

HORSES AVERSE TO JUMPS

STEEPLECHASES AT THE COUNTRY CLUB.

ONLY TWO OUT OF FIVE STARTERS FINISH IN ONE RACE—ONLY ONE OTHER CONTEST OF AN ACROBATIC NATURE.

Blood of the bluest tinge was visible in the noses of the people who gathered at the grounds of the Country Club, at Bartow, yesterday, to witness the Pelham steeplechases. A keen, cutting northwest wind blew across the country. It made the young gentlemen in uncomfortably short drab overcoats look as if they had suddenly grown tired of life, which they had hitherto borne with the unruffled contentment of placid inanity. Other gentlemen who had been wise enough in their day and generation to don their coachmen's overcoats looked down upon the sufferings of their brethren, with that lofty supremacy which always characterizes the extremely "fly." The ladies, most of whom had but recently donned their new Fall wraps, looked wretched. Yet most of them bore their sufferings with greater fortitude than the men, and it was only when chilled nature could endure no more that they approached the plebeian lunch counter under the grand stand and imbibed coffee that at other times would have filled them with horror, as it did with grounds.

A large number of those present had driven out to the grounds. Several coaching parties were present, and one of them spread a cold luncheon on the top of their drag and tried to fancy that it was August. Mr. De Lancey Kane, Mr. C. Oliver Iselin, Mr. Hugo Fritsch, and Mr. William Jay were among the bold *cochers*. Among others whose faces were more or less visible above coat collars and wraps were W. K. Vanderbilt, E. D. Morgan, D. D. Withers, Pierre Lorillard, Jr., Pierrepont Edwards, John Hunter, Louis L. Lorillard, J. M. Waterbury, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Bronson, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Rives, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Remsen, the Misses Remsen, the Messrs. Rutherford, the Misses Rutherford, J. G. K. Lawrence, Lawrence Jerome, Leonard Jerome, Rutherford Stuyvesant, W. M. Connor, Foxhall Keene, Stanley Mortimer, J. D. Cheever, A. Wright Sanford, W. S. Hoey, Miss Hoey, Judge Brady, Clarence Dinsmore, August Belmont, Jr., A. Belmont Purdy, Howell Osborne, Frederick Almy, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Hecksher, C. A. Hecksher, G. F. Howland, C. W. Nason, Mrs. Mahlon Sands, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Thebaud, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Durand, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Kidder, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thebaud, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Hecker, Mr. and Mrs. John O. Wilmerding, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Sumner Teall, Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Wheeler, Col. Leslie Bruce, T. Swan Latrobe, W. K. Thorn, Jr., G. A. Saportas, H. B. Richardson, George Work, and Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Whittingham. Two special trains conveyed visitors from the Grand Central Station to a point about a quarter of a mile from the grand stand, and thence they made their way over a turf road.

The grand stand was on the southerly side of the course, and the spectators had to swallow gusts of wind whenever they opened their mouths. The course was laid out over several smooth, grassy fields. There were plenty of stone-fence jumps, a double fence jump, a corn-stalk jump and a water jump. The field inside of the course was crowded with spectators and lined with carriages. The racing began soon after the arrival of the visitors who went by the special trains. A sufficient time was allowed for the convenience of those who wished to indulge in courting the favor of the fickle goddess Fortune, for the bookmakers were out in force, and were willing to lay a meagre amount of money on almost anything. Mutual pools were also in operation, but were not so well patronized as the bookmakers.

The first race was the Farmers' Dash for a purse of \$100, of which \$25 went to the second horse. The entries were horses used for farming purposes and owned and ridden by farmers or their sons living in Westchester County. Distance one-half mile on the flat. The starters were William Callaghan's Bright Boy and Baby, William Murray's Kate, J. B. Colford's Charlie C., M. Colford's Disowned, L. Bernard's Dutch Charlie, and M. H. Gulvin's Pete. After one false start, in which three of the animals ran all the way around, Pete, ridden by the only boy who was not attired in a jockey's suit, won handily, with Charlie C. second and Baby third.

The second race was the Polo Handicap Sweepstakes, for a cup presented by L. L. Lorillard, for polo ponies qualified under the Westchester Polo Club rules, about one-half mile on the flat. The starters were Perre Lorillard, Jr.'s, Bounce, ridden by Mr. Harry Harwood; G. A. Saportas's Harry Herbert, ridden by the owner; Charles Pfizer, Jr.'s, Olinda, ridden by Capt. Holmes; W. K. Thorn, Jr.'s Wild Tom, ridden by the owner; J. M. Waterbury's Cuddy, ridden by Mr. Beresford; J. M. Waterbury's Dude, ridden by N. G. Lorillard; Foxhall Keene's Jacko, ridden by the owner, and H. B. Richardson's Tomboy, ridden by Mr. Stevens. Mr. Keene took the lead at the start, but soon conceded it to Mr. Thorn, who won easily on Wild Tom, with Jacko second and Tomboy third.

The flat races being over the interest of the meeting began to arise, and speculation ran rife as to the probable fate of Stanley Mortimer, J. D. Cheever, and other riders. The ladies all expressed their disapprobation of steeplechase riding by eligible and wealthy young men, and then proceeded to buy a few pools on the result. The third race was the Lightweight Steeplechase Sweepstakes, for hunters, for a cup presented by the club, over the full course. The starters and riders were Liholiho, (J. D. Cheever,) Kitty, (W. K. Thorn,) Queens County stable's Fleurette, (Foxhall Keene,) Vampire, (George Work,) and Ivy, (Samuel Penniston.) This was an exciting race. Vampire modestly declined to tackle the first jump, and all three of the others wanted time to think before attacking the third. After much hammering, Ivy and Kitty concluded to go over. Then all went well till they reached a fence jump, when Kitty took a most emphatic drop, sending Mr. Thorn down into the subsoil of the county, while Ivy demurred altogether. By this time Mr. Keene had Fleurette under way, and, by dint of prayerful persuasion, punctuated with muscular thwacks, was inducing her to move gradually around the course. The ladies and gentlemen on the grand stand grew warm with glee. Ivy got under way again after much debate with Mr. Penniston, and, being about half a mile ahead of the wayward Fleurette, contrived to win by about that distance. Fleurette subsequently arrived at the goal amid loud applause, but Mr. Keene did not look joyful. The others did not finish.

The fourth race was the Pony Steeplechase Sweepstakes, for ponies 14 hands 1 inch and under, for a cup presented by Pierrepont Edwards. It was a tame affair. All the riders stuck to their saddles with a grim tenacity that was a source of disgust to the expectant spectators. The starters and riders were Puck, (W. K. Thorn, Jr.) H. P. Richardson's Tomboy, (Mr. Latrobe,) Fox, (Foxhall Keene,) and Harry Herbert, (G. A. Saportas.) Mr. Saportas galloped Harry Herbert up and down the stretch a number of times to warm him up, and he became so warm that in the race he paused before the first jump, and remained there in spite of Mr. Saportas's eloquent appeals with the whip. Puck led throughout the race, and Tomboy was second and Fox third. The finish was close, owing to Mr. Thorn's pulling Puck up.

The fifth race was undeniably the feature of the day. It was a soul-satisfying display of ground and lofty tumbling, in which all hands joined without regard to age, weights, colors, or previous condition of decrepitude. The race was the Heavyweight Steeplechase Sweepstakes, for a cup presented by the President of the club. The minimum weight was 170 pounds, and the horses made repeated protests against carrying it. The starters and riders were Pilot, (Samuel Penniston,) Charles Pfizer, Jr.'s, Gray Bonnet, (Capt. Holmes,) Stanley Mortimer's Gray Bonnet's Choice, (Mr. Stevens,) and Queens County stable's Dundee, (Stanley Mortimer.) Gray Bonnet was the leader at the start, followed by Hobson's Choice, Pilot, and Dundee in the order named. At the third jump Pilot landed on his nose and Mr. Penniston carved himself out a career through space. Hobson's Choice went to the front, and Gray Bonnet went back to second. Mr. Penniston aroused himself and Pilot began a stern chase after the others. As they swept around behind some trees, Capt. Holmes was rudely deposited on the turf and Gray Bonnet ambled away, hotly pursued by two mounted policemen. She went no further in the race.

The water jump was successfully taken by the others, and all went calmly until the double fence was reached. Then Mr. Stanley Mortimer was projected into the atmosphere and struck the earth with great emphasis, while Hobson's Choice capered away into the remote back-ground. Then Pilot swept by and was doing nobly when he again went to grass, taking Mr. Penniston with him. Dundee, not having been down, had obtained a commanding lead. Mr. Mortimer and Hobson's Choice got away again and hastened after Pilot, who was also going. Dundee finally won, with Pilot second and Hobson's Choice third. Every one said it was a great race.

The last race was the great Pelham Steeplechase, a handicap sweepstakes, with \$2,000 added. The starters were the Myopia Hunt's Peanuts, F. C. O'Reilly's Response, Rockaway stable's Barometer, ridden by J. D. Cheever; Samuel Penniston's Pilot, James P. Dawes's Rose, H. Drysdale's Echo, Irving stable's Disturbance, Stanley Mortimer's Trombone, J. P. Dawes's Charlemagne, and Alexander Brown's Paris. Several of the horses were ridden by professional jockeys and paid a penalty of seven extra pounds. The race was a tame affair, for no one was thrown. Otherwise it was pretty enough. Paris refused the second jump and was left in the lurch. Mr. Mortimer led with Trombone until more than half way around, when Charlemagne passed him, followed by Mr. Cheever with Barometer. In the last eighth-mile Mr. Cheever pulled away from the crowd and won by two lengths, with Charlemagne second, Response third, Disturbance and Echo, close together, fourth and fifth, and the others bunched in the rear.

The Country Club gave a ball at the clubhouse in the evening, at which many of those who attended the races were present. Those who were not boarded the special train and were shunted about on side tracks for about three-quarters of an hour, but finally reached the Grand Central Station.