

EVENTS REQUIRING ATTENTION.

TAKAPUNA JOCKEY CLUB.

NOMINATIONS for the following events of the Takapuna Jockey Club's Spring Meeting close on FRIDAY next, with Mr. R. Wynyard at 9 p.m.:

Handicap Maiden Hurdles, 30 sovs., 1½ miles
Handicap Maiden Plate, 30 sovs., 1 mile
Devonport Handicap, 40 sovs., 5½ furlongs
Handicap Hurdles, 50 sovs., 1½ miles
Handicap Steeplechase, 80 sovs., 3½ miles
Spring Handicap, 35 sovs., ½ mile
St. Andrew's Handicap, 75 sovs., 1½ miles

Nominations for the Takapuna Stakes of 100 sovs., 1 mile 1½ furlongs, to be run at the Summer Meeting of 1892 (for now two-year-olds), close at the same time and place.

AUCKLAND RACING CLUB.

Acceptances for the following events close with Mr. Percival on WEDNESDAY next, at 8 p.m.:

President's Handicap, 60 sovs., one mile
Flying Handicap, 60 sovs., 6 furlongs

On Friday, by 12 noon, the forfeit (5 sovs.) for the Auckland Guineas must be declared and paid, or the nominator will be liable for the whole sweepstake, 10 sovs.

GISBORNE RACING CLUB.

Acceptances for the following events of the Gisborne Racing Club's Spring Meeting are due on Tuesday, November 4th, with the Secretary, Mr. M. G. Nasmith:—

Flying Handicap, 30 sovs., 6 furlongs
Hurdle Handicap, 40 sovs., 2 miles
Park Handicap, 100 sovs., 1½ miles
Grand Stand Handicap, 30 sovs., 1 mile and a distance

CHRISTCHURCH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

Saturday, October 25th.

BEFORE another communication from my pen can appear in your columns the New Zealand Cup will be numbered with past events. The race as it at present appears seems to be as open a one as in the history of the handicap. The mysterious horse of the dozen engaged is the top weight, Merrie England. No horse has been doing better work at Riccarton—he has been galloping as strong as a lion. One morning, last Monday, he was conspicuous by his absence from the track, and since then has not been seen out. There have been all sorts of rumours flying about in regard to the horse, some statements being credited that he is going on with his preparation removed from the public gaze. There could be no possible reason, as far as I can conceive, for the horse's friends to take this course, and I must conclude that he has developed some ailment. It will be remembered that it was just a fortnight prior to last year's Cup that Merrie England went wrong previously. Had the son of Rupee received no interruption in his training I should have unhesitatingly plumped for him to win the Cup, but under the circumstances I must leave him out of the reckoning. Of Occident's ability to add the £1000 race to his other victories I have no great opinion, and the three mares following him in the handicap I must also pass over. This brings us to the Guineas winner, St. Andrew, who now occupies the pride of place in the betting market. His friends are confident that the St. Leger colt will give a good account of himself, and rely on his emulating the deeds of Manton and Tiraille. We shall see. Another Napier candidate that will have to be counted with is Jet d'Eau. The stable-companion of Tiraille is said to have been very highly tried, can stay with the best, and go fast. He will be dangerous. Crackshot is on the improve every day and will run a good horse. Wolverine has never yet shown his ability to get a distance, but he may be improving in this respect with age. He has not yet arrived at Riccarton, and nothing definite is known of the horse's condition. Dan O'Brien's Freedom was at first thought to be out of place in the big handicap, but the colt has quite recently acquired a lot of supporters by his consistent going on the track. He will strip fit and may effect a surprise. The two light weights, Strephon and Kotuku, may be left out of the reckoning altogether. To sum up, and with Merrie England out of the way, I am inclined to think the struggle will be left to the three-year-olds, and I would place them thus:—

CRACKSHOT 1
ST. ANDREW 2
JET D'EAU 3

Over the Derby course, and both carrying equal burdens, I would reverse the order to that given in the Cup, and go for St. Andrew to win, with Crackshot next best.

The withdrawal of Tiraille from our champion race, the Canterbury Cup, has led to some speculation as to whether last year's crack is altogether right, it being argued that if he were the opportunity of picking up an easy £500 with him would not be thrown away. With Merrie England presumably in Queer street, and provided Tiraille to be in anything like condition, the Canterbury Cup would, I take it, have been appropriated without much difficulty by Mr. Gollan's horse, but the Napier sportsman, so report says, does not care to risk defeat with Tiraille. He may have formed an exalted opinion of our three-year-olds, and it would not be long odds on Tiraille if he and Merrie England met, both fit and well. But this is not to the purpose. Tiraille is not to be run in the Canterbury Cup, Merrie England is under a cloud, and the four three-year-olds have only Occident opposed to them, and one of the number should be quite equal to disposing of him.

The North Canterbury meeting on Thursday last was a most successful gathering. Ahua again showed his worth by running away with the chief prize, the Cup of 80 sovs. He carried top weight, 9st., and ran the mile and a half in 2.44. The Brockenhurst Stakes, for two-year-olds, and which it was expected would throw some light on the Welcome Stakes, was taken by the Middle Park Co.'s b c Morpheus, by St. George—Hammock. Cajolery, who was made a warm favorite, showed temper, was left at the post, and was never in the hunt. The other starters were Union Flag, Fairchild, and May. In the run home Morpheus had only to shake off Union Flag, which he succeeded in doing without any difficulty. Morpheus is a slashing big colt, who has as yet done very little work. He is a favorite of mine, but I hardly expected him to run so well as he did at Rangiora, although when properly wound up I imagined he would be about as good a youngster as we have. Morpheus was for a long time in the sale list at something like 200 gs., but double that sum would not now buy the colt.

At Middle Park last week Idalia dropped twin colt foals to Apremont. Both were quite strong, but whereas one was of full size the other was very small. The smaller one was taken from the mother to be hand reared, but died three days after birth. A friend of mine when looking at the Park dams a couple of months ago predicted that the dam of Sir Modred would bear twins, and later on further wagered that two colts would be brought forth. The wager was accepted and as you see the layer won. There was an old legend (shall I call it) which said when a mare produced twins she would not breed the year following. This is quite a fallacy as the case of Idalia proves, for on a former occasion this mare slipped twins but produced the next year.

The Referee case has been hung up for some time, the application to delay further proceedings with the convictions being adjourned until Judge Denniston's return to town. There is very little doubt in most people's minds that the Magistrate's decision cannot be disturbed. However, as the case is *sub judice*, it would not be right to make any comments meantime.

ERRATUM.—Was it my mistake or was it the intelligent comp.? What I said or meant to say in regard to His Excellency's visit to Ashburton was, that he had a good look at the hunter The Moor, not that he had hunted on the horse. I believe I am correct in saying that Lord Onslow has not actively participated in hunting since coming to New Zealand.

Latest betting on the Cup:—Jet d'Eau and Crackshot 3 to 1. All the money in the market was taken early about these two, and the book-makers do not care to lay, some having overlaid Crackshot. St. Andrew 4 to 1 offered; Dudu and Wolverine 6 to 1; Occident 8 to 1; 10 to 20 to 1 the others.

In an action brought in August in the City of London Court, to recover damages for being bitten by a horse which had never been known to bite before, Mr. Commissioner Kerr gave judgment for its owner, the defendant. The law, he said, was that dogs and horses were allowed one bite, and no more. The defendant's horse had had his bite, and his owner was not legally responsible for it.

ELLERSLIE TRAINING NOTES.

THERE has not been much work done at Ellerslie during the week. On Thursday, however, some useful exercise was got through. The Captivator—Madcap colt went once round the trial track slow. Patchwork was sent a good two rounds at a working pace. Reprisal and Fiesole ran a trial over a mile and a quarter, in which Fiesole showed to most advantage. Glaucus went two rounds slow, and Hopeful Kate placed three circuits behind her, moving freely. Vendetta and The Workman were despatched for a sharp spurt over five furlongs, Vendetta finishing in front. The Dreamer, who moved very sluggishly, was sent twice round at half-pace, and Moderator, who bolted with his boy, went three rounds before he was pulled up. Priscilla placed two rounds behind her at half-pace, and Nap did similar exercise. Hailstorm, Jim, Landseer, and Huntsman also worked. A filly from the Waikato, by St. Leger, also did useful exercise.

PAKURANGA HUNT CLUB.

THE annual race-meeting of the Pakuranga Hunt Club was brought off, after a week's adjournment owing to the heavy rains, on Saturday last. The weather, fortunately, was most propitious, and the attendance consequently quite up to the average. On the stand there were a large number of ladies, who seemed to take more than ordinary interest in the sport. Mr. Thomas Morrin occupied the judge's box, but he had no close finishes to trouble him, and Mr. E. D. Halstead was successful with the starters flag. Mr. R. Garrett officiated as clerk of the scales, and Mr. T. Brown (the huntsman) as clerk of the course. Mr. H. H. Hayr worked energetically as secretary. The totalisators were in charge of Messrs. Adams and Andrews, who, unfortunately for themselves, made a very serious error in paying out too large a dividend on the Members' Hurdle Race, a mistake which cost them over eighty pounds. The dividend paid out was £2 2s., whereas each of the 184 investors on Hurricane were only justly entitled to £1 13s. Hunter's Artillery Band discoursed some excellent music on the lawn, which materially assisted to enliven the afternoon's proceedings. Unfortunately a severe accident occurred, Mr. E. B. Laxon, who was riding Lawhiao in the Members' Hurdles, receiving a fall and fracturing his collar-bone. He was promptly attended to by Dr. Coom.

The racing does not call for much comment. Orlando, who appeared rather "beefy," won the Open Hurdle Race pretty comfortably. The old son of The Painter will yet pick up a few crumbs at the minor meetings. Nap, who was much fancied in some quarters, was never prominent, but probably the horse was not seen at his best. The Hunt Club Cup was robbed of some of its interest owing to the absence of Costley, who, unfortunately, broke down the morning before the race. Old Hurricane, who has certainly proved himself a bit of a wonder, was the only one out of the six starters that negotiated his obstacles without making a mistake. He was capitally ridden by Mr. Tom Craig, who rode with consummate judgment throughout. Capella, favoured by a good start, won the Flying Stakes pretty easily, and thus scored, at the first time of asking, for her present owner. Old Falcon again appropriated the Farmers' Plate for Mr. John Leonard, being admirably handled by Mr. E. D. O'Rorke. Priscilla scored her first victory in the Maiden Plate, which she won pretty easily from a field of nine runners. This filly is a half-sister to the well-performed Patchwork, being by Captivator—Patch. She started six times last season without running prominently. Transit, who started a warm favourite for the event, was not dangerous at any portion of the journey. Hurricane had no difficulty in winning the Members' Hurdle Race from the moderate three opposed to him, and Lord Gillie, ridden by his owner, had a still easier task set him in the Ladies' Bracelet.

Auckland, the steeplechaser, has been turned out for a spell, and will be put into work again about December with a view to competing in the Autumn and Winter Steeplechases.