

## THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

THE Pakuranga Hunt Club held their annual races at Ellerslie last Saturday. The racing does not call for much comment. Old Hurricane showed that he has not lost his form, as he fairly cantered away with the Hunt Club Cup, and, despite his dicky leg—which I must say is one of the worst I ever saw—he annexed the Members' Hurdle Race in the same easy fashion. The horses competing in the other races were for the most part a very inferior lot, and will be only heard of at some of the "leather-flapping" meetings. There was a good deal of dissatisfaction expressed with regard to the working of the totalisator in the first race. Tickets were being put on the winner after the horses had started. It appears that the A.R.C. Committee, instead of sticking to the old orthodox system of having a flag hoisted when the totalisator is to be opened and pulled down when closed, have an electric bell. This got out of order, and the secretary trying to ring it and finding the machine still working, sent a messenger over to see what was the matter, and immediately stopped the machine. One habit, I am sorry to say, is increasing, *i.e.*, allowing trainers to bring horses into the saddling paddock that are not engaged in any race. The space is quite limited enough as it is, and the danger in getting about is materially increased when there are a lot of young and fractious ones walking round. This custom I have no doubt will be stopped when one of the Committee gets a good kick in a tender spot or some bad accident takes place. Amongst those so paraded I noticed Reprisal and The Workman. With the former I was much disappointed, as I expected to see a very different animal, and it will much surprise me if he can get beyond a mile in good company. Major George has to all appearances a rattling good colt in The Workman, and if he only receives fair treatment he should make a name for himself, but at present he gives you the idea of having done too much work so early in the year for a colt of his size. None of the others struck me as above the average, though I have no doubt Orestes and the Maid of Honour colt will pay their way.

THIS week is without exception the hardest of the racing season for a sporting writer, as he is supposed to give his readers the straight-out tips for the V.R.C. Derby and the Melbourne Cup, and if he does not he is blamed and called a fool at his business by many of would-be knowing ones. Those on the spot have of course a great advantage, as, if they know anything of their work, they can judge for themselves. We at a distance have only book form to go upon, and such information as can be obtained privately, as the reports that come over by cablegram from the Press Association, and which appear in the daily papers are most unreliable. I have spent many weeks reading up and getting the best information possible for the benefit of my readers, and this I intend giving them, at the same time giving them the best of my opinion as to which has the best chance for both races. If I am wrong my readers must not blame me. Some of them followed my selection for the Caulfield Cup and profited by it. The same may be said of those that followed my early selection of The Admiral for the V.R.C. Derby when he was at 10 to 1, and Titan a hot favourite of 2 to 1. The Admiral is now first favourite at 2 to 1, and though I am not in general fond of first favourites, as he was my original selection I cannot desert him. The way in which he won the Caulfield Stakes with a 7lbs penalty when not thoroughly wound up proves that he is a thoroughly good colt. Annesley since his running in the Caulfield Guineas has been heavily backed for this race, but he is no favourite of mine, besides that I have reasons to believe it was not a true run race. Titan, Gatling, Gibraltar, and Whimberel have all performed more than once together this season. Titan in my opinion cannot stay, and from what I can learn the word "cur" may be added to his name. Gibraltar I am sorry to say has gone amiss. He was from all accounts a thoroughly good colt. Though he pulled me through in the A.J.C. Derby I must now discard him. Gatling and Whimberel are the next two

The former at the present time is the best favourite. This is owing to there being more money behind him than the other. Taking the running of the two my decided preference is for Whimberel. Beverley is another that has been backed, owing to his being second in the Guineas, but there is no reason to suppose that he can reverse the running with Annesley. Correze is a great fancy of mine. Last season he was little inferior to the best of his year. He has wintered well, undergone a good preparation, and the party connected with him have their money on. The final payments are not made until the night before the race, so we shall not know what are likely to start until too late to be of any use. In all probability the field will number twelve or fourteen, and I have received no information to make me alter last week's opinion:—

### THE ADMIRAL,

CORREZE and WHIMBEREL. The two last I recommend as good place investments.



Electrograph-Engraving Co., Auckland.

TOMMY TAYLOR.

TOMMY TAYLOR, the clever Auckland rider, whose portrait we give above, is well known to all race-goers. Last season he was at the head of the poll of winning jockeys in the Colony. We wish him another successful season in the pig-skin.

THE acceptances for the Melbourne Cup are to hand, forty-two having declared content. Of these it may be expected that half a dozen will not go to the post, as one owner is represented by four horses. When I first commented on the handicap (August 23), I selected ten horses. I still have Melos, Singapore, Tantallon, The Admiral, Gatling, and Whimberel left in. The running this season and the betting market show that several little thought of at that time have now become dangerous, so I will therefore go through the horses left in again. Carbine has been the favourite with the general public for a long time, and their money rather than the stable's, have made him and kept him first favourite. There is no getting away from the fact that he is one of the best horses that have appeared for a long time on the Australian turf, but rost. 5lb. in a large field is a crusher; he cannot lie in front, but must wait; therefore what are the chances, with so many light weights, that he does not get blocked, if not upset, when he tries to come through? For this reason alone I must discard him, at the same time I feel pretty confident that Melos will beat him at the weights, even if both of them meet with no impediment. Cuirassier comes next on the list. I have always ignored his chance, and at the time of writing he is suffering from a severe attack of "pencil fever," and the Australian bookmakers are pretty shrewd. Singapore is the next I will notice. His running in the Caulfield Cup disappointed not only myself, but also his own stable. The course was certainly very heavy, in fact it was in some places over the fetlocks, and this may account for his running, as some horses cannot

move in mud, while others revel in it. Prince Consort, Tantallon, Titan, and Carbine are all in the same stable; the reports regarding the two former are very conflicting, for my own part I prefer Tantallon, though his running at Caulfield does not support my views, but the course was heavy. The Queen has been heavily backed for the race, and was my selection for the Metropolitan, when she could only get third. Here she holds Little Bernie, on paper form, safe, even ignoring his running in the Caulfield Cup, where I think he was "milked." Chaldean has been backed to win a lot of money by his party, who are very smart. His best record was made in Tasmania, but when he was brought to Victoria he did nothing. Vengeance, who pulled me victoriously through the Caulfield Cup has received a lot of support, and never has a horse had a better chance of appropriating the double, and with but one exception I think he will beat all that ran in the Caulfield Cup, and that is Enuc. It is said that Enuc lost at the start, got blocked, and met with a lot of other mishaps, and then he was catching the leaders at every stride. My argument is that if the boy could not ride him in the Caulfield Cup, he cannot in this race, but *they may get one that can.* We now come to The Admiral, Whimberel, Gatling, Correze, and Annesley. As I have said in previous articles, the winner of the V.R.C. Derby will be very close to the Cup winner. I must, however, remind my readers that Mr. Cook has a strong hand, as he has paid up for The Admiral, The Spot, The Harbour Light, and The Jesusite. The man that can pick the best of the "The's" is a lucky one. Loyalstone should be held safe by Vengeance and Enuc. Of the ragged division the only one that has been backed is Highborn, but his record does not point to him as having a chance. I think I have mentioned all the horses from which the winner is likely to spring. Those I most fancy are Melos, The Queen, Tantallon, Vengeance, and the winner of the Derby. What will this be? If it turns up in the Admiral, Mr. Cook may select another of the "The's." All the above I fancy are good place investments, but if compelled to take three I will select

### THE DERBY WINNER

#### TANTALLON and VENGEANCE

I have not the advantage of the daily papers, as I shall not know the result of the Melbourne Stakes or the Derby, but if The Admiral wins the Derby let my readers watch for The Spot or The Harbour Light. The placed horses for the Melbourne Stakes are dangerous, but backers must judge for themselves.

THE New Zealand Cup to be run next Tuesday does not excite nearly so much interest in Auckland as does the Melbourne Cup, but I suppose my readers will expect me to say a little about it, though "Nordenfeldt" has gone extensively into it. Last week I mentioned that in substituting St. Andrew for Medallion I should not be far off the winner; making my selections Freedom, St. Andrew, and Wolverine as a "cockboat." I have no reason to alter my opinion, especially as from private information I hear that Crackshot requires more time. Merrie England has gone amiss, but as he is rather in the habit of doing this he may come again before the day. Dudu has been doing uncommonly well and is greatly fancied by some, but I have my doubts if she can get over the two miles. Whisper is another that some writers fancy, but though a good mare over her own distance this race if a true run one must be beyond the length of her tether. As space is valuable this week I shall only say that I fancy for the Cup either

#### FREEDOM or ST. ANDREW,

with WOLVERINE for a place. C.J.C. Derby—St. Andrew or Freedom, and the Canterbury Cup—Freedom and St. Andrew. In conclusion I may remark that I think these two will divide the big races.

I have received the following "tip" for the Melbourne Cup from a dreamer who signs himself "Whisky":—The Harbour Light, 1; Carbine, 2; Vengeance, 3. It surely must have been Robertson's whisky, as it is an uncommonly good selection.

Weights for handicaps at the Pakuranga Racing Club's Spring Meeting will be declared on Friday next.