

Music & Drama.

Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici?

THE MONTAGUE-TURNER OPERA SEASON.

To produce nine operas in eighteen days might fitly be compared to the labours of Hercules. Such a task necessarily implies nine "first nights," and everybody knows that a first night is always a trying and ticklish business to the performers. So far a remarkable advance has been noticeable on the second presentation of each opera. To use a racing phrase appropriate to a sporting newspaper, principals, chorus and orchestra have in every case "trained on." The climatic inconveniences noticed in my last article have almost entirely disappeared, and the singers are in much better form, while the orchestra too has improved wonderfully. The local additions to the chorus deserve great praise for the readiness with which they have picked up the music and business of so many new works, but to expect them to master a new opera in two days is altogether unreasonable, and some critics have failed to remember and to make allowances for the difficulties under which the company has been struggling, through the sudden defection, just before leaving Sydney, of six chorus ladies. By sheer pluck and hard work—the rehearsals averaging about seven hours a day, and proving Mr. Harcourt Lee to have the proverbial feline nine lives—marvellous results have been achieved. The company will leave Auckland greatly improved in combination and efficiency as to ensure complete success during the remainder of the New Zealand tour. In support of my view I would point out that "Lucrezia Borgia," which has so far undoubtedly proved the success of the season, exacts but little work from the lady members of the chorus. Since my last notice the new productions have been "Mignon," "Lucrezia," and "Martha," about each of which I will say as much as space permits.

"MIGNON."

This *chef d'œuvre* of Ambroise Thomas is a charming example of the French school, which deserves the credit of combining the best features of the German and Italian schools, and is the logical outcome of the work of Auber and Hérold. A wealth of melody, fine orchestration, and strong dramatic effects combine to render the opera one of the most delightful works extant. It has never yet been given before an Auckland audience. I purposely went on the second evening in order to hear the company at its best, and was greatly pleased both with the opera and the performers. Miss Annis Montague in the title rôle sang and acted magnificently throughout. To pick out a few of the many gems I will mention the sweet prayer "O virgin, my only hope," the exquisitely tender song "Knowest thou that dear land," with the magnificent burst on the words "Tis there," followed by a superbly artistic *diminuendo*, ending in the faintest conceivable *pianissimo*. Her recitatives in monotone lapped in exquisite orchestral drapery were a delicious feast to the ear. The duo with Lotario "Swift flying pretty swallows," in which the flute has

a charming obligato, is another dainty morsel. The toilet scene and song proved another of Mignon's triumphs—her business with the rouge and powder puff being artistically naïve and effective. The dance of delight and exultant "tra-la-la" provoked tumultuous applause, and an encore was only averted by the more considerate portion of the audience remembering that the rôle was a most exacting one. Space forbids my noticing many other superb bursts and tender passages exquisitely rendered by Miss Montague. As Filina, the dashing actress and professional coquette, Miss Maud Lita made her *début* upon the operatic stage. Making allowance for stage-fright, from which she naturally suffered, the young lady acquitted herself admirably in a difficult rôle. She possesses a light soprano voice of excellent quality, which is especially pure and true in the upper register. Her staccato singing, trills, and fioriture are all extremely good; the polonaise "I am Titania," in the third act, being a capital bit of light and tripping vocalisation, which won a well-merited encore. The young lady has a charming stage presence, and when she acquires the ease and confidence which a few more appearances will give, Miss Maud Lita will assuredly prove one of the strong features in the company with which she is associated. Miss E. A. Lambert's impersonation of Frederick, the "masher" exquisite, is like all her work, artistic in conception and finished in performance. Mr. Turner, as Wilhelm Meister, has a fine rôle both musically and dramatically speaking, and his performance greatly enhances his already high reputation in both respects. Mr. Edward Farley's Lotario is another excellent feature in the cast—his singing of several melodies in smooth, rich and admirably modulated tones was enchanting. In the minor parts of Giarino, Laertes, and Zaffri, Messrs. Craig, England, and Morrison showed capital form, and the company is fortunate in possessing second leads who can act and sing so satisfactorily. "Mignon" will, I feel sure make a hit during the tour.

Having devoted so much space to "Mignon"—and with reason too, since it is virgin soil to Auckland musicologists—I am compelled to abridge my remarks about "Lucrezia" and "Martha." Donizetti's magnificent lyrical tragedy shows the company at its best. Miss Annis Montague must be placed on a very high pedestal among the many artists I have heard in the rôle. Her dignity, power and grace and subtle acting combined with magnificent declamation and superb singing merit the highest praise I can give her. Miss Lambert as "Orsini" quite covers herself with glory, and is especially effective and invariably encoored in the inspiring "Il segreto." Her splendid figure, graceful acting and *abandon*, together with a most handsome and becoming dress, contributed largely to the success of the piece. Mr. Edward Farley as the duke is fitted with a part which he fills to perfection. Besides singing splendidly throughout ("Vieni! la mia vendetta," was magnificently delivered) he acted the rôle with a fierce power and mobility of facial expression which commanded attention, and exactly portrayed the fury of a jealous and vindictive tyrant. Mr. Charles Turner revelled in the fine rôle of Gennaro, singing all the music—and especially the immortal "Di pescatore"—with grand effect. He shone equally in the lighter and more tragical numbers, and his performance

must be pronounced a grand achievement. Mr. Fred England's dressing and acting of the Spanish spy Gubetta, as well as his singing of the part, again proved him the capable and reliable performer he is. Mr. H. Cassier, although handicapped with a severe cold, acquitted himself well as Rustigello, and the other characters were capably filled by Messrs. Percy Stewart, Denis Gunning, G. Haswell, J. Morrison, and Harry Craig—the two latter gentlemen as Astolfo and Gazella respectively displaying fine qualities, both histrionic and vocal.

"Martha" brought Miss Maud Lita out once more, and this time in the title rôle; Miss Annis Montague taking a well-earned rest. Miss Lita, although still nervous, did very well indeed, and already showed an advance in her acting. In "The last rose of summer" her pure and fresh voice and artistic simplicity won encores and bouquets. With courage, perseverance and study *elle ira loin*. Miss Lambert's Nancy is full of life, go and originality, and her gags are very funny. When she turned *two Martas* into *tomatoes* even the performers were convulsed, and Lionel had to apologise for her on the score of its being Saturday night. The chair and love-making business between Nancy and Plunkett is irresistibly comic. Mr. Turner's Lionel and Mr. Farley's Plunkett prove the versatility of these artists, both gentlemen revealing light comedy gifts which one could scarcely expect after seeing them in the heavy rôles. The former sang the lovely aria "Lost, proscribed," etc., and the latter the fine "Porter song," with telling effect. As Sir Tristram, Mr. England quite distinguishes himself, and an unrehearsed incident in the dancing lesson, when he, Martha and Nancy fell into a graceful group which would have done credit to bicycle trick riders, was loudly encoored by the delighted audience, who vainly imagined that the feat was intentional and might be repeated. Mr. Harry Craig's Lord Mayor, and his grotesque clerk (Mr. J. Morrison, I think) were dressed in true burlesque style, and caused inextinguishable laughter. Misses Freeman, Beresford, and Williams made fun out of Polly Bell, Kitty Wells, and Sally Fox; and Mr. G. Haswell looked and sang the servant's part admirably. Before concluding I wish to remind my readers that Miss Annis Montague takes her benefit to-morrow (Friday) when "Faust" will be staged with, I feel sure brilliant success. To-night (Thursday) "The Bohemian Girl," will be performed, and on Saturday evening the season terminates with that favourite of the people "Maritana."

Good audiences rewarded the efforts of our stock companies at the City Hall and Academy of Music, Lorne-street, where the usual entertainments by Hugo's New Idea Minstrels and Miss Amy Vaughan's Amazons were as successful as usual, notwithstanding counter attractions at the Opera House.

ORPHEUS.

Mr. G. G. Stead is said to possess the best stud book memory in the Colony.

A match is being arranged between Peter Kemp and Tom Sullivan for £200 aside.

The first-prize in the forthcoming Band Contest, to be held at Wellington, will be worth £100.

Athletics Etc.

The Cripple Race between Hoppy Jackson (of Auckland) and Johnson (of Christchurch) came off on the Domain Cricket Ground at 2.35 on Saturday last. A good start was effected, and both men travelled at an astonishing dot-and-carry-one pace. Johnson led for about 50yds, when Jackson put on a spurt and won comfortably by 3yds in 12½secs. (so it is said). The winner was carried shoulder high to the pavillion amid loud cheers from a big crowd of admiring spectators.

It has been decided by the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association that, under Rule 16, persons taking any part in tugs of war will be classed as professionals.

A local weekly, under the heading of "Out Door Sports," says that before J. Buchanan, the amateur, went South, he gave Pearson nearly 10yds in 150 and a licking, while Pearson is credited with running the 100yds 1-5th faster than Buchanan. We are authorised to state most positively that at the time Pearson was not in training, Buchanan gave him 7yds in 150, and Pearson beat him by a clear yard and a-half. Funnier still.

Considerable interest is being aroused in Wellington over the 'international tug of war tournament, which has been arranged on a most elaborate scale, a committee, comprising the principal residents of the Empire City, have taken the matter in hand, and the Hon. R. Seddon has identified himself with the enterprise. The first prize is £50, the second £20, and the third £10. The first pull is to take place on Tuesday next. It has been decided that the English team shall consist only of men born on English soil and of English parents. Special trains have been laid on by the Railway Commissioners for the season. The management have drawn up the following conditions:—"Each team will consist of ten men, representatives of a different nationality, with a substitute and a captain. Teams will have one pull against each other, and the team beaten four times will drop out. The rope will be Manila, 4in in circumference, and have a knot in the centre, which will be confined in an iron clamp fixed to the floor. The pull will start by pistol report, when the rope will be released from the clamp. A crease will be painted on the floor 7ft each side of the clamp. The successful team will have to pull their opponents over till the centre knot is past the painted mark. Members of each team are expected to appear in the national dress of the country they represent, or wear distinguishing badges of their national colours."

E. Bain, of the Thames, and Frank Mahoney have been matched for a half-mile run for £10 aside, Bain to give Mahoney 20yds, the latter, who belongs to Paeroa, being allowed £2 for expenses. The match is to take place at Parawai on the 14th inst.

CRICKET.

FINAL JUNIOR CUP MATCH.—AUCKLAND II. v. GORDON II.

This match was played out on Saturday last, and resulted in a win for Auckland by 11 runs. In the first innings Auckland having made 32 against Gordon's 28, had a lead of 4 runs. At 2.55 p.m. Auckland started their second innings on a hanging wicket, sending in Howard and Smith. Each batsman had made a single, when Mowbray at deep cover finely caught Howard off Kenderdine. 1—2—1. Hamerton filled the vacancy, but with the score at 7 Smith was neatly taken at point by Kelly off Kenderdine. 2—7—4. Cuff, senior, joined Hamerton and took the score to 11, when he skied one and was c and b by Kenderdine. 3—11—2. Seccombe was the next man, but after making 3 he was clean bowled by Kenderdine. 4—16—3. Mulgan came in, and after a maid from Kelly and another from Kenderdine, lost his partner, who was bowled by Kelly. 5—16—2. O'Keefe joined Mulgan, and the pair put on 4 runs, when the newcomer was smartly taken in the slips by Peter Macky off Kenderdine. 6—20—1. C. Cuff joined Mulgan but without scoring played Kenderdine on. 7—20—0. Gaudin came next and made a short stand with

Mulgan, during which the latter was let off by Gorrie, and a run resulted. Presently Gaudin was splendidly caught by Graham in the long field. 8—27—4. Taylor joined Mulgan, who was batting steadily, and the pair made another stand, bringing the score to 34, when Bedlington failed to hold a soft one from Taylor off Kissling, who had taken the ball from Kelly, and a run resulted. In Kenderdine's next over Taylor was smartly taken at mid-off by Hesketh, who got to the ball with amazing celerity. 9—35—4. Mears, the last man, did not add to the score, being taken at slip off Kissling by Macky. The innings closed at 3.50 for 35.

Gordon with 39 to tie and 40 to win, started their second innings at 4 p.m. with Gorrie and Gilfillan to the bowling of Seccombe and Howard. The pair had made 8 when Gorrie fell a victim to Howard. 1—8—2. Kenderdine followed, but was immediately bowled off his pads. 2—8—0. Graham came in, but with the score at 10 also fell a victim to Howard, who was bowling dead on. With the score unchanged Kissling, the next man, also succumbed to Howard's prowess. Kelly joined Gilfillan, and the pair added three more runs, when Kelly was missed at the wicket, but gave another chance next ball, which Cuff accepted. 5—13—1. Bell was bowled first ball by Seccombe. 6—13—0. Mowbray took the rest of the over. Gilfillan made two off the last ball off Howard's next over, but soon lost his partner who was splendidly caught off Seccombe by Howard at slip. 7—15—0. Macky came in, but after Gilfillan had made a single played Howard on. 8—16—0. Hesketh joined Gilfillan and the two made a stand, raising the score to 27, when Gordon's chief hope, Gilfillan, was clean bowled by Howard, having played a most praiseworthy innings. 27—9—22. Bedlington joined Hesketh, and the pair showed steady defence, but only added one to the total when Howard distributed Hesketh's sticks, and the innings closed for 28, at 4 minutes to 5 p.m. The protest against Howard will have to be considered before the match and cup are finally awarded to Auckland. As the matter is *sub judice* we refrain from making any remarks on the subject until the decision is announced.

BOXING.

R. Matthews challenges, through the medium of the Wellington press, to fight to a finish S. Hill for £50 or £100 aside, the fight to take place either at Wanganui, Nelson, or Palmerston North.

Jim Burge, the "iron-bark man," has decided to visit America.

Over £50,000 changed hands over the Fitzsimmons-Maher fight. The former won about £2,000 over his victory.

Slavin witnessed the Fitzsimmons-Maher "set to," and the following is his opinion of the pair:—"Maher is a man of little science; he can't punish with his left hand, and depends on his right for a mascotte blow. He is slow on his feet, his eye isn't quick, and he is very poor on the guard. He cannot see an opening when it is time to get in with a right and left, and his left hand is simply a tickler. He has nothing clever in the top of his head, and what little knowledge of boxing he has makes a show of him when he goes against a first-class man like Fitzsimmons. Fitz is one of the best men I ever saw, either in boxing, on guard, or ducking. He has two good hands and a head to back them up."

COURSING CHATTER.

COURSING FIXTURES.

May 13, 14—May Cup and St. Leger (Dunedin)
June 10, 11—Forbury Cup and Juvenile Stakes (Dunedin)
July 7, 8, 9—Grand National Cup and Bracelet (Dunedin)
Aug. 18, 19, 20—Champion Stakes, Maiden Stakes, Sapling Stakes (Dunedin)

NOMINATIONS.

June 1—Dunedin Plumpton Forbury Meeting
June 29—Dunedin Plumpton Cup Meeting
Aug. 8—Dunedin Plumpton Champion Meeting
ACCEPTANCES, SWEEPS, ETC.
June 8—Dunedin Plumpton Forbury Meeting
July 5—Dunedin Plumpton Cup Meeting
Aug. 16—Dunedin Plumpton Champion Meeting

[BY CONTANGO.]

In the last issue of the SPORTING REVIEW "Old Turfite" writes that the A.R.C. Committee contemplate making their beautiful racecourse suitable for the requirement of a Plumpton, but he ridicules the idea, and says the ground is not at all suitable. Well, when he commences writing in such a high-toned manner, I have come to the conclusion that he knows as

much about the suitability of the Ellerslie racecourse as a Plumpton as I do about New Zealand's gigantic bird the moa. He says again that there will be a great amount of fencing to be done, but to those that know as to the state of the boundary fences in connection with our racecourse, his statement is very misleading as a great part of the course is already hareproof, and the inside oval is already fenced and only requires the wire to be nailed on to make it the most perfect coursing track in the colonies. Now as for the poaching business I am glad to say that sporting people of New Zealand are not so restricted by the game laws in force that they would take the risk of breaking into an enclosed park to commit such an unsportsman-like act (as "Old Turfite" refers to), and I am sure the A.R.C. can rest assured that the people of Auckland are not given to poaching as a livelihood, and are not likely to molest in that way. He says that the late lamented "Robinhood" wrote in one of his clever articles that few lovers of the leash could tolerate enclosed coursing. No doubt all genuine lovers of coursing like it in the open best, but as the world has advanced in all things, so it has in the coursing arena. And the public must be studied even in coursing matters as well as any other sport. And as for Plumptions being a failure in the Old Country, he is greatly mistaken, especially when he mentions Gosforth Park. This park has been extinct for some time, not on account of the Plumpton part of it, as there were other sports in connection with Gosforth which help to cause its downfall. I may tell him that the most successful park in the Old Country is Haydock Park, where Plumpton coursing is carried on in great style. And again, within a radius of ten miles from Belfast in Ireland, there are two flourishing enclosed coursing parks, namely, at Holestone in the County of Antrim, and at Purdysburn in the County of Down, where real good meetings are held alternately during the coursing season. Now, in regard to Colonial Plumptions, they are, as far as coursing is concerned, all that the most exact courser could wish for, with the exception of the late Papatoitoti failure, which was a place that never was suited for the purpose. But with such a grand course as Ellerslie, and all its natural and modern advantages, a Plumpton established at Ellerslie would soon become both popular and profitable. With regard to the cruelty, with which he connects the enclosed system of being the most cruel of cruel sports "Old Turfite" will find, if he only takes the trouble to look up some of the last year's account of the meetings held at Melbourne or Dunedin, that as far as mortality in hares it is less than in the open. Now as to the origin of the Plumpton system he is entirely at sea, as the first introduction to the coursing public of this new style of coursing was started as a commercial speculation in the year 1877 by a Mr. Case on his farm, known as Plumpton, in the neighbourhood of Brighton, hence the name of Plumpton, so commonly given to all enclosed coursing parks. Most of these places I have seen, and I most emphatically say that the Ellerslie racecourse is a long way better adapted for the above-mentioned purposes than any I have yet seen, and I think before one condemns a thing he is undoubtedly ignorant of, he should take time and study the enclosed coursing system before he opens his spleen on such a honest pastime, and one that is greatly followed up by those who cannot afford to keep a racehorse. And as to any obstruction that a Plumpton at Ellerslie would cause to the training of horses is simply absurd, as I am sure the appearance of a hare or the wire netting would in no way interfere with the trainers and their calling. In conclusion, I may say training is carried on at Dunedin as usual, and as yet I have never heard of any complaint being laid against the requirements used in connection with the Plumpton carried on so successfully by the Dunedin Jockey Club.

Mr. D. Brown, who is the compiler of "The Greyhound Stud Book," and also one of the greatest authorities on any thing relating to coursing, says, with reference to the charge of cruelty that has been raised against enclosed coursing:—"I confess I do not see where it lies, as experience shows that a much larger percentage of hares escape under the new than the old system. They are carefully fed and carefully trained, so that when let loose they know their way, and are not so liable to be

knocked over as a hare unexpectedly started from his natural form."

MISS GLENDYNE is dead. "Vindex," of the London *Sportsman*, has the following from her owner (Mr. Dent):—"I shed a honest tear over her; there was never a better, not even Fullerton."

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

BELL BLOCK RACING CLUB.

Saturday, May 14th, general acceptances for the above meeting are due with Mr. A. A. Ambrose, Hon. Secretary, at the White Hart Hotel, New Plymouth, by 9 p.m.; he will also receive entries up to that time for the

Farmers' Plate, once round the course (owners or amateur riders only).

WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB.

Tuesday, May 17th, Mr. Freeman R. Jackson, Secretary, will receive acceptances up to 9 p.m. on the above date for the

Hunters' Steeplechase of 50 sovs., about 2 miles, 1 sov.

Trial Steeplechase of 60 sovs., about 2 miles, 1 sov.

Also the Hack Race; acceptance nil.

TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB.

Wednesday, May 18th, by 10 p.m., Mr. R. Wynyard, Secretary, will receive nominations addressed to him at Devonport, or at Mr. W. Blomfield's office, Durham-street East, Auckland, for the following races:—

Handicap Maiden Plate of 30 sovs., 1 mile, 10s.

Handicap Hurdle Race of 50 sovs., 1½ miles, 1 sov.

Birthday Handicap of 80 sovs., 1½ miles, 2 sovs.

Pony Handicap of 30 sovs., for 14.2 ponies, 5½ furlongs, 10s.

Victoria Handicap of 50 sovs., 5½ furlongs, 1 sov.

Handicap Steeplechase of 80 sovs., about 3½ miles, 2 sovs.

Welter Handicap of 30 sovs., 1 mile, ½ sov.

NELSON TROTTING CLUB.

Wednesday, May 18th, by 8 p.m., the Secretary, Mr. J. W. Askew, receives nominations as above, at the Trafalgar Hotel, Nelson, for the following event:—

Electric Handicap Trot of 12 sovs., 1 mile, 7s. 6d.

WAIHI JOCKEY CLUB (near Te Aroha).

May 20th, Mr. Clark, Secretary, is to receive acceptances, but as we have not received the programme we cannot quote the events or give the particulars.

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

Friday, May 20th, by 10 p.m., acceptances are due with Mr. Wm. Percival, Secretary, at the office of the club, Durham-street East, Auckland, for the

Grand National Hurdle Race of 250 sovs., 2 miles, 2 sovs.

Great Northern Steeplechase of 400 sovs., about 3½ miles, 3 sovs.

AUSTRALIAN JOCKEY CLUB.

Mr. T. S. Clibborn, Secretary, 14. Castle-reagh-street, Sydney, receives nominations on the 30th instant, for the following events at the Winter Meeting:—

Handicap Sweepstakes Hurdle Race of 5 sovs., with 200 added, about 2 miles.

The June Stakes Handicap, sweep of 5 sovs., with 250 added, 6 furlongs.

Two-year-old Handicap, sweep of 5 sovs., with 200 added, 7 furlongs.

Handicap Steeplechase, sweep of 5 sovs. each, with 300 added, about 3 miles.

Winter Stakes Handicap, sweep of 5 sovs., with 400 added, 1½ miles.

JOTTINGS FROM WELLINGTON.

(By PROTEUS.)

WELLINGTON, May 7.

THE entertainment of Mr. Snazelle, entitled "Music, Song and Story," still continues to draw large audiences at the Opera House. The stage is arranged as a drawing-room, and looks pretty and effective. Miss Snazelle assists her father in the vocal part of the entertainment, and she proves a valuable acquisition, with her well trained voice. The scenoscopic effects in several of the scenes which Mr. Snazelle portrays, are the the best ever witnessed in Wellington, they being clear and realistic.

MR. WALTER BENTLEY has, by special request, decided to give a dramatic recital. He will be

assisted by Madame Goldenstedt, Mr. Dodd, and Signor Nicolo.

At the last meeting of the Port Nicholson Yachting Club it was decided to celebrate the close of the yachting season with a social in the Empire Hotel. The affair took place last Friday evening, May 7th, and was largely attended. The chair was taken by Vice-Commodore Quick, Mr. E. W. Mills (commodore) being unable to be present. The proceedings began with the presentation of the Downes Challenge Trophy, and the prizes for the first and second-class handicap races, won respectively by the Isca, Maritana, and Mahina. After drinking to the health of the "Queen," Mr. Miles proposed the toast of the "Wellington Harbour Board and City Council," speaking in grateful terms of the assistance these bodies had rendered the yachtsmen during the past few years. The Mayor (Mr. H. D. Bell), as representing the Harbour Board and City Council, responded. In the course of his remarks he spoke of the duty of both bodies to assist yachtsmen in Wellington, and of the goodwill felt towards them by Mr. Ferguson (secretary of the Harbour Board), and adding that they would both do all that lay in their power for the advancement of the sport in which all present were so interested. He then proposed the toast of the "New Zealand Yachting Association," which was replied to in a neat speech by Mr. Chapman. The Chairman then rose, and after speaking of the energy shown by their secretary (Mr. A. G. Johnson), and treasurer (Mr. M. Lang), presented the latter with a beautiful salad bowl, as a small token of the appreciation of the club for the zealous manner in which he had performed the duties entrusted to his care. Mr. Lang returned thanks, and mentioned that he had done and always would do his best for the club. The concluding portion of his speech was received with applause. The remaining toasts were "The Mayor," "The Ladies," "The Donors of Prizes," "The Secretary," "The Press," and "The Host" (Mr. H. Gilmer). In the intervals songs were given by Messrs. R. Stansfield, A. G. Johnson, Pickering, Hoffman, and Rogerson. The proceedings terminated at a late hour with the usual compliment to the chair.

AROUND THE STUDS.

[By TRAVELLER.]

No more anxious time for a studmaster than at weaning. Let my readers picture a young seven-year-old who hears the "whinney" of a youngster just taken from its mother. He at once imitates, and round each box he travels, giving the same cry, until he has the whole stable at the same game, when the shrill cry of the studmaster brings him smartly to book. What the devil are you after? Such is the scene I witnessed lately. "Never mind," quoth the proprietor of Wellington Park, "come and see Crackshot's sister." Delighted! Wait a minute; let me see if I can pick her out. My readers may think it an easy task, but I can assure them it is anything but so. Half-a-dozen foals in a corner, is no easy task. The mother is very easily depicted, at least, by anyone who saw her score her Dunedin Cup victory, which I was fortunate enough to. Well, what do you think of that whole brown filly, with a star and a snip. By Jove! what a beauty; a regular Musket eye, rich hazel, and what quarters! Yes; if that is not the best filly Punga has ever thrown—well, there is nothing in make and shape. Punga is in foal this year to Hotchkiss. A beautiful brown stands close by, as handsome as a picture. This is the daughter of Formo and Nordenfeldt. What better or more fashionable blood could be desired. Bianca's daughter follows close behind. Those who remember the roan colt which fetched 600 guineas last year will hardly credit the symmetrical brown daughter of Nordenfeldt as being a full sister, as unlike in colour as chalk from cheese; but not so in contour, a gem of the first water from appearances. Bianca has also been stunted to Hotchkiss. Hard by is a grey filly with a blaze. This on enquiry I find to be a daughter of Maid of Athol. This mare has always thrown something that could travel, but I doubt if she has ever given us a better representative. Hotchkiss has also been mated with Maid of Athol. The Radiant filly by Hotchkiss next comes up for inspection. This foal will take a lot of picking

to pieces. More than one good judge has decided that she is far away the best at the Park. Well, I for one am not going to join issue under that heading; "handsome is as handsome does;" I have my eye on one a jolly sight uglier—but taihoa! What's this? Strathmore's sister. Hullo! why is this the last? "Oh! I always keep a nice plum in reserve," quoth the proprietor. A nice plum—Strathmore's sister. Well, if Payten, McDonald and other Australian trainers stated last year's filly was the handsomest ever imported into Australia, all I can say is that for muscular development, combined with good looks, this full sister is quite her equal. In an adjoining box I interview a symmetrical brown filly, with two white fetlocks. On enquiry I find this to be a full sister to Stepniak and She. I well remember Mr. Tom Stevens, when in charge of Sylvia Park, saying that the Steppe filly could beat everything in the Park. Why this filly should not be equal to her I know not, judging by the conformation and size. Necklace—aye! that's a good name, and one associated with one of our best sportsmen; all quality, perfect as a picture and handsome, this is the first of Castor's stock. May they all be like it! A whole chestnut, with a blaze and near hind stocking. If this is to be taken as a sample of the mating Castor with the stout bred daughters of Musket—well, nothing more can be desired. The big brown colt. "What's that?" I ask. "Can't you tell," replies Mr. Morrin, "why that's Nordenfeldt's half-brother." Well, well, he is a whopper. He stands high, but has any amount of length. One might almost say he was slack ribbed until you looked closely into him. A rich brown of the true Musket colour; off fore and hind white fetlocks, with a small star, he certainly is a great colt. Truly Hotchkiss has in Onyx a matron that should nick with him to a nicety. If this is not a racehorse in every sense of the word he ought to be. A grandson of old Punga's, by Brigadier from Katipo, is the next colt, and a rare one to look at. Brigadier seems to get them all short and cobby, and why I cannot tell. The dam is a big roomy mare, and the sire is not devoid of good points. Why all the offsprings are peculiarly short to me is a puzzle. This youngster put me greatly in mind of Impulse at the same age.

(To be continued.)

METROPOLITAN CLUB RULES.

[By PEGASUS.]

IN my last I had got as far as Rule 123.

A stricter enforcement of Rule 126, especially by Country Club's is much needed, and would have a very salutary effect in purifying the racecourse atmosphere of much obscene language and bad conduct.

Rule 159 should be attended to more thoroughly by country secretaries. The conditions of this rule are too often carried out in a very lax manner. Secretaries should give the Metropolitan Clubs the full particulars demanded if they desire to have their disqualifications endorsed. Oftentimes this matter is sadly neglected, thereby rendering Rule 160 a "dead letter."

In connection with Rule 179 and 180, an *addendum* requiring jockeys to appear in clean attire might be deemed necessary.

Visitors from other parts of the world (especially England) invariably remark upon the slovenly dress of a large majority of our jockeys. This item is really worthy of consideration and would undoubtedly improve the general appearance of the paddocks and lawns as well as the horses engaged in the different events.

It is to be feared that Rule 182 is, in a great many cases, not strictly complied with, and that many (so-called) gentlemen riders do receive payment for their services in connection with riding, training, etc.

Glancing retrospectively over my former as well as the present "remarks" it will be found that I have touched upon a goodly number of the rules as requiring slight alterations, amendment, or stricter enforcement.

Perhaps it would be well to briefly summarise them all in this issue.

Rule 2 and 7 state what a race is and what a handicap is; but we have no rule to show that a horse does not incur a penalty in a hurdle race or steeplechase for winning a flat race. As at present they must carry a penalty for

same if conditions of race state that the "winner of a handicap is to carry a penalty."

Rule 20 might have added to its present form the words (a) "Before time of running if for running at an unregistered meeting," and (b) "before time of nomination if disqualified for corrupt or fraudulent practices."

Part of Rule 20 says, "disqualified from owning, nominating, &c." "unless the Club see cause to remove such disqualification." But the question arises—Remove it when?

Rule 22. It might be better for the fostering of genuine races and racing clubs if the words "if required" in the second clause were omitted altogether and make it compulsory to produce a balance-sheet in order to show that the particular Club in question is carrying on a legitimate business.

After Rule 42 to insert Rule 42A to read: "In all cases where the conditions of a programme state winner of any handicap to carry a penalty, it shall be deemed to mean that—(a) no winner of a flat race shall incur a penalty in any subsequent hurdle race or steeplechase on that programme; and (b) no winner of a hurdle race or steeplechase shall incur a penalty in any subsequent flat race, hurdle race, or steeplechase, or vice versa."

The necessity of some such provision will be apparent, for, at present worded, the Rules legally bind the winner of a flat race to put up a penalty in a hurdle race subsequently.

Rule 46 was referred to country secretaries for their future guidance, and will be found fully "remarked" upon in the issue of 21st April.

Rule 55 to provide for entry by delayed telegram, provided a letter be posted at the same time is recommended to the notice of racing authorities.

Rules 56, 60, and 61, to be far more strictly enforced than has been the practice generally heretofore.

Rule 62 I previously pointed out as ambiguous. I suggested the insertion of the words "advertised by the same club" after the words "closing on the same day," as set forth in this rule. The ambiguity is then removed.

Rule 64 to be more strictly enforced. In fact a very strict compliance should be insisted upon.

Rule 75 requires looking into thoroughly. A great many persons assume that if a horseowner A sell his No. 1 horse to B, that B is clear if he pay the arrears on No. 1 horse only; notwithstanding the fact that A also is a defaulter on his No. 2 and other horses. Others aver that all arrears on the whole of A's horses must be paid (if required) before B can run his new purchase No. 1 horse in any race. Such diversion of opinion should be removed by a clearer rendering of the rule in question.

Rule 75 taken with Rules 80 and 81 will be found very difficult of interpretation. The whole matter hinges on whether, if the owner A be a defaulter on two or more horses, the new owner is liable for the whole forfeit before being qualified to win or not with any one of the said horses which he may happen to purchase.

The other rules are dealt with in the first part of this article.

In drawing attention to these matters it is to be hoped that no one will run away with the idea that I am trying to pick holes and do a bit of carping. These items are repeatedly argued out, and I have drawn attention to them simply in the hope that, wherever deemed necessary, reforms may and will be made, thereby rendering our Metropolitan Rules easy of interpretation to the densest of intellects. I commend them to the further consideration of "the powers," trusting they will accept them in the same spirit as given, and hope they will make all such alterations and amendments they may look upon as being requisite.

OUR WELLINGTON LETTER.

[BY WIRE.]

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

WELLINGTON, May 10.

At the Magistrate's Court to-day Mr. Skerrett, who appeared for Messrs. Yuille and Nathan in charge against them of illegal betting, asked that judgment might be delivered that day. Mr. Nathan backed up the application, by stating he wished to leave Wellington during the afternoon. Mr. Robinson, R.M., said he would endeavour to comply with the request, and accordingly at 2 p.m. the Court sat for that

purpose. His Worship remarked that after consideration of evidence, the question, it appeared to him, turned upon whether he could take it that defendants were representing themselves as acting as agents, or whether they were betting on their own account. That seemed to be the point upon which the case of Selig and Bird, of the *N.Z. Referee*, was decided. He had examined the decision given by Mr. Justice Denniston in that case, and he gathered that he had held that the evidence was not sufficient to justify a conviction. In the present case the evidence was in many respects similar to that in the case above referred to, nor did he think it went any further as against the defendant. He felt bound, therefore, by Mr. Justice Denniston's decision, and should dismiss the case. In doing so he wished it to be understood that he was acting entirely upon what appeared to be authority, and not altogether according to his own view of the case, and if he had not felt bound by the decision of the superior court he might have found differently. If Mr. Justice Denniston's decision, which he might have misunderstood, did not bind him in the present case, it was a proper matter for appeal. Mr. Gully gave notice of appeal, but stated that he did not wish to continue the embargo upon defendant's property, of which the police had possession. The decisions in the cases against J. H. Simmonds and R. Paterson will be given on Tuesday next, to which date the hearing of the charge against Martin, Piper, and Pollock has been adjourned.

The heavy rain on Saturday last has done so much damage to the newly-made track of the Johnstonville and Hutt County Trotting Club, that after viewing it on Monday the stewards decided it would be impossible to repair it in time for holding their meeting on the 28th inst., and have withdrawn their programme and postponed the meeting *sine die*. Meanwhile it is probable they will call for tenders for making a cinder track.

The Foxton Racing Club have sustained the protest against Scraps, winner of the Novel Race at their recent Hack meeting, and have paid stakes and totalisator to Survivor, the second horse. It will be remembered that a protest was entered that Scraps was not eligible for the race, on the ground that he had won races other than hack races. Since the meeting, the stewards have communicated with Mr. Armstrong, secretary of the Lower Valley Jockey Club, who has informed them that Scraps won both the L. V. J. C. Handicap and Flying Stakes at the Lower Valley Meeting in 1887. There are only seven investors on Survivor, and the dividend is £20 15s. The dividend on Scraps would have been only £3 9s.

Mr. J. E. Henry on the 6th inst. declared the weights for the Horowhenua J.C. meeting, to be held at Otaki on Queen's Birthday. The following are the weights for the Cup of 35 sovs., one mile and a half—Oddfellow 9.0, Sunbeam 8.9, Homai 8.6, Huia 8.2, Shellback 7.13, Benbolt 7.8, Gunner, Traitor and Rahui 7.3, Priscilla and Poinsettia 7.0, Rangitika and Jenny Lind 6.11, Escalade 6.9, May Queen 6.7. Acceptances are due on Saturday next.

Murtagh has Fisk's Sir Garnet going very well, and he will be a certain starter for the Wanganui Steeplechase if he keeps right. This horse won that race three years ago.

The improvements on the Hutt Course are still delayed by the bad weather; but the new culverts which are to be made for the grass gallop will be taken in hand as soon as fine weather sets in. The Club I hear made over £700 over their Autumn meeting, so that they will be able to spend a bit in improving the training accommodation, and will probably add a classic race to their next year's programme. They were very lucky to have two fine days for the meeting, as it rained for a week before, and has rained nearly every day since.

Owing to a heavy downpour on Saturday the course was under water in parts on Sunday and Monday.

Torpedo was very fit at the Wellington meeting, and I think Tulloch will be his most dangerous opponent in the flat races at Wanganui.

The Steeplechase should fall to Couranto if he is a good across country as he is over hurdles. Next to him I prefer Commotion.

Whakawai has joined Applause in Mr. Dallinger's stud, near Albany.

Volunteer News.

GREAT praise is being bestowed upon the locally-manufactured Martini-Henry ammunition, in most papers, especially in the South, which is certainly misleading. I am sorry to say it, but there is no gainsaying the fact that the ammunition made by the colonial company is not at all equal in regularity of strength to the English Government article. Another instance of it occurred on Saturday, when Parslow, who was getting excellent hits, got one away equally as well to his own satisfaction, but it ploughed the turf a hundred yards from home. There were several other similar failures which befell less distinguished shots.

At this season of the year great difficulty is experienced in getting through with the shooting at the Rifle Range on Saturday afternoons with sufficient light, and many "upsets" and "flukes" are the consequence. On this account it was an unfortunate "fluke" for that Thames veteran shot, Peter Weir, that he did not win Clarke's Belt. On that occasion a large number of shots persisted in taking their turn although they had no possible chance of winning, and thereby they delayed the shooting to such an extent that Peter had to shoot in the dark, but for that the belt was a moral for him. In this respect the Champion Doughty shows good taste. When he sees he is "out of the running" he gracefully retires so as to allow another good shot the good light. It is not, I am informed, that he "funks" is the reason of his retiring recently from important contests. He does it simply to facilitate the shooting on the range, and a host of others would do well to follow his really well-intentioned example, and thereby give men an opportunity of distinguishing themselves who have previously shown their capacity under all sorts of conditions. I will go further, and say that the Range Committee ought to take this matter into their serious consideration, and make a "counted out" limit at each range.

MARTINI-HENRI RIFLE CLUB.

At the Mount Eden Rifle Range on Saturday afternoon, the final competition for quarterly aggregate prizes took place. On account of thorough weather only moderate scores were recorded. Three matches are fired and the two best scores are counted. Seven shots each were fired on Saturday, the ranges being 300 and 600 yards, there being two classes with prizes for each. The following are the results, from which it will be seen that the "A" Battery provided the six top men for Saturday's match:—

	CLASS A.		TL.
	300 yds.	600 yds.	
Wheeler Head, A Battery	26	29	55
Gunner McCallum, A Battery	28	27	52
Sergt. Doughty, G.M., A Battery	27	25	52
Corporal Hazard, A Battery	25	26	51
Gunner Greenshields, A Battery	24	23	47
Gunner Buchanan, A Battery	24	23	47
Captain Tobin, Royal Irish	24	22	46
Sergeant Soall, City Guards	24	20	44
P. O. J. Spinley, Ponsonby Navals	32	12	44
Sapper Baddily, Engineers	18	19	37
Gunner Henderson, A Battery	23	11	34
CLASS B.			
Gunner P. Browne, A Battery	29	27	56
Mr. Traves, Civilian	19	20	39
Sergeant Kearsley, A Battery	21	8	24
Sapper Waite, Engineers	16	7	23

The following are the prize-winners and scores made during the quarter—seven prizes in Class A and four prizes in Class B:—

	CLASS A.			
	1st match	2nd match	3rd match	Total best 2
M. M. McCallum	54	46	55	109
H. Head	—	52	55	107
E. Buchanan	—	58	47	105
W. H. Hazard	—	54	51	105
M. Tobin	54	50	46	104
C. F. Taylor	50	51	—	101
H. Doughty, G. M.	49	42	52	101

J. Spinley, 100; J. Nutt 98; J. C. Soall, 94; W. Greenshields, 93; J. Ansell, 91; A. Henderson, 91; A. G. Baddily 89. A number of others fired in one match only.

	CLASS B.			
	1st match	2nd match	3rd match	Total
P. Browne	30	56	—	86
W. Traves	21	39	—	60
J. Orr	36	—	—	36
T. Kearsley	—	—	24	24
W. Waite	—	—	23	23

Hune has only done walking exercise since the A.R.C. Autumn meeting.

SPORTING FIXTURES, ETC.

COMING EVENTS.

May	21	Dunedin Amateur Trotting Club
May	24, 25	Dunedin Jockey Club
May	24	Wanganui J.C. Steeplechase
May	24	Town and Suburban R.C., Hawke's Bay
May	24	Horowhenua Jockey Club, Wellington
May	24	Takapuna Jockey Club Winter Meeting
May	24	Bell Block R.C.—Hacks
May	24	Nelson Trotting Club
May	24	Wellington Trotting Club
May	24	Waihi Jockey Club
June	1	English Derby
June	8	English Oaks
June	4, 6	Auckland Racing Club
June	11	Australian Jockey Club
June	24	Hawke's Bay J.C. Winter
June	27	Hawke's Bay Trotting Club
June	29	Napier Park R.C. Winter
June	29	Wellington Racing Club
July	9	V.R.C. Grand National Hurdle Race
July	16	V.R.C. Grand National Steeplechase
Aug.	11, 13	N.Z. Grand National, Christchurch

NOMINATIONS CLOSE.

May	10, 18	Nelson Trotting Club
May	12, 26	Egmont Racing Club
May	27	Auckland Racing Club
May	28	Egmont Racing Club—Hack Produce
May	28	Hawke's Bay Trotting Club
May	30	Australian Jockey Club
May	31	Napier Park Racing Club
June	6, 27	Wellington Racing Club
June	17	N.Z. Grand National, Christchurch
June	17	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club
June	20	Canterbury Jockey Club
June	22	Napier Park Racing Club
July	25	Canterbury Jockey Club

WEIGHTS APPEAR.

May	8, 24	Dunedin Jockey Club
May	10, 30	Auckland Racing Club
May	18, 24	Nelson Trotting Club
May	13	Takapuna Jockey Club
June	4	Auckland Racing Club
June	7	Hawke's Bay Trotting Club
June	8	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club
June	25	Napier Park Racing Club
June	25, 30	Wellington Racing Club
July	13, 29	N.Z. Grand National, Christchurch
Aug.	11	N.Z. Grand National, Christchurch

ACCEPTANCES DUE.

May	10, 24	Dunedin Jockey Club
May	18, 24	Nelson Trotting Club
May	14	Bell Block R.C.—Hacks
May	14	Town and Suburban R.C., Hawke's Bay
May	16	Wellington Trotting Club
May	17, 24	Wanganui Jockey Club
May	18	Takapuna Jockey Club
May	20	Auckland Racing Club
May	20	Waihi Jockey Club
June	1, 4	Auckland Racing Club
June	1, 6	Wellington Racing Club
June	17	Hawke's Bay Jockey Club
June	18	Hawke's Bay Trotting Club
June	27	Napier Park Racing Club
July	22	N.Z. Grand National, Christchurch
Aug.	5, 12	N.Z. Grand National, Christchurch



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REPAIRS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.

Sporting Review.

THURSDAY MAY 12, 1892.

"VANITY of vanities," said the wise man; "all is vanity." This remark was made use of many thousands of years ago, and still the world seems to wag on in much the same way that it did then, and there would appear to exist the same reasons nowadays for the reiteration of the same words by some of our reputed "wise men." The modern rendering, however, of the remark might be made to read "gamble of gambles; all is gambling. Perhaps so. Lately "knights of the pulpit," and certain sections of the "press," have been inveighing very strongly against the growth of the passion for gambling in our midst, and have felt called upon to denounce it in unmeasured terms, and in no uncertain tone of voice.

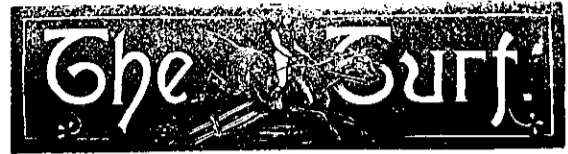
What has led to the rapid growth of this dreadful evil? In casting about for some tangible reason, it does not appear difficult to trace its origin and increase. In the last issue of this paper one of our contributors drew attention to the pressing necessity which had arisen in Victoria for a modification of the Rules of Racing, so as to enable clubs to meet the shortages

arising from the time of depression through which the various colonies are now passing. It is a noteworthy fact that in such times of depression every business or profession—whether commercial, racing, preaching, or any other—feels that depression in a greater or less degree. It is also further noticeable that competition in all these branches becomes keener, in order to "keep afloat" during such times. As a natural consequence we find a growing inclination on the part of the chief actors to revert to "trickery" and "deception" of all kinds, which develops into a method of procedure that can be termed nothing but "pure and simple gambling." In fact everything that is not legitimate, straight-forward, and above-board becomes a system of "gambling." What can the keen business competitions, land speculations and bankruptcies of late years be called but gambling of the worst type, or the inevitable result of it. Corruption and swindling is carried on to a far greater extent in the racing world at present than perhaps at any previous period of its history. But we fail to be persuaded to take such a hopeless view of the matter or the question of gambling as has been done during recent times by the particular exponents of various orthodox doctrines or creeds.

We prefer at all times viewing the "silver lining," rather than the "seamy and dark side of the cloud;" hence our reference to the subject on this occasion. Is not the whole problem of life one continuous "gamble?" Is not every section of the community just simply carrying on a process of cannibalism by "living on each other?" Does not the prosperity of the one depend on the success of the other? No person can calmly look upon the picture and gainsay the fact. Then why such pessimistic outcry against the concomitant evils of seasons of dearth, poverty, and depression. The extra acuteness of the gambling rage is only felt so much more strongly just now because of the keenness of competitions in all professions and trades; and the racing, betting, and gambling world have only been stirred into sharper action from a similar cause to that which has worked upon others. If it is desirable to arouse a man from lethargy into activity, just touch his pocket—the effect will be magical. We are therefore inclined to think that some such cause is the reason for the extra zeal displayed by the parties mentioned in the beginning of this article. Evidently their funds are being affected—that is, "their pockets are touched"—by reason of bad times, and now they are forced into taking up for discussion subjects concerning political and social questions, which it was their duty to have watched for, warned and guarded against long ago. But they omitted or neglected to do so. Everything was prosperous; money was plentiful, and a sort of feeling of "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" seemed to pervade the whole community from the church downward. We are constrained to remark, "Fools! you have been sowing tares all these years, and how do you expect to reap wheat now." In all this mad career even the church was not free from a certain species of gambling prosperity in shape of gift auctions, soirees, bazaars, etc., whereby they might "make haste to become rich."

But now the scene is altered, and it would seem too late to effect any radical change in the present aspect of affairs except by ordinary process of time. Throughout our career we have invariably drawn attention to abuses within our particular sphere. We have even pointed out the necessity of careful administration of certain affairs in order to avoid drifting into such a state as to necessitate a certain resort to "swindling" and "trickery" in order to "keep up appearances" later on. Take the almost daily recurrence of "crooked running," "reversal of form," etc., which we meet with at many of our race meetings. Does it not point to the fact that the whole thing is overdone? And what is the inevitable result in all such cases? Why most undoubtedly the same as with all the other professions and trades mentioned, viz., that excessive swindling, gambling, and roguery must be the eventual outcome to stave off "the evil day." All social excesses and abuses invariably work out their own cure, and we quite expect history will repeat itself in this case, and that as this and the other colonies emerge from the depression and rise again to a period of affluence and wealth, the hitherto glaring excesses of gambling in all its different

phases will completely outgrow itself, and finally disappear on the approach of returning prosperity. The corruption in racing and betting circles is as a "drop in the ocean" compared with the existing state of affairs in America and elsewhere. We would, in conclusion, strongly advise the daily practice and application of the time-honoured adage "Live and let live;" feeling perfectly assured under the circumstances that the time is close at hand when the consummation of our wishes will be an acknowledged fact.



[BY OLD TURFITE.]

It will be remembered that General Owen Williams gave notice of a motion to be brought forward at a meeting of the Jockey Club to be held at Newmarket during the First Spring meeting to alter the date for taking horses ages from the 1st of January to the 1st of March. There has been a great deal of controversy as to the advisability of changing the time, and the question has been mooted whether it would not be better also to alter the colonial date from the 1st of August to the 1st of October, on account of the inclement weather during those two months. The late Mr. Blinkiron and others of the old school always maintained that March foals overtook the January ones on account of there being more natural food for the mares, and that therefore they did not require so much artificial nourishment. On the other hand, the late Lord Falmouth, a most successful breeder, was in favour of early foals. John Porter puts down roaring to early foals, and he has had as much experience as any man living. William P'Anson puts it down to training horses in such a changeable climate as England, and the habit that trainers have of bringing their horses out of warm stables too early in the morning while the atmosphere is damp. To this cause a great deal of roaring may be attributed. Mr. L. Simeon Harrison, of Beverley, Yorkshire, who has had great experience in breeding, is decidedly adverse to the change of date, stating his reasons in a very clever letter to the *Field*, and as it is a question of importance to Colonial as well as English breeders, I will give some quotations from it. He commences by stating that Common and Mimi, who won all the classic races last year, were January foals, also mentioning the names of a number more celebrated horses that were early foals. This part of the letter produces no convincing proofs, as he does not mention the names of horses that were foaled in March and April, with the exception of The Barb. He further writes that it is the greatest fallacy to imagine that late foals have the advantage over early ones with the spring grasses, for let any one go over an extensive Stud farm in May and he will find the paddocks full of early foals that have been turned out the first thing in the morning and are left out the whole day, while those born in April are only able to run out for a few hours in the middle of the day until they get healthy and strong. Things must have greatly changed as we always, in fine weather, turned the mares and foals out as soon as the dew was off the grass. It was not so much the early grass that breeders used to look to for their foals, but green stuff for the mares so as to produce a good supply of milk. If a mare foals in January or early in February, you have to keep her on dry food, as even then carrots are getting scarce. Turnips and mangolds are apt to produce scouring. Therefore, on all well conducted Stud farms rye is sown in some sheltered spot; this in the most favourable seasons is seldom fit to cut before the beginning of March, while tares do not come in until April. It is wonderful that these two crops are so neglected in the colonies, as the best authorities write that rye produces more milk than green oats, besides being quicker growing and a heavier cropper, while tares are the best bone producing green food that can be given to young stock. In a climate like Auckland, both summer and winter tares could be grown with advantage, as the former would come in when the pastures are dried up. Being deep rooted they can stand a lot of dry weather, though they impoverish the

land they at the same time clean it, as if sown thick few weeds will grow, and a few extra loads of good manure will soon restore it. Mr. J. M. Axe, of Doncaster, and other noted veterinary surgeons, who are always about Stud farms say that early foals have nothing to do with roaring, therefore W. I'Anson's theory is most likely to be correct. Tom Cliff who trained some years for me never had the thermometer in his stables above fifty five degrees. If the weather was particularly cold he put extra clothing on the horses; one can safely say that he had less sickness and fewer roarers in his stable than any other trainer at Hidnesford, which 30 years ago before the Coal Pits were opened on Cannock Chase, was a noted training place. John Osborne, at Ashgill, used to follow the same practice, and they were generally the last trainers on the gallops, still they turned out a number of good horses in their time. Mr. Harrison's next argument certainly does not hold good. What would happen if General Williams' motion became law? They would practically commence the season on April 15, and finish August 15. The sires would have to do their work in the hottest part of the summer, which would be highly detrimental to their constitutions, and the number of barren mares would be most excessive, as a horse is never so fruitful as in the spring. Experience tells me that Colonial sires stint a greater percentage of mares than the English, and are much harder worked. The weather in the Colonies is much hotter on an average during the covering season than it is in England in May and June, even in July there are only a few hot days; these are not to be compared to Australia. The next objection has certainly something in it—"That foals would have to be weaned in October and November, and they would have the winter upon them before they had time to make a start and grow, and we would have the country full of weak and backward foals, while the absolute loss of barren mares, etc., to private and public breeders would be enormous." There may be something in weaning foals so late in the season, but it must be born in mind that it is not so many years ago that racehorses took their age from the 1st May. The question is, are the horses of the present day better than they were fifty years ago? They may be faster, but are there the same number of game stayers that there were in olden days. It is certain they do not stand training as long, the majority being done at four years old. If General Williams' motion is carried, it will make a revolution in racing, and it is a pity that he did not bring forward a motion to put a stop to early two-year-old racing, the same as in France. Mr. Harrison also quotes as authorities in favour of early foals—Mr. Strickland Constabale, Robert Peck, and the Dukes of Portland and Westminster, the two former certainly are authorities, but the two latter generally trust to their "Master of the Horse." It is certainly an important question and there are sure to be many experienced breeders who will take both sides of the question. From my own experience March foals are preferable to January ones. Phæton, (the grandsire of Foxhall) and Master Willie, two as fine specimens of the thoroughbred as ever looked through a bridle, were March foals, bred on clay land. It would be interesting if Mr. Redwood and some of the leading breeders in the Colonies would give their opinion as to the advantage of having early foals. By the mail after next we should know if General Williams' motion was carried. Roaring is not prevalent in the Colonies. When it does appear it can generally be traced to a bad attack of strangles. Rheumatism is much more prevalent here than in England. This, in my opinion, may certainly be put down to early foals. Here they are generally allowed to run out in all weathers, before they have lost their soft coats, then when they are taken in for the night they steam from this cause. There is little doubt that from this source the seeds of rheumatism are sown. Some other time I may give an article on breeding, showing the theory of Sir Joseph Hawley, Messrs. Blenkiron, Crowther Harrison, and other celebrated breeders; also the opinion of Messrs. Mavor, Spooner, Field, Farrell, and other celebrated veterinary surgeons, on the causes of roaring, whistling, and broken wind in horses. One thing is already proved that the bigger the animal the more likely the horse is to become a roarer.

THE Ashburton Races took place last Wednesday and Thursday. The attendance was poor, and the starting most unsatisfactory, especially on the first day.

The Hurdle Race produced a field of five, which Magpie lost 2lb, won easily; Little Arthur, 10st 9lb, 2; Smuggler, 9st, 3. Tornado and Lady Grey also ran.

The Ashburton Stakes, xve furlongs, the principal race of the meeting, was won by Saracen, 8st 3lb; Tom Field, 8st 4lb, 2; Maria Martin, 8st 11lb, 3. Frivolity, 7st 7lb; Warrington, 7st 2lb, and Corruption, 6st 13lb, also ran. This performance stamps Saracen, by St. George—Fair Nell, as a pretty smart colt, as he is far from fit, owing to his being overgrown, and requires plenty of time. It is reported that he is to be sent immediately to Melbourne to undergo his preparation for the V.R.C. Derby, therefore his owner must think something of him. St. George, who is an own brother to Chester, has up to the present time been rather a failure at the stud.

The Autumn Stakes, one mile and a-half, was won easily by Don Pedro, 6st 12lb; Liberator, 8st 9lb, 2; Coinage, 6st 7lb, 3. Ilium, 7st, and Aquarium, 6st 10lb, also ran.

Beau Nash 9st 10lb, beat Victim, 9st 3lb, Kilmarnock, 9st 13lb, and six others for the Welter Race; while Carronade, 8st 4lb, annexed the Flying Stakes, Young Cheviot, 8st 3lb, being second; six others ran.

On the second day the racing was more interesting, and the fields larger.

Five started for the Hurdle Race, which was won by Captain Abram, 10st 1lb; Smuggler, 9st 6lb, 2; Little Arthur, 10st 1lb, 3. Magpie, 11st 1lb, was cannoned against, and fell at the last hurdle but one when going well. The Chicken, 9st 6lb, also ran.

Six came to the post for the Grand Stand Handicap, one mile and a-quarter. That useful mare Lady Zetland, 8st 2lb, easily defeated Don Pedro, 7st 10lb, Young Cheviot, and three others.

The other races call for no comment, as they were confined to horses that are not likely to be heard of in any big future event.

MR. WYNYARD, the popular secretary of the Takapuna Jockey Club, must feel well satisfied with the nominations he received last Friday for their Winter Meeting, there being no less than 129 entries for the seven events. It appears that nearly every one that owns a horse of any description has entered him on the chance of winning his winter's keep. As they are a mixed lot it will be a good test of the handicapper's capabilities if he can bring his fields together, especially in the Hurdle Race and the Steeplechase.

By cablegram we have the result of the Two Thousand Guineas, the first of the classic races run over the Rowley Mile at the Newmarket First Spring Meeting. The result was:—Mr. Rose's ch c Bonavista, by Bend Or—Vista, 1; Mr. H. Milner's b c St. Angelo, by Clairvaux, or Galopin—Agneta, 2; Prince Soltykoff's blk c Curio, by Thurio—Light of Other Days, 3. The winner last year only started three times, winning the time-honoured Woodcote Stakes at Epsom. He was then described as a slashing fine colt, and likely to grow into a Derby horse. The race was robbed of a good deal of interest through the scratching of Orme and some of the other crack two-year olds. That the Two Thousand Guineas will give much of a line for this year's Derby is extremely doubtful, as owing to the extraordinary hard winter and late spring the North country horses must be backward and the Newmarket horses the most forward, having the advantage of covered rides, large straw beds, and a tan gallop, which always enables a trainer to give his horses a certain amount of work.

"MAZEPPA" is responsible for the following: "Betting has already commenced on the New Zealand Cup, there being numerous enquiries for Vogengang in particular, and two or three others, among them Stepniak and North Atlantic. Several hundreds have been booked about Vogengang, the first at 100 to 5, while a 100 to 7 was taken in Dunedin this week, and that price is still on offer (one would think it was the weights not being out). Another line was £500 to £15 about The Dreamer."

THERE is an old saying, and a true one, "Go from home to learn news." The following paragraph appears in one of our contemporaries:—"Colonel Fraser, the well-known sport, is now editor of the *Thames Advertiser*. He once owned two full brothers to Tirailleur, but one got drowned, and the other got his leg broken in a fence." Now, on looking through the records it appears that Florence Macarthy produced a foal in 1883 to Musket. This colt was purchased by Colonel Fraser at the Sylvia Park sale for something like 160 guineas, and was insured in a now defunct society for £200. He was placed in George Wright's hands to be trained, but unfortunately one day, when he had the breaking tackle on, he reared up, and falling back, he seriously injured himself, and was at once placed in slings. While doing well, as in the opinion of George Wright it was only his tail that was broken, an order came out to have him destroyed. George Wright was so sanguine of the recovery of the colt that he offered £20 for him, but the verdict was destroy him, and so it was done. The next year Florence Macarthy missed to Leoninus, and on the following year she had a bay filly by Musket. This was also purchased by Colonel Fraser. When George Wright went to fetch her from Sylvia Park she was in the paddock. On being driven into a loose box to have the cavasson put on her, she slipped up breaking her couplings, and died within ten minutes. The next foal was Tirailleur. The chestnut filly, by St. Leger, the following year, died as a yearling. Then came Tirailleur, and after that Tireur.

THE detailed accounts of the third day of the A.J.C. Meeting are now to hand, and I take the following remarks from the *Australasian*, as they may be a guide for some of my readers in future events. Great interest was taken in the All-Aged Stakes, one mile, as Strathmore and Marvel, the supposed two best horses of the year met, while Bungebah and Trieste also ran. The latter is thought by many to be the best two-year-old in Australia, but unfortunately is not engaged in the V.R.C. Derby. Marvel's wonderful performance in the Doncaster Handicap made him first favourite. At one time odds were laid on the black, but at the start even money was easily obtainable; Trieste and Strathmore coming next at 4 to 1, while Bungebah at 7 to 1 was comparatively neglected. Bungebah was the first to show in front, but Lady Edda, who ran in the interest of Marvel, soon took up the running, but at the turn into the straight she was beaten, Bungebah going to the front, followed by Strathmore and Marvel. Trieste, who had been lying last, then made an effort to go up on the outside. Though she succeeded in beating the above two she could not reach Bungebah, who won cleverly by half a length. Many thought that if Trieste's jockey had not laid so far out of his ground she would have won. There was a head between second third and fourth, Strathmore obtaining that position. The First Biennial Stakes, six furlongs, resulted in another boil over. Four started. The race was run in a blinding shower of rain. Autonomy on his running in the Champagne was made a great favourite, 9 to 2 being laid on him. Though he got well away he was never in the race, which resulted in a match between Masca and Meli. The latter, well ridden by Morrison, won by a neck. The running of the crack must not be taken into consideration for future events, as some horses will not face rain and mud; but still, as I have previously warned my readers, he is not the flyer the public think him to be. The Cumberland Stakes, two miles, was another interesting race. Strathmore was the favourite at 2 to 1, while Marvel, Highborn and Stromboli were at 3 to 1 each—a nice price for the bookmakers, as they were all well backed. At the fall of the flag Stromboli went to the front, Marvel being last. At the turn for home Highborn went up to the leader. At the same time Strathmore made his effort, but soon died away. Marvel then came, getting level with Highborn at the half distance, won by two lengths and a half; Stromboli, to the confusion of his backers finishing last. When Marvel returned to the paddock there was a good deal of hooting, but Mr. George Hill took it in good humour as he faced the excited crowd. Too much reliance must not be placed on this running, as Strathmore was dead off, Highborn is getting stale, while Stromboli appears to be an in-and-out kind of customer.

THE acceptances for the Wanganui Steeplechase number eleven. They are confined to the middle and light weights, Couranto heading the list at 10st 7lb, Somnambulist and Gladius coming next with 2lb less, with Commotion and Shillelagh at 3lb. Then comes the light division, six of them being handicapped between 9st 12lb and 9st 7lb. Few of them have proved their ability to get over a big country, but if it was over sticks it would be any odds on Couranto, but this is over a country, and as it is run subsequent to the Egmont meeting I shall reserve my selections until next week. There is another thing to be borne in mind—no less than six of the acceptors are engaged in the Great Northern Steeplechase, which is worth £400, and as the weights will be out previous to this meeting, some of them may only go for schooling purposes, but taking the acceptances as they read at the time of writing, Commotion and Flintstone read about the best. The latter is a good horse over two miles, and there is no reason to suppose he cannot get the extra distance.

There are seven remaining in the Flying Stakes. Torpedo, 8st 7lb, heads the list. As he has shown his ability to get through mud, his chance must not be despised. Hakimana, 7st 7lb, reads about the next best. Why Tulloch, 7st 5lb, has accepted I am at a loss to know, as he is only moderate.

For the Winter Oats, Prestige, 8st 11lb, and Torpedo, 8st 0lb have nothing to complain of. If the course is good going I prefer the former, but if the going is heavy, I prefer the chances of Torpedo and Hakimana.

The other races have filled well, especially the Hack Race, there being no less than twenty-two entries. Wanganui hacks are generally smart ones.

THE weights for the Grand National Hurdle Race and Great Northern Steeplechase are to hand just as we are going to press. The acceptances are due on May 20th, so in this issue I shall only take a cursory run through them, but I may safely say without much fear of contradiction that they are the worst Mr. J. O. Evitt has ever produced. Taking the Hurdle Race first, Lonely's last appearance was at the A.R.C. Summer Meeting, when with 10st 6lb he romped home in front of Fishmonger, 10st 7lb, Try Fluke, 9st, and two others. The next day the weights were Lonely, 11st 5lb, Fishmonger, 10st 9lb, Try Fluke, 9st. The pen was then put through Lonely's name; since then he has done nothing. The weights now are—Fishmonger, 11st 4lb, Lonely, 10st 6lb, Try Fluke, 9st, which makes a difference of 22lb between the first two, and he gets in 2lb lighter with Try Fluke for having the pen put through his name. What has Hune done to have to give weight to such horses as Claude and Hiamoe. The last time Theorem and Fishmonger met, the former gave the latter 16lb and beat him; now it is 10lb the other way, making a difference of 26lb. Theorem has been laid up in lavender for a long time, while the other has thoroughly exposed his form. For what reason are Fabulous, Rewa Rewa Tupara and Deceiver put within a pound or two of Hiamoe and Claude, taking the Wellington running into consideration. Lower down the list we come to Glenelg, 9st 5lb, who has been winning several good races lately, is thrown in among the ragged division. On what pretence are Flukem, Warrior, Zaccho and others called upon to give weight to Try Fluke, Potentate, Ika Vuka, Assassin and Never Miss, especially the latter, who have all shown some little form. The pick of the handicap appears to me to be Couranto, 12st, Lonely, 10st 6lb, Claude, 9st 11lb, Hiamoe, 9st 10lb, and Glenelg 9st 5lb. The first and last, should they come, read the best.

The Steeplechase comes next, and is about on a par with the Hurdle Handicap. Let us take the running in the last Steeplechase at Ellerslie. Hune, 9st 7lb, got home a neck in front of The Colonel, who was conceding her 14lb. Now the former has to concede 3lb, making a difference of 17lb for a neck win, while others, who finished nowhere, have to meet The Colonel on 3lb or 4lb worse terms. Why Taurakaitai should receive 2lb from Couranto in the Hurdle Race and has to concede him 17lb in the Steeplechase is more than I can understand, but as it is reported he is none of the soundest, he may not accept. Chance is jumped up 12lb since his last performance at Ellerslie. Hopeful Kate, 10st 4lb,

has nothing to complain of. Waterbury, 9st 11lb, is leniently treated, but why poor old Silvio should be placed within 1lb of him and have to concede 2lb to Glenelg and Duadine is another blunder. The ragged division may be dismissed. The Egmont and Wanganui Winter Meetings will throw some light on this race. Taking the handicap as it is, Whalebone, Couranto, Colonel, Glenelg, and Shillelagh read about the best.

RANDOM RACING REMARKS.

[BY PEGASUS.]

I VERY much regret to state that owing to an excess of work of a private nature, I am reluctantly obliged to give over my column of "Remarks" to someone who will have more time at his disposal to deal with the various sporting matters which require attention from time to time, than I can conveniently manage to find time for.

I feel convinced that in order to deal successfully with these subjects much time and care is absolutely necessary and essential. Hence my proposed action in handing over my column as stated above.

I have no doubt, however, of the trustworthiness and reliability of the information which will be supplied by my successor.

Whilst making my retiring bow, I trust that my feeble attempts at turf writing during the last nine months have been acceptable and profitable to readers and subscribers alike.

I fully intend taking any opportunity which may occur of contributing now and again to the columns of this journal, and may also insert "tips" for forthcoming events at occasional times.

I notice that "Freelance" in a recent issue of the Melbourne *Sportsman* is beginning to discard the time-honoured practice of individually reviewing the different horses engaged in the various big events.

Here is what he says previous to making his selections for the Sydney Gold Cup recently:—

"On the eve of a big race meeting 'tis customary on the part of the Press prophets to indulge in a sort of a preliminary canter which is made to serve as an introduction to their predictions, supposed, as a rule, to foreshadow the results of the races proper.

This custom probably owes its origin to the fact that the horses themselves are cantered up the straight (and back again generally) before they are taken in charge by the starter; but, beyond that, as a precedent, I certainly fail to see why half a column of good space in a sporting paper should be wasted by retrospective references to the records and might of beens of the past.

We all know, or if we don't, we ought to be cognisant of the fact that Carbine has won a couple of Sydney Cups, and that the "mighty son of Musket—Mersey," as a three-year-old carried 9st to victory in this same race three years back.

If I understand sporting people aright, they don't want to be surfeited with reminiscences; they like to look ahead, they have no desperate desire to be reminded of what won in 1880 and what ought to have won in 1890; they are not anxious to ascertain their sins of omission in Democrat's year, '78, and Australian Peor's year '88. If they read our fulminations at all—which contingency I believe, is extremely problematical in several instances—they wade in right away, and look for the 1,2,3, portion of the business.

High-class journalism in the shape of the puff preliminary doesn't trouble them any more than—reverting to my opening par—the preliminary canter of a field of Cup candidates affect the result of the actual race."

In this view of the matter I cannot agree with my *confrere*. Many persons have "a fancy" of their own despite what sporting scribes may fancy or "tip" for any particular event.

In such cases they look to the various columns of the sporting journals for any discussion on the capabilities of their fancy horse, and, as the writers of those columns, from the very nature of their calling, have far greater facilities for obtaining late and early information of the doings of the different animals than the readers can possibly have, it follows they must depend on the individual discussion of the chances as to whether their convictions are to be strengthened or not. Many a reader that I know of has been persuaded to advantage to leave a horse "severely" alone from a perusal of these same items of information—information which would cost them a vast deal more time, trouble and expense to obtain if they set about it themselves.

I do not then think "Freelance" is correct in his ideas on this point, more especially with regard to the readers of his columns in New Zealand.

They, I feel certain, depend in great measure upon the information set forth in the columns of himself as also those of his fellow-writers.

This, however, is only an opinion of my own, and is given as an indication of the probable views of readers as well as my own.

The item of sporting news in last week's issue *re* my appearance at 4 a.m. amongst the constabulations in the vicinity of Paeroa is strange. Surely the discoverer returning at 4 a.m. was in a "certain" condition calculated to cause him to "see stars." It would certainly have been better if the writer had not given himself away by mentioning the hour when he saw me. I wasn't there, anyway.

One item of dispute that often occupies the attention of racing men and writers is the reliability or otherwise of the time test whereby to gauge the merits of horses for any particular race. I heard certain "horsey" people thrashing it out the other day, and it is interesting to note some of the reasons given for relying upon the time test. One of the strongest arguments I heard made use of in favour of time was to the following effect: "How are you to ascertain the relative merits of horses who have not previously met in any race unless you have some test; and if time is not taken what other method would you adopt whereby you could bring them together in a handicap race?" There certainly seems to be a strong point raised by that question. It struck me that if A wins the Caulfield Guineas, B the V.R.C. Derby, C the A.J.C. Derby, &c., and these three, or more, are to meet in the Melbourne Cup, it would be a difficult matter for the handicapper to deal with them if they have not met together before, and time is ignored altogether. I fancy a judicious dependence upon time is safer than any other test that we can have. Almost everyone looks for Marvel doing his mile in from 1 min. 40½ sec. to 1 min. 41½ sec. Pretty safe to trust him for time, and if there be no other in the race that can "cut it up" as quickly it is safe to infer he will go very near winning. So much for the time test.

A peculiar feature in the list of entries has appeared recently. Usually the Wanganui Club has extraordinarily large fields entered for their various meetings, while Auckland received middling fields only. This time Wanganui's Steeplechase meeting has not been so well patronised as usual, and Auckland has received the splendid lists of 37 for the Hurdles and 23 for the Steeples at their forthcoming Grand National Meeting. The Takapuna Club's fields for Queen's Birthday are also very good indeed.

In going over the programme for Wanganui, to be run on Queen's Birthday, I am inclined to think the principal event—the Steeplechase—will rest with Couranto, 10st 7lb; Hiamoe, 9st 12lb, and Somnambulist, 10st 5lb, but as the Egmont running may throw some light on it, and at time of writing that result is not to hand, I shall reserve a final selection for the Wanganui events until next week. At present Torpedo and Tulloch reads well in the Flying Stakes, and Prestige St. Malo, and the same two for the Winter Oats. The Trial Steeples looks a good thing for Kaimanawa, Couranto, and Dangerous; Hunters' Steeples for Dan; and Daisy Clipper O'Rourke, and Miss Cole should be best in the Hack Flat; but there is time enough to select yet.

Mr. W. R. Wilson thinks that La Tosca would have won the Sydney Gold Cup but for the penalty she had to carry.

Walter Bentley informed a *Wanganui Herald* representative that he expects to play in that town in December next.

A meeting of the Auckland Coursing Club is called for at the Edinburgh Castle Hotel tomorrow evening.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. Bush and Kennedy, saddlers and harness makers, next British Hotel, Queen-street. Steeplechase and racing saddles are kept in stock and made to order, as well as ladies', gents', and boys' saddles. Special promptitude is given to repairs.

At the South Canterbury Amateur Athletic Club's meeting, held at Timaru on the 4th instant, Norman L. Gurr, of Wellington, won the 100yds (11sec), the Half-mile Flat (2min 12-5sec), the Quarter-mile (53 4-5secs), the 250yds Flat (28 1-5sec), and was unplaced in the 600yds Handicap, Rutherford (40yds) and three others beating him. Gurr's splendid running was quite the feature of the meeting.

Sporting Items

Frank Whiting and the double—Winter Steeples and Hurdles.

Stromboli is the first of Chester's get to win the Sydney Cup.

T. Elliott, of New Plymouth, has sold the colt by Foul Shot—Anterina, to Mr. G. G. Stead for £60.

The Nordenfeldt—Frailty colt, which Mr. W. R. Wilson purchased at the Wellington Park sales, has been named Havoc.

W. Macmanemin has got Hopeful Kate in work again, with a view of the Auckland Racing Club's Winter Meeting.

The Takapuna Jockey Club have stopped horses from training on their course, owing to the soft nature of the ground.

Stromboli's time for the Sydney Cup has only once been beaten, and that was in 1889, when Carbine got home in 3min 31secs.

Mr. W. Southall, who purchased from Major George that good colt Reprisal, for 500 guineas, has since been offered 200 guineas on his bargain, but the offer was refused.

The totalisator tax payable to the Government for the Wellington Racing Club's Autumn Meeting, amounted to £186 4s 9d, being 1½ per cent on £12,416.

Adam Byers informs us that he has turned Cloth of Gold out at Kohimaramara. The only inmates in his stable at the present time are two young colts.

Report says that the North Shore sportsman, Mr. B. Thompson, was lately offered £150 for Warrior, by Ingomar—Fanny Fisher, but the offer was refused the price required being £200. We understand that the offer was made by a Napier sportsman.

Charlie Rudings, well known in New Zealand, has returned from India, and commenced training again, having taken over Muggridge's stables at Caulfield, Victoria, the inmates of which up to the present time are Alcinous, Red Rose, Rima, Sophietta, Tapanui and Accident.

It is rumoured that Mr. W. R. Wilson was in negotiation with Wally Clifford for his services as first jockey, but Wally had a retainer from Mr. Stead, and does not find much attraction in life on the other side of the water.

Although Strathmore won the Autumn Stakes, in which the last half-mile is said to have been run in 48½secs., his performance was not considered very brilliant, as he appeared inclined to "turn it up" when challenged, and hung considerably when the flail was drawn.

The Australian steeplechaser Grafton, owned by Dr. Cortis, has been a competitor since January 1, 1890. He has started on twenty-three occasions, has won eight times, has been second seven times, third three times, and five times unplaced. His winning in stakes amount to £2,120.

Mr. Harry Smith, Secretary of the Victoria Amateur Turf Club, has appointed Mr. Wm. Percival, Secretary of the Auckland Racing Club, to receive nominations on his behalf up to noon on Monday, June 6th, for the various events at the next Caulfield Cup Meeting, and also at the same date and time for the various events of the Victoria Racing Club's Spring Meeting, for Mr. H. Byron Moore, Secretary. Further particulars will appear in our "Events Requiring Attention" column next week.

On the 3rd inst., the Resident Magistrate's Court was engaged all day in investigating charges of illegal betting arising out of a raid made by the police on Easter Monday. The proprietor of a billiard room, named Robert William Paterson, was proceeded against. Two constables stated they went to defendants premises and invested half a sovereign each on certain horses running at the Christchurch Meeting. Paterson stated on his own behalf that he had forwarded £25 to his brother with instructions to invest it on the totalisator, and his brother corroborated his statement. The defendant said he had not laid totalisator odds that day, when the constables said they wanted to invest, he told them he was sending money down and they might stand in with him. The Magistrate reserved his decision, as he did also in a similar case against Messrs. Yuille and Nathan.

For the Dunedin Jockey Club's May Handicap Trot, Rarus is the scratch horse, Count comes next with 13secs., and the limit is 65secs.

We learn that the Taranaki Rugby Union intend sending a team on a Southern tour this season to play Otago, Canterbury, Wellington, and Wairarapa.

Mr. F. N. Jones, owner of Rarus, who has made himself very popular during a lengthy visit to Auckland, left for the South on Monday. Several of his horses, which he purchased here are to be shipped South to-day.

From Australian files we learn that Reprisal, several two and three-year-old unnamed fillies, and three trotters, have taken their departure for India, in charge of Mr. W. Southall.

At the Ashburton (Canterbury) Autumn Meeting, extending over two days, the sum of £3,518 was put through the totalisator, which represents £315 less than the corresponding meeting last year.

Dolosa, although nominated for the Takapuna Birthday Meeting, may be seen daily in the paddock of her owner at Devonport. She is therefore unlikely to be a starter at that meeting.

Amongst the list of entries for the Takapuna Steeplechase to be run on the 24th inst., will be noticed the name of old Hurricane. Surely his owner must reckon the competitors at this class of racing a very inferior lot, considering that Hurricane is some twenty years old, and consequently must have lost a great amount of his pace, certainly the old horse has run several good races in his time.

The following is the correct pedigree of the winner of the Two Thousand Guineas, who was bred by Lord Rosebery. What appeared in the sporting columns of one of our daily papers is inaccurate.

BONA VISTA, 1889.

VISTA, 1879.		BOND 'OR, 1887.	
Verdure	Macaroni	Rouge Rose	Doncaster
May Bloom	King Tom	Ellen Horne	Thornaby
	Jocose		Stockwell
	Sweetmeat		Marigold

A number of sporting men are decidedly of opinion that our handicappers start their weights too high in pony races. For instance, Antic is asked to carry 10st 7lb and 10st 9lb on several occasions. Certainly the pony wins with those weights occasionally when he meets a field of scrubbers, but what chance could he have against such fliers as Tit, Dove and Florence, at that weight. To bring them together it is generally conceded that the much fairer plan is to give the inferior ones a lighter weight, although it must be remembered that Antic only met Tit at a disadvantage of 2lb over weight-for-age at South Auckland

OUR TARANAKI LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

[BY WIRE.]

HAWERA RACECOURSE, May 11.

THE weather is splendid for the Egmont Steeplechase Meeting. The attendance is large and the fields good. The following are the results:—

Handicap Hurdles: Commotion (Hickey), 1; Hiamoe (Redmond), 2; Tattler (Cracker), 3. Dividend, £3 2s. Time, 4 min. 25 2-5th sec.

Hack Hurdles: Flukem (Johnson), 1; Teata (Seacombe), 2; Nat (McLean), 3. Dividend, £3 13s. Time, 3 min. 2 1-5th sec.

Handicap Trial Steeplechase: Shillelagh (Williams), 1; Flintstone (McLean), 2; Porotawa (Pell), 3. Dividend, £5 10s.

Hack Flat Race.—Daisy Clipper, 1; Sirius, 2; Homai, 3. Dividend, £5 8s.

Egmont Steeplechase.—Shillelagh, 1; Commotion, 2; Flintstone, 3. Dividend, £5 9s.

Hack Flat Race, ¼ mile.—Sirius and Daisy Clipper ran a dead heat, Nganeke second. Dividend, £19 7s. and £7 5s.

Final Steeplechase.—Whalebone, 1; Auckland, 2; Dunce, 3. Dividend, £1 16s.

OUR NAPIER LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

May 7.

SERAPH (Albany—Helena) has been turned out for a spell, which she badly needed, her late running being of a very poor description.

Tambourine, who has won a couple of hurdle races, is again in work, Fred Collins having taken him in hand. This is the horse they tried to break into harness, but unsuccessfully.

Waterfall will never race again, but he should prove a splendid horse at the stud, being a Musket horse out of Cascade.

Couranto and Somnambulist go to Wanganui, and from thence to Auckland.

Wally Clifford has been rather bad in health lately, the after effects of influenza, contracted in Melbourne, being the cause.

The plans submitted to the committee of the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club by Mr. T. R. Cooper, architect, for alterations and additions to the club's stand, have been approved, and tenders are to be called for the work. The additions will include press-stand, balcony, etc.

A full brother to Pasha (Mute—Rose d'Amour) will shortly be broken in by D. Munn. The youngster is at present cavorting round the paddocks at Te Mahanga.

A diamond cluster bracelet has been selected by the Jockey Club for the lady's race at the next steeplechase meeting. Hardy Bros., of Sydney, supply the article.

The two-year old gelding by Turquoise—Seylla, for whom I suggested the name of Minos, is a good cut of a horse, and should not prove a bad one. He will be three years old in August.

The idea of taxing stallions finds favour with some and not with others. The matter will be considered at a conference of delegates of the various agricultural and pastoral societies to be held in Christchurch at the end of the present month. The Hawke's Bay Society some time ago passed a resolution favouring a tax of £10 per year on all stallions over two years old, the date of age to be November instead of August, in order to give owners an opportunity of deciding whether or not they would geld their animals.

Kupenga and Claude have been shifted to Joyce's stables at the Waverley, but Boyle still trains the pair.

It is intended to give Swivel a good spell, in order that his heels might get better before racing him again.

The filling in and levelling work on the swampy portion of ground on the Jockey Club's course cost over £100.

Andy Robinson has shifted his string of horses into Mr. Rathbone's stables at Hastings, and has received a few additions from Mr. Rathbone's stud farm at Waipawa.

The Hawke's Bay Jockey Club being now in a very satisfactory financial position their bank guarantee has been cancelled.

It will be remembered that at the last Woodville races Roger ran second to Kaika in the hurdle race, but nearly everybody thought he could have won had the rider so chosen. This was the view taken of the matter by the stewards who disqualified the animal and rider. The other day the Woodville Club forwarded a copy of the evidence taken on the subject to the Metropolitan Club, which, after due consideration, decided that they could not endorse the disqualification, being of opinion that the horse was ridden out. Unless other evidence of a more convincing character is produced they won't endorse either. This places the club in a nice fix. One cannot be too careful in delicate matters of this sort.

The fractious hurdle horse Prospect (by Opawa) has been sold out of Ellingham's stable, but is still in the district.

Young Wright, who rode Kupenga at Rangitikei when he won the big handicaps at those places, is a brother of George Wright, of Auckland. He apparently knows how to ride a race.

The bot fly will be the subject of a discussion at the Agricultural and Pastoral Conference this month, when some means will be proposed of getting rid of the undesirable pest.

Como, who broke down at one of the country meetings, is now getting well again.

Waterbury will be a certain starter in the Wanganui Steeplechase. Last year he baulked, but this was caused through a horse baulking in front of him.

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RACING PROGRAMMES



TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB. WINTER MEETING. TUESDAY, MAY 24TH, 1892. (QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY.)

HANDICAP MAIDEN PLATE of 30 sovs.; second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of stakes. For all horses that have not won an advertised race exceeding 30 sovs. Nomination, 1/2 sov.; acceptance, 1/2 sov. Distance, one mile. HANDICAP HURDLE RACE of 50 sovs. Second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of the stakes. Over 7 flights of hurdles. Nomination, 1 sov.; acceptance, 1 sov. Distance, one and three-quarter miles. BIRTHDAY HANDICAP of 80 sovs. Second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. Nomination, 1 sov.; acceptance, 2 sovs. Distance, one and a quarter mile. PONY HANDICAP of 30 sovs. Second pony to receive 5 sovs. out of stakes. For ponies 14h. 2in. and under. Nomination, 1/2 sov.; acceptance, 1/2 sov. Distance, five and a half furlongs. VICTORIA HANDICAP of 50 sovs. Second horse to receive 5 sovs. from stakes. Winner of the Birthday Handicap to carry a penalty of 7lb. extra. Nomination, 1 sov.; acceptance, 1 sov. Distance, five furlongs and a half. HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE of 80 sovs. Second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of stakes. Nomination, 1 sov.; acceptance, 2 sovs. Distance, about three miles and a half. WELTER HANDICAP of 30 sovs. Second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of stakes. Winner of any flat handicap during the meeting to carry a penalty of 5lb. extra. Lowest weight, 7st. 7lb. Nomination, 1/2 sov.; acceptance, 1/2 sov. Distance, one mile.

Weights on FRIDAY, May 13, by 4 p.m. Acceptances close on WEDNESDAY, May 18, at 10 p.m. All entries to be addressed to the Secretary, Devonport; or at Mr. Blomfield's office, Durham-street East, Auckland. R. WYNYARD, Secretary.



HAWKE'S BAY JOCKEYS CLUB. WINTER MEETING. FRIDAY 24TH JUNE, 1892.

President—Hon. Captain Russell, M.H.R. Treasurer—A. C. Lang. Stewards—Wm. Douglas, G. P. Donnelly, C. A. FitzRoy, H. Guisford, G. Hunter, F. Logan, Hon. J. D. Ormond, Dr. Russell, W. Shrimpton. Judge—W. Shrimpton. Starter—Saml. Powell. Clerk of the Course—James Lopdell. Clerk of the Scales—Robt. L. Williams. Timekeeper—E. M. Whittington. Clerk of the Totalisator—G. T. Cross. Handicapper—J. O. Evett. Secretary—F. D. Luckie.

PROGRAMME. To Start at

12 noon.—HANDICAP HURDLE RACE of 100 sovs; second horse to receive 20 sovs. from the stakes. Nomination 1 sov.; acceptance 2 sovs. About 2 miles. 1 p.m.—HAWKE'S BAY STEEPLECHASE HANDICAP of 300 sovs; second horse to receive 50 sovs, and third horse 20 sovs. from the stakes. Nomination, 2 sovs; acceptance, 7 sovs. Winner of any Steeplechase Handicap of the value of 200 sovs. after declaration of the weights to carry 7lb penalty. About 3 1/4 miles. 2 p.m.—LADIES' BRACELET of 80 sovs. A Bracelet value 80 sovs. A gold-mounted whip will be presented to the rider of the winner. For four-year-olds and upwards that have never won an advertised race of any description exceeding 25 sovs. in value at time of entry. Gentlemen riders. All horses to be nominated by ladies. Entrance, 3 sovs. Weights—4yrs, 11st 12lb; 5yrs, 6yrs, and aged, 12st 3lb. No allowances. Two miles on the flat. N.B.—Applications for election as a gentleman rider must be made to the committee of the Jockey Club in whose district the applicant resides, and must be proposed and seconded in writing by members of the Club. On election the committee shall issue a certificate, which shall entitle the holder to ride as a gentleman rider on any racecourse where these rules are in force, provided that the certificate may be cancelled at any time on sufficient cause being shown. No person having received payment in consideration of work performed in connection with the training or riding of horses shall be eligible to ride as a gentleman rider. 2.45 p.m.—MAIDEN STEEPLECHASE of 70 sovs; second horse to receive 10 sovs. from the stake Entrance, 2 sovs. Weight-for-age. For all horses that have never won an advertised Steeplechase exceeding 25 sovs. in value at time of entry. Weights—4yrs, 11st 6lb; 5yrs, 12st; 6yrs and aged 12st 3lb. About 2 miles. 3.35 p.m.—AMATEUR STEEPLECHASE of 50 sovs; weight-for-age; gentlemen riders. For horses that have never started in a Steeplechase or Hurdle Race. Entrance, 1 sov. Weights—4yrs, 11st 6lb; 5yrs, 12st; 6yrs and aged, 12st 3lb. About 2 miles. 4.15 p.m.—WELTER HANDICAP of 40 sovs. (on the flat); minimum weight, 10st. Nomination 1 sov. Weights will be declared immediately after the Ladies' Bracelet Race. Acceptance 1 sov., before the start for the Amateur Steeplechase. One mile and a quarter.

DATES OF NOMINATIONS, ACCEPTANCES AND WEIGHTS. With amounts to be forwarded to the Secretary H.B.J.C.

N.B.— All events close at 10 p.m.

TUESDAY, 10th MAY.

NOMINATIONS.—Handicap Hurdle Race 1 sov. Hawke's Bay Steeplechase 2 sovs.

Weights will be declared on or about the 8th June.

FRIDAY, 17th JUNE.

ACCEPTANCES.—Handicap Hurdle Race 2 sovs. Hawke's Bay Steeplechase 7 sovs.

NOMINATIONS.—Ladies' Bracelet 3 sovs. Maiden Steeplechase 2 sovs. Amateur Steeplechase 1 sov. Welter Handicap 1 sov.

F. D. LUCKIE,

Secretary.

RACING PROGRAMMES



AUCKLAND RACING CLUB. NORTH NEW ZEALAND GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE MEETING. FIRST DAY, SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1892.

MAIDEN STEEPLECHASE of 80 sovs. Second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. For all horses that have never won 60 sovs. at time of entry. Four-year-olds to carry 11st 6lbs; five-year-olds, 12st; six years and aged, 12st 3lbs. Entrance 1 sov., and 2 sovs. each at the post. About two miles and a half. WINTER WELTER HANDICAP of 60 sovs. Second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. Entrance 1 sov., and acceptance 1 sov. each, to go to the funds. One mile. GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP HURDLE RACE of 250 sovs. Second horse to receive 25 sovs. and third horse 10 sovs. out of the stakes. Entrance 2 sovs., acceptance 2 sovs., and 4 sovs. each at the post, to go to the funds. Over 8 flights of hurdles. Two miles. SELLING STEEPLECHASE of 60 sovs. Entrance 2 sovs. each, to go to the funds. Four-year-olds to carry 11st 6lbs; five-year-olds, 12st; six years and aged, 12st 3lbs. The winner to be sold by auction immediately after the race for 100 sovs. If entered to be sold for 50 sovs., allowed 6lbs; if for 40 sovs., 10lbs; if for 20 sovs., 16lbs; if for nil, to carry 9st 7lbs. No other allowance. About three miles. MAIDEN HURDLE RACE of 60 sovs. Second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. For all horses that have never won a Hurdle Race of the value of 50 sovs. Three-year-olds to carry 10st 7lbs; four-year-olds, 11st 12lbs; five, six, and aged, 12st 3lbs. Over 7 flights of hurdles. One mile and three-quarters. LADIES' BRACELET, value 40 sovs., for the first horse, and Bracelet, value 10 sovs., to the second horse. Entrance 2 sovs. each, to go the funds. Gentlemen riders. Three-year-olds to carry 10st 12lbs; four-year-olds, 11st 5lbs; five-year-olds, 11st 12lbs; six-year-olds and aged, 12st 4lbs. All horses to be nominated by ladies. One mile.

SECOND DAY,

WHIT MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1892.

HUNTERS' WELTER HANDICAP of 40 sovs. Second horse to receive 5 sovs. out of the stakes. Entrance 1 sov., and acceptance 1 sov. each, to go to the funds. To be ridden by gentlemen riders. One mile. GREAT NORTHERN STEEPLECHASE HANDICAP of 400 sovs. Second horse to receive 50 sovs, and third horse 20 sovs. out of the stakes. Entrance 2 sovs, and acceptance 3 sovs. each, with a final payment of 5 sovs. at the post, to go to the funds. Winner of any Steeplechase of the value of 150 sovs. after the declaration of weights to carry 5lbs penalty. About three miles and a half. HANDICAP HURDLE RACE of 70 sovs. Second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. Over 7 flights of hurdles. Entrance 1 sov. and acceptance 1 sov. each, to go to the funds. One mile and three-quarters. WINTER WELTER HANDICAP of 60 sovs. Second horse to receive 10 sovs. out of the stakes. Entrance 1 sov. and acceptance 1 sov. each, to go to the funds. Seven furlongs. TALLY-HO HANDICAP STEEPLECHASE of 80 sovs. Second horse to receive 15 sovs. out of the stakes. Entrance 1 sov. and acceptance 2 sovs. each, to go to the funds. About three miles. NOVEL RACE of 30 sovs. Entrance 1 sov. each, to go to the funds. Winner to be sold by auction immediately after the race, and the whole of the proceeds to go to the funds. One mile.

DATES OF NOMINATIONS, ACCEPTANCES, ETC. With amounts to be transmitted to Secretary A.R.C.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29th, 1892, by 10 p.m.

Grand National Hurdle Race Handicap 2 sovs. Great Northern Steeplechase 2 sovs.

FRIDAY, MAY 20th, 1892, at 10 p.m.

ACCEPTANCES. Grand National Hurdle Race Handicap 2 sovs. Great Northern Steeplechase 3 sovs.

FRIDAY, MAY 27th.—General Entry Night, by 10 p.m.

NOMINATIONS. Maiden Steeplechase 1 sov. Winter Welter Handicap 1 sov. Selling Steeplechase 2 sovs. Maiden Hurdle Race 2 sovs. Ladies' Bracelet 2 sovs. Hunters' Welter Handicap 1 sov. Handicap Hurdles 1 sov. Winter Welter Handicap (Second Day) 1 sov. Tally-Ho Handicap Steeplechase 1 sov. Novel Race 1 sov.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1st, 1892, by 10 p.m.

ACCEPTANCES. Winter Welter Handicap 1 sov.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4th, 1892, at the Post. Maiden Steeplechase 2 sovs. Grand National Hurdle Race 4 sovs.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4th, 1892, by 10 p.m. ACCEPTANCES. Hunters' Welter Handicap 1 sov. Handicap Hurdles 1 sov. Winter Welter Handicap 1 sov. Tally-Ho Steeplechase 2 sovs.

MONDAY, JUNE 6th, 1892, at the Post. Great Northern Steeplechase 5 sovs.

WM. PERCIVAL, Secretary, A.R.C.

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