

The above mentioned mares have about all been bred to Volunteer, and of those that have dropped foals, I am glad to say, that every youngster of the number is a square, natural-gaited trotter. But at this moment WALLACE'S MONKEY has been placed in my hands and my attention called to the article of General Withers, or rather his eulogy on his pet horse Almont, and for the first time have learned that nearly all the great trotters belonging to the Hambletonian family are the get of Almont, or, as he often repeats it, "Hambletonian's most prepotent son Alexander's Abdallah." The reading of which article will change the train of thought for the remainder of this paper. In the departure to a new theme, permit me to say that any comparison made to sustain a theory when the person so making them knows that the circumstances and opportunities are not equal, can be of no possible advantage or contribute any information to the public and must in the end reflect upon the fairness of the writer. To illustrate: Should I, being an admirer of Almont, urge his prepotency by comparing him with his very similarly and equally as well bred half-brother, Thorndale, which horse is greatly admired by my friend, by claiming that he must be more prepotent because he has more sons and grandsons that have produced 2:30 trotters; but am at once non-plussed by the quick retort of my friend, who, laughing at my simplicity, replies: "Are you not aware that Almont has probably ten sons where Thorndale has one, and in the stud perhaps twelve or fifteen to one?" And then following up the advantage gained, enquires: "Do you not know, sir, that Thorndale is a stouter bred horse than Almont, and has sixteen seconds the best speed performance to his credit, and had he equal opportunities with Almont, it is fair to suppose that he would now have been his equal if not his superior in every particular?"

To every candid mind the fact is patent at a glance that there can be no fair comparison, unless the conditions and opportunities are equal. Therefore, I am not inclined to spend three or four weeks in arranging ingenious tables which when made prove nothing, but shall be satisfied with the tables already made and adhered to by the most fair and intelligent writers of this age, among whom is "Hark Comstock," one of the fairest and most clear-minded deducers of his generation.

To fairly present this subject and draw comparisons which the most casual reader can understand and his eye catch at a glance, I will give the age and the opportunity of each of the three stallions named by General Withers, and then compare their produce and capacity as demonstrated upon the turf. The three combined with one of the sons of Hambletonian, but not the whole of his sons as the writer has it, because that is too large a field for me to attempt.

Mambrino was born in 1844, five years before Hambletonian, and ten years before Abdallah. He was a son of the Duke of Devon and kept at service in the English and other countries, until bought in 1854 by Edwin Thorne for Mr. Clay, at a very high price, and by him taken to Kentucky the same year, where he was kept busy until his death in 1862, being in the stud 15 years. It is a fact too well known to more than mention it, that while in Kentucky he became the most popular stallion of the west, and for years Hambletonian was looked upon as insignificant when compared with him. In fact, to the average Kentuckian he was about the only stock horse, and his daughter the only trotter, yet when Lady Thorne and Dexter came together to contend for the crown—the son of Hambletonian out of a mare in whose veins coursed just as royal blood as that which flowed in hers—no pen can describe the excitement which held the vast crowd spellbound, when at the half-mile pole the contest began for supremacy. Lady Thorne led, but the white nose of one of the gamest trotters that the world has ever seen hung to her wheel with a tenacity to do or die. Down the far side and around the turn they went at a terrible rate of speed, Thorne still in advance, but when fairly at straight work in the stretch Doble called on his horse. In an instant he was at her collar, then at her throat-latch, and before the thought could be expressed he shot past her. The struggle had been kept up so long and the clip so fast that the mare seemed to take in the whole thing, and by her actions she said to her friends and admirers: "I am beaten, and will go no further," and she positively stopped a few feet from the distance flag and refused to be driven to the stand, and was led off the track at that point and declared distanced.

Alexander's Abdallah was foaled in 1852, placed in the stud in 1857, and made four