

ENGLISH SPORTING NOTES.

MUCH interest is always taken in the July Sales at Newmarket, when numbers of fashionably-bred yearlings are usually brought to the hammer. Seldom can Mr. Tattersall have enjoyed such brisk bidding as has this year been the order of the day. The "boom" began with the sale of Her Majesty's Hampton Court yearlings, when one, an own sister to Memoir, the winner of the Oaks, brought the highest price ever reached in the country, namely, 5,500 guineas; but it continued at Newmarket, when several youngsters fetched large sums. Mr. Douglas Baird gave 2,000 guineas for a chestnut colt by Sterling—Geologist, and two or three others brought amounts which ran into four figures—next day, however, these prices were cast in the shade. Thirteen yearlings—let us hope the number does not bode ill for their turf-careers—brought sums varying from one to three thousand guineas. Lord Dudley paid the last-mentioned sum twice for a bay colt by Barcaldine—Junket and for a sister to Heresy by Hermit—Controversy mare, and Mr. Hamar Bass gave the same amount for a brother to Energy, by Sterling—Cherry Duchess. But the highest individual price of the week was brought when a brown filly by St. Simon—Josyan fell to Colonel North's bid of 3,200 guineas. Counting the Hampton Court Sale, twenty-seven yearlings fetched rather more than 50,000 guineas. Business can hardly be bad when owners are found ready to give such enormous amounts one the chance that they may be obtaining an Ormonde, a Donovan, or a Memoir.

The racing at Newmarket early in July was very interesting. Baron Rothschild, who is having a very good year, won the July Stakes with Beauharnais, and Mr. J. H. Houldsworth the Zetland Plate with Ponza; while L'Abbesse de Jouarre, Morion, and Iddesleigh were among the other winners. Bumptious failed to win the Bottisham Plate, in which Mephisto turned the tables on him, but he added the Plantation Stakes to his credit.

An unfortunate *contretemps* took place in the Cumberland Plate at Carlisle. Tyrant was made favourite, and justified expectations by securing an exciting race from Mr. Burton's Barneside. It was immediately discovered, however, that the race had not been properly started, and it had to be run over again. This time Tyrant was nowhere, and Barneside won at his ease.

At Kempton Park we may note the victories of Sir F. Johnstone's Fuse in the Grand Two-Year-Old Stakes, of Deuce of Clubs in the Princess of Wales's Stakes, and of St. Cyr in the International Two-Year-Old Race.

The Zetland Plate at Leicester fell to Coreza, who, by the way, was disqualified for the Hurstbourne Stakes at Stockbridge, owing to her having carried wrong weight. The Midland Derby fell to Hartfleur, and the Portland Plate to Mr. Houldsworth's Orvieto, the favourite, Peter Flower, being second.

The only event of importance at the Leicester meeting was the Prince of Wales's Stakes for three-year-olds, in which Surefoot, caught in a good humour, recovered his lost reputation. Memoir was second and Alloway third. At Sandown Park the threatening weather frightened many away, and the attendance was but small, but the racing was good. On the first day the principal race was the Royal Handicap. In this the favourite, Miss Dollar, justified expectations by winning in a canter. Public form was again upheld on the second day, when Day Dawn won the Surbiton Handicap.

The second July meeting, which has become quite a fashionable event, opened at Newmarket in very fine weather. The Prince of Wales was present, but brought no luck to his colours, for his Nandine could only get second to Lord Gerald's Sweet Vernal in the Maiden Plate; and his Pierrette occupied the same position in the Soltkyoff Stakes, Lord Ellesmere's Belvidera II. beating her by a neck.

The summer meeting at Liverpool is always interesting, and the Liverpool Cup, as usual, has been the medium of considerable speculation. The next race in importance to the Cup was the St. George's Stakes, in which were seen the two well-known three-year-olds Le Nord and Alloway, both of whom had to give considerable weight to Hebrides, who won by half a length, and was promptly promoted to the post of favourite for the Cup, run on the

following day, and which resulted in Father Confessor being first, L'Abbesse de Jouarre second, and Shall We Remember third. Lord Durham's Peter Flower continued his victorious course by winning the Mersey Stakes (value £1,000), and Dog Rose, who made his first appearance this season, took the Molyneux Cup, to the surprise of the backers of Day Dawn, Ostrogoth, and others more fancied than the winner.

The annual meeting in the Duke of Richmond's park always occupies the minds of all racing men, and also a very large number of the fashionable world, who look upon Goodwood races as the break-up of the season, and the last place to meet each other *en bloc* for some time to come. The long and tedious journey has always been the great drawback to this otherwise most charming meeting, but even this has been much improved of late, as the railway companies run some very fast trains. However, a vast number got there somehow, and society was excellently well represented. As usual, the Prince and Princess of Wales were among the Duke of Richmond's numerous guests; and, as the weather was fine, the show may be considered a success in every way, except that Lottie Smith, the favourite for the Steward's Cup sadly disappointed her backers, only getting about sixth place to Lord Hartington's Marvel. Two unfortunate things happened in connection with the race. Mr. Coombes heard that his handsome horse Maxim had met with an accident, and at once scratched him, but as matters turned out, the injury was so slight that he could have run and given his backers a chance, and a good one; the other case being that of Upstart, who was supposed to have a good chance, but unfortunately through some accident in the morning, he was too much injured to take part in the race.

The Goodwood meeting of 1890 is now over, and very little light was thrown upon the great Doncaster three-year-old race by the events decided at the meeting. The only prominent candidate seen out was Memoir, and she had little difficulty in defeating her opponents, but the easy manner in which she did what was asked of her at once brought her back to her former position of favourite for the St. Leger. Father Confessor won the Chesterfield Cup, after running a dead heat with Edgardo, thus proving himself a really good horse, for he carried 9st. 6lbs., giving his three-year-old opponent 44lbs. Everyone was glad to see the Rothschild colours to the fore this season, but they have met with some severe rebuffs of late, not the least being the defeat of Beauharnais by Sir James Duke's Matenhurst. There were others besides the Baron who felt the defeat of the colt, for odds of 3 to 1 were laid on him.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

[This letter reached us last week too late for publication.—Ed. S.R.]

STRIKE and strike! nothing but strike; the whole place is in a perfect ferment, but one would have thought that sport and sportsmen could hardly have been drawn into the vortex. Such, however, is the case, the latest edict from the "Union" Committee being that owing to the attitude taken by prominent members of the Canterbury Jockey Club in giving countenance to free labour, the Club should be boycotted. The Club, I daresay, will survive, even should the directions have any effect on Unionists, which is open to doubt. To leave generalities and come to particulars, nearly the whole of the employees at Yaldhurst have for the nonce turned free labourers at Lytleton, and I am informed the training of Mr. Stead's powerful team has been practically suspended, hands only being left sufficient to attend to the feeding of the horses. Many racing men and erstwhile jockeys, etc., may be seen among the gangs employed on the wharves at port. From this you will see that the "strike" has an influence even over sport.

Mr. W. H. Wanklyn, of Hawera, was this week appointed secretary of the Canterbury Jockey Club. You will know as well or better than your correspondent as to his fitness for the office, and I may say that the appointment has given rise to some bitter heart-burning, it being thought that several Christchurch gentlemen's claims should not have been overlooked. There were, I know, more than one highly

eligible candidate in the field, so that the appointment of the Egmont Racing Club's secretary is complimentary to that gentleman, who, I hear, owes his getting the office to his contributions in regard to the formation of the New Zealand Metropolitan Racing Club.

The Geraldine Racing Club's meeting—the opening race meeting of the season—takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday. The former glory of the gathering has departed, but still some interesting racing may be expected next week. It is thought that most of the prizes will come to Riccarton.

Messrs. Hobbs and Goodwin, the Canterbury totalisator people, are at present in Australia, their visit being not unconnected with an endeavour to get a footing in Victoria with the betting machine. The Dunedin firm of Mason and Roberts, than whom none are more favourably known to the sporting world, are also casting eyes in the same direction. From this it would appear the machine men look to the legalising of the totalisator in Victoria as next to an accomplished fact.

The New Zealand Trotting Association have for a long time past been agitating for an amendment in the Gaming and Lotteries' Act. They object to the hard and fast rule which makes it incumbent on clubs—that is, trotting clubs—in having to provide certain sums for stakes before being granted the use of the totalisator. It is argued, with reason, that it is a poor man's sport, and that the rule in regard to permits for the machine should not be so stringent as in the case of ordinary racing clubs. So far the efforts of the Association have not met with much success, the Colonial Secretary turning a deaf ear to all that has been said. Mr. W. B. Percival and other Canterbury members have taken the matter in hand, and there is now some likelihood of the reforms desired being given effect to.

The New Brighton Trotting Club hold a meeting on the 25 inst., at which £160 is to be given away in stakes.

The standard trotting stallions Kentucky and Boston are announced as being at the service of breeders. Both these horses are excellent representatives of their breed, and the first named, a really beautiful mover, holds the two mile harness record for the Colony.

Another trotting item:—It will be noticed that Anneaux d'Or, who was surreptitiously shipped from this colony about a month ago, is entered for some events in New South Wales. The mare is one of the best trotters New Zealand has yet produced, but she has never been in the best of hands.

The Southland Stud Company have purchased Lorraine, and the son of Apremont goes South next week. The Company were anxious to secure Chain Shot, but Mr. Rutherford would not part with his horse.

It is a long time since the Canterbury Trotting Club had such a large attendance at any of their meetings as was the case at their spring meeting held this afternoon at Addington. The new track was in good order, and in increasing the size of this circle a wise course has been followed. This in a great measure accounted for the excellent time made. There were several very fair performers at the meeting, and Calista, a mare who has borne a great private reputation in this Island since she ran second at the Dunedin Exhibition Meeting to Princess, came out of her shell, and after running away in the first two rounds from a field of seven in the Maiden Plate and thereafter having the track to herself, winning literally in a walk in 6m. 6sec., she was put back to within 6secs. of the scratch horse Joe in the two mile Saddle Handicap, but she got away early and overtook her nine other opponents, some of which were in receipt of 36 seconds, before one mile and a quarter had been trotted, and she romped home fully two hundred yards ahead of Waikari to whom she was conceding 14 seconds, and Waikari finished a long way in front of the remainder of the field. Calista's time was returned as 5m. 22secs. If correct Calista must be a wonder, because she won with such apparent ease. My Dream, who has been trotting a long time unsuccessfully, won the two mile harness trot, her victory being due to good driving on the part of Munro. Elsie Gay won the four mile harness trot in 12min. 7secs. from Flora and Waikari. Sambo appropriated the Pony Saddle Trot of two miles, and Northern Maid the Pony Harness Trot of the same distance. Two splendid finishes re-