

The point was soon agreed on : Edward hastened to conclude his toilette, and then, arrayed in a new driving coat of the most enviable symmetry, walked with his friend towards the Barnwell Turnpike, where they found their tandem with the leader ready harnessed, awaiting their arrival.

Whoever has had the good fortune to drive one of these formidable vehicles, (mail carts as they are sometimes called,) will conceive the ecstasy with which our hero, at the rate of twelve miles an hour, a fine brisk breeze setting in right against him, and his horses hoofs clattering over the magnificent stony road, accompanied Handiman to Newmarket.

The main street was crowded on their arrival; blacklegs, amateurs of the turf, heroes of the fist, pickpockets and novices, being all jostled promiscuously together. Every hazard and E. O. table was in requisition, every inn filled, and every waiter decked out in a new coat and napkin. At a quarter before one, the racers, accompanied by their riders, among whom Little Buckle shone pre-eminent, made their appearance in the stables situated at the further end of the Beacon course, an immense mob attended them, all anxious to advance an opinion (the most ignorant in particular) on the merits of the respective horses.

The betting post was by this time completely crowded; men on horseback, on foot, in buggies, tilburies, tandems, and randoms, all eagerly advanced offers, which were as eagerly accepted or refused. Suddenly a bell rang; when eight horses, headed by a bay mare, called Fanny, started at once for the sweep stakes. It was altogether a most attractive sight. The numerous Cambridge students, in their elegant and diversified equipages, lined both sides of the course; while beside them stood an almost endless row of carriages, filled with the gayest company. The distant hill, too, from which the Beacon course commences, appeared one complete moving mass, and upon it a meridian sun now shone down in fullest splendour. At this critical moment a roar like the ocean was heard from a distant corner of the course, and the horses appeared galloping on the brow of the hill. Nearing to the sight, their speed became more visible, until the different emblems of success were clearly manifest to all. The halloo of the bystanders was now loudly increased, and the clerks of the course galloped down the throng of gazers, flourishing their huge hunting whips around them. "Clear the course, gentlemen, for God's sake clear the course, they'll be here immediately." "Five to four on Fanny," exclaimed a little gentleman with a bottie nose. "Done, done, sir," replied a neighbour, noting down the bet in his account book.