

SPORTS OF THE SEASON.

THE BASE BALL AND TURF GOSSIP OF THE PROVINCES.

Notes and Comments on Local Clubs and Players—The Season Drawing to a Close—About the Brotherhood—Horse News From Everywhere.

The base ball season has closed, and the cranks are all getting down to business for the winter. St. John has reason to be proud of the showing made this year. Everybody was satisfied with the work of the two big city teams. The St. Johns are the undoubted champions of the lower provinces, and the equals of any club east of Boston. This fact is most gratifying, when it is remembered that the St. Johns contained more home players than any of the four semi-professional teams in the province.

If anybody deserves a benefit it is Charlie Kearns, and everybody was glad to hear that the ball-tossers had decided to give him one Monday. He was the only one of the St. John men given a trial by the St. Johns this summer that was able to keep up with the old players, and he covered second base like a veteran. At the bat Kearns, also, did good work, and the game he pitched against the Monctons should have been won by the St. Johns. Kearns has the right stuff in him for a pitcher. If he could spend a few months this winter with the right kind of a man, the St. Johns would have a valuable player next season. Think of it, gentlemen!

Everybody will miss Tom Bell next year, for no player was more popular with spectators and players. When he was on first base everybody felt that all was safe in that corner. Where will the club get another man who will pull down wild-thrown balls with one hand and make the cranks feel easy?

After reading the correspondence in the American base ball papers I cannot help coming to the conclusion that the Brotherhood of base ball players has for its members some of the greatest liars on earth—deceitful cusses who are willing to sign a contract in the fall and break it in the spring, and a thousand other little tricks that honorable men wouldn't think of. The correspondents claim that they can prove all they say, and that the leaders of the movement—Ward, Clarkson, Brouters, Keefe, Hanlon, Faatz and others—fight shy when the question is brought up.

The sporting papers are giving considerable space to the story of the Brotherhood's intention to start out on its own hook, and the league managers are preparing for the worst. All the information the Brotherhood is willing to give is that "everything will be all right if certain things are conceded by the league," but the base ball writers don't seem to take any stock in this explanation. Something is going to happen in the spring. What will it be?

The national league pennant will float over the New York grounds for another year. The race was close and St. John cranks took a lively interest in it. Most of them wanted to see Boston carry off the prize, but there were lots whose sympathies were with New York.

The Boston *Globe* is in the \$1,000 it offered to the Bostonians should they win the pennant. Somebody should make Clarkson a present of such a sum. He did more work than any two pitchers in the league.

TURF NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE.

An Interesting Budget from our St. Croix Correspondent.

The Electioneers are to the head. At Fresno, Cal., on Oct. 4, the great filly Sunol trotted a mile in 2:13½, beating Axtell's three-year-old record three quarters of a second. Sunol is not done yet, and will be driven to beat 2:12 ere the year closes.

At Mystic park, Oct. 4, W. F. Todd's bay colt, Edgardo, by Rumor, by Tatler, by Pilot Jr., dam Lucia, by Jay Gould 2nd, dam the famous old campaigner Lucy, won a well-contested race of four heats, getting a record of 2:29 the fourth heat. Ed. was driven by Jas. H. Kehoe, who has had charge of the colt's training during the season. Charlie Mitchell reduced his record to 2:32½ on Sept. 3, at Brockton, the third heat, and from the easy way Charlie is winning his races, it looks as if Seward could put another All Right in the 2:30 list whenever he is called upon to do it.

Frank Nelson has also reduced his record to 2:41. It seems that our drivers either are bad drivers or bad conditioners, the latter, I think, very likely, as horses from this section, when they go west, have no difficulty in trotting faster, by a good bit, than they have ever done here. And I have come to the conclusion that the fault is not so much in the driving as it is in the lack of experience in conditioning. I know several men in the maritime provinces that can get up behind a horse and get as much speed out of him as the horse has, but let them campaign the horse a season and he is all tied up, and his hair looks like a white Chester pig's, standing up straight. What the coming drivers need most, I think, is a thorough schooling under a master hand

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at getting a horse in condition for a season's campaigning.

C. H. Nelson has sent his horse Nelson to Kentucky to beat the stallion record, as he says he has sold him for \$50,000, with \$30,000 added on condition that he trots in 2:13. There are those who can see only one stallion that trots, and those people belong to Maine and the horse is Nelson, but I look for Marvin to put Palo Alto at the head of all stallions before the new year. I am also told within the last ten days that Nelson never in his life received a bona-fide offer of \$25,000 cash for his stallion. Nelson is a good fellow, but he is a shade windy.

Belle Hamlin, 2:12½, and Harry Wilkes trot a match race at Fleetwood, Oct. 11, for \$2,000 a side.

John Splan sails for England on Oct. 16 to fill a six months engagement with P. T. Barnum's shows. Splan takes a few trotters, pacers and runners, with him, and a full assortment of trotting horse rigging, such as sulkies, wagons, harnesses, clothing, boots, etc. He also takes 10,000 volumes of *A Life With the Trotter*, by John Splan.

Palo Alto Bells, full sister to Bell Boy, has been leased one year for breeding purposes. She will be bred to Alcantara and the price paid for her services, \$5,000, is the highest price ever paid for the services of a brood mare for one season.

Axtell and Allerton have both been taken home and will not trot any more this year. Mr. Williams is satisfied to rest on the laurels which Axtell has won. It is said that he cannot do anything else than be satisfied, as both colts are dead lame and it is from overwork and fast miles too often that both broke down so early in the fall.

John Madden, who bought Suisun for \$10,000, says his poor showing this year was owing to the fact that when Gen. Turner got her he had to break her to harness instead of train her for races, but next year, he says, look out, for she is a trotter, sure.

A gentleman who recently returned from Buenos Ayres, S. A., says: "The Spaniards who own most of the recently exported high-priced trotting and running horses, care nothing for them only as instruments in gambling. The gamblers do not take kindly to the English and Americans who go over with the horses, and horses like Prince Wilkes at \$30,000, Fello and others equally as valuable, have been living for months under canvass."

"Pittsburg Phil," the plunger, has won \$65,000 this season, while Davy & Co., bookmakers, have failed. Jack McAuliffe, the light-weight pugilist, was at the head of the firm. In ten days Jack lost \$42,000, and is broke.

"Veritas" says: "When the driving talent mass their forces and play a certain horse, the road to first money for the dangerous outsider is beset with thorns, and the fence collisions and cut off are frequently his lot." I fear Veritas has been there himself and speaks from experience, as I think he ran up against the gang with Miss Alice once and could have won but for the "thorns that beset his path."

At Nashville Tenn., Sept. 15 the year old stallion McEwen, by McCurdy's Hambletonian, driven by a stable boy, trotted a mile in 2:18½, the fastest mile ever trotted by a horse owned and bred in Tennessee.

The Grand Prix de l'Exposition at Paris, France, of 12,500 francs, offered by the government of the Republic, open to all

horses to sulky or wagon, distance 3¼ miles, was contested by all American horses, and was won by Watt in 9:43 3-5, at a rate of 2.36 for the mile. Misty Morning 2nd, Gracie B. 3rd, Milton 4th, Capt. George last. On the same day the "Prix de Gouvernement de la Republique" purse of 7,500 francs, open to all horses under five years to wagon or sulky, was won in a jog by the American filly Bosque Bonita, in 5:39¾, at a rate of 2.42 per mile. The distance was two miles and one and one half furlongs, and Bonita being a four-year-old had 52 meters start. I believe they start standing, and weight has nothing to do with race.

Fairlawn stock farm, Lexington, Ky., the home of the late Gen. W. T. Withers, has been sold to Smith McCann, part owner of the celebrated Red Wilkes. The price paid was something over \$150,000.

C. H. Eaton has Conundrum home, and is using him on the road. He pulls a wagon very fast, and is as steady as a clock. Mr. Eaton says: "I have had some fast rides from Crossett's hill to the corner, but never rode as fast as the black fellow went Saturday." Mr. Eaton should be able to down the gang this winter, but John has Valley Gal up, and says he is out for wool, while Dan Gardner has his little fellow always at an edge, and says "on equal terms the border city always gets to the front," so I suppose Dan thinks he can beat the genial proprietor of the American House. It will be a horse race, any way, and if Watterson happens along with his pacing mare, C. H. will have to open the throttle wide out on Conundrum to beat Fred out, while John and Dan can fight it out for keeps behind.

John Webber made a flying trip to Boston last Monday, and brought home Alice Tyng and Sweetness, Frank Todd's two brood mares, both in foal to Lumps. W. F. Todd informs me that Adele Gould, Carrie R., Rachel C., Daisy Hartshorne and Alice Blackwood, will be left in Kentucky to be bred in the spring, and Kate Taylor will be left in Michigan to be bred to Sphinx again next year. Also, that Mr. Kehoe will return in about two weeks with Augusta Schuyler and colt by Chimes, and Ray Gould with colt by Lumps, and at the same time will also bring home Lumps and Edgardo, when they will entertain all visitors at St. Croix Stock farm for the winter months. ST. CROIX.

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Sudden Change of Subject.

Mr. Smallpurse (who has carefully figured up the cost of two theatre tickets and the street car fare)—Do you enjoy the drama, Miss Gehall?

Miss Gehall—Oh, very much; but I become entirely worn out every time I go. You see the play is seldom over before half past ten, and then it takes fully an hour to get supper at Del's, and after that comes the long ride home, and the hackmen do poke so, you know.

Mr. Smallpurse—Um—er—What do you think of Browning?—N. Y. Weekly.

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