

Morrigan on Saturday, he told me that it was the owners who decided him not to ride the horse again. They asked him to ride in the Summer Steeplechase, after which they said they would not ask him to again steer Bombardier, for they were convinced that if he stuck to the horse he would break his neck. Morrigan knew very well the danger he was running, and sensibly accepted the offer of the Messrs Duder Bros. to stand down. He will never regret it, but somebody else will, for Bombardier will hurt his rider some day as sure as he races.

The Borough Hack Handicap of 30 sovs, six furlongs and a half, was an evenly-backed race, Frontignac, Revenge, and Commodore each being well supported. From an even start Resolute and Belvedere were earliest to the front, but they had not gone very far when it was seen that Commodore had them all beaten, and he had no difficulty in getting home by three lengths from Merry Maid, Black Friar third. But Merry Maid's owner promptly lodged a protest on the ground of a cross, and such being sustained, the stake was awarded to Merry Maid. And so a horse that could have beaten his field in any part of the journey lost the stake, the rider (Furrell) being suspended for a month. Time, 1min 28sec. Dividend, £7 10s.

The last race, the Anniversary Handicap of 50 sovs, seven furlongs, was reckoned a good thing for Doris, but a pair of stable-mates, St. Regel and Miss Nelson, had matters to themselves, and Miss Nelson got home by a bare length from St. Regel, Doris third. Time, 1min 32sec. Dividend, £8 18s.

Coming Events.

[BY BORDERER.]

EGMONT R.C. SUMMER MEETING.

THE Summer Meeting of the Egmont Club opens next Wednesday, 11th inst., and will be concluded the following day, Thursday. As acceptances are not due till to-day I am in the dark as to what will form the runners for the four leading races. The latest I can gather about Fabulist is that he will attend the meeting, in which case he must be hard to beat in the Cup, even with 9.2. Since her Riccarton win Lady Zetland's chance does not look too well, for she has been penalised, so that her weight stands at 9.5. Brooklet at 8.7 cannot be said to be out of it, but Dreamland is, I fancy, a light of the past. At 7.9 Anita must be considered well in. Her Auckland Cup proved her staying power, and her run last Saturday under 8.0 at Takapuna showed she is more than a feather-weight racer. Should she start, I like her as well as anything in the race, and the only other I have a fancy for is Monte Carlo. For a trio I like FABULIST, ANITA, and MONTE CARLO, and the acceptances may enable readers to pick out one. In the Flying old Workman would give them all rats with 9.5, but I have no idea as to whether he has stood his preparation. I like Prioress and The Miser as well as anything. The First Hurdles should rest between Dante and Lord Vivian.

NOTES.

[BY GIPSY KING.]

The other day I had a chat with Mr W. H. Keith, who recently returned from Australia after disposing of the two Gipsy King geldings, Bush Boy and The Hero. In reply to my query as to whether he had received the appointment of private trainer to Messrs H. C. and H. V. White for their up-country horses, he said that he was the successful man out of 75 applicants, but although he had accepted the position he subsequently altered his mind and came on to New Zealand.

Harry Moore, who was at one time connected with Mr S. H. Gollan's stable at Caulfield, is now in charge of Mr "Jerry" Driscoll's horses, Buckley's Chance and Off Chance, at Hawera.

It is stated in one of the Manawatu papers that a resident of Palmerston North was lucky enough to accept a wager of £500 to £15 about Brooklet for the Wellington Cup. There were only two £500 "books" open on the Cup in the southern portion of the North Island, and both were written for the full amount, but in small parcels, so that the resident referred to could not have had any of these two "books." That £500 to £15 must have been laid by the *chef* of some Coastal Hotel!

As far as the Wellington £500 "book" is concerned, almost the first wager booked in connection with the Cup race was £100 to 1 Brooklet, and what's more, the backer paid up his £1 straight off! The last wager in the same "book" was £50 to 8!

Jim Hathaway was nearly losing the stakes for the Hurdle Race at Foxton through over-confidence on the part of Gillett, who was riding his horse Pyrites. The ex-Bienheim nag was sailing in comfortably and Gillett was letting the horse slow down, when Jim Morris sneaked up with Nat, and challenging Pyrites the latter just succeeded in getting to the post in time, only winning by half a neck.

Alick McCormick rode two splendid finishes on Swift at Foxton. The little mare is one of the plodding sort, and Alick waited patiently for her until within the distance, when he asked her for one run, which her better looking opponents were unable to withstand, and he landed her a winner cleverly each time. Both races would probably have been lost if Swift had been entrusted to a less experienced horseman. It does my heart good to see a horseman sitting still and then come with a well-timed run that silences everything else in the race.

'Tis the pace that kills, so does the weight sometimes. The handicaps apportioned Flying

Shot—10.0 in the Foxton Handicap, 1½ miles, and 11.4 in the Electric Handicap, 5 furlongs—effectually stopped the big grey, and although he struggled gamely, he simply was not in it at the finish.

Wharangi (which I understand is the Maori for leaves), the three-year-old chestnut colt by Ascot from Lorelei's dam, sported silk for the first time in the Anniversary Stakes of one mile at Foxton, and although he looks a strapping, strongly-built colt (who would be chosen for a racehorse in preference to Lorelei), and is fairly forward in condition, he simply disgraced his family and didn't appear to be able to raise a good canter, and finished a long way in the rear. I trust he is not going to turn out such another frost as his three-quarter brother Aintree, by Ascot—Bay Leaf.

Bavaria (Forerunner—Starwater), the winner of the Juvenile Handicap at Wellington, was bought in a Hawera sale-yard as a yearling by Mr W. H. Chitham, of Palmerston North, for the small sum of £9. Forerunner is half brother to Vanguard, and Star Water is by Premier from Voltarina, dam of Recluse.

Year by year the Wellington Cup meeting appears to be growing in public favour, and it is only a question of a few years when it will rank next to the N.Z. Cup meeting. In a great measure the meeting is popularised by the amount of betting that is transacted over the Cup race, which is run over a favourite distance with horse owners. This year there were two £500 "books," every penny of which is "good," besides several smaller "books," ranging from £25 to £200. When a backer takes a wager, no matter how small, he never loses sight of the date of the meeting, and at every opportunity he compares notes with other horse men as to the chances of the various horses engaged, and in this way alone he assists materially in advertising the meeting. Strange to say, the principal book-makers do not appear to care about opening a book on the Egmont, Wanganui, and Hawke's Bay Cups, probably for the reason that there is not sufficient time to "get round," from the time the nominations are received up to the date of meeting. One metallician remarked to me, in reply to my query why he did not open a book on the Wanganui Cup, "that the race is too easily picked, and that backers will only back two or three horses in the race, as there are so very few horses that can get one mile and three-quarters, and the public are very fair judges of those that cannot get the distance." I think that statement pretty well explains the position. However, if "double books" were opened, on the same principle as that prevailing in Sydney, i.e., the backer to receive a certain sum—according to the proportion of the wager—for a winner and a second, a winner and a third, or two seconds, I think if this system were tried here—each backer to receive a card with the odds plainly marked on it—that "double" betting would be more favourably received. In connection with the Cup race it seems a pity that, owing to the dispute between Mr W. Douglas and Mr T. Quinlivan, senior, the latter, who had been training Brooklet up to within a week of the meeting, should be robbed of the pleasure of leading away the winner of this year's Cup. During the time the mare has been under his care she has been steadily improving, and at the Manawatu meeting the mare was in the acme of condition, and her failure to win the Palmerston North Cup, run in the fast time of 2min 38sec for that course, was simply owing to want of horsemanship. The little fellow on her back was done after the mare had gone about nine furlongs, and during the three last furlongs the mare was running loose and going where she pleased. Brooklet is my *beau ideal* of a race-horse, and is undoubtedly a splendid advertisement for Mr W. Douglas' Te Mahanga stud. I remember Brooklet's first appearance under silk, at the Taratahi-Carterton Hack Meeting, on November 9th, 1894, and she failed in both her races, Swordfish being the first to catch the judge's eye in each of the events in which she competed. I backed the Hutt-trained hack against Brooklet, but wouldn't have the courage to do so now. However, time and careful attention have worked wonders in the mare, and Mr Quinlivan, senr., is deserving of all the kudos attachable to training the winner of one of the most important handicaps in New Zealand. Indeed, the same trainer has had all the horses in his charge in wonderful nick this season, as Streamlet, Aio, and The Brook have each done good service for Mr Douglas' stud this season. This is all the more creditable to their ex-trainer, as mares are kittle cattle to keep well. Some people say that if Saracen had not faltered at the turn into the straight he may have been returned the winner, but good judges, some of whom were not backing Brooklet, aver that she was too superior, and that it would have taken a Carbine to have beaten her. Anyway, when it comes to a struggle I hardly think Saracen is the guest in the world, for when White got at him in the Wellington Racing Club Handicap he shirked punishment. But I have seen a lot of horses lately that decline to race under whip or spur, but the same horses, if ridden hard with hands and heels, will contest every inch of ground at the finish. Muffled spurs may be right enough, but my observations have led me to the conclusion that spurs do more harm than good. The Wellington sports as a rule are undemonstrative, but they could not help giving Saracen's owner a cheer after the "all right" had been given after the decision of the Racing Club Handicap. Mr Allen has had a lot of hard luck with his horse, and everyone was pleased to see him get a win. Saracen did not look so "pretty" as I have seen him on previous occasions, looking much lighter, and he evidently races better this way than when rounded up. A thoroughly trained horse does not usually look a picture.

A quarter of a mile less distance to travel and Silbs off his back, may have made a difference to old Liberator (whom his owner calls "the stone-thrower"), but my opinion about the hurdle race the second day is that old Lib. bolted in, so easily did he win. My pick of the two-year-olds at the meeting is Defiance, who is bred the right way to

stay, and I like St. Elmo better than Antares. Lorenzo, if he were mine, should be turned out until he is four years old, then be put in a mission for hurdle racing.

Solitaire's victory in the Metropolitan Handicap was almost as unexpected as Defiance's defeat in the Juvenile Handicap. However, sprinting is undoubtedly Solitaire's forte, and as he is more lightly than her half-brother, Ascot Vale (by St. Albans), who was a brilliant horse over a short distance, I expect her to turn out his equal for pace. King's Bowman, whom she defeated, is a great galloper over a sprint distance, and it takes the best in the land to stride it out with him for the first three or four furlongs. Of the hacks that started at the meeting I prefer King's Own, but I fancy he is not too sound. He won comfortably enough the first day, but only secured third position the second day, but had he not stumbled badly I think he would have wrestled out the finish with Ebor II.

The Miser, who many thought had a chance in the Wellington Cup after his Hutt Park Handicap win in November, ran very consistently at Wellington, and turning into the straight in the Racing Club Handicap of one and a quarter miles, his name was called, but when Lorelei and Saracen came at him he could not stand the pressure. This was not to be wondered at, as he had run a clinking good race in the January Handicap, one mile and a furlong (two races previous), the distance being traversed in 1min 56sec, and the son of old Grinnino was only about a length and a half off the winner (Leda.) To ask or expect him to beat Lorelei and Saracen, fresh horse, was too much. To my mind this horse would have a better chance of scoring if he were ridden a waiting race instead of being ridden from end to end. Very few horses can stand the strain of doing their best from start to finish, as practically horses ridden to instructions in such a manner act as pacemakers for something else in the race, which "flop" up at the finish to beat their pacer.

Turf Topics.

[BY REVIEWER.]

Georgie Sharp has been served by Lakeshell.

It is now stated that Au Revoir is untrainable. The St. Leger mare, St. Laura, is said to have gone wrong.

Mr Gollan is riding Ebor occasionally in his work in the Old Country.

The programme of the Papakura Racing Club appears in our advertising columns.

It is rumoured in Melbourne that Hova is likely to be bought for India shortly.

The Wellington Park bred colt, True Blue, has been given a spell on the Sydney-side.

The Nordenfeldt gelding Repeater broke down in the Takapuna Cup last Wednesday.

The Possible is rapidly recovering from the spill he received in the Auckland Cup.

Lady Zetland's recent win brings her Egmont Cup weight up to 9.5, including penalty.

Mr T. Tobias informs us that he will be present at both the Egmont and Taranaki meetings.

Mr J. E. Henry's handicaps for the Egmont meeting appear elsewhere. Acceptances are due to-day.

Mr J. Davidson, the well-known local book-maker, will attend the Egmont and Taranaki meetings.

Since the Castor mare Leda was bought for 55 guineas last autumn she has won £400 in stakes alone.

It is rumoured that the Martini-Henry horse, Mahee, will shortly find a new home either in India or Africa.

The South Auckland R.C. annual meeting which has been fixed for March 6th and 7th, promises to be a successful fixture. Nominations for all events close to-morrow, when there will doubtless be a satisfactory list of entries. On the opening day the S.A.R. Cup Handicap of 45 sovs, one mile and a quarter, will be the principal event, and the other items will be the Final Handicap of 15 sovs, one mile; First Hurdles of 25 sovs, one mile and a half; First Pony Handicap of 20 sovs, seven furlongs; Handicap Steeplechase of 25 sovs, about two miles and a half; Handicap Trot of 10 sovs, two miles; and Flying Handicap of 20 sovs, six furlongs. On the second day the leading item will be the McNicol Memorial Stakes of 30 sovs, one mile and a quarter, besides which there will be the Claudlands Handicap of 20 sovs, one mile; Second Hurdles of 25 sovs, one mile and three-quarters; Second Pony Race of 15 sovs, six furlongs; Handicap Steeplechase of 40 sovs, about three miles; Second Trot of 15 sovs, two miles and a half; and Railway Plate of 20 sovs, six furlongs.

Musket's fame rests solely on Carbine and his sons and daughters whose dams descended from Yattendon or Fisherman, or Yattendon's sire, Sir Hercules, and hardy old Tracer. The latter has done far more good for the New Zealand thoroughbred than ever Musket did. He laid the foundation of a hardy, sound breed, but unfortunately Musket came along and poisoned it. Manton was once thought to be better than Carbine. He is out of a Tracer mare, named Gitana, who was by Sir Hercules. Raupo, a grand-daughter of Sir Hercules, could throw a horse like Mata to Deadshot, but I never heard of her producing a winner to Musket in the three seasons she visited him. Aalanta threw winners to all sorts of sires, except Musket; and Atalanta threw King Ban, Happy-Go-Lucky, Pri'e de l'Ocean, Henry II., Bower of Bliss, and St. Leger to different sires, but her three visits to Musket only produced Happy Land, who would never have been heard of had she not been mated with stout Ingomar, and produced Hova.—Sydney Truth.

The connections of the chaser Roscius are hopeful of again racing their horse, but it will not be for some time.

Mr W. Douglas presented Geo. Hope with a furnished house on the occasion of his marriage with Miss Chisholm.

The Otahuhu Trotting Club's privileges for their forthcoming meeting will be sold to-morrow at the Brunswick Mart.

Inspiration, Coolata, and Vanitas have been scratched for the Newmarket Handicap, and Patron for the Australian Cup.

The Melbourne Leader says that Fabulist once ran in hack races. I would like to know where the Leader writer got his information from.

Brooklet and The Brook have been nominated both by Mr W. Douglas and Mr T. Quinlivan, senr., for the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting.

The last Sydney mail brings news of the death of Mr W. B. Walford, hon. treasurer of the Australian Jockey Club. Mr Walford died at the ripe age of 74 years.

Carnage's stud fee in England has been fixed at 50gs, and he is limited to twenty-five mares. His list is full, and only one of his owner's mares will be put to him.

It is reported that in the Hack Hurdles at the Ohimetai races thirty-two spills took place. As only seven horses were running they must have had five spills apiece!

Frontignac, winner of the Takapuna Maiden Plate, gets his name from a sweet Muscat wine made at Frontignan in France. Frontignac's dam is Golden Grape.

Nominations for the Wanganui J.C. Autumn Meeting will be found in another column. Also the weights for the Hurdles and Stewards' Welter, to be run at the D.J.C. Autumn Meeting.

The owner of Leda has received an offer of 300 guineas for the little Castor mare from a well-known Auckland racing man. This offer has been accepted, subject to certain conditions.

The Northern Steamship Company announce their intention of running a special race boat for the benefit of excursionists to the Egmont meeting. For further information see advertisement.

The civil case of T. Quinlivan v. W. Douglas has been set down for hearing in the Supreme Court in February. The claim is £2,679, the plaintiff alleging that defendant illegally took possession of the Wellington Cup winner, Brooklet, in the face of an agreement giving plaintiff the use of the mare as long as she could race.

After the payment of forfeit there are some 50 left in the D.J.C. First Eclipse Stakes of 500 sovs, to be run at the Autumn Meeting of 1897. For the Second Eclipse Stakes of 1000 sovs, to be run in 1898, the club received on Saturday an entry of 51 foals, which, with 74 two-year-olds and yearlings already entered, make a total of 115.

The *Indian Planter's Gazette* comments as follows on the performances of Sprightly and Fortunatus in the Viceroy's Cup:—"Fortunatus, we consider, ran a very great little horse indeed in Robinson's careful hands, and it was worth watching to see the way in which the horse was nursed till the time came for his dart to be made. That it fell short of its object was the horse's, the jockey's, and trainer's misfortune, not their fault. Perrett is certainly deserving of praise for the condition in which he brought the horse out, considering the comparatively short time which he has had to do with him, and we give it him unreservedly. Fortunatus ran a thoroughly game, consistent race, and under Robinson's excellent pilotage he came to the very last ounce. Of the winner's performance, too, it is hard to speak too highly, for on a slow course he has put up an Indian record, his 3min 4 2-5sec being the best that has ever been done in this race, the previous best on record being Myall King's, of 1888, when he covered the distance in 3min 7 1-2sec, carrying the same weight as Sprightly."

Referring to Carbine's defeat by Ensign in the V.R.C. Derby, the Melbourne writer "Nunquam Dormio" has the following interesting paragraph:—"As to what a good gelding Ensign really was, the best authority on that point is Mr W. Allen, the celebrated Victorian 'vet.' who showed Ensign's fractured leg in the Press-room a few days after the son of Grandmaster and Formosa (Huret's dam) was destroyed; from which it was open and palpable that when Ensign defeated Carbine in the Derby the fracture existed in the bone, and during the contest for the Melbourne Cup the sound portion gave way. There was the black corroded part of the old fracture right enough, together with the newer mark where the other portion had parted. At the time, Mr Allen was of opinion that the original fracture must have been sustained fully five or six months previously, so that when Ensign won the Derby he won it with a fractured leg, and I fancy that was a little above even Carbine's height!"

"Delaware," of the Sydney *Truth*, is evidently not a gusher over Musket. He alludes in the last issue of his journal to "the hundreds of rotten legged Muskets that are manuring New Zealand through. Brutes with big ungainly bodies too big for their weak soft pasterns to support. Musket got a few good horses, but he got them out of the grandest lot of mares it was possible to get together. With the exception of Carbine, all his good horses came from proved good Australian stock. It is noticed that his sons who have so far been successful at the stud came from hardy old stock whose ancestors made the Australian horse famous for the stamina. Instead of improving I hold that Musket has weakened them by introducing bad feet, weak soft pasterns, and a general softness all round. Who ever heard of a good (bar Carbine) Musket after he was three years old. Trenton raced on a bit, but he was all to pieces at four years. The time will come when the Muskets will be dubbed rotten instead of incomparable."