In our Athletic Department will be found the official stenographer's minutes of the proceedings, Nov. 29, before the Sub-Committee of the National Association of Amateur Athletes of America, appointed to investigate the amateur standing of Mr. Malcolm W. Ford, New York Athletic Club. Stripped of irrelevant rubbish and legal verbiage, this mass of evidence may be split into two divisions—personal opinion, and direct testimony.

In the first class are the statements of McLean, and the affidavits of Keating, Bliss, McIntyre, Dobson, McLeod, S. McNeill, Ferguson, McKenzie, P. Johnston, and W. Grant for the prosecution, and the letters of Aitken, Grant, Robertson, Ross, M. McNeill, Taylor, and Scott for the defense. All of these are merely the private opinions of the witnesses as to the personal identity of Williams. All saw the man who competed at Springfield; some think it was Ford, and some do not. McLean, Keating, and others may honestly believe that Williams was Ford, and still may be mistaken; Aitken, Robertson, and others may honestly believe that Williams was not Ford, and still may be mistaken. All such testimony is of doubtful value at best, save in corroboration of independent direct or circumstantial evidence. Three points are, however, worthy of consideration: 1. A majority of the witnesses for the defense had known Ford personally for a long time, while most of the witnesses for the prosecution had no acquaintance with him. 2. The witnesses for the defense are, as a class, men of far higher personal character and social and business standing than those for the prosecution. 3. T. Aitken, who stated positively that Williams was not Ford, is the only witness on either side who had a pecuniary interest in the affair. He was beaten by Williams in the 100-yard run and running high jump. If Williams had been Ford, Aitken would have informed the judges; Ford would have been ejected from the ring for competing under a false name, as was done to Maxwell at same meeting, and Aitken would have pocketed the money wrongfully won by Ford. Aitken was told that Williams was Ford; walked up to him; examined him closely (his sight quickened by the money to be gained); and, despite this, was forced to admit that Williams was not Ford. His testimony under such circumstances outweighs that of a dozen disinterested spectators.

The three remaining witnesses gave direct and positive testimony. Johnson swore that before the Springfield games he and Ford conferred concerning them, and arranged that Johnson should furnish Ford with suitable apparel, and that Ford should compete there; while Ross swears that he went with Ford, and that Ford did compete against professionals for money prizes; did win money, and did receive his winnings.

For the defense Ford swears that he had no such talk with Johnson; had no clothing from him; did not compete at Springfield; did not win any money, and did not receive any. The evidence on the two sides is positive, contradictory, and irreconcilable. Either Ford has foresworn himself, or Ross and Johnson are perjurers. The whole matter rests on the comparative credibility of these three witnesses, and that is actually the only point that the Committee at present have to decide.

Impartial readers of the Committee's transactions will be pained to note four unpleasant facts: 1. G. Ross, the chief accuser, absconded three days before the trial, and his whereabouts are still unknown. 2. Mr. T. Clark, Jr., who prepared the case against Ford, and should have appeared as prosecutor, absented himself for reasons unsatisfactory to all save himself. 3. Mr. Hagan, one of the three members of the Committee, was not present. The meeting had been advertised for three weeks, so that all interested parties could so arrange their business as to attend. Mr. Hagan should have been present, or else should have resigned in time for the appointment of his successor. 4. The prosecuting attorney, who conducted the case against Mr. Ford vigorously, not to say virulently, was no other than Mr. Walton Storm, who is the President of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Amateur Athletes of America, and presides at their meetings. If, when the report of the Sub-Committee is referred to the Executive Committee, the members should be equally divided in opinion, Mr. Storm would be forced to cast the deciding vote on a case which he had himself argued as prosecuting attorney. This would certainly be a mockery of justice.

Mr. Ford is at present America's most prominent amateur athlete; holds several American and Canadian amateur championships; is credited with many amateur bests-on-record, and is a member in good standing of the largest amateur athletic club in the world. Such a man deserves justice, if not courtesy, and, at this season of the year, hasty action is unnecessary. Ford was not allowed to examine the testimony against him, before the meeting, and some of it was a surprise to him. With reasonable time he might be able to rebut it successfully. No harm could possibly be worked to anyone if the committee should postpone the consideration of the case, and appoint another meeting a week or ten days hence, thus giving Ford time to hunt up rebutting testimony, and turn some of his private letters into affidavits. In this way the committee could probe the matter still more thoroughly; drag the cowardly Ross before them, or else throw away his affidavit; have Aitken come forward and be cross-examined; and unearth the truth, if it can be found under this avalanche of false swearing.

The truth, no matter who suffers, is what the athletic world demands, and what the committee have not yet dug out.

We invite special attention to the announcement of the third renewal of the Eclipse Stakes, offered by the Sandown Park Club, of England, to be run at the Second Summer Meeting of the club in 1889, which meeting is usually held the Thursday and Friday before Goodwood, which brings it about July 25. The conditions of the stake are as follows: The club makes it net the winner 10,000 sovs., and 500 sovs. to the second horse; 500 sovs. to the nominator of the winner; 100 sovs. to third horse. It is for foals and yearlings, to be run as three and four-year-olds; three-year-olds to carry 120 lbs.; four-year-olds, 130 lbs.; fillies and geldings allowed 3 lbs.; winners of a weight for age of 500 sovs. value to carry 4 lbs.; of 1,000 sovs., 7 lbs. extra; winner of the Derby, Oaks, St. Leger, or Grand Prix de Paris, Eclipse Stakes, or any weight for age race of 5,000 sovs. value, 10 lbs. extra. It will be over the Eclipse course, about a mile and a quarter. It is exacted that there be 300 nominations to this stake, or the money to the second and third horses, and to the nominator of the winner, will be deducted out of the stake. Unless 250 nominations are secured the race may be void at the option of the Executive. The liability for foals is only ten guineas; if left in after the first Tuesday in October, 1887, a further subscription of twenty guineas; if left in after the first Tuesday in June, 1888, a further subscription of thirty guineas; if left in after the first Tuesday in January, 1889, a further subscription of fifty guineas. The liability for yearlings is the same as the above, with the same liabilities as for foals.

The Eclipse Stakes has become one of the institutions of the turf in England. When the Sandown Club announced the first Eclipse Stakes (that run in July last), in 1883, there were many voices raised against it. It was especially opposed by the old-fashioned racing element, who termed it as "another gate-money device," and sought to discredit it by showing that the money was all public money; that the club in giving the $50,000, was reimbursed by taking all the forfeits, etc. But despite the croakings of the pessimists, who can see nothing good in an innovation, the stake succeeded in producing not only by a handsome entry, but a brilliant lot of starters, and a fine race, Bendigo winning from such a field as Candlemas, St. Gatien, Fra Diavolo, St. Helena, Miss Jummy, Gay Hermit and from others. There were quite a number of American nominations, none of which, however, turned out good enough to warrant their being sent abroad. It is the wish of the club to secure American and Australian nominations, if possible, as they intend the Eclipse to be a sort of grand race for the championship of the world. It would well pay an American turfman to engage a promising foal or yearling, as in these days of rapid traveling, he could readily ship him across, and bring him back to America in time to meet his autumn engagements, and certainly $50,000 is worth a trip across the Atlantic. The attention of breeders is called to the fact that 500 sovs. is given the nominator of the winner, as a separate donation, and should the foal die before June 1, 1887, no subscription will be charged, provided notice of death is given. The stake closes Dec. 14, and nominations can be made by mail or cable, provided it is confirmed in writing. Nominations should be sent to Messrs. Weatherby, or to Mr. R. I'Anson, 1 St. James Street, Pall Mall, London, S. W.

Tuesday next, at 7 P.M., the Board of Review of the National Trotting Association will meet at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, this city. The chief interest in this meeting centres in the appointment of a Secretary. As shown at Cleveland, by the vote on the motion to adjourn, 134 members were favorable to Mr. Vail and 93 opposed, therefore, we believe the Board of Review will follow the judgment of Congress and appoint Mr. Vail. There is much being said by those opposed to his re-election, about forming a new association in case the Board of Review do not reject him, but as the National Association is so strong in its adherents, machinery and finances, no successful warfare can be made upon it.

A Western correspondent suggests that in view of the large surplus in the treasury, for which there is no legitimate use, that the Board of Review reduce the membership dues. The idea is a good one.

In calculating the complexion of the Board it must not be forgotten that Judge Grant has no vote except in case of a tie. If all of its members are present and voting, of course such a situation is impossible. The Board for this meeting consists of President Grant, Vice-Presidents Tilton and Martin, and Messrs. Stearns, Axworthy, Hacke, Campau, and Shafter. Col. E. S. Edwards called upon us on Wednesday, and stated that he was not a candidate for secretary.

Harry Wilkes met an able competitor at San Francisco Saturday last. From all accounts there were but two horses in the race, and once more the great Wilkes family have done themselves honor. Arab unfortunately went lame and was drawn after the first heat. In the third heat Harry got the worst of the send-off, and could not close a gap of three lengths between himself and his relative. The finishing heat found him a winner by the same distance, in the remarkably fast time of 2:15 for a fourth heat. This contest was, taking into consideration the time of year and the previous hard work done by the performers, the best of the year. At Hartford, the average for the first four heats, in the Guarrantee Stakes, was 2:15½. The four heats trotted at the Bay District course were in a trifle less average time.

Dr. Peters was asked by a daily paper reporter why ex-President Arthur did not drive out frequently during his battle for health. The doctor replied: "Because our pavements are a disgrace to a civilized country. An invalid cannot reach the Park without being jolted almost to death. Mr. Arthur said only the other day that if he was ever able to get around again he would start an agitation for better roads." What is true of the streets in the resident portion of the city south of the Park is equally true of the thoroughfares leading from the north side. Seventh Avenue is in a particularly bad condition, and has been so for months. The attention of the authorities has time and again been called to the necessity of putting our drives in good order, with the effect of compromises in the shape of sundry tinkerings.

The stranger driving over the wavy and rutty surface of Seventh Avenue, with its patched spots, is reminded of the remark by a sage man of letters: "A hole is the result of accident, but a darn is evidence of premeditated poverty." The city is not so poor, however, that it cannot give its taxpayers good roadways. A treasury that is rich enough to pay $5,000 for a consumptive rhinoceros, and thousands more for baby hippopotamuses and blue-faced monkeys, could surely spare as large sums for a better purpose. A roadway along the western side of the park, to be used exclusively by the roadmen of the city, has been proposed, but the Commissioners do not seem to relish the proposition.

Charles W. Coleman, Jr., has an exceedingly interesting descriptive article upon Ashland in the December *Century Magazine*. In 1809 the "Mill-Boy of the Slashes" erected the dwelling now occupied by Major H. C. McDowell, and in it found peaceful intervals of rest from the cares of political life. The inclination of the great statesman was for agricultural pursuits, as he confessed: "My attachment to rural occupation every day acquires more strength, and if it continues to increase another year as it has for the last, I shall be fully prepared to renounce forever the strifes of public life." The occasion never came, as the will and desire of the people kept Henry Clay in the councils of the nation. The thoughts of the eminent statesman were ever on his beautiful Kentucky home, the far-seeing and practical mind of the man expressing itself in his lines to Governor Brooke: "There is a great difference, I think, between a farm employed in raising dead produce for market, and one which is applied, as mine is, to the rearing of all kinds of live stock." The horse, with his congener, the mule, with the finer grades of beef cattle, were the principal products of Ashland, nor was the famous establishment ever divorced from the breeding interests. Dictator and King Rene today have their home where once the lordly thoroughbred reigned in the affections of the master.

The hospitality dispensed in the olden time to the friend and stranger is still honored in as lavish degree at Ashland.

According to current English gossip, Lord Randolph Churchill is about to become identified with the turf. It is said that he has given commissions to buy several promising colts, and may show his colors next season. If this be true, the British turf is to be felicitated. The Churchill's have not, as a race, been particularly noted as turfmen, but families differ very much in that respect. The present Earl Derby has not the slightest taste for sport of any kind, although he is descended from a family of the most devoted sportsmen. It may be that the American influence surrounding Lord Randolph Churchill encourages versatility. Already he has risen to an eminence in politics few public men of his age in England have ever attained, and, although like all the Churchills, he is a trifle hot-blooded for civil affairs, he promises a brilliant future. A majority of England's civic heroes, Fox, Palmerston, and Derby, have divided their attention between the State and the turf, although Lord George Bentinck abandoned the latter in order to give his entire time to the former, while Mr. Chaplin's connection with both has provoked a captious critic to write recently that he made a better turfman than a statesman. Lord Randolph Churchill, as is well known, married a daughter of Mr. Leonard W. Jerome, of New York, and hence the racing influence has always surrounded him.

The annual business meeting of the New York State Trotting-Horse Breeders' Association will be held at Powers' Hotel, Rochester, Dec. 7. As this will be an important meeting every member should be present. The membership roll is fairly large, but by no means as long as it should be. The stronger the membership the better for the breeding interests of the State. The September meeting of the association was conclusive proof of what the organization will do for the development of State-bred trotting stock.

At this meeting five performers were added to the 2:30 list, including the three-year-old colt Sunrise Patchen, and the five-year-old mare Winona. Mamie Woods, Hon. T. S. Fl[illegible] 2:22, dam [illegible] d to serve [illegible] d nomenal two-year-old, got a record of 2:31½, [illegible] Cards lowered several seconds. During the [illegible] has [illegible] in 2:30 and better were trotted in con- [illegible] Ta[illegible] two walk-overs on the programme [illegible]

[illegible] ZES, 2, 3 [illegible] ested to do what he can in swelling [illegible] ation forms will be forwarded upon [illegible] Secretary M. E. Servis, 34 Exchange