Searchlight (2.09 1-4 at Three Years Old).

EDITOR AMERICAN HORSE BREEDER:

My attention has been called to a leading editorial in a Chicago horse paper of Sept. 28 last, on Searchlight (2.09¼), the fastest three-year-old pacer of 1897. He is a great colt, and this paper says that those who have seen him in his races rate him as good for 2.04 this fall on any of the good tracks. The article in question attempts to give Searchlight's breeding, and it is so misleading, full of omissions, and so calculated to deceive the student of the breeding problem, that I deem it worth an effort, at least, to straighten the matter out. One is almost constrained to believe that whoever wrote the article was either suffering from neuralgia, the effects of a toothache, or else was in a great hurry to attend to some urgent matter, and the article does not speak very well for the supervising editors of a journal which assumes, at least, to give the public intelligent information.

It starts the breeding by saying that "Searchlight's sire was Darknight, son of Alcyone (2.27), out of Noonday (2.30), dam of *Eyelet* (2.10½) and *Ellawese* (2.24¾); second dam, Midnight (dam of Jay-Eye-See, 2.10 trotting, 2.06¼ pacing, and others)." What are the facts? Why, Noonday is not the dam of *Eyelet* (2.10¼, instead of 2.10½) and *Ellawese* at all, as the Year Book, Vol. XII., on page 374, gives: "Eyelet, gray mare, foaled 1893, by Gambetta Wilkes 4659; dam, Eye See (dam of *Gawain*, 2.16½, etc.), by Nutwood; grandam, Noonday (dam of Pastime, 2.27¼, etc.)," and second, Noonday, the great brood mare, has no record of 2 30, and, in fact, has no record that I know of whatever, the writer evidently having conflicted the *brood mare* Noonday with the *stallion* Noonday (2.30), brown horse, foaled 1883, by Wedgewood, and out of Noontide (2.20½), by Harold, his grandam being the great brood mare Midnight. Perhaps it is better to give what the books show about Midnight and her descendants.

Midnight, gr m, foaled 1865, by Pilot Jr.; dam, Twilight, running bred, by Lexington; grandam, Daylight, by imported Glencoe; great grandam, Darkness, by Wagner, etc. Dam of:
- Jay-Eye-See, blk g, by Dictator (pacing 2.06¼) 2.10
- Electricity, br h, by Electioneer 2.17¾
- Noontide, gr m, by Harold 2.20½
- Beaumont, by Belmont, sire of nine.
- Electricity, sire of eight.
- Noonday, by St Elmo 275.
- Pastime, by Lord Russell 2.27¼
- Darknight, by Alcyone, sire of eight trotters, four pacers.
- Nell, by Belsora, 1024, dam of
  - Walbeck, by Wilkes Boy 2.17¼
  - Winston, by Wilkes Boy 2.25

Nell's daughter, Attie Belle, by Messenger Chief 1825, is dam of
- *Guerita*, by Gambetta Wilkes 2 10¼
- *Gambolier*, by Gambetta Wilkes 2 22½
- *Patti Belle*, by Don Pizzaro 2.23
- *Gambolier* is sire of Hello Lear 2 25¼
- Eye-See, Noonday's daughter, by Nutwood, is dam of
  - *Eyelet*, by Gambetta Wilkes 2.10¼
  - *Ellawese*, by Gambetta Wilkes 2.24¾
  - Happy Day (sire of one trotter and one pacer), by Happy Medium 2 29½
- Arlotta, Noonday's daughter, by Harold, is dam of
  - The Conqueror (2 12¼).

Noontide (2.20½), Midnight's daughter, by Harold, dam of
- *Midi*, by Electrician 2.14¾
- Noonday (sire of two tretters and one pacer), by Wedgewood 2.30
- Rosy Morn, by Alcantara, dam of
  - Boreal, by Bow Bells 2.17¼

I make a total of 51 descendants of Midnight which are performers, her own son having a record of 2.06¼ pacing, her grandson, Darknight, being sire of two 2.10 pacers. Besides these three 2.10 performers we find *Guerita* and *Eyelet*, each 2.10¼, and The Conqueror (2.12¼). This showing speaks for itself and needs no comment.

The article continues as follows: "Searchlight's dam is the really great brood mare Nora Mapes, which produced *Lucre* (2.19¼), Cudahy (2.21) and Major Mapes (2 29¾)." This is very misleading, in that the reader would suppose that *Lucre* (2.19¼) was a trotter, whereas, in fact, he is a pacer. In other words, the reader cannot correctly judge of the merits of Nora Mapes as a brood mare without knowing whether her fastest produce, other than Searchlight, is a pacer or a trotter.

The article then proposes to give the breeding of Nora Mapes, and continues: "Nora Mapes's dam was Hattie Mapes (dam of Judge Woolsey, 2.21¼, and Mapoline, 2.22½), by Abdallah Star, son of American Star 14; second dam, Fanny Mapes (dam of Jerome Eddy, 2 16½, etc.), by Abdallah 15." This is open to two very serious objections, the first being that both Judge Woolsey and Mapoline are down in the book as pacers (see Year Book, Vol. II., page 641, under Hattie Mapes); and, secondly, that Abdallah Star was not a son of American Star 14, but was by American Star Jr., a son of American Star 14; American Star Jr.'s dam being by Friday, a son of the thoroughbred horse imported Trustee, Friday being a thoroughbred horse, his dam being Saluda, by Timoleon, son of Sir Archy, etc. The writer appears to be very adverse to having thoroughbred blood in this great colt, as will be seen later on, and it may reasonably be assumed that he had "some method in his madness" when he gave the breeding of Hattie Mapes's sire, Abdallah Star, in the way he did. I have not space to give a tabulation of the breeding of Abdallah Star, by American Star Jr., but if the reader will look at Vol. II. of the Register, at page 94, he will find it tabulated, and see that it contains three crosses of imported Diomed, and that his sire's dam was a daughter of Friday, son of imported Trustee. I like to catch the cold-blooded advocates making blunders of this kind, and they frequently do make such bulls, because very few of them know enough to appreciate good blood in a pedigree when they see it, and if they knew more they would say a great deal less.

The article proceeds: "It is unnecessary to go further into the breeding of the champion, for nearly all his good qualities must have been derived from the ancestors mentioned. Great brood mares, many of which became great with limited opportunities, are to be found in every branch of his family tree, and include Alma Mater, Midnight, Noonday, Betsy Trotwood, Fuga, Fanny Mapes, Hattie Mapes, Nora Mapes and Blandina." According to this *Searchlight* must have derived all his good qualities from the ancestors the writer deigns to mention, and if, perchance, a great brood mare like the Rodes Mare, or a great brood mare like Bell, or still another great brood mare like the Burch Mare, should happen to appear in the pedigree, they are individually and collectively of no account in this writer's imagination. Let us see. Alma Mater was sired by a horse known as Mambrino Patchen 58, whose dam was a mare called the Rodes Mare (dam of Lady Thorn, 2.18¼). This Rodes Mare was by Gano, a son of the thoroughbred horse American Eclipse, out of Betsey Richards, by Sir Archy. The records show Mambrino Patchen 58 to be the greatest sire of producing dams. Would it not have been well for this writer in his leading editorial to have mentioned and included the great brood mare—the Rodes Mare—in connection with the great brood mares he does mention? Is it not to be presumed he had some "method in his madness" for not doing so?

Again, the article speaks of Nora Mapes as being sired by Furor, a son of King Rene. Now King Rene was by Belmont 64, and the dam of Belmont 64 was Belle, by Mambrino Chief 11, and Belle is not only recognized in the Year book as a great brood mare, but I will make the open statement, which I would like to see disputed, if it can successfully, that she alone has more 2.30 descendants than all the other brood mares which the writer includes in his pedigree of *Searchlight*. Why did he not mention Bell? Was it because her dam was sired by Brown's Bellfounder, a son of imported Bellfounder, Brown's Bellfounder's dam being Lady Allport, by the thoroughbred horse Mambrino.

The Burch Mare also appears in the pedigree of *Searchlight*, she being the grandam of King Rene, the sire of Furor, sire of Nora Mapes. If the writer had looked at the Year Books he would have seen that the Burch Mare was the dam of Donald (2.27), Rosalind (2.21¾), etc., and is recognized as a great brood mare. Why is she not mentioned? Was it because she was sired by Brown Pilot (Parker's), a son of Copperbottom, by Brutus. Copperbottom's dam being a daughter of Pitts' Ball, son of the thoroughbred horse imported Royalist, and grandam by the thoroughbred horse Celer, while Brown Pilot's dam was by the thoroughbred horse Cherokee, by Sir Archy,—all according to Vol. II. of the Trotting Register.

Well, we find three great brood mares left out of this pretended pedigree of *Searchlight*. I have no time to mention a certain play of Shakspere's, where the principal character was omitted, but I desire to say that I never heard that in the pretended play of "Hamlet" with Hamlet omitted, that it was undertaken to substitute a Blandina for the principal character. The writer includes the mare Blandina among his great brood mares in this leading editorial article. I was not aware before that Blandina was a great brood mare. She is not recognized in the Year Books as such. Of course she was a celebrated mare, being the dam of the good sire Swigert, etc., but never having produced anything with a record of 2.30 or better, what right had the writer to include her among such brood mares as "the really great brood mare Nora Mapes," and omit such great brood mares as the Rodes Mare, Belle and the Burch Mare? Personally I would like to see such celebrated mares as Blandina, the Charles Kent Mare, Dolly Spanker, Katy Darling and numerous others in a class recognized as great mares, but they do not come under the rules laid down in the Year Book for admission to the ranks of great brood mares.

I now quote a little farther from this wonderful article as follows: "Students of the breeding problem will find some peculiar things in the tabulated pedigree of this colt, but no one can fail to conclude that the one great element in it *is the producing blood*." This is nice,—leave out the Rodes Mare, Belle and the Burch Mare and call the rest *the producing blood*. This is adding insult to injury with a vengeance. Again: "Of the known elements, but one is of pacing ancestry, and that comes through Pilot Jr., four removes away. It will take quite a stretch of the imagination to make that remote cross carry all the responsibility for the gait which *Searchlight* has adopted."

Now, my friend "Raymond" is the person to properly show up this pacing cross. He did it so successfully in the case of Ananias, where, as I recollect, he went back some seven or eight removes and found a pacing ancestor which gave the pacing gait, although in his judgment the fact that Bingen had thoroughbred blood only three or four removes away, and that his fifth dam was by a thoroughbred horse, had nothing whatever to do with that great colt's extreme speed. I would like to hear from "Raymond" on this question, but desire to mention, incidentally, that if the writer of the article in question had noticed that *Lucre*, the fastest of the get of Nora Mapes, outside of *Searchlight*, was also a pacer, and, if he had noticed and properly given the produce of Hattie Mapes, the grandam of *Searchlight*, *as both pacers*, and if he had further noticed that the Burch Mare was included in the pedigree, and that she came from the Copperbottom or pacing families, and if he had remembered, if he ever knew to remember, the fact that *Peruvian Bitters*, the only one of the entire get of the great sire Electioneer which I find credited in the books with a standard pacing record, was out of a daughter of Rosalind (2.21¾), which was a daughter of this same Burch Mare, he might have somewhat altered his statement that "of the known elements" in *Searchlight's* pedigree, but one was of pacing ancestry.

In this connection it may be well to mention that Fanny Mapes, the third dam of *Searchlight*, was dam of the sire of Frank Noble, an own brother of Jerome Eddy, sired by Louis Napoleon, by Volunteer 55, out of Hattie Wood (dam of Gazelle, 2.21), by Harry Clay 45, and grandam, Grandmother, by Terror, son of Eclipse, which breeding I apprehend the writer in question would call trotting bred, and yet we find by Vol. XII. of the Year Book that Frank Noble is credited with being the sire of 10 performers, *five* of which are pacers, and we also find that of the 28 performers credited to Jerome Eddy, *seven* of them are pacers.

I desire also to bring to the attention of the writer in question and to "Raymond" the fact that the horse they go back to from four to seven or eight removes to get their pacing cross, namely, Pilot Jr., was the sire of eight performers, *all trotters*, and has six sons sires of 23 trotters and only eight pacers, and 18 dams of 37 trotters and *only four pacers*. Wallace says of Pilot Jr. on page 55 of Vol. II. of the Register as follows:

"It is unmistakably true that he possessed and imparted *trotting instinct* without any known infusion of Messenger blood in his pedigree." And, by the way, on the same page the author says, "Copperbottom was a pacer, etc.," and "the famous Rosalind possesses some of his blood." Now Rosalind gets this pacing blood through the Burch Mare, her dam, and is it not just as reasonable to "stretch the imagination" five removes back to the Burch Mare, through Searchlight's dam, as it is to Pilot Jr., four removes back through his sire, but really five removes, before we come to the true pacing blood found in old Pacing Pilot?

I not only maintain that it is just as reasonabl to look back five as it is four removes for a pacing instinct, but go farther and say that if I did not find a pacing cross any nearer than 10 removes back, that there was a fair inference to be drawn that the particular descendant, which was a pacer, had bred back to the pacing ancestor. It would not be at all strange if such were the fact. However, my idea is that it is not improbable that hopples have done about as much in recent years to make pacers as have "pacing ancestors," but if you do go back from four to seven removes to get your pacing ancestor, why apply the same rule to the racing thoroughbred blood, and if you find a fast performer well backed up by thoroughbred blood three or four or four or five removes away, it will never do to sneer at it while going back the same number of removes to get your pacing cross.

I now come to the "great final" to this wonderful article. It says: "If the near infusio people want any additional comfort they will have to pass Searchlight." This is evidently the milk in the writer's cocoanut, which led him to leave out the Rodes mare, which was sired Gano, son of American Eclipse, Belle and the Burch mare, to skip one generation in the pedigree of Abdallah Star, sire of Hattie Mapes, grandam of *Searchlight*, in order to avoid the three crosses to imported Diomed, as well as one cross to imported Trustee, and also accounts for his not mentioning the fact that the third dam of Fanny Mapes was a daughter of this same imported Trustee. It may also be mentioned that Burr's Napoleon, sire of the dam of Fanny Mapes, was out of a daughter of American Commander, a grandson of Messenger, and whose dam was a daughter of the thoroughbred horse imported Light Infantry 1387 (S. B.).

This article is already too long, and so I shall not enter into any discussion on his "near infusion" remark at this time, but append a tabulated pedigree of *Searchlight* which will show for itself. I am glad to be able to state that Nora Mapes, after being bred to several, so called, trotting-bred horses, and only able to produce one with a record of 2.20 or better, and that the pacer *Lucre* (2.19¼), upon being bred to Darknight, a horse which possesses the blood of the thoroughbreds American Eclipse, imported Australian, the immortal Lexington and the great imported Glencoe, was able to produce the great colt *Searchlight*, which has not only taken a three-year-old record of 2.09¼, but is able, as per the article in question, to pace a mile at his present age in 2.04.

I desire also to mention the fact that the same sire Darknight, when bred to Maid of the Mist, by Mambrino Patchen 58, whose dam, the Rodes Mare, by Gano, son of American Eclipse, the writer in question so completely scorned, thus doubling up the blood of the Rodes Mare, and, Maid of the Mist's dam being by Driftwood 2186, son of American Clay 34, Driftwood's *dam* being the mare Sal (dam of Coaster, 2.26¼), by Canada Chief, and grandam by imported Yorkshire, and great grandam by Woodpecker, sired the good performer Brightlight (2.08¼). So it appears that it does not need a mare like "the really great brood mare Nora Mapes" in order to get extreme pacing speed, *provided* you breed such mare to a horse possessing the thoroughbred blood that Darknight possesses.

ALGERNON.

Canton, N. Y., Oct. 9, 1897.

SEARCHLIGHT, 2.09¼ at three years.

- Darknight
  - Alcyone, 2.27
    - George Wilkes, 2.22
      - Hambletonian 10
        - Abdallah 1
        - Kent Mare
      - Dolly Spanker
    - Alma Mater
      - Mambrino Patchen 58
        - Mambrino Chief 11
        - Rodes Mare, by Gano (Lady Thorn's dam)
      - Estella
        - Imp. Australian
        - Fanny G., by imported Margrave
  - Noonday
    - St. Elmo, 2.30
      - Abdallah 15
        - Hambletonian 10
        - Katy Darling
      - Untraced
    - Midnight
      - Pilot Jr. 12
        - Pilot
        - Nancy Pope
      - Twilight
        - Lexington
        - Daylight, by imp. Glencoe
- Nora Mapes
  - King Rene 1278
    - Belmont 64
      - Abdallah 15
      - Belle
    - Blandina
      - Mambrino Chief 11
      - Burch Mare
  - Fuga
    - George Wilkes, 2.22
      - Hambletonian 10
      - Dolly Spanker
    - Betsy Trotwood
      - Clark Chief 89
      - Dan. of Ericsson 130 out of a s. t. b. thoroughbred mare
  - Furor 3026
    - American Star 14
      - American Star Jr.
        - Dan. of Friday, son of imp. Trustee
      - Cur y Abdallah
        - Abdallah 1
        - Dau. of imp. Bellfounder
    - Abdallah 15
      - Hambletonian 10
      - Katy Darling
  - Hattie Mapes, 2.33½
    - Abdallah Star
    - Fanny Mapes
      - Napoleon (Burr's)
      - Dau. of Long Island Black Hawk 24 out of a daughter of imp. Trustee

The Greatest Sale Ever Announced.

Each year since the organization of the firm of William B. Fasig & Co. its November sale of trotters and pacers, at Madison-square Garden, New York, has been incomparably the greatest and most successful of fall sales. Each one of these has been greater and more successful than its predecessor, and hundreds of choice entries have annually been declined because the number accepted reached the limit of possibility of disposal in a four or five days sale. This year the sale will occupy two weeks, something hitherto unheard of in the East, and the consignments already accepted make it certain that, as usual, it will surpass all that have preceded it. One of its most striking features will be the number of closing-out sales of prominent breeding establishments and great racing stables, while to those already announced a number of others, not yet definitely consigned, are practically certain to be added. The long list of animals with fast records, which appears in the advertisements of the sales, contains but a portion of those that will be catalogued, yet it far surpasses anything of the sort yet published. As it stands today, the attractions of this great event are such as to insure the presence of every buyer of trotting or pacing speed who can possibly attend. Aside from the large consignments that appear in the advertisement on another page, there are many others of rare excellence, such as those of Mr. E. A. McFarland, with the phenomenal Dress Goods, that started 10 days ago with no record, and has since won four races and taken a mark of 2.16½; Mr. James Mulhall, including Roetta Soap (2.14½), and other good ones; Mr. W. E. B. Lockwood, including Crafty (2.09½) and Bay Baron (2.12¼); Mr. John Benstead, including 10 good ones of Village Farm breeding; Mr. N. J. Bennett, with Tolen (2.12); Mr. W. C. Snow, with half a dozen flyers and a score of others with proven speed. It is impossible, within reasonable space, to give any adequate idea of the magnitude and richness of this greatest of all sales.