

**GOLDSMITH MAID.**

**HER CARE-TAKER INTERVIEWED.**

The Editor of the Spirit of the Times had an interview with Charles H. Cochrane, the caretaker of Goldsmith Maid for the past five years, and he gives the result of it in the following report:—

Editor.—Charley, is this retirement of the Maid's really real?

Cochran.—Yes, sir; you may be sure there is no mistake this time. I got to Fashion Stud Farm with her at four o'clock last Monday morning, and there she is to stay as long as she lives. She has the big box-stall right next to the office; you know which it is. Mr. Leavitt is going to give her light jogging work during the winter, and in the early spring she will be bred to General Washington, who is, you know, out of Old Lady Thorn, the only mare that got the best of the Maid in races. He will be four years old then, and I hope he will get a horse colt out of her. What breeding, that would be! Why, the colt would be worth \$10,000 as soon as he was dropped, just for his blood. Oh! no; the old mare will never go on the turf again. Being bred next spring, the colt wouldn't be due until 1879, and she couldn't be trained away until 1880, when she would be twenty-three years old. Besides, I am going to care for her, and you can bet I wouldn't do that if there was any chance of her being again, when I have spent only six months in her care for five years, and love her more than I do any human being.

Ed.—How did you come to take charge of her?

C.—Well, it was in 1872, and Mr. Doble brought her on to California. I had a stable of my own then, and Doble and I got acquainted and it seemed to like me, and I liked him. When he was going on East, he asked me to go with him, and take charge of Mr. Smith's farm at Fronton. I went on, but soon found the business was bigger than I could manage. Then Mr. Doble said he would make it just as well worth my while if I would take sole charge of Goldsmith Maid, travel with her everywhere, and never leave her; and I took her, and have been with her ever since.

Ed.—How was she, as regards condition and disposition, when you first took charge of her?

C.—She was pretty low in condition, but we soon brought her up, and that year she earned over \$10,000. I began putting wet bandages on her legs, and using a preparation on her feet, and found it did her a great deal of good. One of these smart Chicago reporters got a story from her manager, and started the story that she was gone in the legs. I never saw such fellows as those reporters in Chicago. They would bear a remark from some man, who didn't know what he is talking about, about a horse, and next morning you see a column in the paper, without a word of truth in it. About her temper, she was pretty cross when I took her. She would bite and strike with her fore feet, and would drive any stranger out of her stall, but lately she has become more docile. She has prejudices though, just like a human being. Some strangers she wouldn't allow in her stall now, while others can pet and caress her. A lady could always fondle her; she would never attack a lady.

Ed.—Had she any pet, any dog or other animal, that she liked?

C.—Yes, there is a Scotch terrier bitch, Jimmy, that the old mare was very fond of, and has been about her stable for years. If any other dog came in, she would go for him with her fore feet, and drive him out in short order. Sometimes she would get jealous of Jimmy sleeping by me, and would drive her to another part of the stall. She had one trick that was very cute. Every night I would put a couple of quilts and coats under my head, and at five o'clock in the morning she would get up and nuzzle around the blankets until I fed her. She would eat the oats, and then come and lie down by me. When I was lying down, she took me under her protection, and would guard me just as a dog does, and would drive away anybody that came near me, but when I was up and about it was all right. She knew I could take care of myself then.

Ed.—You must have become very attached to her?

C.—I should think I did. I feel as bad as if I had lost my wife to part with her. Why, at Rochester, in 1875, when Lulu beat her, I cried like a baby. I didn't feel so bad when Smuggler beat her at Cleveland, last year, because we had some expectations he might, and we knew the reason he did. You see we had been training her for trials of speed, to beat 2:14, and had taught her to trot two slow heats and one very fast heat, and she was not in condition for a race, and lost race. Besides, Mr. Doble was determined to get to Cleveland, and didn't have a chance at her. That race put her in splendid condition for the next world, when she

about twenty-five minutes, he took her again, and that time she trotted the mile in just 2:20. The day of the race, Mr. Doble came out, and when he tried the mare said he didn't like her. I told him how fast Splan had driven her, and he said he believed it had taken her speed from her. The first heat Rarus made a bad break, and the Maid could have distanced him, but Doble jogged her in 2:26 and let Rarus in. Before the start the betting had been \$750 on the Maid and \$300 on Rarus. After this heat I happened to go to the pool-stand, and found Rarus was the favorite. I went and told Mr. Doble, who was lying down in the stable, and he went to Splan who said:—"I'll tell you what it means. I've been working for other people long enough, and now I've begun working for Splan." Doble said, "We'll see about that," or something of the sort. The next heat the Maid went to the half in 1:08 1/2, and was several lengths ahead of Rarus, when she stepped in a hole, caught her shoe in that bunch on her fore leg, and pulled it off, and Rarus went on and won the heat, and you know he won the race afterwards, for the mare couldn't trot with that sore and bleeding leg. Mr. Doble wanted to draw her, but the judge wouldn't allow it. I shall always believe that Splan took the edge off the mare two days before the race, so that he could beat her without trotting below 2:19. He and Doble haven't been friends since then.

Ed.—What caused the Maid to break down this season?

C.—Well, you, she didn't break down! She is as sound as a nut now, and as frisky as a colt. She hit herself in her near fore leg, at South Bend, Indiana, a few weeks ago, and as she was getting old, and Mr. Doble wished to bring her to the breeding farm without a blemish, her other trotting engagements were cancelled. You see she has had a busy season. After trotting all the races she did in California, she came East and, July 4, trotted at Cincinnati. Her route since has been to Chicago, then to Springfield, Mass., back to Chicago, then to Rochester, N.Y., back to Chicago, then to Cynthia, Ky., by way of Louisville, back to Louisville, then to Nashville and Lexington. She trotted on a Monday in Lexington, Ky., and the following Saturday trotted at St. Joseph, Mo. That was a big jump, as we had many delays, and the mare went at Kansas City, Mo., on a half-mile track, and not a fast one, in 2:18. She has as much speed as she ever had, that's the fact. She trotted again at Kansas City, on Saturday, before the biggest crowd I ever saw. The next Thursday she was at Toledo, O., and Saturday at South Bend, where she hit herself. She had engagements at Columbus and Hillsboro, O., but did not trot at either place, though she was shown to halter and jogged. She has been jogged from four to six miles every day right along. She is getting old, and neither Mr. Smith nor Mr. Doble wish to keep her trotting until she breaks down. Mr. Doble is the kindest man I ever saw with horses, and I have been with them now fifty-three years. Oh, no, the Maid is not broken down, but is as sound and has as much speed as ever. I wish you could see her for yourself, down at Trenton.

Ed.—Have you any idea how much money she has earned, and how far she has travelled since she began trotting?

C.—Well, Mr. Leavitt figured up, last July, that she had earned either \$311,000 or \$316,000 then, I forget which. I reckon you could put it now at \$326,000, and not be over the mark. She has travelled on the cars about 130,000 miles.

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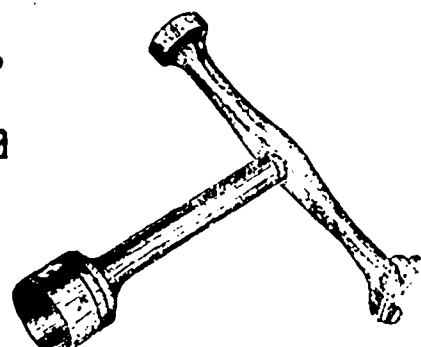
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