

origin of the new stud book, and we may as well christen it now the "Dictator Stud Book."

As we have now explained the cause, we must say a word about the actors. The chiefs are Dave Bonner and H. C. McDowell, his partner in Dictator, and Little Busbey, his partner in the direction of the *Turf, Field and Farm*. There are a few others at work in a quiet way, and among them may be named "Tom Titmouse," who is circulating petitions right industriously in the West. From his own experience Tom has discovered that making stud books don't pay, although he did very well in getting 3,000 dollars for about three months' work in copying his book out of the Trotting Register. Mr. Robert Bonner is a man of large wealth and large brain. He occupies a prominent position before the entire community, and we have great respect for him. Nature, however, did not distribute her gifts in the family with an impartial hand, for while his brother Dave is not an imbecile, he has very little sense, and is not improving what little he has either by the quality or quantity of his whiskey. He knows something about horses, but that is all he knows. He is a man of no education or intelligence, and is an entire stranger to good manners. We have heard more than one prominent Kentucky breeder say, in substance: "Dave Bonner don't know how to be a gentleman. He comes down here, looks wise as an owl, says but little, and partakes of our hospitalities, as a matter of course, and as though his presence conferred a special favor upon us. But when we go to New York he never reciprocates." Our Kentucky friends should not be too severe on Dave, for where arrogance and stupidity are in the ascendency there is no room for gentlemanly instincts. The other *dramatis personæ* don't need special mention here, as they are well known, and we will proceed to the methods employed to carry forward this scheme.

The Trotting Register is imbedded in the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders. The methods for managing and controlling the Register are a part of the organic law of the Association. To remove it, by the Association, all those parts of the Constitution referring to it must be stricken out. This was quite too big an undertaking for Dave and Little Busbey, so they devised an amendment that meant anything or nothing, as follows: "This Association has no organ." There was nothing objectionable in this, and it is probable, if we had been there, we would have voted for it ourselves. Everybody supposed it was a hit at the MONTHLY, and as the MONTHLY had never claimed to be an organ, nor asked to be an organ, nor would consent to be an organ, there could be no harm in the action. Hence nobody thought worth while to oppose it. It has been suggested that Busbey had prepared a little speech for Dave, and as he had quite a crowd of his drinking friends there to hear him, he fired it off with tremendous vehemence, his patriotism rising into the nineties. By some mismanagement or too much whiskey, the speech was not delivered till after the adoption of the "no organ" amendment. Dave was followed by an antiquated and brainless dude, by the name of Morton, and then they adjourned to take another drink. In giving an account of this meeting, Little Busbey, as usual when he has some ulterior purpose to serve, strung together a tissue of misrepresentations and falsehoods. He put into the mouth of President Mali language he did not use or think of using, and we will right

here and now prove him a liar, over Mr. Mali's signature:

"J. H. WALLACE, Esq.

"DEAR SIR: In reply to your inquiry relative to expressions made use of by me at the late annual business meeting of the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders, I will say that I did not use the words: 'Is there a dissenting voice?' nor did I say: 'Then let it be entered in the minutes of the Secretary that the vote of the Association upon the question is unanimous.'

"Yours very respectfully,

"HENRY W. T. MALI."

This studied and dirty attempt to place Mr. Mali in a position before the public that he did not occupy, by putting words in his mouth that he did not utter, was in perfect keeping with the interpretation sought to be given to the phrase, "This Association has no organ." Both were intended to mislead the public and serve as a basis for an untruthful and fraudulent representation of the facts as they really existed. From this starting-point and on this basis, petitions were privately and without any announcement circulated all over the country, asking the National Trotting Association to edit and publish a new trotting stud book. Along with these petitions went the private assurances of the managers of the scheme that the Breeders' Association had joined in the movement to destroy the book that was placed in the care of that Association, and that President Mali himself had signed the petition. Under these circumstances, and with these private and false assurances, a great many breeders signed it, under strong solicitation, who have since deeply regretted their error. Fortunately for the cause of honesty and fair dealing, the schemers were too eager; they commenced their little secret game too soon, and now that it is exposed, the public will inquire what it was all about. It has all grown out of the fact that we expressed an opinion that Dictator was not worth twenty-five thousand dollars. Now, whether the National Trotting Association will take up this Dictator fight and publish a Dictator Stud Book, remains to be seen.

Annual Meeting of the Breeders' Association.

THE seventh annual business meeting of the National Association of Trotting Horse Breeders was held at the Everett House, in this city, on Wednesday, December 12th. The Treasurer's report showed \$22,878.14 now on hand, of which \$20,270 is in stakes already closed and yet to mature, and \$2,608.14 funds of the society.

The report of the Executive Committee showed that there were fifteen stakes closed and yet to be trotted for, in which there were at present 343 nominations. Seven of these stakes (six for three-year-olds and one for four-year-olds) will mature at the next annual trotting meeting in the fall of 1884, and already involve the sum of \$16,300, to be increased by the future payments due from starters. The principal event, and one which is looked forward to with much public interest, will be the celebrated Wilson Stake, for four-year-olds, in which are en-