

## THE MODERN SILVERSMITH'S ART.

EUROPE has hitherto been looked upon by the people of this continent as the true home of art work in silversmithing, but it is quite evident from the rapid strides which are being made by the workers in this branch of industry on this side of the Atlantic, that this supremacy will soon, if it is not even now, be a thing of the past.

So far as regards articles of utility for table and other household and personal uses, it has long been admitted that American handicraft, aided as it is by the lavish use of the most perfect machinery, has placed this branch of the industry far ahead of any rivalry that it has hitherto had in Europe. Outside of the practical, however, it has generally been conceded hitherto that the European masters of Silversmithing have attained to a much higher ideal of true artistic production than their compeers in this country, tied down as they were by their surroundings and the needs of the patrons for whom they catered.

This state of affairs, we are glad to say, has of late years been gradually on the change, until at the present time the leading silversmiths of America can put forward specimens of their handicraft that will compare favorably, if they do not surpass the very best works that can be produced abroad.

Foremost amongst the manufacturers of America in this art crusade is the now celebrated Gorham Manufacturing Co., of Providence, R. I., whose goods are now almost as well known throughout the North American Continent as the look of a

U. S. treasury note, and whose stamp and guarantee are regarded by the public as being as worthy of confidence as that of the Hall mark of England.

The magnificent silver trophy, the illustration of which we herewith present to the readers of THE TRADER, was recently finished at the Providence factory of the Gorham Mfg. Co. for

the Coney Island Jockey Club, who call it the "Double Event" prize cup, and by whom it was awarded to the Hon. W. L. Scott, of Erie, Pa., as an award for the remarkable achievements of his three year old horse "Torso" at the Coney Island races last fall. We are indebted to our esteemed contemporary, the *Jeweler's Journal*, of Chicago, for the following description of this remarkable production:—"It seems almost ridiculous to name a tankard of such noble proportions and rare beauty a "cup," but since we have so fine an illustration executed under the supervision of the makers, we will not quarrel with the name. This piece stands twenty-two inches in height, mounted on a highly finished ebony pedestal, as shown in the engraving which shows the trophy one-fourth its actual size. As a specimen of repousse work in the Renaissance style, we believe this is one of the finest specimens



THE W. L. SCOTT PRIZE CUP.

ever executed in silver. The high relief in which the figures and ornamentalations are wrought are well-nigh wonderful, so skillfully has the artist brought out and under-cut his work that the casual observer is inclined to believe that they have been molded out separately and applied after the body of the work was complete, although as a matter of fact they have been raised from the body of the tankard and are a part of the same