

### A NOTABLE RACE AT LONDON.

Sitting in the smoking room of the Tecumseh House, London, some time ago, in conversation with a well-known western horseman, the talk wandered away back to the time when that still famous hostelry used to be crowded with outside turfmen. Thirty-five years ago there was a rare gathering present from far and near; conspicuous amongst them were Dr. Andrew Smith, Hon. C. I. Douglas, Major Peel, C. F. Elwes, Duncan (now Judge) MacMillan, Dr. Woodruff, J. E. Seagram, P. D. McKellar, T. Simpson, W. G. Henderson, John Davis, George Forbes, Charles Boyle, P. Farrell, etc. Many other good men were present who have since joined the silent majority, but a sufficient number of genuine sportsmen have been named to show how pleasant such gatherings must have been.

The old meetings at Newmarket track, London, were generally most enjoyable events, but that night as we talked of memorable bygone races, memory served up one noted contest on the old track that left much hard feeling and which created no small amount of scandal at the time. I allude to the race between King Tom and Archie Fisher's Sir Archibald. There was a lot of feeling on both sides, and the betting ran high. The cockneys pinned their faith to the first named, while the Toronto delegation, strong in numbers and purse, stuck to the game brown stallion, and thousands of dollars were wagered on the result.

Not only in the Tecumseh House over night, but on the track just prior to the race, the auctioneers, Quimby, Forbes and Page, were kept busy selling pools, and when the bell sounded for the horses to come out I have no doubt that there was as much money at stake as was ever before wagered on a race in Western Ontario. The race was a dash of a mile and a half and was a gallantly con-