, and in due course the Oxford builder forwarded two handsome craft. Mr. Thomas Jones, of Newcastle, was appointed referee. The start was fixed for half-past three o'clock on Monday afternoon; but long before that time the vicinity of the starting point, and indeed the whole line of route to the finish, was a continuous mass of people. Six heavily-freighted steamers accompanied the competitors. Lumsden was piloted from the bow of the official steamer by James Taylor, and James Percy, who is Nicholson's principal supporter, fulfilled a similar duty for the Stockton sculler. Consequent upon the recent heavy rainfall there was a lot of "fresh" in the river, and the flood tide ran very sluggishly, while the slight breeze which prevailed blew from the east in favor of the men. Wagering was carried on to a heavy extent at evens, though when it became known that Lumsden had won the toss for stations, a shade of odds was offered on him, and he started a decided favorite at 12 to 10. After three ineffectual attempts the scullers broke away, Nicholson, on the south station, getting the first catch of the water, and showing an advantage of a few feet in the opening strokes; but Lumsden, rowing faster, though shorter, took the lead in the first half-dozen strokes, and, making his boat travel at a great pace, was half a length ahead at the Mansion House. Here there was a marked disparity in the style of the men; for Nicholson, getting good length, was rowing five strokes only to Lumsden's six—the latter's style of going not being so machine-like as the well-finished sweep of the Stockton man. In the race to the Skinner Burn Nicholson steered a little bit wildly, and was a length and a quarter behind soon after passing it; Lumsden meanwhile steering a course straight as an arrow, and keeping up his wonderfully fast stroke. Half way up the Grindstone Quay Nicholson, seeing himself left behind, made his first spurt, which was indeed a useful one; for he was rapidly closing with Lumsden, and looked as if he would pass him, as the latter appeared to be troubled at the rapid manner in which his opponent was overhauling him. When Nicholson ceased spurring he was within a quarter of a length of the Blyth man, who, however, by a great effort shot through the Redheugh Bridge (time 8 min. 7 sec.) with a bare lead of half a length. Lumsden, immediately after shooting the structure, veered sharply in to the north shore, which was altogether unnecessary, as, had he kept his boat on the same line as he had steered to the bridge, he would have gained a bit; but Nicholson did not take advantage of this, for he again pulled too strongly with his left hand, and went almost into mid-stream. Lumsden, in the race past the Lead Works up to Hall's boat-house (three quarters of a mile) improved upon his lead, through Nicholson's indifferent steering. At length Percy got Nicholson to take notice of his signalling to keep more towards the north shore, and, responding to the call, the latter came with another grand rush, and was within half a length of the leader at Hall's boat-house. The race here upwards afforded a magnificent struggle, each man spurring against the other, Nicholson alternately drawing upon his opponent, and dropping half a length behind again as Lumsden responded to his opponent's efforts. A couple of hundred yards from home, Lumsden was in distress, but he kept gamely on to the finish. Meanwhile

an American club; but the match, if made, will entail, in justice to the English club, painstaking and training for weeks, just as if for an important regatta or match. It is flattering on the part of Americans and other foreigners to be so anxious to measure strength with English clubs; but English clubs certainly do not appreciate the flattery. If the system goes on there is no saying where it will stop. German and Japanese students will next want to try their hands, and the university boating clubs will not be able to call their vacation their own. If Oxford should choose to accept such challenges the public will be glad of the sport and of the self-sacrifice which it entails; but if Cambridge decline to be bothered by the intrusion we cannot blame them.

PRIVATIONS OF SPORTSMEN.

A friend thus graphically describes the mal-adventure of two individuals in the early part of November last. "They arrived home on a Saturday after having caused their friends no little uneasiness during their absence. It appears that on the preceding Monday they started by rail from Newcastle for Green Brook, a branch of the Bartibogue, on a shooting excursion. They camped for the night on reaching their destination, and after having a comfortable sleep proceeded up the brook in the morning, but travelling a mile or so without finding any game they retraced their steps to the railway along which they proceeded until they came to the clearing and house of a pioneer named O'Brien. After informing them that partridges were scarce thereabouts, he directed them to take an easterly course which would take them to Bartibogue, where game was very plentiful. They travelled as directed, and when they had accomplished about two miles it began to snow, but they pushed on as the snow turned to rain. Night then began to come upon them, but they failed to come upon Bartibogue, so they camped as well as they could, spending a most comfortable night, and resuming their journey the next day, after partaking of a chilling breakfast. They proceeded onward in hope of reaching the river and some habitation, but the day passed without their hopes being realized, and, to make matters worse, they saw plenty of game, but their guns got so wet in the rain, which had fallen incessantly, that they would not go off, and when at night they tried to light their camp-fire they were dismayed by the discovery that their matches had shared the same fate. After spending a night even more uncomfortably than the preceding one, they found themselves in the morning still lost in the woods, but followed a stream downward, though their limbs were weak from exposure, failing them so much as to cause them to stumble and fall very often. About 10 o'clock on Thursday they heard a cow bell, the supposed direction of which they followed for about two miles, when, at noon, they came to the house of Mr. Quigley, about twelve miles from Chatham. Mr. Quigley received them hospitably and cared for them till Saturday, when they proceeded homeward."

The guns used were muzzle-loaders. Had they been breech-loaders, with metallic cartridges, half the suffering would have been avoided.

THE ENGLISH TURF.

Freeman, the veteran son of Kettledrum and Haricot, died very suddenly December 1, from inflammation of the lungs, a disease from which it was not suspected he was suffering when he took part in the Midland Counties Handicap the week previously. The iron-limbed veteran, who looked fresh and vigorous when he took part in the event won by Pageant, was seized with inflammation of the lungs some time after returning to Russley, and died very suddenly on December 1. Freeman was bred by Colonel Towneley, and was sold as a yearling to Robert Peck for forty guineas. He ran indifferently several times as a two-year-old, until he earned a name by winning the Ercannan's Nursery at Newcastle. With age, however, he developed into a most useful handicap horse, and being sent by Peck to Mr. Merry, won for the last named gentleman the Great Northern Handicap in successive years, as well as the Roxburgh Handicap at Kelso, after a dead heat with Falkland. Being also disappointed with his running Mr. Merry disposed of him to Mr. Henrigo, after he had run second to Pirate for the Great Yorkshire Handicap, and for his new owner last year won the Chester Cup.

giving an appearance of smoke, and it is thought that this caused the alarm of fire to be raised. Several hundreds left after the excitement abated, owing to a groundless report that the gallery was not safe. No person was hurt, and a general rush was prevented from the upper gallery in time.

The Trigger.

SHOOTING AT BRAMPTON.

A shooting match between two teams took place at Brampton, on Christmas afternoon, six birds each: 21 yards rise. The following is the

SUMMARY.

J. Burton	111011-5
Geo. Beck	001000-1
Geo. Harris	010011-3
Jas. Hunter	011010-8

Total..... 12

D. Ellison	101010-8
J. Palen	000111-3
Jas. Packham	010010-2
Geo. Kidd	011100-8

Total..... 11

Immediately afterwards a sweepstake of the value of \$10 was shot, 5 birds, 21 yards. The money was divided into two prizes; J. Burton won first money, with a score of 4 out of 5; Geo. Beck, second money, 3 out of 5.

A MATCH AT WOODSTOCK.

On the 21st, a match for \$20, was shot at Woodstock, between Messrs. Geo. Harwood, and John Forbes, 21 yards rise, at 15 birds. The result shows that the former was an easy winner.

SUMMARY.

Geo. Harwood.....	11111010111111-18
John Forbes.....	100100010001000-4

BOGARDUS AND CRITTENTON ROBINSON.

In the pigeon match for \$500, on the 28rd, at Oakland Park, San Francisco, between Captain Bogardus and Crittenton Robinson, champion of California, the former won after a close contest. Conditions, sixty single birds each and forty double. California rules. There was a good attendance, and excellent order prevailed. Bogardus led off with thirty-five birds to Robinson's twenty-seven, but Robinson later on outshot his Eastern rival, scoring fifty-four birds of the sixty, against fifty-one for Bogardus. Hitherto betting was light, but, as Robinson is generally excellent at double birds, investments were made on terms. The birds were all strong on the wing, and on the first ten pair Robinson held his own, but in the next five Bogardus made up the difference, and they were even 74 each on the last five. Bogardus killed every bird; Robinson missed three; but the match could have been a tie until the last two barrels. The score was 84 to 81. Both contestants declared themselves satisfied with the decision. The winner was instantly challenged to repeat the match for \$1,000 a side.

A specimen of the golden eagle has been shot by Mr. Charles Tucker, of Newbury, and has been sent to Mr. Mummery & Son, London, to be mounted in the best possible manner. This is a very rare bird in Canada, but more plentiful in Scotland and Iceland.

Mr. Geo. Buttery, who resides in the Township of Adelaide, about three miles from Strathroy, has a rifle with which he has shot with his own hands 400 deer. The gun has been changed to a smooth bore, and is now used as a shot gun, but is considerably rusted, Mr. Buttery not having indulged in his favorite sport to any great extent for several years.

Amusements.

CITY.

The Christmas piece at the Grand Opera House, The Palace of Truth, was put on on Monday night and has continued to attract

piece does credit to the manager of the Royal. The various specialty artists have met with good receptions. The leading attraction has been King Sarbora the Japanese balancer and wire walker, who is certainly one of the finest performers in his individual line we have had in the city. Charley and Carrie Austin in their Zouave musket and bayonet drill are not strangers to this city, and their reception must have been flattering to them being old acquaintances to our theatre goers. The different marches, dances, fairy scenes, &c., were admirable and heightened the enjoyment of the piece. Business has been very good, and the spectacle will hold the boards all this week, with the usual matinee on Saturday.

GENERAL.

MONTREAL—At the Academy of Music the Naiad Queen has been the attraction all week. The piece has been mounted in keeping with Mr. McDowell's well-known abilities in this line, and has been the success of the season. On the opening night, Monday, a slight panic took place caused by a false alarm of fire, but owing to the presence of mind of Mr. McDowell and his assistants no serious damage ensued. Prof. and Clara Baldwin were at Mechanics' Hall on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, with their spiritual *exposé*. They have had large houses.

OTTAWA—Miss Ada Gray, supported by Brent's Star Company, commenced a season of one week at Gowan's Opera House. Business so far has been reported good.

HAMILTON—The Variety Theatre continues to attract good audiences. The stock is none too heavy, but additions are promised. Tonight (Friday), the Garrick Club (local amateurs), occupy Mechanics' Hall, the bill being Found in a Four Wheeler, and the burlesque of Guy Ratz.

LONDON—The Holman Opera Troupe commenced a season of six nights on Monday last, the opening bill being the Princess of Trebizonde; Tuesday, Bluebeard. Mr. Brookhouse Bowler has succeeded from this company.

To Correspondents.

We would particularly request our correspondents and advertisers to send their favors as early in the week as possible—so that they will reach us by Wednesday morning. We are unable to use many items sent us in consequence of not receiving them in time for the issue intended.

(No notice taken of anonymous communications or queries. No answer by mail or telegraph.)

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December, 1870.

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