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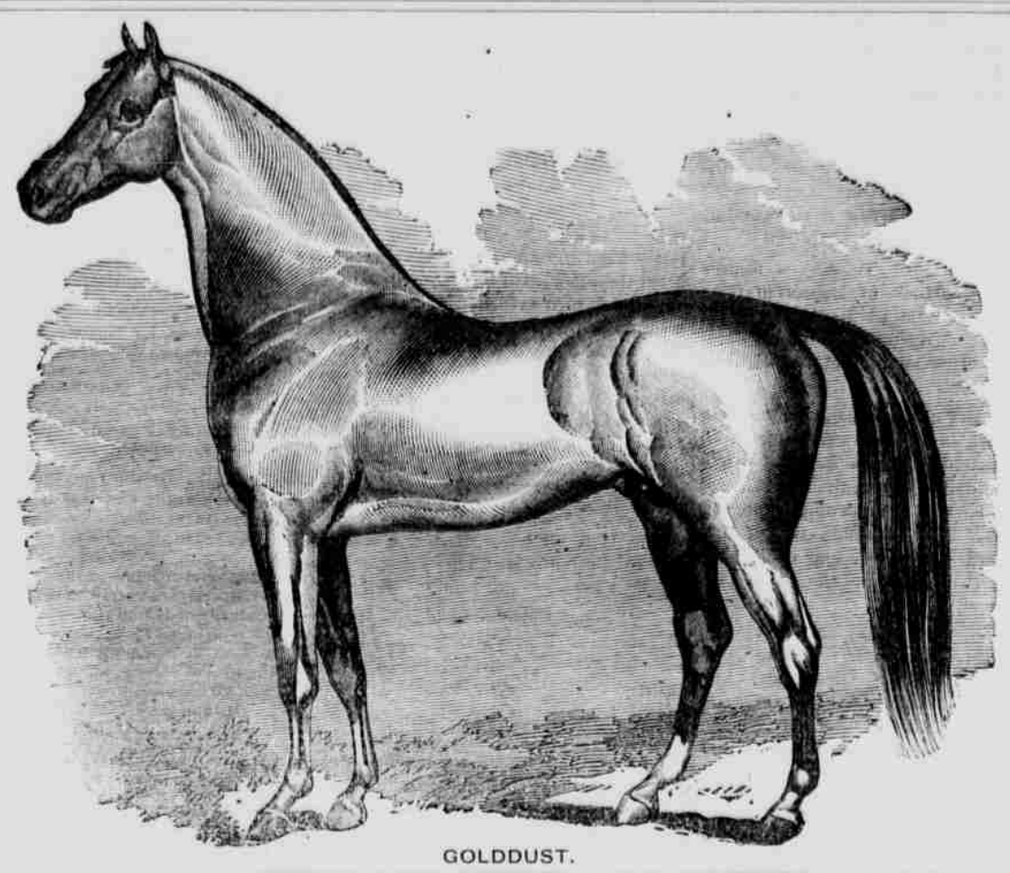

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OUR COMPLIMENTS.

To our friends who take special interest in this department we are pleased to offer a New Year's gift in the shape of an added page, giving double space, and, we hope, more than double value. The exceeding favor with which our work has been received by the public, and the abundance of excellent material that has accumulated in our hands for want of space for publication in this deparment, has seemed to us to warrant and demand this extension. We hope and expect, by increased effort, to promote the interest and value of this branch of our work in even greater degree than we have increased its space; and if the coming year shall give us the measure of success that the past year has foreshadowed, our paper at the next New Year will be one of the first of the New England Weeklies, and the Horse Department among the most popular as well as the most valuable publications of its kind in the land.

Our work on Morgan Pedigrees is progressing rapidly, but we are not yet able to answer the many inquiries as to when the book will be published. We hope to complete and give it to the public before the close of the present year. In the meantime, send us the pedigrees of Morgan stallions. We want all meritorious stock horses that trace in direct male line to Justin Morgan. Blanks will be supplied free on application to the REGISTER Office, Middlebury, Vt. Wishing all our patrons a Happy New Year, we blithely take up the burdens of 1886.

THE REGISTER'S WAY OF PRESENTING EVIDENCE.

Having been long impressed with the idea that the public is not a babe to be supplied with pap by the spoonful, but a grown man capable of selecting its own regimen, we have departed from the usual methods of furnishing testimony respecting doubtful or disputed pedigrees. We endeavor, as far as possible, to enable any reader to arrive at his own conclusions respecting these questions, by giving him the whole testimony just as it came to us. We only take care that the evidence shall be respectable and worthy of credit, and then give it entire, although we may have plenty of reason to suppose that the witness is mistaken or the evidence inaccurate upon some points. This appears to us to be the best and surest way of arriving at truth, as well as the more interesting way for the reader, who then has an opportunity to exercise his own judgment and is not bound to rest upon opinions cut and dried for him. Moreover, if evidence is to be given to the public when taken, and before the testimony is all in, it will be found very dangerous to suppress any portion as being erroneous, because it not infrequently happens that the truth lies in statements that the expert in these matters would at first reject as obvious errors or sheer fabrications. On the other hand, while pursuing this method it would be obviously unfair to hold us as vouching for, or in any way committed to, any statement of fact or theory that may appear in such testimony. We shall express our opinion eventually upon all important questions raised, but until so expressed we do not wish to be understood as holding any given view by reason of any evidence appearing in the course of publication.

THE PRINCE OF THE WOODBURY MORGANS.

Six sons only of Justin Morgan are known to have been used for stock purposes: these were Sherman, Bulrush, Woodbury, Revenge, the Hawkins Horse and the Fenton Horse. The first three only founded families, the others apparently having done but little service with the exception of Revenge, whose stock was for some time favorably known about Claremont, N. H., and to which some pedigrees now make uncertain claims to trace. It has been before noticed that from each of the three sons whose blood was perpetuated, one or more families of trotters have sprung. From Sherman came the Black Hawks, with numerous and excellent sub-families, among which the Lamberts are now the most distinguished; from Bulrush are derived the Morrills, represented today by the Winthrop Morrills, the Fearnaughts and others. Articles on these two lines of blood have already been given in these columns. We now turn to the descendants of Woodbury Morgan, and find among them two rising trotting families—the Magna Chartas and the Golddusts.

The above cut is said to be an excellent likeness of Golddust at four years old. He was then a magnificent colt sixteen hands high and of the color of pure gold. He always bore himself, as did his grandson, Gifford, like the lord of many lands. He was a horse of unsurpassed beauty and symmetry of form, had high carriage and intelligence and an easy and powerful natural trotting action. At maturity he weighed 1275 pounds and was as perfectly sound and lively at sixteen as at three years of age. No description of him could aid the above excellent portrait in giving an impression of the form and appearance of Golddust. We have, through the kindness of Mr. Dorsey, a lithograph of Golddust at sixteen years from a portrait from life by Van Dusen. This picture shows a little finer muzzle, a somewhat more arching neck and a little greater depth of barrel, as would be natural at full maturity; otherwise it is precisely the same horse given in this illustration. His marks were a white off hind ankle and the suggestion of a star in the forehead.

Golddust was bred by L. L. Dorsey, Esq., at Eden Stock Farm, near Louisville, Ky., and was foaled in 1855. His sire was Vermont Morgan, son of Barnard Morgan, by Gifford, by Woodbury, by Justin Morgan. The dam of Golddust was a deep red chestnut mare sired (according to Saunders) by Zilcadie, a chestnut Arabian horse presented by the Sultan to Mr. Rhind and by him imported to the United States; second dam by imported Barefoot, son of Tramp. Vermont Morgan, sire of Golddust, was taken to Madison county, Illinois, in the fall of 1849 by John Y. Sawyer then of Reading, Vermont, who sold him in 1853 to L. L. Dorsey, who took him to Kentucky. Mr. Sawyer and his brother-in-law, Hamlin Whitcomb of Springfield, Vt., purchased him in the fall of 1848 of Lyman Lockwood, also of Springfield, by whom he was bred. Mr. Dorsey says that the dam of Vermont Morgan was "Chase's Morgan mare, said to trace directly back through sire and dam to the original Justin Morgan." Mr. Sawyer says she was owned by Moses F. Chase and was called a Sherman Morgan mare. Mr. Dorsey also says that Vermont Morgan was "a beautiful, high-styled Morgan horse, 14 1-2 to 15 hands high." Mr. Sawyer had Vermont Morgan in Madison Co., Ill., from 1849 to 1853 and while there he got Prairie Bird, of which Mr. V. P. Richmond (whose very interesting letter we will presently publish) says: "Prairie Bird was a very showy horse and fine traveler and if he had been properly trained would have been, in his day, considered a fast horse. The dam was good blood Virginia running stock." Vermont Morgan also sired a few colts before he left Vermont.

Barnard Morgan, sire of Vermont Morgan, was a dark dapple bay horse with heavy black mane and tail. He stood 15 1-2 hands and weighed 1000 pounds. He was bred by Levi N. Barnard of Springfield, Windsor county, Vermont, and foaled in 1843. His sire was Gifford Morgan and his dam was a very dark brown mare, nearly black, bred by Alva Newton of Springfield, Vt., and sired by a horse called Bonaparte, of which Mr. Levi N. Barnard, breeder of Barnard Morgan, who furnishes this pedigree writes, "This horse Bonaparte was purchased of a southern officer after the battle of Plattsburgh by a man by the name of Judevine, and was known as the Judevine horse. He was kept in Springfield a number of seasons and left a noble stock; was the best parade horse at the musters in this vicinity ever known before Gifford Morgan."

Barnard Morgan was kept at Springfield, Vt., till 1849, then at Cornish, N. H., till 1855, when John Y. Sawyer, having disposed of Vermont Morgan, purchased Barnard Morgan and two of his sons (called Granite State and Bull Rush Morgan), and took them to Alton, Madison county, Ill., in which vicinity Barnard Morgan remained the rest of his life, and died about 1872. He was a horse of great elegance and beauty, took first premium as best roadster stallion at the Madison county, Ill., fairs in 1855 and 1856, and was shown in 1857 with over twenty of his get at St. Louis, "when he was covered with blue ribbons."

Golddust was always owned by Mr. Dorsey and was kept at Eden Farm, where he was taken sick and died in December 1871, being then in his seventeenth year and apparently in his prime. As a three-year-old he had won a record in Kentucky of 3:00 3-4, claimed to have been the fastest mile ever made by a three-year-old up to that time (1858). Mr. Dorsey says, "He was shown from two-years-old and was never beaten, either as a walker, trotter, or as a show stallion."

Golddust was continuously in the stud from 1859 to 1871, but was the sire of only about three hundred foals. More than one in nine of the whole number have been winners of public races, and among them are:

Lucille Golddust, 2:16 1-4; dam, s. t. b. by Bald Hornet.

Fleety Golddust, 2:20; dam, Flight by John Morgan.

Indicator, 2:23 1-4, dam, Capitola, by Bob Jordon.

Rolla Golddust, 2:25 (saddle, 2:21), dam unknown.

Tennyson, 2:30; dam unknown.

Rosa Golddust, 2:32; dam unknown, and Gentianella, 2:35; dam by Tecumseh.

Five sons of Golddust are represented in the 2:30 list, viz:

Zilcadie Golddust, sire of Whirlwind, 2:24.

Glencoe Golddust, sire of Geo. W. Davis, 2:26 1-2.

Fancy Golddust, sire of Fred Golddust, 2:27.

Lexington Golddust, sire of Sir Roger, 2:23 1-4.

Dorsey Golddust, sire of Arthur, 2:28 3-4.

Daughters of Golddust have produced the trotters, Farce, 2:29 1-2; Orient, 2:30; Pathfinder, jr., 2:30 and Romance, 2:29 1-2, and the world-renowned pacers, Gossip, jr., 2:14, and Johnston, 2:06 1-4; the latter being the fastest record ever won in single harness, beating the best record of Maud S., by 2 1-2 seconds. It will be noted also, that Lucille Golddust has the lowest record of any trotter tracing through the sire in direct male line to Justin Morgan.

The subject of the Golddusts will be continued in a future issue.

PEDIGREE HUNTING:

OR,

THE WRAITH OF THE OLD GRAY MARE.

BEING A TRUE HISTORY OF THE DAM OF ETHAN ALLEN.

"Pids't heed, Horatio; I'll take the ghost's word for a thousand pounds."

A few weeks ago I had occasion to drive over to Ti, and whilst there made enquiries in relation to the dam of Ethan Allen. I was referred to Mr. William Arthur as the most reliable authority in such matters; and as a man of most wonderful memory.

Pretty much all, perhaps all, of what purported to be authentic testimony hitherto published about this mare has been given by Wallace. In the April number of his magazine for 1877, in an article of much merit entitled "History of Ethan Allen by the Editor," Wallace says: