

## DOBLE AND HOWARD RISE TO EXPLAIN.

The following account of an interview from the Chicago Times, June 17 will be read with interest:

"I brought them on here to let 'em have a little run at pasture," said Doble, in reply to a question addressed him about his horses by a Times reporter, at the Palmer House, last evening. "There's no grass in California at this season, you know," he continued. "I should have stayed in California longer if I could have got any pasture for the horses."

"Are the animals in good condition?"

"Yes. They have stood the winter pretty well, but they need the recruiting which they can get here."

"What horses are with you?"

"The Maid, Bodine, and Volney."

"What sort of a horse is Volney?"

"Oh! he's a young horse. He belongs to my father-in-law. He wanted me to take him east with me and see what I could do with him."

"The newspapers—some of them—have had some pretty harsh comments on that race between Rarus and Goldsmith Maid. I notice some correspondent in San Francisco says you held the Maid in and gave Rarus the race."

"That's all nonsense. The truth of the matter is that it was one of the few times when the Maid was off. She is the most reliable horse in the world, but she has an off day once in a great while. She was off one day at Fleetwood, and I lost a race to American Girl. She was off again one time at Buffalo, and Lucy took a race from her. She was off once last summer. I had been sick for a month—sick abed—hadn't had anything to do with her for a month until I drove her in that race. John Splan, the driver of Rarus, had been giving her her work. That maybe made some difference."

"Do you think Splan worked her improperly—put up a job to beat her so to speak?"

"No. I can't say that he did. She had had hard work for several weeks previous to the race. She went down to Chico and trotted over a rough track in 2:14½, but the north wind down there—a wind which parches up a field of grain in a single day, seemed to prostrate her. She was off. She was taken at a disadvantage, and, having a good horse after her, was beaten. That's all there is to it."

Mr. Doble here introduced the newspaper man to Mr. James Howard, and, pleading the illness of his wife, begged to be excused.

Mr. Howard, who travels with Doble, was less reserved in speaking of the Rarus and Goldsmith Maid race. He stated that it is generally believed in California that Splan put up a job to beat the Maid while he was hauling her during Doble's illness.

"He gave her too much work," said Mr. Howard, "he tried to break her up so he could win a race from her. All through the exhibition heats, which you people here would call hippodromes, he pushed her as hard as he could, and would claim that he didn't know he was trotting so fast. When Doble took sick, and he got hold of the Maid, he overworked her. The result was, when she came upon the track she was in no condition for the race. Splan said to Doble that she was all right; was in splendid condition, but it was soon evident that there was no trot in her. The morning of the race Doble told him to give her an easy mile and repeat—not to drive her better than 28. Instead of doing this he sent her around on the outside of the track in 28 the first mile, and in the second in 2:20½. No horse in creation would be fit for a race after such work. She wasn't herself, and got mixed up in the second heat, and threw a boot, cutting her hoof badly. She came in on three legs."

"Was the injury serious; I have seen it stated to the contrary?"

"Yes. She broke in the shell of the hoof. I telegraphed to Mr. Smith, her owner, that it would be seven weeks before she would be fit for work. The people who saw the race of course thought something was wrong. They had seen the Maid go often enough, and knew what she could do. Splan was afraid to go into the pool-room at first, as he didn't know whether his scheme was going to work or not after all. But after the first heat he saw the Maid was off, and his mer went to work buying pools on Rarus. The crowd knew him, and this looked bad. Some papers I see say that \$80,000 worth of pools were sold. I knew better. My brother is

## FOOT-RACING AT OTTAWA.

The following report of a couple of interesting foot races at Ottawa, on July 2, is clipped from the Citizen of that city:

The two mile race for a gold medal or \$20 to first, and silver medal or \$10 to second, brought out John Albert, John Raine and the Indian Daillebout. A tight race was expected between Raine and the Indian, and there was considerable speculation as to the result. Raine appeared to be at a disadvantage standing alongside of the Indian. The former as very slight in build and with but a poor display of physique, while the latter is a strongly built fellow, and has all the points of an athlete. The three started off pretty evenly together, Raine and the Indian leading Albert, at the first quarter, Raine was about a yard ahead of Daillebout, who was pressing him closely, and Albert was probably twenty yards behind. Raine and the Indian kept the above positions until the last half, when the former put on speed and began to put on speed and increase the gap between himself and Daillebout. At the last quarter Raine was fully twenty yards ahead and still gaining, amid the wildest enthusiasm. He came in on a trot, winning easily in 10:28.

In the mile race, for a gold medal to first and a silver medal to second, the following entered: Parrington, Daillebout, White Eagle, Raine, Irvine, Paul Laramie, Thos. Ross, Albert, E. O'Brien and John French. Irvine and Raine took the lead on the start, but at the first quarter Raine staggered and dropped out. Boston O'Brien was now pressing hard on Irvine, with White Eagle third. Irvine soon gave out, and the other starters having fallen out left the race to Boston O'Brien and White Eagle. The greatest excitement now prevailed, both men doing their best to win the race. From the last quarter they ran almost abreast, O'Brien slightly leading. The Indians were loud in their calls on their man, while the friends of O'Brien urged him to do his level best. It was perhaps one of the prettiest finishes ever witnessed in Ottawa. The two men came up to the homestretch in splendid style, straining every muscle. O'Brien won by only a few inches amid the cheers of the crowd. Time—4:50.

## AN OLD CITIZEN.

The Montreal Witness thus speaks of a venerable and well-known Quebec character:—"The Recorder's Court was honored this Wednesday morning with a centenarian and Chateaugay Voltigeur. The old man had his certificate of baptism, and it was to the effect that he, Augustine Doyer, was born at St. Charles, County of Bellechase, on the 25th of November, 1775, making the old fellow one hundred and two years of age. The certificate is signed by the Rev. D. Martineau, priest. The old gentleman wore on his breast the medal and clasp, which he won under the gallant DeSalaberry at Chateaugay. He is hale, hearty, and walks with a brisk step. By a second marriage some years ago, he has a child about five years of age, and a great pet of the old man, who is very proud of the youngest member of his family. He receives the usual pension of \$20 from the Government. He is in rather poor circumstances."

## THE BOY AND THE PANTHER.

The Colusa, Cal., Sun tells the following story:—"Master George Williams, aged thirteen, was out hunting near home, on Elk Creek, when he ran across a panther, and gave him the benefit of the contents of his rifle. The panther made off, and the boy loaded up again and gave him chase, getting in another shot shot on him. This time, however, the panther got out of his sight, but he could see from the blood that he had been hit. He went home and dreamed all night, of course, of fighting panthers, with a grizzly or two thrown in to make it interesting. Next morning, bright and early, he gathered his gun, determined on finding that panther. He got on the blood, which he traced into a hollow log. He fired into the log, and then got an axe and cut the panther out, finding him still alive; but he finished him up, and dragged his trophy in triumph home. An inspection showed that both balls of the previous evening had gone through the

## QUEEN'S PLATE WINNERS.

Mr. Jonathan Scott, the well-known trainer, of Davenport, near Toronto, has compiled the following list of winners of the Queen's Plate in Ontario:—

- 1860—Don Juan, at Carleton Park, Toronto.
- 1861—Wild Irishman, at Carleton Park, Toronto.
- 1862—Palermo, at Carleton Park, Toronto.
- 1863—Touchstone, at Carleton Park, Toronto.
- 1864—Brunette, at Guelph.
- 1865—Lady Norfolk, at London.
- 1866—Beacon, at Hamilton.
- 1867—Wild Rose, at St. Catharines.
- 1868—Nettie, at Toronto.
- 1869—Bay Jack, at London.
- 1870—Jack Bell, at Whitby.
- 1871—Floss, at Kingston.
- 1872—Farnot, at Ottawa.
- 1873—Mignonette, at Barrie.
- 1874—Swallow, at Hamilton.
- 1875—Trumpeter, at Woodstock.
- 1876—Nora B., at Woodbine, Toronto.
- 1877—Amelia, at Prescott.

## STORY OF A DIAMOND.

There is a diamond in Salt Lake City which weighs eight and a half carats, and is half an inch in diameter. For many centuries it was in the family of an East Indian prince. By him it was presented to Queen Christina of Spain, who gave it to her daughter Isabella, on the occasion of her marriage. The ex-Queen of Spain was forced to part with it. After she had abdicated, a gentleman of St. Louis bought the jewel at an auction in London. Subsequently it was stolen from him at Saratoga Springs. He got it back by giving a reward of £1,000, and "no questions asked." Afterward purchaser went to Salt Lake City where he sold the stone for mining property, valued at \$22,000. The mine developed well and the lucky speculator made over \$60,000 by his bargain. The diamond passed into rude hands. The miner who had bought it was cheated out of it by some Chicago gamblers, who sold it to a diamond dealer, who in turn sold it to the parties in Salt Lake City who now own the stone.

## THE RINDERPEST.

STRICT PRECAUTIONS BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.

Swall, the United States consul at Somenberg, Germany, makes a report concerning the rinderpest, and says: "Hides, dry, frozen, and salted, if from infected animals, or if infected by contact, carry the infection to foreign parts. When the disease is prevalent within, or near, its borders, the German Government strictly prohibits traffic in all articles liable to carry the disease with infected districts. The poison will attach itself to sheep, goats, dogs, cats, fowl, pigeons, hay, straw, wood, leather, and earth. It is easily carried about by clothing, especially woollen garments, and adheres for a very long time. The Government compels the destruction of hides, with bodies of the infected animals; regulates the intercourse of the people, and the movements and use of animals of the infected places, and enforces the complete isolation of the diseased cattle. Sound cattle may be killed and other property destroyed, a fair remuneration being made. There need be no fear of the exportation from German ports of infected articles."

## FASHIONABLE DOGS.

Not long since I told you of the rapid progress of dogs of this city towards a superior consideration, and possibly their mental development is also progressive. It is not an uncommon thing to receive the following reply to the prevailing question:—"Where do you go for the summer?"

"We have not quite determined. We do not know if Gypsy will be happy by the sea, or if it will quite agree with him, as we have never taken him there. It might make him nervous to see us bathe, and you know that there are fleas wherever there is sand."

One family who had promised to rent their house furnished for the season to a friend while they went to Europe, withdrew their promise when they discovered that a strange servant would be one of the residents of the domicile, because, said the lady owner, "Don Juan might not like this man-servant, and, if he did

## A CRUEL PROCESS.

At the famous Strasburg factories for the manufacture of a dish which epicures love, *pate de Foie Gras*, a scene of cruelty is daily enacted which would have the effect, one might think, of destroying the best appetite in the world. As the principle ingredient of the delicacy is the liver of geese, those unfortunate bipeds are artificially fattened for six or seven weeks before they are ready for the sacrifice. Girls perform the principal part of this work. When the young geese are first brought in, six girls each takes her goose, lays him gently or firmly on the stone, and then ties down his wings, body and legs tight with plaited whipcord, the legs and wings being well spread out. The bird's neck is left free, and it seems that during the first three days he makes a violent use of it, but afterwards he may be trusted to lie still till the hour of release and killing. On the upper tiers are birds who have been lying for three, five or six weeks respectively, waiting to be fed by half-a-dozen other girls with wooden bowls. Each of these bowls is filled with a thick white paste, made with parboiled Maize, chestnut and buckwheat, and the mode of administering the dinner is for the girls to catch the goose by the neck, open his bill with a little squeeze, and then put three or four balls of the paste down his throat with her middle finger. This is done six times per day. When the birds have arrived at that stage when they are ready to die a natural death, which would render them good for nothing, an inspector steps in, pronounces them "ripe," and carries them off to the slaughter-house. The carcasses, shrivelled out of all knowledge, are sold for about eightpence apiece to peasants, who make soup of them; the livers are first cleaned, then put to scale, and the geese are declared fine birds, for their livers weigh from two and a half to three pounds each. It is needless to add that death is a happy release to the poor creature—helpless victims of the cruelty and appetite of man.

## A STRANGE ANIMAL.

On Saturday last, says the Exeter Times, Mr. Eli Snell and a young man named Down, were cutting bark in a swamp about two miles west of Exeter, when they came in collision with an animal, which, from a description given, would have enabled them to retire on half pay had they succeeded in nabbing it. They had chopped down a tree, and were cutting away the brush when they saw the animal beneath. Not knowing its nature, and being unarmed, they were somewhat cautious in approaching. Mr. Snell, however, planted his feet on what he soon found out were its wings, and had just time to observe that they were about five feet across, and that it had a head resembling a fox, with a pouch at its side for carrying its young, when the unknown, which seemed to have awakened from a slumber, suddenly left its frightened companions and winged its way to the skies, when last seen being but a mere speck in the heavens. From the description given, we should pronounce it a Kalong. This animal, which measures 5 feet in the spread of its wings, is a native of Java. The upper part of the neck is a smoky red; the rest of the fur dull. In the lower part of Java it is very common, and lives in troops, which do not appear to visit the more elevated districts. They select a large tree for their resort, and suspending themselves by the claws of their hind limbs to a tree present a curious spectacle. They pass the greater part of the day in sleep, hanging motionless; ranged in succession with the head downwards, the membranes contracted about the body, and clinging in close contact, and look like part of the tree. They emit piercing shrieks when awakened. How it found its way to the township of Stephen is the question of the day.

## BILLIARDS.

VIGNAUX RUNS FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FOUR.

M. Plot, employed at the Casino of Biarritz, Paris recently invited Maurice Vignaux to engage with him in an exhibition of billiards at the Salle Frascati, Rue Vivienne. The arrangement was that they should play 1,200 points up on two nights, suspending operations on the first night as soon as either man had reached 600. The first half of the game was begun at nine o'clock on the night of June 6, and Vignaux scored his 600 to Plot's 240. In the third inning on the next night Vignaux made a run of 454, which enabled him to score his remaining 600 while his antagonist was making 63. The latter's total was therefore 333. It is said of the run of 454 that "the balls were never once spotted." This may mean either that the players used one of the 43x9 or even smaller tables so common in France, and on which close nursing is not necessary, or that, as is the custom in that country, Plot took Vignaux's word for it, that the balls did not touch when close together. The affair is spoken of as a "grand match" but when billiard professors in France come together it is never a grand match.

## A NEW DEPARTURE.

A gentleman, writing the Spirit of the Times from Nashville says:—"We will have no more half and three quarter mile races over our course. We reached that conclusion at our last meeting. It is also the intention to abandon dash races, except for two years. We think that the Kentucky Association have committed to give no race hereafter over less distance than one mile. We have been shown that there was a strong sentiment in the South and West for a return to heat and long distances. Quite a respectable number of the best men of that section have fought this growing public sentiment, but it seems to have prevailed and asserted its influence at last, and means long distances, after so long a sleep, are to come to the front again. There can be no doubt of the wisdom of the policy. It will develop a sturdier race of horses, give them more stamina and constitution, and will not injure their speed. In heats over long distances the weights should not be as heavy as in dash races run over short courses, but if it is a question of developing the thoroughbred, we greatly prefer the lighter weights, heats, and long distances to greater weights and dashes, which are over almost as soon as the flag falls. The horse in the lead at the send off wins, not because he is the best horse, but because of his good fortune in getting an advantageous start. We do not mean to say, however, that the scale of weights in the South and West are as high as they should be. The experiments in the East for two seasons prove that a heavy scale of weights has its advantages. There is a medium ground between the weights of the East and those of the South and West that should be adopted in heat races over good distances of ground; but these are details to be settled by the different associations, and experience will, as they progress, aid them in arriving at correct conclusions in regard to the question."

## DEATH OF LADY THORN.

This celebrated trotting mare died on Sunday, July 1, at the Fashion Stud Farm, Trouton, N. J., at the age of 21 years, after a brief illness. Lady Thorn was bred by Lavi T. Rhodes, Lexington, Ky., and was by Mambrino Chief out of a mare by Gano, a son of American Eclipse, the possessing a double cross of the Messenger blood. She was purchased when quite young, by Dr. Herr, of Lexington, who developed her speed by judicious and patient training. In 1865 he sold her to the late C. F. Relf, of Philadelphia, who trotted her in a race against Sumner Jackson and Jack Vernon on the Union Course, L. I., and beat them both so easily (winning one heat in 2:34½) that she was immediately matched against Dexter, and beat him in four heats in 2:24, 2:26½, 2:27, 2:26½. Dexter winning the third heat. In the many subsequent contests, however, she was never able to repeat her triumph over the little brown gelding. In 1869 she was purchased from Mr. Relf by Mr. A. Welch of Philadelphia and Mr. James P. McMan of New York, who, after winning numerous races with her, and reducing her trotting record down to 2:18½, sold her to Dan Maco, for Mr. N. H. Smith for \$30,000. She won three races for her new owner, and bid fair to place many brilliant victories to his credit, when in 1870 while en route from Rochester to Buffalo, she met with an accident which necessitated her retirement from the trotting turf. Her best performance was at Narragansett Park in 1869, when she trotted against George Palmer, Goldsmith Maid, Lucy and American Girl, and beat them easily in four heats, of which George Palmer took the third. Time, 2:19½, 2:19½, 2:19½, 2:21. She leaves behind her a three-year-old and a two-year-old filly, both by General Knox, and both of remarkable promise. She will be buried alongside the judges' stand on the Trenton Course, and a monument will be erected to her memory.

Lady Thorn was supposed to be in foal to Jay Gould and within a short time of foaling, but a post mortem made by Professor Goring revealed the fact that she was not in that condition. A curious circumstance occurred very recently, which, taken in connection with the death of this noted mare so soon after, may lead to a manuce to her history. On the Fashion Stud Farm there is a mile track, and Lady Thorn, a week since leaped over a fence which enclosed a small, trotting leisurely down to the three-quarter pole, turned, and putting on a full head of steam came up to the homestretch as though trotting a race, with head and tail up, making flashing fire. A number of the employees who had noticed this queer freak of the great mare, also showed. This was the last effort of the grand old mare.

## CANINE ATTACKMEN.

A remarkable instance of the attack of a dog to his master occurred recently at Windsor where the man, having snatched himself, it was with the greatest difficulty, an animal could be removed. When the dog was found the dog a large