EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

103 POTTER BUILDING.
38 PARK ROW - NEW YORK.

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TRACK, PARK AND ROAD.

NEW YORK CITY, October 30, 1888.

For the past week or more the elements have had their innings, and in all parts of the land the closing race-meetings have been seriously interfered with by the miniature deluges that have visited the earth with persistent frequency. Old Fleetwood track has had its full share of the drenching, the sulkies have lain idle, and the stable boys walking the trotters to and fro to keep their blood in healthy motion has been the substitute for the regular harness work.

It is superfluous to remark that the political excitement of the hour has prevaded the ranks of the roadites with as marked effect as in any other department of social life. While the old-time parties are lending their best efforts to place their representative in the Presidential chair, and the struggle for the Gubernatorial seat grows close and interesting, New York Democracy is a house divided against itself so far as the Mayorality contest is concerned. That old-time politician and shrewd manipulator of man and things, Abraham S. Hewitt, has drawn down upon himself the wrath of Tammany's famous wigwam, and Sheriff Hugh J. Grant, in full panoply of war, bears aloft its standard, and claims the suffrages of metropolitan citizens for the chief magistracy of Manhattan Isle. Among the members of the driving club Mr. Grant is deservedly popular, and doubtless many a ballot will find its way into the box for him next Tuesday by reason of his well-known love for the trotting-horse and his straight and honorable career as owner upon the turf. Indeed, if the settlement of the heptagonal contest (for six men and women have been regularly nominated for the position of Mayor of this city) should be left to the turf phalanx, Sheriff Grant would be speedily established in the chair for the next two years to come.

Another well-known turfite is on the list for the position of Sheriff in the person of James A. Flack, owner of the fast roadster Bookbinder, and one of the best-known figures at the club-house. Mr. Flack now occupies the lucrative office of County Clerk, and as Chief Sachem of Tammany Hall is the leader of that celebrated tribe of political warriors.

THE MID-WAY BREEDERS' MEETING.

In addition to the week's racing at the Fashion Stud Farm reviewed by me last week, there has followed the inauguration of another enterprise, which is perhaps of greater importance to the trotting interests than the meeting of the recently born New Jersey Association. I refer to the Mid-Way Breeders' meeting, which has already been announced, and which was concluded at this famous New Jersey farm on Friday last. The affair is the outcome or rather the development of a pet hobby which Mr. H. N. L. Smith has cherished for some years. The wonderful advance made by the produce of the Fashion Stud Farm under the management of Thomas J. Dunbar is already a matter of history. Mr. Smith has been so much encouraged by the success of the past two seasons that he resolved to open a number of stakes for colts and stallions to be competed for late enough in the season to make it an object for breeders to give him there patronage. The result has exceeded the most sanguine expectations, for out of thirteen stakes twelve were filled, and there was not a walk-over in any one of the contests, though two of them were declared off by reason of the non-arrival of the nominations. Though the meeting was arranged to last from Monday to Saturday, it was not expected that there would be enough to occupy the whole six days, but it was to provide against bad weather which is almost certain to cause delay at this late season. The precaution was a wise one, for after the opening on Monday there was a postponement of two days, caused by a drenching rain, which fell until early on Wednesday morning, and the track was so heavy that it was decided to wait another day that the juveniles might have every advantage in their attempts to obtain good records. On Monday three stakes were trotted for and decided. In the two-year-old stake, 2:40 class, there were three starters. The brown filly Astoria, from Marshland Stock Farm, had enough speed to carry off the honors, but the young daughter of Kentucky Wilkes hit her ankle, either in scoring for the first heat or during its progress, and she was in so much pain that it was with difficulty that Conover restrained her from running away. My old friend Jim Burlew, of Charley fame, had the colt Bumble Bee, and reached the wire first in this heat. Conover complained that Burlew's whip made to much noise, and the judges inspected it, and seemed to think it was over the regulation length. The veteran breeder and driver from Union Springs was as eloquent as ever, and gave the judges lots of talk regarding the laws, rules and usages pertaining to the size and use of the persuader. In the second heat Astoria was steadier, and the finish between her and Bumble Bee was pretty close. The filly made a break near the wire, and Burlew promptly laid claim to the heat, as he had trotted all the way. Again the whip question came up, and on further protest by Conover the judges seemed to think that Astoria had been interfered with, and awarded her the heat. The redoubtable Burlew continued to argue, and said he would drive with that whip anyhow, and defy any one to show that he was transgressing the rules. When he came out for the next heat, however, it was seen that he had taken off the snapper, which was the prime cause of all the trouble. Just then General Tracy walked up to the stand and announced that Astoria had gone dead-lame and would have to be drawn. The laugh was on Burlew for taking the unnecessary trouble with his whalebone, but he turned around in the sulky and said to General Tracy, "You should have known better General than to try and beat such a colt as I have got here with your filly." Bumble Bee had it all his own way in the next heat, for the Fashion Stud Farm colt Candidate has not sufficient education to enable him to carry his clip for a mile. In the three-year-old stake, for non-winners, the bay colt Westmoreland had an easy thing over the other two. After waiting for them in the first heat he went along faster in the second innings, and distanced both with a record of 2:37¾. The afternoon's sport closed with the stakes for the 2:40 stallions, in which Pagan, by Wedgewood, won his maiden victory, though he did not have to go very fast. This horse started in his first race last week on this track, and was drawn after the second heat of the 3:00 class, which was won by Moonlight. He has the resolute way of going that marks all the get of the famous old campaigner from whose loins he sprang.

Thursday and Friday were busy days, for it was necessary to take advantage of the favorable weather and bring the meeting to a close as soon as possible. In the stallion stake, 2:30 class, the young horse Waterloo, by Belmont, was an easy victor. Holstein, by Indianapolis, has gone back a little on the form he showed earlier in the season when Splan drove him over the Cleveland track during the Grand Circuit meeting there in 2:26¼. Though defeated in Thursday's race he came out next day and succeeded in entering the 2:30 list with a mark of 2:29¾, obtained in the third heat against time. The sensation of Thursday afternoon was in the yearling stake. The bay colt Presto, holding the best Northern record for his age, made at this track some weeks ago, was looked upon by local horsemen as altogether invincible. Early in the week there arrived a new star in the brown colt Brown Cedar, hailing from the Maple Valley Stock Farm, Iowa. His owners at once declared themselves to the effect that they had a world-beater. This was laughed at at first, but after seeing the big, strong-going youngster in his exercise, opinions were changed, and by the time the race was called it was whispered quietly that Presto would have to be content with second place. As they scored up for the word, three in number, the Western candidate showed far the best form, though he was slow in getting away. No sooner had the word been given than Brown Cedar out-speeded his pair of antagonists, carrying Presto to a break on the first turn, and over-hauling Larry, by Charley B., between the eighth and quarter. He reached the latter point in just 44 seconds, and everybody who was timing gave vent to exclamations of surprise. On he went up the back-stretch with a long lead. At the half he was eased up a little, and Presto and Larry both gained a trifle. In the third quarter Quintin made a hard drive with Presto and succeeded in getting pretty close to the leader, but the clip was too hot for the New Jersey juvenile and he went to pieces near the head of the home-stretch, and Brown Cedar jogged under the wire in 2:53, a very wonderful mile under all the circumstances. A short talk with Baldwin, his driver, revealed the fact that Brown Cedar is by Red Cedar, a son of Red Wilkes, out of a granddaughter of Swigert. The colt was started in his first race at Wilmington, Del., the week before, in a race of half-mile heats, which he won with a record of 1:28½. His owners announced that they would try to beat Presto's record before the week was out, but they did not fullfil the promise. Brown Cedar is undoubtedly a great yearling, and with his good disposition and superior physical powers should do something notable before the season closes. In the stake for 2:20 class stallions the summary makes it appear that Sunrise Patchen won in straight heats, but the fact is that Rumor finished ahead in the third mile, which was trotted when it was too dark to distinguish readily between horses that at all resembled each other in color. Scott Quintin, driving Sunrise Patchen, and Dunbar behind Rumor, wore caps a great deal alike, and as everybody expected to see the Patchen stallion finish first the judges were misled when Rumor flew under the wire with Hartford at his shoulder, and Sunrise Patchen a length behind. They hung out Sunrise Patchen's number, which gave him the race, and would have placed Rumor last had not their attention been called to the error. The mistake does not reflect at all upon the gentlemen who were in the stand, any more than it should warn them not to start heats after the orb of day has entirely disappeared from view and the gloaming has turned to night. As Mamie Woods did not appear for the stake for four-year-olds the Marshland Stock Farm's filly Gretna, by Mambrino Dudley, started for a record, and trotted in 2:29½, thus placing the first of this stallion's get in the fast list.

The most notable event on Friday was the performance of the young mare Beulah, by General Knox, in the special stake against Gean Smith, 2:18¼. The pair kept together all the way in the first heat, but Beulah had a little more than half a length the best of it at the wire in 2:19½. This is a quarter of a second faster than she trotted last week in the 2:24 class, and the mile was as good as 2:17 in mid-summer under the best conditions. Dunbar is naturally and deservedly very proud of his fleet pupil, and thinks she can go close to 2:15 next year. Though the meeting has been an expensive experiment for the owners of Fashion Stud Farm, the investment is by no means thrown away, and if the same activity is employed next year, there should be a second successful and profitable gathering of ambitious youngsters and sires as a fitting finale to the season of 1889.

RICHMOND (VA.) MEETING.

EXPOSITION PARK, Richmond, Va., October 22, 1888.

Autumn is gracefully growing into winter in this Southern clime. The leaves are rich in gorgeous hues, and the bleak winds which visit Northern parks at this season were far from Richmond to-day. The weather was bright and clear and Major Venable had the new track in the best condition possible.

The man who wishes to be considered a good fellow and "one of the boys" by those who love the rules "more in the breach than in the observance," should not crave the office of a judge. Yet it is a duty that every well-wisher of the stock farm and trotting turf owes to these interests to do his part when called on in administering the rules of racing fairly and squarely, without fear or favor. Impelled by these feelings the writer entered the judges' stand to-day with Senator Blackstone, of Accomack, this State, and Mr. Dobbs, of the International Fair, Buffalo. At their request he became spokesman and starter.

The first race was for the Whitby Stake of $300, for two-year-olds, ten nominations having been made September 1, on payment of $10, and $5 additional was paid on each October 1. The society added $150. All the colts were broken to harness this year.

The starters were Putney & Miles' chestnut colt Whitby, by Hannis, 2:17¾, dam the pacing mare Maud L., 2:32, trial 2:27, by Flyaway, 2:36, son of Vermont Black Hawk. Thus we see that Whitby is deep in developed speed on both sides. Thirty days after he was first harnessed he paced a half-mile in 1:21. Three weeks ago he was converted, and in the race carried twenty-eight ounces on each fore foot. He is a well-behaved colt of good size and substance, and was driven by William Herrington, formerly of New Bedford, Mass. Whitby was bred by Mr. Charles P. Stokes, of Richmond, Va.

The gray colt Acca, winner of second money, was got by Whitby Farm's stallion Woodburn Hambletonian, out of Haze, by Forager, son of Edwin Forrest.

"I saw Mildred S. trot a poor half-mile track in 2:57 without a skip, six or seven weeks ago," remarked a gentleman to me, but she was not at herself to-day. She was got by Inspector, son of Exchequer.

Aaron Wilkes, by Wickliffe, son of George Wilkes, dam by Hetzel's Hambletonian, is extra good gaited, but his training has been very limited.

Whitby was favorite, $20 to $16, and won the race very easily. Acca won second money just as easily. Time, 3:03, 3:03½.

The colt race closed as calmly as a sunset in summer, but the next event, for trotters of the 3:00 class, was full of excitement and expectancy. Lulu Wilkes, owned by Hannon & Kelly, of Norfolk, Va., was made favorite by those who bet on known trials or public form. She brought $20, Mambrino Girl $10, and field $5. The Girl was got by Victor von Bismarck, dam by Walker Mambrino, and was purchased by her present owner, C. T. Bethel, of Byrdville, Va., at public auction in Lexington, Ky., in 1886. She is a clever-going, rangy mare, but from the manner in which Lulu Wilkes cut out the work the first heat it was pretty clear her backers had made a wise choice. The bay stallion Harold Allen, four years old, owned by T. M. Hewitt, Wyandotte, Va., and the bay gelding Elick, by Electioneer, constituted the field. Lula Wilkes won the first heat handily by a neck—time, 2:41½—the Girl having closed up on her coming down the home-stretch. Elick was out of the hunt from the start.

The weather-vane of book-betting on the second heat pointed to Mambrino Girl as the winner, she being held at odds of 5 to 3 for the field and even money against Lulu Wilkes. Another even send-off was quickly given. Lulu broke and fell behind the Girl six lengths. After catching she did not trot as she did in the first heat, and was driven an easy mile. The Girl had no trouble to beat Harold Allen by a length in 2:41½.

The judges were clearly of the opinion that Lulu Wilkes was not permitted to make a move for the heat, and that the design was to "throw" the race. They closely questioned her driver, James H. Morrow, and accused him of pulling her off her stride. He declared he was doing his best to win, but they had grave doubts about it.

After ascertaining that Morrow weighed two hundred pounds, and the horses were ready to score, the judges decided to take him down and substitute Joseph Fletcher, a reliable local driver, rather than act on Rule 22 as to extra weight being imposed on the horse for an improper or fraudulent purpose. Before the change was made Mambrino Girl sold at the rate of $20 to $12 for the field.

The horses were sent off on even terms the first score, and Lula clung to the Girl's wheel on the turns and forced the issue on the straight work. Fletcher drove with rare good judgment, and made the pace very hot the last half, which was trotted in 1:18½. The spectators cheered while the heat was in progress whenever Lulu lapped the leader, and as they swung into the home-stretch on even terms excitement ran high. The next moment Mambrino Girl broke and fell back beaten. Lulu came steadily on and won quite easily by two lengths. Time, 2:38½. Shouts of approbation were loud and universal, except by the few who had massed their money and forces on Mambrino Girl.

As this heat made the sky of fine or expulsion look decidedly cloudy for Mr. Morrow, two of the fraternity sought the ear of the judges with the specious plea that the absence of hind toe boots on Lulu the second heat made this difference. They could not explain why she trotted so well with or without such boots the first heat.

On dismounting Fletcher was instructed by the judges to take charge of the mare and permit no changes of boots, harness, weights, check or harnessing. She was now a hot favorite at odds of $20 to $6. Herrington was now behind Prince Harold and spoiled two good scores. The word was given on fourth attempt, and Mambrino Girl had a little the best of Lulu, which was crowded into the fence going around the turn, and had to be pulled back to avoid a collision, so the Girl took the pole and gained three lengths, but Lulu set sail and the last half of the heat was almost a repetition of the preceding one, except that the mares came down the home-stretch neck and neck until within fifty yards of the wire, when the Girl could not stand the pressure. She broke, and Lulu won the heat by a length, steady and true. Time, 2:38.

Fletcher was awarded twenty per cent. of first money for his services. There was much cheering over the result. Fletcher was praised for his integrity and ability, while local and visiting turfites said the successful handling of this race would have a lasting influence for good on the sport at Exposition Park. Lulu Wilkes is about 15 hands high, a rakish-looking black mare. She is steady-going, and square-gaited when given her head, but has not action like George Wilkes.

EXPOSITION PARK, Richmond, Va., October 22, 1888.—Whitby Stake, foals of 1886, owned in Virginia; value $300.

Whitby, ch s, by Hannis, dam Maud L.; Putney & Miles	1	1
Acca, gr s, by Woodburn Hambletonian; Preston Belvin	2	2
Mildred S., b f; Valentine Shore	3	3
Aaron Wilkes, b s; O. H. Berry	dis	

Time, 3:03, 3:03½.

Same Day—3:00 class, trotting; purse $400.

Lulu Wilkes, blk m, by George Wilkes; Hannon & Kelley	1	3	1	1
Mambrino Girl, b m; C. F. Bethel	2	1	2	2
Harold Allen, b s; T. M. Hewitt	3	2	3	3
Elick, b g; George Scattergood	dis			

Time, 2:41½, 2:41½, 2:38½, 2:38.

THE TALK OF THE TOWN.

The horse-show, the whole horse-show, and nothing but the horse-show, is the talk of the town. As my readers, however, are principally interested in the trotting and roadster classes, I shall make mere passing allusion to such fashionable entries as Mr. Gebhard's *Leo*, the champion high-jumper; to Mr. Langtry's natty cobs of which the Jersey Lily exhibits half a dozen, all imported recently from England or Ireland; to Mr. Cassatt's imported cob, Little Wonder, and a veritable wonder he is; to Mr. Prescott Lawrence's imported Norfolk roadster Fashion, winner of no less than thirty medals in the show-ring at home and abroad.

But to the trotters, and chiefly class 11, viz.: Standard-bred stallions, each to be shown with four of his get. In this class there are six entries, numbering a total of thirty animals, to be shown simultaneously in the ring. It is safe to say that no such competitive exhibition has ever been seen in this country.

Robert Steel, the well-known breeder and former owner of Happy Medium, enters Epaulet, 2:19, and all the habitues of Fleetwood will never forget the debut in 1885 of this sensational stallion. Owned at that time by Mr. Dorsey, of Golddust fame, and driven by a Kentucky darky weighing 200 pounds. Epaulet was a star of the first magnitute in the trotting circuit until sold to his present owner for $22,500 and retired to the stud. Epaulet's colts are large and handsome and full of trot.

A. B. Darling enters Starlight, the stately, stalwart son of Kentucky Prince, and the very image of his sire. Mr. Darling formerly owned, and in fact introduced to the breeding world, Kentucky Prince, now the acknowledged king of the Mambrino tribe, and Mr. Darling is an expert authority on this strain of blood. Starlight, though a young horse, is already distinguished as the sire of Starletta, 2:21; Greylight, 2:21, and of Morelight, the four-year-old which James Goldsmith drove to a record of 2:28, and which the great reinsman believes to be able to trot in 2:20.

J. H. Clark enters Macey, 2:29½, a horse fast himself, and son of a fast one, and sire of fast ones, the great George Wilkes, 2:22, out of a mare by Kentucky Clay; second dam by Mambrino Patchen. This is very fashionable breeding. Macey has more size and symmetry than most of the Wilkeses, and is a horse well thought of everywhere, and was victorious in contests at the fall fairs wherever shown. Macey is but eight years old, and his colts are juvenile trotters of a handsome type.

A. J. Caton enters Don Cossack, 2:28, a horse known far and wide as a showy, stylish sire, and most of his colts are showy, too, and nearly all are very speedy. None have as yet been able to trot in 2:20, but the Don Cossack's have shown enough in heat races to be entitled to great respect in the circuit rings, while in the show-ring they are famed blue-ribbon winners, and are always presented to the public in first-class form—beautifully equipped in every way. Mr. Caton owns the highest-priced weanling ever sold in this country, and goes in to win every time.

C. J. Hamlin enters Almont, Jr., 2:26, a trotter, and a big-gaited one, and sire of a trotter, the fleet-footed, elegant mare Belle Hamlin, 2:13¾—the $30,000 mare, and the fastest by the record (excepting Maud S.) ever bred in this country, and for a dash, perhaps, the fastest barring none. She can go half a mile in 1:02 or 1:02½, and is a beauty in motion or at rest. Mr. Hamlin also enters the famous Mambrino King, pronounced by the foreign experts to be "the handsomest horse in the world." This is the great "undeveloped sire" in whose behalf Mr. Hamlin did so much writing in the turf journals last winter, and stirred up so much discussion, and it behooves all breeders who can possibly do so, to come and see this horse and his colts, and decide for themselves as to his merit. He certainly sired a campaigner in Amy King, 2:22. In fact it is the duty of every intelligent breeder to attend this horse show and see these six famous sires, each, remember, to be shown with four of his get, making a grand field of thirty trotters, all "blue-blood," out in the ring at once.

In class 12 for stallions (prize to go to the best individual), there will be intense competition, and a vast number of the best in the land will be there drawn up "in battle array." The entries include the fast and handsome Bayonne Prince, 2:21¼, recent winner of first prize at the New Jersey State Fair. Bayonne Prince trotted a