

send at once to James Vick, Rochester, N. Y., for the Floral Guide.

AN APOLOGY.—Several of the articles that appear in this number have been in our possession for quite a while, and should have been published several months ago, but owing to the great amount of nonpareil matter, they were unavoidably crowded out—among these being the article on the Breeders' Meeting, which was written for the November number. We desire to apologize to the respective writers for this delay, and we are sure that they will be satisfied with the above explanation.

HETZEL'S HAMBLETONIAN.—We have received quite a spicy, not to say spiteful letter, from the owner of a son of Hetzel's Hambletonian, complaining that we have never done that horse justice. We must beg the pardon of our correspondent, and at the same time confess there are a great many horses that we have not done justice to. There have been a great many failures that we have not cared to mention. Hetzel's Hambletonian was among horses what Dave Bonner is among men—wholly dependent upon the name of a great brother for whatever rank he attained.

ILLINOIS MEDOC.—In reply to a question from California about this horse, Dr. Blaisdell, of Macon, Ill., writes: "Illinois Medoc, or Scruggs' Medoc, as he was sometimes called, was by Medoc of Kentucky, dam by Bertrand. Richard Scruggs, of Tennessee, used to own this horse, and ran him in Ohio about 1840. He was the sire of Ruble's Buckshot." We have an imperfect record of a Medoc colt called Illinois, foaled 1840, and out of a Bertrand mare. We also have an imperfect record of Scruggs' Medoc, by Medoc, out of a Bertrand mare, and she out of a Director mare. Bruce has the thing all mixed up, as usual, and says "Illinois Medoc" was by Grey Medoc and out of Rosalinda, by imp. Trustee, and he says Buckshot was by Grey Medoc. But what is the use of talking about what might have been or might not have been the pedigree of "Illinois Medoc," unless we can first locate the horse somewhere on the face of the earth? Let us first identify and locate the horse we want to find, by fixing the ownership and the dates, and then will be time enough to look after the pedigree. Give us the place, the owner and the dates, and then we can begin to work intelligently about it. Till then, any speculations as to what his pedigree may have been are all nonsense, and any claims that this or that animal was got by him, so far as our present knowledge goes, are all mere fictions.

A GOOD CHANGE.—On the first of January last Mr. Walter T. Chester was discharged from the employ of the *Spirit of the Times*, and Mr. E. C.

Walker placed at the head of the Trotting Department. This is an excellent change for the *Spirit*, but perhaps not quite so good for some rival interests. Mr. Walker is a man of brains and of good habits, and has a wide and practical knowledge of trotting-horse affairs. He is a gentleman in manners, will be true to his trust, and with a little experience will make a very efficient head of a department.

WHAT IS A NINCOMPOOP?—At the breakfast table, with some lawyers, the other morning, a discussion arose as to whether this word was in use in the English language, and next, what was its derivation. Upon referring to Webster, we find it is a corruption of the Latin phrase *non compos*, and is defined "a silly fool, a blockhead, &c." This hardly covers the case of the modern nincompoop, and to the Websterian definition may be added, "he is opposed to organs." We know of but one man who fully meets this amended Websterian definition, but out of great respect for his brother we will not name him.

GEN. LEE STRICKEN OUT.—The black horse, Gen. Lee, son of Black Sultan, by Gen. Knox, trotted at Winterset, Ia., last July, in 2:30, and this performance came to us duly authenticated. This made Gen. Lee standard, and also his sire, and they were registered and assigned numbers as standard horses. Now the fact comes to us that the horse did not carry full weight, and this invalidates the performance and knocks both horses out of the standard. We are sorry for Mr. Roberts, the owner of the horse, but we can have no discretion in the matter. In the absence of the required weight, the performance cannot be a technical record.

PEARL STRICKEN OUT.—In the official report of the meeting at Albany, N. Y., as revised in Mr. Vail's office at Hartford, October 3, Mr. Sargeant's bay mare Pearl is credited with winning the fifth heat, and the time given as 2:29 $\frac{1}{4}$. Upon further examination, it has been found that Pearl was not first in that heat, but it was awarded to her on account of others running. She was not timed separately, and hence the 2:29 $\frac{1}{4}$ against her is void.

WHERE TO ADVERTISE.—A correspondent who knows what he is about, writes as follows: "I received many inquiries as to my two Happy Medium fillies, advertised in the MONTHLY, and sold them to A. G. Danforth, of Washington, Ill, for \$2,000. I advertised my fillies in other so-called horse papers, and didn't get even *one* inquiry from any one, except from those who saw it in the MONTHLY. Yours is the only periodical of value to breeders, buyers and sellers of valuable well-bred trotters." Our correspondent is right. The MONTHLY reaches the right kind of people to buy well-bred ones. Its