

After hacking her out of her stall the old fellow straddled her, and with his long legs hanging almost to the ground and his upper works swinging backwards and forward, the combination was in the highest degree ludicrous. Marching around to the front, he walked the nag into the har, and a second time sang her praises. The crowd, as before, jeered at the idea of her being able to run fast enough to keep herself warm and soon were jibing the old fellow at such a rate that, apparently grown reckless by their teasing, he offered to run his mare a quarter of a mile for a hundred dollars against any horse owned by any one of the company. Quick as a flash Charles Gates was on his feet, and though some objected to making a match with a man who was undoubtedly too drunk to know what he was doing, he himself insisted on "putting up the stuff." Charles Gates responded, and matched Yellow Rose against the ashgatherer's mare, the race to come off next afternoon. Before separating for the night, the ashgatherer, still stowing away the corn juice, emptied out his pockets and increased the main stake to one hundred and seventy-five dollars a side.

Next afternoon a big crowd assembled at the track to see the fun, and though all the horsemen around the place laughed at the idea of there being any betting on such a one-sided match, a couple of strangers, both of them apparently on a spree, kept taking the 10 to 4 as if in a drunken frolic. Arrived at the track the old peddler unharnessed the mare amidst a running fire of chaff, and opening up a box under the seat of his wagon, he drew out a racing saddle and a suit of jockey clothes and, appealing to the crowd to know if there "weren't any youngsters around there that could ride a leetle hit," his invitation was accepted by a boy, a stranger to the crowd.

In a few minutes he was rigged in jockey costume and Gates' mare being also ready, they were led to the score. Without much delay the word was given. The first jump took the peddler's mare half a length to the good, and without an effort she beat Yellow Rose two lengths at