

colours registered, and it could only be remedied by making a rule that every owner should be compelled to register his colours. This in many instances could not be enforced, especially at country meetings, and when an owner may only run a horse occasionally. The question was once mooted in England, but it was found that it would not work, so the registration of colours is confined to regular racehorse owners, and for convenience sake. Our *confrere* is not afraid of writing facts, so we hope he will assist us in trying to instil into the minds of all the committees of racing clubs that rules must be obeyed.

### OUR NAPIER LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE wealthy sporting men of the Hawke's Bay district own enough money to sink a dozen ships, and yet at blood stock sales they allow the best bred animals to pass away to other shores, being content to secure the lower priced animals of inferior blood. A small syndicate could easily have secured the Nordenfeldt—Frailty colt, or else the full sister to Strathmore, who in the not far distant future will prove a valuable brood mare. However, remarks such as these are generally lost upon the people who should take them most to heart. Our aim in these days should be to breed Carabines—not indifferent hacks.

Northern sporting friends will regret to hear that Captain Russell, owner of Krina, Huerfana, and St. Katharine, is confined to his bed through breaking one of the small bones in his leg whilst playing tennis the other day.

The other day I had a look at the little mare Denbigh (by The Painter), winner of the Hawke's Bay and Wellington Steeplechases. She is located near Napier Park, and is in blooming condition. There is a very nice-looking colt foal running at foot by Trickster, who, if I mistake not, is the makings of a fine horse. He is a peculiarly marked foal, but this will disappear when his coat changes. In the same paddock is the well-remembered hack racer Scylla, by the Traducer colt Mufti, out of Loch Liven. Scylla is half-sister to Harold, the hurdler, who had to be shot after sustaining injuries in a race at Hastings. This mare also has a fine looking foal, who will develop into a good horse, if appearances go for anything. The animal, who is well built in every way, is by Vasco di Gama. This is Scylla's second foal, a two-year-old, by Turquoise being located up the line.

Mr. G. F. Forder, who painted some fine pictures during his stay in Napier, has painted an excellent picture of the champion Carbine for the Hon. D. S. Wallace. A private letter from the other side states that the papers consider it one of the best likenesses of Carbine yet painted.

The Hawke's Bay Jockey Club and the Napier Park Racing Club made £400 each on their late meetings clear profit.

Van Diemen (Vasco di Gama—Nellie) who won the Maiden at Auckland the other day, was sold by Captain Russell to Mr. G. Wright. This is the horse that was the cause of litigation between the Captain and the Napier Park Club, the animal winning a hack race before he was scratched for the Wanganui Derby.

Mr. Douglas' filly Ua (Mute—Waitiri) put her foot in a hole which had been undermined by crabs in the two-year-old race at the Park, and lost her show of winning.

The last Napier Park Meeting was the most successful ever held by the Club. There was a larger attendance than ever before, and a greater amount of money was put through the machine than at any previous meeting. The knowing ones backed Disturbance (Opawa—Love Not) for the Trial Hurdles, and he was an outsider on the machine. Pirate went all he knew throughout the first portion of the race, but could not last, and Disturbance won rather easily at the finish from Rough, the top weight. The winner was nicely ridden by B. Hickey, a brother of J. Hickey, the well-known flat and cross-country rider. In the Handicap Hurdle Race, Somnambulist (by Somnus), who was well ridden by J. Redmond, was made favourite. Waterfall (Musket—Cascade), who was very big looking, and looked more so with his long tail and shaggy mane, represented Mr. Douglas, together with Waterbury (Natator—Sunshine), who had not raced

over sticks in his new owner's name before. Rough and Otaieri were the other two. Mr. Redmond's horse went away with the lead, and must have been 20 lengths in front at one time, but he came back to them, and at the finish Somnambulist went to the front, and despite Hickey's efforts on Waterfall to get up, the son of Somnus won in a very hollow fashion by a few lengths. He is without doubt a good horse—one of the best hurdlers in the Colony.

Mr. Donnolly's Kotuku (Musket—Maid of Athol) beat Seraph and Katinka in the Midsummer Handicap, and afterwards downed Dreamland, Triton and Link in the Flying. In both races Maher's mares were favourites, but they were asked to concede the grey daughter of Musket too much weight. Kotuku, who had a spell seems to have quite recovered her old form, although she did not seem to get on her legs at Hastings.

Five two-year-olds faced the starter in the two-year-old handicap. Shortly after the start two things happened—Ua putting her foot in a hole and Mystic crossing St. Katharine. The latter won the race, Mystic (who beat St. Katharine at Hastings) playing second fiddle. On the information of the starter; Peters, rider of Mystic, was called before the stewards. The clerk of the course said that Peters crossed St. Katharine and interfered with her running in a manner that was positively dangerous. Morrigan, who rode Captain Russell's filly, bore this out, and Peters admitted what he had been accused of, but said it was quite unintentional—he could not help it, and had no object in doing it. The stewards reprimanded him, and said they would let him off this time, but if ever a case of such a character came before them again they would deal most severely with the offender. This is as it should be, for the custom of jamming and crossing is very dangerous, and one of these days we will have an inquest or two. Then the stewards of the clubs will awaken to a sense of their responsibility.

Only three accepted for the big handicap, 1½ miles, and it was thought almost a moral for Mr. Gainford's five-year-old mare Maid of Lorne (Lord of the Isles—Marie Antoinette), who had cut out the hack mile and a half at Kaikora with heavier weight up in 2.42. However, when it came to racing at the finish, neither she nor Hakimana had any show with Free Lance, who got left at the post at Hastings, and was coming two strides to the winner's one at the finish. He won at the Park without the whip.

The only start in front of the stand during the day that Mr. Powell had to effect was in the Settlers' Handicap, and the eight horses got off in a line, whereat the wielder of the flag was applauded. The winner turned up in Zacco, the erst Gisborne horse, who is by Darnley's sire, Bothwell, out of Queen of Hearts. Turehu ran baldy, and King George could not get up. In the Green-meadows' Handicap, Link (Mute—Swiveline) had the assistance of a very light weight in getting home, paying just under £5 dividend.

Hakimana seemed to be lame when walking in the paddock after the big handicap.

Seven Hawke's Bay horses take part in the Poverty Bay and Gisborne meetings. The animals were shipped in the Dingadee, and had to be accommodated in the hold of the vessel, which, by the way, has no stalls or fittings of any kind for the purpose of carrying animals, although she is a very fine boat otherwise.

We have had a visit from a team of Hawera cricketers, who went down before the Napier Club team in their first match. Napier were six wickets to the good at the finish, although at one time it looked as if they were going to get a bad beating. The visitors play four matches here altogether, but only one had been concluded when this letter was posted. Sam Powell, the well-known starter, and Marshall, last year's champion lawn tennis player, who the other day was beaten by Harman at Farndon Park, are handling the bat for the visitors, and were of good assistance to them.

In order that more ground may be available for implements at the Agricultural and Pastoral Society's shows, the committee recommend the filling in of a portion of ground running to the rear of the second stand on the Hastings course, and the work will be taken in hand if the Jockey Club contribute a third of the cost, which they will no doubt agree to, as an acre and a

half will be reclaimed, and their ground materially improved.

Cynisca's chance for the Wellington Cup is generally fancied here.

### SOUTH AUCKLAND.

In a previous issue we promised to give our readers a few more particulars about "South Auckland," our visit being brought about principally by the attraction of the South Auckland Racing Club's Summer meeting, that being described up to the point of the train leaving Hamilton East at 6 p.m. on Saturday 19th ult.

After seeing all our friends "off" to town, and wishing them a Merry Christmas, we returned to the course and helped the almost omnipresent secretary (Mr. Carter) in his few remaining duties. That being finished, and the usual compliments of the season having been attended to, we mounted our seats and returned to our "floors" in the hotel (I do not say beds, because previous to this we had none). On this occasion our landlady began to think there was nothing lost by civility, it having been very forcibly pointed out to her that she had treated some of the Auckland "sports" in a very cruel manner. The same hotel proprietress was equally as kind to the totalizer clerks, whose duties began at 9 a.m. and did not finish till nearly a similar hour in the evening. They were allowed cold "tack" if they coaxed the cook, while in the morning the breakfast was quite good enough to make one think of his tea, the dinner being omitted.

The usual "innocent fun" was, of course, indulged in to a large extent when "giddy sparks" are out for an airing, and probably the landlady had a little cause for her obvious signs of irritability on several occasions.

Here we met an old groom whom we had known in 66, in the Waikato, "George Maize." He was then in a similar position, and although considerably aged, he has still some good stories to tell about the Waikato. His memory is still excellent, and he recognised his visitors in an instant. Another "old identity" was recognised in Mr. Duncan McIntyre, who was probably one of the best athletes of his day in the colonies. He held the record for years at tossing the caber and putting the stone, at a time when there were hundreds of British troops stationed in Auckland. Contrary to old Maize he does not appear to have put on any more grey hairs than he had in 71 when we saw him last. His son is the agent of this paper in Hamilton, and we hope his energies are equally as good in our interests as his shave was in his own. I predict that Mr. McIntyre will yet do well in the sphere he has adopted. Another item of interest attracted me at Hamilton—it was an interview with Mr. Hatrick, one of the principal drapers in Hamilton. After doing some business I soon discovered that he was of a sporting turn of mind, and eventually elicited that he was a breeder. Amongst others he has Nora, the dam of Good Luck, who ran such a good filly at Claudlands last week. The latter we saw in her box and she looked quality everywhere, but too big to race or even criticize. It is reported that the filly has since been bought from Mr. Hatrick; out of the same mare he has Lady Marion, who was only beaten on the post last year by Belmont in the Flying Stakes, and won the Welter in Cambridge carrying 12st, some excellent cattle being behind her. In the next box was a beautiful chestnut filly by Mr. Donald McKinnon's Flintlock, from Nora. She is entered for the Waikato Produce Stakes of 1893, and from present appearance the others must be good if they beat her. Nora, whom we are speaking of, is the dam of Don, who won the Auckland Steeplechase in 1889. He is by Ariel, out of Nora, by Woolfield's Mignonette.

In the evening I was invited to attend a meeting of the stewards at Gwynne's Hotel, and their hospitality and speeches were so profuse that I must confine myself to facts. There was champagne *ad libitum*, and a full attendance of the committee: Mr. Mathias from Raglan, Mr. Sandes (surveyor), Mr. L. Cussen, Mr. Noble from Whatawhata, Mr. Geo. Edgecumbe of the *Waikato Times*, Dr. Kenny, and a large number of other members present. It was a convivial gathering, but it was made semi-official, and for that reason we quote the following resolutions, which were passed with great compliments from the proposers and acclamation from the auditors:—Patriotic first, as