

THE MONTH.

WHAT we may call the Epsom mails have arrived, and we now know all about the Derby and Oaks of 1874, the great race being altogether a notable one for the reasons referred to in *The Month* in our last issue. The fluctuation in the betting during the Monday, Tuesday, and (especially) on the day of the race were almost unparalleled. On Monday the roarer *Couronne de Fer* was the favourite at 9 to 2 and 5 to 1, 11 to 2 being betted against *Atlantic*, 100 to 12 against Mr. Merry's *Glenalmond*, and 50 to 1 against *Reverberation*. On the Tuesday among various changes *Atlantic* went back to 20 to 1 at first, in consequence of his having hit his knee badly when on the railway journey from Newmarket, but he recovered his ground and left off at 11 and 10 to 1, while *Reverberation* sprung from 50 to 20 to 1 and the *Vertumna* filly (sister to *Rhyshworth*) from 100 to 30 to 1, which last was owing to her stable companion *Kaiser* winning a race for which his owner did not think he had much chance. On the day of the race the *Vertumna* filly rose to 20, *Reverberation* fell to 33, *Aquilo* and *Glenalmond* repeatedly changed places in the betting, driving *Couronne de Fer* from the position of favourite, and then a final effort in favour of *Glenalmond* brought him to the top of the tree, 9 to 2 and 4 to 1 being the latest quotations against him before starting, while 6 and 7 to 1 were laid against *Aquilo* and *Couronne de Fer*, and 12 against *Atlantic*. *George Frederick* was about the steadiest horse in the betting, as between Monday and the start he only fluctuated between $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 9 to 1, at which latter price he started. His party were tolerably confident, as he was one of the few thoroughly sound horses and well on the day that started, while his condition (which they said had never been good before, to which circumstances they attributed his bad performances,) was all they could wish. Their confidence was rewarded by seeing him win easily by two lengths, while heads, half necks, and dead heats separated or brought together next to the winner *Couronne de Fer*, *Atlantic*, *Leolinus*, *Kostrevor*, *Aquilo*, and *Trent*.

It may be that *George Frederick* is, as his party say (and even more), a tolerably good horse, and that only want of condition has always prevented his running well hitherto. But a sound horse well on the day, though bad himself, has a great advantage over a bad lot, and that the lot is a bad one seems to us evident from the fact of the roarer *Couronne de Fer* being able to beat all but the winner. We must not forget that *Atlantic's* chance was decidedly affected by his injury, as he did nothing but walking exercise on Tuesday, and his knee was so much swollen, that several good judges pronounced him out of it, though his leg nearly got round in appearance by the day of the race. Altogether

we shall look to a good race for the St. Leger between George Frederick, Apology, and Atlantic, with a great chance of others, such as Leolinus, Aquilo, and perhaps Feu d' Amour being also to the fore, if, as we think is the case, they are all entered for the northern race. As regards the last named he did not run at Epsom, as he was beaten in a trial in the previous week, but as this was owing to an alterative being given to him by mistake (it is said) instead of a tonic, which necessitated his being stopped in his work, we think he as one of the good horses of 1872 ought to have a good chance at Doncaster. Volturno performed his mission well among such cattle, for being started to make the running for George Frederick, he retained the lead till they entered the straight running. The race was run in 2-46. *Bell's Life* declares that the statement that George Frederick was foaled on June 3rd is an invention, and that he appeared in the world at Middle Park on March 23rd.

The Oaks was even an easier win than the Derby, Apology cantering in three lengths a head of the favourite Miss Toto in 2-48. Miss Toto was seriously interfered with twice, but Apology won easily, and is so much improved that the result of the race was not affected by the cannoning. The chief attraction in connection with this race was the Irish filly Lady Patricia, whose good looks, coupled with the fact that she had won all her races in Ireland with ease, earned her many admirers and backers at the last moment; she ran third.

Two monstrous bets were taken during the week by Lord Dudley *viz.*, £10,000 to £4,000 against Miss Toto and £12,000 to £4,000 against Apology for the Oaks, whereby he won £8000. Though he has never owned a race horse Lord Dudley generally attends the great days at Epsom and Ascot, and when there is fond of backing favourites in thousands. One of his feats of this nature was his betting £8,000 to £1,000 on Gladiateur for the Ascot Cup, when that horse, a veritable Triton among minnows on that occasion won a very remarkable race. After being held in so gingerly by Grimshaw going down the Swinley hill that the other horses got so far ahead that many thought Gladiateur could never catch them, he was set going when his doubtful forelegs had landed him safely on the flat, and then he ran nearly the fastest half mile known, catching his horses at a wonderful rate and eventually winning in a canter by any distance. Lord Dudley did not look happy when the crack was cantering down the hill, but the £1,000 was landed after all.

Trent won the Grand Prix de Paris, the French Salterell being second, and Tomahawk third, but French had their revenge in the Ascot Cup which was won by Boiard, Doncaster and Flageolet running a dead heat for second place, a confirmation of the public running of last year. The above is announced by telegraph only, and we shall anxiously wait to see if Cremorne was a starter.

Two advertisements of St. Leger Sweeps at Umballa and Bangalore will be found in this issue of the *Magazine*.

In our present number will be found a record of a remarkable event,

viz., the killing of a leopard by a stone. The honour of performing this feat fell to a Goorkah. By the way, we have just received an account of spearing a leopard, which will appear in due course.

Our well known contributor Young Nimrod informs us that the tubercled rhinoceroses that we mentioned (in a note at page 240 of the *Magazine* for May 1874,) having seen at Mr. Routledge's depôt in Calcutta is not the Javaneae or Soonderbund Rhinoceros, but is an altogether new and distinct species. One of the beasts has since been shipped for England, and so we may look out for the observations of Mr. Frank Buckland and other naturalists on the subject.

The July entrances for the Calcutta races will be found in the usual place, and are below the mark, but now-a-days we have more entrances in September than we used to have, and we shall look to an increase hereafter. The Bombay entrances are good.

As we anticipated, they are going to do great things in the racing line at Umballa, and if the winners of the Derby Sweeps give a Purse, as is expected, the promoters of the meeting will be able to strengthen their second day's racing at the Autumn races. The Prospectus will be found in the usual place, with several others.

We are glad to hear from the Secretary that the Assensole Meeting for 1875 has been fixed for 11th, 12th and 14th January, and as we understand that Ballygunge comes off on the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of the year, we are likely to keep the ball rolling briskly for the first fortnight of the year close to Calcutta. Assensole is only five hours from the City of Palaces, and from what we hear, none that attended last meeting regretted their visit. It is said that the next Prospectus is to be a good one, the added money being nearly Rs. 4,000; it is to appear shortly, and will include five races on the first two days, and six on the third, with two Steeplechases.

In the meantime racing has commenced as usual at Bangalore, but, alas! we notice with regret the withdrawal of the fast Phillipine from some slight accident, which must spoil sport to a considerable extent.

Opinions differ, but on the whole the papers give favorable accounts of the Rawul Pindae Horse fair. The prices realized are certainly small, but the soundness of the Stock speaks well for the climate. The Punjab Government are very liberal in providing good Stallions, and they hold 1,200 well selected brood mares, compact and stout. The mules exhibited, it is stated, did show some improvement, but fell short of the mark for ordnance purposes. Finer donkey stallions are called for, which we believe have been sent for from Arabia.

We learn from the Australian papers that the late importation of Arabs to that country has become a popular investment, and no doubt it will be continued by the dealers who visit India, if they can continue to purchase here used-up Arabs at about £50 to £80 each and realize there £600 and £1,000, as was done, they say, in the case of Moonshine and Koh-i-noor, besides the two Mr. Hunter imported. The vendors have now found out the value of the Arab cross. it is said, and before many years some of us think they must find it out in