

Hartford, Conn.....	Aug. 29 to Sept. 1
Dubuque, Ia.....	Sept. 4 to 9
Macomb, Ill.....	" 4 to 8
Davenport, Ia.....	" 4 to 9
Springfield, Mass.....	" 5 to 9
West Chester, Pa.....	" 6 to 9
Elmira, N.Y.....	" 12 to 14
Mystic Park, Boston.....	" 12 to 15
Ogdonsburgh.....	Sept. 26 to 29
Jerome Park (Running).....	Sept. 30 to Oct. 14
Pottstown, Pa.....	Oct. 8 to 9
Washington, D.C. (Running).....	Oct. 24 to 27

#### CANADIAN.

Stratford.....	Sept. 5 & 6
Canadian Stallion Race.....	Sept. 9
Woodbine.....	Sept. 14, 15 & 16
Oshawa.....	Sept. 19 & 20
Watford.....	Sept. 20 & 21
Pergus.....	Sept. 28 & 29

#### ENTRIES CLOSE.

Stratford.....	Sept. 2
Woodbine.....	Sept. 11
Oshawa.....	Sept. 16

Correspondents and others will remember the change of our office, No. 90 King-St. West, Toronto, is our present address.

#### STAKE RACING.

It is the hope of every man who is in any way deeply interested in the success and elevation of the turf in Canada that the time will come when sweepstake racing will be the rule and not the exception of our system. It is an evidence of the higher advancement of the institution, as can plainly be seen by reference to its adoption in the older countries, and the more prominent centres in America. Presuming it should become the rule here next season (a contingency hardly probable), it would be but a very short time before our stock of racehorses would be so increased that the thought of a return to the old plan of purse money, with its crushing impost of ten per cent., would not even be entertained. The entry list on the stake principle, it is quite safe to say, would be more than doubled, and a corresponding degree of interest would undoubtedly be taken by the general public in the events to be decided. No greater proof of this is required than in the *SPORTING TIMES* Stallion Race. It will readily be believed, that if a purse had been given of the total amount of the stake, with the usual entry fee, the list of nominations would hardly have been half of what it is now; which, if admitted, establishes the fact that in all particulars the sweepstake plan with added money is much the more preferable for all parties. Larger fields are secured, and the entrance and forfeit money is but a fraction of what it would have been under the purse system, while the amount to be made up by the Associations or Clubs is no more than in the old way.

In California gigantic efforts are being made towards advancing the thoroughbred horse interest in that country. For this Fall a large stake has been opened for fillies and mares, with the undisguised object of bringing them to the Golden State, and through them eventually improving the breed of horses on the Pacific coast. This is the kind of racing we should feel pleased in seeing introduced here. There is no section on the continent which has a better selection of

every lover of fine horses in the country. And to those who are in no way interested in breeding, but have an inclination to witness the exciting sports of the turf, it may be a long time, indeed, until such an opportunity presents itself again. The relative merits of the horses nominated are assumed to be so equal that a great struggle is possible before the conclusion is arrived at. And to this may be added the absolute guarantee, from the nature of the race, that each horse will be sent for all he is worth. Combinations are impossible, and the fight for victory will be truly on its merits.

It is proposed to call the horses promptly at 2 o'clock, so that the race will be finished in time for visitors from a distance to return on the evening trains.

#### A COUPLE OF ARRIVALS.

During the past week our limited stock of race horses has been increased by the arrival of a couple of three-year old colts purchased at the late Saratoga meeting. The first of these is the property of Dr. Smith, and may be seen at his stables on Temperance street. He is the chestnut colt Osseo, by imported Eclipse, dam Oleata by Lexington; 2nd dam Fanny Fern, by imported Glencoe; 3rd dam Cub mare, by Medoc; 4th dam Ann Merry, by Sumpter; 5th dam Grecian Princess, by Blackburn's Whip; 6th dam by Hampton's Progress; &c. Eclipse, by Orlando, dam Gaze, by Bay Middleton. From this it will be seen the youngster has quite an aristocratic ancestry. He is a good sized colt, and has appeared three times on the turf, twice as a two-year old, and once this season. He has not been fortunate in any of his essays, but will probably be more successful here where the company will not be quite so fast. His appearance is indicative of speed, while his temper is very good. He may be shown up in some of our Fall meetings. The price has not been made public.

Mr. James Lannan, of Nova Scotian fame, also invested in a tidy colt while at Saratoga. His purchase consisted of the brown colt Morris, by Leamington, dam Frivolity, by imp. Eclipse. Leamington, by Faugh-a-Ballagh, dam Pantaloon. We did not have the pleasure of inspecting this colt, and can say but little about him. His turf record is limited, having only started once, and that as a two-year old for the Champagne Stakes, at Jerome Park, last Fall, where he was led under the wire by Virginus, Cyclone, and Tigress, three-quarters of a mile, in 1:19, 100 lbs. up. He is thought to be quite promising. A few more investments like those would make racing look up.

#### A RIDER INJURED.

On the last day of the Caledonia Springs Races the spectators were startled by a severe fall received by one of the jockeys in the principal event of the day. It would appear from what has come to hand that McLaughlin was riding Wagram, who he piloted well enough until the first water jump was reached. Here the horse fell and rolled on the unfortunate man crushing him severely. The crowd rushed to his assistance, picked him up, and sent for medical assistance. Dr. Leicester arrived in a short time, and after an examination pronounced McLaughlin to be badly injured. He was carried to the hotel where he received proper

#### COST OF STEEPLECHASES.

It has been a subject of conversation in racing circles, whether steeplechases are not a too expensive amusement for the turf in this country. In a very short time quite a number of fine horses, some of them valuable flat racers, have been placed *hors de combat* from injuries received in cross country or hurdle affairs. The last instance is that of Mr. Carson's mare Cecelia by Canwell, dam Lucy Wade by Lexington, formerly owned by Mr. Archie Fisher of this city. She was entered in the late races at Caledonia Springs and ran without accident the first day. On the second day in the Dominion Steeplechase at the third water jump she fell and broke her back, and had to be destroyed. And thus another race horse is removed from our very limited list. Her death will be quite a loss to Mr. Carson who valued her highly.

#### Sporting Gossip.

Mr. Boardley has sold his brown trotting gelding Lookout to Messrs. Grand. The consideration was not made public.

The Montreal horse market was unusually quiet last week. But very little was doing, and that with an inferior quality of stock at very low prices.

The Spirit of the Times of last week says, "Capt. Tom has gone into training under the charge of Mr. Pete Curran, for the approaching stallion race of the *SPORTING TIMES* of Toronto, which takes place, in that city on the 9th of September. He is rather fleetly after the season, but is working well, and Pete says that the stallion that beats him will have to show better than a 2:30 gait."

Clverston, by Lexington, dam Utila by Margrave, died in Mexico in July last. He was the sire of Dr. Smith's mare Helen Bennett.

Don Carlos, one of the lot of horses imported last year from Kentucky by W. Hendrie, Esq., of Hamilton, made his debut at Waterloo this week, being entered in the 2-mile open dash there.

In order to introduce thoroughbred fillies into the State of California, for breeding purposes, a new association has been formed at San Francisco, with E. J. Baldwin as President. They propose to give a great race at San Francisco, next October, to be called the California Oaks, a sweepstakes, of \$1,000, play or pay. Five entries to fill the stake, to which \$10,000 will be added by the Association. Distance four miles and repeat. The whole sum of \$15,000 to be apportioned as follows: first mare, \$7,000; second mare, \$4,000; third mare, \$2,500; fourth mare, \$1,500.

A great many think the top weight, 175 lbs, in the open steeplechase at Woodbine is too much, and will effectually shut out horses from entering for it. It is a pretty heavy impost to run over rough ground with.

Capt. Bogardus, the pigeon shooter gives an exhibition at London on the 8th inst.

A trot took place at Kingston on the 25th ult. between White Rose and Factory Girl. The former won; no particulars.

At Buffalo, on Monday, the Californian Peratti attempted to ride 105 miles in five hours, but was seven minutes too late.

about which I can only wonder that there can be two opinions among experienced turfmen. Nevertheless are there "praisers of bygone days" who have lamented in my hearing this hour that the scale was changed. It would be but burdening the paper for me to dwell on the advantage of having men not monkeys in the saddle; but I will add one argument in favor of the higher scale being adopted in America that I have not seen used, though, perhaps, it is too obvious to quote. In England, a very great proportion of the races, and all the half-mile races, are run on straight courses. "The feather" has merely to sit still and finish on a course generally twice the width of those here. Horses on the round American courses want ten times the riding, and every practical man knows how he can assist or impede a horse on a curve. Perhaps an illustration may not be amiss. On Saturday last, in a very important race, there was an exhibition of bad riding at the finish that was only to be accounted for by the weakness of the jockey, and the fact that he was done with before his horse was. If his horse had been steadied at the distance, and brought with one grand rush upon an animal tiring at every stride, the verdict would have been almost a head. I can't say that the issue would have been actually reversed in that jockey's hand, even had he retained the strength to finish on his horse; but Fordham, Archer, Alderft, or Osborne would have driven the three-year-old in a winner. I have watched a thousand brilliant finishes, and I can say, with what amounts to certainty in my own mind, that the race in question was lost by the boy in the saddle. He allowed the older and stronger horse to give him the slip, and gain several lengths, three furlongs only from home before the young 'un started in pursuit; he erred again by indecision of steering at the top of the homestretch, and finally by ignorance of the task set him and of the way to do it, and so he allowed a horse which clearly had the speed of his opponent to come in with a loose rein, scrambling all over the place, and asking in vain for that support which strength in the saddle would have given him. A pocket Hercules is wanted on a horse at the desperate finish of a severe race. Weight does not always imply strength, but strength without weight is a rare phenomenon.

But I have sadly digressed. The matter which I hope you will some day turn the eye of a reformer is the so-called "cross-country" exhibition to be seen at Saratoga. On the score of their exceedingly dangerous character you should have two-thirds of the jumps doubled in size. On the score of objectionable intricacy you should have the present steeplechase course abolished and made an inner circle concentric with the flat-racing mile; to be negotiated twice, thrice, or four times as might be required. To those practically unacquainted with the sport a two-foot rail (and there are several stiff jumps at Saratoga much under three feet) may seem a less dangerous obstacle than one double its height; but danger at a jump may be measured almost entirely by speed. At a two-foot bar horse and rider agree to go full-split; as if no jump were there. Neither horse nor rider assumes the attitude proper for the occasion. The notion is to fly it in the stride; there is no taking by the head and collecting for that rise from the haunches which constitutes a jump, as differing from the ordinary leap of the gallop. The two-foot bar or stone wall, is simply a trap at the beginning, middle, or end of the stride, as accident may ordain. I have in my mind's eye the private and artificial steeplechase course on which Lord Poulett's famous Liverpool winner, The Lamb, was trained near Soberton Down, in Hampshire. To the best of my recollection there was not a small fence in the circuit; and the banks and ditches were prodigious, all wanting close on a thirty feet span to cover them. If reforms in the direction of English precedent are to govern American racing, it would answer well for Mr. Wheatley to go a winter voyage to that pretty Hampshire village, and see what an artificial course "at home" is like, perfecting his idea with a glance at

about which I can only wonder that there can be two opinions among experienced turfmen. Nevertheless are there "praisers of bygone days" who have lamented in my hearing this hour that the scale was changed. It would be but burdening the paper for me to dwell on the advantage of having men not monkeys in the saddle; but I will add one argument in favor of the higher scale being adopted in America that I have not seen used, though, perhaps, it is too obvious to quote. In England, a very great proportion of the races, and all the half-mile races, are run on straight courses. "The feather" has merely to sit still and finish on a course generally twice the width of those here. Horses on the round American courses want ten times the riding, and every practical man knows how he can assist or impede a horse on a curve. Perhaps an illustration may not be amiss. On Saturday last, in a very important race, there was an exhibition of bad riding at the finish that was only to be accounted for by the weakness of the jockey, and the fact that he was done with before his horse was. If his horse had been steadied at the distance, and brought with one grand rush upon an animal tiring at every stride, the verdict would have been almost a head. I can't say that the issue would have been actually reversed in that jockey's hand, even had he retained the strength to finish on his horse; but Fordham, Archer, Alderft, or Osborne would have driven the three-year-old in a winner. I have watched a thousand brilliant finishes, and I can say, with what amounts to certainty in my own mind, that the race in question was lost by the boy in the saddle. He allowed the older and stronger horse to give him the slip, and gain several lengths, three furlongs only from home before the young 'un started in pursuit; he erred again by indecision of steering at the top of the homestretch, and finally by ignorance of the task set him and of the way to do it, and so he allowed a horse which clearly had the speed of his opponent to come in with a loose rein, scrambling all over the place, and asking in vain for that support which strength in the saddle would have given him. A pocket Hercules is wanted on a horse at the desperate finish of a severe race. Weight does not always imply strength, but strength without weight is a rare phenomenon.

Another blot I would hit with all friendliness and respect is the insufficiency of the telegraph board. What objection can there be to the adoption of such a frame as serves the purpose on every first-class English course? Do not American bettors want to know who steers their fancy? Are they not yet aware of the importance attaching to the question, "Who is up?" The few miserable puppet figures stuck up by the judges' stand at Saratoga are to all intents and purposes invisible to the spectator, and are altogether insufficient to give the information wanted. They should be of a size and in a situation to be seen at a glance from any portion of the stand grounds. Moreover, the winner's number on the card should be run up in figures one foot high at the top of the judges' stand the moment he has passed the winning post. Hundreds of people want to know the first past the post, and there are seconds which are hours of expectancy. Nobody can be misled by the hoisting of the number, because until the "all right" has been announced at the scales no bets or pools will be paid. In nineteen cases out of twenty (to speak modestly) the first past the post is the adjudged winner. Why then should people be kept waiting till a horse has gone a quarter of a mile beyond the chair, walked back and his jockey been weighed and pronounced "all right?" Depend on it, sir, you must popularise racing in every way in the power of the authorities if you would admit the sport to even a share of the favor bestowed on trotting. I have spun out my letter to an inordinate length, or I had meant to tell you the pleasure I experienced in going the rounds of the stables; how in Leamington's Olitipa I had seen the ghost of Irish Birdcatcher, and in Faithless the image of his brother, Faugh-a-Ballagh. I shall content myself, however, now with merely expressing the obligation which I think all racing men are under to you for the sound sense and horse lore contained in your contributions to The Spirit of the Times, coupled with the hope that you may some day deign to borrow a feather from my humble goosequill, with which to speed another of your Reform arrows home to the notch.

T. C. P.

#### To Correspondents.

We would particularly request our correspondents and advertisers to send their favors as early in the week as possible—so that they will reach us by Wednesday morning. We are unable to use many items sent us in consequence of not receiving them in time for the issue intended.

(No notice taken of anonymous communications or queries. No answer by mail or telegraph.)

J. M. Forest—It is a question of law.

J. K., Mr. Forest—No answer by telegraph. The usual practice would rule, we should think in this case. He would be ex officio a member of all committees, but it is assumed each committee would have a right to appoint its own chairman.

ELoc, Jackson—All right—go ahead.