

full seasons under the management of one of the most successful stallion men in the State, he and his father having been engaged in the business for more than fifty years. In 1859 he was taken to Kentucky, where he was overshadowed by but one horse, Mambrino Chief. He made six successful seasons in that State, and then died, having been in the stud ten years.

Almont was foaled in 1864, and, as I am informed, commenced service in 1867. Being in the hands of men of high position and possessors of large breeding establishments, his harem is said to have been filled with the choicest mares of Kentucky to this time, he now having reached his eighteenth year, and has been in the stud fifteen years.

Volunteer was foaled in 1854, served a few mares at the farm of his owner, and was sold by him when four years old to R. C. Underhill, of Brooklyn, L. I., and used by his brother for four years on the road, and no horse probably ever received worse treatment than he. I am credibly informed that he was allowed to stand under the sheds at Hempstead and Jamaica night after night until broad daylight. Through the interest taken in the horse by that kind and honorable horseman and citizen of Jamaica, Timothy Jackson, he was at last rescued and taken to his stable. I bought him in the autumn of 1862, he then being eight years old. The first mare which he served when he reached the farm was Martha, the produce of which service was Goldsmith's Abdallah. Three other foals were dropped to him that year, but two of the four reaching maturity. Volunteer may truthfully be said to have commenced stud service in 1863, and to the close of 1881 has placed by the record in the 2:30 or better class, twenty-two sons and daughters who have all secured their records on the turf and in the most terrible conflicts with horses that were handled and driven by the greatest drivers known. Many of the horses driven by them were owned by breeders and individuals that had for years cast a slur at Volunteer, and predicted and contended that his get could not succeed, because, in the language of the illiterate owner of Hambletonian, who put the vulgar words in their mouths, "that his dam was a 'dung-hill,'" a word which will stand as a mark of reproach against the man who unjustly used it among gentlemen, until time shall cease to be.

Volunteer for two or three seasons had all he could do, and then the clamor of the owner of Hambletonian and his followers nearly destroyed his usefulness, except so far as my own mares were concerned. But in the autumn of 1871 his daughter, Huntress, scored the first 2:30 record for his get, and finished the season with 2:26 $\frac{1}{4}$ to her credit. Then came Alley, Bodine, Gloster and Abdallah, and his wilful detractors were fairly set upon by the rapidity with which his sons and daughters came to the front. He is now twenty-eight years old, and has really been in the stud but nineteen years, but calling it twenty, he has then been in the stud but five years longer than Almont, and I trust that no man that knows the facts in relation to their stud service will deny that Almont has at least two foals to his credit where Volunteer has one, and the get of Alexander's Abdallah it is believed will also greatly outnumber his. But let us now have the law and the testimony. These three great stallions combined have placed to their credit twenty-six sons and daughters that have trotted in 2:30 or better, seven in 2:24 or better, four in 2:21 or better, four below 2:20, and with Goldsmith Maid left out, the most of whose heats were made while traveling in company with another mare that belonged to the same owner, it does not seem fair to count her heats as contests, but in making the average time will give the three her fastest heat 2:14. They have 290 heats in 2:30 or better, with an average for the 26 of 2:24 $\frac{2}{3}$; Goldsmith Maid has a credit of 332 heats.

Volunteer has placed to his credit 22 sons and daughters with records of 2:30 or better, with 580 heats, with an average of 2:23 $\frac{1}{2}$ for his 22 performers, the greatest performance of them all being that of Huntress in her great three mile victory over five competitors, when she lowered the record that had stood 35 years 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ seconds, making the heat in 7:21 $\frac{1}{4}$. When compiled, the performers stand: 22 in 2:30 or better, 13 in 2:24 or better, 8 in 2:21, or better, and 5 below 2:20. Any fair minded person can determine at a glance the most prepotent sire, as the three stallions above named, when the years of their service is combined number 40 years service with 26 performers in 2:30, while Volunteer's 20 years' service gives 22 performers in 2:30. In the 24 class, combined, they have seven performers, Volunteer has 13;