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THE TURF.

HOW WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT'S TROTTERS ARE STABLED AND GUARDED.

An \$150,000 Offer for Capt. Lewis - Notes Concerning the Trotters and Runners.

The Vanderbilt Stables and its Occupants.

A reporter recently visited Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt's stables at Fifty-second street and Madison avenue, says the New York Tribune, and was shown through the buildings. Entering from the office, the visitor finds himself in a spacious room. It was just after dark, and numerous gas-jets were burning around the walls, the light streaming through porcelain globes, each ornamented with a broad band, in the center of which is a horse's head. Walls, floor, and ceiling are all polished wood, cherry, ash, and black-walnut being laid in strips and panels in a way that brought out the beauties of each to the best advantage. In one place a long mirror reflected the line of sash and stately coaches opposite, and in another a case of nickel-plated bits on a black-ground of black velvet hung glittering on the wall. A set of Fox's English hunting scenes and oil portraits of Maud S. and Fullerton in heavy gilt frames relieved the bareness of the ash-walnut. In the corner, on a platform of cement, a stableman was washing a light wagon which had been whirled over the road that afternoon behind Aldine and Early Rose. The stable implements which lay around him flashed in the gas-light with their heavy mountings of polished brass, and the pair in which he dipped his sponge was decorated with a big brass monogram. There was no scent of the stable in the air. The noises of the horses in the stalls a few feet away could scarcely be heard through the thick walls and the heavy doors of black-walnut and plate-glass. Only the man at work on the wagon in the corner, and the long line of coaches against the wall, gave the large, well-proportioned, and really elegant apartment an appearance of connection with a stable. There is no loud noise, no confusion, no dirt in this big hall at any time. Even when some famous trotter comes into the stable, fresh from some new exploit on the road, or the stout coach horses come in clanking their bits and rattling their harness, heavy with silver, the cheer of the light wagon or heavy coach roll on a broad strip of carpet stretched diagonally across the floor, and there is no din or tumult.

Looking into the harness room, large cases, with fronts of plate-glass, extending on all sides, were seen. The walls of the room above the cases were of plate-glass, and the light from the courtyard streamed through in a flood upon the shining black and gleaming silver of the harnesses. Here were all sorts of harnesses, from the plain affair, whose only ornament was the monogram of Mr. Vanderbilt, to those in which the leather was almost hidden by a profusion of heavy silver decorations.

At the command of Mr. Phelps, the Superintendent of the stable, two groomers rolled back two immense sliding doors, and a dimly-lighted apartment roofed by a dome of glass was entered. Up and down the centre on the hard cement floor, were arranged a row of vehicles; and around them extended a tan-bark track. This is called the "walking track," and here the horses are exercised. The red pressed brick walls of this place were hung with pictures of hunting scenes and celebrated horses which, with their bits of color showing in the semi-obscurity, produced a pleasant and striking effect.

The most interesting part of the stable, however, was that devoted to the horses. Here the light from numerous gas-jets showed long lines of box-stalls of light and polished wood trimmed with black-walnut. Beyond was a line of open stalls where stood the powerful black carriage horses. Even here there was no unpleasant odor, nothing but the smell of the clean straw with which the horses had been bedded down for the night. Up and down the passageway between the stalls moved about sturdy groomers carrying feed for the animals and giving the last finishing touch to the bedding. The shadows cast by the stalls, the deep panels of the roof, and the dark forms of the coach horses produced a striking combination of light and shade. The picture was relieved and supplied with color by the bright blue checked shirts of the groomers and the gmatting of plaited straw and red tape behind the stalls of the coach horses, and the effect was still further brightened by the glitter of polished brass, which adorned all the stable utensils and shone in the gas-light. Opening the door of a large box-stall at the end of the room the reporter entered it. The stall was lighted only by the light that came from the top, and was in a state of half-darkness. In one corner, up to her fetlocks in straw, stood Maud S., ignitely eating her well-earned oats. Maud did not like the idea of being disturbed at her supper, but like a well-bred creature of gentle blood, gave very little indication of her annoyance. The blanket covering her was removed, and her fleet-limbed symmetry was brought out to the fullest advantage by the background of light wood and straw. She submitted to being petted and caressed with the utmost unconcern when she saw that the intruder was Mr. Phelps, and paid strict attention to her supper.

Looking into the other stalls the other racers were seen quietly crunching away at their supper in the twilight. By Dick looked up inquiringly at Mr. Phelps

and the reporter entered the stall. After regarding his visitors intently for a moment he gave a contemptuous snuff and returned to his feed. When Aldine's stall was reached her blanket was removed and her good points commented on. Aldine submitted gracefully—in fact, seemed rather to like and to be proud of the praise that was lavished upon her. Near the door leading into the court-yard was what appeared to be a box-stall, but which, upon the door being opened, was seen to be a bed-room. Here every night sleeps one of the hostlers, in order to be on hand if anything goes wrong with the horses. In the partition dividing the room from the main apartment burned a bright light incased in glass. It was half to the sleeping room and half outside, the light filtering into the sleeping room through a green gauze curtain drawn over the glass on that side. At night, when all the other lights are turned out, this one is kept burning.

Mr. Vanderbilt's stable was begun in 1879, and finished in October of the following year. It cost \$100,000 without the last which is worth as much more. The materials of which it is constructed are pure red brick and brown stone. It has a frontage of seventy-five feet on Fifty-second street, and 100 feet on Madison avenue. There are at present in the stable Maud S., Aldine, Early Rose, Leander, Lysander, Small Hope, Dickens, and four coach horses. There are six carriages, eight light wagons, and two sulkies. Six men are employed as groomers and hostlers.

The Langtry-Labouchere Affair.

The public has now been pretty thoroughly deluged with the details of the Langtry-Labouchere quarrel, the antecedents and environments of the men who are running after the actress, and the past life of the bosom friend. Salacious suggestions have been thrown out in all directions. Old scandals have been revived and new ones developed or invented. Princes and Barons on one side of the water and horse-jockeys and stock-brokers on the other figure as intimates, and the public is daily treated to the particulars of their daily life, as if their life were of any consequence, and to hints and innuendoes as to their conduct, which, if true, are substantially of the same class as subject less wealthy and sportive people to the contempt of the community. If not in the penalties of the law, this going to show what wealthy avails and professional beauties may do with impunity, what plain ordinary people may not do without raising a hue and cry in their neighborhood and indignation protests from the community. It is an old saying that there is no sex in virtue, but certainly there are distinctions sufficiently sharp to apply improprieties in one class which are condemned in another.

All this gossip apropos of Mrs. Langtry and Mrs. Labouchere and the retinue of male devotees who follow in the wake of the former, seeking with unsexed assurance to usurp the place of the latter, is unquestionably pleasant reading for fast men and idle women, but what has it to do with Mrs. Langtry's relations to the public? She came to this country much wanted as an actress. She was carefully and systematically advertised beforehand as an artist of more than ordinary merit, and the public was led to expect that it would be treated to a dramatic exhibition charged for seeing it. Upon her dramatic ability, therefore, she should stand or fall, as other actresses have to do. If she be a mediocre actress people should refuse to pay the price. If she be a humbug, they should decline to go. To crowd the theatre for other reasons than dramatic ones to see a woman who is a failure as an actress is flagrantly unjust to meritorious and hardworking actresses who have fought their way up through constant discouragement. The public owes it to the American dramatic profession to be discriminative in its judgments and to administer a sharp rebuke to speculating managers and scheming actresses from abroad, so that it may be well understood that the American public will not accept cast-off and second-hand dramatic rubbish.

If Mrs. Langtry allows herself to be advertised as a great actress, she must make good the claim, and if she cannot satisfy it ought not to complain if she is set down as a humbug. She is not to be accepted as an actress because she is a beautiful woman, or because she is a Lily of Jersey, or because she enjoyed the intimate acquaintance of the Prince of Wales and other Englishmen of questionable reputation. It is a very vulgar thing in itself, without any reference to the stage, for her to allow herself to be advertised as a professional beauty. It is so repugnant to feminine sensitiveness and to masculine appreciativeness as to be almost unintelligible. When she consents that her manager may take such a liberty with her she is not a girl removed from the silly, vain creatures picked up by helter-skelter and exhibited recently as a congress or museum of beauty in New York for so much a day. Her managers have put her to a very repulsive use, but it would have been more honest in them if they had said at the outset: "We have a pretty woman. She has not had any stage experience. She can't act, and scores of American actresses have much greater ability, but she is fair to look at, and we will show her to you as Rosalind at so much an hour." This is substantially what they are doing, and it would be more honest to say so at once, though it would not detract anything from the vulgarity of it. —Chicago Tribune.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Telegrams from Saigon report that 10,000 Chinese have crossed the Tonquin frontier.

LONDON'S FIRE A GREAT ONE.

A Loss of Three Million Pounds Inflicted by the Conflagration of Thursday Night.

Eight Persons Injured, One Fatally—The Floods on the Continent—British Cabinet Talk.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The fire which broke out last night in the premises of Foster, Porter & Co., wholesale hosiery, Wood street, was the greatest which has occurred since the great Tooley street fire. The loss is estimated at £3,000,000. The whole block between London Wall, Phillip Lane, Abchurch-lane and Wood street, except the warehouses on the corner of London Wall have been destroyed. The fire is not subdued and the remainder of the block is in danger. It is believed eight persons are injured, some seriously. Foster, Porter & Co. had a stock of silk goods amounting to £2,000,000. The sale proceeds succeeded in saving a large amount of goods. The walls of the warehouse, built into Wood street and Phillip Lane, fell into Wood street with a crash, like thunder, being the streets with burning debris.

At this hour the engines are still pouring immense quantities of water on the ruins and the fire is under control. The burnt area is over two acres. One dream was killed by falling walls.

BURNING OF THE ALHAMBRA THEATRE.

A London special gives the following additional particulars of the fire in London: The Alhambra Theatre Royal was destroyed by fire to-night. Very fortunately the fire did not break out until the audience had quit the place, and those who were the last to leave will probably not have had time to read the papers to-morrow. The performance was finished precisely at 10 o'clock, and within fifteen minutes after the doors had been closed flames were discovered in the saloon of the theatre. The fire spread with lightning rapidity, and before the employees of the theatre realized the situation, the entire interior of the immense structure was a mass of flames. It was impossible to save anything, and the burning building, and all the effects of the performers and insiders were destroyed, as well as the valuable contents of the manager's office. The fire department was only able, by the most strenuous exertions, to confine the fire to the theatre and the building next to it, which was gutted. The theatre building is a total wreck. The rapidity with which the flames spread may be inferred from the fact that within half an hour after the audience left the large dome fell in with a crash. After the dome fell in the flames shot high into the air, illuminating the scene for blocks around with appalling grandeur. The cause of the fire is unknown. It is believed that no lives were lost, though the fact cannot be established, perhaps, until to-morrow. The Alhambra Royal was situated in Leicester square, and was one of the finest and largest, as well as one of the most popular theatres in London. Its seating capacity was about 6,000. The popularity of the theatre was due to the character of the attractions and the cheap prices, 2,000 seats being sold at 6d, 2,000 at 1s, and 1,000 at 2s. The performance which had just closed was the opera "The Merry War," which was produced with very elaborate effects and a large ballet. Among the people of the company were Miss Constance Lesby, Jesse Mayland, Miss Lory Stubb, and Miss Annie Messers. H. Wainman, Allan Thomas, and M. Albert Leveque. Among the dances were Misses De Larueve and Marie Valdin. Three hundred persons are thrown out of employment by the fire. The escape of the audience is considered providential, for had the fire broken out half an hour earlier the loss of life would have been frightful.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN, Dec. 8.—The counsel for Patrick Higgins, the alleged principal in the Huddy murders, set up the defense that the informer, Kerrigan, was the real murderer. Kerrigan, by said, had been recruited by the teachings of the Land League, the author of three-fourths of the crimes committed. The Freeman Journal says: "Davitt intends to subpoena Gladstone and Trevelyan, chief secretary for Ireland, on the passage of the land bill." Trevelyan arrived last evening.

CONK, DEC. 8.—A man named Clark was arrested to-day as he was embarking for America. The arrest is considered important.

THE HADDYS.

A Dublin correspondent sends the following: "Four men are about to be put on their trial in Dublin for a double murder which ranks in cold blooded atrocity with the massacres of the Jozeys. In November last Thomas Huddy and his nephew a lad of seventeen, were serving writs on the property of Lord Ardilaun, on the wild strip of country which lies between Cong and Lough Mask. They left their car on the road while they proceeded across a few fields to the cottage of a man named Kerrigan. They never returned, and ten days afterward their bodies were found in the deepest waters of Lough Mask, couched up and tied in sacks which had been weighed with large stones to keep their dreadful burdens at the bottom. But the lake gave up the secret. Many arrests were made, but no direct evidence

IMMUNITY FOR 20 PER CENT.

Thieves Say They Buy Protection of Washington Detectives.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The citizens' movement to secure greater protection from professional burglars and sneak thieves is assuming form. To-day a delegation representing the Citizens' Committee went down to the district jail and held an interview with O'Leary and Murphy, the convicted three-card monte and bunco men now serving out a year's sentence. These men made some startling revelations to the committee. They gave detailed accounts of the Burdette silk robbery, the robberies in the Wood and Upton houses in I street, the Government Printing Office money theft, and the Fitch, Fox & Brown robbery, showing a thorough knowledge of those affairs. The names of the operatives in each instance were given, the list including well-known Northern professionals. The first three jobs were performed, they allege by John Burnett, alias Little Johnny, Jack Connolly, and Matt Allen, and the others by men known to them as Little Horace (a sneak thief expert), Axel Rice, and "Buck." The monte men say that the detectives of Washington in each instance received a percentage of the proceeds of the robberies. The amount of proceeds in every case was given with particularity, and the names of the detectives who were most active in the business were furnished. They allege that certain of the detectives, whom they name, planned each robbery and sent for the thieves to carry it out, a field of operations being chosen where the detectives could afford the thieves reasonable immunity from capture.

POOR HENRY HADN'T STYLE ENOUGH.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—Do you know why the President named Marshal Henry? "Because he was a well-known public man last night at a gathering of politicians." "Because he was in sympathy with the Star route people," said one.

"Because he was Garfield's friend," said another.

"Neither," said the first speaker. "Henry never had anything to do with the Star route men, nor did he plan, and the story that he schemed to protect them is all moonshine. Henry hadn't will enough for such work. Nobody with half sense would advise such a dual deal of standing in with such sharpies as Brady and Dasey?"

"What was it then?"

"Well, Henry's style didn't suit the President and old Brewster. We have an elegant Administration now, you know, and old Brewster is a tight-fisted old swell. He and Arthur don't want anybody but tony people about them. The duty of the Marshal requires him to be much about the White House. He is a sort of a Major Domo or Grand Chamberlain in fact. Well, everybody knows what sort of a man Henry is. A good-hearted, honest fellow, liked enough, but only a plain country bumpkin. Garfield was a plain, courtiered man himself, and surrounded himself with men of the same sort. A sort of rough, unrefined, Sunday-school sort of fellows, one knows. Henry got Henry somewhere down to the woods on the Western Reserve. He was very tried to the best of his ability, but he nearly broke, old Brewster's heart to see him around. When Brewster came around with his ruffled shirt bosom and his elegant friends from Chestnut street Philadelphia, and had to meet Henry with his bow-tie and his high-top shoes, he wanted a man that could put on some style, you know, and so old Arthur, so they trumped up their Star route charge against Henry, and he had to go. I hear he is going back to Ohio to start a stone quarry. Brewster had Clae McMichael appointed in his stead because he is a society man of Philadelphia, and stands in with aristocracy."

A SURE ENOUGH MAD STONE.

Oxford Falcon: Ben Milan, who resides in Mississippi, near the Marshall county line, and who is the owner of the wonderful mad stone, of which we made mention some months ago, dropped in to see us Saturday last while on a business trip to our city. Mr. Milan informs us that since the stone has been in the possession of his family, 1,200 cases have been treated in all, not one of which failed to recover. An average of fifteen patients test the curative powers of the stone annually, which is about three times as great as before the war. The history of this wonderful stone, as we get it from Mr. Milan, is that in 1810 a Dr. Barker of Alabama, brought the stone from China, where it was known as the "snake-stone," being used by the Chinese to cure snake and spider bites and those of other poisonous insects. Soon after Dr. Barker returned to Alabama he began to test the stone on persons bitten by mad dogs, and with great success, and so used it until his death, which occurred several years afterward, when, with other effects, the stone was sold and became the property of Gravis Milan (father of Ben) and three of his neighbors. One at a time the joint owners sold out until Mr. Milan became proprietor of the stone, and at his death will be to his son, the present owner, who only a few days since refused for it \$7,500.

FESTIVAL OF ST. GEORGE.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 8.—The festival of St. George took place to-day. All dignitaries of the order assembled at noon in the Winter palace, where a Te Deum was sung and a banquet subsequently held. The czar proposed the health of the emperor of Germany, which was drunk with enthusiasm. In the evening a theatrical performance, at which the emperor and empress and Imperial family were present, was given in Anothkoff palace.

BRITISH CABINET CHANGES.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The Times says it has reason to believe that soon after Christmas Derby will be invited to join the cabinet. Children, now war secretary, will become chancellor of the exchequer, and Dilke, under foreign secretary, will enter the cabinet. It says these changes may be precursors of even more important ones. It is possible that before the end of next session of parliament Gladstone may consider himself entitled to retire, and in such contingency there is little doubt that Hartington will become prime minister.

RELIEF OF CUSTER.

Chicago Herald: At a meeting of Custer Post, No. 10, last night, officers for the ensuing year were elected. Lieut. Danenhower, adjutant of the post last year, and a brother of the Arctic explorer, has received the following letter from Mrs. Gen. Custer:

Lieut. Danenhower: Dear Sir—I beg that you will pardon the delay in acknowledging the honor your post has conferred on me by making me an honorary member.

I have been deeply sensible of the remembrance of me in my quiet life, and my pen can hardly frame words to express how proud it makes me that the "Custer Post No. 40" has associated my name with that of the hero they honor.

My health has been so impaired in overwork in a labor of love that I undertook years ago, after God bowed my head in sorrow, that I have not been equal to writing many letters. I beg that you will offer these apologies to the members of your post, and assure them that my delay has arisen through no lack of interest. Since hearing from you, and from Mr. Lenman Hudson last year, how very much

CHINA FROWNS UPON FRANCE.

LONDON, Dec. 11.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Paris says it is stated that China is making great preparations to resist the French designs on Tonquin. The French Government is consequently being urged to take active measures.

PARIS, Dec. 11.—The Republic Française again violently attacks the policy of the British Government in Egypt. The article concludes: "Egypt is too big a morsel to be swallowed, even by England, and this she will find out."

THE TRAPS, IN AN ARTICLE ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE IN REGARD TO EGYPT, SAYS THEY ARE TWO GUILTY PARTIES.

The French Chamber encouraged British aspirations when it recorded a vote proclaiming indifference to the obligations of foreign policy. Debate on the extraordinary budget was begun in the Chamber of Deputies to-day. M. Tirard, Minister of Finance, maintained that the deficit of 65,000,000 francs in the budget for 1882 was more apparent than real, since 100,000,000 francs had been devoted to the redemption of the public debt. He declared that the deficit for 1883 would not reach 1,000,000 francs. The Government, he said, was determined to oppose all fresh expenditure not rigorously justified. He insisted upon the necessity of carrying out public works by installments. His speech was applauded. The Chamber will not sit to-morrow on account of the funeral of M. Louis Blanc.

The Senate, by a vote of 138 to 87, has passed a vote of 10,000 francs for the expenses of the funeral of Louis Blanc, which takes place to-morrow. Anarchists threaten to make a hostile demonstration at the funeral.

IN ENGLAND A DECISION HAS JUST BEEN RENDERED, BY MR. JUSTICE MATTHEWS, THAT A HUSBAND IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COSTS OF AN ATTORNEY EMPLOYED BY HIS WIFE WHEN SHE SUES FOR A DIVORCE.

This will be gratifying to the male defendants in divorce cases now before the courts in London. Had the decision been the other way, it would have been rough on the husband. He would lose, no matter how the suit went. If the divorce was granted, he would lose his wife; if denied, he would lose his money.

HALF OF KINGSTON BURNED.

The Capitol of Jamaica Once More Laid in Ashes.

Flames Extending For a Mile and a Quarter Along the Water Front. The Loss Put at Thirty Millions—An Appeal for Relief.

New York, Dec. 20.—The following dispatch was received from Kingston, Jamaica:

The business portion of Kingston was burned yesterday. The loss is estimated at 30,000,000 sterling. Hundreds of homes, law offices, warehouses, stores, banks, and supplies are gone. Food supplies are needed. Charitable relief should be sent to W. K. Arzbill, Secretary of Kingston charity organization.

George P. Forwood, agent of the Atlantic steamers, received additional particulars of the fire by cable. He said that the fire originated near the water front. The sea breeze that prevails during the evening fanned the flames inland.

The fire extended about 1 1/2 miles along the water front, from the wharf of the Royal Mail Steamship Company to the Atlas line's wharf, continued Mr. Forwood. "Nearly all the buildings were one and two stories high and made of wood. There was no fire department, and the negro natives who compose the great part of the population were probably too much frightened or too lazy to combat the flames."

THREATENING LETTERS INDUCE THEM TO ASK FOR A MILITARY ESCORT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Secretary Lincoln has ordered an escort of soldiers for the protection of the Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise. The Marquis and Princess recently arrived in San Francisco from British Columbia. It was announced that they intended to take a trip through the Southwestern country, perhaps as far south as New Orleans. At all events they desire to go over the Southern Pacific Railroad as far as San Antonio, Texas. They, however, have received several very threatening letters. Some of them have been specific in asserting that both the Marquis and the Princess would be killed. More of them have been seemingly friendly and warned the party of danger. Something in the tone of some of these letters led the Marquis and some of his party to fear that the threats were really something more than idle. It was determined, however, not to give up the trip, but to see if a suitable escort could not be provided. Secretary Lincoln was made acquainted with the fact, and was requested to furnish such escort if circumstances so required. He decided at once that it would be a military escort if the Governor-General of Canada was to make a trip through the Western country, and a section not policed, to offer him suitable protection. He, therefore, to-day ordered a detail of one officer and ten men to accompany the party as an escort as far as San Antonio, Texas. The threatening letters do not intimate from what quarter or for what reason the attack on the party is contemplated.

FRANCE HOSTILITY TO ENGLAND—THE NATIONAL DEFICIT AND LOUIS BLANC'S FUNERAL.

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UNLESS CONGRESS IS PREPARED TO SEE THE PURPOSE OF THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK DEFEATED, IT WILL GIVE UP TO WHAT GEN. SHERIDAN SAYS ABOUT IT IN HIS REPORT TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT. IT SEEMS THAT THE PARK IS "TREATED OUT TO PRIVATE PARTIES."

Of course, they are using it "for money-making purposes," and not only as Gen. Sheridan says, it is probable that "claims and conditions will arise that may be hard for the Government and the courts to slink off," but such a present disposition of the place will impair, if it does not wholly destroy, its character in the future as a unique popular preserve. For example, one of its features should be that since its discovery as many as 4,000 elk have been "killed by skin-hunters" in the park, and that during last winter alone as many as 2,000 were slaughtered, besides mountain-sheep, deer, and other animals. At this rate how long will there be any game left to preserve? Gen. Sheridan recommends that the park be extended in an easterly direction about forty miles, so as to add 3,311 square miles to its area, and "make a preserve for the large game of the West, now so rapidly decreasing." This recommendation is a good one, as well as the further suggestions that "the improvements in the park should be National," and controlled by the Government, and that "small appropriations be made and expended each year on roads, trails, etc. He says that a small body of troops will "keep out the skin-hunters and all other hunters," and make the park a safe resort for the game now drifting toward it. This is manifestly the easiest way to police the park.