

# Sporting.

## FREE-FOR-ALL.

THE season's closed, the colt turned out and is in the lute. And has come to quarters fast, scrapes, work-outs and the like. The spins and curls are hindered over with the aid of the. And green, green feed will soon cover the now. The owner has resumed his seat upon the pack. In one the judges were unfair, another was "a job." In the "Lambaster" lost a shoe, the next was a "dead rub." And thus he'll talk the winter through, and "over that one year horse." "Lambaster's" marks will be 250, "just harring accidents."

## NOTES.

We are somewhat gratified to see by that grand paper, the Christ-nu number of the Chicago Horseman, that Mr. C. J. Hamlin, father of trotting horse breeders, believes that a dash of warm blood improves the trotting strain. The argument has been put forward that thoroughbred blood makes the trotter wrong-headed and intractable. Nothing could be more absurd. Some thoroughbreds are vicious, it is true, and that they are usually higher spirited than the trotter is positive but they lost on both courage and stamina on colder-blooded animals. We do not believe, however, that the trotter reaches perfection from the first strains of thorough blood. It is in the third and fourth generation that the benefit is apparent. The blood requires that blending that is only reached by complete dissemination to produce perfection. But Mr. Hamlin, in opposition to many trotting theorists of to-day, has long been a believer in the beneficence of thorough blood. It was the sight of Gov. M. Patchen, whose dam was by Imp. Trustee (son of Cotton and Emma, by Whisker, and sire of Levity, dam of Ruric, sire of famous old Terror) driven by Hiram Woodruff on a half-mile track nearly forty years ago that first attracted Mr. Hamlin's attention. But let the owner of Robert J. Fantasy and of more high class trotters and pacers than any other man, speak for himself: "I was struck with the beauty as well as the speed of the horse," he says, "and I made up my mind then and there that in breeding the trotters I would have to resort to the blood of the thoroughbred to obtain that fineness and elegance, together with the flat fluted legs which it seemed to me a perfect horse must have. In all the years that I have bred horses I never had occasion to alter this opinion, and my firm belief, after 40 years of experience, is that the more thorough blood I can get in the trotter and at the same time control and keep him at the trotting gait the better horse I can breed."

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THERE is every indication that after being dormant for many years there is going to be a boom in billiards in Canada. The Montreal tournament was a success and numerous matches are talked of, while

the rooms in the city were never better attended than now. This will be joyful news to the Reid Bros. Manufacturing Co., whose billiard tables and fixings have gained a reputation that is not confined to Canada. Billiard tables are also more in demand for private houses than they have ever been. In fact, nowadays, no gentleman thinks his residence complete without a billiard table.

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BUT the boom in billiards is by no means confined to this country. It is common the world over. In England it is stated that towns are bidding for matches between the leading professionals such as Roberts, Peall and Richards, that have never been thought of in this connection. As a consequence new men are coming to the fore and it is prophesied that a year or two will see even the great John Roberts dethroned. In the United States the double victory of Ives over Schaefer, and the former's bold challenge to the renowned Frenchman Maurice Vignaux, have caused a commotion. Naturally enough Schaefer is not satisfied and yet believes he can beat the young Napoleon. Champions die very hard. It is only the other day that Ned Hanlan declared that if little "Wag" Harding, who weighs only 130 lbs., defeated Thomas Sullivan, the New Zealand, at present a resident of England and champion sculler of that country, he will take a trip across the pond himself and tackle the lightweight, and Ned Hanlan is not singular in thinking that some of his old-time powers remain to him, for Bob Chambers, Harry Kelly's predecessor in the British rowing championship, died at 43 cursing his backers because they would not give him another chance. But sculling is not billiards. As has been said "Jake" Schaefer is not content to sit quietly down under defeat. Consequently he has issued the following challenge: "I will play Mr. Ives or any other billiard player in the world three games of billiards, as follows:—One game of 14 inch balk-line billiards, anchor barred, 800 points up, for \$1,000 a side and the net game receipts, one at the championship game, 18 by 38 inch lines, 800 points up, for the same amount of money; one game at cushion caroms, 500 points up, for the same amount of money." The terms of the challenge, it will be noticed, are to a certain extent new, and, therefore, are in themselves an acknowledgment that Ives is his master under the conditions on which they recently met both at New York and Chicago.

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THE billiard tournament at Montreal is a pronounced success. Up to Saturday five games had been played, Watson, of St. Albans, having won two and lost none. Details follow:

Game, Winner. Score. Loser. Score.  
First. Wm. Jakes . . . 499 J. W. Capron . . . 295  
Second. J. Watson . . . 499 Geo. Jackson . . . 352  
Third. J. W. Capron . . . 499 M. Thomas . . . 395  
Fourth. Geo. Jackson . . . 499 W. Jakes . . . 153  
Fifth. J. Watson . . . 499 M. Thomas . . . 230

It is understood that Watson was in exceedingly good luck to beat Sutton, the Toronto man, who in his game with

Jakes, of Cobourg, made the biggest run of the tournament, namely, 73. Capron has the biggest average, he having made 101 with a high run of 70 in his match with Max Thomas, of Montreal. In a match between the Ottawa and Montreal athletic associations, the latter won by 273 points.

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ALTHOUGH this is a cold country skating is not the pastime of the people to the extent it might be expected to be. This is, doubtless, owing to the fact that snow falls early and speedily hinders the outdoor ice, and that of recent years our young people have gone in for more hockey and curling than for distance skating. By the way, we have heard of lady hockeyists, but has anybody heard of lady curlers? However, that is not the present point, which is that Mr. Newton Digby, Hon. Secretary of the National Skating Association of England, has received a communication from the International Skating Union, reporting that the voting of the union for the championships of 1895 was as follows:—World's amateur championship to take place at Harmar; professional championship of the world in Canada; general meeting of the conference to take place some time in February. It is nearly certain that the place chosen for the professional championship will be Montreal, Halifax or St. John, N.B.

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IS the County Court in Toronto last week Walter Barnes, the well-known driver and trainer, sued Edward Harper for \$157.00 for services rendered in driving and looking after defendant's horses. The agreement as usual in matters of this kind was entirely verbal and Judge Morgan, before whom the case was tried, expressed regret that those contracts were not put in writing and duly signed. He thought then there would be no necessity to appeal to judge and jury. Unfortunately for Judge Morgan's opinion legal documents more often precipitate litigation than avert it. In the present case defendant appeared to think he was to derive most of the benefit and Barnes was to do the work. He claimed that he was only called upon to pay the plaintiff when he saw fit. Barnes admitted that said when he lost he was to get nothing, but said when he won he was to get the usual fee of \$25. The terms on the part of the driver appear to us most liberal and sportsmanlike. Defendant claimed \$6 for money said to have been lent and payment for the loan of a sulky. Barnes asserted that the alleged loan was really given him as betting money and that defendant agreed to allow him to use the sulky for nothing. Here again the plaintiff's contentions bear the color of reason, but by that course of logic only known to jurists the twelve good and true men in this instance returned a verdict of only \$100 for Barnes. While agreeing in the main with Judge Morgan that written contracts are desirable there is frequently an element of friendship, of give and take, in sporting matters that keeps them out of thought. It was evidently so in this

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