



ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.

ALAS! that golden opportunities should so often slip through our fingers. "Mercutio" having just been bowled out over one "chestnut," reproduces another perpetrated by somebody else, and fails to convince him of sin. In last Saturday's "Local Gossip" a story is told of a lawyer's dream of Heaven and Sir Robert Stout. Sir Robert is permitted to pass the portal by St. Peter after the dreamer has been refused admission. The dreamer, on remonstrating with the Saint, is told that lawyers are not admitted, but Sir Robert is *no lawyer!* There is a rare old flavour about this anecdote. Mr. Toole, being invited to a banquet before leaving England on his recent Australasian tour, amused his guests with an after-dinner speech, in which, *mutatis mutandis*, exactly the same witticism was discharged at the expense of Mr. Henry Irving. In Toole's dream St. Peter says, "Oh! but Irving is *no actor!*" The same point has doubtless been made against painters, poets, doctors, statesmen, etc., over and over again. Probably even George Augustus Sala's researches in literary antiquities would fail to furnish the earliest example of this somewhat musty *jeu d'esprit*. In the instance under notice a Dunedin monkey is making a catspaw of "Mercutio's" fine Roman hand—and in vicariously pulling such chestnuts out of the fire Mr. Monkey saves his own fingers at the expense of "Mercutio's."

SATURDAY'S cricket incontestably proved that the season is no longer fit for the game. A damp spongy pitch presently became a quagmire, which even liberal dressings of kauri-meal failed to render solid enough to afford anything like decent foothold for either batsman or bowler. In the match Auckland C.C. v. Gordon C.C. the latter continued their innings with Fowke and Cotterill, the not-outs. Cotterill increased his 23 to 36. No one else did anything to speak of, Fowke just missing his not out, being bowled by Beale for 37. The innings closed for 152. Auckland, at about 4.15 p.m., sent in O'Brien and Webster, who made something of a stand, putting on about 20 runs before Norman Williams bowled the former for 9. When the stumps were drawn, at 5 p.m., four good wickets, viz., O'Brien, Webster, Howlett, and Richards, had fallen for about 35 runs, so another match is added to the long list of unfinished ones. The two Neills did not appear on the field. Fowke, having injured a finger, did not keep wicket; Moresby replacing him showed very respectable form.

It would be well, now that cricket is practically over for the season, to consider the question of forming a cinder-path round the ground. A careful examination of the site convinces us that a really fine half-mile track could be laid out by skirting the extreme edge of the practice wickets, passing close to the pavilion, sweeping round the foot of "One-tree Hill," thence crossing to the edge of "Pine-grove Hill," and skirting that with a sweeping curve towards the hospital and so back to the pavilion. The course would be a sort of parallelogram, with gently sloping corners, resembling the Marston Ground at Oxford University. A straight of at least 300 yards could be thus obtained on

the pavilion side of the ground. This might be permanently fenced by a moderately high close picket fence, which would act as a background to the existing practice wickets, and could be used as a boundary in matches. When funds should permit this fence could be continued so as to shut off the entire running track from the playing ground, and a second fence between the track and the spectators would complete the scheme. Men in training for foot or bicycle races could then have their runs without interfering with cricket practice. By cutting into the edges of the slopes in places the existing area of the cricket ground would not be curtailed, while cricketers, athletes, and spectators would alike benefit by the improvement. Our bicyclists would then have a fair chance of long uninterrupted runs at full speed on a suitable surface. Our sprinters and long-distance runners would know exactly how to compare their performances with those accomplished on other cinder tracks. Cricketers would rejoice over the substitution of boundary hits for the existing state of affairs, when good hits landing on the rough slopes do not secure the runs they are worth, and fieldsmen have a lot of ungrateful and unnecessary toil. As a preliminary step, we would suggest that the A.A.A.C. cause a survey to be made by some competent volunteer, so that the practicability of the scheme may be tested. Having ascertained the exact length of the proposed course, modifications could be made in the curves. Next, estimates of cost might be prepared, and then ways and means considered. From a cricketer's point of view the only blemish in the scheme is that the proposed track would cut off a small section between the path and the wall on part of the eastern boundary now dividing the ground from the hollow. However, this space would suffice for a couple of matches, and the injury to the ground by severance would be found inappreciable. We submit this rough outline for the consideration of all who take an interest in matters athletic, and shall be glad to receive any suggestions in regard to details.

A STRANGE charge of plagiarism has been brought by the *Pall Mall Gazette* against the present Lord Mayor of London. That dignitary took a fancy to preach a sermon on the 9th of February last to a large congregation in the Polytechnic Institute, Regent-street. The civic sermonizer appears to have made an enormous hit with his discourse, but the reported words tallied almost exactly with those of a sermon delivered by the great C. H. Spurgeon some twenty-seven years ago. The editor of the *Pall Mall*, on making this discovery, wrote privately to the Lord Mayor informing him of the extraordinary coincidence, whereupon a reply was sent stating that the supposed plagiarist, "so far as he was aware, had never seen Mr. Spurgeon's sermon, and would very much like to do so." The *Pall Mall* thereupon gratified this desire by publishing in parallel columns the two discourses, which proved to be in every respect similar—indeed, almost identical word for word. Mr. Spurgeon, on being referred to, wrote to the *Pall Mall*, claiming the sermon to be his own original and extemporaneous utterance of January 1, 1864, and stating that while he did not consider it his business to suggest an explanation, he could

not think that the Lord Mayor was without one. Up to the present that gentleman appears to have offered no explanation, but various suggestions have been made on his behalf. One ingenious theory is that "thought transference" explains the mystery. That in 1864 Mr. Spurgeon started "a wave of sanctified ratiocination," that twenty-seven years afterwards, by unconscious cerebration or something akin, reached the inner recesses of the Lord Mayor's cranium. We think that another and a simpler explanation will be deemed more plausible and likely, and offer it to his Lordship as a *tabula in naufragio*. The Lord Mayor, wishing to gain pulpit glory, hired some literary hack to write a stirring discourse. The hack, being either lazy or incompetent, stole an ancient sermon, thinking that the long interval of time would minimise the chance of detection. The poor Lord Mayor in good faith delivered as his own the literary commodity which—like many better men—he had duly bought and paid for; but some meddling busybody exploded the deception. Hence these tears! If, however, the thought transference theory proves to be the true one, then indeed a miracle has been wrought which must compel Pastor Birch to take a back seat. Koko should certainly put plagiarists on his "little list"—Mercutio, Mr. Arthur Desmond, and Lord Mayor Savory should be handed over to Mr. Duncan C. Ross for immediate decapitation. In him the tenderhearted Jap, who cannot kill anything, would find a competent substitute.

SPEAKING of Mr. Duncan C. Ross naturally reminds us of the "Grand Gladiatorial Exhibition" given under his auspices in the Opera House on Friday evening. Professor Carollo and his pupils first performed some very clever feats on the horizontal bar, winding up with a most effective double catherine wheel, executed by Messrs. Lonergan and Russell. Next the great man was introduced by our popular Professor. His massive form, magnificent proportions, and brawny muscles gave promise of some wonderful achievements, but the performance was to a great extent marred by manifest indisposition—several partial failures in the feats attempted being attributable to this cause. We hope to see him again in perfect condition, for we feel sure that in his best fettle he would astonish people far more than he did on Friday evening. A dressed sheep, lowered by a cord from above the stage, was only partly cut through at the first attempt. The failure seemed to arouse the slumbering giant, for, poising the huge broadsword in his mighty hand, he with one powerful slash completely severed the sheep at the second try. The halves fell on the stage, and one could easily perceive that the second cut not only had not met the first, but was actually shorn clean through a thicker part of the carcass. The feat of dividing a potato on the bare neck of a voluntary victim was almost too thrilling. Mr. Ross invited some one from the audience to come forward and act as his "chopping block." But some time elapsed, and no one seemed inclined to listen to the voice of the charmer. Professor Carollo had already taken up his position for the ordeal, when Mr. Caulton—of football fame—stepped on the stage, apparently much to the Professor's relief. All breathed more freely when the hazardous feat was successfully accomplished. After one failure, the

astonishing trick of dividing a potato with a sharp sword—the murphy being wrapped in a handkerchief, which was to remain intact and uncut—was triumphantly executed amidst enthusiastic applause. "Orpheus," in his special column, deals with the musical portion of the entertainment. We trust that Mr. Ross will get himself into really good condition before his next performance, and thereby do justice to his undeniable strength and skill in athletics and swordsmanship.

We would again remind our readers of the glove fight between J. Nicholson and E. Collins, which is fixed to come off at the Zealandia Rink on Monday night, May 11th. All who take an interest in boxing, conducted on fair and humane principles, which are ensured by the Marquis of Queensberry rules, should roll up and see the fun. The feather-weight championship of New Zealand, as well as a purse of £25, are at stake. Our own fancy is for Collins, but we shall all know more at 10 p.m. on Monday night.

MUSIC, DRAMA, ETC.

Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici?

THE gladiatorial show in the Opera House on Friday evening offered musical as well as muscular attractions, and consequently drew a crowded house, anxious not only to see feats of strength and skill, but also to listen to Miss Alice Rimmer and Mr. T. Jackson. Mr. Alfred Bartley opened the musical portion of the entertainment with an overture played in his wonted dashing style, and acted as accompanist throughout very acceptably. Mr. T. Jackson, I am sorry to say, sang rather carelessly, and did not always render his selections with that conception of the composers' intention which is only to be gained by a conscientious study of the piece undertaken. However, his good ear and exquisite quality of voice carried him through triumphantly. Piusuti's song "What am I, love, without thee," an emotional love song of the impassioned type was rather deficient in ardour, but in many passages proved effective and pleased the audience, a portion of which re-demanded the song, but the house as a whole was not enthusiastic. Mr. Jackson's second song, "In Old Madrid," did not receive an interpretation worthy of the spirit in which the serenade was written—the contrast between the descriptive passages and the passionate pleading of the refrain being insufficiently marked. Mr. Jackson's last song, Roeder's "On Venice Waters," although somewhat low for the singer whose best notes are in his upper register, was by far the most successful of his efforts. My object in pointing out where I conceive an artist falls below his standard, is to induce him to strive to make the most of natural gifts by serious preparations. Sir Reeves has been known to try half-a-dozen different modes of phrasing the same passage—ending in the selection of the one best suited to the combined effect of words and musical setting. Miss Alice Rimmer possesses a sweet true and sympathetic *mezzo* of even quality. Her natural *timbre* is so excellent that any attempt to intensify it by even a slight use of the tremolo is quite needless. Save that one word of caution I have no fault to find with Miss Rimmer, and feel much pleasure in awarding her high praise for the intelligent and artistic singing to which she treated her hearers. In the favourite old ballad "The Blind Girl to Her Harp" she sang with a true and effective pathos which won all hearts. For "It was a Dream," the second number assigned to her on the programme, she substituted another song entitled (I think) "To-Day," which appeared nicely suited to her resources of voice and style. That plaintive and affecting little ballad "The Song that Reached my Heart," she sang with great delicacy and intense feeling. So marked an impression was made by the tenderness and pathos infused into this simple lay that I noticed incipient tears glistening in the eyes of several listeners. "Music hath charms to soothe, etc.," and any latent instincts of savagedom aroused by the single-stick flogging match between Messrs. Ross and Edwards were quenched by this last sweet song, which sent everybody home in a peaceful and contented frame of mind.

MESSRS. MACMAHON BROTHERS, I hear, have decided to tour New Zealand with their new Opera Company, the names of Miss Clara Merivale and Miss Fannie Liddiard figuring among the principal performers. Mr. Snagelle—whose fine baritone voice we have already heard in Auckland per "The Phonograph" in "The Heart Bowed Down," with interruptions—is also a member of this company. In the *repertoire* are "Paul Jones," "Falka," "Bocaccio," "Les Manteaux Noirs," and "The Merry Duchess." The dates and route for this tour have not yet been fixed.

It seems too that we may yet have the pleasure of hearing Madame Patey in New Zealand, and I fervently hope in Auckland.

THE Auckland Amateur Operatic Society have been compelled to abandon the production of "Princess Ida," Messrs. Williamson, Garner & Co.—who hold the Australasian copyright—refusing permission on any terms. Perhaps the disappointment may be tempered by reflecting that a risk of serious loss has been averted. To produce "Princess Ida" with its many elaborate and expensive scenes and changes of costume would have cost nearly £800. Of course the usual eight or nine performances could not possibly have recouped so vast an outlay. The intention was to have played the piece for a season lasting at least a fortnight; but I very much doubt if amateurs could stand the strain of so many consecutive nights. Indeed, I have invariably noticed symptoms of great weariness at the last two or three performances of an amateur opera season extended beyond the original six nights. Failing "Princess Ida" "Rip Van Winkle" is likely to be put into rehearsal. The difficulty of finding a suitable and competent performer for the title rôle is a stumbling block. Surely with our array of mashers there should be no lack of the desired commodity among the gilded youth of Auckland. I have consulted that famous book of the Rev. H. R. Haweis entitled "Music and Morals," but he makes no mention of Rips of any kind!

SIR CHARLES AND LADY HALLE were announced to sail for Australia on the 24th of last month. They intend giving a second series of concerts in the Antipodes, and will possibly include New Zealand in their tour.

ORPHEUS.

VOLUNTEER NEWS.

[Volunteers and others are invited to contribute to this column. All communications should be addressed to "Carbine," and left at the office of this paper not later than Wednesday in each week.]

RANGE TIME-TABLE.
May 9.....Auckland and Ponsonby Navals
| BY CARBINE. |

LAST Thursday week Sergeant-major Bush, of the Permanent Artillery, gave a very instructive lecture to the members of the "A" Battery, in the Drill-shed, on the use of the different projectiles used by them with their nine-pounder. The sergeant-major dealt at length on the way to fire at moving objects, and also how to destroy a camp over the brow of a hill. These were fully explained, and the men were more enlightened by drawings on the black board. The members of the corps were delighted with the lecture, and only hope they will be continued, as they can learn more by them than at constant gun drill.

Duncan Ross, the champion athlete and swordsman, attended the drill-shed last week to watch the non-coms. of the "A" Battery go through sword drill under Lieut. O'Brien. After the completion of the exercise, Mr. Ross expressed himself highly delighted, and stated that he had been in the British and American armies, and he thought the Artillery would hold their own against either of them. He then donned the sword, and went through the exercise in slow time, explaining each movement.

Capt. Geddes and Mr. Ross had a bout with the single-sticks, much to the onlookers amusement, the worthy captain gaining most points.

There was a moderate attendance of the Ponsonby Navals at parade last Monday evening, in the drill-shed, under Captain Miller. Sergeant-major Bush, of the Permanent Artillery, gave a very instructive lecture on fuses used for the guns at the fort; especially the 8-

inch. This (Saturday) afternoon the corps go to the Heads to be shown over the fort.

Mr. C. Bailey is spoken of as the coming second lieutenant for the Ponsonby Navals.

Sergeant-major Hyde has yet to instruct the Napier Artillery before proceeding to Auckland.

On Tuesday evening last three of the rifle corps mustered fairly well for ordinary drill, viz., Victoria Rifles, City Guards, and Royal Irish Rifles. After a few movements by their respective officers, they were handed over to Sergeant-major Grant, who put them through a course of extending drill in preparation for the sham-fight on the 24th inst.

A very interesting rifle match is to take place during this month, between the Victoria Rifles and City Guards. Both these corps have got very fair teams, and a close match may be anticipated.

Owing to the scarceness of Martini-Henri ammunition, the usual quarterly club competition had to be abandoned. However, a few of the members fired a sweepstakes match with their own private supply. The ranges were 200, 300, and 500 yards, 5 shots at each distance. The shooting was very close, the first man only taking the prize by making the most points at the longest distance. The scores are:—

Name.	200	300	500	Tl.
Gun. Henderson, "A" B. . .	23	18	22	—63
Gun. Taylor, "A" B. . .	22	20	21	—63
Mr. Nutt, M.C. . .	20	21	21	—62
Sergt. Soall, C.G. . .	20	20	16	—56
Gun. Greenshields, "O" B. . .	22	14	19	—55
Gun. Bruce, "O" B. . .	19	15	14	—48

FOOTBALL.

WAIROA RANGERS v. WM. McARTHUR AND Co.'s WAREHOUSE.—Last Saturday the members of Messrs. McArthur's establishment and their friends, had a most enjoyable trip to Papakura to meet the Wairoa Rangers, who had come half way. After a three hours' drive in one of Patterson's brakes, Mrs. Lynch's Papakura Hotel was reached, and the boys got ready for the fray. The match was played in a paddock at the back of the public school, and attracted a considerable number of spectators. Charley Stichbury captained McArthur's, and S. Luke the Rangers. Early in the first spell Stan Somerfield secured a mark, and his brother Sid (who was playing in a starched shirt), taking the kick, landed an unmistakable goal (2 points). The second spell was noticeable for some dashing runs made by Wall Rhodes and Munro, both of whom made desperate attempts to score for the Rangers; but the collaring of Bradburn and Siddle was too good, and the game ended as above. In the evening an impromptu concert was held, at which Miss Delia Lynch and Miss O'Sullivan rendered valuable assistance. The drive home was very pleasant, town being reached shortly after midnight. Some of the boys show big form.

The football cup matches start at Potter's paddock to-day, with Ponsonby v. Grafton and Gordon v. Auckland. Although many of the players are sure to be a bit green, a good attendance and exciting play may be expected. It is fortunate that the draw brings the two stronger teams together, as well as the two weaker.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the programme of the Canterbury Metropolitan Plumpton Park Coursing Co. meetings. It is the intention to hold six meetings, the first on Saturday, May 23rd and Monday, May 25th; the last on Saturday 29th and Monday, August 31st. At all the meetings good stakes are offered. The principal one is August 12th and 14th, when the New Zealand Cup—for an unlimited number of all-aged dogs at £7 7s. each, with £20 added money and silver collar given by the directors of C.M.P.P.C.C. for the runner up—will be run; nominations, July 29th, £3 3s.; balance of sweep, £4 4s., August 10th. At the same time there is the Canterbury Metropolitan Plumpton Park Cup, for an unlimited number of puppies at £5 5s., with 10 sovs. added, and trophy for runner up; nomination, £2 2s., July 29th; balance of sweep, August 10th.

SPORTING FIXTURES, ETC.

COMING EVENTS.

May	13	.....	Egmont Racing Club.
May	23	.....	Auckland Trotting Club
May	25	.....	Thames Jockey Club Winter
May	25	.....	Waipara Racing Club
May 28 or 29	.....	.....	Takapuna Jockey Club.
May 28 25	.....	.....	Dunedin J.C. May Meeting
May	25	.....	Wanganui Jockey Club.
June	3	.....	Auckland R.C. Winter Meeting
June	6	.....	Tattersall's (Sydney) Steeplechase meeting
July	11	.....	Wellington R.C. Winter meeting
June	25	.....	Hawkes Bay J.C. Winter Meeting
Aug.	18	.....	N.Z. Grand National Steeplechase meeting

NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

May	12	.....	Hawkes Bay Steeplechase and Hurdle Race
May	15	.....	Takapuna Jockey Club. General entries.
May	18	.....	Tattersall's (Sydney) Steeplechase meeting
May	21	.....	Thames Jockey Club General Entries
May	29	.....	Auckland R.C. Winter meeting. General entries
June	15	.....	Wellington R.C.
June	16	.....	Hawkes Bay Jockey Club. General entries
June	20	.....	N.Z. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase
July	25	.....	N.Z. Grand National General entries

WEIGHTS APPEAR.

May	14	.....	Thames Jockey Club Winter meeting
May	26	.....	Auckland R.C. Winter meeting
June	26	.....	Wellington R.C.
July	13	.....	N.Z. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase
Aug.	1	.....	N.Z. Grand National Minor events

ACCEPTANCES DUE.

May	12	.....	Dunedin Jockey Club
May	12	.....	Wanganui Jockey Club.
May	15	.....	Takapuna Jockey Club.
May	15	.....	Auckland Trotting Club
May	16	.....	Waipara Racing Club.
May	21	.....	Thames Jockey Club Winter meeting
May	29	.....	Auckland R.C. Winter meeting
June	1	.....	Auckland R.C. Winter Handicap
June	3	.....	Great Northern Steeplechase Sweep (5 sovs)
June	16	.....	Hawkes Bay Steeplechase and Hurdle Race
July	3	.....	Wellington R.C.
July	25	N.Z. Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase
Aug.	8	N.Z. Grand National Final payments

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6 "	..	5s.	" "
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HARRY H. HAYR,
PUBLISHER.

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- 1—"Copy" (the technical name of MSS. sent to the press) must be written on only one side of the paper.
- 2—Write on sheets of paper which are neither small enough to be scrappy, nor large enough to be cumbersome on the printer's case.
- 3—Leave plenty of space in margin and between lines for your own and editorial corrections.
- 4—Use white paper rather than blue; because the writing stands out more distinctly.
- 5—Use ink, and black ink—for the same reason.
- 6—Write plainly. Distinct penmanship is an immense desideratum with both editor and printer.
- 7—Number your pages of MSS.

The Secretaries of Racing, Rowing, Cricket, Football, Tennis, Polo, Yachting, Bicycle, Dramatic—in short of any and every kind of Athletic, Sporting, and Dramatic Clubs are cordially invited to send us any information that may be of interest to the public and of use in furthering their interests. The Editor will at all times be willing to do his best to answer any questions or decide any disputes on matters of sporting or general interest. In every case correspondents must enclose their correct names and addresses (but not for publication), as no notice whatever can be taken of anonymous communications.

To oblige Sporting friends at a distance, the result of important races will be wired immediately after they are run on receipt of a letter containing instructions, and 2s. in stamps.

Sporting Review.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1891.

In a circular that has been sent round to all the Metropolitan Clubs by the secretary to the conference of racing delegates, it is stated that any material alterations that are intended to be made in the rules should be sent to the other Metropolitan Clubs one month before the time of the meeting. We have heard that it is the intention of the A.R.C. to bring forward some alterations, and that two gentlemen have been deputed to go through the rules and revise them. During our last two issues we have shown what we consider would be a great improvement, but as it is not likely that the whole or even part of them will be adopted, we are therefore desirous of impressing on the A.R.C. that if they will only send notice of the follow-

ing, and if they can get them carried, they will confer an everlasting benefit on all racehorse owners and trainers in the Colony. The first is to raise the weights in all races to a minimum of 6st 7lb. You have only to read the account of any race meeting from Invercargill to the Bay of Islands, to see the advisability of this rule being altered, owing to the amount of overweight that is invariably carried, therefore nullifying the handicap. It is not an uncommon thing to see from 10lb to 16lb overweight carried, and in the case of Regel at the Takapuna summer meeting, where in the first race he carried 13lb overweight, and in the second 12lb overweight, both of which he won while at the same meeting no less than ten other horses carried from 2lb to 14lb extra, and it must be borne in mind that all these were in the light division. Besides it is dangerous to have horses ridden by children that cannot manage them. The second would be to introduce the English Newmarket rule, that if the highest weight accepting be under 8st 12lb it should be raised to that, and all the others in proportion. That is to say that if the highest weight accepting is 8st 7lb, all of those left in should be raised five pounds.

If the A.R.C. could get the rule for selling races materially altered it would be a good thing, but that is rather too much to be expected. Selling races at the present time are "selling" in every sense of the word; for you see the same horses going from meeting to meeting, one day one horse wins, the next another; in fact they are all "readied" up, or perhaps it is a prearranged thing sometime before. Now the only way to do away with this is to adopt the English rule of claiming—that is, instead of when a horse is claimed putting him up to auction at the price he is entered for, let him be claimed without putting him up to auction, so if a horse is entered to be sold for nil he can be claimed for the value of the stake. This would put a stop to a great deal of the 'roping.' It has been found to act well in England, why not here. One thing is certain—something must be done to put a stop to the evil that now exists.

"MAZEPPA," of the *Otago Witness*, has this following as regards trotting and pony racing in Auckland, and the dispute between the clubs who each claim priority:—"There would appear to be two aspirants for the governorship of trotting arrangements in the Auckland district. The New Zealand Trotting Association has delegated its powers as a metropolitan, so far as the northernmost province is concerned, to a body called the Northern Pony and Trotting Club, and now the Colonial Secretary has intimated that he will recognise the Auckland Trotting Club as the metropolitan of the trotting clubs of that district. It is not easy for us who live in faraway Otago to pronounce judgment as between the two clubs. We do not know all the circumstances upon which their respective claims are based. As an opinion I should say that neither of the rival bodies has a clear title to the honour which seems to be hankered after. They are both but as of yesterday, and we don't know that either possesses the confidence of the subordinate clubs. At the same time, I think that the present body, the New Zealand Trotting Association, should have been allowed the opportunity of working out this business in its own way, and seeing that it was apparently prepared to undertake the task, by making arrangements for the transference of derived authority to such districts, if any, as cannot be conveniently worked from head-quarters, it would have been better, I fancy, to permit a trial of the experiment instead of elevating to metropolitan the first club that asked to be so recognised. My idea about the matter is that the Colonial Secretary has acted rather hastily in the matter. With one hand he grants enlarged and special powers to the New Zealand Trotting Association, and with the other he curtails those powers by setting up a possibly hostile rival. One may be excused for suggesting that the new appointment was probably made under a misapprehension. It was ill-opportune, and also, in my judgment, ill-advised, in that there is every probability that an independent metropolitan appointed on its own motion may not work on the same lines as are approved of in other places. We want finality in our trotting legislation, and we also want uniformity of administration, to secure which the governing

clubs must be in harmonious relationship. It is for those who have a thorough grasp of the subject to say what else is necessary to achieve these objects. To my mind it would be wise to have separate but affiliated controlling bodies, one for each island, in preference to the whole concern being worked directly from Christchurch. Whether this should be carried out in the way proposed by the New Zealand Trotting Association—that is by this body being represented up North by a delegate—or whether one of the two Auckland clubs should be erected into a metropolitan and affiliated with the parent association, is a question the settlement of which may be left to those who have more knowledge of the subject than I possess. Since the above was written I see that the New Zealand Trotting Association has approached one of the Ministers on the subject." "Mazeppa" appears to have given the affair a good deal of consideration, and in the main carries out what was said in our issue of May 2nd, which he could not possibly have seen. We sincerely hope that the question will soon be settled, as this bickering is beneath genuine sportsman.

"MAZEPPA" also writes:—"To the hundred and one things the stewards have to look after must be added the stopping of any unauthorised person going into the box while the race is on; and when I say any unauthorised person I, of course, mean any person unless it be the secretary. It is the custom of Mr. Sydney James to accompany the judge to the box at the Forbury, and bring from thence the official ruling, a practice that no one can object to. A judge has no authority either to invite or permit any one to be with him. He, and he only, is to decide which are the placed horses, or if incompetent for the task, or distrustful of his ability, he should resign. There is no rule on the subject, but unwritten law is as strict on this point as the shipboard regulation; and for the same reason in order that the man on duty may not be impeded or distracted in the performance of the responsible job he is put there to do." In this we cordially agree with "Mazeppa," and a rule should be brought in forbidding the judge admitting any one. The evil is nowhere greater carried on than at the Auckland suburban meetings. We have known persons absolutely force their way into the box, and in some cases we have seen three or four in the box with the judge. One case in particular, where we remember a person forcing his way into the box, and the judge had not the moral courage to turn him out; but the next time he procured a bolt, at his own expense, and kept all intruders out

LAKE RACING CLUB ANNUAL MEETING.

This meeting was held last Saturday on the Lake (Takapuna) course, which is situated on Mr. Quick's property. The meeting was of a most uninteresting character, the fields being small, and the majority of the races won easily. The fact is the A.R.C. Committee pass too many programmes for these little country meetings, and the same horses appear at them all. The attendance was small and about £700 was put through the totalisator.

The racing commenced with the Handicap Maiden Plate (always a bad kind of race to have on the card) of 15 sovs., one mile. Bon Voyage, 7st 4lb, won easily from her four miserable opponents—Badger 7st 4lb, Fusilier 7st, Waitai 7st 12lb, and My Queen 7st 2lb.

The Handicap Hurdles only brought out a field of four. Bit-of-Blue, 10st 10lb, won by a length from Nap, 11st 7lb; Kate, 9st, third. Nigger, 9st, also ran. The winner is not much to look at, but he has a good turn of speed and jumps well. He had a nasty accident at the A.R.C. Autumn Meeting, cutting his leg badly just above the knee. At the Tattersall's Club meeting held at Takapuna on April 11th, his owner, against the best advice, ran him in both the Hurdle Race and Steeplechase when he had not had a gallop, the consequence was he reopened the cut, so he can have done no work. If, therefore, he is let in light in some of the coming big events he will be worth following. Nap, when he is in the humour, is not a bad horse, either over sticks or a country.

The Lake Cup only brought out three horses, and as Nap, 7st 6lb, just had a good race out of

him, Tamora, 8st 12lb, had no difficulty in beating him; Tuna, 6st 10lb, who is not of much account, being the only other starter.

Three only started for the Settler's Race, old Nigger, 9st, defeated Badger, 7st 7lb, and Our Boy, 7st 7lb—a couple of moderate hacks.

Five came to the post for the Selling Race. This kind of race being Octopus's (9st) particular forte, he jumped off at the fall of the flag, and without being headed won easily from Premier 8st 11lb, Blarney 8st 8lb, Sambo 8st 8lb, and Fusilier 8st 8lb.

The Maiden Hurdle Race brought out a miserable looking field of five. Kate, 9st 7lb, managed to get home in front; General 10st second, Irish Agitator 9st 10lb third. The Lad 9st, and Kitty 9st, also ran. None of them are worth their oats.

The Flying Stakes brought out the best field of the afternoon, seven facing the starter for it. Lady Belle, 2yrs, 7st 6lb, defeated Octopus, aged, 8st 4lb; Premier, aged, 7st 4lb, third. Prestissimo 7st 4lb, Blarney 7st 2lb, Sweet Lavender 7st, and Bon Voyage 6st 10lb, also ran. On this running the winner must have considerably improved, as Octopus can gallop a bit over six furlongs, and so can Prestissimo when all is right, and as the Lake course is not the best of going she may turn out a useful one next year though she is in-bred. Bon Voyage was left at the post and took no part in the race.

THE TURF.

[BY OLD TURFITE.]

THE racing season now is virtually closed, so one may look forward to what horses are likely to come forward next season, and are worth looking after for the principal events. Never in my memory, which extends over a good many years, have I known the training stables around Auckland so full of miserable platers not worth their oats, and where a good one is to come from for next season it is difficult to know. The consequence is that most of the money provided by the A.R.C. will go to Hawke's Bay and Canterbury. Let us take the older horses of any account for comment. You can count them on the fingers of one hand. Cissy is thoroughly exposed; even when at her best you can hardly call her first-class. Patchwork is the biggest jade that ever looked through a bridle, while Quadrant, who is a reputed good horse, has never done anything that would warrant the belief that he is above what you may call a fair one over his own course, which is three-quarters of a mile. Fiesole has won a few races, but it has been more by good luck than good management; besides that she has generally been turned loose when she has won. Lochness has seen his best days, as his form is well known. The rest of them may be called platers. Now come to the three-year olds. Reprisal is small, and will never win a big race, as he cannot stay; Leolantis is only a plater. With the exception of Impulse, the others are very moderate; this colt has been carefully managed, and we have not seen him at his best, so it will not surprise me to see him turn out a really good four-year old and from his running at the A.R.C. Autumn Meeting he should be a stayer. We now come to the two-year olds, and let us see if any of them has a chance of annexing the Great Northern Derby. The first on the list is The Workman, by Robinson Crusoe—The Maid; he is a long way before all those that have performed, and is without doubt a good colt, but he has been terribly messed about during the season; he has been run when totally unfit, and shamefully ridden, especially when Lebel beat him in the Great Northern Foal Stakes; when he was pulled out at the Autumn Meeting, he was not fit to run, Tirailleur beating him easily. He then appeared to me to be rather inclined to cut it; however, if he gets properly handled he will make a good three-year old, though his fore-legs may give some trouble. Mr. R. Burke's Lady Belle, Brigade, and Bombadier, all by Brigadier, are not likely to make a name, though the former will, if she trains on, make a useful filly. I may mention here that Brigadier, if properly mated, will make a name for himself as a sire. Mr. Maitland's Orestes, out of Clytemnestra, is a big overgrown colt, so it is impossible to say what he may grow into; but he has wisely been thrown up, and given every

chance. Tulloch, by Sword Dance, out of Welcome Kate, will never make more than a plater. None of this sire's get ever did make a racehorse; the others that have run will be only moderate. Brigand is the best of the lot, but he is too much on the small side. Of the dark ones, Morion, by Captivator—Madcap, in Jack Rae's stable, is the most likely one to pay his way. It will be seen from the foregoing that if any of the big money is to remain in Auckland it will be by the aid of the two-year olds. There are at the present time some rare good looking well-bred yearlings just breaking in. Most of them did not fetch long prices. The ones I fancy most are the St. Leger—Necklace filly, the sister to Crackshot; the Nordenfeldt—Victoria filly; and the colt by St. Leger—Hippona. It will greatly surprise me if St. Leger, before next season is over, does not place himself nearly at the head of the list. Never has such a well-bred sire been so greatly neglected.

THE Auckland Racing Club must be congratulated on the number of entries obtained for the Great Northern Steeplechase and Handicap Hurdles for their Winter Meeting, to be held on the 3rd June next. In the Steeplechase there are twenty-six. How Mr. Evett is going to bring them together no one can tell. While there are some good horses, there are many that are the veriest scrubbers that ever claimed the name of a steeplechase horse. There are twenty-seven in the Hurdle Race. The same remarks refer to this lot, only to a greater degree. I have known Mr. Evett for some years. He is well acquainted with my views, and has seen a good deal of racing in England, which is more than many of the professed *cognoscenti* can say; therefore one can only hope that he will stick to the opinion that he once gave me, viz.: "In handicapping always handicap the horses that have shown form, and let the scrubbers take their chance, as they have no chance whatever weight they get, and should be entered in their own class: it is unfair to crush a good horse for the sake of them." If he does that, the A.R.C. should have a good meeting, as there are plenty of reliable horses entered.

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

HAWKES BAY JOCKEY CLUB.

ON Tuesday next, May 12th, nominations for Hawke's Bay Steeplechase and Handicap Hurdle Race will close with the Secretary, Mr. F. D. Luckie, at 10 p.m.

WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB.

ON Tuesday next, May 12th, acceptances for the above club will close with the Secretary, Mr. F. R. Jackson, at 9 p.m.

DUNEDIN JOCKEY CLUB.

ON Tuesday next, May 12th, acceptances for the above club will close with Mr. S. James.

TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB.

ON Friday next, May 15th, nominations and acceptances for the following events will close with the Secretary, Mr. R. Wynyard, at 9 p.m.:

ACCEPTANCES—

- Handicap Maiden Plate of 25 sovs., 1 mile.
- Handicap Hurdle Race of 45 sovs., 1½ miles.
- Birthday Handicap of 70 sovs., 1½ miles.
- Handicap Steeplechase of 70 sovs., 3½ miles.
- Victoria Handicap of 45 sovs., 5½ furlongs.
- Welter Handicap of 30 sovs., 1 mile.
- Pony Handicap of 30 sovs., 5 furlongs.

NOMINATIONS—

- Selling Race of 25 sovs., 5½ furlongs.

AUCKLAND TROTTING CLUB.

ON Friday next, May 15th, acceptances and nominations for the above club will close with the Secretary, Mr. C. F. Mark.

ACCEPTANCES—

- Handicap Pony Race of 20 sovs., 5 furlongs.
- Handicap Trot of 60 sovs., 3 miles.
- Handicap Hurdles of 25 sovs., 1½ miles.
- Handicap Pony Trot of 30 sovs., 3 miles.
- Epsom Stakes Handicap of 30 sovs., 7 furlongs.
- Maiden Trot Handicap of 40 sovs., 2 miles.

NOMINATIONS—

- Selling Trot of 20 sovs., 2½ miles.

WAIPA RACING CLUB.

ON Saturday next, May 16th, acceptances for the above club fall due.

SPORTING ITEMS.

Catamount has been added to the list.

"Mr. Russell," the well-known Leeston sportsman, has purchased Carronade from Mr. G. G. Stead.

"Spectator" writes: George Laing was riding Wairua last week, and his hand will soon be out of splints.

La Rose is to be put to hurdle racing during the winter, and should make a good performer over the small sticks.

Mr. D. O'Brien has named his yearling colt by Captivator out of Maid of Honour, Captive. There is an Auckland horse running under that name.

Stromboli and Carbine have been backed to win £20,000 on the double, V.R.C. Derby and Melbourne Cup—good wagers for the book-makers so long before the day.

The veteran English chaser Gamecock won the Stewards' Steeplechase at Kempton Park. He had only two opponents. Roquefort bolted and slipped on a pile of snow, and Phil came to grief.

The cable last week brought the results of the Great Northern Handicap and the Somersetshire Stakes, two old-fashioned English events which still grace the English calendar. The former was won by Mr. J. O'Neill's Laricula, Houndsditch 2nd, Sedge Chat 3rd. The latter was won by Mr. J. O'Neill's ch c The Rejected, by King of Trumps—Accepted, Mounteagle 2nd, Lunar Eclipse 3rd.—*Canterbury Times*. [These races in olden days were looked upon with great interest, and were also great betting races. There is a gentleman in Hawkes Bay that will remember taking 5000 to 100 when Caractacus won the Somersetshire Stakes, Fitz Avon second; with that he emigrated, and has since quadrupled his money.]

The "Nitrate King," Colonel North, has won the Waterloo Cup three years in succession. Though he has only been connected three years with the leash he has made a record, as Fullerton is the only dog, with the exception of the "Irish Terrier," Master McGrath, that has won the Cup three times. Which of the two performances is the better is a moot question. Of course the Irishmen stick up for Master McGrath, as he is the only dog that has won the Waterloo Cup three times "right out" on three different occasions, but Fullerton in the opinion of many is the best, for he has an unbeaten Waterloo record. In 1889 after winning his first five courses right out he had to divide the stake with his kennel companion Stronghend, and he won right out in 1890 and 1891. Master McGrath's performances differ; in 1868 and 1869 he won, he was beaten in 1870 and won again in 1871. This year Fullerton met his kennel companion Simonian in the first round, and who afterwards won the Plate, a 32 dog stake. Rhymes, who was beaten by Fullerton, in the second round, afterwards won the Purse, thus proving what a good dog the winner must be. In the first course Simonian, who is a younger brother of Fullerton's, fairly led him, and the course was a very near thing between them. After the course longer odds were laid against the winner than on the night previous, but Simonian's form in the Plate, and the way he won his five courses prove that it was a great for his elder brother to beat him at all. Colonel North therefore won both the Cup and Plate with Fullerton and Simonian, both of whom are by Greenstick—Bit of Fashion. The Marquis of Anglesea won the Purse with Rhymes, who is also by Greenstick—Tinsel. The final course between Fullerton and Faster and Faster was looked upon with great interest, as many thought the latter would win, still the favourite's friends laid 5 to 2 on him. Bootman (the slipper) would not let the dogs go until he was sure of a good hare, and in this he was successful. Fullerton led from the slips; and jumping a drain better than his opponent left her well behind when he made first turn, but he going rather wide let in Mr. Fawcett's bitch, who scored a couple of points and got well placed. But Fullerton, not to be denied, got in again and did some magnificent work, luckily finishing by knocking his hare into a ditch, just as the bitch was beginning to be formidable again, but there was no doubt which had won.

To show that it does not always pay to give long prices for yearlings it has been found impossible to train Colonel North's crack filly by St. Simon—Josyan for her two-year-old engagements.

Amongst the liabilities of the late Mr. J. B. Gresson were the following sums:—£1900 to Mr. R. Derritt, £1950 to Mr. R. J. Mason, £200 to Mr. C. J. Penfold, £843 to Mr. Stead, and £820 to Mr. G. B. Starkley.

The Duchess of Montrose (Mrs. Milner), who report says is looking as well as ever notwithstanding her seventy summers, has some well-bred young ones in her stable. Adoration, sister to Thebais; Hyeres, sister to Seabreeze, and Desdemona, sister to St. Serf, also some good colts. St. Margeurite, the dam of Seabreeze, this season has a filly foal, own sister to Seabreeze. Up to this time she has had nothing but fillies, much the same as Seclusion, Hermit's dam.

A contributor to the *Australasian* writes:—Speculation on the V.R.C. Derby is as yet a dead letter. Last year at this time Titan was all the rage, but the public burnt its fingers, and "once bitten, twice shy." It is probable that the dabblers in odds will take a more advisable course this year, and wait a little longer. The fact of the matter is the two-year-old form has been so in-and-out that the public find it difficult in making a definite selection. Stromboli has been the most consistent performer, but recent running shows that there is no more than half a stone between Stromboli, Oxide, and Penance. Sanctuary is not a long way behind. Stromboli's improvement since he was beaten by Cremorne at Rosehill has been very rapid, and he is still susceptible of greater improvement. He is a fine raking galloper with an immense stride that must tell over a long course, and although Mr. J. B. Clarke has Albemarle, Syracuse, Bengal, Aldershot, Menangle and Torrens engaged in the race, I doubt if he will find a better representative than Stromboli. Albemarle and Syracuse have each won a race, but Menangle (half-brother to Morpeth) has yet to make his *debut*. Bengal has also got to win his spurs. Penance's form at Randwick was too bad to be true, and I have still faith in this colt to pull the popular black and yellow diamonds through the blue riband. He will be prepared by Mr. W. Forrester, at Warwick Farm, and I am sure he will have every justice done him. Mr. W. N. Hall has five to his name, Oxide, Sulphur, Blue and Gold, Sulphide and Clorine. Oxide won the Champagne and ran a good race with Stromboli for the Foal Stakes. Mr. W. R. Wilson has six to his name, Steadfast, Zalinski, Strathmore, and the three fillies Priory, Lady Carbine, and La Tosca. All of them have shown galloping ability: Zalinski when he ran at Flemington was like an overgrown baby, but he shaped well, and when thoroughly wound up he is sure to uphold the reputation of the family, although he may not show his form until he is four years old. Mr. S. G. Cook has The Rebel, The Magistrate, The Jester, The Doctor, and Yarran; of these I like Yarran the best, though The Doctor may turn out a good colt. Lord Granville is a good cut of a horse, and as he showed a bit of form in the Australian Stakes it is possible that he may ripen into a Derby horse. Mr. Wallace has several entered, but nothing good enough for a race of this description. Mr. Talbot possesses a good colt in Bonnie Bairn. Sadim is by that promising young sire Ouideis, and I should not be surprised to see him develop into a good three-year-old, as he has run well on several occasions. Hartington shaped like a racehorse at Caulfield, but has run badly since, and Mr. Redfearn may have a better representative in Huntly or Hermit. Mr. O'Shannessy has a good colt in Swordbearer, while Sting, brother to Malua, has not been out yet. Cherrystone and Sanctuary ran well enough at Randwick to suggest something better in future. Mr. Smart has a well bred one in Brown Jacket, by Martini-Henri—Brown and Rose. Of the dark division Corinth, brother to Blink Bonny, was sold in Sydney the other day for £500; it is evident he shows promise, but on public form, which is the best guide, the best six are Penance, Stromboli, Oxide, Swordbearer, Sanctuary and Yarran, and if I plumped for one it would be Penance.

Mr. N. R. D. Bond, the popular secretary of the Victorian Amateur Turf Club, has been granted six months' leave of absence on account of ill health.

We regret to hear that Good Day, in Jack Rae's stable, met with an accident again lately while being schooled at Otahuhu. It is to be hoped that it will not prove of a serious nature.

The stewards of the Hawkes' Bay Trotting Club have drawn up a sketch programme, which has been forwarded to Christchurch for the approval of the Metropolitan Club.

Mr. J. Halyday's (Auckland) collie bitch Dinah, by Champion George Augustus, whelped four pups, three bitches and one dog to Mr. Forbes' sable and white dog Dan (imported).—*Canterbury Times*.

For the Champion Hurdle Handicap of 935 sovs. run at Kempton Park on March 14, there were 15 runners, and the stake was captured by Mr. J. Hammond's Crimea, a son of Albert Victor and Euxine, who started as good a favourite as anything in the race.

Takapu was shipped by the Takapuna last Monday in charge of George Hope, to fulfil his engagements at Egmont and Wanganui meetings. Ingorangi left for the same purpose by the Gairloch, under the charge of R. Wright, while J. B. Williamson, the trainer, left by the Takapuna.

"Spectator" writes: Percy White, the well-known jockey is reported to have sold his property at Riccarton, in order to be under marching orders for Australia, and it is said that he will ride Tirailleuse and companions through an Australian campaign. We shall see. He has taken Ray's old stable, however.

A correspondent to the *Daily Telegraph* says that it will be impossible to stop the machine in France, as during the last 18 months so great is the love of the Frenchmen in speculating on it, no less a sum than five millions has gone through; 2 per cent. or £100,000 goes to the Government.

The English thoroughbred horse Padlock was purchased by Mr. Weeks in India, and has arrived in Australia. Padlock won several races while in India, also some races in England, including the Grand Prize at Epsom. He is by Wenlock, the winner of the St. Leger, out of Boot and Saddle, by Trumpeter—Rinderpest, by Alarm. The Australian writers think that he will be an addition to the thoroughbreds in that Colony, but if they study the stud book they will soon find out their mistake as Trumpeter's blood has heretofore been a failure, and so has Wenlock.

Our London correspondent wrote on March 21:—The enquiries which the stewards of the Jockey Club have instituted into the relations between certain fashionable jockeys and professional backers last season have ended very badly for both parties. Amongst the former still without licenses are Rickaby, Calder, and the brothers Tommy and Sam Loates. They may, of course, get them yet, but the delay looks ominous. Tommy Loates was earning at least £8000 a year without betting. One race particularly enquired into by the stewards was the match between Lady Wharles and Ragimunde at Manchester last November. Calder rode the mare, who was considered a certainty, 4 to 1 being freely laid on her winning. Strange to say a certain professional backer selected this crisis to field, and took 800 to 200 Ragimunde. He happened to be a friend of Calder's, and when Lady Wharles was badly beaten (six lengths) it pleased some of the ring to be satirical. Mr. Lowther overheard these remarks and demanded the backer's betting books for the whole season. The Jockey Club stewards are of course all-powerful over English racecourses. Neither backer nor layer dare refuse to produce his betting books, if called on. To decline would be to court "warning off." Mr. Lowther can put a racing "two-and-two" together as well as most people, and with the books of certain layers and certain backers and a racing calendar before him, he formed conclusions likely to result in drastic cleansing measures. More will be known in a week or two. Meanwhile, as I have said, a number of jockeys remain unlicensed to ride, and a clique of professional backers are being closely watched, and may be "warned off" for life any day. Others have been cautioned.—*Canterbury Times*.

The Annual Meeting of members of the Pakuranga Hunt Club will be held on Tuesday next, at 2.30 p.m., at the office of the Auckland Racing Club, to receive statement of accounts and election of officers and committee for ensuing year.

The *Weekly Press* says: We have heard backers remark that where more than one horse the property of one owner starts in large fields that their names should be coupled or bunched on the machines, thereby doing away with a difficulty that the public sometimes find themselves in—viz., that of trying to find the correct pair.

Some time ago the Auckland daily papers through the "Press Association" announced with a great flourish that an English gambler had broken the bank at the Casino of Monte Carlo and won £700,000. At the time we ridiculed the idea, as we had often been there and never knew the bank to be over £50,000 for the day's play. By files to hand we find that this lucky gentleman won 168,000 francs, or rather less than £7000.

The two-year-olds belonging to the Prince of Wales that arrived at Newmarket under the charge of the stud groom, and were supposed to be the ones that Lord Marcus Beresford was to commence operations on as private trainer to His Royal Highness and Baron Hirsch, have been sent on to John Porter at Kingsclere, to be trained for their engagements. From this arrangement it would appear that Lord Marcus will not act as private trainer. The lot consist of ch f Luck, by Muncaster—Fortuna; bay colt Pettifogger, by Isonomy—Hazy; b f Barracouta, by Balcardine—Perditta, and ch c Success, by Petrarch—Welfare.

A contributor to the *Spirit of the Turf* gives the following directions for estimating the height to which a colt will grow:—It is a very old idea in England, but practical experience has proved it a fallacy; the only reliable one is that if a youngster's rump is higher than his withers he will grow up to it. The Yankee's theory is this: Take a colt at any time between six weeks old and one year, stand him on a level surface, so that he stands naturally, then measure the distance from the hair of the hoof to his knee joint, and for every inch or fraction thereof he measures he will stand hands high when matured. If he measures 15in. he will grow to be 15 hands high, if 15½in. he will be 15½ hands high, and so on.

The English papers announce the death of the well-known trainer C. Jousiff, of the Seven Barrows, Lambourne. After serving his time in some of the best stables in England he accepted an engagement in India, where he spent eleven years, being very successful both as trainer and jockey. He will be remembered by the modern school as the trainer of Bendigo, who was purchased in Ireland by Mr. Barclay as a yearling for the small sum of 70 guineas. Bendigo only won six races, but these were the Cambridgeshire Stakes at Newmarket, Lincolnshire Handicap, the rich Hardwick Stakes at Ascot, the Eclipse Jubilee Stakes, and the Champion Stakes, amounting all together to a little over £20,000.

The *Sydney Referee* is rather severe in its comments upon the scratching of Mr. H. C. White's Paris for the Rowley Mile and Hawkesbury Handicap. "The name of White," says the *Referee*, "has been so long and favourably before racegoers in Australia that the public have been led to think that the family to whom it belongs raced for honour—not for gold. With respect, however, to the present circumstances they appear to have laboured under a delusion, as the owner of Paris by his action seems to value both, but the latter in particular." Mr. White's letter in answer to this—which is too long for republication—must be agreed with by every racehorse owner. The opinion of the public that every racehorse belongs to them is a fallacy; until he appears on the course he is the owner's property; he can do what he likes with him, he alone, not the public, has to pay all expenses, so he is justified to run him in what races suit him best; but when once his number is up he is public property, and if an owner does not run straight then is the time to come down on him. Unfortunately this is not always the case; if it was there are many New Zealand owners that would come to grief.

Wally Clifford has left for Sydney to fulfil several engagements there.

Revenge has been purchased by Mr. Buick, a Wairarapa sportsman.

Walter Buddicombe intends visiting Victoria at an early date, it is his intention to remain during the winter season.

Te Ata, a well-known hack hurdle racer, by Papapa, has gone into Dick Wheeler's stables at Wanganui.

Mr. S. Powell of Wanganui has been appointed starter for the Hawkes Bay Jockey Club for the season 1891-92.

The following horses were put up to auction to-day by Messrs. Buckland & Sons:—Begorra was knocked down to Mr. J. Denize for £12 10s. Off Chance was also offered. The highest bid was £25, and he was withdrawn the reserve being £35.

She (Nordenfeldt—Steppe) won the Nursery Handicap of 200 sovs, 6 furlongs, at the South Australian Jockey Club's Autumn Meeting, with 8st 12lb up, and beating a field of nine others in the good time of 1min 16½sec.

The Northern Steamship Company are advertising to run passengers through, per s.s. "Gairloch," to New Plymouth, thence by train to Hawera, for the reasonable charge of £2 10s. each saloon, available for return for fourteen days. This offers a good opportunity for those desiring to attend the Egmont races, to be held on 13th inst.

The New Zealand crack trotting mare Calista was a starter in the Elsternwick Trot, but no idea of her powers could be formed, as she resolutely refused to do anything else but canter, and never trotted at all. A friend of mine, who has seen her go in her own country, tells me she is better than ever Princess was; and so, when she does make up her mind to trot, her exhibition should be well worth seeing.—*Sporting Standard.*

At the meeting of the A.R.C. Committee held yesterday afternoon they confirmed the decision of the stewards of the Onehunga Racing Club in suspending the jockeys Smith, Golding, and Priest for twelve months, also warning McMasters off all courses for the same period, and disqualifying Iron Bark. In this they have done perfectly right; at the same time they might have gone further in calling for evidence to find out who were the owners, and how far they were implicated, as it is hard to believe that McMasters was the sole instigator of the affair. There is every reason to suppose that there is a ring in Auckland that work things with jockeys, the same as is going on in England, which the Newmarket Jockey Club are taking stringent measures to stamp out. Next week we will go further into the matter, and hope to prove that the boys are the victims, while the principal culprits escape. At the same time we are of the opinion that the boys have not got more than they deserve. At the same meeting the A.R.C. passed the programmes for the Thames Jockey Club Winter Meeting and the Waihou Race Club, both to take place on May 25th.

A peculiar incident took place in the Mordialloe Handicap, at Richfield, on Friday. About a furlong from home Conceit and Dramatist were almost level, the latter next the rails, when he rushed over and tried to bite Conceit two or three times. Burn, who was riding Conceit, struck Dramatist over the head to keep him away, and Hayes had all his work out to keep Mr. Davis's colt straight. By a bit of hard riding, however, Hayes landed home by a short head from Conceit. Some time after the horses had weighed in a protest was entered against Dramatist for having interfered with Conceit, which caused some grumbling on the part of the bookmakers, a number of them having paid over to Dramatist. The stewards considered the matter, and after about an hour and a half decided to dismiss the case, so that the bookmakers were happy in not having to pay twice. Dramatist is possessed of some very bad tricks, and on many occasions Mr. Davis has been afraid of some serious injury happening to the beautiful son of Gondolier and Prototype whilst engaged in races.—*Sporting Standard.*

This evening another Sheffield Handicap will be held at the Zealandia Rink, and some good running may be expected as the handicap has been well adjusted. Monday will be the great night, as the boxing match will come off between E. Collins, the Queensland aboriginal, and J. Nicholson, of Auckland. The Auckland public have—and rightly so—a suspicion that these kind of things are generally on the cross, but in this case they are mistaken, as it is a genuine affair. We have interviewed the Queenslander and looked him over. As the old saying is "He is a rum one to look at but a d—l to go!" If you give a casual glance at Carbine you would say he was no good, but look him carefully through, then you find out his good points. It is the same with the Queenslander, and unless Nicholson is a real good one he will find that the darkey will put him through.

EGMONT WINTER MEETING.

THE acceptances for the Egmont Racing Club Steeplechase Meeting are not as good as one could have wished for, but this is greatly owing to the bad handicapping. Mr. Hatley ought to be *au fait* at the game, but of late years it has struck me that he has been careless. A handicapper should give his whole attention to the business, but this is not my province. He has been elected handicapper, so I have no more to do than try and pick the winner out of those that remain in. For the Hurdle Race only seven remain, and one or two of these will most likely drop out at the last moment. The finish should be fought out by Jupiter and Whalebone, the former for choice. Though looking up his performances, Christmas may turn out dangerous, and any one present might do worse than invest on him at a long shot.

The Steeplechase has an acceptance of twelve, Takapu having been left out by most of our contemporaries, though his acceptance was all right; but as usual the Press Association telegrams are not to be relied upon as regards sporting matters. Takapu and Waterbury are the most fancied, but I, however, prefer the chance of Ingorangi, as he is a big raking horse, a good jumper, with a fair turn of speed. If he should be beaten, it will be by either Takapu or Sir Maurice.

The Hack Races had better be left alone, as they have some curious hacks in the Egmont district.

OLD TURFITE.

HANDICAPPING.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—It is to be hoped that before another North Shore meeting takes place new arrangements will be made as to handicapping, as no horse-owner can be expected to continue as such in the face of such eccentricities as Mr. Knight is in this case responsible for. Compare, for instance, the weights for the Maiden and Welter Handicap, both distances being the same:—

MAIDEN.		WELTER.	
	st lb		st lb
Octopus.....	9 0	Theorem.....	9 0
Theorem.....	8 7	Octopus.....	8 12
Forget-me-Not....	8 0	Forget-me-Not....	8 12
Warrior.....	7 12	Warrior.....	8 7
Tuna.....	7 4	Tuna.....	8 0
Relation.....	6 10	Relation.....	8 0

Now, what justification can be urged for such an adjustment. In the second race Octopus meets Theorem nine pounds, Forget-me-Not fourteen pounds, Warrior eleven pounds, Tuna twelve pounds, and Relation twenty pounds better. Fancy Forget-me-Not giving Warrior weight! Then, again, at Tattersalls, Tuna receiving nine pounds from Forget-me-Not beat her. At Avondale, Tuna gave her three pounds and a beating. Now, Forget-me-Not, for being beaten, had to give eight pounds, i.e., meet her on eleven pounds worse terms. Theorem has run unsuccessfully on the flat several times, carrying 6st 12lb. Warrior has won, and yet because Theorem won at Otahuhu the hurdle double, he now has to carry 8st 7lb, and give Warrior weight. The other handicaps contain as many peculiar items, but there is no useful purpose to be served by pointing them out. Would it not be possible to form

some union among owners to bring pressure to bear to remedy the matter? Thanking you in anticipation for kind insertion—I am, etc.,

ONE OF THE VICTIMS.

[One must agree with the remarks made by "One of the Victims" regarding Mr. Knight's eccentric handicapping for the Takapuna Jockey Club's Winter Meeting. It has long been a wonder among racing men how he got the appointment; but they forget the New Zealand rule that appertains to everything, political or otherwise, "Kissing goes by favour." Taking the Maiden Race and Welter Handicap to start with. Theorem, in the Maiden, has to give Forget-me-Not 7lb, in the Welter 2lb, both the same distance. Now, Forget-me-Not is a pony, therefore better able to carry a light weight. Besides that, she has won several races on the flat, while Theorem has not; but anyone who understands his business would most decidedly have made Forget-me-Not give Theorem weight in the Maiden Handicap, and perhaps reversed it in the Welter. The handicaps all through may be called disgraceful; but as it will take some time to work them out they had better be left until next week, when we will then expose some more glaring mistakes. —*Ed. S.R.*]

TED PRITCHARD AND JACK BURKE.

FOR £1,200 AND THE 11ST. CHAMPIONSHIP.

A SHARP ENCOUNTER.

BURKE BEATEN IN THREE ROUNDS.

[From the "London Sportsman," March 13.]

THE long-talked-of match between Ted Pritchard, of Lambeth, and Jack Burke took place last night, and, like many of the fights decided recently for big money, ended in an abrupt manner that was little less than startling. That two men, masters of the art they have adopted, and in the condition brought about by a couple of months' strict attention to training, cannot stand in front of each other longer than ten minutes seems simply remarkable. Such, however, was the case at the Albany Club last night, where Pritchard proved himself the superior of Burke in a little more than two rounds and a half. This adds another to the already long list of "three-round battles," and as things go we may reasonably expect in the near future to have the "one punch" record established.

Among those present were—Champion Frank Slavin, Jack Lewis, Charley Mitchell, and others equally well known, the room being packed with some 500 people.

A splendid ring 20 feet square had been erected, and at 9.35 a cheer greeted Burke as he crossed this and made for the dressing-room. Offers were made to take 11 to 10, and £22 to £20 was twice laid on Pritchard by James Harvey. Subsequently £100 even was betted on the last-named boxer, and then £55 to £50 was twice laid against Burke. Several smaller amounts were later wagered at a shade of odds on Pritchard, but Burke's friends stayed the longest, and after Walter Melville had backed the Irish lad for a "pony" there was plenty money for Burke at evens. The gloves were next called for and produced, and here what looked like being a serious difficulty cropped up. M'Gannon walked across the ring to the referee with a right-hand one split directly across the back. "How's this?" said Dan, and in reply Carney said, "And how's this?" at the time exhibiting another mitten which had also given way. The gloves were chopped about, and a fresh set asked for, but Carney would not hear of this, and in the end, to make matters even, each man donned a split one.

Pritchard now walked across the ring with a £100 note in his hand, which he wished to wager with Burke, but Jack had not the needful. Ted, however, was accommodated by Arthur Cockburn, and the little transaction duly booked, the referee addressed the competitors and spectators, and at 10.15 to the tick "time" was called. Each man sported his colours round the waist, Pritchard, in addition, wearing a deep, strengthening plaister.

Both looked in splendid condition, and Burke's natty, compact frame, offered a striking contrast to the loosely-built figure of Pritchard. The latter was, however, as lithe and supple as of old, and evidently in no

Z ZEALANDIA SKATING RINK AND ATHLETIC GROUNDS, STANLEY STREET.

SATURDAY NIGHT, MAY 9.

£10  £10

SHEFFIELD HANDICAP 110 YARDS

1st prize, £6; 2nd, £2 10s.; 3rd, £1; 4th, 10s. Nominations, 2s., close with Secretary at Zealandia Rink, MONDAY, 4th May. Handicaps, 5th May. Acceptances, 2s., at post. First Heat at 8 o'clock. Final at 10.

TO FOLLOW, MAY 23 AND 25,

£25 SHEFFIELD HANDICAP, 120 YARDS

1st prize, £15; 2nd, £6; 3rd, £2 10s.; 4th, £1 10s. Nominations, 4s., close with Secretary, at Rink, MONDAY, May 11. Handicaps, 14th. Acceptance, 2s. 6d., 21st. Heats run Saturday Night, May 23. Also, Final Heat on Monday Night, May 25, with

£7 HURDLE HANDICAP, 120 YARDS

1st prize, £4; 2nd, £2; 3rd, £1. Nominations, 2s., close MONDAY, May 11. Acceptance, 1s., at post.

Entry Forms from Secretary. Nominators in previous Sheffield Handicap need only give performance since last competing.

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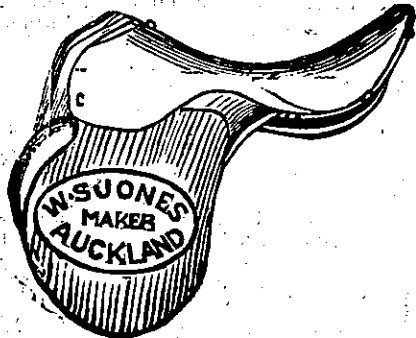
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EGMONT RACING CLUB, HAWERA.

WINTER MEETING,

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH, 1891.

PROGRAMME.

HANDICAP HURDLES of 60 sovs., second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. Over nine flights of hurdles 3ft. 6in. high. Nomination 1sov., acceptance 1 sov. To start at 11.45 a.m. Two miles and a distance.

HANDICAP HACK HURDLES of 30 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of the stakes. Over six flights of hurdles 3ft. 6in. high. Nomination 1 sov. acceptance 10s. To start at 12.30 p.m. One mile and a half.

MAIDEN STEEPLECHASE of 60 sovs., second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. Weight-for-age. Entrance 2 sovs. To start at 1 p.m. About two miles.

FIRST HANDICAP HACK FLAT RACE of 30 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of the stakes. Nomination 1 sov., acceptance 10s. To start at 1.30 p.m. One mile and a half.

EGMONT HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE of 120 sovs., second horse to receive 20 sovs. out of the stakes. Nomination 1 sov., acceptance 2 sovs. Final payment 2 sovs. Winner of any handicap steeplechase of the value of 100 sovs. after declaration of weights to carry a penalty of 7lb. To start at 2.15 p.m. About three miles.

SECOND HANDICAP HACK FLAT RACE of 30 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of the stakes. Nomination 1 sov., acceptance 10s. Winner of First Hack Flat Race to carry a penalty of 7lb. To start at 3.15 p.m. One mile.

FINAL HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE of 60 sovs., second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. Nomination 1 sov., acceptance 2 sovs. To start at 4 p.m. About two miles.

DATES OF NOMINATIONS, ACCEPTANCES, &c.

At the Post—Handicap Hack Hurdles, First Handicap Hack Flat Race, Second Handicap Hack Flat Race, Final Handicap Steeplechase, Egmont Handicap Steeplechase (final payment)

Weights—Tuesday May 5th—Handicap Hack Hurdles, First Handicap Hack Flat Race, Second Handicap Hack Flat Race.

Weights for Final Handicap Steeplechase will be declared immediately after running of Egmont Handicap Steeplechase.

Nominations and acceptances will be received at the time and on the dates mentioned, at the office of the Club, Hawera, and by Harry H. Hayr, Tattersall's, Auckland, and Alfred T. Danvers, Napier.

A. G. BRETT, Secretary.

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AUCKLAND TROTting CLUB.

AUTUMN MEETING.

IN AID OF THE HUNTLY DISASTER FUND.

(All the proceeds, after paying stakes and expenses, to go to the above fund).

TO BE HELD AT

POTTER'S PADDOCK, EPSOM,

ON

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1891.

AUCKLAND TROTting CLUB RULES.

HANDICAP PONY RACE of 20 sovs., second pony to receive 3 sovs. from the stakes. For ponies 14 hands and under. Nomination, 10s; acceptance, 10s. Distance, five furlongs.

MAIDEN TROT HANDICAP of 40 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. from the stake. For all horses that have never won an advertised trotting race exceeding 20 sovs. in value. Nomination, 20s; acceptance, 20s. Distance, two miles.

EPSOM STAKES HANDICAP of 30 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. from the stake. For ponies 14.2 and under. Nomination, 15s; acceptance, 15s. Distance, seven furlongs.

HANDICAP TROT of 60 sovs., second horse to receive 10 sovs. from the stake. The winner of the Maiden Trot to receive a penalty of 15 seconds behind its original start. Nomination, 30s; acceptance, 30s. Distance, three miles.

SELLING TROT of 20 sovs. The winner to be sold immediately after the race for 15 sovs. If entered to be sold for less, 3 secs. allowance made for every 1 sov. reduction in selling price; if entered to be sold for nil, 50 secs. allowed. Entrance, 20s. Distance, two and a half miles.

HANDICAP HURDLES of 25 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. from the stake. For ponies 14.2 and under. Over five flights of hurdles. Nomination, 10s; acceptance, 15s. Distance, one and a half miles.

HANDICAP PONY TROT of 30 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. from the stake. The winner of the Maiden or Handicap Trot to receive a penalty of 10 secs. behind its original start. For ponies 14.2 and under. Nomination, 15s. acceptance, 15s. Distance, 3 miles.

Acceptances close with the Secretary on FRIDAY, May 15.

In all trots time handicaps. Horses to be ridden in colours.

Horses to carry 10st, ponies 9st (in Pony Trotting races only).

Previous performances must be sent in with the nominations in all cases where the horses or ponies have not already performed at a meeting run under the Auckland Trotting Club Rules.

On no pretence whatever will nomination or acceptance money be returned through a pony being over height.

Penalties not cumulative.

Stakes paid less 6 per cent. for expenses of course.

Every trainer shall have his horse at the post, ready to start, at the time appointed by the Stewards, and every jockey is to be at the post, ready to start, at that time.

Every trainer or jockey making default therein may be fined in a sum not exceeding 10 sovs.

Special attention of owners and trainers is directed to the above Rule, which will be strictly enforced.

All communications to be addressed to the Secretary, Durham-street East, Auckland.

C. F. MARK,

Secretary.



TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB.

WINTER MEETING.

MONDAY, MAY 25, 1891

(QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY).

HANDICAP MAIDEN PLATE of 25 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of the stakes. For all horses that have not won an advertised race exceeding 30 sovs. Nomination, half-sovereign; acceptance, half-sovereign. Distance, one mile.

HANDICAP HURDLE RACE of 45 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of the stakes. Over seven flights of hurdles. Nomination, 1 sov; acceptance, 1 sov. Distance, one mile and three-quarters.

BIRTHDAY HANDICAP of 70 sovs., second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. Nomination, 1 sov; acceptance, 1 1/2 sovs. Distance, one mile and a quarter.

SELLING RACE of 25 sovs. For three-year-olds and upwards. Three-year-olds to carry 9st; four-year-olds, 9st 12lb; five, six, and aged, 10st 4lb. Winner to be sold immediately after the race for 50 sovs. If entered to be sold for 40 sovs., allowed 7lb; if for 30 sovs., 14lb; if for 20 sovs., 21lb; if for 10 sovs., 28lb; if for nil, to carry 6st 7lb. Nomination, 1 sov., on the night of General Entry. Distance, five and a half furlongs.

HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE of 70 sovs., second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. Nomination, 1 sov., acceptance, 1 1/2 sovs. Distance, about three miles and a quarter.

VICTORIA HANDICAP of 45 sovs., second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of the stakes. Winner of the Birthday Handicap to carry a penalty of 7lb extra. Nomination, 1 sov.; acceptance, 1 sov. Distance, five and a half furlongs.

WELTER HANDICAP of 30 sovs. Second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of the stakes. Winner of any handicap during the meeting to carry a penalty of 5lb extra. Lowest weight 7st 7lb. Nomination, half-sovereign; acceptance, half-sovereign. Distance, one mile.

PONY HANDICAP of 30 sovs., second pony to receive 5 sovs. out of the stakes. For ponies 14.2 and under. Winner of any race after the publication of the weights to carry a penalty of 7lbs extra. Nomination 1/2 sov., acceptance 1/2 sov. Distance 5 furlongs.

Acceptances and General Entries close on FRIDAY, May 15th, by 9 p.m.

R. WYNYARD,

Secretary.

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MAY 9, 1891.