

the bill-of-fare, Miss Harper sang "Come buy my Pretty Flowers" sweetly and trippingly, winning an encore. Mr. W. H. George's fine bass voice told well in "The Bedouin's Love Song." Mr. W. R. Robinson besides giving a funny stump speech in character, sang two comic songs very successfully. Miss Essie Chew played a 'cello solo—Gounod's serenade and the audience, like Oliver Twist, "wanted more," but did not get it. Miss Nellie Chew accompanied on the pianoforte with customary efficiency. Mr. A. L. Edwards sang the popular "When Other Lips," and was remembered in so marked a manner as to compel a recall. Later on he also sang with great effect, Robertson's fine song "Because I love thee so." Mr. Kekwick recited with telling emphasis and power the touching poem "Out o' the Fire." As a fitting finale the familiar farce "Turn Him Out," thinly disguised by a new title and some original local hits, was capitally played by the Misses Taylor and Messrs. Taylor, Dawson and Gilmour. The parts of "Susan" and "Knox" were acted with especial dash and vigour. Altogether the audience enjoyed an excellent shilling's worth, and the Club's funds have received a handsome contribution.

An unpleasant evening spoiled the attendance at the Opera House on Friday evening, when Mr. and Mrs. Vivian staged that slightly *risqué* farcical comedy "The Pink Dominoes," which so took the fancy of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales when produced in London many years ago. The piece was creditably mounted and acted, and with a few more rehearsals would leave little to be desired in the way of improvement. Miss Helen Vivian as Lady Maggie Wagstaff gave a lively rendering of a good part, and, Miss Maggie Masters not only looked very charming, but acted naturally and gracefully as Sophie Greythorne, the more innocent of the two frisky matrons. Mrs. Anderson as Mrs. Joskyn Tubbs made a capital old lady, and proved quite a hit. Mrs. Max Rinkle's "Rebecca" reflected great credit upon the versatility of that lady, who, like others of the performers, finds variety work her true line. The small part of Miss Barrett was fairly well performed by Miss Chrissie Montague. Among the men Mr. Vivian's Charles Greythorne and Mr. Ford's Joskyn Tubbs were really excellent bits of farcical comedy. Mr. Walter Noye made a good deal of the not very striking part of Sir Percy Wagstaff. Mr. Max Rinkle hit off the part of Brisket, the head master, very happily, and the minor parts were filled by Messrs. Wm. Follas and Charles Roberts. The performance deserved a better house.

On Saturday and Monday evenings Miss Amy Vaughan gave her customary performances to the good houses which she deserves and always wins. Among many good items the "Spanish Tarantella," by the talented manageress and Miss Daisy Thornton met with especial favour. The farcical "Rehearsal" was as funny as Miss Vaughan's farces always are.

That genial gymnast Professor Carollo, assisted by his pupils and musical and athletic friends, gives his annual carnival and concert on Monday next, when I hope to see a crowded house. With such names as Miss Rimmer, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Tom Jackson and Mr. George Reed in addition to Eady's band, the musical portion of the programme is safe. In the Professor's able hands the athletics are always so.

On Friday evening at the Choral Hall a concert under the auspices of the Society's Orchestra and Herr Carl Schmitt will be held. Admission is by invitation tickets, but I trust the management will allow the general public to listen to the excellent programme on payment of a reasonable charge. Morceaux by Flotow, Sullivan, Gounod, Weber, Balfe, Rossini, Nicolai, Vieuxtemps and Mozart, bespeak a musical treat, and the vocal numbers look especially attractive. Miss Rimmer sings two songs with violin obligatos by Herr L. Tutshka. Miss Ada Yates, one of our most promising lady pianists, plays Weber's grand Concertstück, with orchestral accompaniment.

Too late to notice this week was an entertainment given by the St. George's Bay Rowing Club in Parnell last night, of which Haydn's

celebrated Toy Symphony was perhaps the most pleasing and remarkable feature.

In our last week's issue it was stated erroneously that Mr. C. White performed at Miss Amy Vaughan's entertainment. It was Mr. Harry Cowan—who has now established himself a firm favourite—who rendered the humorous song "His Funeral's To-Morrow." Mr. Harry Cowan received a well-merited double encore for his "comicalisms."

ORPHEUS.

TROTTING AND PONY RACING.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

SIR,—It is quite true, as stated by your correspondent "Dolly," in your issue of the 13th, that the A.R.C. should take the initiative and deal more fairly with the interests of pony and trotting racing. In April, 1890, they passed a rule which read, if I remember rightly, as follows:—"That in future no programme that contains a trotting or pony race shall be passed by the A.R.C.," also that any Club allowing a pony race to be run on its course should no longer be recognised by the A.R.C. The upshot of this unsportsmanlike regulation was the formation of the Auckland Pony and Trotting Association, which has just held its annual meeting, and shows unmistakably that a very large section of the sporting public favour trotting when properly carried on. In saying that the A.R.C. should take the initiative, I would point out to the Committee of the A.R.C. that it is unsavoury "to have to eat the leek," still no less an august body than the Committee of the V.R.C., through pursuing the same tactics as the A.R.C., had to give way to public opinion. Anything approaching extreme legislation in turf matters has and always will meet with opposition of an uncompromising character; and in the case of the V.R.C. I find that all the leading racing men had been indulging in trotting, as if on purpose, for before the Grand National meeting the V.R.C. found themselves face to face with the problem of whether they were to have no competitors at their steeplechase meeting or cancel the rule prohibiting anyone from taking part in trotting; and further still, they actually took trotting under their wing and included trotting meetings when appointing the dates of racing fixtures. The V.R.C., to get out of the difficulty, had to pass the following rule:—"Provided that nothing in this clause contained shall apply to any meeting heretofore or hereafter held for the purpose of pony racing or trotting racing only, nor to any owner or reputed owner or trainer or person having an interest in any such horse." This was passed as a whitewash to the owners and trainers who indulged in trotting and were disqualified by the impetuous silliness of their turf rulers. Our rulers are in very much the same plight, for the ponies were dropped "like hot potatoes" fifteen months ago, and they are now in manner taken back to the fold, only "the stake is not to count part of the added money." Did anyone ever hear of such a three-cornered move to stab the trotting movement? The instigator of that rule should be ashamed of himself, and it is pretty well known whom they have to thank. Surely men like Messrs. McLaughlin, Kirkwood, Philson and Duder are not going to be led by the nose and ignore trotting altogether. Dunedin sets a good example by taking it in hand, and there is no reason why the A.R.C. should stultify themselves by passing distasteful rules and taking up such a hostile attitude towards a sport which is gradually and assuredly making headway amongst its patrons. If the suburban clubs were allowed to hold trotting and pony meetings the A.R.C. would have some check, and we should not have mushroom clubs springing up, which will sooner or later bring trotting into disrepute. In conclusion, I am of opinion with "Dolly" that the A.R.C. should come down off their "high horse," and show themselves true sportmen by offering facilities instead of thwarting the actions of those interested in trotting.

LORD WILLIAM.

The New Zealand sire Bundoora, by The Peer—Argosy has been sent to Sydney from Melbourne in search of a purchaser, his owner having failed to find one in Victoria. Such a splendid horse should not go begging long.

NOMENCLATURE.

MR. H. GAISFORD's filly, 3 years, by Albany—Athole, *Jeannie Deans*.
Mr. H. Gaisford's filly, 3 years, by Albany—Trinket, *Chatelaine*.
Mr. H. Gaisford's filly, 3 years, by Cadogan—Caprice, *Whimsical*.
Mr. S. C. Hemming's filly, 2 years, by Le Loup—Lass o' the Hill, *Rid Riding Hood*.
Mr. R. Allen's colt, 2 years, by St. George—Fair Nell, *Saracen*.
Mr. Hungerford's colt, 2 years, by Apremont—Becky Sharp, *Whakawalea*.
Mr. A. Hannett's colt, 2 years, by Somnus—Nelly, *Master Arthur*.
Mr. A. Hannett's filly, 2 years, by Country Boy—Tonganui, *Country Gal*.
Mr. A. Hannett's filly, 2 years, by Diomedes—Candour, *Fair Lillian*.
Mr. H. Gaisford's filly, 1 year, by St. George—Take Miss, *Dry Hash*.

ENGLISH SPORTING NOTES.

THE value of the stakes, including second and third moneys, won at Ascot during the four days amounted to a little over £34,000.

Mr. A. M. Singer—the son of the sewing machine manufacturer—has just purchased from Mr. H. C. Miller the colt Glenwood, by Ormonde—Flower of Dorset, by Dutchskater. The price paid was £5,000, which is the highest ever given privately for a yearling. Mr. H. C. Miller is the owner of Misterton and other good greyhounds.

The old-fashioned, but fashionable meeting of Stockbridge still holds its own. As usual, the meeting commenced on the Tuesday with the Bibury Cup. The weather was lovely, and the racing, as is usual, was of no importance. Amphion was allowed to walk over for the Stockbridge Cup, no one caring to oppose such a flier over that distance. The Duke of Beaufort's Posey, a grand-daughter of Musket, being by Petronel—Queen of the Roses, was also allowed the same privilege for the Zetland Stakes, a sweepstakes of 100 sovs. each; so on the whole the meeting was flat, and not up to former years.

Since the closing of the Town Moor at Newcastle, the "Pitman's Derby," the Northumberland Plate, has been run at Gosforth, a few miles from Newcastle, and to the disgust of the pitmen it is a gate meeting. The principal race on the first day was the Northern Derby, of £2,000 (1,550 sovs. to the owner and 250 to the nominator of the winner, and 100 sovs. each to the owner and nominator of the second). Sixteen runners came to the post. Henry VIII., on the strength of his winning a Biennial at Ascot, was made a great favourite, but was done with half a mile from home, and Mr. Stephenson's Bosphorus, who was second in demand owing to his having won the Bentick Stakes at the Spring meeting, won easily by a length and a half from Sir R. Jardine's Sarawak, Baron Rothschild's High Havens third. On the second day the Northumberland Plate, of 1,000 sovs., was the great attraction—the pitmen as usual flocking in thousands to see it. Queen's Birthday, after his running second to Morion for the Gold Cup at Ascot, was made a great favourite. He won very easily by three lengths, the second and third favourites, Knight of Ruby and Alice, filling the situations. Major Joicey purchased the winner for 4,000 sovs. the day before the race, so he was not long getting his money back. On the concluding day the Seaton Delaval Stakes, of 1,200 sovs., brought twenty-one two-year-olds to the post, the three favourites filling the places, but in reversed positions—Duke of Hamilton's Pristine winning by a head from Mr. Bibby's Earl of Annandale, Mr. Peacock's Crusoe being a good third. The weather being fine, the attendance was very large—in fact, the best there has been since the meeting was moved to Gosforth, and the management hope that they have now overcome the prejudices of the country people having to pay for what they considered their right.

Ernest Cooke, one of the best English lightweight jockeys engaged in France, has been killed at the Maison Lafitte races through his horse falling and rolling over him.

James Hickey, the well-known cross-country horseman, will most likely accompany Mr. Gollan's team to Australia.