THE HORSEMAN.

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CHICAGO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 10.

NOTES BY THE WAYSIDE.

The rapid advance in the science of breeding the trotter astonishes those not well informed as to the business. It is only a matter of recent date that stud fees have been placed at figures that would purchase a reasonably good business or family horse. The price at which a well-bred yearling can be purchased of any reputable breeder ranges from one thousand to ten or twelve thousand dollars. Recently one weanling and one yearling have been sold at the princely sum of $12,500 each. They were Electric Bell, by Electioneer, dam Beautiful Bells; second dam Minnehaha, and Lancelot, by Messenger Duroc, dam Green Mountain Maid, and we are informed that the yearling colt by Electioneer, dam Lady Russell, sister to Maud S., was priced at $15,000.

These are, of course, extreme prices, but it is no uncommon thing for yearlings to sell at prices from $2,000 to $4,000. It should be understood that these prices are not paid simply for their anticipated value as trotters, but their value is estimated on the basis of the worth of inherited blood lines, which should insure their development into first-class performers and producing sires and dams. It is argued that these are fancy prices, and cannot last. We cannot concur in this opinion. The value of any property is estimated on the basis of the income it will produce, and we confidently assert that there are very few business enterprises which will pay the same interest that can be realized from a highly-bred and successful stallion or brood mare. In this estimate we admit fully the risk of accident or death and the depreciation caused by advancing years.

In illustrating this statement we can mention only a few prominent stallions, which we select at random and with no purpose of distinguishing one horse above another. The service book of Red Wilkes was filled two months ago at a season fee of $300. This includes sixty mares, which means a cash income of $18,000. This sum represents a pretty fair interest on $50,000, and while to many that sum seems an exorbitant price for a stallion, we have no doubt it would be refused for this popular son of the great George Wilkes.

Onward stands at $300, and his book filled rapidly, and during the year 1888 his get at South Elkhorn Farm averaged $2,000 each, including weanlings. We recently heard his owner say he would not take $100,000 for him, unless the purchaser would buy all his stock and close out the business.

Nutwood stands at a fee of $500, and his yearling colts sell at from $2,500 to $5,000. It was thought when his owners paid $22,000 for him and took him to Iowa they were making a hazardous investment.

Wilton stands at $200 and Baron Wilkes at $350, and we know that either of them could last spring have been sold for $35,000 cash.

Five years ago Jerome Eddy was purchased for $25,000 and taken to Buffalo, N. Y. Opinions were freely expressed that his purchasers were crazy, but in the first two years he earned $25,600 and has each year earned about $14,600. He paid for himself and his expenses in his first two years, and has earned each year since fifty per cent. of his original cost.

These are exceptional instances, but the proportion holds good in other cases. There are many men who think that $3,000 is a high price for a yearling stallion. If he is richly bred in producing blood lines, and especially if he inherits close up the blood of famous producing mares, and if he is pure-gaited and a colt of strong individuality, we think it is a good business investment. By the time he is two years old he will not have cost more than $3,500, and any such colt can in his two-year-old form serve ten mares at a fee of from fifty to one hundred dollars, and in his three-year-old form he can safely serve twenty-five to thirty mares. It is safe to assert that there are few localities where such a colt as we have described would not receive liberal patronage at a fee ranging from fifty to one hundred dollars. Recurring to our original proposition that the value of a piece of property depends on the income it will produce, it will be readily seen that high-bred stallions are extremely valuable. In a similar proportion the same rule applies to richly-bred fillies for breeding purposes.

As to whether these prices will last or not, the old rule of demand and supply will assuredly regulate and effectually settle that question. At present the demand for such stock as we have described exceeds the supply. There are scattered over this entire Nation large breeding-farms which have an established reputation and which are owned by intelligent and thoughtful men. In every State there are rapidly springing up younger establishments whose owners are ambitious to compete with older institutions in producing the highest and most approved tpye of the noble animal they love so well, and these younger breeders seek to purchase the choicest youngsters in the market. It is believed by thoughtful breeders that it is not enough that a colt shall be by a prominent stallion, or even that he shall be well formed and a trotter, but it is demanded that on the maternal side he shall inherit the blood of one or more famous producing dams, and that those mares shall be members of families well recognized as brood-mare families. It should be remembered that there are really very few sires whose daughters are especially distinguished as producers of speed, and that only four or five mares from any one of theee families have become famous as uniform producers. The daughters of Hambletonian 10 have produced more than fifty trotters, yet only about half a dozen of them have produced more than one 2:30 trotter, only seven of them have produced horses with records in 2:20, and only one of them has produced two in 2:20 or better. Thirty-five daughters of American Star have produced more than forty trotters, yet only seven of them have produced more than one 2:30 trotter, and they have only produced six with records of 2:20 or better, and not one of them has produced two with records as fast as 2:20.

Twenty-three daughters of Mambrino Patchen are the dams of twenty-eight 2:30 performers. Four of them have produced two or more each, seven of them have produced trotters with records from 2:15½ to 2:20, and none of them have produced two with records better than 2:20.

Eleven Harry Clay mares have produced eighteen 2:30 trotters. Three of them have produced one each with a record in 2:20 or better, and one has produced two with records in 2:20.

Fourteen mares by Magna Charta have given birth to fifteen 2:30 trotters. Only one has produced two with records of 2:30 or better, and only two of the entire get have records in 2:20 or better.

Seventeen mares by Mambrino Chief are the dams of twenty-one 2:30 performers. Three mares are the dams of more than one 2:30 performer, two have records better than 2:20, and no one mare has produced more than one 2:20 performer.

Fourteen daughters of Pilot, Jr. are the dams of twenty-nine 2:30 performers. Nine of them have produced more than one 2:30 performer, six of the produce have trotted from 2:08¾ to 2:20, and two of the mares have produced two with records in 2:20 or better.

We could extend this record, but it embraces the more prominent brood-mare families and serves the purpose of this article. It will readily be seen that a colt or filly by a noted stallion out of a mare from one of these families would be estimated more valuable than if its mother was from some family not distinguished as producers of trotters, and just in proportion as it is from a member of a fashionable brood-mare family, and inherits the blood of the most famous mares of these families, will its value be estimated. It is believed that animals which inherit the blood of noted members of famous producing families will trot fast, and will be endowed with reproducing or transmitting power. It is therefore desirable to purchase animals which are thus bred, but there are only a few instances in which one can purchase the blood of great mares in the first generation, and even in the second and third remove it is scarce. As the demand for it is large and constantly increasing, we have no fear that prices for desirable animals bred in this way will for a number of years be materially lessened.

The demand for extreme speed is so great and mediocrity so common that we have no doubt that horses which, after prolonged training can only trot in 2:30, will bring but small prices. The desire and aim of intelligent breeders is to establish a race of horses which will trot fast naturally and without prolonged or painful preparation, and as the market is far from over-stocked with this class of animals we expect to see prices of desirable stock remain at a high figure.

There are a number of stallions whose service fee is large, and it is a significant fact that these are the stallions whose services are most eagerly sought and whose books are most rapidly filled. Hambletonian 10 and Volunteer each stood at a fee of five hundred dollars, and there are now three stallions in service at the same fee. They are Bell Boy, Nutwood and Dictator. Bell Boy is four years old, and is by Electioneer. His dam has had nine foals, one of which is a yearling, one a two-year-old, two are brood mares and four have records better than 2:30, while two of them at three years of age have records better than 2:20; his second dam is the mother of four with records better than 2:30.

Dictator is by Hambletonian 10, dam Clara, by American Star. He is the sire of nearly twenty performers with records from 2:10 to 2:30.

Nutwood is by Belmont, dam Miss Russell, by Pilot, Jr. He is the sire of twenty-five performers with records from 2:15 to 2:30.

Baron Wilkes stands at a fee of $350. He is by George Wilkes, dam Mambrino Patchen; second dam Sally Chorister (dam of Proteine, 2:18, and Belle Brasfield, 2:20), by Mambrino Chorister. He has a record of 2:18.

Red Wilkes stands at a fee of $300. He is by George Wilkes, and his dam was by Mambrino Chief. He is the sire of twenty performers with records from 2:14½ to 2:30.

Onward stands at a $300 fee. He is by George Wilkes, dam Old Dolly (dam of Director, 2:17, and Thorndale, 2:22½), by Mambrino Chief. He has a record of 2:25¼, and is the sire of sixteen performers with records from 2:19 to 2:30.

Kentucky Prince claims a fee of $300. He is by Clark Chief, dam by Morgan Eagle. He is sire of Guy, 2:12, and a number of other fast trotters.

Victor von Bismarck's fee is $300. He is by Hambletonian 10, dam Hattie Wood (dam of Gazelle, 2:21), by Harry Clay 45. He is the sire of five in the 2:30 list, and a number of fast two-year-olds.

Belmont's fee is $300. He is by Alexander's Abdallah, dam Belle (dam of McCurdy's Hambletonian), by Mambrino Chief. He is the sire of twenty-two performers with records of 2:30 or better.

Harold stands at a $300 fee. He is the sire of twenty-two animals with records from 2:08¾ to 2:30.

St. Bel stands at $300. He has a record of 2:24½, is by Electioneer, dam Beautiful Bells (dam of Bell Boy, 2:19¼; Hinda Rose, 2:19½, and other fast ones).

Guy Wilkes stands at a fee of $250. He is by George Wilkes, dam Lady Bunker, by Mambrino Patchen; second dam Lady Dunn (dam of Joe Bunker, 2:19½), by American Star. He has a record of 2:15½, and is the sire of a three-year-old with a record of 2:18.

William L. stands at a fee of $250. He is a full brother to Guy Wilkes, and is the sire of Axtell, two-year-old record 2:23.

Phallas stands at $250. He is by Dictator, dam by Clark Chief, and has a record of 2:13¾.

Alcantara's fee is $200. He is by George Wilkes, dam Alma Mater, by Mambrino Patchen, which is the dam of four 2:30 trotters. He has a record of 2:23, and is the sire of eight in the 2:30 list.

Wilton's fee is $200. He is by George Wilkes, dam (the dam of Albert France, 2:20¼) by Hambletonian 10. He has a record of 2:19¼.

Repetition stands at a fee of $200. He is by Red Wilkes, dam by John Dillard. He has a three-year-old record of 2:21.

Sphinx is in the stud at $200. He is by Electioneer, dam by Belmont; second dam Waterwitch. He has a record of 2:23.

Jerome Eddy stands for $200. He is by Louis Napoleon, dam Fannie Mapes, by Alexander's Abdallah. He has a record of 2:16½.

Sidney is in service at a $200 fee. He is by Santa Claus, 2:17¼, dam Sweetness, 2:21, by Volunteer. He has a record of 2:19¾, and is the sire of Adonis, three-year-old pacing record 2:14¼; Goldleaf, three-year-old pacing record 2:15, and Fleet, yearling record 2:36.

Pilot Medium stands at $200. He is by Happy Medium, dam Tackey, 2:26, by Pilot, Jr. He is the sire of three trotters with records better than 2:30.

Brown Wilkes stands at $150. He is by George Wilkes, dam by Henry B. Patchen. He has a record of 2:21¾, and is the sire of one two-year-old trotter with a record of 2:30½, and another two-year-old with a record of 2:42.

Ambassador's fee is $150. He is by George Wilkes, dam Lady Carr (dam of Alcandre, 2:26½), by American Clay. He has a record of 2:21¼, and is the sire of five with records from 2:15½ to 2:30.

Strathmore stands at a fee of $200. He is the sire of twenty-six performers with records in 2:30 or better.

Wedgewood's fee is $150. He is by Belmont, dam Woodbine (dam of Woodford Mambrino, 2:21⅛), and is the sire of five horses with records from 2:15 to 2:30.

There are a great many stallions whose fee is $100, but we have not space to publish the list. Enough has been written, we think, to show that the business of breeding trotters, when properly conducted, is remunerative as well as pleasant.

In a previous issue we credited Princeps with one entire trotter with a record of 2:20 or better. He has two, Princeton, 2:19¾, and Granby, 2:19½. He has two sons which have sired 2:30 trotters—Bishop, sire of Bishop's Hero, 2:27, and Oxmoor, sire of Cheltenham, 2:30. At the same time we credited Woodford Mambrino with one stallion with record better than 2:20. He has two—Mambrino Dudley, 2:19¾, and Abbotsford, 2:19½.

BAWLING THE TRUTH.

BY AMBER.

I think it was Carlyle who said: "It is well to speak the truth, but it is not necessary to bawl it." Those of us who are in the habit of often meeting disagreeably frank and candid people will appreciate the grim humor of the remark.

Because the family record put our age down among the shady thirties or the frosty forties, it need not be incumbent upon our truth-speaking spinster aunt to make the truth known on all public occasions.

Because a wasting scalp disease robbed us long ago of our abundant locks so that we are forced to wear a scratch and are patronizing the Sutherland Sisters on the sly, it is not agreeable to have the truth repeated every time we encounter our "best girl."

Because we have to pinch a little now and then to get our foot accommodated to a dancing slipper is no reason why the truth should be known to any but the confiential ear of our shoe dealer.

There are thousands of matters which it is quite as well to keep to ourselves, although to mention them would be truth-telling of the most absolute kind. There may have been a little shadow, or a touch of smirch upon the name of one of our ancestors, or even in our own personal history, the person who reveals it, while an undeniable truth-teller, is also a hound and a sneak. Certain truths should be told only in the ear of that One who sometimes listens to our penitential confessions, and the neighbor-friend (?) or enemy who breaks into that confidence deserves to be horsewhipped. The immaculate Lord of heaven will show more mercy for one veritable shortcoming than the detestable Jack Horner of a truth-bawler does who sits over against our private history and pulls out its plums for public inspection.

Reticence is one of the lost arts among the men and women of to-day. We are not content with knowing each other's affairs in every community the sun shines on, but we go forth and hire a brass band to march ahead of us while we announce the holy truth. Sometimes I have dreams in which I see myself dealing with that particular truth-bawler who runs ahead of me and advertises my family history, puts a red ribbon about the neck of my family skeleton, as it were, and drags it through the streets at noon-day. Perhaps she tells the gospel truth. Perhaps my brother was in jail for stealing chickens. Perhaps I have had four husbands, and was tried for poisoning them all and burning up my grandmother to inherit her money; but when I meet that truth-bawler in my dreams I smother her with a five-pound pillow. She has no more business dabbling with my record than she has picking into my preserve pots. It is a fact that I have a history, just as it is a fact that I canned last summer's plums, but the hand that rakes up my past is as much the hand of a thief and a despoiler as the hand that tears open my jars of jam.

Who among us does not number in their list of friends people who are always telling us unpleasant things "for our good?" "That is an awfully unbecoming hat you have on," they remark, or "why will you wear that color? It makes your complexion look like sage cheese." Such people ought to be obliged by law to wear gags. Their candor is nothing better than insolence, and should be suppressed as a public nuisance.

Now we all of us know, at least the deep-hearted amongst us do, that the wounds of a friend are faithful and often conducive to our own improvement and growth. But there is a vast difference to a flower-bed between the action of a hen and a hoe. The former scratches the surface, and works havoc with the flower roots. The latter, systematically applied, promotes growth and blossoms. The friend who really criticizes us for our good is a hoe in the hands of special providence, but the friend who bawls ill-timed truth at us is a crazy old hen scratching up the flower-seeds at random. Be thankful if you have a friend who loves you well enough to take you off by yourself occasionally and tell you of your faults in a sweet and loving way, but see to it that you ward off the approach of the mischievous and destroying hen!

OLD RULE VII.

MEADVILLE, Pa., January 1, 1889.

ED. HORSEMAN:—In a recent issue of THE HORSEMAN is a letter from Marshall, Mich., giving an account of a suit in the Circuit Court at that place for damages for fraudulent representations in the sale of a trotting stallion. The facts in the case were these: The horse was eligible for registry at the time as standard-bred, but subsequently the rules of registration were changed in such a manner that he could not be so registered. The buyer sued the seller in the Circuit Court for, as he alleges, falsely representing to him in the sale that the horse was then actually registered. It seems the change occurred in the rules of registry before the buyer discovered the non-registry of the horse. The jury did not agree. Your correspondent says there was no dispute as to the horse being bred as represented, and adds that the main point in the case, and upon which there was great conflict of opinion, was, would the horse be more valuable for stock purposes had he been registered before Rule VII. was changed. He does not directly say so, but he leaves it as a fair inference that the fales representation as to the fact of registry was admitted by the defendant. Had that admission been made in the trial of the cause I believe that any judge with a fair knowledge of legal principles and their application would have given the jury binding instructions against the defendant. If the seller lied to the buyer regarding the registry of the horse he doubtless told another lie at the trial and denied having so represented. When a seller admits that he made false statements to a buyer he stands on slender ground in a trial for resulting damages.

What your correspondent thought to be the main point in the case was evidently a side issue, raised for the purpose of diverting attention from the real question. On this trial a double issue was doubtless presented. The plaintiff asserted the false representation; the defendant denied making it, but contended that even if he had done so the plaintiff was not damaged thereby. I have written to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for an abstract of the trial record, and will give the result to the readers of THE HORSEMAN. I will risk the prediction that the question there raised was, did the defendant make the false representations. It must not go out to the world that the law holds men to a less degree of honesty in a horse sale than in any other transaction. The standard must be supported and defended by trotting-horse breeders against week-kneeded friends and open enemies, and the car of progress must not be stopped to gather up stragglers. The time is coming very soon when the 2:20 list will be the gauge for trotters, and standard animals will be those having a standard sire and dam.

FALLSTOWN.

THE HORSE'S FROG.

A writer in one of our exchanges says some pertinent things about the frog in the horse's hoof. We quote: No horse can travel safely without the use of the frog. Aside from its all-essential necessity as the natural rest of the bony structure upon the ground, its expansion power in keeping the hoof from contracting upon the inclosed joints and its promotion by its action of circulation of blood to the extremity of the hoof, and consequent growth, the frog has a function always overlooked by the unreflecting, in that it is the organ of touch. It is the only part of the hoof that communicates with the nervous system, and through that to the brain; and it is therefore the only means that the horse has of accurately determining his foothold upon the ground. In the common method of shoeing the frog is taken out of action by the thickness of the shoe, and the horse is deprived of its use. Upon no muscle in the body is he more dependent for healthful, natural action, and from the moment the frog is displaced by the blacksmith's iron the decay of the horse's power begins. Contraction, quarter cracks, navicular disease, inflammation, and, more troublesome than all else, corns usurp the free elasticity of nature, and the animal commences his downward course.