

The Champion Horses.

BY JOSEPH FREEMAN MARSTEN.

THE MOST FAMOUS RECORD-HOLDERS AND PRIZE-WINNERS OF THE VARIOUS BREEDS INTO WHICH THE FINEST OF FOUR-FOOTED ANIMALS HAS BEEN SPECIALIZED.

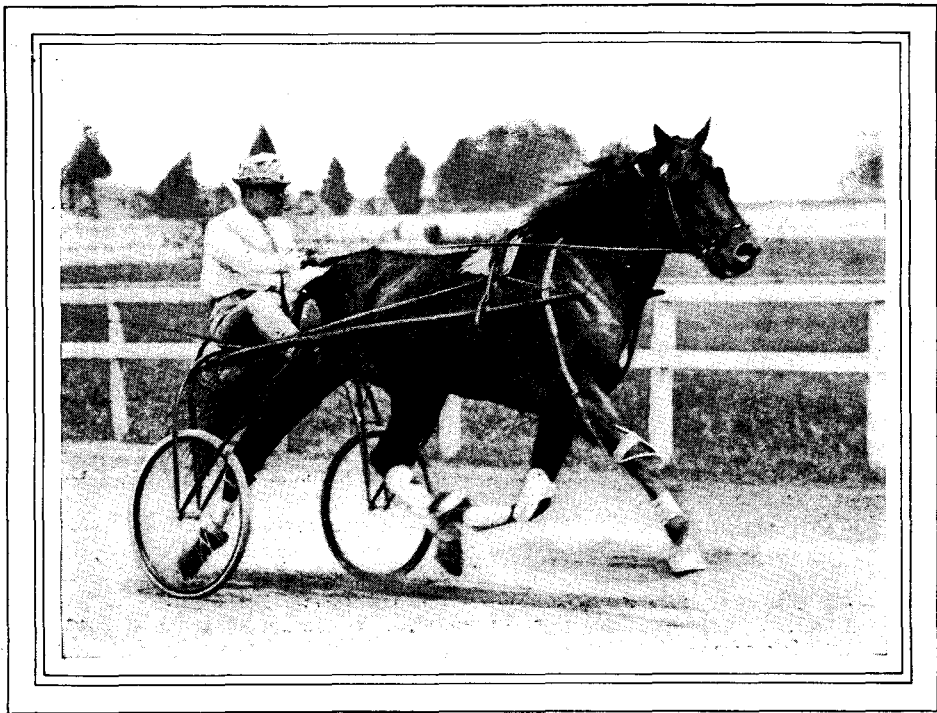
IT was said, not long ago, that horse and man would become extinct at about the same time, and that at no very distant period. The reason given to support this remarkable statement was that the automobile would replace the quadruped and run over the biped.

There is no denying the fact that we are fast approaching the age of the general predominance of the horseless vehicle. This, however, does not mean the extermination of the horse. On the contrary, the equine has never occupied a more conspicuous and important position all over the world, and especially in this country, than he holds to-day. It has been stated, and with some degree of

truth, that the United States is "horse crazy" at the present time.

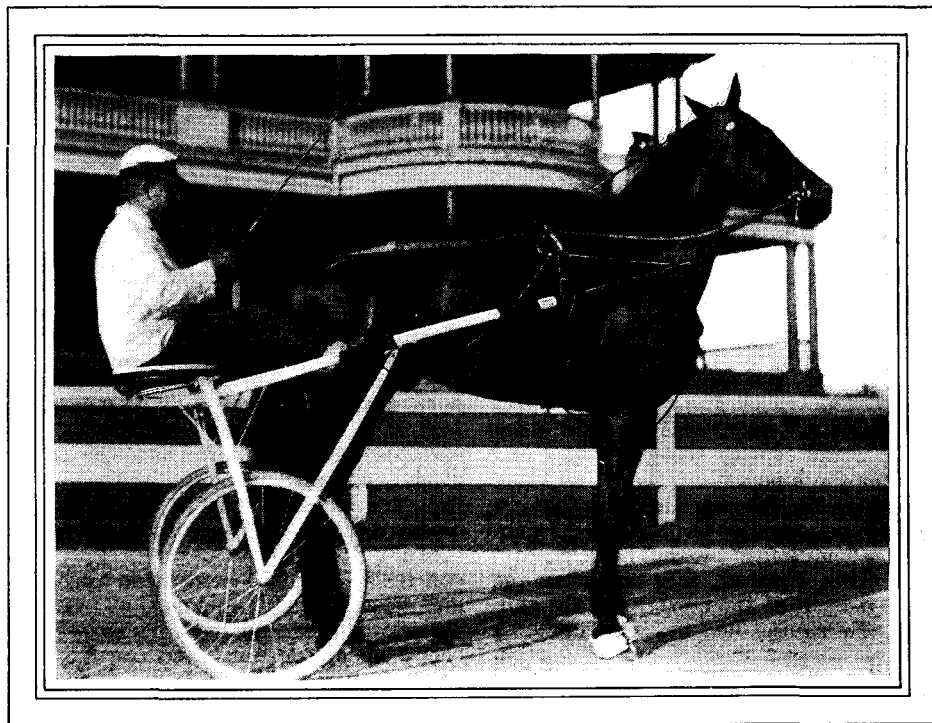
To show on how firm a pedestal the horse stands to-day, it may be mentioned that at a conservative estimate we have not less than a hundred million dollars directly invested in horses and the horse industry, and that the sum involved is increasing each year. Were we to add to this gigantic total the money represented in enterprises which depend upon the horse and horse-lovers for support, such as racing—thoroughbred and light harness—horse shows, polo, coaching, and the like, the figures would be trebled or quadrupled.

With our characteristic American fondness for a champion in every line,



CRESCEUS, THE CHAMPION TROTTER, WHOSE RECORD FOR THE MILE IS TWO MINUTES, TWO SECONDS AND A QUARTER.

From a photograph by Marx, Brooklyn.



DAN PATCH, THE CHAMPION PACER OF 1902—HIS RECORD FOR THE MILE IS ONE MINUTE, FIFTY-NINE SECONDS AND A HALF.

From a photograph by the Pictorial News Company, New York.

it is only natural that we should take more than a passing interest in the horses that stand as the best types of the species. Of course it is impossible to pick out any one horse and style that particular animal, whatever be his merits, "the champion horse." The different breeds vary so widely in conformation, size, and looks that any such attempted comparison would be absurd on its face. The slender thoroughbred cannot be judged by the rules that apply to the stockily-built hackney, nor can the artificially-gaited trotter or pacer be compared to the mongrel polo pony with his mustang blood. Centuries of more and more careful and scientific breeding have made too radical departures, and drawn the different breeds too far apart, for any single standard to be applied to all horse-flesh.

Each distinct breed, however, has its finest representatives, and from among them we can usually—though not in every case—pick some one animal which is fairly entitled, by his breeding and his performances, to be called champion.

CRESCEUS, KING OF THE TROTTERS.

At the top of the list of champion American horses stands Cresceus, cham-

pion trotter of the world, owned, trained, and driven to his many wonderful records by Mr. George W. Ketchum. Here is a horse of which America may well be proud, for in this son of Robert McGregor and Mabel the two minute trotter, elusive as the will-o'-the-wisp, has been all but realized. In addition to the world's mile trotting record—two minutes, two seconds and a quarter—Cresceus holds the mile race record of two minutes, three seconds and a quarter—made against The Abbot at Brighton Beach—the two mile record of four minutes, seventeen seconds, and the record of two minutes, fifteen seconds, for trotting on the ice, made at Ottawa, in Canada, last winter.

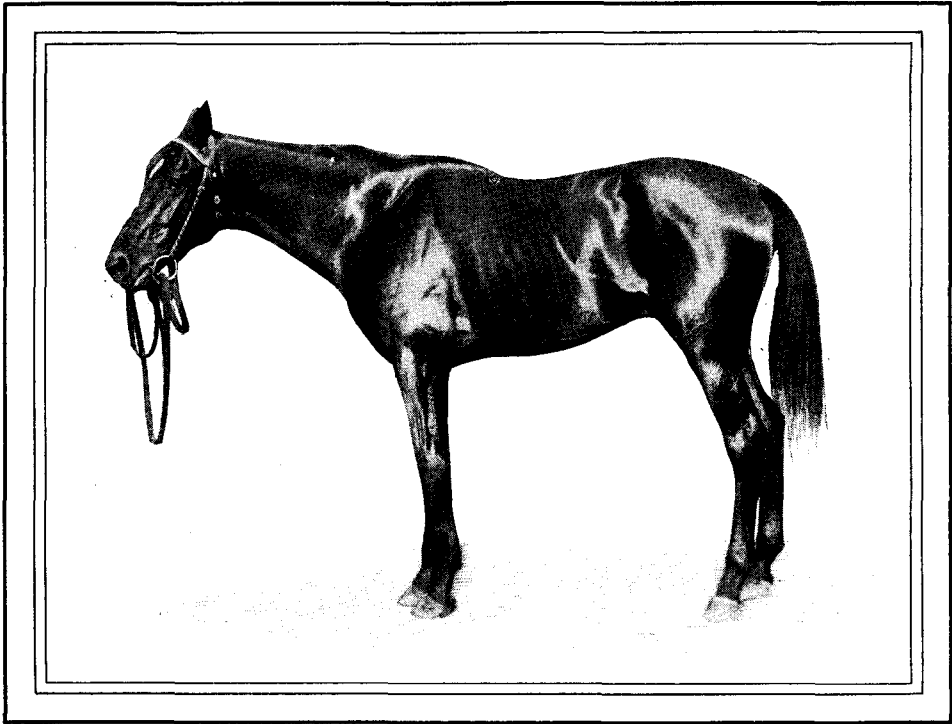
Each succeeding year has added new laurels to the champion trotter's crown. Not the least of these is the fact that he is the first stallion to hold the world's record. Since 1845, mares have held the coveted title most of the time. Lady Suffolk, Highland Maid, Flora Temple, Goldsmith Maid, Maud S., Sunol, Nancy Hanks, and Alix were all queens of the trotting turf; and the other champions—Dexter, Occident, Rarus, St. Julien, Jay-Eye-See, and The Abbot—were geldings.

The reason for this is not hard to find. The mares and geldings greatly outnumber the stallions in training, and the careers of the latter are usually short. Cresceus will be retired to the stud this summer in the full possession of all his wonderful speed, and with more honors than were ever won before by any horse. He is a chestnut, and was foaled in 1894. His lines are suggestive of strength and stamina rather than grace and beauty.

Lamplighter, Lazzarone, Bankrupt, Pickpocket, and Stockton are all the get of Spendthrift.

The record of Hastings was a brilliant one. Old turfites remember well his famous duels with Handspring and Clifford. The Surf Stakes, the Toboggan Handicap, and the Belmont Stakes were some of the classics which Hastings put to his credit while racing.

Hastings has already proven himself to



HASTINGS, THE CHAMPION THOROUGHbred SIRE OF 1902, OWNED BY AUGUST BELMONT.

From a photograph by Marx, Brooklyn.

He is a perfect racing machine, and needs only a slight hint from his driver, knowing, seemingly, just what is expected of him.

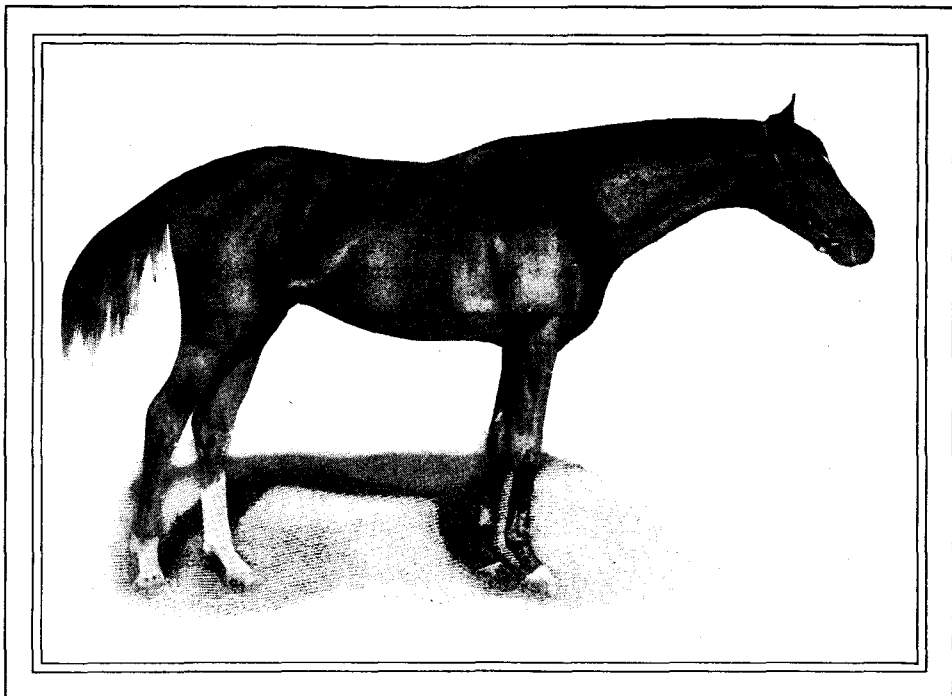
THE CHAMPION THOROUGHbred SIRE.

Mr. August Belmont, financier and turfman, the president of the Jockey Club, owns in Hastings, the champion thoroughbred sire of 1902, one of the most promising young stallions now living. Hastings headed the list of winning sires last year, and his get won more than a hundred thousand dollars in stakes and purses. Hastings is a brown horse, and was foaled in 1893. His sire, Spendthrift, was a great racer; his dam was the imported Cinderella. Kingston,

be a great sire. He was sent to the Nursery Stud of Mr. August Belmont in 1899, and the first of his get ran as two-year-olds in 1901. Some of his sons and daughters who have already made names on the turf are Masterman, Mizzen, Lord of the Vale, Gunfire, Rosetint, Toscan, Gloriosa, and Fire Eater. All of them have remarkable constitutions, possess great gameness, and show ability to race in any kind of going. Hastings had bad feet, however, and he has unfortunately transmitted this hereditary defect to most of his progeny.

DAN PATCH, KING OF THE PACERS.

The pacer king of 1902 was Dan Patch, whose record stands at half a second less



HERMIS, OWNED BY LOUIS V. BELL, AND RECOGNIZED AS THE CHAMPION THREE-YEAR-OLD OF 1902 ON THE RACE-TRACKS OF THE EASTERN STATES.

than two minutes. At Readville, Massachusetts, in September, this remarkable horse paced a mile in one minute, fifty-nine seconds and a quarter, but the time was not allowed, as the conditions of the trial required him to beat the world's record, which Star Pointer set at precisely that figure. All horsemen expect the new champion to do still better during the present season. Indeed, it is predicted that he will go the distance in less than a minute and fifty-nine seconds.

Dan Patch is trotting bred, a member of the great Wilkes family. His father was also a champion—Joe Patchen, two minutes, one second and a quarter. He is a bay, and was foaled in 1897.

Dan Patch toured the country last summer, going exhibition miles in all the prominent cities, and always pacing around the two minute mark. He entered only three races, which he won easily. In the fall Mr. M. W. Savage of Minneapolis purchased him for sixty thousand dollars. The price is significant when it is recalled that Star Pointer, in his prime, was sold for less than sixteen thousand.

CHAMPIONS OF THE TURF, EAST AND WEST.

Hermis, the champion three-year-old of 1902, is the property of Mr. Louis V. Bell, the New York broker, and is one of

the gamest thoroughbreds racing to-day on the American turf. A son of Hermence and Katy of the West, he started fourteen times, was first ten times, second once, third twice, and once unplaced. While Hermis failed to win any one of the great three-year-old classics, he was adjudged a better horse than Major Daingerfield, who won four important races—the Brooklyn Derby, the Tidal Stakes, the Lawrence Realization, and the Annual Champion—from inferior fields. The two three-year-olds did not meet in competition. Hermis did not round into his best form until late in the season, when he beat the best all-aged horses of the country in brilliant fashion.

McChesney, last year's champion three-year-old of the West, probably shares with Sceptre, the famous English filly, the honor of being the most talked-of horse in the world. McChesney is a son of MacDuff and Manola Mason, and is one of the most honest thoroughbreds that ever looked through a bridle. He started seventeen times in Western races, was first eight times, second four times, third once, and unplaced four times. Messrs. Durnell & Herz, the owners of the colt, raced him all winter at New Orleans, and then sold him for thirty thousand dollars to Mr. E. E. Smathers

of New York, the owner of Lord Derby and many other fast trotting horses.

McChesney is a large chestnut horse, a grand weight-carrier, who shows at his best over a distance of ground. Once in front, he stays there, although his winning margin is seldom large. As a stretch runner he has few equals and no superiors. Horsemen are looking forward with keen delight to the meeting of McChesney and Hermis. Each numbers supporters by the thousand, and the contest will be well worth the seeing.

OTHER CHAMPION HORSES.

Lord Brilliant and Lord Golden, champion singles and tandem pair, are without doubt the two most remarkable show horses living to-day. Trained and driven by Aurel Batonyi, the well-known professional whip, they have been exhibited all over the country, and have won hundreds of blue ribbons.

Lord Brilliant is a chestnut gelding,

fourteen years old, measuring fourteen hands and three inches and a half. He has been exhibited four hundred and fifty-one times, and has won four hundred and forty-four firsts and seventy-five championships, with more than forty thousand dollars in prizes, not to mention many cups and plates. For the past three years, driven by Aurel Batonyi, he has won the Waldorf-Astoria five-hundred-dollar gold cup given at the National Horse Show, in Madison Square Garden, for the best gig horse. Mr. H. C. Hoskier, who showed Lord Brilliant in 1900, sold the horse to Dr. John L. Wentz, who won with him in 1901 and 1902. A win next fall will give him the coveted cup outright.

Lord Golden is a golden chestnut gelding, eighteen years old and of precisely the same height as Lord Brilliant. He has won two hundred and thirty-one first prizes. He makes a perfect wheeler for his champion colleague. The latter is



J. M. WATERBURY ON HIS FAMOUS POLO PONY, STRAWBERRY.

From a photograph by the Pictorial News Company, New York.

an exceedingly high-spirited and nervous animal, and all but ran away with Aurel Batonyi at the Atlantic City horse show last year.

Fandango, the champion hackney stal-

other stallion. He won the American Hackney Society challenge cup in 1899 and 1900.

Heatherbloom, recognized as the champion high jumper of the world, is the



MCCHESNEY, OWNED BY E. E. SMATHERS, AND RECOGNIZED AS THE CHAMPION THREE-YEAR-OLD OF 1902 ON THE RACE-TRACKS OF THE WESTERN STATES.

From a photograph by Cook, Chicago.

lion, was imported into this country in 1893 by Mr. Frederick Joy, of Detroit, from the Brookfield Stud of Mr. Burdett-Coutts, London. He is now the property of Mr. F. C. Stevens of Attica, New York, owner of the Maplewood Hackney Stud. Fandango is fifteen and a half hands high, a bright chestnut in color, and is now in his twelfth year. He is a son of Rattler and Polly, and is the sire of more National Horse Show winners than any

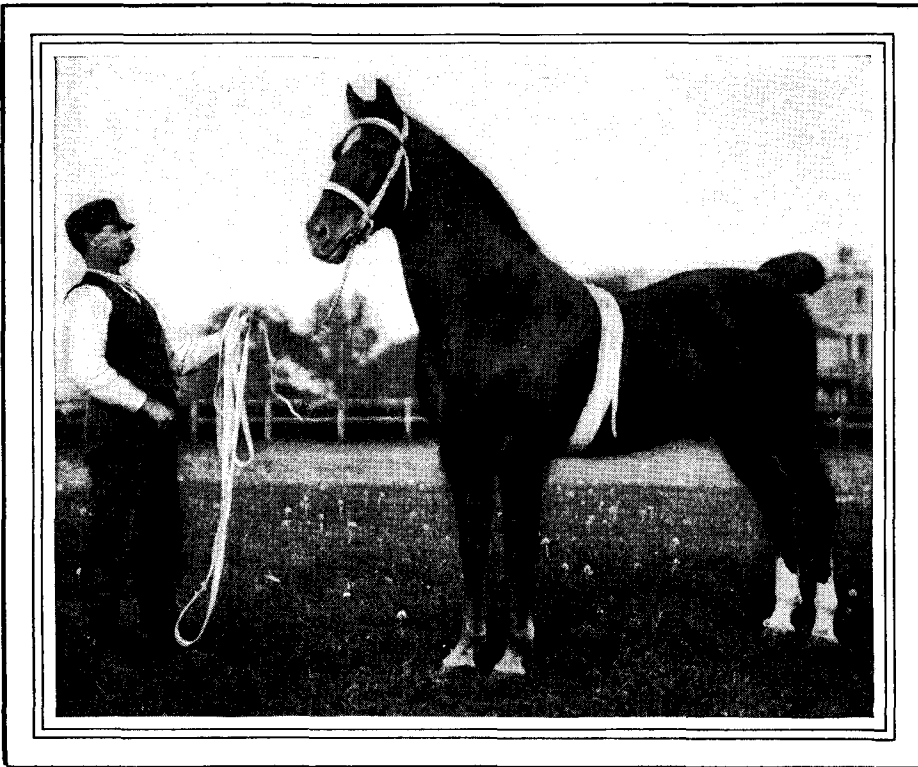
property of Mr. Howard Willets, of White Plains, New York. He is a brown gelding, by Philosophy, son of Longfellow, and has a white slip on his face. He has a record of seven feet eight inches, made at Chicago this year, and has jumped much higher in private trials. At the farm of Mr. Donnelly, who rides the champion, he jumped eight feet one inch in the presence of several witnesses, while at Mr. Willets' own place, Gedney Farm,



LORD BRILLIANT AND LORD GOLDEN, THE CHAMPION TANDEM PAIR, WINNERS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PRIZES AT HORSE SHOWS.

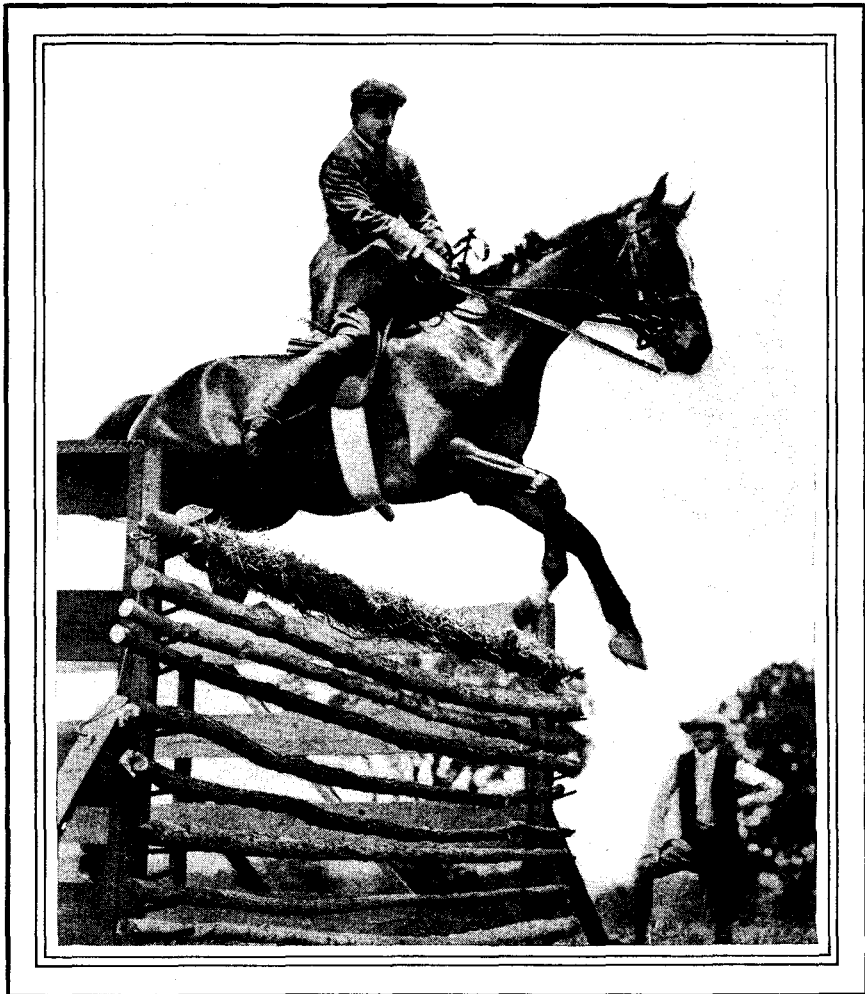
the bar was negotiated at eight feet three inches.

There is no accredited champion polo pony, but every prominent player has his



PANDANGO, THE CHAMPION HACKNEY STALLION, OWNED BY F. C. STEVENS.

From a photograph—Copyright, 1903, by A. H. Godfrey, New York.



HEATHERBLOOM, THE CHAMPION HIGH JUMPER, OWNED BY HOWARD WILLETS—HIS RECORD IS SEVEN FEET, EIGHT INCHES.

favorite mount. Perhaps the best-known specimen of this interesting equine type in America is Strawberry, owned by Mr. J. M. Waterbury, one of our leading experts at the game. This sturdy pony has been ridden for three or four seasons on champion teams, and was used in England before he was brought across the Atlantic. Mr. Waterbury usually saves

him for the last period of a polo match, the crucial time of the struggle.

Strawberry, who is a small roan, knows the game thoroughly, and rarely makes a mistake. Like the typical polo pony, he is more or less sleepy and indifferent when not in play, but a perfect whirlwind when on the field of action with his master on his back.

THE DREAMER.

"To-morrow comes," he cried, "and brings to me
The sweet possession of my heart's desire!"
And, filled with hopes that kindle and inspire,
He builded high upon what was to be.

"Easy the path," he said, "and short the way.
Why haste? To-morrow comes!" But as he spoke
The fatal sands were running, and he woke
To find To-morrow shrunk in Yesterday.

R. H. Fuller.