

given the public a specimen of this "new and attractive form"? Why not show a sample of his goods before he asks a man to buy? This "new and attractive form" is the "little joker" of the enterprise, and he will not come in sight so long as he can be concealed. As a matter of course, there will not be a complete summary from the beginning of the book to the end of it, for there is no room for it. As a physical necessity, therefore, each race will have to be expressed in a single line or two at the most. This is no better than the condensed form in which the races of the past are published in the first three volumes of the Register. It requires no special wisdom nor knowledge to predict, under this flaming prospectus, a great disappointment to all who buy the book before they see and examine it. If Mr. Chester is honest in the value of his compilation, let him publish a specimen page in some newspaper. We will give him a page of the MONTHLY if he wants it; and then those asked to subscribe in advance can form some opinion as to whether they want the book or not. Meantime, the safe course is never to buy a pig in a poke. For our own part, when the book appears will be time enough to say whether we will put an injunction upon it.

No Changing of Records.

WE have had several applications to change records, and these applications have been accompanied with certificates more or less complete to show us that the time published was wrong. The most prominent instance is that of Almont Gift, by Mr. Jewett's Almont Chief, at the State Fair at Columbus, Ohio, last September. The official report made to Secretary Vail, at Hartford, showed that the last heat of the race was won by Almont Gift in 2:32. After this was published we were furnished with the certificate of two of the judges and the Assistant Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, showing that the heat was made in 2:29 $\frac{1}{4}$. Now, we think it is not only possible but probable that the official report was in error about this heat; but having accepted these official reports as the highest authority, we must stand by them till they are corrected under such requirements as the Trotting Association may see fit to establish. We would be glad to accommodate Mr. Jewett and the owner of Almont Gift, but records are a matter of business, and not of accommodation. From this instance, all others will understand our position on this question of changing records. Where a track is not inside of the National Trotting Association, we will consider and pass upon the evidence according to our best judgment, but where it owes allegiance to that association, it must go there to have errors corrected.

Stud Books of Green's Bashaw.

THE complete records of the stud services of Green's Bashaw from 1859 till 1876, inclusive, have been placed in our hands. As soon as we get them copied into convenient shape and indexed, we will be ready to answer questions about all the disputed Bashaws. Already we have been able to correct some dates and to nail some frauds, and we have not commenced yet. We expect to meet a great many of the latter, but not in greater numbers than belong, or claim to belong, to other distinguished horses. We now have nearly a complete list of the mares bred to American Star, some years of Abdallah's services, some years of Mambrino Chief's, and a few years of Grey Eagle in Kentucky. In addition to these, through the politeness of Mr. Andrews, we have access to the records of Rysdyk's Hambletonian. These records, generally, are far less satisfactory with regard to the names and pedigrees of the mares bred than most people suppose; but, notwithstanding this, they give, always, the name of the breeder, and the mare can thus be identified; and what is there written must be accepted as the highest evidence. It has been suggested, and indeed urged, that these old lists should be printed, so that all could have access to them. At one time we thought so ourselves, but as we know more about the tricks of sharpers, we can see very plainly that such publication would simply afford increased facilities to rascals to carry out their forgeries. We will ask our friends to give us what assistance they can in gathering up the stud books of all the prominent trotting sires of the country.

Minor Items.

POINTER BOY.—Can any of our readers give us any information about the breeding of this horse? He is a bay stallion, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ hands high, has trotted several races in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and has a record of 2:40 or thereabouts. His sire is said to be Ethan Allen, but this has never been substantiated.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE.—Here it is again, brighter and better than ever; the cover alone, with its delicate-tinted background and its dish of gracefully arranged flowers, would entitle it to a permanent place in every home. The book contains three beautiful colored plates, is full of illustrations, printed on the best of paper, and is filled with just such information as is required by the gardener, the farmer, those growing plants, and every one needing seeds or plants. The price, only ten cents, can be deducted from the first order sent for goods. All parties any way interested in this subject should