Circumstances alter cases, says "Martindale" in the "Town and Country Journal." Had Sweet Nell won the Derby, Lewis was to have been presented with a gold-mounted whip by Miss Nellie Stewart at the Princess Theatre. This would no doubt have been done before the audience with the lights all on. Sweet Nell did not, however, win, and the presentation was made in private in a room in the theatre by the popular actress, who, in doing so, said to Richardson, that she admired the way in which he had always ridden to win—never doing anything else. Straight going was the only royal road to success. Boys and girls had many temptations. "You, in your calling," continued Miss Stewart, "are subject to them; but these are the occasions when you should most of all resolve to keep straight. Doing right paid best in the long run." After a glass of wine, Sir Rupert Clark said to Richardson: "Remember Miss Stewart's words. Ride to win every time; ride fairly, and always to reach the post first." "Yes, sir," said the jockey, and in response to a question from an actress who had backed Sweet Nell, they all did for the Derby. "Why didn't you let Sweet Nell catch you up?" said. "Because I had to follow my instructions, and did."

The disqualifications imposed by the Canterbury Jockey Club on the jockeys McCoomb and Cameron, whose riding in the New Zealand Cup was called in question, are the subject of some discussion amongst followers of racing. The stewards of race meetings are endowed with much discretionary power under the rules. Under Rule 14 they have power to punish at their discretion any jockey subject to their control, with fine or suspension from riding, and under rule 92 it is provided that if in running for any race one horse shall jostle or cross another, such horse, and every horse belonging to the same owner, or in which he shall have a share, running in the same race, may be disqualified from winning the race, whether such jostle or cross happened by the swerving of the horse or by foul and careless riding of the jockey, or otherwise, and when one horse crosses the track of another, it may be disqualified unless it be two clear lengths or more before the horse whose track it crosses, and if such cross or jostle shall be proved to have happened through the foul riding of the jockey, he shall be subject to such punishment as the stewards may think fit to inflict. Evidently the stewards of the Canterbury Jockey Club had evidence which satisfied them that the riding of McCombie was intentionally wrong, and that Cameron was also at fault, and it is satisfactory to know that they did not consider the result of the race had been affected, and consequently saw no reason to deprive the owner of the horse that finished in front from receiving the stake. At one time a cross, whether by accident or by design, meant disqualification to horse and rider, but this was going too far, for rules should never be framed which will permit of a manifest injustice being done to an owner. Where, in the opinion of the stewards, the result of a race has not been affected, even though it were made clear to them the jockey had intended it should be, an owner should not be made to suffer for the sin of his servant, though the servant very properly should be punished. Some owners there are who are not particular if their riders take unfair advantages of others, so long as they win, but the number of such let us hope is few, while it is certain that we have many owners who would never countenance such conduct, and would be the first to have such riders punished. Foul riding must be put a stop to. We are told that McCombie intends appealing against the action of the Club. It may not be a fact that he rode in contravention of the rules, and he may have the right to appeal, but if the evidence establishes that his acts during the race were in transgressing them, the stewards have not exceeded their powers, and an appeal would be of no avail.

The following, on Derby and Cup winners at the stud, is from the "Australasian":—"The owner of Archer, who won the first Melbourne Cup, is still hale and hearty, but very few of the actors, human or equine, in that race are above the earth. None of those early Cup winners did much good at the stud. Archer's name has quite dropped out, and The Barb and Tim Whiffler, who had good chances, must be classed failures. The best stallion among the winners of the Melbourne Cup was Chester, who got racehorses year after year, and in one season had such colts as Abercorn, Carlyon, and Cranbrook running for him. Strange to say, none of Chester's sons approached him in value as a sire, and that this would be so is a T. B. Merry prophecy that has been fulfilled. We were under the impression that this tip was a happy effort on the part of the author of 'Breeding by the Figure System,' but on looking the matter up we found the prophecy was made in one of 'Hidalgo's' letters to 'The Australasian.' A successful tip was given by Bruce Lowe when he wrote that Malua was not unlikely to turn out a better sire than St. Albans, his father. St. Albans got two or three batches of good horses in Tasmania. In Victoria, even though some of his successful mates were sent over to him, he was not nearly the success his son was. Sheet Anchor, a near relative of Malua's, was a Melbourne Cup winner, who did well during his brief life at the stud. Martini-Henry and The Assassin got a number of winners, but nothing great. Grand Flaneur sired two winners of the big race in Patron and Bravo; but, next to Chester, we suppose, Carbine was the greatest stud success of all the horses who have followed Archer as Cup winners. His stud career has been patchy, perhaps, and he cannot be said to have been an unqualified success in England; but La Carabine, Wallace, and Amberite stand to his credit in Australia, and Wallace is doing famously for him at the stud. Panic and Trenton could only run second for the Cup, but they did wonders at the stud afterwards. Dagworth, who was placed twice, did not live to get an opportunity to assist in carrying on the grand old Yattendon line. Richmond, the second to Wollomai in 1875, is known as much for the prowess of his stock as for his own deeds on the turf. Progress, the second to Grand Flaneur in this and other races, was a failure in after life. Commotion, the grand old warrior of his time—he was second and third under very heavy weights—was crippled in a race, and his stud career was brief. Goldsbrough, third under a big weight, was probably the best sire of mares we have had, and will always be remembered as the father of Frailty. His name will never drop out of the 'Australian Stud Book.' Sweetmeat was a good horse, twice placed in a Melbourne Cup, who is seldom mentioned now, and there are plenty of other good performers in connection with the race who did not achieve distinction at the stud. Many of them, no doubt, had very little chance. They had not the good fortune to get opportunities. Mr W. McCulloch, who is naturally proud of his importation, Pilgrim's Progress, still thinks he would have done much better if it had been his luck to belong to Mr W. R. Wilson. The contention is sound. From 1872 there was never a year that some good ones did not come from St. Albans. It was a wonderful place for rearing racehorses, and never better than at the time it was sold, and lost to Victoria as a stud farm. A Derby winner who missed the Melbourne Cup was Fireworks. He turned out a first-class sire, and so did Augur, the sire of Robinson Crusoe. Lapidist is only remembered now through his daughter Ruby. Wellington did well, and so did Darebin, but Navigator and Trident will only be looked back to as racehorses. Nordenfeldt did so well in New Zealand at the stud that Mr Hordern gave 5600 guineas for him, and had the bad luck (if Mr Hordern can be said to be capable of having bad luck) to find him a comparative failure in Australia. Dreadnought, with the best opportunities, was not an unqualified success in New Zealand, and Strathmore got so few foals that he was not judged worth keeping. Camoola killed himself in a wire fence before he had much chance of doing his share towards disproving the Bruce Low theory that members of the O family do not make sires. Carnage is buried (as far as we are concerned) in Germany, and Newhaven is not getting much chance in England, because he and his stock are barred from the 'Stud Book.' The Derby winners after this cannot be pronounced upon yet. As far as Australia goes, the Derby and Melbourne Cup are unsurpassed as tests of the merits of our racehorses. We can only look back to one, or perhaps two, Derby winners and say they were bad. Occasionally a Toryboy may win the Melbourne Cup, but very seldom. The most successful breeder of recent times would never breed from a horse that had not proved himself first-class, and we think we have shown that a large percentage of horses that have distinguished themselves in the 'Derby and Cup' (it was 'Cup and Derby' in the old days) have kept up their reputation on going to the stud. Others have only failed for the lack of opportunity."

The following are the winning payments made in connection with the A.R.C. spring meeting:—

Mr H. Friedlander—1st Guineas, £425; 2nd Welcome, £85; 1st Musket, £165; 2nd Musket, £25; 2nd Maiden Hurdles, £10; 2nd Nursery, £10	£670
Messrs L. D. and N. A. Nathan—1st Welcome, £200; 1st Maiden, £90; 1st Ascot, £200	490
Mr J. T. Ryan—2nd Guineas, £50; 1st Birthday, £335	385
Mr Geo. Wright—1st City	250
Mr W. L. Thomson—1st Shorts, £90; 1st Flying, £90; 2nd Epsom, £10	190
Mr L. Marshall—1st Manukau Hurdles, £90; 1st Penrose Hurdles, £90; 2nd (dead heat) Publicans', £5	185
Mr F. W. Arnold—1st Nursery, £90; 1st Publicans', £90	180
Mr F. L. Armitage—1st Onehunga Steeplechase, £115; 2nd Harkaway Steeplechase, £10	125
Mr L. Coleman—2nd Onehunga Steeplechase, £25; 1st Harkaway Steeplechase, £90	115
Mr N. Banks—1st Hunt Cup Steeplechase, £60; 1st Hunt Hurdles, £40	100
Mr T. Wylie—2nd Pony, £15; 1st Pony, £80	95
Mr W. C. Hug—1st Spring	90
Mr H. Weal—1st Maiden Hurdles	90
Mr T. G. Bray—1st Welter	90
Mr J. McGuire—1st President's	90
Messrs Rae and Muir—1st Epsom	90
Mr A. Hansen—1st Pony, £60; 3rd Pony, £5	85
Mr T. McKay—2nd Birthday, £50; 3rd Ascot, £15	65
Mr E. J. Rae—3rd City, £10; 2nd Ascot, £35	45
Mr J. Harrison—2nd City	40
Mr J. Hazel—3rd Welcome, £15; 3rd Birthday, £15	30
Mr G. Marshall—2nd President's, £10; 2nd Maiden, £10; 2nd Welter, £10	30
Mr T. W. Armitage—3rd Guineas	25
Mr J. McCracken—2nd Manukau Hurdles, £10; 2nd Penrose Hurdles, £10	20
Mr M. J. Whitelaw—2nd Pony	15
Mr R. Hannon—2nd Shorts, £10; 3rd Pony, £5	15
Mr A. McMillan—3rd Onehunga Steeplechase	10
Mr Wm. Lovett—2nd Spring	10
Mr Ernest Alison—3rd Musket	10
Mr Bullock-Webster—2nd Hunt Cup Steeplechase	10
Mr A. Hughes—2nd Flying	10
Mr E. Muir—2nd Hunt Hurdles	10
Mr W. Ryan—Dead heat for 2nd Publicans'	5
Total	£3,670

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S SPRING MEETING.

THIRD DAY.

Wet weather was experienced for the concluding day of the Auckland Racing Club's spring meeting, showers falling throughout the morning, and preventing many from attending, consequently public patronage was not up to the average at spring meetings held at Ellerslie.

The business commenced with the Maiden Hurdle Race, for which Val Rosa was a better favourite than any other of the four runners. It was a slow run race, and Crespin and Val Rosa drew right away from the others, Coma having stopped at the back of the course. Val Rosa looked all over a winner a chain from the winning post, where he caught Crespin, but Howard made the mistake of stopping his exertions, and Crespin, vigorously ridden, beat him on the post. Howard was called before the stewards, and the stewards accepted his explanation that the horse unexpectedly stopped with him. Val Rosa has the reputation of being a weak finisher, and it was probably this that influenced the stewards in overlooking the slip. The Hunt Club Cup was contested by a field of four, the ancient Mangere being one of the runners, and he was racing well to the double the second time round, when he struck heavily and lost his position, from which point he was beaten. Star waited on Riot and Boxer until coming down the hill the last time, and then headed the pair, and won with something in hand by ten lengths.

Nonette was made a better favourite than Putty for the Ascot Handicap, but the race proved a good thing for Rosella, who came at the turn for home, and from thence out had matters her own way. Nonette ran well to the distance, but was not ridden out from that stage, or might possibly have finished in second place. The Needle, who fell on the second day in the City Handicap, and Putty, who was interfered with in that race, filled the second and third places. There was a demonstration against Rosella as she returned to scale. Weight of money was behind Mr H. Friedlander's combination, Kilmarnock and Elgin, in the Nursery Handicap, the next best supported being Waiakau, Romola and Promotion. Brigadier's daughter Gwenlad, in receipt of 30lb from Kilmarnock, never gave that colt or anything else a look in after the first half furlong was traversed, and won nearly all out by quite two lengths from Kilmarnock, Promotion, Conclusion, and Romola being close up. After an interesting race Dingo got home in the Harkaway Steeplechase from Marine with little to spare, but Nor'-west was running prominently, and would no doubt have finished handy, when he slipped and fell at the foot of the hill. Had Cordon Rouge not swerved at the distance, instead of making a dead heat for second place in the Publicans' Handicap, with Cygnet, he might have finished on terms with Austerlitz, the winner of that event. He started a strong favourite. There were seventeen runners in the Welter Handicap, for which Bastion was made a decided favourite; Bonheur, Maro and St. Olga being the only other three that carried investments running into three figures. The pony Annyode was in front all the way, and though Geordie tired hard to catch her, and ran gamely enough, he failed. Lady Bell finished strongly, and got within a neck of Geordie, who was a length behind the winner, who had no more to spare. The fine dividends of £24 13/ and £6 2/ were returned. Lady Bell would have returned nearly double the last named amount had she squeezed into second place. Tip and Major were the most fancied of the Hunt Club Hurdles candidates, but Tip fell early, and Major was beaten in the home stretch by Star, who had a certain amount of luck on his side, as Khama appeared to have a chance of footing it home with him when he fell at the last obstacle. The sum of £7540 was handled at the totalisators, as against £615, showing a decrease on the corresponding day of last year of £925, the grand total for the three days reaching £25,557, as against £24,817 last year, the total increase being £740.

MAIDEN HURDLES of 100sovs, second horse 10sovs out of stake. Seven flights of hurdles. Over a mile and three-quarters.

90—Mr H. Weal's b g Crespin, aged, by Regel—Tamora, 10.6 (Fergus) 1
135—Mr H. Friedlander's br h Val Rosa, 6yrs, by Seaton Delaval—Vieux Rose, 10.10 (Howard) 2
131—Messrs Colbeck and Williamson's br g Irish, 4yrs, by Etou—Asthore, 9.7 (Burns) 3

Also started: 45 Tuni, 42 Coma, 29 Pakerimu.

Tuni led Crespin half the journey, Crespin going to the front all down the track. Over the last hurdle Val Rosa, under pressure, caught him and was nearly a length in front when the field was approaching the judge's box. Howard, however, relaxed his efforts, and Val Rosa slackened down, Crespin snatching victory by a short head. Time, 3.32. Dividends, £4 14/6.

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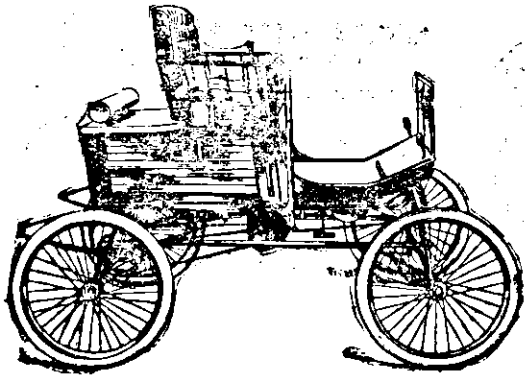

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