before the public in the shape of bits, I have disearded all but two styles of driving bits and one check bit.

I use, of course, a great many bits, but the earisty is made up of different sizes, not of difbreat shapes. One of these bits, and the one I have found to suit more horses than any other, salarge enable, the same thickness its entire math, with a slight curve, a bend from the ring the joint in each division, with the joint ex etly in the middle, with what is called a half ek piece.

. The other style is a bar bit, with a slight carve from and to end, and a half check piece. like the other. I have a great many sizes of each kind, ranging from very small to very large.

Thave every oit I use made by Fawcit, of highly-polished steel, and tested by twice my trength before they are ever put into a horse's mouth. I use different lengths, and prefer a shorter bit than the usual length, as in my jadgment they are too long. I dislike to see bout two mehes of the bit come outside of the borse's mouth when you pull on the rein.

For tender-mouthed horses, and those that are apparently afraid of the bit, I have found a large size of the bar bit, described above, the best. When a second, or check pit, is desirable, I use a fine bar bit, as a snattle pinches and ir ritates the norse, and makes him restless and gratesdy with his head. The same objections an be made to the Mace bit, and all others that are very large at the ends, and very small at the joint in the centre, they have a tendency to ch, and crowd the sides of the mouth in which is very objectionable to many horses.

I have med every style of flexible bit 1 ever beard of, and have no use for them, although many good horsemen praise them highly.

To prevent a horse from putting his tongue ever the bu, I use much the same device as your prespondent " S. T. B." does, only in the place of the rubber tubing (which contines the bits too slosely), I use a strip of very thus sheet rubber, mek as is used by physicians for bandaging, and sew the ends together, leaving the bits from two to three inches play. This rubber is so thin, it will stretch easily if more room is required, yet the horse cannot possibly get his tongue over or between them.

Why should there be any necessity for the invention of so many kinds of bits, etc.? Why do houses put their tongues over the bit, or out of their moutes, or drive on one rein? In almost every instance, in my judgment, it is the fault of the man that broke the colt, or the abuse of the sver check in his early education. Colts do these things in the first place to get relief from orture, and it mustly becomes a habit, and these habite. when formed, are very difficult to break sp. In twenty years I have broken nearly three adred colts, and during that period have handled half as many different trotters, and in all my experience as colt breaker, or trainer of rotters, I have found that, in order to have them act well, and do cheerfully what I required of them, I taid to make it comfortable for them to do it. I believe that all bad habits in horses are the direct result of ignorance and abuse.

By using the same precaution with harness salkies, and wagons, that I do with bits (that is by frequently testing them), I am enabled to sey, to day, that I have never had a horse or solt get away from me, and have never had an socident that resulted in damage to the amount

For fear of taking up too much of your valuable space, I will leave the subject of boots, weights, and shoeing for another letter.

Yours. Parite.

## ENGLISH AND AMERICAN SHOOTING.

Colonel Peel's able and claborate report, says the Volunteer Service Gazette, enables us, we think, to form a very distinct idea as to the ances of the unvarying success of the American sams in international matches, and points out, at least the main lines on which any system of im shooting ought to be constructed. We my "any system," for we have fittle doubt that be organization found practicable and successul in America for " any rifle " teams impat be wily adapted to those for the ruder military ons, and would be found to give equally dresvits. It is quite clear that the Americoming fresh to the work a few years since, If the perspicacity to grasp at once the printhat success in team shooting might be secured by harmony of action—in other Ms, by entrusting one man with the real mand of the shooting, and in super-adding innous and systematic and collective prac-

er Armstrong. Some discretion must, of course, be left to the shooter h.mself to deal with sudden pulls of wind, or changes of light, but, on the whole, the evidence is overwhelming that " drill " tells in team shooting, and that boat. The boats went some distance locked, better aggregate scores are made when it is in-, when Higgins' boat filled. Another boat was telligently applied than when even the most accomplished marksmen are left to their own de-

## RINGERS IN CANADA.

A correspondent "Young Traveller" in the Spirit of the limes, speaks as follows of " ringers" in the Maritimo Provinces :-

Your is-ne of Dec. 8 contains a letter from Toronto, Out . signed "Old Iraveller," spenk fact that Coming of the "ringers" at Boston, etc. I think row-mans. he will find he was wrong in assuming that the horses who " figured so conspicuously " at our recent circuit at Frederickton, St. John, Truro, Kent, and Amherst, were from Boston, as I behere it will prove they were from the State of Maine, just across the New Brunswick line, and that two of them had trotted at the New Eng. I too, claiming that he should have first show land Fair, at Porland, Me., in September last. with Trickett. We shall await with impa-There two, called here Morgin Knox and Saco i tience some reliable information on this mat-Boy, have since proved to be Royal Knox, record 2:35, and Little Fred, with same record. They were in charge of John Haines, who drove them, and who has lately advertised himself as a reformed man, and has been lecturing on temperance in the States. He entered and trotted these horses through our circuit in 3:00 2:50, and 2:38 classes, and won about all these races. While at Frederickton he was arrested for beating a man at " three card monte,' and finally d Amherst for beating an old man \$300 or \$400 at bluff. They played five handed, and the old man had four knaves, which exactly corresponded with the party who played with him. I hear that Royal Knox and Little Field belonged to Albert Nie, of Fairfield, Me., who sent his own man along with the horses to get his share of the spoils. Another ringer in this circuit was called Lady Dinsmore, and was entered by John Wheeldon, of Bangor. She too had a fast record, another was Fann , Raymond, who has been expelled by the St. Johns Association, of which Mr. George Barker (tirm of T. B. Barker & Sous) is President. This mare had a record, it is said, of 2:25. These Yanks all struck here together, just as the Western ringers did at Boston, and our own horses who were eligible for slow classes were beston " all slong the line." The associations had plenty of proof in some of these cases to expel, but did not do so, and allowed the tuieves to divide the profits and get away with the spoils. The tracks are now agitating the question of barring all American horses for the future from trotting in our Province purses. which ought to have been done long ago, for nearly every year we have ringers sent down here to trot, and from the difficulty of identifying these horses (who all trot under new names) and the trouble and expense attending it, they have about all got away with the money, before it could be proven who they were, and our countrymen are being continually fleeced by these fellows. There seems to be plenty of proof in these last cases, but they appear to have been fixed up, so no one will go to the trouble of calling the attention of the National Association to their cases, so that they may get their desserts. We have some very handy going young horses in the Provinces, but many of them cannot be got to enter for fear of the "guerillas." The stallion Robert R. Morris, owned by Mr. Reed, has got as time a lot of trotting colts here as any stallion in the States, I venture to sav. He is the sire of Crown Princess, cut of the dam of Crown Prince, and believed to be one of the fustest colts ever bred in New Brunswick. R. R. Morris is by Mott's Independent, he by Old Hambletonian, out of Star mare, while Morris' dam was Stella, by Old Drew. So it seems 40 has the "blue blood" in plenty, that is now nopular with Americans. We shall be glad to hear from "Old Traveller" again, and hope Mr. Hicks will see to it that no ringers from the Hub are allowed to come into our country to ply their trade, and defeat honest competitors.

SALE OF JOB. ROWERT AND JOHN DUFFIE. Messrs. R & J. Rowett, Carlinville, Ill., have sold to Mr. John G. Blow, St. Louis, Mo., the two colts Joe Rowett, two years old, by imp. Intruder, out of Mammons, by imp. Sovereign, and John Duffic, bay, two years old, by imp. Intruder, out of Ada Kenneth, by Bonnie Lad-

ing when Boyd began to bother bim crowd him out of the course. Finally, whin Higgins was about to take the lead, Boyd laid his scull over the fore-quarter of Higgins' provided, but meantime Boyd took a long lead and went in nearly a mile ancad, but the race was awarded to Higgins.

## SPLASHES.

Tom Cole, the Euglise carsman, is dead. He was contemporan out with Bob Coombs.

The Auburn papers call attention to the fact that Courtney is a descendant of the old

COURTNEY VS TRICKET .- There is nothing new in connection with this proposed encounter, nor is there likely to be, until Court ney or his agent hears something definite from the Antipodean. Hanlan is in the field, ter. Our London namesake is inclined to doubt the probability of the Australian coming to America to uphold ais name, and thinks that some one will have to go to Australia to row him first. That is rather foolish, because he would only be likely to get one match on, but if he comes here he can have a number of them .- N. Y. Sportsman.

The Auburnian has the tollowing: Courtgave up the money. He was afterwards arrested ney is in active training with his machine, which gives a stroke exactly like that of a shell while resting in the water, for the coming match between hunself and Trickett, the Australian oarsman, for the championship of the world He says if his health does not fail him, he will be in a better condition than ever before for pulling the race. He is confident of his ability to defeat the foreigner : and is of the opinion that Trickett will acand was entered in 3:00 and 2:50 classes. Still ; cept the Eus-nore course on Owasco Lake, his choice for the contest. The Cayaga sculler will be backed to any amount by his financial Auburn friends.

# Hedestrianism.

## SPRINTS.

Billy Howes tried another twenty-one miles in 3h. at Norwich, Eng. He failed by

Hazael's attempt to run twenty miles in 2h., at Rotherhithe, London, Eng., Dec. 26, resulted in a failure. He went a little over thirteen miles in 1h. 16m. 52s.

A match has been arranged between Wheat, the colored ped., and Ben Scholes, alias Brown, alias Rogers, to run 150 yards at Fle-twood Park, New York, on the 24th inst. for \$500.

PEDESTRIANISM IN CALIFORNIA-John Oddy walked seven miles and a half in 54m. 33s. at the Rink in San Francisco recently, so it is said. The following times are given: First mile, 6m 56s, second, 7m 51s; third, 7m 24s; fourth, 7m 7s; fifth, 8m 7s; sixth, 7m 19s; seventh, 7m 47s; half mile, 3m 43s. On the same evening James Dolan succeed d in accomplishing his self-imposed feat of walking one hundred hours without rest or sleep. This must also be taken cum grano salis.

## TIME-WHY IT SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.

The following artists, with the above heading, from the Spirit of the Jimes of last week, will be read with interest by all lovers of the turf :

The fact that time is not a test of merit with a racchorse is not the only reason why it should be abolished. Since the manua is to make fast time, every owner is ambitions to have his horse ktep up with the fashion. If he is fortunate enough to do so, he paints the performance in

to deceate a race of a maje rute or a 15. It home heat in 1.18-1 19, as poor racing, without re- famous as the same noted event in Logarit gard to the course over which it transpires, or its condition. This grows out of the fact that the public have been educated in the school of the period, and that everybody relies upon time as an infallible test of the comparative merits of different events.

Nothing can be more fallicious, and it is scarcely a matter of doubt whether anything is more injurious to the turf. A course prepared for fast time must be mude hard. The weight of a horse coming in contact with it at the top of his speed must put his murcles, tendons, bones, and body to a severe test to be equal to the task ! of with-tanding the shock. The course, too, must be in this condition while propering the horse, and the long-continued exercise meid at to a thorough training upon suc rathack must inevitably affect the powers of the herse. He cannot stand the same amount of exercise over a hard course, such as the fastest trate is made upon, that he can over a softer and slow-This is the experience of every intellier one. cent trainer in the land.

It is admitted that horses break down earlier now than they did several dicades since. Fewer of them reach the post in proportion to the numbers bred and trained. We now have more bad legs, spring or slipped tendons, brutsed frogs. oscelates, ringbones, and other accidents or discases of the limbs and shoulders. The question , largely swelled as compared with last year. of is. What has produced this difference should have improved the form, himbs, and general powers of the horse as we have advanced in breeding and training, as well as his speed. Have we done so? It is the opinion of the Have we done so? more experienced that we have not. On the contrary, that the improvement of the thorough bred has been mainly confined to the one single point-speed! It is not even a settled fact that there has been that improvement in this respect that we generally credit ourselves with.

It is difficult to say that I'en Brocck's mile in 1:391, in 1877, is a better performance than Timolean's mile in 1:41, in 1816, or that his two miles in 3:271, of 1877, is superior to Peace-maker's 3:43, of 1803, or that his three miles in 5:261 of 1866, is more meritorious than Ariel's 5:16 in 18.7, or that his four miles in 7:152 is equal to Heury's 7:37 in 1823, or Fashion's 7:321 1942. Many years lie between these events, and many changes have taken place. The heavy atmosphere incident to the densely timbered country, such as we had at the beginning of the present century, has been superseded by drying rays of the sun up in broad fields all over the country. Scraped courses have taken the place of ploughed ones. Training for speed has invaded the practice of preparing horses, not for speed, but to stay the longest distances and repeat the same.

It has not been a great while since that the question, "What causes break-downs to be so much more frequent than they were years ago ? was propounded in our presence to an experience durfman. The answer was, "It is the difference in speed-it is speed that kills." lid a man fall into great error. It is not the difference in speed that produces this unfortunate result, nor that kills or injurehorses now, but the difference in the courses and their preparation. The English best our horses when we send them there, and make faster time than they do. Their horses run five races on an average, where ours run one, yet they last longer and are more profitable while they do last. In a word, the facts incon-testably prove that our system is wrong; that we should return to safer tracks, and this we never will do until this Time test is abolished upon the American turl.

## TEN BROECK AND PAROLE.

A knight of the pencil who interviewed Mr Clark, the President of the Louisville Jockey Club, reports him in the Courier Journal, as fol lows:

" Col. Clark proposed a match race between Ton Broock and Paroleat Louisville next Spring purse to be \$2,500, in a dash of 24 index, and that if Mr. Lorillard would at once signify what wavear old or other stakes, to close Jan. 1, he would outer or desired to outer his horses in. the club would double the solded money. The chief cause of complaint being the change of water for his aorses, Colonel Clark proposed to obviate this by putting a cistern at one and of the stable formerly occupied by Parole, and a rump at the other, and as the waterworks are stallion shows a greater promise of becoming a already by it, there would be water of every des-

Lang L.

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HAMILTON LACROSSE CLU o

The atman topering of the H mit is Lact see Clair was held at Bader's hestau and lost week. In the absence of the President, Mr. 14 to John son was called to the chair. The minutes of the last in cline were real and independ, after who h the Chairman called on the Secretary to read the fluancial state wint for year.

The statement proved to be a very flattetar.

one to the management of the same of gratify ing to the members generally. The moreover in receipts during the base year, as a contained wit the season of 1876 7, is somethin, remarkat: being over good. This shows conclusively the this many game is got one than the in the face of our officers, and we trust their text limiters? statement will show a corresponding merea-The Club has, during the past season, spared expense in bringing first-class time to the carin order that the people of mannie a might have an opportunity of witnessing secretifically played matches, and we must say they have succeed ! in gaining the c unidence of a large number w! have seen them play.

The membership roll of the Cinb line best We materies played have occu nearly trothel, and of those sixty per cent. have been wen. The energy displayed by the directors of the Carb is evident from the fact that it was the only Club from Western Canada (with the exception of Forente Chuss, represented at the Naccard Lacrose convention held at Montreal in August last.

### THE NEW HORSE SHOP.

The English agricultural and other press are in raptures over the Yates horse shoe, constru-t ed of cow hide. It is composed of three thick nesses of cow hide compressed into a steel mould, and then subjected to a chemical paration. It is claimed for it that it lasts longer and weighs only one-fourth as much as the one mon from shoe, that it will never cause the hos f to split, nor have the least injurious influer " on the foot. It requires no caths, even n asphalt the horse never slips. The shoe 14 elastic that the horse's step is lighter and surer It adheres so closely to the foot that neither dust nor water can penetrate between the shoe and hoof. If all that is claimed for it be true, the new hide shoe will prove a great improvement upon the old. The idea, however, is by no means a new one. At the time of the Roman and Carthagean wars it was a frequent practice mong cavalry officers to bind the feet of their horses with a raw cow-hide, to protect them from injury during an engagement. The inventor of the new shoe, Mr. Yates, of Manchester, England, is nevertheless entitled to every consideration for utilizing, in practical form, raw hide as a substitute for heavy iron shoes.

BREEDING AND THE PURP IN GREAT BRITAIN During the year 1877 there were 1,639 races run in Great Britam, divided as follows Half-mile and under, 251, over a half unite, and under a mile, 837, one mile, 245, over a mile, and under two, 220 , two miles, and under three, 74 , threemiles, and under four, 11, four nates, 2. The number of horses that started during the year is given at 2,057, as follows: 805 two year olds 604 three year-olds, 318 four year olds, and 330 of five years, and upwards. The broadmares in the kingdom number 2,731, and they produced 1.761 foals, of which 885 are color and 876 fillies ; barren marcs, 524 ; slipped foals, 154 ; not covered in 1876, 80, ma ea covered by half brish horses, 41 , died before foaling, 120; and sent abroad before fealing, 51.

Sair or the Lieginso Stallies, Parrays. Col. R. P. Pepper, of South Fokhorn St. & Farm, Ky., has sold to Mr. A. C. Jofferson, Lausing, Mich., the trotting stall in Passelly Almont, Jam Glory, by Jacks in W. S. Star, grandam by Bonnerger, gross or a continuation, for \$8,000 Passacase in the part of the passacase in th bay, with black points, and be ers as riking life ness to Almont, with much of the peneral tree and blood-like quality of his dam. Htr. 1". last Summer in 2:27 , and the few of the her la sired all show such remarkable rate gar pacty and good form that Col Popper has crella muo ber of his pest mares to him believ my that is