

# SPIRIT OF THE TIMES

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES

SHALL TEACH ME SPEED?  
King John Act II.

## A Chronicle of the Turf, Field Sports, and the Stage

GEORGE WILKES,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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### THE SARATOGA CUP.

#### THE TRUE HISTORY OF LONGFELLOW'S MISFORTUNE.

LEXINGTON, KY., Sept. 9, 1872.

EDITOR SPIRIT OF THE TIMES—Dear Sir: One of your New York contemporaries, in its issue of July 26, contains an article headed "The Late Saratoga Meeting," which I feel does great injustice both to the noted racer Longfellow and his owner, Mr. John Harper. The editor of the paper alluded to says: "We have described the race and will not reopen the subject, only to correct some erroneous impressions that have found their way into print." I am quite sure none have found their way into print more erroneous than what is in this article called a correction. The first error alluded to by your contemporary is this: "That Longfellow did not at the start, in breaking away, strike his quarter and twist his plate." This is denied on the statement of Capt. Cottrill of Mobile, who is an old turfman and a gentleman of the first order; yet I was at the starting-point also, and I am quite as sure as I am that I ever saw anything, that the horse did blunder as he started; yet I do not say that he cut his quarter and twisted his plate at that time. No one on earth can tell where it was done. Any statement on that subject would only be an opinion, and my opinion is, that it is more probable that it was done then than at any other point in the race, unless it occurred as the editor of the journal in question contends that the breaking down did "as he pulled up around the turn after the finish of the race," and I am sure there is as much reason for thinking the one occurred at that point as the other. I know perfectly well that both did occur before the horse returned to the stand, for I met him some fifty yards off, and took up his foot and had the plate pulled straight. It had turned clear over near the middle of the hoof, with the point extending beyond the side of the hoof some two inches, forming quite a lump under the horse's foot, which may have had much to do with his breaking down. Another correction in the same article is, that "Mr. Harper told Mr. Cottrill, Captain Moore, and Colonel McDaniel all that he did not instruct the rider, John Sample, to trail Bassett for a mile and a half and then take the track and beat him." Mr. Harper is made to say in this article that he told the rider to beat him from the start, and from "end to end." Mr. Harper says he made no such statement to anybody. This is all I know of this instruction. I do know, however, that Mr. Harper had no more to do with instructing the boy than either of the gentlemen alluded to in the article. Mr. Harper went into the grand stand before the horses left the front of it to go to the head of the stretch, asking me before he done so to go with his colored trainer, Mose, to see the horse started. On the way to the head of the stretch I asked Mose what instructions he had given the boy. He replied that he had told him to ride about as he did at Long Branch. I asked him what instructions he had given in case Bassett did not make the pace as

he did at the Branch. He said none. I said to him he ought to be instructed on that point, and the boy was called back and again instructed, which instruction was this: To ride as he did at the Branch, if Bassett went off with the lead and set the pace fast enough; if he did not, then he was to take the track and set the pace himself, which we told him he would be able to do in going the first quarter.

The third correction in the article referred to says that "it is the opinion of some of the best trainers at Saratoga that Longfellow is not broke down." In this, it is the great regret of the owner and friends of the horse that it is some of the trainers and your contemporary's article that are again in error. The horse is hopelessly broke down, and I so pronounced him when he stopped in the race; his left pastern, when he stands erect on it or walks, is two to three inches nearer the ground than the other. It is not the wish or intention of the writer of this article to detract one laurel from Bassett. I admit him to be a wonderful horse, yet this does not change my opinion as to what would have been the result of the race had no accident happened to Longfellow. At Long Branch, only some ten days prior to this race, the great crowd there witnessed the result between them. Colonel McDaniel (whom I consider one of the best turfmen in America, and as a proof of this you have only to point to his success) stated at Long Branch, both before and after the race, that he had no excuse to make for his horse. Again, if he had been so much off as the race indicated when compared with his last one with Longfellow, was it possible for him to have come round in so short a time? I think not. Horsemen will then ask, how do you account for the two races? My answer is this: At Long Branch Bassett's owners started him in the race under the firm belief that Longfellow was a quitter, and Bassett set the pace to make him quit. He ran the first mile at the Branch in 1:43, timed by Mr. John Hunter, Col. Hall of Maryland, and others. That pace for one mile and a half made Bassett quit, at which point his rider commenced to whip him, and, like his grandsire and many of his family, he sulked badly, and was badly beaten, as every one knows. While at Saratoga, on a track conceded to be the fastest in America, Bassett ran the first mile in 1:44, making at least two seconds difference in his running the first mile, the which, if he had been made to do, who can say what would have been the result of the race. No one doubts that Longfellow could have readily done it, I presume. My own impression is, that had Bassett been made to do it, Longfellow would have won the race, even in his crippled condition. Of this result, however, every other man who saw the race may have a different opinion. I only give this result as my opinion.

I trust I give no offence to any one in giving what I regard a true statement of what occurred, and feel it due the horse and his owner that I should, as there was no one else who could correct a part of it save the colored trainer and myself.

ZEB WARD.

### LETTER FROM YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND.

GOLDSMITH MAID, LUCY, AND WONDER—THE GAMES ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE—"DISMAL JEMMY," YANK SMITH, Etc.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE, ENGL., Aug. 26, 1872.

DEAR SPIRIT: As you see above, I stick to your paper pretty well, and must read it here as well as on the Pacific, and see with great pleasure that at last the queen of the turf and her companion Lucy are to go to California. I feel only sorry that circumstances do not permit me to be there by that time, when they trot against the Governor's horse, as undoubtedly there will be more excitement on that day than ever was on any race track. Whether the Eastern mares will have it all their own way against the Californian is a question which will soon and only be answered when they get together. He surely has speed enough and staying qualities to finish his race. The only drawback is, as far as I can see, in the change they made in the handling of the horse—as your paper of Aug. 3 states that in place of Yank Smith "Dismal Jemmy" is going to pull the ribbons over him. I am not speaking of his capability as a trotting horse

driver—that is an undoubted fact; but you get, in your vice to Doble and Hickok, pretty near on the right track but do not hit the nail exactly on the head, when you not to believe him when he makes a long face with tears in his eyes. I hope Messrs. Doble and Hickok will be misled by that, as mine and a thousand others' experience has told them that you never get him right, whether you play him straight up or put a copper on him. Governor Stanford is the right man to own a good horse, as he not like Bonner, but gives the public a chance to judge whether his horse is a wonder or not worth a cent; but it is natural. The Central Pacific Railroad don't need an advertisement, but the Ledger does. So, Doble and Hickok keep your eyes well open and stalls well shut, and I will give you credit when you manage it so that Lizzy will be obliged to attend to business very close this winter.

In haste, yours,  
OLD SUBSCRIBER

CRICKET—VISIT OF THE ENGLISH ELEVEN TO NEW YORK.—In another column we give the names of the players composing the twenty-two which will be pitted against the English amateurs on Wednesday and Thursday next. The match will be played at Hoboken, and if the weather is there will be a large attendance to witness the game, which though rather under a cloud in this country at present, still many votaries. Looking through the list we miss names of one or two who ought not to be left out, if the services could be obtained. Neither Messrs. Rogerson or Byron will play, but we are unable to state the reason. The former is probably the best bowler in New York to-day, as bowling is always the weak spot of twenty-twos, we think it a mistake to leave him out. Mr. Byron, too, is a cricketer and steady bat, and generally makes runs. Of those who will play, the well-known base-ball players George Harry Wright and Hatfield are useful men, and so are Messrs. Gibbes, Moeran, Jones, etc. They have but little chance of boating the eleven in any case, however, and therefore to be regretted that the twenty-two was strengthened by the addition of the two men mentioned above. We hear the match will not be commenced till next each day. This is too late, as there is always a delay in commencing matches, and we would suggest eleven o'clock as quite late enough for beginning. We shall have a report of the match in next week's issue.

THE PROSPECT PARK AUTUMN MEETING.—In another column we have the entries for the purses to be trotted at the autumn meeting of the Prospect Park Course, which will commence on Tuesday next, September 17. It will be perceived that the purses have filled well. On the first day there are twelve entries in the two races—four in the first and double that number in the second. On the second day there are three entries in the first purse and ten in the second. On the third day the first race has twelve entries and the second, which is for horses that never beat 2m. 23s., has six good trotters. This cannot fail to be a fine race, the horses are Lulu, Camors, Sleepy John, Triumph, J. Fullerton, and W. H. Allen. On the fourth day there are capital entries of eight in the first race, and in the second there are George Palmer, American Girl, and Rosalind. On the last day the entries also give assurance of two races. In the first we find Seafoam, G. W. Patton, Lucille Goldust, and J. J. Bradley. The second race will be something of a novelty, as it is to be a dash of five miles, in harness, for a good purse, with a chance of an additional \$1,000 if the winner beats Dutchman's time. This Fannie Fern, Huntress, Constitution, Wallace, G. Gillett, and H. B. have entered. The prospects for the meeting are most excellent. The entries are numerous, and the general run of the horses is exceedingly good. Resolutions programme.

### SARATOGA ASSOCIATION.

#### FORFEIT LIST.

The following should have been included in the list of forfeited in last week's paper, as incurred at the August meeting: Due from John A. Miller, forfeit on ch f by Jack Malone out of blue, by Lexington, in the Kentucky Stakes.

Yours,  
C. WHEATLY, S.