



## The Gentleman's Journal

TORONTO, FRIDAY, SEPT. 1, 1876.

P. COLLINS & CO., PROPRIETORS.  
OFFICE: -No. 90 KING-ST. WEST.

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Managers, Agents, Doorkeepers, &c., of Amusements, and Managers and Secretaries of Racing Associations, Shooting Clubs, Athletic, Base Ball and Cricket Clubs, &c., &c.,

Are respectfully informed, that all Correspondents of the *Sporting Times* are supplied with a card of a PUNPLE color, with the name of the city or town and correspondent, signed by the proprietors of this paper, with a punch stamp of a horse's head upon the left upper corner, and dated July 1st, 1876, each card running for three months. No person is authorized to use any other credential on our behalf. Managers will save themselves from imposition by demanding an exhibition of said card, and refusing to accept any excuse whatever for its non-production. The card is not transferable; and if it be presented by any person other than the one whose name it bears, managers and others will retain it and mail it to this office.

Persons applying for the position of Correspondent are respectfully requested to consider SILENCE A NEGATIVE.

### DATES CLAIMED FOR 1876.

#### AMERICAN.

Rock Island, Ill. .... August 20 to Sept. 2  
Point Breeze (Running).... Aug. 29 to Sept. 1  
Hartford, Conn. .... Aug. 29 to Sept. 1  
Dubuque, Ia. .... Sept. 4 to 9  
Macomb, Ill. .... " 4 to 9  
Davenport, Ia. .... " 4 to 9  
Springfield, Mass. .... " 5 to 9  
West Chester, Pa. .... " 6 to 9  
Elmira, N.Y. .... " 12 to 14  
Mystic Park, Boston ..... " 12 to 15  
Ogdonsburgh ..... Sept. 28 to 29  
Jerome Park (Running).... Sept. 30 to Oct. 14  
Pottstown, Pa. .... Oct. 3 to 6  
Washington, D.C. (Running).... Oct. 24 to 27

#### CANADIAN.

Stratford ..... Sept. 5 & 6  
Canadian Stallion Race ..... Sept. 9  
Woodbine ..... Sept. 14, 15 & 16  
Oshawa ..... Sept. 19 & 20  
Watford ..... Sept. 20 & 21  
Fergus ..... Sept. 28 & 29

### ENTRIES CLOSE.

Stratford ..... Sept. 2  
Woodbine ..... Sept. 11  
Oshawa ..... Sept. 15

Correspondents and others will remember the change of our office, No. 90 King-St. West, Toronto, is our present address.

### STAKE RACING.

It is the hope of every man who is in any way deeply interested in the success and elevation of the turf in Canada that the time will come when sweepstake racing will be the rule and not the exception of our system. It is an evidence of the higher advancement of the institution, as can plainly be seen by reference to its adoption in the older countries, and the more prominent centres in America. Presuming it should become the rule here next season (a contingency hardly probable), it would be but a very short time before our stock of racehorses would be so increased that the thought of a return to the old plan of purse money, with its crushing impost of ten per cent., would not even be entertained. The entry list on the stake

stallions than we possess, but we are sadly deficient in mares. A stake of this kind has something more to recommend it than the simple amount of the purse—there is a higher object to be gained, the general improvement of our racing stock, and through it the whole equine produce of the country. It will possibly be some time before we arrive at this stage of advancement, but until a move is made in this direction the foundation of turf sports can hardly be said to have an existence in the country.

### ENTRIES FOR THE STRATFORD RACES CLOSE TO-MORROW (SATURDAY), SEPTEMBER 2.

#### THE BATTLE OF THE GIANTS.

As the day approaches for the *Sporting Times* Stallion Race the enthusiasm is intense. During the last week it has become a household word. The leading papers, as our extracts in another column show, take a great interest in its success, and pay flattering compliments to its promoters. So far, everything is progressing as favorably as any one could have a right to expect, the reports from the horses being eminently satisfactory. It will be seen that some of the entries put in an appearance at the Waterloo meeting this week, and Douglas by Pelham Tartar, of St. Catharines, was successful in placing the three-minute contest to his credit. Erin Chief in the same class was in the rear. Frank Allison was drawn from the 2:35 race.

This race has a much deeper significance than an ordinary race meeting, or even a match between noted horses. Here in one field will be seen the finest selection of horses ever congregated in Canada, and the issue of the race is one of the greatest moment to every lover of fine horses in the country. And to those who are in no way interested in breeding, but have an inclination to witness the exciting sports of the turf, it may be a long time, indeed, until such an opportunity presents itself again. The relative merits of the horses nominated are assumed to be so equal that a great struggle is possible before the conclusion is arrived at. And to this may be added the absolute guarantee, from the nature of the race, that each horse will be sent for all he is worth. Combinations are impossible, and the fight for victory will be truly on its merits.

It is proposed to call the horses promptly at 2 o'clock, so that the race will be finished in time for visitors from a distance to return on the evening trains.

#### A COUPLE OF ARRIVALS.

During the past week our limited stock of race horses has been increased by the arrival of a couple of three-year old colts purchased at the late Saratoga meeting. The first of these is the property of Dr. Smith, and may be seen at his stables on Temperance street. He is the chestnut colt Osseo, by imported Eclipse, dam Oleata by Lexington; 2nd dam Fanny Fern, by imported Glenoe; 3rd dam Cub mare, by Medoc; 4th dam Ann Merry, by Sumpter; 5th dam Grecian Princess, by Blackburn's Whip; 6th dam by Hampton's Progress; &c. Eclipse, by Orlando, dam Gaze, by Bay Middleton. From this it will be seen the youngster has quite an aristocratic ancestry. He is a good sized colt, and has appeared three times on the turf, twice as a two-year old, and once this season. He has not been fortunate in any of his essays, but will probably be more successful here where the company will not be quite so fast. His appearance is indicative of speed, while his temper is very good. He may be shown up in some of our Fall meetings. The price has not been made public.

Mr. James Lannan, of Nova Scotian fame, also invested in a tidy colt while at Saratoga. His purchase consisted of the brown

attention. On Saturday he was a trifle better, but it is said his spine is seriously injured, which will probably cripple him for life. At Buffalo, two years ago, McLaughlin received a very severe fall, while riding Helen Bennett, in a hurdle race, from which it is thought he never fully recovered. At one time he was one of the leading hurdle riders in America.

#### OSHAWA RACES.

The second regular meeting over this very complete half-mile track will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 19th and 20th. The total amount of the bill is \$1,025 and is divided into six events, four trots and two runs. The latter class is entirely for Dominion-breds, and is composed of a mile heat race the first, and a handicap half-mile heat race the second day. The trotting premiums are for local horses, also 8:00, 2:45, and 2:30 classes, to be eligible on August 28th. The bill is not badly divided, and the purses will probably attract the attention of horsemen, coming as it does immediately after Woodbine. Mr. Conant is entitled to the kind regards of owners of fast stock, as he gives his meetings single-handed without any pecuniary or other assistance from outside parties, a display of enterprise certainly deserving of recognition. Dominion Rules will govern; and the entries close on the 15th of September. On account of the numerous defaulters at the Summer Meeting with entrance money, the proprietor informs he will insist upon that fee being paid before the horses are permitted to start, a position he thinks he is justified in taking from his former experience. The last meeting over this track was quite a success, and it is possible that this one being held at a more favorable season will be more largely attended, both by horsemen and visitors, than the inaugural.

#### COST OF STEEPLECHASES.

It has been a subject of conversation in racing circles, whether steeplechases are not a too expensive amusement for the turf in this country. In a very short time quite a number of fine horses, some of them valuable flat racers, have been placed *hors de combat* from injuries received in cross country or hurdle affairs. The last instance is that of Mr. Carson's mare Cecelia by Canwell, dam Lucy Wade by Lexington, formerly owned by Mr. Archie Fisher of this city. She was entered in the late races at Caledonia Springs and ran without accident the first day. On the second day in the Dominion Steeplechase at the third water jump she fell and broke her back, and had to be destroyed. And thus another race horse is removed from our very limited list. Her death will be quite a loss to Mr. Carson who valued her highly.

### Sporting Gossip.

Mr. Boardley has sold his brown trotting gelding Lookout to Messrs. Grand. The consideration was not made public.

The Montreal horse market was unusually quiet last week. But very little was doing, and that with an inferior quality of stock at very low prices.

The Spirit of the Times of last week says, "Capt. Tom has gone into training under the charge of Mr. Pete Curran, for the approaching stallion race of the *Sporting Times* of Toronto, which takes place in that city on the 9th of September. He is rather fleshy after the season, but is working well, and Pete says that the stallion that beats him will have to show better than a 2:30 gait."

Ulverston, by Lexington, dam Uilla by Margrave, died in Mexico in July last. He was the sire of Dr. Smith's mare Helen Bennett.

Don Carlos, one of the lot of horses imported last year from Kentucky by W. Hen-

On Friday last a lot of horses left Toronto for exhibition at the Centennial. Among the lot were the thoroughbred stallions Terror and Warmanbie. Judge Pryor did not go.

Mr. Pearce, of Owen Sound, on Wednesday of last week, lost his fine stallion Netherby by death. Mr. P. intended starting for Philadelphia with him on Thursday, the horse having been selected by the Canadian Commissioners.

### NEEDED TURF REFORMS AT SARATOGA—A SENSIBLE LETTER TO A SENSIBLE MAN.

WHAT A CANADIAN SAYS.

SARATOGA, Aug. 11, 1876.

MY DEAR DR. WELDON: Before leaving this place, where I was exceedingly glad to renew my acquaintance with one so intimately connected as yourself with the thoroughbred horse, I feel constrained to address you a line on the subject of racing in America. It is true that enormous reforms have already been carried out under the superintendence of the authorities at Saratoga and Jerome since I first saw racing at those places; but when such rapid strides have been made towards an assimilation of your practice with that in force across the Atlantic, I am the more tempted to call attention to a few of the shortcomings, which yet, it seems to me, demand a remedy. The vicious and short-sighted policy of heat-racing is gradually being discontinued, in other words, owners have come to see the futility of catering for the indulgence of an insatiable public at a ruinous expense of horse flesh, and with a barbarous disregard for the sensibilities of a too generous animal. In this crusade against one of the established preferences of your country men, you have borne a share which does honor to your head and heart; and if there are still some grumblers who would fain see back the old regime, time will be your avenger and their discomfiter. Putting up the weights has been another reform, about which I can only wonder that there can be two opinions among experienced turfmen. Nevertheless are there "praisers of bygone days" who have lamented in my hearing this hour that the scale was changed. It would be but burdening the paper for me to dwell on the advantage of having men not monkeys in the saddle; but I will add one argument in favor of the higher scale being adopted in America that I have not seen used, though, perhaps, it is too obvious to quote. In England, a very great proportion of the races, and all the half-mile races, are run on straight courses. "The feather" has merely to sit still and finish on a course generally twice the width of those here. Horses on the round American courses want ten times the riding, and every practical man knows how he can assist or impede a horse on a curve. Perhaps an illustration may not be amiss. On Saturday last, in a very important race, there was an exhibition of bad riding at the finish that was only to be accounted for by the weakness of the jockey, and the fact that it was done with before his horse was. If his horse had been steadied at the distance, and brought with one grand rush upon an animal tiring at every stride, the verdict would have been at a head. I can't say that the issue would have been actually reversed in that jockey's hand; even had he retained the strength to finish on his horse; but Fordham, Archer, Aldrich, or Osborne would have driven the three-year-old in a winner. I have watched a thousand brilliant finishes, and I can say, with what amounts to certainty in my own mind, that the race in question was lost by the boy in the saddle. He allowed the older and stronger horse to give him the slip, and gain several lengths, three furlongs only from home before the young 'un started in pursuit; he erred again by indecision of steering at the top of the homestretch, and finally by ignorance of the task set him and of the way to do it, and so he allowed a horse which clearly had the speed of his opponent to come in with a loose rein, scrambling all over the place, and asking in vain for that support which strength in the saddle would have given him. A pocket Hercules is wanted on a horse at the desperate finish of a severe race. Weight does not always imply strength, but strength without weight is a rare phenomenon.

But I have sadly digressed. The matter which I hope you will some day turn the eye of a reformer is the so-called "cross-country" exhibition to be seen at Saratoga. On the score of their exceedingly dangerous character you should have two-thirds of the

the new Sandown arrangements. The opponents of steeplechasing in England are met with the argument that the object of the sport is to attain to the highest perfection of that breed of animal which plays so prominent a part in the pursuits of nearly every country gentleman. The breed of hunters, it is said, is kept up to the highest possible standard, in the attempt to breed winning steeplechasers. Pathfinder's victory at Liverpool was just a rare exception which gave these special pleaders a leg to stand upon, ex-flat-racers being now nearly always the stuff of which English steeplechasers are made. The truth is that the steeplechasing furnishes an intense excitement to every spectator on a race-course. It tickles the groundlings and the gallery; and if it cannot be separated entirely from legitimate racing, it should be imported within the boundaries of flat-racing associations only to flourish as distinct as possible from their primary object. In the United States hunting is not yet a popular pastime. It must, therefore, be conceded that cross-country races are got up to draw the crowd. Few gentlemen appear in the saddle, and scarcely half-a-dozen gentlemen run cross-country horses. Still, everything should be good of its kind, and cross-country racing should be over a country somewhat similar to that which might lie before a horseman following the hounds. It should not be a hippodrome, where the best circus horse is bound to win. It should be a race contested by weight-carrying horses, of speed, substance, and endurance. The highest weight accepting should always be raised to 168 lbs., and the rest in proportion, while if the use of the watch was prohibited, and time no longer allowed to be of the essence of the contract, another great point would be gained. There is no steeplechasing at Saratoga. The very way in which the horses are trained will prove that. They undergo the same preparation as flat-racers, and seldom see a jump between one race and the next. Imagine a man training for a hurdle-race by sprint-running on a flat field. Where would the jumping muscles be the day he had to rise over the sticks? But where there is no use of jumping muscles there is no need for their special preparation. Tom Ochiltree leaped over three-and-twenty feet at every stride as he passed the stand the first time round in the Cup race, and the water-jump at Saratoga would only require the same effort, plus a two-foot elevation. Is this steeplechasing, or playing at steeplechasing, as Mr. Cole's circus-riders do? The very look of the whited sepulchres which disfigure the field at Saratoga must be abhorrent to a sportsman familiar with bona-fide cross-country riding; the hedges would not turn a boy on a Shetland pony; and the timber is only a series of leg-scraping traps. The course in fact is dangerous, without being sportsmanlike, because, paradoxical as it may appear, up to a reasonable standard the safety of fences increases with their size. On the question of intricacy it seems unnecessary to say a word.

Another blot I would hit with all friendliness and respect is the inefficiency of the telegraph board. What objection can there be to the adoption of such a frame as serves the purpose on every first-class English course? Do not American bettors want to know who steers their fancy? Are they not yet aware of the importance attaching to the question, "Who is up?" The few miserable puppet figures stuck up by the judges' stand at Saratoga are to all intents and purposes invisible to the spectator, and are altogether insufficient to give the information wanted. They should be of a size and in a situation to be seen at a glance from any portion of the stand grounds. Moreover, the winner's number on the card should be run up in figures one foot high at the top of the judges' stand the moment he has passed the winning post. Hundreds of people want to know the first past the post, and there are seconds which are hours of expectancy. Nobody can be misled by the hoisting of the number, because until the "all right" has been announced at the scales no bets or pools will be paid. In nineteen cases out of twenty (to speak modestly) the first past the post is the adjudged winner. Why then should people be kept waiting till a horse has gone a quarter of a mile beyond the chair, walked back and his jockey been weighed and pronounced "all right?" Depend on it, sir, you must popularise racing in every way in the power of the authorities if you would admit the sport to even a share of the favor bestowed on trotting. I have spun out my letter to an inordinate length, or I had meant to tell you the pleasure I experienced in going the rounds of the stables; how in Lexington's Olitipa I had seen the ghost of Irish Birdcatcher, and in Faithless the image of his brother, Faugh-a-Ballagh.