

THE THOROUGHBRED

PROBABLY the most important feature of the American racing season of 1900 was the inaugural running of the Annual Champion Stakes at Sheepshead Bay. A \$20,000 event for the senior horses, at two miles and a quarter, is verily a remarkable addition to our fixtures, and it may be said that the new stake is particularly welcome for the reason that it indicates a growing tendency for long-distance racing.

The success of the "cherry and black" of Mr. Pierre Lorillard was nothing short of perfect from a sentimental point of view, for Mr. Lorillard has been one of the most enthusiastic and beneficial patrons of the American turf during the present generation, and has concluded himself—through both good luck and bad luck—like the thorough gentleman-sportsman which he is.

David Garrick, the winner of the first Annual Champion, is a really high-class race-horse when in the humor to run, and those who know him best expect him to accomplish really great things upon English courses, which should be better suited than our American race-tracks to both his conformation and disposition.

COMMANDO, Tommy Atkins, Ballyhoo Bey, Kilmarnock, Elizabeth M., David Garrick! It is surely no occasion for wonderment that the transfer of these and other well-known horses from American to English race-courses should be viewed with unfeigned consternation by those most interested in the American turf. The policy of offering comparatively mediocre prizes for the senior horses is the primal cause of the alarming exodus, however, and we may expect to see an annual repetition of the situation until something like an adequate provision is made in America for the best class of horses after their two-year-old career.

While Mr. James R. Keene's Commando failed to round out the full glory of his juvenile career by capturing the valuable Matron Stakes at the recent Morris Park Autumn meeting, the great son of Domino thereby lost none of the esteem of the closest followers of racing, his defeat by Beau Gallant having been most unfortunately brought about by the careless riding of Mr. Keene's first jockey, Spencer. Something of a parallel in recent turf history is to be found in the unfortunate blunder of Mornington Cannon, the English jockey, whereby the great Flying Fox was defeated by St. Gris in the Imperial Product Stakes at Kempton Park in 1898. Jockeys are only human, to be sure, but one would naturally expect them to

ride with becoming care for their employers' interests in \$20,000 races, at least.

The Matron stakes may be confidently ignored in estimating the true juvenile status of the smashing representative of "white blue spots."

American jockeys are winning laurels on the continent of Europe as well as in Great Britain, "Cash" Sloan (elder brother of the redoubtable "Tod") and Freeman have won important events in France, while Morgan—the half-breed Indian who rode so well at the Aque-duct spring meeting of 1899—has been very successful in Hungary, and is understood to be meditating the acceptance of offers which will cause him to locate there permanently. The American seat, which may be briefly described as the "crouching" attitude, is everywhere demonstrating its superiority over the formerly accepted methods of race-riding. Such English jockeys as have had the good sense to adopt it are showing a gratifying and convincing increase in their winning percentages.

THE brilliant successes of America upon the English turf in 1900 have not been confined to the jockeys and trainers, for the American-bred horse has been frequently in evidence, the most notable success being that achieved by Mr. James R. Keene's three-year-old Disguise II. in the £10,000 Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket in September. Disguise II. is the second foreign-bred horse to win one of England's "ten thousand pounders," the French colt Le Justicier having captured the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park in 1895 for Baron Schickler. America scored doubly in Disguise II.'s race, for the second horse, Jolly Tar, was bred at Mr. Pierre Lorillard's Rancocas farm in New Jersey.

While the public breeding-studs of America offer the great bulk of their yearlings early in the summer, the English youngsters are mainly sold at Doncaster in September. This year's sales during the Leger week, while producing no phenomenal prices, were thoroughly successful and encouraging. In view of what our jockeys, horses and trainers have been doing abroad, it is especially interesting to note that the highest-priced yearling of Doncaster week was purchased by the American sportsman, Mr. James R. Keene. The youngster was the Gallinule—Tragedy colt in Sir Tatton Sykes' Sledmere lot, and the price (2,500 guineas) is not deemed extravagant, in view of the fact that the colt is quite an improvement upon his full-brother, Wildfowler, who won the St. Leger of 1898.

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