

race was won handsly by Mate, thus scoring a second victory for the American stable, at this meeting.

Oct. 10.—Cambridgeshire Trial Handicap, of 10 svs. each for starters, with 100 sovs. added; Cambridgeshire Course.  
 M H Sanford's br h Mate, aged, by imp. Australian, dam Mattie Gross, by Lexington. 90 lbs ..... 1  
 Sir J D Astley's br c Rascal, 1 yrs, by Loitoner or Broomielaw, dam Christmas Pie..... 2

## Base Ball.

### BASE BALL FIELD.

The following is taken from the New York Herald:

"Never has base ball flourished as it has this season. Out of two thousand and odd base ball clubs nearly fifty have played under professional auspices, the majority of these belonging to the three professional associations. All three had special championship contests, the last to close being the League, whose clubs finished their season series together on October 6th. The League pennant was won by the Boston Club; the International pennant by the Tecumsehs, of Canada—the latter winning the Canada championship as well—and the Stars, of Syracuse, carried off the honors of the League Alliance. The amateur champions of the United States were, of course, the Harvard nine."

Just so. The above may all be correct enough—excepting the statement that the Tecumsehs have won the Canadian championship. One very good reason why the Tecumsehs could not have won the Canadian championship, is found in the fact that the Tecumsehs did not enter for the championship. The professional Maple Leaf, of Guelph, was the only club entered in the professional class—the only club which paid its entrance fee—and thus entitled to the champion pennant of Canada for 1877.—*Guelph Herald.*

A Danbury base-ball enthusiast is getting up a ball of iron filled with glycerine, which will explode on being caught and tear the pitcher asunder. This will be more wearing on a club than the ball in present use, but it is more humane.

Of the American rifle team, Gen. Dakin was the former pitcher of the old Putnam team of 1857, Allen was first baseman of the Resolute of 1855; Jewell was catcher of the Stars of 1867; and Blydenburgh is of the Princetown College nine of 1872.

### BRITISH AND AMERICAN MARKSMEN.

Few persons who had carefully studied the records of American long range shooting during the past year could have had much doubt as to the issue of the international contest decided at Creedmoor on the 13th and 14th ult. The best individual and aggregate scorers in the competition for the Elcho Shield had been frequently exceeded in America, and the two victories of American teams over the "crack" Irish teams showed that in long range shooting cousin Jonathan meant to "whip creation." It must, therefore, have been with something of the feeling of a forlorn hope that Sir Henry Haiford's team of British marksmen set out for the States. That feeling must have deepened during the practice at Creedmoor previous to the match. The two teams shot regularly at the practice targets every day, and their scores were always carefully compared. The result of the last six days of practice was that the American team scored 9,657 points against 9,410 scored by the British team. This gave a preponderance of 247 points in the six days' shooting. But the disheartening feature of these six days' shooting to the British team was that on five

ing that we are a nation of riflemen, and that the rifle is as peculiarly the Englishman's weapon now as the long bow was in the Middle Ages. Yet to appeal to raise by public subscription the moderate sum of £1,500 to cover the expenses of our representative marksmen was not responded to. This was not creditable to us. There are more than 150,000 volunteers in the United Kingdom, all of them especially interested in marksmanship. A humble subscription of threepence from each volunteer would more than suffice to pay all the expenses of the team, and surely no one can say that threepence is a very heavy tax to pay for the maintenance of our reputation as a nation of marksmen. In point of fact, we are, we believe, above the mark when we say that not 500 persons contributed toward the fund for paying the expenses of the British team, and their united contributions only amounted to two-thirds of the sum required. In America the sum would have been forthcoming ten times over for a similar purpose. But then the Americans are enthusiastic in everything they take up, and especially so in their sports. We heartily wish that we could infuse some of that vigorous enthusiasm into our own sports and sportsmen; it would help to clear away a good many abuses and purify many of our sports from the tainted atmosphere of low cunning and greed that surround them.

But to return to the rifle match itself. It has been suggested that the American victory is a victory of superior rifles, not of superior marksmen. And, indeed, in the Sharp rifle the Americans seem to have secured a match rifle which for accuracy at long ranges is unsurpassed, perhaps unequalled. That is a fact, however, which is not creditable to us. For the last fifteen years our experts have been engaged in endeavoring to obtain the best possible long range rifle, yet here are the Americans with whom long range shooting has not been in vogue four years, producing a rifle better, they all-gate, than we have been able to procure after fifteen years close experience. Of course it will be urged that American gunmakers have had the advantage of our experience to guide them, and that they have in reality started from the point at which we left off. Nevertheless, the fact still remains that the Americans with only four years' experience of long range shooting are able to beat us both in rifles and marksmen, though we have had fifteen years' experience. The sudden growth and rapid spread of the taste for long range shooting in America must all along have had a latent, undeveloped aptitude for marksmanship, which only required to be called into existence to become universal. Years ago, indeed, the Americans had a reputation as rifle shots, and the exploits of the Kentucky backwoodsman and hunter are familiar to all readers of Fenimore Cooper. It might have been expected that the civil war would have developed any latent talent for shooting which the Americans possessed, but it does not seem to have done so. There was no remarkable display of marksmanship either on the Federal or Confederate side. Not till after the war, when the peaceful contests at Wimbledon had made the renown of English rifle men world-wide, did this sudden rise of a mania for rifle shooting excite any emulation in America. It was not until Major Leech, the captain of the victorious Irish team who won the Elcho Shield in 1873, issued a challenge to American marksmen that long range shooting first started into being in America. Since then it has become increasingly popular, and there can be no doubt that America can not only produce better marksmen than England, but that she can produce far more. There could probably be ten teams of long range marksmen made up of "crack" shots who would run the victors in the recent Creedmoor match very close for first honors. This is an unequivocal proof that in rifle shooting the Americans have found not only their most popular pastime, but the one in which they are most qualified to excel.—*Sporting Gazette.*

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