

FIGHT WITH A HERON.

A heron is a dangerous bird, even for a man, as will be seen from this story of encounter between a man, a dog and a heron, published in the London Field. The heron had been wounded, its left wing being broken by a shot. The writer continues: "I stepped him in a large pool, some yards from the river bank; seemingly, as he reared the water, he was unharmed. As I shouted, 'There he is, Sam!' the retriever rushed into the eddy pool and swam to his prey. Now the fight began. Without swerving an inch, the heron with neck erect, and with a scream, darted his formidable beak straight at the dog's eyes. I was puzzled. In a moment, however, he was at him again, but the terrible beak of the heron, as the attack was again repeated, held him fairly at bay. Sam now changed his plan; he tried to prevent his formidable enemy by swimming around to his back, but the heron presented a bold front at all points and once more Sam rushed in. The fight was getting more and more furious, but Sam, though considerably punished, stuck to his post, and, though repeatedly recalled, would not return without his bird. There was nothing left to do but to kill the heron, to prevent his blinding the dog, if he had not already done so. Accordingly, I raised my gun, when my companion shouted: 'Don't shoot! Don't spoil the bird! Leave the dog.' In an instant he leaped from the bank to the pool, and, swimming, made for the heron. The bird now left the dog and turned on his now assailant, rushing at him with a scream; in an instant the heron darted his formidable beak at Mr. Gwynne Vaughan's eyes: but as he swam he managed to cover his face, and his hand only was wounded. Again and again the heron attacked him, but never succeeded in wounding his face. At last, he grabbed the heron by the legs, drew it under the water, and struck out for the shore. Grasping the bird by the beak, he was soon on land, none the worse for his courageous exploit than a wounded hand and a wet skin. Sam, the retriever, was bleeding from at least five honorable wounds, all within a quarter of an inch of either eye. It was a courageous fight all around."

REMARKABLE CANINE INTELLIGENCE.

Among the passengers lost on the steamer *St. Clair*, on Lake Superior, was a man named Stewart, of Duluth. He had a small English spaniel, which swam ashore. The dog was well known at Duluth and along the Northern Pacific railroad, and was remarkable for his intelligence and sagacity. His owner was employed by the Northern Pacific road to measure timber delivered by contractors. The dog would take the end of the tape line and go to the end of a log, sixty or seventy feet long, and hold it at the end while his master would hold it at the other, and do this all day or until all the timber was measured. His master would send to the post-office, simply saying to him, "go up—get letters;" the dog would go to the post-office and go around to one of the clerks, look at him, wag his tail, and was so well-known the clerk would give him the letters, which he would carry back to his master, and in the same way would carry letters which his master had written to the post-office to be mailed. His scent was very acute.

Coming home from the woods one day, Stewart was met on the way by a company of young people, who had been at a picnic, about half a mile away. One of the young ladies had left her parasol on the ground. Stewart called his dog, and pointing to the path, said, "go find and bring here." The dog was gone about fifteen or twenty minutes, and returned with the parasol. A pile of lumber, put in Stewart's charge, was being stolen. Stewart called his dog, took him to the pile, and said, "watch it and see who takes it." Two or three days afterward the dog came to him in the morning, and by signs familiar to his master, told him to follow him. Stewart took a policeman with him, and told the dog to go on, and he led them about a quarter of a mile to a shanty, occupied by a Swede, on the bank of a lake.

Pedestrianism.

FASTEST AMATEUR 1,000 YDS.

One of the great surprises which signalized the annual meeting of the Birmingham, (Eng.) Athletic Club, July 28, was the result of the 1,000 yds. run, which had been put down as a certainty for the quarter mile and half-mile champion, F. T. Elborough, notwithstanding the great reputation lately of the northerner C. Hazenwood, and the known speed and stamina of the local crack W. H. Edwards; but the result completely upset the betting fraternity. Edwards led out at a slashing pace, Hazenwood being second, and Elborough contenting himself with last place. This state of affairs continued up to within 880 yds. of the finish; but did not alarm Elborough's friends, they thinking he was only waiting on his men, and would put on one of his well-known spurts and come right away. It was Hazenwood, however, who spurred at this point, and, passing Edwards, got to the front. Once in front, the race was visually over, as, although Elborough in turn put on the pace and also passed Edwards, he could never get near Hazenwood, who won by 4 yds. from Edwards, who shot Elborough on the post for second place. The time, 2 min. 20.4-5 sec., is the fastest on record for amateurs, and only about one second worse than the best professional record, viz., J. Nuttall's 2 min. 19.4 sec., which he accomplished five years ago in a match with Ridley, of Gateshead. The friends of Elborough claim that he was out of form on the day; and as he himself is confident that he can beat the time made, a match between him and the winner is probable. The best previous amateur record for the distance was 2.24, by H. W. Hill.

THE CRACKS OF 1876 BREAK DOWN.

The best three-year-old of 1876 was the bay colt Vigil, by Virgil, dam Regan. For some months his near front leg has been in a very precarious condition. Messrs. Dwyer Brothers believed he could not stand the necessary preparation to start in the Saratoga Cup. To this end, some weeks ago, Mr. Snediker put him to work. He seemed to do well for some time, and so on Friday, the 20th ult., it was agreed between his owners and trainer to give him a final finishing touch with a two-mile trial. After running a little over a mile he came to a standstill. Upon examination it was found that he had broken completely down, not in the weak, but the sound front leg. This is not an uncommon occurrence. In moving, the weak leg pains the horse, and he undertakes to favor it by throwing the whole of his weight upon the well limb, and, it being too severely taxed, gives way. Vigil was a magnificent racehorse. Very few horses possessed his real merit and quality. Game to a fault, of a high rate of speed and the most extraordinary endurance, he killed his rivals by the fierceness and steadiness which so highly distinguished him. He was the largest winner of 1876, but he was called upon too often, and, as a consequence, retired prematurely from a brilliant and successful career upon the turf. His fine size, high form, great quality, excellent breeding, and brilliant record will make him one of the most valuable stallions in the country.

Belle of the Meade, the best two-year-old of 1876, is also broken down. This event has been anticipated for several months. She was a very extraordinary race horse and at one time was able to cut down at ease the best two-year-olds in Kentucky and Tennessee, such as Baden Baden, King Faro, McWhirter, King William, Lisbon and Glentina. Short but dazzlingly brilliant has been her history. She will be bred to Harry Hill next spring.

LION TRAINERS.

Van Amburgh was one of the most remarkable of lion tigers. Perfectly fearless, he was constantly in danger; yet notwithstanding the fact that the newspapers reported him killed over and over again, he died quietly in his bed at last. During his career, menagerie keepers and circus proprietors sought about for lion tigers wherever they could find them; and as a demand usually creates a supply, so was it in this instance.

KILLING CATTLE WITH DYNAMITE.

An interesting experiment was made last week at a horse slaughtering establishment at Dudley, with a view of testing a new system of slaughtering cattle by dynamite, and thus putting them out of existence more speedily and with less suffering than the ordinary pole-axe.

Two large powerful horses and a donkey (disabled for work) were ranged in a line about half a yard apart under a shed, the donkey being placed in the centre. A small primor of dynamite, with an electric fuse attached, was then placed on each of their foreheads and fastened in position by a piece of string under the jaw. The wires were then coupled up in circuit, and attached to the electric machine, which stood about five yards in front. The handle of the machine being then turned, and electric current was discharged simultaneously and the animals instantly fell dead without a struggle.

The whole affair was over in two minutes, and the experiment appears to have been a perfect success. It was conducted by Mr. Johnson, agent, for Noble's Explosive Company, Glasgow, assisted by Mr. Harris one of the dynamite instructors. By this means, it is stated, any number, even a hundred or more cattle can be instantly killed by the same current of electricity. There cannot be a doubt that the present system of slaughtering cattle is open to the charge of being cruel and barbarous, and the slightest want of skill on the part of the slaughterer often subjects the unhappy beasts to horrible tortures. Any attempt to extinguish life painlessly is a step in the right direction, not only as regards cattle, but also as regards criminals sentenced to capital punishment, whose case equally deserves consideration—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

FIREPROOF SCENERY.

A number of fire insurance and theatrical men assembled in the vacant room of a large warehouse in Fulton St., N.Y., on the 16th, and witnessed some experiments with fireproof scenery. A temporary stage was built at the back of the room, and a few pieces of the scenery, together with a section of the machinery necessary to work it, were placed in position. The scenery was made of wire gauze and neatly painted to represent different scenes. The inventors claimed that it was vastly cheaper than canvas scenery, and could be used with a greater effect and for a larger variety of purposes. According to his representations the entire control of the stage was in the hands of the prompter, who could, by a series of wire stops and a light crank, shift and bring on the largest and most intricate sets of scenery, thereby doing away with the large army of carpenters and supernumeraries that are now so essential to the complete and perfect working of a stage. During the exhibition yesterday afternoon sets of scenes were shifted in an incredibly short time by the inventor's assistant, who controlled the crank that had been temporarily placed at the right of the room. At the same moment one set of scenery was taken off another was being brought on. The machinery controlling all the scenery is very simple.

There was no wood or canvas used in the structure of the scenery, which was made of iron gauze set in iron frames. In addition to safety from fire the inventor claimed further advantages. He said:—Reduction in scene shifters and stage laborers, fifty to seventy-five per cent., and a like reduction in the insurance rates, increased storage room, placing the working and management of the stage in the hands of one man, who could also act as prompter; great increase in the adaptability of the scenery, and an increased effect over artist work upon canvas. These statements were all borne out by the insurance and theatrical men present. A prominent member of a leading fire insurance company said that the rates of premiums upon a theatre supplied with scenery of this description would be less than half what they were under existing circumstances.

CARRIER PIGEONS.

A German paper gives some details of the extraordinary development of the breeding and training of carrier pigeons in Germany since the late war. During the siege of Paris, pigeons afforded the only means of communication between the outside world and the inhabitants of the beleaguered city. In order that similar messengers might be available in the hour of need, pigeon houses were established after the conclusion of the war in most of the larger garrison towns of North and South Germany, and now pigeon flying is rapidly becoming a favorite pastime and sport throughout the country. The increased attention thus given to the subject has resulted in the observation of many peculiarities in the birds. Carrier pigeons of good breed, although they may be started in company and bound for the same place, fly quite independently of one another. Each one selects its own

FOX HUNTING AT QUEBEC.

On Wednesday, 22nd, the first hunt with the new hounds received by Mr. C. V. Tompkins, of the Highlands, Quebec, took place and was a most successful one. Between 20 and 30 gentlemen, well mounted, assembled at the Engineers' Camp, Levis, where the throw off took place. Amongst those who took part in the sport were Major General Sir Selby Smythe, and aide de camp, Major Lient-Col. Strange, and other officers of B. Battery, besides a large number of gentlemen from this side of the river. The hounds were hunted on this their first throw off in the district of Quebec by Mr. W. Dunsdale, huntsman of the Montreal hounds, who came down purposely for the occasion. After a run of over two miles after the drag, during which the hounds kept the scent remarkably well, a fox, which had been let out of a bag, was scented, when an exciting chase took place, resulting in the capture of poor Reynard. The brush was presented to General Selby Smythe and the mask to Lieut. Col. Strange, President of the club. During the chase some very good jumping occurred, but there were also some very bad spills.

IN THE JAWS OF AN ALLIGATOR.

The New Orleans Democrat of the 7th inst. says:—"At Lake Charles, in the Parish of Calcasieu, a few days since, a most exciting scene was witnessed by a number of people on the shore. Some lads, among them was a boy named William Haszall, were in bathing, when the attention of all were attracted to the cries of the latter, and an alligator was seen swimming in the direction of him. The little boy not perceiving the approach of the saurian, dived, and just as he reached the surface the open jaws received him. The alligator drove his teeth almost through the boy's skull, making several wounds in the scalp three inches in length. The boy's comrades rushed into the water and began a loud outcry, when the alligator let go his hold and disappeared. The little fellow, although seriously injured, will probably live."

LADIES ON HORSEBACK.

Riding on horseback is a useful as well as graceful means of exercise too much neglected by young ladies. A canter of a few miles is most admirable promoter of human health and beauty. The cheeks, the eyes, lips, and every feature of the fair equestrian, when she dismounts, possesses the freshness and sparkling grace, which is one of the most important requisites in feminine loveliness, and which can be imparted only by purity of the blood and its brisk and equal circulation, which are produced by temperature and exercise. The pale, sickly and languid countenance of that lady whose hours of leisure have been passed without occupation within her chamber, or in listlessly lounging upon a sofa or couch, may present attractions to such as have selected as their standard of beauty from among the victims of a round of fashionable dissipation; but every man of sense and genuine taste will prefer the ruddy glow of health, the active, agile step, and exuberant beauty of her who is accustomed to spend some time of every day in active exercise, on foot or on horseback, in the open air.

POOL SELLING ON TRACKS.

(Turf, Field and Farm.)

The question of pool-selling naturally receives much attention here. The extremists would have the pool-seller a privileged person everywhere—would have him cry true odds on the sidewalks of the city, forgetting that it was this license which stirred up the opposition of the moral mass and forced to its final passage an arbitrary bill; but the thinking, moderate men prefer the course which I took occasion to outline last Winter. Incorporated tracks should be allowed to take charge of the betting on their own grounds. As the interest which the managers of these tracks have at stake is a large one, it is not likely that they will abuse their privilege, since to do so would be to inflict damage upon themselves. It was the promiscuous selling of pools in towns and cities on elections, boat-races, base-ball matches and horse races which I in connection with

A WELL-TRAINED MOUSE.

It is a curious yet historical fact that prisoners who are sentenced for life often train some insect or animal, which becomes the one solace of their prison hours. One of the most curious cases is that of Anderson, the murderer, now in our county jail, awaiting a new trial. He some time ago caught a mouse in his cell, caged him, and has carefully trained him. Anderson will hold a string suspended from his fingers and in broken English command the mouse to "up, like a sailor," whereupon the little animal will lay hold of the string, and "climb" up to the prisoner's hand. The mouse will also sit at command on his hind legs on a ten-cent bill, crawl up the prisoner's face through his moustache and over his nose, and finally jump from the man's head to his hand completing his performance with a graceful bow. One of the most interesting things concerning the history of this little acrobat is the great love it has for the prisoner. When Anderson was moved a few weeks ago to another and darker cell the mouse was lost, and although sought after by the keeper could not be found. Anderson was deeply grieved over the disappearance of his tiny companion, which he feared had been killed, and even the prison officers expressed regret that the little creature should have dropped so completely and mysteriously out of the usual dull routine of prison life. Great was the joy, therefore, of Anderson and of all when one day the mouse made its appearance at the door of Anderson's new cell, and running in resumed its accustomed place by the prisoner's side. It is said that the little animal seemed as greatly rejoiced as its master over the reunion.

FAST TIME THROUGH A FLUME.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Herald sends an account of the perilous journey down the mountains of two Nevada miners, who made the trip in a mining flume. The flume was owned by Messrs. Mackey & Fair, and is located in the mountains, near Carson City. It is about fifteen miles in length, leading from a lofty elevation down to the plain, and crossing in its course deep ravines, skirting terrible precipices and chasms, and presenting many sharp curves. It is fed with water from Lake Tahoe, and empties into a creek near Carson City. This flume, said to be the longest in the world, is used to carry down timber which is cut on the mountains. There are several places in its course where the incline is slight, and visitors are occasionally treated to a short trip over these inclines in a boat constructed for that purpose. The two men who took the trip were workmen, who some months ago conceived the notion of shooting down the entire length of the flume. To carry out this foolhardy adventure, they constructed a strong boat, sharp at the bow and square at the stern, and fitting the flume closely enough to keep it steady. The men describe the trip as something terrific. The heavy boat got a fearful headway, and the men had no means of stopping it. In shooting round the curves they thought it would jump the flume and precipitate them into the chasm that yawned beneath. Down the steeper inclines the boat sped with more than express-train velocity. The fifteen miles were passed in less than eleven minutes. From the foot of the mountain to where the flume empties the incline is gentle, and the boat gradually makes its terrific headway, and at length glides smoothly into the creek. Unhappily, but scared almost out of their senses, the men stepped ashore, and one of them was heard to remark that he would not make that trip again for all the silver and gold in Nevada.

WILD TURKEYS.

In the expressive language of the Indians the month of September is known as the moon of turkeys. Early in September the males collect together by themselves, and the hens and young ones in another flock, and continue so for some time, all the while, however, moving about in search of food. In their travels they often reach the banks of considerable rivers where they all join in company. Crossing a river is then an undertaking of serious magnitude. They first betake themselves to the nearest eminence, and there often remain a whole day, or sometimes two, as if for consultation. During this time the males are heard "gobbling," calling, and making much ado, and are seen strutting about as if to raise their courage to a pitch befitting the emergency. At length, when the weather appears to be settled, and all around is quiet, the whole party mounts to the tops of the highest trees, whence, at a signal, consisting of a single creak, given by a leader, the flock takes flight for the opposite shore. The old and fat birds, however, often show the river to be a mile in breadth, but the younger and less fat ones quickly fall into the water.