

Racing at Agricultural Exhibitions

Prevention is better than cure. We know there is a growing desire on the part of many in Canada to increase this amusement, but for the agricultural interest of the Province we have taken our stand against it, and we may meet with censure for doing so, as many in this city were attempting to introduce it on a large scale, and much money is subscribed towards its accomplishment. Once introduced, there is no doubt but its influence would be felt and example followed in other parts of the Province. We know not whether we can prevent it or not. At any rate they are modifying their plans of introducing it, still it is backed up by persons of considerable influence. We quote the following from the *Country Gentleman*, on the subject. We are highly in favor of Agricultural Exhibitions, but believe we are the only expositors of the evil effects of racing at them in Canada. Our remarks about the Michigan and New York State Exhibitions, are telling beneficially throughout the States, as the leading agricultural publications are taking the matter up:

We have had some tolerably warm discussions as to the results of admitting Horse Racing, under the mere modest name of "Trials of Speed," at our Agricultural Exhibitions. We have insisted that, aside from the evil influence it must inevitably exert upon the character and standing of our Agricultural Societies, it is something entirely out of their province involving an improper use of their money, and the borrowing of a good name to cover transactions of a different if not of an actually vicious character. But we have forbore to express any judgment as to "the Turf" itself—willing that others should form and entertain their own opinions upon its merits, and only insisting that those who believe in its beneficial results, and desire to promote its popularity here, should establish their own organizations for the purpose, and not insist that trotting, or any sort of competition for purses, should be added to the simpler and more appropriate proceedings of town, county or State Fairs.

So much for the present position of the question. It is well known that England is the universally quoted example of a country in which racing has had the most thorough trial—in which unlimited capital and unsurpassed skill have been devoted to its development—in which, if anywhere, it should have realized the most brilliant and enviable results. It is therefore worth our while to note what these results are, as testimony on the subject may occasionally reach us, and

while we would, by no means, exclude anything on the other side, we give place to the facts presented in the following extract, as too notoriously true to admit of doubt or controversy. That they are colored by prejudice will scarcely be claimed, when we add that the quotation is made from one of the recent London letters in the *Tribune*, by Thomas Hughes, M. P., who is known to be an ardent admirer and advocate of all truly manly and ennobling sports:

So you are actually going in for the whole racing business in the New World, Jockey Club, betting ring, and all the rest of it! At least the *Times* of to-day prints in glowing periods the new race course at Jerome Park, established this autumn, with great eclat, by one of your most eminent millionaires, and the writer anticipates that you will soon not only rival the glories of Epsom and Ascot, but quite cut out the poor old mother country. Heaven help you then! for of all the cankers of our old civilization there is nothing in this country approaching in unblushing meanness, in rascality holding its high head, to this belauded institution of the British turf. It is quite true that a very considerable section of our aristocracy is on the turf, but with what result? Shall a man touch pitch and not be defiled? There is not a man of them whose position and character has not been lowered by the connection, while in the majority it ends in bringing down their standard of morality to that of black-legs, and delivering over their estates into the grasp of Jew attorneys. The last notable instance among our *jeunesse d'or* is that of the Duke of Hamilton, who succeeded to a clear £70,000 a year some three years ago, and who is now a pensioner of his creditors in the ring, while the old palace of the Douglass is at the order and disposition of the celebrated Mr. Padwick. That gentleman at his Derby dinner this year entertained three dukes, two marquises, and six earls, and I believe there was only one untitled man at the board—all of these under the thumb, or anxious to cultivate the esteemed favors of this "giver of all good things." Just consider for one moment what our modern system of betting has brought us to. A reliable tip is that which the most scrupulous young gentleman on the turf desires above all other earthly blessings before a great race; that is to say, some private information which may enable him to overreach his dearest friend, or his own brother, if he can induce him to take the odds. I do trust that the prophecies of the *Times* correspondent may prove as false in this as in more important matters, and that you may still have the good sense to keep the turf in America in the place which it has hitherto occupied, and to regard addiction to its pursuits as an underbred eccentricity.

THE CITY EXHIBITION.

Some persons in this vicinity have taken offence at our articles condemnatory of horse racing at our Agricultural Exhibitions, but time will show the well wishers of agricultural prosperity, that our views are correct, and we should have failed in our duty, had we not treated on it an undeniable manner. Some pretend to say we are opposed to a city exhibition. Had they taken proper heed to our remarks, they would ere now have regularly established monthly or quarterly fairs, as in other towns. We condemn it because the race-course tends to the retrograding of stock rather than improving it. Only one quality is looked after that is speed. Defective limbs, natural blemishes, viciousness and deformity, and unthriftiness, are never noticed. Many are greatly deficient, and yet have speed, and all the defects are handed down to posterity. Let any one look at the form of Flora Temple or any horse that has a great name, and they will see many defects that should be avoided by breeders, that are entirely overlooked, and the country has to suffer the loss.

SURPRISING.—It sometimes surprises us that farmers are not more energetic in the support of an agricultural paper than they are. If we had to depend entirely upon their patronage the *Farmer's Advocate* would long since have been asleep in death, but numbers of worthy men in our cities have shown enough public spirit to lend a helping hand. We are dependent almost entirely upon our agricultural interests for support, and citizens should not say as they often do, we do not want the paper, what do we care for agriculture! An enterprising marble cutter of this city, J. W. Smyth, called in at our office, and said, having seen and read our paper, he thought our enterprise and plans for agricultural development was well worthy of support, and was pleased to pay his dollar in aid of such an undertaking. He said he was not a farmer, and cared little for agricultural reading, but it was the principal he desired to recognize. Such philanthropy is worthy of imitation. Go thou and do likewise.

I WILL.—How many times have we heard both parents and teachers say, such a child must have his will broken—he is too headstrong. Is the will ever broken? It may be made to bend, but never, it is never broken. "If John was not so willful, he would do well enough," say the parent and teacher, when every success that crowns his endeavors is the fruit of the will. Guide this heaven-born gift, aid the child in placing this firm, strong lever beneath good and noble purposes, and much will be accomplished. When the Will joins hands with Reason and Religion, its power will be for good. Strong will is the great characteristic of all those who have achieved power, either for good or evil, in the world's history. The will is the most prompt and decisive faculty of the mind, and impels to immediate action. It is necessary for the teacher to possess this firmness of purpose, that he may cultivate the same in his pupils. If they find a will to meet each duty faithfully, they will be inspired with the same feeling in their duties.—[Selected.]