JULY 2, 1908

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

## GOSSIP. THE 1908 DERBY WINNER.

Signorinetta, the Thoroughbred filly which won the Derby and two days later was victorious in the Oaks, has brought her owner, the queer, picturesque Italian, Chevalier Ginistrelli, fame, and — what was more needful-fortune.

The stakes of the two classic races in which Signorinetta claimed victory were alone worth over \$60,000, and the prospects of that amount being tripled before this season is ended are bright. Signorinetta has, like some beautiful

fairy tale, repaid the kindness of her master to herself and to her mother, the equally-famed Signorina, by ensuring his old age against penury and want, that were loudly knocking at the doors of his little racing stable at Newmarket.

The winning came just at the opportune moment. The day of the Derby an advertisement appeared in the English papers offering Signorina Villa, the home of Ginistrelli, for sale. Broken-hearted by many disappointments, unable to further stand the expenses of running even his small racing outfit, he was on the point of selling out, returning to his native Italy, and passing his remaining days on the very little that remained to him.

Signorinetta changed all that. Ginistrelli will now remain in England, of which country he is a naturalized citizen. He will keep his little Signorina Villa and his few beloved horses and dogs, and his advancing age will not be darkened by the pressing of creditors.

Ginistrelli was good to Signorinetta. He was good and kind to her mother, the famous Signorina. His love for his horses knows no price, and when, years ago, Signorina was in the apogee of her fame some one offered the chevalier \$100,000 for her, he simply scorned the offer, although at the time he needed money badly.

Now Signorinetta, like some beneficent fairy in equine form, has repaid the care and kindness of her master. Search carefully the pages of turf history and no more romantic story will be found.

Believers in superstition have a few choice morsels to crunch in Signorinetta's In the Derby and the Oaks she case. drew the hoodoo number, thirteen. In the Derby, when Norman III., belonging to August Belmont, had the race well in hand some other horse interfered and cut his fetlock, thereby, in her owner's opinion, costing Norman the race. In the Oak's Rhodora, the pride of Richard Croker, was counted a certain winner: yet half a mile from the start a gipsy's pony jumped the railing, causing French Partridge to fall, bringing down with him Rhodora, the favorite, and leaving victory to fall easily to Signorinetta.

The chevalier thinks Signorinetta won simply because she was the best horse. The chevalier is one of the most picturesque characters on the English turf. Rorn in Italy, he has lived



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younger ones. Imported heads our herd. MAC SONS, Harwich, Ont. MONKLAND YORKSHIRES are the easily fed, quick maturing kind. The sort the farmers want. All ages for sale. 100 sows bred now. JAMES WILSON & SONS, FERGUS, ONTARIO



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life in France and England. His life has been given up to an ideal-to win the Derby with a horse of his own breeding. A distinguishing characteristic of the chevalier is his disregard of appearances. He defied all conventions, by appearing on Derby day wearing a large Panama hat of a shape long passed out of fashion. Most owners of race-horses affect a black morning coat on Derby day, but the chevalier had on a blue-grey tweed suit, and it was in this suit and Panama hat that he led Signorinetta before the King, and was received by His Majesty after the Oaks.

Gov. Vardaman, of Mississippi, tells an amusing instance of the negro's attitude toward matrimony.

A darky clergyman in the State named had married two negroes, and after the ceremony the bridegroom asked, "How much yo' charge fo' dis ?''

"I usually leave that to the bridegroom," was the reply. "Sometimes I am paid \$5, sometimes \$10, sometimes

"Five dollars is a lot o' money, pahson," said the bridegroom. "Ah'll give yo' \$2, an' den ef ah finds ah ain't got cheated, ah'll give yo' mo' in a monf." In the stipulated time the bridegroom returned. " Pahson," said he, "dis here arrangement's a kind o' spec'lashun, an' ah reckon youse got de worst of it. Ah figgers that yo' owes me a dollah an' seventy-five cents."-[Harper's Weekly.

