

And all that while to make the load
 Ah! that old, queer-lookin' mare.
 For he, "L kinder understand
 There's to be a race to-day,
 And hein' bound for Horseshoe Ledge,
 I thought I'd stop this way,
 And of none of you gents here object,
 And ken anyway spare the time,
 Why I'll settle up make a bet or two,
 And then come up to time."
 Well, the lark as followed that ere speech
 War a caution for to hear,
 Though from the looks o' the old man
 You'd a thought he couldn't hear,
 'Cept for the queer look in his eyes
 When his ten-inch bowie did appear.
 For he, "I hope yer all improved
 By the lark that you've jest hed,
 And if it don't turn my way soon
 Ye can put me down for dead.
 I allus try and be peaceful like,
 And I allus pay as I go;
 You see dust air dust the world over,
 And's I happen to be well primed
 I'm willin' to stake it all on the mare
 Fit I ken takers find.
 It's merely the whim o' a very old man
 As ain't got long for to stay,
 But air allus ready, win or lose,
 To stand up and to pay;
 If that ain't fair jest say so,
 And I'll take the road for him;
 If you 'low 'tis, let's fix things,
 And go on with ther fun."
 The boys all 'lowed the deal war fair,
 And the mare war entered then and there;
 Wal, of all queer-lookin' horse-flesh
 That critter war the wust.
 She stood full seventeen hand high,
 Her mane and tail they were clean gone;
 She'd a spavin on her nigh hind leg,
 And around the ribs she looked forlorn;
 Her teeth war down to hard-pan
 And her off eye warn't there.
 Wal, time, war called for the two-mile dash,
 And eight on 'em came to time,
 And the finest stock in Hornville
 War a-goin' to cut a shine;
 The old gray mare war put outside,
 And you'd a larked till you'd a-died
 To see the old man in his pride,
 As he sat perched up ahind her.
 When the work war g'n they started fair;
 The whoops and yells did shake the air,
 As each man cheered his favorite hoss,
 And larked at the old gray mare,
 (Who war takin' it sort o' easy like,
 'Bout seven lengths in the rear).
 The rest on 'em tied it purty well,
 And from the looks 'twas hard to tell
 Which war the favorite hoss,
 For they kept at it cheek by jowl,
 Each man dead sartain to make the goal
 And rake in that big pile.
 But jest at the half-mile bond
 The old mare took a toss,
 Seemed to liven up like,
 And act like a different hoss.
 I war lookin' through a glass,
 And her sleepy look war gone;
 The old man he war braced up,
 And war givin' it to her strong,
 An' it seemed to kinder indurate
 That the bet had been made wrong
 Yos, strange, when I seed the change
 That took place in that mare,
 I felt that sport war brown!
 For them as warn't there;
 And the feelin' it grew stronger
 As I watched 'em comin' in,
 The old gray mare two lengths ahead,
 And the rest on 'em cussin' like sin.
 I've seed good goin' hosses,
 As good as ever ran,
 But I'd never soon sich gittin'
 Since I've come to be a man;
 Hoss, man and wagon did look one
 As they went flyin' round,
 And you'd a thought if you'd been there,
 That they never touched the ground.
 Yew, sir, the wind war knocked clean out
 O, the Hornville boys that day;
 The devil he war flyin' round.
 And thier pitch bad to pay;
 Fur you see, to humor the old man,
 They'd backed his dust purty thick,
 And the prospect o' the second mile
 War enough for to make 'em sick;
 And well it might a, stranger,
 For to trim the story down,
 The old mare made them two lengths six,
 And held it all way round;
 And as she came in under the line
 Her lone eye it did shine,

terrible disease and is in a very precarious condition.

In some parts of North Orillia, bears are so troublesome that farmers are not only obliged to secure their sheep at night, but also their calves. It used to be said that a beech-nut year was also a bear year, and certainly the rule holds good in the present instance, as we have seldom known the beech trees better furnished with seed.

The Champion Canadian ox was exhibited by Mr. Reeves to the Prince and Princess of Wales in London. Its weight is put down at 5,603 pounds, and it has won 40 prizes. If it does weigh that much it will be an argument of immense weight in England in favor of a continued connection between Canada and Great Britain. No genuine Englishman would consent to lose a colony that can produce such a mass of beef in a single carcass. They will rather fight for us to the death.

Eels feed, says a naturalist, on almost all animal substances, whether dead or living. It is well known that they devour the young of all water fowl that are not too large for them. Mr. Bingley states that he saw exposed for sale at Retford, in Nottinghamshire, a quantity of eels that would have filled a couple of wheelbarrows, the whole of which had been taken out of the dead body of a horse, thrown into a ditch near one of the adjacent villages; and a friend of mine saw the body of a man taken out of the Serpentine river in Hyde park, where it had been, for some time, and from which a large eel crawled out.

A CONVICT'S ODD PET.—A convict in the penitentiary has a rat which he had tamed and domesticated until it will come to him when he whistles, and follows its master about like a dog. The little animal sleeps by the prisoner's side at night, and will never be away from him longer than he can help. When the man goes to his work in the morning, it matters not what portion of the prison lot it may be, this faithful little pet will certainly follow and remain near him. The animal knows all the prisoners, and does not exhibit the slightest fear when any of them approach him, but he will dart away into his corner in his master's cell at the sight of any one who is clothed differently from the inmates of the prison.

CHARCOAL FOR HENS.—There is one thing, which nature does not supply, and which civilization, the Germantown Telegraph says, renders quite necessary to fowls. It is charcoal. But charcoal made of wood does not answer the purpose. It has no taste of food, is not attractive to the fowl and is seldom eaten. But if any one will put an ear of corn into the fire till the grains are well charred, and then shell off the corn and throw it to his flock, he will see an eagerness developed and a healthy condition brought about which will make a decided improvement. All pale combs will become a bright red, and busy song which precedes laying will be heard, and the average yield of eggs be greatly increased.

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