



The Gentleman's Journal

TORONTO, FRIDAY, DEC. 16, 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 Light Green 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 right upper corner, and dated October 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 *Sporting Times* a negative.

DATES CLAIMED FOR 1877.

AMERICAN.

Freeport, Ill.	May 29 to June 1
Cleveland, O.	July 24 to 27
Springfield, Mass.	July 24 to 27
Buffalo, N. Y.	July 31 to Aug. 3
Freeport, Ill.	July 31 to Aug. 3
Rochester, N. Y.	2d week in Aug.
Prophetstown, Ill.	2d "
Tiskilwa, Ill.	2d "
Utica, N. Y.	3d "
Karville, Ill.	4th "

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

TO OUR FRIENDS.

We have on our books a large amount of money due us in accounts and subscriptions. We have been particularly indulgent to our friends and patrons, but this is the dull season of the year, and as our expenses are greater in winter than spring, summer and fall, we are compelled to call upon those indebted to us for prompt payment. Everything used about a printing office is cash, and to meet the weekly draft upon our exchequer, we must collect outstanding debts. Therefore we most earnestly request our friends and patrons, who are indebted to us, either by account or subscription to remit, and place us under renewed obligations.

SPECULATIVE INVESTMENTS.

It must be admitted that there is an inherent element of speculation in human nature, which develops itself in a manner to a great extent governed by the characteristics of the individual. A man who gambles in grain would not do so when another who invests a few dollars in a horse race as an inferior, so would he put up a stock scheme turn his back on the industrial chevalier who has money on the turn of a card or the chance of an ivory ball, as being a vagabond. In this we see but the outcropping of similar dispositions which have been directed into different channels, drawing their supply from the same sources. Assuming this to be correct, we proceed to see how investments are made under circumstances of

larity can be credited, and not to any fault in the system itself.

Within comparatively a few years a lusty young giant has arisen as an opponent to the American pool system. This is the introduction of the French Mutual system, which has made gigantic strides into the good graces of our betting men. Free, open, and everything above board, with no chance of concealment or controlment, giving equal chances at all stages to the man of means or the moderate investor, it would indeed be strange if its popularity had not advanced at a very rapid rate. Easy of comprehension, and unobjectionable in its method of working, non-exacting in the hottest state of the feelings, and based on mathematical and mechanical principles, making it as true as the magnetic needle, it is bound in time to all but usurp all other methods of investment. In the leading racing centres of the country the business transacted by the French Mutuals is immense, and increasing, and it is sure, wherever known, to draw forth the economies of all who have dealings which require to be transacted through this or some other medium something similar.

FRAUDS ON ENGLISH RACECOURSES

There is great excitement in old country turf circles over the prosecution by the English Jockey Club of two individuals who entered a three-year-old mare, named Spynx, at the Sutton Park races, and subsequently as a filly named Gance, for the Trial Stakes, at Wolverhampton, which she won. In the interval between the meetings the prisoners disguised the mare. They painted a white star on her forehead with caustic, put a white mark on the nostril and gray hair on the fetlock. They also docked her tail four inches. The prisoners have been committed for trial. This sharp trick reminds one of the old London frauds practised even yet in St. Martin's lane and Whitechapel of selling painted sparrows for goldfinches.

A PROBABLE STEP.

A short time ago attention was drawn to the advisability of our turf magnates instituting a series of stake races, which was advocated would prove of great benefit in forwarding the better interests of the institution of racing. The article appears to have acted as a leaven in the matter, and besides exciting discussion in horse circles on its merits, has brought forth more desirable fruit. A correspondent informs us in a friendly communication that at least one association is taking the preliminary steps for giving a three-year-old Province-bred Derby next season. Some of the minor details connected with giving a race of this character remain uncompleted, but the principle has been recognized, and in all probability will be given a practical test during the approaching season. It will not be placing one of the oldest and most reliable turf associations in a false position when it is mentioned that the Waterloo Club is the one we have been informed to first act on our suggestion. As before remarked, the movement is incipient; but there can be no doubt in the hands of such an active and successful organization it will be one of the features of the Spring campaign. It might be as well to make the forfeit and entrance monies small as an encouragement to our breeders and owners of young stock to try their juveniles, while the added money, it may be safely said, will be in keeping with the general character of our friends at Waterloo. As soon as decided upon, and the earlier the better, due publicity should be given to the conditions of the race, which might act as a spur to hurry up the managers of some of our other tracks, which in the end might make the winnings of the crack three-year-old of 1877 something to be sought for.

MAJORITIES.

The word "majority" is a subject worthy of consideration by those who are in the habit of investing on their knowledge in

cast for some one candidate. A careful study of this will be a preventive of disputes; and, as the information is open to all, there should be no difficulty in arriving at an understanding when wagers of this description are pending and in question.

CANADIAN HORSES IN ENGLAND.

Mr. Joseph Grand, of this city, writing from Liverpool to Dr. Coleman, Ottawa, says: "Quite a trade has recently sprung up between Canada and England in horses, and the prices realized are most encouraging. The Liverpool Mercury writing on the subject says:—"The high prices obtained for horses in this country has attracted the attention of Canadian breeders to the importation of stock from that country to England. A considerable trade has consequently sprung up between Liverpool and the Canadian ports, and, as the demand for horses is increasing, it is likely to be further developed. A sale of Canadian horses, imported by Messrs. Grand & Son, of Toronto (the Dominion Tattersall's), was held yesterday by Messrs. Jeffryes & Son, at Aigburth, when very fair prices were realized (average 60 guineas), taking into consideration the season of the year. The importers were well satisfied with the result of the sale."

ANOTHER IMPORTATION.

On Thursday last Mr. Henry Fry, of Aurora, a gentleman well known to those who are interested in the horse trade, called at our office and reported the arrival of the thoroughbred stallion Longstreet, which he had purchased from Mr. P. P. Parker, of Bowling Green, Mo.

Longstreet is a beautiful chestnut, 15:8, bred by R. A. Alexander, Esq., of Kentucky, foaled in 1864, by Lexington, dam Alice Jones, by imported Glencoe, 2nd dam Blue Bonnett, by imported Hedgeford; 3rd dam Grey Fannie, by Bertrand; 4th dam, by imported Buzzard; 5th dam, Arminda, by imported Medley, 6th dam, by imported Bolton; 7th dam, Sally Wright, by Yorick, &c., &c. He is a full brother of the well-known race-horses Jonesboro and Caraboo. Alice Jones, his dam, was a half sister to Thunder, by Lexington, imported into Canada, by the late Mr. Shedden. It will be seen Longstreet is rich in two of the most prominent strains of blood in America, Boston and imp. Glencoe. He is described as a horse of great bone and substance, with as fine a set of legs as ever graced a thoroughbred. His limbs are as clean as a new pin, and he is reported sound as a dollar. His new owner, Mr. Fry, is known to be one of our most experienced horsemen, and in his purchase of Longstreet, it can be readily imagined he has not thrown away his sweetness on the desert air. It is the intention to use him for stock purposes in the vicinity of Aurora. Since his arrival Mr. Fry has been sorely tempted to part with him, but has so far resisted the blandishments, and it will be to the advantage of the stock raisers of the northerly portion of the county of York if they can retain him in their section.

A BIG PAPER.

One of the most marked journalistic enterprises of the year will be the issue of the Christmas number of *The Spirit of the Times*, New York. From the prospectus we learn it will contain at least 40 pages and 100 illustrations. Among the specialties in the approaching issue will be a Christmas story, by Wilkie Collins; an article by the Rev. W. H. Murray, author of the perfect horse; a history of pantomime, by Mr. Blanchard; Canvass-Backs, by an old sportsman; The American Riflemen of the year, with portraits; The American Boatmen of the year, with portraits; The English, French, and New York Stag, with over 60 portraits; Portraits of leading contributors; likenesses of celebrated horses; &c., &c., in addition to the regular departments of the paper. In a letter Mr. Buck, the editor, says, "I hope to turn out a paper on the 22nd that will do honor to American

when dealing with the question of the introduction of billiards into the institution, were liberally applauded.

Vice-Chancellor Blake occupied the chair, and expressed his approval of the scheme, and stated that he had recently changed his opinions as to the game of billiards. He thought it was right and proper that the Mechanics' Institute should inaugurate a room in which that game could be played free from all contaminating influences. Billiards was a good and noble game, and he did not see why such a good game should be given to the devil.

Prof. Buckland said he felt great pleasure in being present on such an auspicious occasion, because the object in view met with his entire approbation. He did not see why things which were good in themselves should be excluded from our recreations because some persons had seen fit to mix them with evil. This remark he applied to billiards.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, (St. Andrew's Church,) said he had very willingly spoiled another engagement in order to be present to-night. He thought the Mechanics' Institute had taken a step in the right direction, and he had a good right to think so, because it was a step which he had advocated from that platform to the Young Men's Christian Association some months ago. He was, however, glad that the Mechanics' Institute, rather than the Young Men's Christian Association, had made the experiment. He called it an experiment, because he did not think anyone could predict that it would be a success. He hoped it would, however, because in that event he hoped not only Mechanics' Institutes, but Young Men's Christian Associations and other institutions would follow the example of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute in providing suitable healthful recreation for those who might be connected with them. He liked the scheme, it was providing suitable and lawful recreation. He saw around him billiard tables, bagatelle tables, and chess tables. People objected to billiards—why? Because it was hard to play billiards except when surrounded by evil associations. He supposed that a good billiard player—he (Mr. Macdonnell) had not any scruple at all in his own conscience about playing billiards—was perfectly satisfied as to that. People did not object to it because it was a game of chance, but because it had generally been associated with what was evil. Granted; and they must grant that billiards had been and were practically surrounded by evil associations. Who ever went to work to learn to play billiards must learn to play them in spite of temptations to drink and gamble, and in spite of temptations to go down the broad road to destruction. Now, then, what was the best way to counteract that? Here in Toronto were many young men who liked to play billiards, but who had not the opportunity of playing on billiard tables in their own homes; and there were others who might only have the opportunity of playing in a private house when invited out to a friend's occasionally. How were such young men to gratify their love for that amusement? He must go to a billiard saloon, where they knew better than he (Mr. Macdonnell) did what the young man's surroundings would be. He thought the Mechanics' Institute was taking the true way to get over the evil. They had drawn a line between the game itself and its evil associations, and had thus furnished an example which the Churches might well follow.

Rev. Dr. Robb (Cook's Presbyterian Church) said he believed there was room for enlargement on one side of the human mind on the matter of amusements. As to the amusements inaugurated by the Mechanics' Institute, he thought they were not to be discarded. He did not see that there were any evils surrounding chess, drafts, or bagatelle; and although there were more holes in a bagatelle table than in a billiard table, he saw no reason why the latter should be considered more "unholy" than the former. The scheme was but an experiment, and the result he hoped would gratify the highest expectations of the promoters.

R-v-J. Smith (Bay Street Presbyterian Church), said he had not heard so much for thirty years on the matter of amusements with which he could agree as he had heard that night. He agreed with the Chairman that there was no amusement in which the people could engage in which the pastor should not be expected to engage, and he claimed it as a right that if his people attended the theatre or a ball he had a right to attend the theatre or to lead off at a ball. He looked upon the movement as an experiment and expressed a hope that it would succeed.

Dr. Coleman, of Ottawa, intends to devote his colt Clandeboye, by Enquirer out of Lessor, to stock purposes next season. This colt, by his breeding and size, is just what is

PRESIDENTIAL BETTING.

The muddle in the election for the President of our neighboring Republic has been a Gordian knot for the pool-sellers and betting men of the United States. What to do under the peculiar circumstances connected with this affair, and maintain a conscientious consistency between the investors on one hand and the holders on the other, has indeed been a riddle difficult of solution. When it was seen that unlooked for delay was absolute in obtaining a decision, some of the larger firms paid back money when the investors were mutually willing. But last week Mr. John Morrissey "belled the cat" by peremptorily declaring all bets off on the general result, and paying the money back in all cases where he was stakeholder. This will probably govern the action of all the rooms in New York, and will, consequently, be followed as the rule throughout the States. Mr. Morrissey made the following statement to a Herald reporter, who spoke to him on the subject:

"I think that the spirit of all bets made on the result of the Presidential election was on the result of the electoral vote in the several States on the 7th of November last. Since then a number of the States have been in dispute, charges of fraud have been made in three of the Southern States, and the question of the right of the Governor to fill a vacancy has arisen in Oregon, which must be decided hereafter. Both parties to-day claim to have elected their candidate, and no matter which side wins, in the face of so many complications, the other would not be satisfied with the result. I should have taken this course before now had it not been known that I have wagered considerable money on Mr. Tilden myself, and for fear that people might put a wrong construction on the act. As the matter now stands I think no one can charge me with benefitting myself."

DEMAND FOR THOROUGHBREDS.

During the past week or ten days, we can safely say, as many as a dozen gentlemen have called upon us for information respecting the purchase of thoroughbred stallions. This little incident of itself denotes a very healthy feeling towards the interest taken in thoroughbred stock in this country. The various sections of Ontario have been well represented in this delegation of embryo purchasers, and shows the increased value attached to blooded stock is universal in its bounds. Already in Ontario there are large numbers of horses of this class, but the increasing market demand for well-bred horses of weight-carrying capacity has stimulated the production of what may be described as elegant saddle horses. The export trade next season will prove a heavy draft on this class of stock, and as a consequence when the supply becomes decreased, the value will probably advance. To maintain this source of supply, the introduction of strong sires of approved strains of breeding is demanded, and our far-seeing horsemen readily conclude the only means of reaching this objective point is by the infusion of new blood.

BURNING OF THE BROOKLYN THEATRE.

The Brooklyn, N. Y. Theatre was destroyed by fire on the night of the 5th inst., while the performance was going on. The house was about two-thirds filled, and the audience became panic-stricken when the alarm was given. Miss Kate Claxton who recently filled an engagement here, was playing the part of the Blind Girl in the *Two Orphans* at the time. The fire originated in the flies, and in a short time reduced the house to a perfect ruin. The most melancholy part of the disaster was the great loss of life, the number of those missing being estimated at about 350. Already about 300 bodies have been recovered from the ruins, many of whom were burned to such an extent as to be perfectly unrecognizable. From the inflammable nature of the material, the conflagration was particularly rapid; and the exits being blocked up by the demoralized mass of humanity eager to escape from the fiery furnace in which it was confined, it became an accursed scene to the flames. It is