

While we are willing to admit that the Duke of Magenta is the best three-year-old of his year in the East—for he never met the best of the South and West—we are unwilling to concede that he is the greatest racehorse produced in America. We do not believe he is the superior, and it is even doubtful whether he is the equal of such horses as Harry Bassett, Tom Spring, Ten Broeck, Astoroid, Norfolk, Kentucky, Vandalite, Aristides, Vigil, and some others. True; he won all the great stakes of his year in the East, except the Jersey Derby, won by Spartan, but the quality of the horses he defeated, in our judgement, does not take rank among really first-class three-year-olds. Look at the list of his competitors this year that he defeated—Albert, Bramble, Bayard, Bonwood, Danicheff, Eugene N. Robinson, Garth Helmsman, Invermoor, Judith, Kinnie K., Mattan, Figue, Pride of the Village, Spartan, Bodio. He beat these pretty handsily, but where a single horse in this list of his defeated opponents that any good turfman would select to take to England with the expectation of beating the best three-year-olds of England? No! None. Then why laud the performances of the Duke of Magenta so high, and predict that he could add beat all England. This course is a very reverse of judicious, and extremely injurious to Mr. Lorillard's prospects, and is certain to put additional weight upon his horses, so English handicappers can ignore his performance and the laudatory expressions of the English press.

In considering the chances Mr. Lorillard's horse will have in England, writers for the press must take into consideration the vast odds against him. It is the height of folly to expect a single stable, with only some two or three horses in it, to go to England, meet an army of racehorses, and beat the pick and best of that country, France, and the Continent of Europe. We do not believe the English could take a single stable here and beat the best of that country, and it is a still harder matter to go and beat them, as they have three times as many racehorses in training. As an illustration, take the number of foals dropped annually in England, to say nothing of France, Germany, Austria and Hungary, and then weigh the odds of a single stable against them. In England bred 1,606 colts and fillies, in 1870; 1,620, in 1876 bred 1,628; total living for three years, 4,854. In 1874 we bred in Great Britain 398, 1875 bred 409, and 1876 bred 604; total living foals for three years, 1,349. Here is the difference of nearly four to one in favor of England. Now, is it reasonable to suppose that a single stable can breed and produce a better or more number of first-class racehorses from 20 foals than England can from 4,854? Is it possible to produce a single stable superior to that of England, unacclimated, and beat the Duke of Magenta, and Uncas, who have to meet the best of the foals of 1874, and 1876, and is there any certainty, and does it look improbable, judging by public performances, that Parole can beat such horses as the Duke of Magenta, 4 yrs., who recently gave Start, 4 yrs., 22 and an easy beating, and such horses as Parole, Lady Golightly, Julius Caesar, Paganet, Norwich, for it is against such he will have to contend? Can Duke of Magenta beat, weight-for-weight, such as Jannette, Insulaire, Thurlio, and Uncas, and can Uncas beat Wheel of Fortune, Cadogan, Strathern, Gunnersbury, Ruyon, Bayon d'Or, Leap Year, Charibot, and a host of others of almost equal merit? That Lorillard's stable will be successful in England, with the odds against them, to say nothing of the climate, change of feed, water, etc., is a hope against hope, and those who have betted them to the skies and built up expectations, not to be realized will have to answer to a disappointed public.

The checker club has been organized in New York with the following officers:—President, W. P. Baker; Vice-President, James H. Miller; Secretary and Treasurer, F. W. Miller; Recorder, F. Patterson; Manager, J. Milner; Committee, J. Milner, S. M. McKim, J. McKinlay, W. Maisonville, H. Vassar, A. Trato, E. Cooper.

taken sick, he announced, but would endeavor to help him through with the programme. The play went on. Heller did his best to delight his audience and succeeded. Before the part came to a close, however, his illness increased, as was plainly apparent to the audience by his looks. The performance closed. Heller, accompanied by his sister, returned to the Continental Hotel. Next morning (Tuesday), at 8 o'clock, he still felt unwell and sent for Dr. F. H. Getchell, of Spruce Street. Dr. Getchell says that upon his arrival he found him suffering from a slight congestion of the lungs. While he did not think his case dangerous, he urged Heller to keep himself quiet as possible and advised him not to keep his engagement for Tuesday night, as he thought he would not be able to play. Heller could not think of disappointing the audience and refused to listen to the advice. He felt no fear of anything dangerous. The doctor prescribed for him and left. He visited him again several times during the day, repeating his advice for him not to play on Tuesday night. It was 4 o'clock in the afternoon before he got Heller finally persuaded. At that hour he consented to allow a certificate to be drawn at his dictation and signed by the doctor to be given to the press, to the effect that he could not play that night. He would not allow the certificate to cover a longer period than that one night, though the doctor urged it upon him strongly. He expected to be out of bed on Wednesday. The doctor had made him take his bed the moment he saw him Tuesday morning. Yesterday morning he was about the same and still sanguine of being able to play last night. Dr. Getchell dissuaded him from attempting it. The doctor did not apprehend anything dangerous until 7 o'clock last evening. At that hour the patient was seized with a fit of vomiting which prostrated him greatly. He began to sink rapidly. Dr. Getchell sent for Dr. Da Costa, and the two physicians held a consultation at 8 o'clock. The outcome of it was an agreement on the part of both that Heller's condition was critical. Still they did not expect he would die during the night. To insure care in the case of need, Dr. Getchell decided to stay with him all night. Dr. Da Costa then left. Miss Heller, the sister, Dr. Getchell and a female attendant were all that remained with him. The fits of vomiting were renewed frequently, and each time the patient was prostrated more and more. He suffered greatly during these spells, and did not want to be talked to. At 11:45 the Continental people believed he would recover, and it was so noised about the house. At 12:5 Heller was seized with another fit of vomiting. He said a word or two about the pain it caused him. In five minutes afterwards he was a corpse. He passed away so suddenly his sister could not realize it for some time afterwards. The doctor, the sister and the female attendant were with him to the last. The sister was almost wild with grief. Heller's agent, Mr. Donnelly, was sent for at his residence away up town. He reached the Continental a little before 2 this morning. Stephen Fiske, the New York manager and friend of Heller, was immediately telegraphed to. Heller had an engagement to dine with Dion Boucault at Strawberry Mansion next Sunday. Nothing could have been more unexpected than his death.

#### CHARLES LITTLEFIELD AND JACOB PINCUS.

We have had a call from Mr. Charles Littlefield and Mr. Jacob Pincus, the American trainers who have been in England, the former in the practice of his important and honorable profession, and the latter as a tourist and sightseer. Mr. Littlefield has been in England since 1875; Jacob's visit was nearly six months. It was the second time the former was upon the English turf, as he was there riding for Mr. Ten Broeck nineteen years ago. We think both the trainers will reap advantage from what they saw on the other side, for they are men of sterling character, large experience, and good sense. The great and only defect in Captain Moore as a horseman arose from the fact that he had never been in England. He considered that his lack of English experience was made up by his descent from an eminent Irish family, but this was an error. His probable collateral relationship to Tom Moore, the poet, was insufficient to supply the lack of personal experience, for everybody

feared over our cramped courses, who could, upon the long and wide straight runs home of the English courses, beat their adversaries. He is of the opinion we have always held, and which we ventured to express to Mr. Jerome, General Taylor, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Paul Forbes, Mr. John Purdy, and other gentlemen before Jerome Park was opened, viz., that the most severe and valuable test for a racehorse is the trial of his ability to stand a long straight run at the finish. If he can do that he is a good winded one, and that is, upon the whole, the most valuable property in the thoroughbred.

Mr. Littlefield believes Hampton to be the best horse in England, and he is very far from thinking that there are no other good ones. He regards Hampton as a truly grand racehorse in every respect. He stands drawing very fine, and he has seen him win when he could nearly see through him. He thinks Jannette the best mare in England. They are both by Lord Clifden. Jacob first saw Jannette in the saddling paddock for the Oaks, which she won. She is, he says, a grand filly, much superior in looks to Pilgrimage. Littlefield saw Uncas in England, and liked him well. He has, however, according to him and Pincus, some dangerous customers to meet next year. They think Wheel of Fortune, by Adventurer out of Queen Bertha, by Kingston, grandam Flax, by Surplice, the best of the two-year-olds. We believe that they think she is the best they ever saw. We told them that, in our humble opinion, Uncas was not the best that ever was seen here, by a great deal. He will, however, not be likely to meet her early in the year. From what we could gather, Littlefield thinks the English two-year-olds very good this year, and that is what we said some weeks ago. Peter, Childeric, Strathern, Ruperra, Rayon D'Or, Marshall Scott, etc., are likely to be run customers next year. Littlefield did not see the Duke of Beaufort's colt by the Knight or Kas run his extraordinary race at Newmarket. Pincus did, and never saw such a wild-running colt in his life before. He nearly had Archer out of the saddle several times; and, says Jacob, "I am going to watch that fellow's doings." Jacob also saw Master Brogden pat himself on the head when he was winning the Apprentices' Plate, and likewise saw Blanton administer a little congratulation to Master Brogden with the whip as soon as he had weighed out.—N. Y. Sportsman.

#### LITTLEFIELD'S RETURN.

Mr. Charles Littlefield, who arrived in New York by the Wisconsin from England, informs us that the first part of the voyage was rough, and that King Ban, the stallion imported by Major Thomas, fretted a great deal in his stable. He went on board low in flesh, having been trained all the season, and, as he lost flesh in the passage, he landed in America in anything but good form. He is now at Preakness Farm, in New Jersey, and is slowly recruiting. He is coughing, but it is thought he will be all right in a few days, when he will be shipped to Kentucky. Mr. Littlefield agrees with Mr. Pincus that the best American horses are equal to the best English horses, but says that you cannot induce many Englishmen to think this way. When an American horse starts in a race they stand ready to offer almost any odds against him. The Duke of Hamilton is proud of the colts of Preakness, and Littlefield is sanguine that the stallion will prove a success in England. The Duke has retired Start from the turf, notwithstanding the fact that she is perfectly sound. His object in purchasing her was to breed her. It is thought that the Duke of Hamilton is about to adopt the policy of Lord Falmouth, who has had things pretty much his own way of late years, of breeding none but sound and young mares to good stallions. In no other way can he successfully compete with his lordship. Mr. Littlefield, as stated last week, will reside permanently at Preakness, where he will open a public training stable.—Turf.

A large fish was caught in the Ottawa river by a young man named Elliott last week, which measured 59 inches long, having a head exactly similar to a pig; the fisherman did not know what to call it, so he left it on shore.

with this rare disease, they took the advantage offered them of discussing this affection very warmly, and Mr. Clever was required to answer a number of questions, which he did in a highly satisfactory manner. Mr. Hookenberger, of Catsaugus, Pa., then volunteered an essay, and Mr. S. J. Foelker, of Allegheny, Pa., a communication for next evening. A vote of thanks was moved to Mr. Bond for his officiating in the chair, during the absence of Dr. Smith. Mr. Bond made a very suitable reply and the meeting adjourned.

#### TROTTING AT ALEXANDRA PARK, LONDON.

JULY 18. TIME, FOR 100 SOVS.

This match, made on the first day of the last trotting meeting held in Alexandra Park a month since, was brought to a satisfactory conclusion on Monday last, in the presence of a very fair sprinkling of the lovers of fast hits, and as the performance that was set the pony (only 12 hands 2 1/2 in. in height) was deemed something out of the common, it evoked generally a lot of interest as well as of speculation. The track is well known to be anything but an easy one, so that the old scythe-bearer from the time the match was made has been the favorite. The conditions were that Mr. Aspinall, of Wigan, wagered Mr. T. Kirby, of Semley, 50 sovs. even, that his pony Lily trotted two miles round the Alexandra Park track in 6m. 10s., the money being staked in the hands of the Sporting Life. The match was fixed to take place at two o'clock, but owing to the track being somewhat short of the half mile in circumference it was found necessary to run the chain over it, when it was found to be deficient in distance by thirteen yards and two feet. Owing to this delay it was after three o'clock when those concerned in the match and the referees had set their watches and the pony got upon her mark, when no time was lost in firing the pistol, a capital start being effected. From the first, although going tolerably well, Lily did not appear to have that fine dash of speed that has been so much admired in most of her previous handicap performances, and notwithstanding she was accompanied by Malcolm McLachlan on a fast horse of Mr. Blumson's to keep her up to her best pace, it helped to break her up in the first lap on going round the baths, but in the hands of little Tommy Greenlees she was quickly down again, and being ridden with great determination, completed the first half-mile in 1m. 35s. This was losing easily, and so long odds were thus early laid against her accomplishing the feat. Going on, however, at about the same pace, she covered the first mile in 3m. 8 1/2 s. In the next half-mile she again got up slightly, but, as in the first instance, she was down again in a moment. Still, notwithstanding all the rousing and bustle that could be given to her, it took her 4m. 4 1/2 s. to get over the first mile and a half. At this point of the distance 100 sovs. to 2 sovs. was offered against the pony, who kept on as hard as she could, but on the completion of the two miles it was 1 and that 6m. 2 1/2 s. had been occupied, she thus losing the match by 14 1/2 s.—Sporting Life.

#### HINTS ABOUT HORSE-BITS.

A writer in a German contemporary strongly counsels horse owners who study the health of their cattle to banish from their harness-rooms all bits but straight ones of the simplest possible construction. Through a long series of years he found, from personal experience, that powerful young horses frequently fell off in condition without any appreciable cause, their food being plentiful and of the best quality, and no symptoms of general ill-health being apparent. On searching carefully for the cause of this state of affairs, he found, in nearly every instance, that the horses' tongues had been more or less injured in consequence of the employment of curved, jointed, hinged, or otherwise complicated bits. The sore and tender condition of so sensitive an organ as the tongue, necessarily prevented the animals doing justice to their food, and short rations with the usual amount of work, naturally led them to a loss of condition. Unfortunately the mischief generally escapes attention until it is tolerably far advanced.

morning Mr. Phelan, after being caught the previous evening, hurried down to the "Crossly Street" "get over" on Saturday of the paper trick. The papers were examined by both George (his son) and ourselves with unsatisfactory results. "Well," exclaimed Mr. Phelan, "I will get over with Colender. His partner" anything whether he comes in. The interim George got possession of the papers and cut off one sixteenth of an inch from one end and quietly replaced them on the old gentleman's desk. When Colender came in, old rushed Mr. Phelan with the papers. "Can you tell me which is the largest of those papers?" queried he. Colender, who had been posted by George prior to entering, as to what had been done, said, "Certainly anybody can tell that." "They can't, ahem! they can't, hey!" Well, I will just have to bet you "groceries you can't!" Colender picked out the one that hadn't been cut, when Mr. Phelan exultantly exclaimed, "Well, you had better come over to the Anson House and pay up. You have lost, they are both of the same size." "Hold on," said Colender, "let's measure them." They were measured, and the governor quietly withdrew into his private office, where he remained, never showing his face the balance of the day. That was the last time the governor tried to get even at the factory.—Turf.

#### SEXTON CHALLENGED BY BLOSSON.

At 11 o'clock Saturday night last Sexton, the billiard-player, was receiving the congratulations of his friends on the fact that within an hour he would be the possessor of the Delaney Champion Medal, which he had held for two years, no challenge having been made by another player. Shortly before midnight, however, Sexton received a communication from Matthew Delaney announcing that he held \$250 and a challenge from G. F. Blosson to play Sexton for the championship and the medal. Sexton decided to accept the challenge, and the necessary arrangements for the match, which will probably be played at Tammany Hall, New York, two weeks before or two weeks after the tournament, will be made this week. The money stakes will be \$500 a side.

#### FOREIGN SPORTING NOTES.

Among the nominations for the Champagne Stakes, to be run at Doncaster next September are Geraldine, Beres, Nereld, Cherokee and Pappoose, made by Mr. Pierre Lorillard. A heavy fall of snow at Derby, England, during the night of November 11 compelled a postponement of the racing announced for the 12th. During the day the course was cleared and racing continued on the 13th. Admirers of long distance races will regret to learn that the distance for the famous Chester Cup has been reduced from two miles and a quarter to about a mile and three-quarters, and that the entries, instead of closing in January, as of old, will not close until the Thursday of the Lincoln Spring meeting (March 27.) The annual meeting at Shrewsbury, England, which took place on November 12, 13, 14 and 15, was a great success, although the pleasure of the first day was marred by a riot, during which an organized attack was made on the stand. The members of the inner enclosure rallied and drove the rioters off the course, after which some five or six were arrested. It is understood that the Duke of Hamilton's Lollypop, who won the Whittlebury Cup, carrying 134 pounds, at Northampton; the Rous Stakes, carrying 148 pounds, at Newmarket; the Queen's Stand Plate, carrying 134 pounds, at Ascot, and the Chichester Stakes, with 127 pounds, at Goodwood, is being schooled for hurdle-racing, and will probably make his debut in the International Hurdle-Race at Croydon.

#### NAME CLAIMED.

YOUNG BLENKIRON.—I claim the name of Young Blenkiron for my dark bay colt with black points, very small star in forehead, foaled July 27, 1876, by imported Blenkiron (he by Saunterer, dam Feodorown by Kingston) dam Wild Girl by Beacon; 2nd dam by Prince Albert; 3rd dam by Harkaway. 4th dam by Post Boy.—R. J. WILSON, Cobourg, Ont., Dec. 8, 1878.