

dollars, collected a stud, the like of which cannot be found in England, Australia, or America. Indeed, for the quality of the stallions and mares, there has never been at any period in the history of breeding in any country a stud which equalled it. Mortemer, who stands as premier stallion, was the best race horse in Europe, and a tried stallion before leaving France, where he sired, in Chamant, a winner of the Middle Park Plate and Two Thousand Guineas; in St. Christophe, a winner of the Grand Prix de Paris; and in Verneuil, a winner of the Ascot Gold Cup and Alexandra Plate. Mr. Lorillard gave \$25,000 for Mortemer, and in his first season in the stud in this country he got Wanda (the best two-year-old of last season), Chimera, Cholula, Unrest, Bahama, Adonis, and Paul Kernan. Mortemer, in his first season (1884), stands fifth in the list of "Winning Sires," with \$49,500 to his credit. In Iroquois, Mr. Lorillard has the only American-bred winner of the English Derby and St. Leger. In Duke of Magenta he has one of the best of all Lexington's sons, who won eleven out of twelve stakes as a three-year-old, and \$35,925, and his sons, Young Duke and Leo, have placed him well in the front rank as a sire. Saxon is the chief representative of the Beadsman blood in America. He was a capital racer, winning the Belmont, and is the sire of Hiawasse (who was beaten but once at weight for age), Lytton, Gerald, Geraldine, and others.

In broodmares, the Rancocas collection is one such as has never been equalled, and perhaps never will be. The dams of Wallenstein, Thora, Wanda, Day Star, Hindoo, McWhirter, Young Duke, Chimera, Groffe, Lizzie S., Redstone, Olitipa, and the grandam of Foxhall, are in its paddocks. Mr. Lorillard was moved to no other purpose but in having the best in gathering such a lot together, sparing neither pains nor expense. But, finding he cannot train all his yearlings, he has determined to reserve six or eight for his own purpose, on the day of sale, and allow all the others to go to the highest bidder. These yearlings can be seen at the farm, and inspection is invited. The chance to secure great race horses in embryo is one never before offered, and the sale will doubtless be the greatest on record. Owing to the time of the sale, Mr. Lorillard will be unable to have tried any of them, and his selections will be based wholly upon looks and breeding. All experience proves that this is not a certain test of merit, and buyers will be as likely to get the best as if there were no reservation.

We may add that there will also be offered at this sale yearlings the property of W. H. Fearing, Esq., and Pierre Lorillard, jr., Esq.

#### RACING PROSPECTS.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the Ontario Jockey Club to have a really first-class race meeting on the 23rd and 25th of next month, the prospects just now are anything but rosy. It is not the absence of good horses from the country, but the apparent impossibility of get-

ting those that we have into anything like decent condition for racing. Woodbine is not a very forward track, and that fact tells against all our spring meetings, but this season the Jockey Club has the double discouragement of a backward track and a backward season to contend against. Indeed, it may well be questioned if the Queen's Birthday does not come too early in the season for a thoroughly successful race meeting in Canada.

Of course under existing circumstances it is necessary to so arrange our meetings that they will conflict to the smallest possible extent with American race meetings, and in order to do this it is necessary for us to get under way early in the season. Indeed, it looks as though we must have our own race horses and give them fairly constant employment all through the season before we can hope to have successful race meetings. In order to do this our different associations and jockey clubs must co-operate in the formation of a circuit. There is no reason why London, Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec should not each have a good meeting if they would only come to an understanding and arrange the dates so that horsemen could take in the whole circuit without any serious inconvenience or unnecessary expense. If these cities did not furnish sufficient employment for the horses, an arrangement could be made whereby Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester, and Ogdensburg, or as many of them as would wish to do so, might take places in the circuit. Of course such a circuit could hardly hope to command the patronage of the crack two-year-olds and three-year olds well entered in rich stakes, but it would furnish an excellent field for the operations of good purse and cup horses, and the presence of a goodly number of these would without doubt ensure remunerative gate receipts.

In any event such an arrangement would put us in such a position that we could hold our meetings at a suitable season of the year, and if this were done the interest in Canadian racing would be perceptibly improved. No spectator cares to see a field of horses start in which all are miserably unfit to go the distance asked of them, and at the same time no horseman cares to "burn up" his horses for the sake of getting them ready to run by the 24th of May.

#### CATTLE SALES.

At Kansas City on April 10th, Geo. Leigh & Co. sold 12 Herefords for \$3,480, the average being \$290 each. Downing & Greatrix, on the same day, at the same place, sold 12 Hereford females for \$4,295, averaging \$357.92, and 9 bulls for \$2,350, averaging \$261.11. The highest prices paid were \$530 for a female and \$450 for a bull.

At Peabody, Kansas, April 2nd, A. H. Lackey & Son sold 22 Shorthorn females at an average of \$102.75, and 12 Shorthorn bulls at an average of \$102.08. Another lot of 13 Shorthorn bulls averaged \$148.84.

Wm. Easton, in New York, April 6th, sold Wm. M. Chapin's 24 Holsteins at an average of \$134.50.

P. C. Kellogg & Co., on April 7th, in New York, sold 35 head of Holsteins, the property of different owners, at an average of \$231.71 per head.

At the combination sale of Jerseys held in Chicago April 10th, 21 bulls averaged \$53.35 and 86 females averaged \$142.73. The highest price realized was \$430 for the cow Pope's Brunette (18699), calved Dec. 10th, 1881.

On April 8th Wm. P. Higinbotham, at Manhattan, Kansas, sold 27 female Shorthorns at an average of \$146.11 and 10 Shorthorn bulls at an average of \$110.50 per head.

At Breckenridge, Missouri, April 7th, H. D. Ayers & Sons sold 46 Shorthorn females at an average of \$121.09 and 15 Shorthorn bulls at an average of \$105.65 per head.

## Correspondence.

### ENGLISH LETTER.

#### ENGLISH IDEAS ON HORSE-BREEDING.

LIVERPOOL, APRIL 7th.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

Up to your issue of March 13th I see you have not noticed Mr. Gilbey's speech before the members of the Hackney Society. Although the foundation of what he says is to many thoroughly new, still, not only from my own personal experience but from that of many practical men, I hold his advice is in many instances worth following.

For very many years in Great Britain great difficulty has been found in procuring good specimens of what are termed "ride and drive" horses and also hunters up to weight. It has been found almost if not quite impossible to keep up size and bone by using the thoroughbred stallion on light mares, the tendency into many instances being to degenerate and the percentage of useless breeds being largely in excess of the good ones. Mr. Gilbey's remedy is to directly cross Shire or Clydesdale mares with a suitable thoroughbred stallion of quality. To many people at first sight this plan will undoubtedly appear contrary to all accepted theories, and doubtless if carried out simply as I have stated it, without using judgment and discrimination, great disappointment would follow; but to men who have taken an interest in draught horses, and know them well, the stumbling blocks can, I think, be avoided. To say that every Shire or Clydesdale mare possessing the requisite number of crosses to constitute her eligible for registration in a Stud Book would be a suitable animal to mate with a thoroughbred sire would be absurd, but by careful selection a very large proportion of the right kind of animals are to be found. Putting aside altogether all gummy-legged, heavy-headed brutes, we constantly come across well-bred draught mares with bone thoroughly clean, though with plenty of silky hair, with action all round and courage to carry it out. Now by using such animals, I think with Mr. Gilbey that profitable results may be looked for. He gives instances of animals bred in this way carrying heavy men well to the front over a stiff country, but this is to my mind asking a little too much, but at the same time, no doubt, occasional instances of such will crop up. However, harness horses of size and action are