

Sporting.

A HARVEST SONG.

Brimm the scythe a trodden path,
Blind, blind the sheaves!
 While and while grows the swath,
 Either side the bright corn leaves
 Billows of gold!

"Tress a glory of bonnet and red,
Blind, blind the sheaves!
 Misty equinox overhead,
 Thro' the chequer of thinning leaves
 The air is cold!

Breath of the coming frost is there,
Blind, blind the sheaves!
 Vines that cling to the house grow bare,
 Swallows leave their nests in the eaves
 Empty and old.

Apple-groves crimson and white,
Blind, blind the sheaves!
 With snowed grain, sunset bright,
 Glistening gold that want relieves!
 The wide bins hold.

Fill the Ragen up to the brim,
Blind, blind the sheaves!
 'Till the foam runs over the rim,
 (It mellowed long where the spider weaves
 In dusk and mold.

Fill and drink the cider clear,
Blind, blind the sheaves!
 'Till harvest to the meeting year,
 Close the book with blotted leaves,
 Their tale told.

—Gauting for September.

NOTES.

LOUIS ROSEBERG's colt Ladas is at 5 to 4 on for the St. Leger, which will be run on Wednesday next, Sept. 12, at Doncaster. In English public opinion Matchless, who ran second to the Premier's colt for the Derby, is the only competitor that Ladas has to fear. Our own opinion is that the Duke of Portland's filly, Amiable, who won both the One Thousand and the Oaks easily and has been specially prepared for this event, will give both of them a great race and possibly win, suffering from spring-half and all as she is.

A FITTING culmination to a series of brilliant miles which the great son of Hartford, Robert J., has paced this year, was his performance at Fort Wayne, Ind., on Aug. 31, when he went round the track in 2:03, eclipsing the best previous record of 2:04, which stood to the credit of the flighty-minded Flying Jib. Geers took Robert J. to the quarter in 30¹/₂ secs., to the half in 1:01¹/₂, to the three quarters in 1:53¹/₂.

OUR maritime province friends are with reason very proud of the performance of the black stallion Pilot, Jr., at the recent colt stakes meeting at Amherst, N.S. He went the sixth heat of the free-for-all in 2:21, the first half in 1:10, and could have done better had there been anything to push him. This is the fastest mile ever trotted in a race in the maritime provinces and over half a mile track that was at its best, must be regarded as extra good. The previous record was 2:24, made by Israel, who won second money on this occasion, at Yarmouth, N.S. Pilot, Jr., cut his own record from 2:25. He is by Black Pilot, 2:30, by All Right, dam by Gilbert, son of Constellation, by Almont, and was bought by his present owner earlier in the present year for \$325. He is now priced at \$5,000 and wouldn't be dear at that. A

feature of the meeting was a running race, in which Donna Perfecta, who finished second to Colleen, was ridden by W. H. Church, a jockey 72 years of age, who has spent 54 years around race-horses. After the race Mr. W. A. Brennan presented the veteran with a purse containing \$466 which had been subscribed at the instance of Mr. J. A. Leaman, of Halifax, N.S. Mr. Brennan, in his position as starter and judge, introduced the system of having the horses distinguished by letters instead of numbers. Each driver had a letter on his arm which corresponded with a letter on the score card; the blackboard shows the letter of each contestant, and under each letter the number of each horse's position in which he is to start in each heat appears. In the stand, the breaks made by the various horses are marked after each letter by the clerk of the course, as called by the judges, different marks being used to distinguish a run, a break, and a long run. The system is the same as used by Starter Burress, in New England, which Mr. Brennan took the trouble to introduce, with all the paraphernalia, including blackboards, letters, etc.

In selecting a stallion colt first to his line of descent, then to his health and strength, substance and conformation. Don't take a tall, narrow-chested horse, but rather one inclined to be thick-set. All coarseness should be avoided, especially in the head, neck, shoulders, ankles and locks; the eyes should be large, clear and bright, with no coarse hair about it, the absence of which is indicative of high breeding in all animals; the jaw bones not too massive or heavy, tapering gradually to the nose, free from beediness; good space between the jaw bones for the windpipe; neck of moderate length, deep and not too thick at the crest or curve; nostrils large, full and roomy. The chest should be moderately wide, the shoulder blade oblique and inclined backward, with sufficient muscle to cover it, with arms long and muscular; cannon bones short and flat and the pasterns moderately long, but not upright; knee broad and flat and rather inclined to arch and bend over than backward or calf-kneed, which causes an extra tension on the back tendons; chest deep, extending down between the elbows, which should be straight, inclining neither in nor out, and toes pointed straight forward; body and barrel round and not too long; muscular, arched loins, with good length from hip to haunch bone, a slight drooping toward the root of the tail; good length from hip to point of stifle and thence to the hock, which should be broad, finely cut and free from beediness; the cannon bones flat, tendons detached and well defined; feet strong and hard but not too small; back ribs long, round and slightly detached from the hip joint. There should be sufficient general length, not to be determined by the length of the back, but the ground the horse covers when standing in a natural position.

As to blood mares the same general conditions apply, with the very important

addition of good temper. The foal is so likely to follow the dam in disposition that the question of temper does not apply with equal force to the sire. Particularly in a brood mare should be preferred those with deep chests, large bodies, short legs, with large pelvis, wide hips and good length, and free from hereditary defects or disease. The same general principles apply to all thoroughbreds, and in a great measure to all horses, when excellence an individual is considered.

THE 2:04 pacing record, made by Macoste in 1892, and Flying Jib in 1893, has gone by the board, but the trotting record at the same figure still remains. Whether it will last the season out we shall know in the next few weeks. Alis, Fantasy and Directum are hard after it, and in view of that a comparison of the fastest miles by quarters made by the three and by Nancy Hanks is very interesting. Nancy Hanks made her record at Terre Haute against it in 1892; Alis, hers at Terre Haute in a race, subsequently repeating at Washington Park, Chicago; Directum, his in a race at Nashville in 1893, and Fantasy, hers against time at the recent Rochester Grand Circuit Meeting. The comparisons follow:

	1st Qr.	2d Qr.	3d Qr.	4th Qr.	Mile
Nancy Hanks	31	31	29	31	2:04
Directum	32	31	29	31	2:04
Fantasy	34	31	31	30	2:07
Alis	30	31	32	30	2:05

The above was Alis' third mile. Her first mile was in 31¹/₂, 32¹/₂, 30¹/₂, 32¹/₂, 2:06, and the second was in 32, 32¹/₂, 30¹/₂, 31¹/₂, 2:00¹/₂, and in the first mile she was taken back on the last quarter. It is reported that Mr. McDowell said that if he had thought Mr. Salisbury would be satisfied he would have let Alis out in the last quarter of the first mile to equal the record if possible. He could not have said that, as he had taken 1:04 to the half, but many who saw the mare could easily believe that he could have driven the third quarter in .30, as he did in the second mile, and possibly the fourth quarter in .30¹/₂, as he did in the third mile, to finish in 2:05, which would be a breather even for little Alis. But she will trot a half in 1:01 some time, or even in 1:00, for she has done it in 1:01. Four-year-old Fantasy's quarters show much promise of future record smashing—with that slow first quarter to be subtracted from.

THE great Western horse Clifford will hereafter race in the colors of Bookmaker Rob Rose. Clifford was the star in the big thoroughbred sale held in the paddock of the Coney Island Jockey Club at Sheepshead Bay on Saturday last, when he was knocked down to Mr. Rose for \$25,000. The sale was held to wind up the partnership which heretofore existed between Eugene Leigh and Rose, and every horse put up at auction brought his full market value. Bidders were plentiful and the prices were surprisingly good. John E. Madden, Ed. Corrigan, Oliver Smith and T. W. Coulter were all eager to secure Clifford, but all were outbid by Mr. Rose, who was determined to not let a matter of few thousand dollars stand between him and the horse. Ducat, who

holds the record of a mile over the Sheepshead course, and next to Clifford the best horse in the stable, was knocked down to Ed. Corrigan for \$10,000, and at this figure should prove a good investment. The yearling colt by Sir Dixon—Mercedes, and a full brother of The Butterflies, winner of this year's Futurity, did not excite any great rivalry among the bidders. He was knocked down to Bookmaker H. Thompson at \$5,000. Richard Croker gave the highest price of the sale for a yearling, paying \$6,000 for a chestnut colt by Strathmore out of Spinnaway, dam of Lazzarone and Handspan, full brother of the Best Broomed of Brooklyn, who races under the name of the Esplanade, paid \$8,500 for Lazzarone, and Chris. Smith, known as Pittsburg Pil, the Plunger, secured Chant, Handspan and Urania, for \$5,100, \$7,200 and \$8,100 respectively. The horses sold upwards of a thousand dollars were as follows:

Clifford, b.c., 4, by Bramble—Ducat, R. L. Rose, \$25,000.
 Ducat, b.c., 4, by imp. Deceiver—Janine Flood; E. Corrigan, \$10,000.
 Chant, b.c., 3, by Falsotto—Addie C. C. H. Smith, \$8,100.
 Lazzarone, ch.c., 3, by Spindlin—Spinnaway; Eric Stable, \$8,000.
 Handspan, ch.f., 2, by Hanover—Spinnaway; Chris. Smith, \$7,500.
 Urania, ch.f., 2, by Hanover—Wash. Chris. Smith, \$8,100.
 Valkyrie, blk.f., 2, by Hanover—Kopake; Milton Yonge, \$1,450.
 Derelict, b.f., 2, by Lake Rackham—Sallie Hogan; J. J. McCafferty, \$1,200.
 Mohawk, ch.c., 2, by Onondaga—Estimate; M. F. Dwyer, \$1,200.
 Rizzare, ch.f., 2, by Outcast—Sister Monica; G. B. Morris, \$1,200.
 Yearling, ch.f., by Sir Dixon—Mercedes (brother of The Butterflies, winner of the Futurity); H. Thompson, \$1,000.
 Yearling, chestnut bay, by Strathmore—Spinnaway; R. Croker, \$6,000.
 Yearling, b.c., by imp. Deceiver, dam Ida Walton; M. F. Dwyer, \$5,750.

While the prices were exceedingly good there is one feature of the sale that we be regretted, and that is that the purchasers were mostly bookmakers or big betters; in other words are men who in horse racing only for the money they is in it and not for sport. It is this class of men who cause racing to be unduly regarded by a very large section of the community.

MR. J. E. SEAGRAM'S SARAGOSA has won anything of importance yet at Sheepshead Bay, but he has done exceedingly well against the best horses there. He ran third with 106 lbs. up to Deans, with 116 lbs. in the Ocean Handicap, the 30th ult., Ducat, 4, with 114 lbs., separating them, there being less than three quarters of a length between the time. It was on Monday, however, that it made his great effort. There were five then in the Labor Day Stakes over 100 miles, namely, John Cooper, with 105 lbs., Saragosa with 106, Yo Tanshin with 121, Hyderabad and Pochontas. The last two were never in it. Saragosa was well all the way and was only beaten by John Cooper in the fast time of 2:07.34. Yo Tanshin, the great crack, being beaten off. Mr. Seagram's Victorious also ran.

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