

One lamp for our path and old Reynard is gone.  
Ah, who can impart what that dumb creature feels  
As he darts through the cane and the pack at his heels!  
As he darts through the cane ere the heave of a breath,  
There's a fierce, smothered cry. They are in at the death!

#### JOHN SPLAN AND RARUS.

All the world, from New York to California, has heard of John Splan and Rarus. The public have become so completely acquainted with both man and horse that we hardly need mention them. But they are public property, and all have a right to know how they are getting on, and where they are hanging out. The following are the facts. John Splan is a man 28 years old, in excellent health; stands firmly on a good set of pedestrian legs, is five feet nine inches high, with a good level head on him, has a small, delicate, good wife, who has accompanied him from Boston to California, and has done much to make John's success. Dan Mac was Splan's first tutor in horse matters, from whom the first lessons in training were learned. And as his eyes and ears were always open, he was not long in rising into first-class proportions as a trainer. He seldom asked Dan questions regarding his horses, nevertheless learned much that now can be profitably utilized. In fact, if all that Mr. Splan remembers of Mac's stable and trotting career could be woven into a book, it would be a large and interesting volume. From all we know of Dan, and what Mr. Splan has told us concerning his tact and coolness under the most trying and complex circumstances, we conclude that in this quality of brain rests the power that moves man to successful deeds upon the turf. From Splan we learned also that Mac is one of the most generous of men; that his stables are kept in order always, that he is a generous buyer of clothing, boots, and all sorts of horse gear, and that Splan regards him the most skillful driver that ever set up behind a trotter, single or double. Hardly ever did Dan take a trotter from another driver but that he improved the horse, unless improvement was an impossibility.

But of all the men from whom Splan learned, and of all men whom he loves to speak of and dwell, Eph. Simmons was praised most. From him he obtained his send-off as a driver. Mr. Simmons' cool, impartial and positive council, just in the nick of time, were the words that made the man. Kansas Chief and Bella were his first pupils, and John landed them both to the front in well-fought contests. His reputation from this on became the envy of all dead-square drivers; and the instructions of Eph. Simmons to "sit still and win by a length at the finish," has never been lost sight of. Mr. Simmons—Splan affirms—often came up the stretch when some driver had the best of him by two or three lengths, and would sing out, "Splan! sit still! you'll beat 'em under the wire sure!" This encouragement in an opportune moment gave him new nerve, and made him take a better hold on his horse. The horse freshened up directly, and went on and collared his adversary, who, looking over his shoulder at the boy and horse approaching like a phantom, lost his grip. And having gained an advantage, Splan, now full of dead panes, would call out to the troubled driver, "Cut your old horse loose; he can't trot a little bit!" Such tactics at the proper time have won many a race for Splan, and usually unsettles nearly all drivers when a death struggle comes. Half the drivers I know lose their grip when a man like Splan or Mac comes up on them with a trotter, and sings out, "Why, what's the matter with the little one; she's all off to-day?" But Splan was born to be a cool-headed and finished driver. Moreover, Splan never drinks, smokes or chews. Hence his vigor of body and mind has been preserved, and his manhood and integrity, as well as the qualities which make him a driver, are the envy of a world of horsemen. Splan's career has been marked and brilliant in the extreme, and his career with Rarus, one of the most remarkable in horse history. Splan took charge of Rarus in July, 1876, since which the horse has constantly improved, though he has been defeated once by Great Eastern, once by Goldsmith Maid, and once by

Her trainer and owner, Lin Coch, fondly termed her his dear little Foot, and the mare and a good battered violin compassed the whole of his effects. All the trials he ever gave her was to find out if she was "on her foot," and this he accomplished by running her through the quarter stretch with a fast quarter horse he owned. If she beat him, which she generally did, she was ready for any race.

"One evening in the spring of the year 1828, a small but merry party sat around the dinner table of that fine old English gentleman, the late Lord Egremont. The battle was in active circulation, and the good old Peer in merry glee—his friends around him, and his race horses the theme. 'What will you do my lord, with that young Whak bone weed in the further paddock?' quoth one of the guests. 'Sell him,' was the reply. 'The price?' 'A hundred and fifty.' 'He is mine.' That weed was Spaniel—winner of the Derby!"

Here in California we have "little Molly," and though that nonpareil has grown both in height and length since she was thrown out of active training, when she ran her greatest races she was a good deal under the medium size. Never having lost even a beat, it is hard to form an estimate of how good she is. Then among the little trotters there has been Flora Temple, Dot, Honest Allen, Hickory Jack, who looked like a yearling in harness, and the fairy trotter, Molly Morris, with a record of .22, and she, her sulky and harness, scarcely balanced 800 lbs.

As a matter of necessity all the great jockeys have been, or are little men, and while the knights of the sulky are permitted the very fair avoirdupois of 150 lbs., nearly all of the crack drivers have to carry quite a chunk of lead to bring them up to the rule weight. Dan and Ben Maco, Doblo, Hickok, Johnny Murphy, Charley Green, Charley Shear, are away below the standard, and it would be troublesome to find their equal in "tooling a trotter."

The old time celebrities were larger, but then the art was not so well understood, and a strong arm was thought to be a *sine qua non* to "keep a horse on his feet." Not being an advocate of Stupiculture we do not see any way to breed men little or big for any particular purpose, but we would not like to recommend our readers to breed small horses with the hope of getting a Gumerack, a Miss Foote, or a Molly Morris.

#### A BIBLE IN HIS POCKET.

An instructive story comes from Arizona. Kellogg and Carter owned a mining claim, and foolishly quarreled about it. Kellogg was a man of few words—"light and free" was his touch upon his revolver. With little ado he fired at his partner, and supposed that he had sent a ball into his breast; but behold, Carter was a good young man, and had a Bible in the pocket of his gray work ing shirt. The ball struck upon the sacred book, its course was turned, and Carter unhurt. Then the good young man whipped out his gleaming Bowie-knife, sprang upon Kellogg and carved him so artistically that his hold upon his revolver relaxed and he was like to die. The good young man then staunchly his opponent's wound and rode away for a physician, returning within twenty-four hours, having made a distance of over ninety miles. Kellogg is recovering. Carter, to avoid arrest, sought to cross the river, and this time the Bible didn't save him. He was drowned. The moral of this recital is very intricate. But is plain that Carter wasn't born to be hanged.

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