

## Aquatic.

## COURTNEY AND TRICKETT.

## SKETCH OF THE MEN.

CHARLES E. COURTNEY was born in Union Springs, N. Y., in 1849, stands 6ft 1 1/2 in in height, and weighs 173lb. He is a carpenter by trade, and is in partnership with his brother John in the planing mill business at his native place. He has been accustomed to rowing since boyhood, and was victor in numerous cano contests, of local interest only, before he came conspicuously before the general public at the first international regatta of the Saratoga Amateur Rowing Association, Sept. 11, 1873, when he easily won the senior sculls, two miles, in 14m 15s, forty seconds ahead of T. R. Keator; Frank E. Yates third, and James Wilson "Pop" Trax, R. Lefman and others following. He then entered for the National Association regatta at Philadelphia, Oct. 7, 8, following, in his boat was so badly cut in some manner the night previous to race-day that he couldn't start. He again appeared at Saratoga in 1874, in the regatta held in August, the 28th of which month he won the Empire Diamond Sculls and State championship, beating the two miles, turn, in 14:44, easily beating David Roch twelve seconds; J. Wilson third, Ed. Blake fourth; W. R. Curtis and Yates drew out. He was also entered for the senior sculls next day, but the effects of a sunstroke which had laid him up the previous June made themselves felt again, and he deemed it advisable not to start. Curtis won the race in 14:37 1/2. On Sept. 9, 10, same year, he took part in a four-oared race at a regatta at Seneca Lake, Watkins, N. Y., his crew being beaten by the Buffalo Club on the first day, three miles; but he won the senior sculls on the second, the two miles being pulled in 14:10; R. H. Robinson second, and W. E. McCredy third. His next appearance on the water was made Aug. 24, 1875, at the third regatta of the Saratoga Association. He then first met Jas. H. Riley in the race for the Empire Sculls, when he won for the third time, doing the two miles in 13:59 1/2 (the then fastest record); Riley second, 14:00 1/2; J. T. McCormick, 14:36 1/2; J. W. Maxwell, D. Roch and J. H. Gryn following in this order. On the 25th he won the President's Challenge Cup and a diamond medal, taking 13:59 to easily do the two miles; Riley second, 14:15 1/2; P. C. Ackerman and G. W. Lathrop following. On the 26th, with R. H. Robinson, he won the double-scull race, two miles, in 12:42 1/2; Riley and Lefman second, 13:05 1/2; Lathrop and McCormick third, Orr and Maxwell fourth. Previous to this race the time made by Parker and Carpenter, July 14, 1861, at Boston—12:54—had not been touched. On August 31, same year, Courtney showed up at Troy, N. Y., on the occasion of the N. A. A. O. regatta, beating R. B. Bainbridge and D. Roch in the third heat of the sculls, doing the one and a half miles straightaway, in 9:34. Next day he took the final heat in 9:46, defeating Riley (9:51). Same day, with Robinson, he won the double-scull race in 8:50; Lefman and Riley, 9:06; Lathrop and McCormick third. Sept. 8 following, with J. E. Courtney, James McGraw and Hugh Conner, he won a four-oared race at Seneca Lake Regatta, doing the three miles, turn, in 19:55, beating three other crews. He was also entered for the senior sculls on the 9th, but did not start, leaving Riley to win. Sept. 22, same year, he won at the Binghamton regatta, beating Lathrop and G. H. Pratt like breaking sticks. Sept. 23, with Robinson, he rowed over for the doubles. He again appeared at Cayuga Lake, N. Y., Oct. 13 following, when he claims to have pulled two miles, with a turn, against a double-scull boat, winning the race in 13:14, though as this time is not properly authenticated, it is not accepted as record. His next appearance was at Saratoga, Aug. 8, 1876, when, with F. E. Yates as partner, he won the double-scull race in 12:16 (best recorded time), beating Keator and Riley, whose time was 12:20; Ackerman and H. W. Rodger, 12:25; and Craig and Miles. He did not take part in the senior scullers' race on the 9th, when Riley came in first, making the fastest time on record—13:21. Courtney was also present at the regatta of the N. A. A. O., held at Philadelphia in 1876, winning, on Aug. 22, the second heat of the singles by over a minute, and then making the one and a half miles in 10:28 1/2. He did not row in

doing the three miles, with a turn, in 20:14 1/2, beating Riley by more than a length, Johnson third. Overturns were subsequently informally made for a match with Ed. Lefman of Toronto, Ont., the winner of the scullers' race at the Centennial regatta, but the Canadian having other plans in view, his backers declined for the present to entertain the proposition, verbally made, to row two miles, one of three and one of five miles, for \$2,500 a side each.

EDWARD A. TRICKETT was born at Greenwich, on the Parramatta River, New South Wales, in 1851, stands 6ft 8 1/2 in in height, and weighs about 170 lbs. He has but fifteen years of age when he made his debut as a public rower, the occasion being the annual Anniversary Regatta at Sydney, and the race that for youths under sixteen, in which he suffered defeat. The year following, however, he was victorious in the contest between lads under eighteen, and subsequently defeated McNale, Bullivant and two others in a hand-cup race in light skiffs. The next race in which he appeared was a double-scull open to all under twenty-one, in which he and his brother defeated several others. On Dec. 26, 1868, at the Woolloomooloo regatta, he was vanquished by Wm. Hickey, then champion. In 1870, at the Anniversary Regatta, the brothers Trickett met with defeat in the double-scull race, and Edward was beaten by Conlon in a private match over the champion course on the Parramatta. During the same year, at the Belmain Regatta, Trickett and Williams won in double sculls, conquering Reynolds and Connor and others. At the same regatta, the next year, he and Williams were beaten by McCreer and Lyons, the former of whom had previously been defeated by Trickett in a match. After this he retired from public rowing for a couple of years, following his occupation as a quarryman. In 1878, however, he reappeared, winning the light skiff-race from Lynch, Lyons, and Colebrook at the Balmain Regatta, and being one of the second crew in a whaleboat race, which was won by Barnett's crew. Same year he twice defeated H. Pearse in matches in working boats, for £25 a side, at Sydney. The year following he was victorious over Laycock, Lynch and Mulbah in a shell race, and was one of the winning whale-boat crew. In 1875, at the Anniversary Regatta, he was second to Rush (champion) in his contest for championship of the colonies, beating Newby, Hickey, Laycock and Green; won the all-comers race in skiff the same day, and was in the winning gig crew. Nov. 9 of that year he beat Laycock and Lynch, and with his brother carried off the prize for doubles at the Balmain Regatta. The Anniversary Regatta of 1876 witnessed the victory of Trickett over R. Green in the race for the sculls; value £25; and, in conjunction with his brother, he captured the double-scull prize; the Lynch Brothers second. Trickett subsequently challenged Rush to row for the championship of Australia, but they could not come to an understanding, and, being taken in charge by James Puncu, an old oarsman and proprietor of Puncu's Hotel, Sydney, he left, in company with the latter, for England, arriving there early in the Spring of 1876. He at once threw down the gauntlet to Joseph Sadler, who, by easy victories over Robert Bagnall and Robert W. Boyd of the "black country," had, since the tragic death of Renfort, maintained his claim to the primiership with the sculls, and who, by virtue of his victories at the international regattas held at Halifax, N. S., and Saratoga, N. Y., in 1871, when he defeated among others the only man who had previously won a match for the title (Harry Kelley), claimed the honor of being champion of the world. As the credentials brought from the new-comer from the Antipodes did not seem to justify him in aiming to displace Sadler from the post he had so long well filled, Trickett's challenge was generally looked upon as foolhardy in the extreme, and the champion was quick upon accepting it. When the article had been signed, however, and the Australian was seen on the water, with Harry Kelly at his mentor, his fine athletic appearance and the skill he exhibited in handling the weapons of aquatic warfare created a very favorable impression, and friends began to rally around him; so that when the day big with oaric fat arrived, there were plenty who thought well enough of his chance to be willing to accept the odds offered upon Sadler. The event occurred upon the

## PURIFY THE TRACKS.

M. M. Morse, the Treasurer of the Earlville Association, Earlville, Ill., in giving the history of the brightwood-Cloverwilde in the N. Y. Spirit of the Times, uses the following language: "It seems passing strange that horsemen will be guilty of committing such acts, when it is plainly for their interest to do otherwise, for the very tyro ought to know that the public go to see honest racing, and when race-day prevails gate-money stops and associations die. Thus they destroy their occupation if not banished from the turf. Every track honestly striving to do right can testify to the constant struggle between themselves and a certain class of horsemen. Gentlemen, (he had better have written thieves) a few more such struggles and respectable associations will shut their gates, and hang up no more purses. Your trotters will then be valued simply as roadsters." The trotters have fallen below the price of roadsters is now evident from the late sales in the East, and without doubt a deal of the depreciation is owing to the cause which Mr. Morse suggests. There is a surplus of trade animals beyond question, or rather a large number of horses with recoras which effectually bar them from winning money in their classes, but the decreased attendance at the tracks is owing more to the dishonest practices which have prevailed than any other cause.

There is not only enough of these nefarious practices to stigmatize the sport generally, and cause people to think honest races are the exception, but it appears to be the endeavor of parties, in some way connected with trotting matters, to bring them under undeserved obloquy. For instance, how often we hear people claim that a race has been fraudulently lost when there was nothing to justify such a charge. Having lost their money they will not acknowledge their judgment was at fault, but saddle it on the driver of the horse they had "backed." It is oftentimes a very difficult matter to prove that a horse was driven to win, as trotters are proverbially uncertain, and a break, which the jockey could not avoid his horse making, loses the race. The carpers seize it as a token that it was purposely made, and from the public knowing that they should be competent judges, accept it as beyond question, and have resolved not to trouble themselves with attending again.

But far worse than this is the practice among many of the drivers to make charges against each other, and industriously circulate among the assemblage whispering that such a one is not trying to win. It is done not only to bring reproach on the person attacked, but with the thought that, perhaps, they may be selected to drive, and if they can only succeed in making a show of having a chance to win, parties will "have to come down," and if they do not make any better display than their predecessor, they ascribe it to the horse being tampered with, or made to act unwillingly before they took their seat in the sulky. Still worse is the habit which a few indulge in of boasting that they could have won a certain race if they had chosen to do so, and rather than admit a defeat which they could not avoid, confess themselves thieves.

Another practice which has been a terrible incubus—a far heavier weight than is usually imagined, is that of selecting the winner before the start, and the combination placing their money on the chosen animal. No matter if even the fastest has to carry the coin of the confederacy, such a compact is dishonest. We know a case of this kind once, when the parties were so anxious that there should "be no mistake" that they got the four horse— which were to trot in the afternoon out very early in the morning, before there were many people at the track, and gave them a couple of heats much in the same manner as the race would take place. But it leaked out what had occurred, and the managers of the track very properly declared the race off, much to the disgust of those who had taken such pains to find out the best horse, and their arguments as to the propriety were rather queer specimens of logic, if remarkably satisfactory to themselves.

As Mr. Morse says "the public go to see honest racing," and it cannot be honest when such a combination exists. While it might be proper for a person to hedge enough by betting against his horse to cover the expenses attending, whenever he enters into a contract to select any horse for two winners, and "play his money" in accordance therewith, the whole gang should be expelled as ruthlessly as though every horse were "pulled."

Giving away heats to influence the betting is another feature which requires that strenuous means be taken to abrogate it. Again, we have often heard the plea that "I have a right to lay up a heat," and when such laying up was evidently good judgment as tending to aid in winning the race, the right should be recognized. But merely for the sake of reducing the odds, or to give other parties "a chance to get out" there can be nothing advanced in justification of it. To strive, honorably and fairly, to win every heat, should be the aim of every one engaged in trotting sports, and when the

## SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE DONE

The breeders, in their individual capacity, have not shown much of a desire to participate in the deliberations of the National Association for the Promotion of the Interests of the American Trotting Turf. They have stood aloof and permitted proxies of the very local associations of which they are members to be voted by Tom, Dick and Harry—by men picked up at random in the halls of the congress, and who never owned a trotting horse in the whole course of their lives. This indifference on the part of the breeders to the legislation of the turf has excited no little surprise in the minds of thinking men. They are large interested in preserving the integrity of the turf. They sell the products of their farms to those who are induced to buy through their belief in the soundness of the law. As the value of trotting horses largely depends upon the efficiency of the rules which govern trotting contests, it naturally follows that the indifference of the breeders to turf legislation was a blow at their own interests. They relied upon the owners of the tracks to do them justice, and, if the owners of these tracks have gone astray in any instance, the breeders have no right to complain. Granting this much, still, as the breeders have established an association of their own, they require that the National Association should remove the only objection which these breeders urge against the National rules. The ancestry of the animals which are allowed to compete for the rich prizes hung up should be traced and correctly placed upon record. Rule VI of the National Code requires the name and an accurate description of each horse entered for a purse: "It shall be distinctly stated whether the entry be a stallion, mare or gelding, and the names of the sire and dam shall be given in all cases (and when unknown it shall be so stated in the entry), otherwise the entry may be rejected. And the pedigree shall be published by the associate member with the advertisement of the entries." This is a good rule, but, unfortunately, it is not enforced. The secretaries are too lazy or careless to perform the duty imposed on them. Strike out the words "may be rejected," and insert in their place "shall be rejected," and all ground for carelessness will be removed. The idea of trotting horses without published pedigrees is absurd. It does not tend to the improvement of the trotting turf, but, on the contrary, debases it by leading to confusion and fraud. Let the National Association do as the Breeders' Association proposes to do, and it will strangle the only excuse which the latter has for existence. These may not be politic words, but they are truthful ones. The National Association should take as much pride in the establishment of pedigrees as the Breeders' Association pretends to do, for when the published ancestry of the competing animals is so guarded that it can be relied upon, the people at large will manifest a wider interest in the races and the turf will be clothed with new dignity. This is a view of the question which we soberly, earnestly commend to the attention of those who may be selected to represent the National Association in the congress which will be convened at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in the city of New York on Wednesday, Feb. 13. Stick a pin here, gentlemen.

## A YARN

Our readers can believe just as much of it as they choose. It comes to us from North Carolina, and has all the native pungency of a "piney woods" composition. "It was in Brunswick County, some time ago, that a couple of negro boys went out to hunt hogs, bearing but one gun between them, only one barrel of which was loaded, and taking no ammunition. Suddenly, during their perambulations through the woods, they came upon a large buck, when the man with the gun, not being able to withstand the temptation, fired upon the animal and brought him to the ground. He then rushed forward to give the finishing blow with his knife, when the buck suddenly jumped to his feet and made for his late assailant, who took to his heels and finally found refuge behind a tree. The buck was close at the negro's heels and came up to the tree just as he had got behind it, when the man suddenly turned and caught the deer by the horns. He then called to his companion for help, but he had nothing to dispatch he deer with but the unloaded gun, and was not inclined to use that for fear the buck might get loose before he could deal him a fatal blow and do him some damage. It was finally decided that the man behind the tree should hold on to the buck's horns until his companion could run home and get an axe. The latter left for that purpose but on the way he had to pass a corn-crop, where he found a party engaged in having a good time and joined them, the result being that he was soon so drunk that he forgot all about his late companion and the serious predicament he had left him in. Coming to himself the next morning, he went to the place where the deer and

## KILLING A BEAR

## NARROW ESCAPE OF A PERTH FARMER.

There was exhibited on the Mitchell market, on Saturday a fine specimen of a Canadian bear captured under most exciting and perilous circumstances, by Mr. George Robinson, of lot 6, 18th con., Elms, a day or two previous. On the morning of that so fortunate day he went to the bush, axe in hand equipped, however, with a venerable old musket. Encountering the bear in her lair, his brother Alexander returned for dogs, leaving George to keep on the trail, the animal having meanwhile emerged from the hole, receiving a severe wound in the head, but not sufficient to prevent her from scampering off. He toiled on, armed with the old musket and axe, for nearly an hour without seeing dog or as yet, but as he did not overtake Madam Bear nothing occurred to unstring his nerves. At length, two dogs rushed past him on the trail when he pushed forward to encourage them. About ten minutes afterwards loud baying gave them time to understand that they had overtaken their game. He rushed forward a short distance when, to his dismay, he discovered that the dogs were both engaged and running back towards him, followed by the now maddened bear close in pursuit. The brushwood prevented any fair chance of taking aim with precision, but he again at a venture discharged his gun, which only augmented her fury without seriously disabling her. The infuriated brute rushed at him leaving him no alternative but to use the butt of his gun on her nose, which he did with such effect as to keep her at bay until he regained his axe, which he struck at her head, missing her blow, however, so as to only scar her nose. At this critical moment he, with the rapidity of thought, struck another blow, completely disabling her in her skull when he had the proud satisfaction of seeing her fall at last unable to rise. About five minutes afterwards his brother Alexander and a neighbor, Mr. Stewart arrived with rifles, but too late to participate in the fight, or share in the glory of the conquest.

## TARTAR GAMES.

Of all varieties of games we favor the Tartars, not wholly on account of their superior fighting qualities, as their large size and egg production weighs the balance in their favor. The Tartars are a distinct variety and were produced from the crossing of two or more of the heaviest breeds of game. They breed different colors, the most constant of the cocks being black brada, thighs and tail, while the remainder of the plumage is a beautiful and rich red, some of the feathers bearing a dark stripe down the center. The hens have black backs, grayish breasts and copper-colored hackles. Some, however, are entirely black and others partake of various colors. They are remarkably fine layers and produce a large white egg. The number is truly astonishing and we have had them exceed the Brahmas and Cochins in this branch of their usefulness. As for eating of keeping, it is no less than any variety of similar weight. In summer they procure mostly their own food, as they are so active the grasshoppers and insects fall easy victims to their appetite. When dressed for market they present a very attractive appearance and the flesh is plump and juicy. Tartars are our favorite table fowl and as for being toothsome we will bear witness in their favor. The cocks are easily reared and grow remarkably fast, being ready for the spit in a matter of time, soon after they are hatched, and are of primary value. When but a few weeks old they can take care of themselves and seem to prosper as well as a fowl under the maternal wing. We have had many chicks this season and will make better use of them with the Tartars, being better by a far more other causes than the various other breeds. They stand the cold weather well, and when others are drawn up in a heap the Tartars are seen eating about, singing and fairly keeping up a merry noise with their voices. They are very compact and we have had favorable success in catching on a slip and knot with a single bird, and all intruders. They will attack a dog, and will attempt to maul them, and in every way show what the breeders call dead game. The Perth Farmer.

## THE FISHING CORMORANT.

In China, this remarkable bird is actually trained to catch fish. A man takes out ten or twelve of these winged birds to a boat, and as soon as the boat stops, at once they plunge into the water and begin at once searching for and diving after fish. They are most diligent workers, and businesslike, when one of the fish caught is a large one for one to receive, another cormorant hastens to the boat, and another again is sent to catch a second from the man on the bank, and so on, until they have procured a large quantity of fish. They are very tame and are easily tamed, and are very useful to the fisherman.