

across the paddock, she should make a very fast mare.

Before leaving this stud we would draw attention to the breeding of the principal stock horses, Standard Bearer and Bethlehem Star 2.20½. The first named, a son of the great Volunteer, has already made a name for himself, having sired such good ones as Banner Boy 2.25, Gratz 2.23, and Contender 2.30, Marlowe 2.15 and many others, while Bethlehem Star, who has himself made a record of 2.20½, is an inbred Volunteer, on a basis of staying thoroughbred blood, being by a son of Volunteer, and out of a dam by a son of Hetzel's Hambletonian, a full brother to Volunteer and Sentinel, his 2nd dam being a daughter of Grey Eagle, and his third dam by Blackburn's Whip.

SILVER LAKE STOCK FARM,

the property of Messrs. S. Black & Son, is situated about three miles from Frankfort, and may be reached by rail to either Frankfort or Elkhorn. Although the proprietors, to use Mr. Black's own words, are not racing men, and, consequently, do not keep any horses in training for track work, they have endeavored in forming their stud to get together representatives of the best strains of trotting blood in America, and to judge by those we saw during our visit to the farm, they have succeeded admirably in their selections, as the young things that have been bred at Silver Lake in the last couple of years show every indication of combining with speed the two very essential qualifications of size and quality.

At the head of the stud is Pretender 1453, a son of the famous Dictator 113, and, consequently, a half brother to Jay-Eye-See 2.10, and Phallas 2.13½, his dam being by Almont, sire of 36 in the 2.30 list, and his grand dam the famous Dolly, by Mambrino Chief, the dam of Director 2.17, and Onward 2.25½. Pretender is a beautiful glossy black, standing a little over 15½ hands high; he shows, all over, breeding and substance, while his clean, flat legs, short cannons and grand feet show him to be one of the wearing kind; bred from such a sire and such a dam, and tracing back on both sides to the fastest and grandest trotters that America has ever known, he has proved himself worthy of his lineage, for, although never handled for speed, he has shown trials in 2.24, while in the fall of 1886, after a very heavy season in the stud, he was led a quarter in 35½ seconds at the Breeders' meeting at Lexington. As a producer he ranks among the best of the day, his colts all showing indications of great speed, and many having already made low records, amongst them the filly Hermitage has shown a trial in 2.23½, while Blue Dick and Benoni have records respectively of 2.30 and 2.28½, the latter, still owned at Silver Lake, having made the record before he was three years old. This colt took our fancy very much; sired by Pretender, and his dam by Onward 2.25½, son of the great Geo. Wilkes, he is royally bred, and in appearance he should satisfy the most critical observer; standing half an inch over 16 hands, and powerfully muscled, with a short back and good loin, he is as big as can be desired, while his clean cut head and neck and expressive countenance show him to be possessed of any amount of courage. His dam, Sport, being by one of Geo. Wilkes' greatest sons, and tracing on her dam's side to Thorndale 2.22½, Edwin Forest and Pilot, jr., Mr. Black considers one of the best brood mares in Ken-

tucky, and without a doubt she has as the dam of Benoni proved herself a producer of speed. Among the other brood mares, which are almost all standard bred, we would especially mention Queen B, the dam of Robert Ryedyk 2.24½, Glenview Belle, three-year-old record 2.20½, and Contour, by Onward, with a record of 2.34½, made while carrying a foal.

To describe the bunch of youngsters that we spent the morning looking over would take more space than we have room for, so we will pass over them with the remark that an even, breeder looking lot of colts we have never seen; but we cannot close our notes on Silver Lake Farm without extending our heartiest thanks to its genial proprietor for the hospitality shown to us, and we would urge any of our readers who may contemplate a visit to Kentucky, not to omit paying a visit to the stables of Messrs. S. Black & Son, where we can guarantee them a cordial welcome and a sight of some choice specimens of old Kentucky's trotters.

SOUTH ELKHORN.

A short distance out of Frankfort is situated South Elkhorn Farm, the property of Col. R. P. Pepper, the well-known trotting horse breeder, who also controls the track close to the town. As our time was limited we were unable to visit the farm, but through the courtesy of the proprietor, who drove us out to the track, we were enabled to spend a couple of hours looking over some of the most famous trotters in America. At the head of Col. Pepper's stud stands the renowned Onward, a worthy son of a famous sire, by the renowned Geo. Wilkes and out of Dolly, by Mambrino Chief. Onward, with a record of 2.25½, has sired twenty-six performers in the 2.30 list, and when we add that but one of these is out of a producing dam our readers can easily see that Onward's claim to being the best son of Geo. Wilkes is not by any means a weak one; a nice bay, standing 16 hands, with a heavy barrel, clean, flat legs and wonderfully heavily muscled, Onward is in every way a big horse, and as his colts all show, not only the speed and gameness of their sire, but also his size and substance, it is not surprising that the services of this great horse are sought for eagerly by breeders all over America at the fee of \$400 for the season. Without dilating at any length on Onward's career in the stud, we would draw our readers' attention to the fact that one of his get, the famous Acolyte, with a record himself of 2.21 when three years old, sired Vatican, who made a record of 2.28½ at two years old, while two of his daughters have produced colts with records inside of 2.30, at three years old.

Besides Onward, the principal stallions in service at South Elkhorn are Norval, Madrid and Nutpatch. Of these Norval is a son of the famous Electioneer, and out of Norma, by Alexander's Norman. Owing to a sprained fetlock he was not trained while at Palo-Alto, but since then, with very little work, and after serving ninety-three mares during the season, he made a record of 2.17½ in a third heat; he has also proved himself a sire of speed, one of his get, the incomparable filly Norlaine, having made the wonderful record, as a yearling, of 2.31½. Of the remaining two, Madrid is a son of Geo. Wilkes, out of a mare by Belmont, while Nutpatch, a horse that took our fancy very much, is by Nutwood and out of a Mambrino Patchen mare; standing 16 hands, Nutpatch is a very breedy looking horse and shows a very nice, open

gait. As he is a young horse, being only six years old, he has had no chance as yet to distinguish himself in the stud; but as his own individual merit is coupled with the choicest breeding, his sire having thirty-three performers in the 2.30 list, and his dam being the dam of Astral 2.18, we expect to hear a good account of Nutpatch later on.

We had only time to take a peep at one or two of the youngsters, but we were greatly taken with Promoter, a bay, two-year-old, by Acolyte 2.21. This is a colt that we feel safe in predicting will be heard of again, his clean sinewy legs, with their short cannons and springy pasterns, and his beautiful satiny coat with the muscles standing out like whipcord, show him to be a race horse all over, while his intelligent eye and expressive countenance bespeak plenty of courage coupled with a level head. Last, but far from least, among the yearlings we found what promises to be the most wonderful trotter Kentucky has ever produced, Pilgrim, a brown colt, sired by Acolyte, he by Onward, he by Geo. Wilkes, and out of a dam by Geo. Wilkes, is a smooth, even, colt, promising to make a 16-hand horse, wonderfully muscled for a youngster, with strong quarters, though perhaps a little drooping; he shows a simply marvelous gait. Had anyone told us that a colt could be found that would trot a quarter mile at a 2.30 gait, we should have doubted it very much, but after seeing Pilgrim trot an eighth at what two of the most reliable trotting horse breeders in Kentucky declared to be a 2.25 clip, we were quite prepared to believe Col. Pepper's trainer, when he told us he had driven this trotting wonder—no other word will express what he is—a quarter mile to a road cart in 37 seconds, a 2.28 clip. Think of that, ye trotting horse fanciers, and tell me how much longer are we to endure the 3.45 stallions, with their cat hams and scrub ancestry.

BRASFIELD & CO., LEXINGTON.

After leaving Frankfort, we made our next stop at Lexington, the Mecca of all fanciers of blooded horses, and here one of our first visits were paid to the Kentucky Horse Exchange, controlled by Messrs. W. R. Brasfield & Co. Here we found what is acknowledged to be the finest sale stable on the continent, containing stabling for three hundred horses, with a covered track attached an eighth of a mile long and twenty feet wide, as well as waiting rooms, restaurant, etc.

Here some of the most famous trotters of America have changed hands at the auction sales held twice a year by Messrs. Brasfield & Co., amongst them Hinda Wilkes with a record of 2.20½, who sold for \$10,000; Cassius F. Clay with a record of 2.18, and for whom \$25,000 has been refused, his service fee now being fixed at \$200 for the season. Roseberry, sold here for \$2,150, has since made a record of 2.19½, while one of his get, the sensational western four-year-old, Blazeberry, has 2.22 to his credit on a half-mile track. Another bargain to his lucky purchaser was the pacer Winslow Wilkes, sold here for \$1,900 and now the possessor of a record of 2.11½.

Besides their half-yearly sales Messrs. Brasfield & Co. make a special business of buying and selling horses on commission, confining themselves, however, to the best class of trotting-bred horses, and so successful have they been in establishing a reputation that to-day Brasfield & Co.'s name in connection with any enterprise,