

Fergus	Sept. 27 to 29
Kingston	Oct. 3 to 5
Ottawa, Mutchmor	Oct. 4 and 5
Ottawa, Dominion Park	Oct. 5 to 7
Mt. Forest	Oct. 9 to 10
Kingston	Oct. 10 to 12
Chatham	Oct. 17 to 19

ENTRIES CLOSE.

AMERICAN.

Ogdensburg	Sept. 22nd.
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CANADIAN.

Fergus	Sept. 22
Ottawa, Dominion Park	Sept. 23
Kingston	Oct. 6

Correspondents and others will remember the change of our office, No. 90 King-St. West, Toronto, is our present address.

A WORD FOR OURSELVES.

Last week concluded the first year and a half of our proprietorship of the *Sporting Times*. Whether we have made that improvement in the paper our friends had a right to expect, is a query to which each one will have to reply for himself. So far as we are individually concerned, our connection with the press has been of the most pleasing character, and the many flattering notices we have received of our humble efforts, have done much to smooth what might otherwise have been a rugged path. About a year ago we called upon our friends for their active assistance towards the support of the *Sporting Times*, and our appeal was answered very satisfactorily. The terms are purely in advance, but we have so far deviated from this rule as to not make our demand until one-half the year has expired. During next week we will draw upon our subscribers at such points as the Express Companies reach, and we hope they will be prompt in recognizing our call. We have fulfilled one-half the term for which we ask payment, and it can hardly be considered more than justice, on the part of the patrons, to respond freely to our appeal.

In this connection it might be as well to mention that all parties paying our drafts will be entitled, upon the return of the money, to the choice of our premium pictures, Goldsmith Maid, or Lula in her great race at Rochester last Fall. If our patrons will be kind enough to mention with the return of their subscription money which picture they desire, it will be promptly forwarded by the earliest mail, and probably avoid confusion in future.

Many of our subscribers have remitted us nothing since we assumed the paper. In such cases the sum of \$8 is due for the two years subscription. It requires the "sinews of war" to run a newspaper, and, however unpleasant it may be, necessity compels us to annually issue our gentle reminders. From these few words it is hoped our friends will be prepared for our call, a satisfactory reply to which will be a strong inducement to re-double our efforts in behalf of our patrons.

would respect the rulings of one another in perpetuity. Then a sentence of suspension or expulsion would mean something to be dreaded; now it is a harmless burst of dignified judicial action to be laughed at. In the present case it amounts to nothing; under an affiliated association it would mean all the word conveys. A Canadian Association, would we feel assured, do much to render our local clubs permanent, and that of itself would be quite a step in advance. With stability as a basis of the system, it would be but a short time before improvements would suggest themselves only to be adopted. The various clubs throughout the country are, we feel satisfied, anxious to lend their assistance to any measure which will tend to bring about a union of all the various interests. It only requires some prominent Association of two to make the initial move, and it will be surprising how rapidly it will assume shape out of chaos. By the first Spring meetings of 1877 there would be such a strong bond of fraternity established throughout the country, that its effects would be felt immediately for the better. Once under proper headway it would soon be seen how rapidly the movement would extend from its own momentum, and those who came within its scope would look back and wonder why such a panacea had been left unused. By all means let something be done the present winter towards forming an Association which will cement the friendly feeling and business interests of what should be one of the leading industries, when its ramifications are considered, in the country.

ENTRIES FOR OGDENSBURG CLOSE TO-DAY, 22ND.

ARE THE POOLS OFF?

Within the bounds of moderation it can be safely said this question has been addressed to us more than a hundred times since last Monday afternoon. What it means can readily be ascertained from the following statement. The 2:35 race at Woodbine, of which four heats were trotted on Saturday, was postponed until Monday afternoon. On Monday the track was bad, and with the consent of the horsemen the Association postponed it still further until Saturday afternoon next. It was what would be considered here a big betting race, and a large amount of money was locked up in the box. As can be readily imagined, some of this belonged to parties who would be seriously inconvenienced by being compelled to lay over here to await the issue of the race; not to speak of the awkward position of some who had all their available wealth locked up, and had other urgent calls for its use. It is a question of turf rule and practice, and instead of simply giving an affirmative or negative answer to the query, we purpose to quote the sections of the rules which bear upon the question, so that anyone capable of reading them will be able to arrive at a correct conclusion for himself.

The Trotting was advertised to be governed by National Rules, and the following extracts from the By-laws and Rules and Regulations of the National Association for the Promo-

project, there are hundreds who feel competent of passing critical opinions. Probably nowhere is this seen to such an extent as in handicapping race horses for trials of speed. There are no scales by which the relative merits of two different contestants at that particular time can be weighed, and the gentlemen who perform the onerous duty of endeavoring to bring the horses together by a discrimination of weights have to rely to a great extent upon the previous performances of the animals relatively with one another if before engaged together, or compare their merits with one another by their trials with other horses. If successful in making a good race of it, the handicap has been well made; if otherwise everybody will tell you no sort of judgment has been exercised, and improper motives are not unfrequently imputed. It requires a sort of natural power as well as a thorough acquaintance with the horses to be weighted to even approximate to what would be considered strict justice in a matter of this kind. And even then the weighting may be faulty, as the handicapper cannot foretell or control the feelings of the horses when brought to the stand, much less calculate upon the judgment of the rider who may obtain the mount. If race horses and riders were machines, subject only to the natural laws of mechanics, and not endowed with physical feelings or weaknesses, then the possibilities of bringing them together would be much better. But there are some handicaps which appear to be beyond the comprehension of any one, except the parties who had the imposition of the weights. An instance of this may be seen in our summary of the races at Woodbine. On the first day Wagram carried ten pounds less than Galatea and won the race easily. Here was a recent performance by which the merits of these two horses would be capable of comparison, providing, of course, it was believed the best horse won. But in the steeplechase on Saturday it will be noticed the same relative weights were carried, notwithstanding the easy victory Wagram had on Thursday, and his greater ability to carry weight. Again Wagram, as might be supposed, came to the front. Who the gentlemen were who made the handicap is totally unknown to us, but their action has supplied us with a text for an article; and the conclusions arrived at in their labors would certainly justify the statement that there are mysteries in handicapping.

SALE OF PILOT.

Mr. Frank Martin, of the Turf Club House, this city, on Monday sold the well-known Province-bred race horse Pilot, to Mr. Heney of Ottawa, the consideration being \$700. He is a fine large chestnut gelding, five years old, by Jack the Barber, dam by Pilot. His maiden race, we think, was for the Queen's Plate, at Woodstock, in 1875, won by Trumpeter. Since then he has campaigned a great deal, and is considered one of the most formidable of our Dominion-breds. In the two races he won at Woodbine last week, he looked a race-horse all over, and the ease with which he galloped to the wire, showed it would have required a pretty good horse in fine fix to have made him take dust. We expect to hear good things of him in his new home.

man, of Ottawa, a compliment in selecting him as one of the judges of horses at the coming fair in Ogdensburg. No better selection could have possibly been made.

We have received from Mr. F. E. Pond, Montello, Wis., a copy of "His Hand-book for Young Sportsmen." This is a valuable *vade mecum*, a complete *multum in parvo*, and as the price is only 25 cents, it should be in the hands of all our youthful field sports.

Mr. Wm. Clarke, of Greenwood, Ont., received the gold medal at the Centennial for his imported thoroughbred stallion Warmanbie. Mr. John White, of Milton, Ont., was the recipient of a silver medal for the well-known province-bred Terror.

OTTAWA RACES.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF DOMINION PARK.

The managers of the New Dominion Trotting Park at Ottawa, publish in to-day's paper their inaugural bill. The dates selected are Oct. 5, 6 and 7, and the amount of money to be contested for is \$1,500. Provision has been made for trotting, running and hurdle horses. The trotting classes are divided into 8-minute, 2:40, 2:35, free-for-all, and a five-mile dash, besides a local club purse. Two hurdle races, one local and one open; and a mile heat running race open to all comprise the premiums for runners. This division gives three events for each day. From the well-known interest which is taken in turf sports in the capital, and the prestige attached to the new track and association, it is not dangerous to prophecy a successful meeting. Dominion Rules govern, and entries close on the 30th inst.

KINGSTON RACES.

It will be seen by the advertisement of the Catarqui D. P. A., Kingston, in to-day's paper, that they have changed the dates of their meeting to Oct. 10th, 11th, and 12th. This was done to avoid clashing with Ottawa, and no doubt the change will be beneficial. In the Kingston programme there are six events, five of which are for the trotting classes, ranging from the green ones to free-for-all. There is a purse for running horses, open to all, on the last day, but no distance is given, an omission that will probably be supplied in our next. The total amount of the premiums is \$1,000. Dominion Rules govern the running, and National Rules the Trotting. Horses to be eligible on September 20th, and the entries close on October 6. It is rather a small premium list for a three days' meeting, but it is so divided as to give fair money to the best classes.

CHATHAM RACES.

Just as we were going to press the preliminary announcement of the Chatham Association for their Fall Meeting, over the Mineral Springs Park, was received. The advertisement will repay perusal. Full particulars are promised for next week.

EQUINE OBITUARY.

ETHAN ALLEN.

Turfmen in every section of the United States will learn with regret that the world-famous trotting stallion Ethan Allen is no

more. He was killed in the Spring of 1876, sired by old Mambrino Chief, dam Mrs. Caudle, a New York bred mare, celebrated as a roadster, and, after her retirement, as a famous brood mare. It has been claimed that she was sired by a horse of Messenger blood, who stood in Dutchess County, New York, but as all attempts to establish her pedigree have failed, it can only be said that her pedigree is lost in obscurity. Ericsson was a dark mahogany bay, standing 16½ hands high, with rather a heavy, coarse head, set well on a stout neck, running into fine, well-inclined shoulders, an excellent barrel, great length, powerful hips and quarters, his limbs large and well under him, and his style lofty and grand. A prominent feature in his face was a full, bright eye, indicative of high courage and intelligence.

As a trotter his career was brilliant while it lasted, but very brief. He made his debut as a four-year old, beating Kentucky Chief and Albion over the Lexington Course, Kentucky, on the 27th of May, 1860, mile heats, in harness, in 2:42½, with only seven days' training. On the 18th of October, same day, Ericsson trotted a match to wagon against Todhunter's Idol, in harness (also at Lexington, Ky.) winning in three straight heats, in 2:49, 2:41, 2:38½. It should be mentioned in this connection that in a private trial made a few days before the last race mentioned, Ericsson trotted to wagon in 2:26. His next regular race was at Louisville, Ky., Oct. 26, same year, when he trotted against A. H. Brand's Kentucky Chief, by Mambrino Chief. Four heats were trotted in 2:39½, 2:34½, 2:30½, 2:32, Ericsson winning the second, third and fourth heats. This may be set down as the best four-year-old performance on record. This closed Ericsson's turf career and he was sold by his breeder, Enoch H. Lewis, to Hon. E. C. Barker, of Detroit, Mich., who owned him up to the time of his death.

As a stallion Ericsson has been very successful. His colts are of fine size and temper and have good trotting action. Among the best of his get are Lumber and Doyle, the former with a record of 2:30, and the latter 2:29½. None of his colts, however, have as yet reached beyond these figures.

STAR DAVIS.

This noted son of imp. Glencoe and Margaret Wood, by imp. Priam, out of Maria West, the dam of Wagner, by Marion, died at the stables of his owner, John M. Clay, near Lexington, Ky., on the night of the 2nd of Sept., aged 27 years, and was buried on Sunday, the third, by his owner on the farm. Star Davis was a good race horse, and the sire of some good ones, although he covered very few mares, having been kept very privately on the Ashland estate, and not often offered for public service. The best of his get were Matt Davis, Metairie, Joe Davis, Laura Bruce, W. R. Davis, Zangara, Zara, Saucebox, Scramble, &c. With the death of Star Davis, only one son of imp. Glencoe remains, Wild Irishman, who has really had no earthly show in the stud.

Go Correspondents.

We would particularly request our correspondents and advertisers to send their favors as early in the week as possible—so that they will reach us by Wednesday morning. We are unable to use many items sent us in consequence of not receiving them in time for the issue intended.

C. & S., Teaswater.—The umpire's decision on the first game decided the money. The second game has nothing to do with it.

R. P., Leavenworth, Kansas.—Mr. Paul's chestnut gelding St. Paul has never trotted in a race here; the bay mare Little has no record. Will be received with thanks.

T. L., Arlington.—The manuscript has been destroyed.

Subscribers, Clinton.—2:32½, at Hamilton, July 1, 1875.