

## MESSENGER BLOOD IN TROTTERS.

course, the blood of Messenger is valuable in trotting pedigree, for the reason that it is a thoroughbred of more than ordinary merit and strong propagating powers, of what avail is one drop of that blood mingled with one hundred that is cold and worthless? I do not wish to be understood as advocating thoroughbreds as trotters, "hits" would probably occur by using in our French Canadians, with their knee action and natural trotting instinct, for the judicious crossing of the horse with the common road stock of the country has, doubtless, produced the majority of our best trotters. I think that diligent investigation will reveal the fact that all of the thoroughbred descendants of Messenger were running horses. Among these were Ariel, American Eclipse, Post Medoc, &c., and yet when a line of this blood occurs in a trotter Messenger gets all the credit, if there is only one cross of his blood to three of some other first-class thoroughbreds. Now I think I can prove clearly the established rules of breeding, that of our best trotters with Messenger in pedigree get their speed from other sources. We will select Lady Thorn for an example. She was got by Mambrino Chief (grandson of Messenger), dam by Gano (of American Eclipse). With the Messenger fanatic this would be pedigree enough; in tracing through all the known dams there are four distinct crosses of Diomed of Messenger is revealed; and if two crosses of the same blood will always overcome one, according to the rules of breeding ought to overpower two. But what was American Eclipse but a thoroughbred running horse, with two crosses of Diomed of Messenger? And in tracing the dam Gano we find that she was by Sir Archy (son of Diomed); and still another cross of the same blood in Lady Thorn's pedigree is found in her 2d dam, she being by a son of Archy. Now we come to her sire, Mambrino Chief, by Mambrino Paymaster, by Mambrino, by Messenger. The dam of Mambrino Chief has been stated to be of Messenger descent (a phrase which ought to be stereotyped for the use of breeders), but believe it is unknown. Mambrino Paymaster's dam was by imp. Paymaster. I have seen it stated in an old stud book that Paymaster got no runners, but he certainly well bred, being by old Paymaster, dam 10tho; 2d dam by Herod; 3d dam by the Duke of Northumberland's Arabian; 4th dam by Starling (sire of Messenger's 3d dam); 5th dam by Bartlett's Childers (son of Flying Childers). In view of this fact it is equally probable that the conformation and instincts of this horse were better adapted to the trotting step, and were transmitted to Mambrino Chief through his sire's dam, as at this peculiar gift all descended from Messenger, the sire of runners, but it is still more probable, as I believe, is the case nine times in ten, that the trotting gait and disposition has been transmitted through some known or unknown road mare that knew nothing and did nothing but trot, made quick by the thoroughbred crosses. If Messenger possessed any peculiar power over other thoroughbreds to propagate the trotting gait, it must be founded upon this theory (for the one hereafter mentioned), as his great grandsire was Sampson, a powerful horse, whose dam was a cross of common blood. The three great equine races from which the blood horse has descended have been classed as follows: From the Arabian speed, length and height from the Turk and stoutness and pride from the Barb. The characteristics of the latter are undoubtedly better adapted to the trotting horse than the former, and in tracing the pedigrees of Messenger, imp. Paymaster and imp. Sour Krout (the sire of Mambrino's dam), several near crosses to the Godolphin Arabian (a Barb) are found. Messenger stood in this country about twenty years, and must have got at least 1,000 colts and fillies, and considering the high value in which his stock was held, it would be quite moderate to suppose that fifty of his colts lived to propagate five hundred colts and fillies each. This would show, in only two generations, an increase of 25,000; carried to the third remove at the same proportion, would produce an increase of 625,000, not including the produce of his daughters. Is it strange, then, as a popular writer on the trotting horse has remarked, that when the pedigree of a fast trotter can be traced far enough

## CROSSING THE ENGLISH CHANNEL.

In the latest issue of Land and Water to hand we find the following concerning Captain Matthew Webb's experiments in the English Channel with a new contrivance for braving the dangers of the deep: "Webb, with sail and paddle, on Monday, Sept. 10, had another Channel swim, but this time in a floating mattress, which he proposes taking out a patent for next season. Roughly speaking, it is a raft-frame bed 6ft. 6in. long by 2ft. 6in. wide. A board round the side ten inches wide forms a kind of keel. The man sits on the canvas mattress, which is nailed across the frame, and an air-tight apron encircles him, leaving his body free at the waist. He can either paddle or sail. Webb left Dover at 1 p.m., Monday, equipped in the unsuitable mattress, and provisioned with a bottle of water. However, after making two miles from land, he began to find the boat rather water-logged, and on investigating the matter it was discovered that the cork had been left out, so he returned to the harbor, emptied the water, and started afresh. The wind was from the eastward, and, hoisting his lug sail, he had a stiffish passage to about a mile off Cape Grisnez, which he made at nine p.m. It was too rough to land, so, taking a drink of the water, he turned, the wind having hopped round to the south, and made sail back; but the strong flood tide took him up towards the Goodwin, off Kingsdown, about five a.m., where he beat about till the ebb tide made, and then against a most broken sea he got back by paddling to Dover, at eight a.m. on Tuesday morning, having crossed the Channel twice in eighteen hours on a mattress, with a bottle of water."

## A GAME FISH.

A Detroit paper says: "The other morning while George W. Osborn, of that city, was fishing from the east end of the long crib off Stony Island with a hand line and float, he had occasion to leave for a few minutes and made his line secure to the crib, as he supposed. Upon his return, however, nothing was to be seen of his fishing tackle, and as no one had been near it during his absence he concluded that it had been hooked by some of the finny tribe. Five minutes later the float was observed upon the surface of the water three or four feet away from the crib, alternately appearing and working toward the middle of the river. There was no boat in the vicinity with the aid of which to recover the tackle, and the boat finally became lost in the distance. This was between eight and nine o'clock in the forenoon. Between three and four o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Osborn walked down to the end of the Canada Southern ferry-dock, and looking over the western side discovered his line and float near the dock. With considerable risk of getting into the river he climbed down to the water, some ten or twelve feet and got hold of one end of the line, but found something lively tugging at the other end of it. The telegraph operator at the ferry station now came to his aid, and with the end of a pike-pole, a ten pound pike was soon landed on terra firma more than six hours after it had taken the hook."

## JARDINE'S HERD OF AYRSHIRES.

## THEIR SUCCESS AT THE YORK STATE FAIR.

Mr. J. W. Jardine & Son, of Saltfleet, sent their fine herd of Ayrshires to the New York State Fair, which took place about the middle of last month, where they succeeded in carrying off a large number of prizes. The following, with reference to the herd, is from the columns of the Albany Country Gentleman of the 27th ult.:

In the Ayrshire, of course, the leading interest, hinges upon a grand display of a Canadian breeder, Mr. J. W. Jardine of Hamilton, whose animals, without exception, may almost be characterized as faultless models of their kind. Some of the tests look rather short to an American, but that is a point not deemed of the highest importance abroad; and there is a uniformity of excellence in all the marked peculiarities of the breed—excellence that seems to become more excellent as the cattle grow older—which is very remarkable. It is therefore with especial regret that we chronicle the loss of perhaps the best cow of the whole herd—"Bonnie Jess," imported in 1873, who took the first prize of the Highland and Agricultural Society, and has never been beaten anywhere. She dropped a calf on the ground, Monday, and died of milk fever soon after, leaving a red and white likeness of herself to console her unfortunate owner. The same cause to which this disaster is attributed—rough usage in transit by rail—came near working out the same result for the first prize cow, "Blooming Heather," who also dropped a capital little c. c. on the ground, and whose recovery from an almost hopeless prostration presents strong testimony to the strength of her constitution, and the judicious manner of her keep. Beside Mr. Jardine, there were eight other exhibitors at Ayrshires—James Miller, of

## A MODEL WOMEN FOR A FARM.

A widow, known as Mrs. Sawin, occupies a tract of 860 acres of prairie land in Kansas. She has dependent upon her for support two little sons, whom she desires to educate so as to fit them for some sphere of usefulness hereafter. As a means of accomplishing her purpose, she commenced last year, unaided, to clear a portion of her land. This Spring she harvested ten acres of wheat of her own ploughing and sowing, and putting down twenty acres more, besides some sorghum and broom corn. When it is understood that she is not a strong-bodied woman, but, on the contrary, rather weak and feeble, the heroic efforts of the woman is worthy of all praise. When she began her ploughing she was so feeble that she placed an easy chair at the end of her furrow, and was obliged at every second row to stop and rest. The Scriptural adage that "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb" has been realized in her case. Her health has gradually improved, the labor proves a beneficial exercise, and now she offers her services to others, with the hope of improving her finances. A sheep raiser in the neighborhood has engaged her to plough ten acres of land to be paid for in sheep. She has now engaged in the task, and will perform the work without injury to the interests of her own little farm. Thus, if her life and health be spared, in a few short years will this model woman achieve a noble independence, and when she has passed away the name she will leave behind will be a precious legacy to her children, that will be cherished a thousand times more than the earthly possessions the mother's industry won for them. How many of such women are there in this world?

## RUSSIAN HORSES.

Russia is richer in horseflesh than any other country in Europe. It is computed that she possesses over 20,000,000 horses which is in the population. She exports also horses in large numbers over her land and frontiers, eastward to Kiva, Persia, and Turkey, and westward to Prussia and Austria, some consignments of Russian ponies and cobs have even reached this country. Yet with all this superabundance of "working power," we learn that Russia, now she is at war, has been put to serious straits for the want of horses for heavy cavalry and artillery purposes; and as regards animals for the transport service, which are usually peasant horses, and have little stamina, a collapse is threatened. The Russian trotter is from fifteen to sixteen hands in height; the head has a rounded shape, of medium size, with large expressive eyes, a long and pretty neck, a straight back, the loin a little sloping, the chest wide; the body in general is long and broad, with strong muscular legs and wide hoof; the main and tail are long and thick, and the color of the breeder depends upon the breed—it is generally black, grey, bay, dark bay, chestnut, and brown. Taking the Russians altogether they cannot be called a sporting people—betting is unknown to them; even among the specialists, the sporting men of Russia, very little is practiced. The greater part of the trotting matches, which are more popular than any other kind of racing, take place in the winter at St. Petersburg over the ice on the river Neva. They are run for subscription prizes or prizes given by the administration of the state studs from £15 to £65, the horses being generally from four to five years old. The Russians are very proud of their trotters; they are very strong and their speed is exceedingly great. No horse in Europe, say the Russian connoisseurs, can compete in speed with a Russian trotter. Some of the horses of the Orloff breed have trotted at the Moscow hippodrome, a distance of three versts (about two miles) in five minutes. In 1869 the grey stallion Pateshny accomplished a distance of twelve versts in twenty-two minutes nine seconds, and in 1870 the grey mare Boeraya did thirty versts in one hour eight minutes and twenty-eight seconds.

## CANINES MEET IN SPIRIT.

An Omaha livery-stable keeper owned a fine lot of coach dogs. These dogs are white, with black spots all over them and are noted for their docile, not to say cowardly, dispositions. The dogs belonging to the livery-stable keeper were beset on other occasions by the other dogs in the streets, and, as they were meek in spirit, were as easily overcome as a lot of sheep. The livery-man stood this as long as he could, when, one day he found a large white bull-dog, and it immediately occurred to him what to do. He bought that dog, took him to his stable, and there kept him until he got thoroughly acquainted with the coach dogs. The bull-dog was then sent to the barber's shop, and black spots were neatly painted or dyed all over him, so that he looked like a veritable coach dog, with a somewhat short nose and elongated lower jaw. The next time the carriage was sent out this model coach dog went along, and the street dogs went for him, thinking they would have their usual sport and victory, but in this they were mis-

## THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN CLUB—ANNUAL MEETING.

The adjourned annual meeting of the Ontario Branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club was held at the Walker House, Toronto, on the 8th inst.

The President of the Branch, Mr. George H. Gillespie, of the Thistle Curling Club, Hamilton, occupied the chair, and over forty of the clubs were represented, either by their representatives or by proxy.

The Georgetown Curling Club was duly proposed for and admitted into affiliation with the Branch, making, with the six admitted at the annual meeting, seven new clubs this year. It was resolved that three district medals, in addition to those granted by the present club, be ordered from Scotland.

A committee, formed for the purpose of balloting the different clubs for the district medal matches and appointed umpires for the same, handed in the following report, which was duly approved by the meeting:

- 1 Ancaster v Dundas—Umpire, Dr H Orton, Ancaster Thistle.
- 2 Ancaster Thistle v Welland—Umpire, Mr Chisholm, Hamilton Mechanics.
- 3 London Union v Thamesville—Umpire, Dr Bray, Chatham.
- 4 West Flamboro' v Hamilton Mechanics—Umpire, Mr Gillespie, Hamilton Thistle.
- 5 Kincardine v Walkerton—Umpire, Dr Tennant, Lucknow.
- 6 Sarnia v St Marys—Umpire, G N Matheson, Pt Edward.
- 7 Fergus v Lucknow—Umpire, D Foote, Elora.
- 8 Keene v Peterboro—Umpire, Mr Ward, Port Hope.
- 9 Bowmanville v Toronto—Umpire, J Pringle, Toronto Caledonia.
- 10 Bright v Simcoe—Umpire, W Totten, Woodstock.
- 11 Woodstock v Ayr—Umpire, Mr Webster, Galt.
- 12 Georgetown v Markham Glenburnie—Umpire, Rev Dr Barclay, Toronto.
- 13 Vaughan v Scarborough Maple Leaf—Umpire, Mr Crawford, Scarborough Heather.
- 14 Scarborough Heather v Toronto Caledonian—Umpire, J S Russel, Toronto.
- 15 Orillia v Meaford—Umpire, D Walker, Toronto.
- 16 Point Edward v Guelph—Umpire, Dr Ford, St Marys.
- 17 Port Hope v Lindsay—Umpire, J Pratt, Cobourg.

After some discussion in reference to asking the Canadian branch to make some alteration in the rules for the playing for the tankard given by them for the stone playing clubs, it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Rev. Dr. Barclay and Mr. Walker, so that they could communicate with the Secretary of the Branch in Montreal, and get their views on the matter.

It was resolved that in view of the contemplated visit of some Scottish curlers to this country, that the office bearers of the Branch club be a committee to make arrangements for their reception, and for arranging meetings for playing with the several clubs connected with this Branch.

It was also resolved that this Branch recommend the getting up of matches on a large scale between counties or other large sections of the country, in place of the Provincial bonspiel, which, by resolution for the present.

After the transaction of some other unimportant business, the meeting adjourned.

## HIT AT LAST.

The Frank Frayne Troupe is well known. The shooting of both Frayne and his wife is remarkable—so remarkable, in fact, that many persons have supposed there was some trick about it. Mrs. Frayne has fully demonstrated that it is a real thing. Her stage name is Clara Butler. Last week, at the Globe Theatre, Boston, while shooting at an apple which her husband held, she took off the first two fingers of his left hand. Frayne took it so quietly that no one in the audience was enabled to perceive the accident that had taken place. The same afternoon the wounded man, after losing a great deal of blood, had the fingers amputated at the middle joint. Mrs. Frayne says she had a presentiment all day that something bad was going to happen. She faints when she found what she had done. Next time Mrs. Frayne will probably shoot her husband in the head. Charming style of amusement, this.

## AN ENGLISH OPINION ON CANADIAN HORSEFLESH.

The Leeds Mercury of September 19th, speaking of the Howden great horse fair, says:—"The American horses have excited much attention to-day. There are most of them Canadian bred, five or six years old, ready to work, very docile and quiet, and likely to go through their task with great endurance. They have sold well."

## DOG BITES.

The London World, thinking there is some danger of the New York "mad-dog scare" spreading to England and exciting Mr. Granterly Berkely to frenzy, tells its readers what to do when they are bitten by a dog. A married man should, if his wife be handy, mention the name of Eleanor, the queen of Edward Longshanks, in a painted manner; and if this fail to take the hint, should suck the wound himself, expectorating freely, and washing the mouth frequently with any disinfectant at hand. This is a far better plan than waiting for a poker to be heated, while the virus—if any—is being absorbed. Then apply lunar caustic, especially if the wound be large and ragged, or some liquid escharotic, such as nitric acid. Mr. Mansfield Parkyns, whose experience of snake-bites was considerable during his residence in Abyssinia, always preferred aquafortis, if handy, to a heated ramrod, because it "eats farther in." Having sucked and cauterized his wound, the patient should reflect that it is quite 4,000 to 1 against the dog's being truly rabid, and then dismiss the matter from his mind.

## DOMESTICATED CARIBOU.

EDITOR FOREST AND STREAM: I have long been anxious to add to the collection in my miniature park a specimen of the woodland caribou, but have not succeeded till this summer, when I heard through a Canadian acquaintance of a two-year old cow having been caught in the snow last March by a native over on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and that in May or first of June she dropped a male fawn, which, strange to say, lived. As the result of my exertions the mother and fawn are now in my enclosure, having come through from Murray Bay by boat and cars without a scratch, and finer specimens were seen even in their native wilds. The cow's horns are now in the velvet. The fawn is as large as one of my year old deer, and so fat that he can hardly travel. The mother produces a very large flow of milk, and although caught wild last March, she is tamer than any sheep. To-day my man put a halter on her and led her all about the enclosure. Next year I am in hopes to report my success in breeding them in captivity.

W. M. CLARK.

Danville Junction, Sept. 20, 1877.

## SEAL AND SALMON FIGHT.

An interesting sight, says the Dundee Evening Telegraph, was witnessed off West Ferry the other day in a desperate fight between a seal and a huge salmon. The combatants were not above a hundred yards from the shore, and the encounter was therefore plainly seen. For more than an hour the fight lasted, the seal all the while dashing about in the water after its agile prey. During the progress of the fight the salmon was tossed many times into the air, after the fashion of a cat with a mouse. It was then seen to be a very large fish. After the fish was fairly exhausted, for the seal was the victor, the seal rose frequently to the surface of the water with its prey in its mouth, the salmon, however, not being yet dead, as the movement of its body clearly indicated. Whether or no the seal swallows its prey whole is not known to the writer; but to spectators of this morning's fight the protracted nature of the battle seemed to have origin in some desire on the part of the seal not to injure its prey or break it with his teeth. There are large numbers of seals in the river at the present time. Between seventy and eighty of these animals, many of them very large and of different colors, were seen sunning themselves at low tide on Aberlay Sands one day last week.

## JOE COBURN'S CASE.

About one o'clock on the morning of the 16th of February last, Joseph Coburn, the keeper of a drinking place in New York city, while intoxicated, got into an altercation with Police Officers Tobias and Jeffrey. Coburn finally procured a pistol and fired five shots at the policemen, wounding both of them, but in neither case fatally. He was indicted in the Court of General Sessions and convicted of assault with intent to kill and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the State Prison. The judgment and sentence were affirmed at General Term, and the case was brought before the Court of Appeals upon a writ of error and argued by Mr. Howe for the prisoner and by District Attorney Phelps for the people. The principal ground is urged for the prisoner upon appeal were that there was no evidence of intent to kill within the meaning of the statute, and that certain evidence of experts and others offered upon his behalf was improperly excluded. The judgment of Coburn has now been affirmed by the Court of Appeals.