

now famous St. Leger, and may require a little age to develop his powers. His Worship, by Brigadier—Friendship, is a very symmetrical little chap, and has already been heard of to advantage. Brown Alice, by Nordenfeldt—Ouida, was too much tucked up, which was apparent in the finish of the race, notwithstanding her advantage in the start. The start was a very straggling one, Brown Alice, followed by Wakawatea, getting all the best of it, and Stepniak about the worst. Notwithstanding his disadvantage, however, the favourite quickly moved up into third place, which position he maintained until close to the lawn rails, where he overtook Brown Alice, who had previously been displaced in the lead by Wakawatea. Wakawatea finished first, winning easily by two lengths from Stepniak, who just managed to overtake Brown Alice a few lengths from the post and squeezed home in front of her by a short neck.

Next came the event of the day—the Cup. British Lion was the only absentee from the book list. Hilda was made favourite on the machine, with Fraternite next in demand. In this race there was only a middling start. Pinfire, who was last away, went to the front before a hundred yards had been traversed, and was followed by Leorina and Queen of Trumps, the rest lying in a group several lengths in the rear. The first time past the post Pinfire, going very strongly, was still at the head of affairs, with Leorina about three lengths off, followed by Queen of Trumps at a similar distance; others grouped together bringing up the rear. At the back of the course, opposite the stand, the field began to close up on the leaders, the three still maintaining the relative positions held by them when passing the post. Excitement became keen by the time the five furlong post was reached owing to the field again moving up closer together. Nearing the bend before reaching the turn into the straight, the Dreamer and Fraternite still further improved their positions, and Leorina showed signs of distress. At the final turn into the straight Leorina had had enough. Hilda was in trouble, and Fraternite improved his position considerably. When fairly in the straight the whips were out on all but the leader, and at the distance post he was challenged by Fraternite and The Dreamer, but answering gamely to a touch of the whip he shot away again to the front. At the Derby stand Fraternite had “shot his bolt,” and The Dreamer showed signs of the journey being too far. At this juncture Coalcuttle, who had been patiently ridden throughout by little Davis, came out of the ruck with a great rush, and, although she passed The Dreamer just before the end of the grandstand was reached, she failed to get nearer than a length to Pinfire, who finished first with something in hand in the great time of 3min. 32½secs. The Dreamer was about two lengths behind Coalcuttle. Fraternite was fourth, Queen of Trumps fifth, Hilda sixth, and Leorina last. The pace was a “cracker” from start to finish, as may be seen by the time recorded. Pinfire, the winner, went to the front soon after the start, made all his own running, and was never once headed throughout the race. Although the winner was not a favourite, still it was pleasing to hear the public cheering the winner on account of the owner, Mr. W. Walters, whose father will be remembered as a popular owner of racehorses in bygone days.

In the Hurdle Race five came to the post, the only one scratched being Tawhana. From a fairly good start Fishmonger and Capella went to the front, which position they maintained on the first time passing the post. Lonely lay in a good position in third place, and when half the journey had been traversed he moved up on the other two, who had reversed their positions, and from that out showed that he held his field safe. After reaching the straight the last hurdle was negotiated by Capella and Lonely close together, Fishmonger several lengths behind. Here Capella turned a somersault by jumping inside the rails, and thereby ruined her chance. From this out the result was never in doubt, as Lonely, who was full of running, came away and won with the greatest ease by about four or five lengths. Fishmonger, all out, was second, three or four lengths in front of Orakei, who was coming at a good pace at the finish. Try Fluke was a poor last.

The Railway Handicap, ¾ mile, brought out,

the whole field of eleven. After a false start followed by not less than a dozen breaks-away and three more false starts, the field was eventually despatched with a most wretched start. Resentment was the last to move, and was never prominent in the race. After passing the five furlong post Reprisal's white blaze could be seen forging strongly ahead, his nearest attendants being Lady Belle, Roie, The Baron, and the Dancer. Once fairly going in the straight the issue was never in doubt, for Reprisal held his position to the finish. Passing the Derby stand Scot Free could be seen coming fast on the outside, and Davis was seen to be vigorously at work on Dancer. Reprisal won easily by one and a-half lengths from Dancer, who just managed to get home on the post in front of Scot Free. The rest of the field tailed off considerably. Many thought that Scot Free, who was close under the judge's box, should have been awarded second place.

The sixth item on the programme was the Nursery Handicap, five furlongs, for two-year-olds. Only First Nelson and St. Hippo dropped out, leaving seven youngsters to fight the matter out. The start was no better than any previous one, and Puwerewere was left what seemed about eight or ten lengths behind. The stragglers, however, crept up together by the bend leading to the straight. Here Wyvern, Lottie, Glenora, and Puwerewere were seen to be in the van, but Wyvern was first into the straight, closely followed by the other three. Near the Derby stand Puwerewere was seen to be coming on at a great bat, and gradually passing the other two managed to get second by one and a-half lengths to Wyvern. This performance of Puwerewere stamps her as a good filly, and it is an open question whether she would not have won had she got a decent start with the others. Glenora, the favourite, squeezed home into third place.

The Maiden Steeplechase had a field of five. The start was good. Yardman dashed off with the lead, but ran off at the sod wall shortly after the start. After repeated attempts he was drawn out of it in disgust. Passing the stand over the water jump Colonel led, followed by Tommy and Orakei, Chance in the rear considerably. This order was maintained round the back of the course and up the hill. Behind the trees Chance disappeared and was seen no more. Emerging from the trees Tommy and Orakei closed a little on the leader and moved closer still down the hill. Coming up the straight and over the double the gaps between the three were lessened considerably. After the double had been negotiated Rae took a twist on Colonel, and at the back of the course on the second round all were closer together, and the order of ascending the hill the second time was Orakei, Tommy, Colonel. At the top of the hill Orakei fell, but was soon after remounted and went in pursuit. At the next fence Tommy ran off. This gave Colonel a tremendous lead down the hill and over the stonewall into the straight. Orakei followed up gamely and well, but could not get within twenty lengths of Colonel, who cantered home the easiest of winners.

The final event of the day was the Christmas Handicap, 1¼ miles. Only two were scratched, Warrior and Ida. Lochness, on his South Auckland running, was made a red-hot favourite, and although he flattered his backers by leading Dolosa and Master Pat past the mile post, he was gradually displaced by one and another as the journey proceeded. At the six-furlong post Master Pat, Morion and Dolosa were prominent and Fiesole was handy. Shortly afterwards Fiesole and The Dreamer made a forward move, and at the five-furlong post the field was well bunched. Lochness got first into the straight, but was soon displaced by Dolosa, who looked all over a winner. At the Derby stand Morion and Dreamer joined issue and a great battle ensued. Here, however, Dolosa fell back beaten, and Fiesole was seen coming fast on the inside, and she gradually forged ahead, eventually winning by a head from Morion, who lasted longer than The Dreamer, whom he beat by about a neck. The start for this race was the only approach at a decent one during the whole day.

The crowd now began to disperse homewards, and thus ended a most successful gathering.

Mr. Wanklyn, the C.J.C. Secretary, goes to Sydney for a trip to recruit his health.

RANDOM RACING REMARKS.

[BY PEGASUS.]

On Jan. 1st the Victoria Racing Club open their Summer Meeting. The principal events are the Standish and Bagot Handicaps. For the former event a large field of good 'uns appear on the list, and I should think the best half dozen in the race are First Boolka, Carlington, Deerswood, Magic Circle, Merriment and Albina.

The Bagot Handicap is run over a mile and five furlong course. Tirailleuse, 8st 13lb; Chintz, 7st 12lb; Magic Circle, 7st 7lb; Yarran, 7st 5lb; and Clonard, 8st 4lb, all read well, and I fancy that Chintz ought to just about win, with Clonard and Magic Circle to fill the places.

In the Steeplechase, on the same day, Chemist has been awarded 12st 3lb; Orangeman, 11st; and Messenger, 10st 10lb. Tumult, 10st 5lb, ought to be heard of to advantage in this event.

None of the “tipsters” were very successful in their selections for Boxing Day. Well, when one hears of horses not being “on the job” it is almost sure to make him “tip” the events wrongly.

From what I can gather Irishman is said to be a good 'un, and well worth backing when started.

I should like to hear the public expression of opinion with regard to the comparison of Lonely at Takapuna and Lonely at Ellerslie. I have mine.

I was glad to notice that Capella and her rider escaped without any very serious injury in the Hurdle Race.

I hear that my *confreere* “TORPEDO” had a “fiver” on Pinfire in the Auckland Cup. I should be surprised if he had done otherwise, seeing that Pinfire is by TORPEDO—Yatterina.

The div. on Pinfire was not so large as in Nelson's year. In that year it was fifty odd pounds for a £2 ticket; this year it was £17 for a £1 ticket.

Although Wakawatea is only a two-year old, yet he has a great amount of precocity. His name signifies “Clear the way,” and it was very amusing to see him clear the way in front of the totalisator before going out to start. He just seemed like as if he had gone there to see what his div. would be, and that being satisfactory he went out and won. It strikes me the horses are getting as “peculiar” as the men.

What is going to win the Steeple is now the cry? It is reported that Rae's stable are confident they have the winner boxed up all right. Be that as it may, I have gone again carefully through the list, and cannot see my way clear to alter my opinion expressed in previous issues, viz., that the result on Saturday will read—

SENTINEL [OR DAN]	1
HOPEFUL KATE	2
FISHMONGER	3

—I have put Dan in brackets, as last week I put him down as a boil-over, and if all reports be true it seems very probable indeed.

The weights for the New Year's Day races have appeared, and I have been going through them carefully. At the time of writing no acceptances are to hand, so I shall name four in each event, thus making allowance for some dropping out. Each horse is given in order of merit.

The first event is New Year's Hurdles, with thirteen entries. Sentinel, 12st, is hardly likely to accept. Lonely, 11st 5lb, has a stable mate lower down the list who may be the “joker.” Orakei, 10st 11lb, is well treated. Although 2lb more than on Boxing Day he did not seem to run in accordance with his attempt in the Maiden Steeple afterwards. I fancy his chance greatly. Bit o' Blue, 10st 9lb, may be passed over. Fishmonger, 10st 9lb, reads well, and ought to be amongst the first flight. Good Day, 10st 8lb, is in Rae's stable, which has played several “trump cards” already this season, and is worthy of notice. Everything depends upon the acceptances. Yardman, 9st 7lb, is “not in it.” Capella's accident may militate against her chance. Of the 9st division Irishman is a “dark 'un,” and Barshot might “upset the pot.” Carefully considered I select the following four in their order:—Orakei, Rae's selected, Fishmonger, and Irishman.

The Great Northern Derby final acceptances are not to hand, and it is almost like picking