

[By STONEWALLER.]

THE CUP MATCHES.

The association games were resumed on Saturday after a break caused by the Easter holidays. Auckland XI. triumphed over the Fifteen, Parnell easily vanquished Gordon, and United scored against North Shore by the narrow margin of nine runs.

In the match at Devonport the United men started very well, and the score reached 77 ere the second wicket fell, thanks to the excellent play of Watts and Marshall, who made 25 and 47 respectively. After this wickets fell very rapidly, and with the total at 98 seven wickets were down. Then Walton and P. Hay came to the rescue, and offering a stubborn resistance to the bowling, stayed together, until the North Shore score was equalled. The other wickets were able to put on the necessary runs.

Going in in a bad light, the North Shore men put on 50 runs for the loss of four wickets in their second innings.

The Auckland XI, with two wickets for 21, continued batting against the Fifteen. The bowlers held the upper hand until R. Neill and Nicholson were associated. The former played very finely for 69. Nicholson made 44, and Thomas 21. The issue was in doubt for some considerable time, but eventually the Eleven triumphed by 16 runs.

Bowling for the Fifteen, A. M. Beale took four wickets for 34, Allan three for 51, and E. C. Beale two for 22.

Against Gordon Parnell had an easy win. The score reached 213 for eight wickets by the time play ceased. Ike Mills increased his score to 27 before Edwards bowled him. Ohlson (58) batted in his usual steady manner, while Young (36) and Lusk (21) also played well.

The number of extras was very large, no less than 34 being added to the total.

The following interesting cricket chat is taken from the Yorkshire Post interview with the big hitter, Mr C. J. Thornton:—"I believe it is a fact that one hit of mine is the longest authenticated hit in the world. It was made during practice in front of the pavilion at Brighton, the ball pitching rolled down to the Western Road. The distance, measured by the Rev. W. Pycroft, was found to be 168yds. In a match the farthest hit I made was for the Orleans Club against the Australians, and that was found to measure 152yds."

The most sensational display of hitting ever seen in Engesnd was from Mr Thornton's bat at the Scarborough Festival in 1886. "It was in the match Gentlemen of England v. I Zingari, and among I Zingari bowlers was Mr A. G. Steel. I went in for the Gents in the second innings when the score was 133 for four wickets. In 70 minutes the score was exactly doubled, and I had made 107 out of 133, all the other wickets having fallen, and I being not out. There were eight sixes—one from an overthrow—and twelve fours in my score, and one of the sixes went through an open window in one of the houses on the square side of the ground. Probably Mr Steele had never such rough punishment. The figures were:—6, 1, 6, 4, 6, 2, 1, 1, 4, 6, 4, 6, 1, 4, 4, 1, 6, 4, 4, 6, 1, 6, 4, 4, 1, 4, 2. There was some more curious cricket the following day. We played a scratch game between the Gentlemen of Middlesex and Gentlemen of England. In my score of 54 there were five sixes, two of them from successive strokes. In one over of five balls it was found necessary to use four different balls. Three of them had been knocked into the field outside the ground. In a match at Malton in 1871, Scarborough Visitors v. Malton, odds of 2 to 1 were laid that I could not and would not hit a ball out of the ground. As luck would have it, the very first ball I received was hit clean out of the enclosure, and before the innings was closed I had hit the ball out five times. In the

same season at Scarborough one hit off Tom Emmett pitched 130yds away from the wicket. I ought to add that in every instance where distance of hit is quoted the measurement was fairly and squarely taken by chain. Bonnor was once said to have hit a ball over a fence, a garden, a river, and a field beyond, but the hit was never measured. It has also been said that Mr Fellowes once hit a ball 175yds, but that, too, was not authenticated. At Lord's in 1870, in the match Cambridge v. M.C.C., I scored 37 in ten hits. At Brighton, in 1871, for Gentlemen v. Players, this was beaten by a record of 34 in nine balls. One of the balls I did not hit; the others yielded seven fours and a six. Once, at Rickling Green, the Orleans Club had to score 250 runs in two hours to win the match. The runs were got in 100 minutes, my share of them being 170 not out. The feat cost me £5, for I had bet 10 to 1 in half sovereigns that we did not get the runs. On another occasion, with the Orleans Club, on their ground at Twickenham, I helped myself to such scores as 91 out of 100 in one innings, and 49 out of 50 in the next. On May 16, 1888, for Orleans Club against Merchant Tailors' School, I got 193 out of 300 scored in two hours. A year afterwards 138 was my score in 58 minutes for Lyric Club against Green Jackets; and another score is 104 in 38 minutes, also for the Lyrics. Spofforth and Murdoch played in this match. Playing once with the Messrs Walker's team at Southgate against the Free Foresters, Mr David Buchanan, whose interesting interview you gave the other day, was treated by me rather roughly. I felt in very good form, and showed it by knocking up 185 runs. When I was at last dismissed, Mr Buchanan, with a sigh of relief, remarked—"Now we shall have some cricket." The famous old Cantab—in his day the best amateur slow bowler in the country—did not like having liberties taken with his bowling. Who is the bowler that would?

"The late Hon. Robert Grimston once felt hurt at the way in which I treated the bowling of a Harrow boy named Dawes. My cousin, Mr Percy Thornton, M.P., popularly known as 'Friday' Thornton—I suppose I was considered Robinson Crusoe and he the 'man Friday'—had asked me to go down to Harrow to play in a match against the school. The result was that I got about 120 in an hour. Mr Grimston was furious, and vented his feelings with the remark, 'It's all thro' that silly man Friday bringing him down.' Evidently the incident was cherished at Harrow, for I was not invited again to play there until five years ago.

"The late H. H. Stephenson, when a coach at Uppingham, also did not like to see the averages of any of his best bowlers spoiled by liberty-taking batsmen. I once played against the school team with an eleven taken down by the late Mr I. D. Walker. Mr Walker and I were in together, and I scored 60 while he made a few less. The following day Stephenson presented Mr Walker with a bat. 'What have I done, Stephenson,' said I, when I found he had not got a bat for me also, 'Haven't you got one for me too?' 'No,' was his severe reply; 'Mr Walker plays cricket; you don't.' In one match I hit Vernon Royle out of the ground on three successive deliveries, at the fourth ball he bowled a grub, remarking 'No one shall ever say he hit Vernon Royle four times out of the ground in one over.'

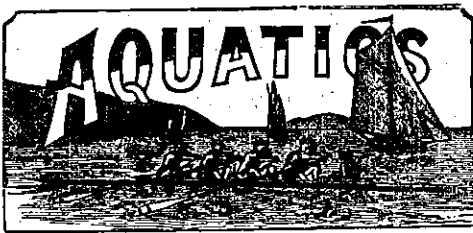
"One night at the Ranelagh Club, Bonnor was dining with me after a match, in which I got 120 runs and hit a ball into the river, which was 185yds (measured) away. "Old Bonnor said, 'You think you can hit hard, but I have a sister in Australia who can hit as hard as you.' I replied, 'Why not bring her over here and marry her to Louis Hall, and combine the two styles?' When in Australia in 1891 I was asked by a man at lunch on the Melbourne Ground if this story was true. It shows how tales travel about."

Briar Sweet, a daughter of the New Zealand-bred Sir Modred, is said to be not only the best three-year-old filly of her year, but the best of that age and sex seen in America for many years. Last season she displayed great form, winning 13 out of 15 races in which she took part, and running second on the two occasions she was beaten. Included in her winning performances are five furlongs in 1min 0 1/2sec, with 7.4; a mile in 1min 40 1/2sec, with 7.9; and a mile and quarter in 2 min 7 1/2sec, with 7.4.



Photo by F. W. Edwards, Auckland.

MR J. A. HARDING, OF THE MASONIC HOTEL, GISBORNE.



[By MURITAL.]

On Saturday afternoon last the West End Rowing Club held its fifth trial fours of the season, and with the exception of the water being a bit lumpy the affair was one of the most successful ever held by this popular club. The weather was gloriously fine, and about 700 friends took advantage of the club's invitation. A competent committee carried out the arrangements, which included a liberal supply of light refreshments to the visitors. The racing was very interesting, eighteen crews competing. There were three races of six crews each, the winners of each heat receiving a prize. The three crews left in then competed for the first, second, and third prizes, presented respectively by Mr M. McLean (president), Mr O. J. Parr and Mr J. A. Cooper (vice-presidents). Crews stroked by Messrs Fricker, White, Hewson, Hackson, Hodges, and Richmond went out for the first heat. Mr J. Clarke got the six boats away to a splendid start, and after a ding-dong race Hewson's crew, with a splendid spurt when only a few lengths from home, won by half a length from Hackson's, Richmond's being third. The crews for the second heat were stroked by Messrs Conway, Oswald, Cook, A. Stephenson, Holland, and Boyce. There was considerable delay at the start of this event, some of the crews trying to get the best of it, and it would be as well—for the benefit of spectators and those competitors who wish for a fair start—if the club could see its way to give the starter power to either fine the anxious ones or disqualify them for the race. The boats eventually went away to a fairly good start, Conway's crew winning by three-quarters of a length from Oswald's, Cook's third. The chances of Holland's and A. Stephenson's crews were spoilt by a bad foul. Crews stroked by Messrs Littleproud, Dowden, G. O. Stephenson, E. C. Stephenson, Rylance, and Rees started in the third heat, and Rees's crew easily beat Dowden's, G. O. Stephenson's being third. An hour's interval was given before the final was rowed, and during this time the trophies won at previous trial fours were presented. The three crews left in the final were:—Messrs Hewson (stroke), Matthews, E. Mason, E. Dowden, and H. Stein (cox); Messrs Conway (stroke), F. Maxwell, A. Miller, L. Shepherd, and S. Clark (cox); Messrs Rees (stroke), Carrigan, Bach, Gittos, and Weston (cox). From a good start the crews were pretty level until halfway; when Conway's crew drew away and looked like winning, but about fifty yards from home Hewson's crew put in a splendid spurt, which they sustained to the finish, and won by three-quarters of a length amid loud and well-earned applause, Rees's crew pulling up.

The North Shore Rowing Club also held trial fours on Saturday at Brick Bay, and so far as rowing was concerned the competitors were better favored than their West End brethren, the

water on the northern shore being quite smooth. This club has gone ahead wonderfully during the season, and looks like regaining its old-time prestige. This is due in a great measure to the help and interest given by the ladies; and their help is very practical, for they not only row in some of the races, but they give a good share of the trophies. Take, for instance, last Saturday's trials: the valuable gold scarf pins, with the initials of the club engraved thereon, were given by ladies of the Shore, who also took part in ladies' trials; and Miss Doris Townshend took the place of a boy coxswain and steered an outrigger to victory in a heat and the final, afterwards steering the winning boat in the ladies' pair-oar. Notwithstanding the great counter attraction of the balloon ascent, there was a good crowd present. The first heat was won by G. Cardno's crew, J. Sullivan's being second. In the second heat W. Pitt's crew beat W. Swinnerton's. The third heat was won by J. Cardno's crew, who beat F. Burgess's. This left three for the final, which was won by J. Cardno's crew, George Cardno's being second, and W. Pitt's third. The winners were—J. Cardno (stroke), H. Mann, P. Walsh, P. Wood. The final of the ladies' pair-oar resulted:—Misses Towashend and Jenkins beat Misses Brown and Johnson.

The Auckland Rowing Club held trial fours on Saturday for trophies presented by Dr Baker. The final was a grand struggle between crews stroked by J. Whelan and A. Dacre, the former winning by two lengths. The winning team comprised—J. Whelan (stroke), H. E. Brown, J. Chisholm, and W. Grey.



TARANAKI JOCKEY CLUB.
HACK GUINEAS,
TO BE RUN ON NEW PLYMOUTH RACOURSE, ON
BOXING DAY, 1900.

HACK GUINEAS of 150 sovs; second horse to receive 30 sovs, and third horse 20 sovs from the stake. For three-year-olds (now yearlings). Colts, 8st 10lb; mares or geldings, 8st 5lb. One mile.

HACK means a horse that has never won a race and is not nominated at time of start for any race (hack and hunter races excepted).

NOMINATIONS, 1 sov, to close on SATURDAY, 27th May, 1899.

FIRST ACCEPTANCE, 1 sov, to close on SATURDAY, 30th December, 1899.

FINAL PAYMENT, 1 sov, to be made on SATURDAY, 8th December, 1900.

ROBT. G. BAUCHOPE,
Hon. Secretary,
New Plymouth, February, 1899.

A Gold Hunting Watch, value £5 10s, to be given away. See page 4.



Photo by C. Bell, Auckland.

A SNAPSHOT ON THE LAWN AT ELLERSLIE.

Silk Handkerchiefs 3d, 6d, 9d.