

HIGGONS.

THE PRIZES OF HONOR.

The Sporting Life Cup, offered for the best average speed for 200 miles or over in the season of 1888 previous to July 1. Awarded to John Blood, Philadelphia, for his first time, for the journey from Goodsville to Philadelphia, 208 miles, in 1,347 yards per minute.

The George W. Childs Cup, for the greatest distance in the day in the season of 1888 previous to Aug. 4. Awarded to John Blood, Philadelphia, for the journey from Goodsville to Philadelphia, 208 miles, in 1,347 yards per minute.

THE RECORD TO DATE.

Driver.	Date.	Miles.	Speed per minute.
C. Adair, Philadelphia	May 19	208.8	777
C. Adair, Philadelphia	May 27	323.5	924
J. Hunsberger, Phila.	June 8	365.7	878
F. B. Bower, Richmond	July 1	325.7	905
J. Blood, Philadelphia	July 12	358.5	1002
C. O. Barrett, Boston	July 20	415.3	1091

JOURNEYS FOR RECORD.

Many Try for Distance in the Day—Excellent Showing for the Bedford—Late Returns.

The eight birds of the first team of the C. O. Barrett Club, began, was started in Waterford, Ont., on the morning of the 23rd ult. The weather at the start and over the greater part of the course was fairly good, but at home there were all the conditions attendant upon a north-west storm. The first return was from John Blood, found in the left at six o'clock next morning; next, Hamlet and Mark Anthony arriving before noon. The distance in the day reached to this left the other remains at the 415 miles mark by the second team, July 20. The distance from Waterford is about 405 miles.

The Hub Club's birds were liberated at Meadville, Pa., early the morning of the 23rd, but none were at home at evening. The air-line distance is about 405 miles.

The birds of the Paterson, N. J., Club, shipped the 23rd ult., were not liberated, owing to bad weather, until the morning of the 24th day after. The start was from High Point, N. C., at six o'clock. The entry was J. J. Byrom, 2, Edward Bolton 12, W. Munson 2, Merion Clark 3. There were no returns at evening. The distance to be covered is about 405 miles.

The first return to the left of John Blood from the start in King's Mountain, July 27, was Silver King, reported the 30th. The second, Tippecanoe, was reported the 31st, reaching but home and four days later. The Bedford Club has reported sixteen of its twenty birds sent to Morgantown, N. C.; fourteen to G. B. Edwards, 523 miles; two to T. F. Head, 532 miles. This gives Mr. Head all at home that he sent, and small though it is, the distance record for the season.

Mr. Frank Devlin reports returns to the Gordon loft from the start in High Point, July 2, of the Philadelphia Club's birds, on July 21, one the 30th.

Mr. James McLaughlin reports the new home from the Danville fly, July 25, one week late. This gives the loft the record from 323 miles for five youngsters, but four of the five are still out from the start in Charlotte, 412 miles.

The Dando Club had twenty-three birds to send for liberating in Charlotte, N. C., 412 miles. These were owned, J. D. McLaughlin 4 (all youngsters), B. W. Andrews 10, T. F. D. Green 9. The start was at 5 o'clock the morning of the 3d. There were no returns at evening. "I had no idea," said Mr. Andrews, "that there was a bird in my loft that could not cover 450 miles in the day and do it easy!"

The same morning two lots of Philadelphia birds were let go in Kings Mountain, N. C., 474 miles from home. The first start was of two owned by Mr. D. Gerstler. These, let go at 6:30, circled over the city for minutes and finally entered a storehouse. The second lot, also of two birds, was let go at 5:40. These gave one turn, then took their course towards home, the Gerstler pair joining them at 5:47. Shortly after four o'clock the same afternoon a telegram, properly certified, was received, giving 3:58 as the time the message was received by the operator and telling all of the marks we had placed upon the wing of one of the Gerstler birds. Counting from the operator's time, we were an average speed of about 1,340 yards per minute, and this with the atmosphere heavy and the wind contrary, we think that it is not greater, was only because the telegram giving the time of the start was not received earlier by those reporting the marks.

Saracene, owned by John H. Hunsberger, Philadelphia, was sent away with the Gerstler pair, and the birds, but to be let go at Concord, N. C., 432 miles. We have not received word either of its arrival at the station or of its being liberated.

Caught or Shot.

[Have your birds registered and mark each one. "If Caught or Shot" report this number on THE SPORTING LIFE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.]

We will act as a guarantee in publishing those reported to us, but we will not correspond with finders except in case of birds entered in a Journey for record.]

Mr. Cyrus Van Horn, D. I.ington, Pa., reports a visitor wearing the band H. L. L.

The State Department was visited 10-day by a carrier pigeon, through one of the windows of the Capitol Building. Everyone who saw it was interested and conjectures as to its starting point and mission were made on every hand. On the bird's right leg was a band, on which was printed "G. 2 55." The white feathers on the right leg were marked with the following figures: "20-2-6, 20-1-6, 15-1-9, 780." Before the bird was released its wing was marked: "State Department, 2 P. M., July 30, 1888." After leaving the window the pigeon was seen to fly in a northwesterly direction.—Washington letter to New York Sun.

The bird was returning in the Dando Club's race from Danville, Va., it is owned by Mr. Theo. P. Green, Woodbury, N. J.—Ed.

The Autumn Races.

The Oxford Club, Brooklyn, names its dates and distances, August 19, Wilmington, Del., 115 miles; 20th, Haver de Grace, Md., 135 miles; September 2, Washington, D. C., 202 miles; 9th, Charlotte, Va., 112 miles; 23d, Rocky Mount, Va., 408 miles. The club will fly both old and young birds.

Transfers of Stock.

From the loft of T. P. Green, Woodbury, N. J., 1- to C. O. Ball, Raleigh, N. C., one pair Garfield and Green atack. 2- to C. E. Tobey, Eau Claire, Wis., two pairs of youngsters.

THE STAGE.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

Buffalo Bill's Arrangements Completed—Letters of a Complimentary Character.

Major John M. Burke, the general manager, has completed arrangements for the opening Monday, Aug. 13, of Buffalo Bill's original Wild West show at the Gentlemen's Driving Park, after which daily exhibitions of the picturesque Western history will be given at three o'clock. Besides the many methods, as of old, via street car, omnibuses, Reading Railroad to Belmont, etc., through the Park, a new cheap and rapid transit arrangement has been perfected with the Pennsylvania Railroad to a newly-erected station, Wynnsfield Avenue, close to the grounds. In fifteen minutes from Broad Street Depot and intermediate stations the seeker of education in his country's history, given in an enjoyable, animated volume (readily read by a glance), will be whirled at the low price of 60 cents a round trip, including admission—virtually a free round trip fare. Excursion rates from all stations within a radius of thirty miles, including admission to the Wild West, have been arranged for, so that Indian life and the Indian question, one great theme of the future, may be grasped more readily and cheaper than the tariff on the average voter. Ten thousand additional seating capacity has been added to the accommodations, and nothing will be left undone to ensure a pleasant memory of the visit to this temporarily late appearance of W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill).

The following letters to W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) are a sample of hundreds daily received by the noted actor, including the grand word of a complimentary letter. The Rev. John Robinson, Episcopal Missionary, has spent his life among the Indians, and for whom Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt has created the finest church building on any Reservation—the Pine Ridge Agency, the home of the celebrated Red Cloud, from whence comes Red Shirt, who made such an impression in England with the Queen, Gladstone, Morley, Salisbury, the Prince and others, the present chief of Cody's savage associates. Rev. Mr. Robinson has been taking a quiet survey of matters pertaining to the moral and physical welfare of his proteges, and while visiting some relatives at Conshohocken testifies to the results of his inspection of Buffalo Bill's Wild West camp. The letter from Rev. Mr. Robinson is as follows:

AN INDIAN MISSIONARY TO W. F. CODY.

CONSHOHOCKEN, Pa., July 30.—Messrs. CODY & SALSBURY—Dear Sirs:—Having had every opportunity for five consecutive days and nights to inspect the discipline and to study the effect of the general influence of your exhibition upon the Indians with you, I wish, by this note, to express my gratification with it all. I have seen the Indians learning promptness, regularity, cleanliness in person and food, and also learning to do well the work for which they were employed. That anything in shape of evil will be done, but must come up to a standard. I saw them learning to realize that they were not hired merely to receive their pay or if possible to boss the job and have their own way about it. Knowing that the brothers of many of those now here are taking the same care of their stock and farms, while these go away to earn money to help all. I can but class your great exhibition as an industry which will benefit Indian of Pine Ridge Reservation. Most respectfully, J. B. Robinson, Missionary, Pine Ridge Agency, Dakota.

PREPARING TO PLEASE.

Extensive and Costly Alterations at the National Theatre—The Season to Open With "From Sire to Son."

A most interesting theatrical event will be the reopening of Mr. Thomas F. Kelly's National Theatre, on Aug. 18, after extensive and costly alterations and improvements. The theatre will be practically a new house, and when completed there will be no more handsome place of amusement in America than this fine building on Tenth and Callowhill streets. The four walls alone remain from the old building, the whole of the auditorium, galleries, stage, etc., being entirely new and fitted with the latest improvements for the convenience and comfort of an audience, and the most recent innovations in stage mechanism. Mr. Kelly estimates the entire cost of the improvements of this theatre at over \$40,000. The alterations admit of 600 more seats than the seating capacity of the old theatre. The seats will be commodious, handsomely upholstered and so arranged that the entire stage can be seen from any part of the house. Eight private boxes of unique design have been built, each surmounted by a canopy which will be finished off in gold and cream color. Two vestibules, reception rooms and offices will be large and most luxuriously furnished, while the stairways will be unusually broad and attractive looking. In venting and heating the most novel appliances have been used, and Mr. Kelly's claim that his new house will be the most perfectly lighted theatre in America. The illuminating is under the charge of the Edison Company, and comprises over 600 incandescent lights distributed over the theatre, besides twenty arc lights. In the ceiling there will be a brilliant and massive chandelier holding fifty lights. The stage opening has been made eight feet higher and four feet wider. The theatre will be as far as possible absolutely fire proof and an exhaust system has been secured for the proscenium. The frescoing of the ceiling and the mural decorations are of beautiful and artistic design, light colors prevailing in all the ornaments, which will give the theatre a very bright appearance.

Mr. Kelly's private office will be in the corner of the building. He expresses himself as highly pleased with the latest work. Everything used in the building is likely to be increased by the attractions of the new and beautiful theatre and a long list of the best theatrical combinations that can be secured, a majority of which have only played in high-priced theatres. The theatre will be opened with due ceremony on Saturday evening, August 18, when Milton Nobles' new melo-drama, "From Sire to Son," will be given for the first time in Philadelphia. This play has made an immense success in the West and East, and Milton Nobles and other popular artists will be in the cast.

New American Opera Company.

At the Grand Opera House to-morrow night the new American Opera Company begins the eleventh week of its success and an attractive bill of favorite operas is offered for the week. Mr. Hinrichs' fine company has, perhaps, made its strongest impression in its recent production of Verdi's grand opera, "La Traviata." This beautiful opera will be heard this week to-morrow, Wednesday and Friday nights. Louise Natal creates a positive furor by her brilliant singing in the elaborate farcical assigned to the part of Violetta, and Charles Bassett has achieved his greatest success here as Alfred. The performance to-morrow night will be for the benefit of William S. Moore, and it is already known that there will be a crowded audience. An attractive feature of this week's programme will be the first appearance with the New American Opera Company of the beautiful young soprano, Camille Mori, who will sing in the part of the "Bohemian Girl" on Tuesday night, and as Marguerite in "Faust" on Thursday night and at the Saturday matinee. The "Bohemian Girl," which is one of the most popular operas of the season, will be given on Saturday night, with Aida Varena as Arline.

The first matinee of "Faust," which will take place on Saturday next, should draw a great many visitors from out of town. Mr. Stoddard was suddenly called away last week owing to the dangerous illness of his son. Mr. Stoddard's absence has necessitated a brief postponement of the production of "The Rose of Castile." This opera will, however, be given on Monday, Aug. 13, and on Thursday, Aug. 16, Mr. Hinrichs proposes to produce Bellini's favorite opera, "La Sonnambula."

William S. Moore, who has a complimentary benefit at the Grand Opera House to-morrow night, has innumerable friends in this city, and it is already ascertained that the Grand Opera House will be packed to the doors on this occasion. "La Traviata" will be the opera.

Camille Mori, a young soprano, with a most attractive stage presence and sympathetic voice, will join the New American Opera Company this week, and will make her first appearance on Tuesday as Arline in the "Bohemian Girl."

Lizzie Macneil will have a prominent part in the production of "The Rose of Castile" at the Grand Opera House.

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GLOUCESTER BEACH.

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Athletic Grounds, 26th and Jefferson Sts. THREE GREAT CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES. REAPPEARANCE OF THE CHAMPION ST. LOUIS. MONDAY, Aug. 6, ATHLETIC. TUESDAY, Aug. 7, ST. LOUIS. WEDNESDAY, Aug. 8, ST. LOUIS. LAST APPEARANCE OF THE ATHLETICS.

Admission, 25 Cts. Pavilion, 50 Cts. Play at 4 P. M. Ladies' Day, Tuesday, Aug. 7. Ladies admitted free to grounds and pavilion. Concert from 2 to 4 P. M. by Beck's Celebrated Band. A souvenir programme for every lady. A concert by Beck's Band will also be given on Wednesday, the last appearance of St. Louis.

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