

who has the same weight. C.B., 8.0, has some pretensions to form up-country in New South Wales, and also in Queensland, but not sufficient to warrant my picking him as a likely winner. Competency at 8.0 reads well to me. Among the trio put in at 7.12 is the New Zealander Culloden, but he will have to improve considerably on past form to have a chance. Of the quartette in at 7.11 I have a strong liking for Bel Giorno. Harbour Light is given a rare chance at 7.10, I think, but he seems to be a very unlucky horse in most of his races. The untried Mousquetaire (Trenton's half brother) figures at the same weight. First Boolka, 7.8, commends himself to me, and travelling a little further down the list I stop at The Seine, 7.5, and then Lady Trenton, 7.4; Kookaburra, 7.3; Newton, 7.3; Proh Pudor, 6.12; and Jew Boy, 6.10, I mark as well weighted. The Newmarket Handicap is a proverbially difficult race to pick, but I am proud to say I have before managed the task, notably in Churchill and Bungebah's respective years, while last year I selected Fortunatus, who ran second to Wild Rose. So I am bold enough to hope that I may have found the winner of this year's Newmarket when I select the following dozen as best in at the weights:—Bungebah, Ascot Vale, Etra Weenie, Gresford, The Swell, Magic Circle, Warpaint, Bel Giorno, The Harbour Light, First Boolka, The Seine, and Proh Pudor.

AUSTRALIAN CUP.

WHAT would have otherwise been a good handicap for the Australian Cup has, I think, been spoilt by the 10.0 clapped on to The Admiral. Though it was fully expected that after his running in the Spring he would be at the top of the list, it was never thought that Mr Dakin would put such an impost on him as 10.0. Melos, if in his old form, would be reckoned well in at 9.8, but he has been for some time under suspicion, and has, I fancy, seen his best day. Malvolio, 9.6, has 2lb less than in the last Melbourne Cup, when he was so much fancied but was not placed. I have a sneaking regard for his chance. The Melbourne Cup winner Glenloth is raised to 9.2—17lb more than he triumphed with on that memorable Tuesday at Flemington when it rained torrents. I will have none of him, for I am convinced that the Melbourne Cup of 1892 was as false a run race as ever eventuated in the annals of the Colonial Turf. Correze has 8.12, the same weight as he was given in the Melbourne Cup, and I expect to see him make a bold bid for victory. Hopetoun, Portsea, and St. Hippo are bracketed at 8.10, and I look upon our New Zealand champion as decidedly well in. When you look through the Australian Cup list, you do not find many real stayers, and we know that St. Hippo is a stayer of the first water. Therefore I look upon him as having a big chance. I think Hopetoun is weighted up to his very best form, and Portsea, though talked about in connection with the last Melbourne Cup and other good races, has not landed them. I think St. Hippo will beat both him and Hopetoun. Little Bernie, Realm, and Chatham are the 8.9 division, and I don't fancy either. La Tosca is not overburdened with 8.7. If Camoola be such a good colt as some people aver, then 8.6 should not stop him, but I think St. Hippo is quite capable of giving him 4lb and handsomely beating him. I see nothing else I like till I come to Etra Weenie, 8.1, and then the next to catch my eye is Azim, 7.13. This colt ran well, if perhaps a trifle unlucky, as a two-year-old, and with 11lb from St. Hippo he doesn't appear to me to be at all badly used. Ronda, who ran up in the last Melbourne Cup, is given a big chance at 7.12. Considering what big performances Redleap has brought off over the sticks and across country, I fancy Mr Dakin has been a bit too lenient in giving him only 7.7. I like Calculus at the same weight, and below him I take Gaillardia, 7.3, and Newman, 6.12, as the only ones having a say. To try and select the winner in half-a-dozen, I choose Malvolio, Correze, St. Hippo, La Tosca, Etra Weenie, and Azim.

The first forfeits for both the Newmarket Handicap and Australian Cup are due on the 30th inst. (Monday week).

NGARUAWAHIA RACES.

This annual race meeting takes place on Saturday next. Capital acceptances have been received, as will be seen by the lists appearing in another column, and there should be a capital day's sport if the weather be fine. I hear of a goodly

number of Auckland sporting folk that are going down and the Waikato people are certain to muster up in strong force. My selections for the various events are:—

Hurdles—Hopeful Kate.
Maiden Plate—Folly.
Ngaruawahia Cup—Orini, with Ingorina next
Novel Race—Wilfred.
Ngaruawahia Plate—Transit, with Viceroy next.
Selling Hurdles—Sandy Muir.
Flying Stakes—Waltzer; Transit next best.

All-round Sport

CRICKET.

UNITED V. GORDON.

The United, with seven wickets down for 79, continued their innings against Gordon. W. Stemson 31 (not out) and W. Hawkins, the not out men, carried the score to 95 before the latter was bowled by Kenderdine. C. E. McCormick, after making 3, was caught by Ball, and W. E. Harvie, after making 10, was run out, and the innings closed for 120, 86 ahead of Gordon. Stemson carried his bat for a well-played 55. Moresby and Williams started batting for Gordon, but the former, after making 2, was bowled by McPherson, and Kelly, after making 7, was dismissed by the same bowler. Meldrum filled the vacancy, and the score was rapidly raised to 55, when Miller bowled Williams, who had made 26 in nice style. Goulstone and Meldrum raised the total to 27, when the latter, with 31 to his credit, was bowled by Hay. Howard with 8, Fowke 9 (not out), and Goulstone 43 (not out) were the only other men to bat, and with the total at 129, with five wickets down, the innings was closed, leaving the United 43 to win, with less than an hour to bat. Hawkins and Harvie, 4 each, fell victims to Moresby's bowling, and Kelly secured D. Miller's (1), S. McPherson's (2), and W. Stemson's (0) wickets, five wickets being down for 17, but R. McPherson and D. Lynch getting together made 11 (not out) and 13 (not out) respectively, and with 9 extras the requisite number was obtained. United thus won by five wickets.

PARNELL V. ONSLOW.

Oslow having made 144 on the previous Saturday and Parnell 31 for one wicket, the latter continued their innings, swelling the total to 207 for eight wickets, when the innings was declared closed. Young 31, Gardiner 32, Carson 41, Buchan 17, Mills not out 27, Stone 47, all batted freely for their runs. Parnell therefore won by 63 runs after closing their innings, with two wickets to fall.

GORDON II. V. PARNELL II.

Having a lead of 56 runs on the first, the Gordon II. put up 164 in the second innings against Parnell II., P. Gould 43, A. Williamson 31, and H. Mowbray 30, being the principal contributors. Parnell, batting two men short, could only make 49 in their second innings, of which Brown made 31, Gordon thus winning by 171 runs.

Wanderers continued their match with the Shore, whom they defeated by 79 runs. In Wanderers' second innings Walker 26, Lavers 16, W. Smith 10, were the principal contributors to the total of 76. North Shore in their second innings only scored 39, R. Wynyard with 10 being the only double figure. Waddingham batted with brilliant success, securing seven wickets at a very small cost.

Belmont conquered Pitt-street Mutual by 6 wickets. In Pitt-street's second venture Holdsworth 15, Nicholson 22, Rowe 12, Crabtree 22, Craig 16, helped to the total of 193. Belmont requiring 71 to win, obtained that number and 4 over for four wickets, Kydd 27 and Morrison not out 24 being the main contributors.

A CRICKET CURIO.

[COMMUNICATED.]

ON Saturday last ye festive Taupakian laid aside his spade and spear to settle the vexed question of supremacy in the noble game of cricket with the local club at Swanson. After a short railway journey the Taupaki team reached the scene of action—the Swanson cricket ground. The arena is situate behind a general store, wherein at the appointed time the rival heroes discussed the Homeric banquet provided. Shortly before 11 a.m., after a wicket had been pared flat with a

scythe, play began on a soft sandy pitch, with a fence on either side about 30 yards from the centre. The Swansonians batted first, but could do little with the Taupaki trundling. The innings lasted 40 minutes, and produced 25 runs. Greatly jubilant were the spade and spear men, but, though scoring quickly, they could not hold the fort so long even as their adversaries. In a short half hour all were out for 33 runs, or 8 to the good. After an adjournment to the store, during which the aforesaid Homeric banquet of beef, mutton, and apple pie was heartily enjoyed, the game proceeded. Owing to the dilapidated condition of the pitch the Taupaki bowlers had things all their own way. When the 8th wicket had fallen without a run on the score sheet intense excitement reigned amongst the spectators, one well-known sport being heard to offer a quarter of East Coast to 1lb of unscrapped ordinary that nothing would be scored, but nobody cried "wager!" Presently one of the batsmen got a full pitch to leg for 2, amid furious applause. The same champion then made a grand off drive for one, but succumbed to the next ball. The remaining wicket fell at once, and the total was 3(1) which added to the 25 scored in the first innings left the Taupakians victorious by an innings and 5 runs.

The prospects of the recently-formed North Shore Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club seems to augur a bright future. Since the formation of the Club in November last the membership has rapidly increased, and now numbers some eighty. The membership fee, which is fixed at five shillings, is so moderate that no budding athlete can plead economy as an excuse for not cultivating the *mens sana in corpore sano*. The new Club holds its first meeting at the North Shore race-course on the 11th of February next, but the *locale* is only a temporary one, as ways and means are being considered to establish a permanent running ground. An application for affiliation with the N.Z.A.A.A. has been sent in. Meanwhile Mr Wynyard has received a wire from Mr Cuff authorising him to advertise the February Meeting under the N.Z. Association Rules. All who are interested in athletics will unite in wishing the new Club a permanent and prosperous career.

A meeting of delegates of the different Canterbury Swimming Clubs was held in Christchurch on Saturday to consider the advisability of removing the headquarters of the N.Z. Amateur Swimming Association from Auckland to Christchurch. A resolution was carried "That this meeting is strongly in favour of removing the headquarters of the N.Z. Amateur Swimming Association to Christchurch at the end of the present season."

Another meeting of the Auckland Regatta Committee was held on Thursday last. Captain Parker wrote resigning his position on the committee, and after accepting his resignation the committee requested Mr Colebrook to act in his stead. It was resolved that the rowing races be held at Pine Island on Saturday week, the 28th inst., and that the marking off of the courses for the rowing races be left to the Rowing Association's delegates with instructions that the courses be in a straight line.

A meeting of delegates of the Auckland Lawn Tennis Association was held on Thursday for the purpose of drawing the ties for the Championship Singles. The following are the ties for the Gentlemen's Singles, for which there were 14 entries:—Mr J. Hall plays Mr Turner; Mr J. P. Stevenson plays Mr J. Sykes; Mr Rich plays Mr Paterson; Mr Uphil (bye) plays the winner of these; Mr Carr plays Mr Harrison; Mr J. B. Macfarlane (bye) plays the winner of these; Mr W. Colbeck plays Mr Brown; Mr Tonks plays Mr W. E. Bruce. The first round is to be played off on Saturday, 28th inst. There are 11 entries for the Ladies' Singles, which were drawn as follows:—Miss M. Paton plays Miss E. Laishley; Miss Von Sturmer plays Miss Rookes; Miss Bull plays Miss Hall. The rest are byes in the first round—Miss Mowbray playing Miss Gorrie, Miss Nicholson playing Miss Scherff, and Miss Atkinson playing the winner of the match between Miss Bull and Miss Hall in the second round.

Teams representing the Bentley Dramatic Company and H.M.S. Katoomba respectively met in a game at cricket on the Domain Ground on Thursday. An exciting game ended in the men of the warship putting up 90 runs against their opponents' 82.

Mr Upham has been elected secretary of the Wellington Cricketing Association vice Mr Izard resigned.

At a meeting of the New Zealand Polo Association, held in Christchurch on the 10th inst., the Lake Takapuna Club was affiliated to the Association, but it was decided to ask them to obtain some other colours, so that they would not be so similar to those worn by the North Canterbury Club. The Raglan Club was not put up for election, as no further particulars had been sent in by them. The following colours were approved of:—Ashburton Polo Club, light blue shirt, white sash; Warrigate Polo Club, black and whistripes; Kaihikihi Polo Club, white shirt, pink sash. Considerable discussion took place re the date of holding the Savile Cup tournament, the opinion being that it should be held as late in the season as possible, so as not to spoil Club games. It was ultimately decided that the tournament should be commenced on Tuesday, the 21st March, provided that this date will suit the Auckland Polo Club. A letter was read from the Sydney Polo Club to the effect that the Indian team had decided not to visit the colonies this season.

Our local cyclist Reynolds, who has acquitted himself so well down South, returned here on Friday. He was met at the wharf by a large number of cyclists, who formed a procession up to the Club's rooms, where Reynolds received hearty congratulations of his performances in the South.

Candidates for representative honours at the coming championship meeting to be held at Wellington are Bere, who is doing good work for the long distances under the care of Sam Goodman. Martin, in the same competent hands, is training for the hurdles. Musker is also hard at work preparing for long distance events. Roberts and Hackett are undergoing preparation for the hurdles, and a good race is expected between them and Martin, as also between Bere and Musker. Trials will be run on the 25th and 26th of this month.

The Auckland Regatta Committee met on Tuesday evening, when the following prize money for the forthcoming Regatta was allotted—Maiden Gig Race (under 10 stone), £10; Handicap Scullers, £3; Junior Gig Race, £10; Senior Gig Race (under 10 stone), £10; Sculling Race—Marshall Cup and Medals; Maiden Gig Race, £10; Senior Gig Race, £20; Junior Gig Race (under 10 stone), £10; Yachts (7 tons rating and upwards)—First prize £40, second £10; Yachts (5 tons rating and under 7)—First prize £30, second £7; Yachts (3 tons rating and under 5)—First prize £15, second £5; Yachts (under 3 tons rating)—First prize £20, second £5; Fishing Boats (4 tons and under)—First prize £12, second £4; Fishing Boats (4 tons and over)—First prize £15, second £5; Open Sailing Boats (over 16 feet and under 20)—First prize £8. The following officers were appointed:—Umpire for the sailing races and judge of the rowing races, Mr G. S. Kissing; judge of sailing races, Mr G. Cozens; umpire of rowing races, Mr C. Colebrook; starter sailing races, Mr R. S. Reynolds; starter rowing races, Mr F. Edwards.

Among the mares imported Wanganui way the other day from Melbourne with first King was Nectarine. Her dam Horticulture was accidentally killed the other day in Melbourne. While being driven with other horses to another paddock she put her foot in a coil of wire which was hidden in some fern, and fell heavily, fracturing her shoulder so severely that she had to be destroyed, Horticulture, who was the property of Mr A. F. Bradshaw, was by Angler—Zephyr, by Boiardo. Among her progeny besides Nectarine, were Violet, Bismarck and other good performers. She was stunted this season to Mr Bradshaw's horse Sinking Fund, by Tim Whiffler (imp.)—Jessie.

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TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB'S
SUMMER MEETING,
NORTH SHORE,
JANUARY 28th AND 30th.

D. TONKS & CO.

Have received instructions to sell to-morrow,
Friday,

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For the Takapuna Jockey Club's Summer Meeting, to be held at North Shore on Saturday, January 28th, and Monday 30th (Anniversary Day).