

VII.

TROTTING MATCH ON THE ICE.

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THE Canadians, like their American neighbours are extremely fond of Trotting Matches, and will give almost any price for a horse—no matter how ugly—if he can only do his mile in 2 minutes and 40 seconds. The Canadian horse, as a general rule, is not a fair square trotter, his movement when going slow resembling a shambling, but when doing his best, becoming more regular, no amount of whipping will then make him break; in fact, he can trot considerably faster than he can gallop.

My sketch represents a Trotting Match (or race, as any number may enter) on the ice, usually got up by farmers and horse dealers after a market day. The shouting, yelling, and whip-cracking that takes place during the race is indeed wonderful, as each driver does his best to make his opponent's horse break, involving, if he succeeds, the penalty of having to turn his sleigh once round before rejoining in the race, in a similar manner as we in England have to back the wheel under the same circumstances. The man who has best accustomed his horse to being yelled at without breaking, generally walks in a winner, as the pace of all is much about the same.