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DOES IT SOLVE A MYSTERY OF LONG STANDING?

Why Did Mr. Dayer's Tremont Evidence End His Racing Career?—The Question of Age—Something You Will Be Particularly Interested in Hearing.

The racing season had begun, and in consequence Saratoga was thronged with visitors. The hotels were crowded and the cottages had long since been taken. The betting ring, the object of magnificent equipages, has-beens, well-dressed men and beautiful women all conspired to drive away care, no matter what one's trouble might be.

So I thought as comfortably seated in a long rocking chair, I looked about me from the piazza of the French Union hotel one glorious morning in July, 189—. All my pulse-beats were at normal count on discussing only one subject—viz, racing. I remember distinctly to have caught sound there the expression: "He's a sure winner. Nothing can beat him." Then again somebody would say: "The Black Whirlwind is a wonder. He will win in a walk," and so things other like opinions.

Very soon I again heard the word "Whirlwind," and I confess that my curiosity was greatly excited. Just at this moment a rather stiff breeze blown some up, and bearing directly toward us wafted distinctly to my ears the conversation. The larger of the two fellows I will designate as Mr. A., said to the other, "Do you not mean to say you are really going to start him in his ——— dukes today, are you?"

The smaller man (whom I will designate as Mr. B.) replied: "Why, certainly. I'm sure to win. There is nothing eligible to stake that can make my colt even extend himself. Of course he will start and win too."

"Well," said Mr. B., "I have a proposition to make, or rather, I should say, a bet to propose."

"Let's hear it," said Mr. D.

In very cold and unmoved tones Mr. B. then said, "Mr. D., I will bet you $5,000 even if your colt comes the wire first today the race will not be given to him and $5,000 additional that if you do start him he will never again run in another race."

By this time I was trembling with excitement, but something beyond my control forced me to continue being an unwilling eavesdropper.

Mr. D. quickly replied: "Why, what is the matter with you? Has anything unusual happened that has caused your good sense to forsake you? Your proposition is too foolish to be thought of for a moment."

"Well," replied Mr. B., "a little bird brought me some extremely interesting news about your colt, and I do not believe that my mental faculties have forsaken me. I repeat that I am willing to make the wager, and I know full well that I thoroughly understand what I am saying and doing. Do you accept the wager or not, Mr. D.?"

All this time I was only a few feet behind them, regulating my pace by theirs and trying to appear very preoccupied.

After some hesitation Mr. D. replied "I would consider the matter and give an answer before I go back."

Somehow I did not feel as if I had committed a very great offense in listening, for at any rate I thought that I had heard enough, so I turned and retraced my footsteps, thinking there was something very peculiar in what I had overheard. I worried over it so much that I concluded to go out to the race course. I called a cab and was soon there. In the betting pavilion I approached a man who seemed "on the inside born" and politely asked if he knew anything about a horse called "the Black Whirlwind." He understood at once and told me the proper name was Tremont, and went on to say "that in all America there was not a 3-year old who could outrun him."

After thanking him for his information I went up to the grand stand and there purchased a programme. Sure enough, Tremont was entered in the fourth race. Very impatiently I sat there and waited. Finally the first race was run, which I watched with little or no interest, and after the jockeys had commenced again made my way to the betting ring. I stood on the outskirts of the crowd, quite interested in what I saw and heard, though I could not understand the inside operandi of the bookmakers. Suddenly I heard a loud shout from the end of the ring. I tried to ascertain what was the matter, but was pushed and jostled about by the crowd so savagely that I could not get an answer to my inquiries. Soon, however, I heard a voice cry out, "Scratch Tremont!"

This was repeated by many on all sides. Every one appeared surprised, and no one seemed able to give any reason for the colt's withdrawal.

After the excitement had somewhat subsided I returned to the grand stand and sat there, thinking deeply. I reconsidered the conversation of a few hours previous, and I took very hard to form some opinion as to the ins and outs of what I considered a very strange case indeed. The only conclusion that I could reach was that Mr. B. understood his own affairs. Well, at last the time for the stake race. I forgot to say that Mr. B. had his best 3-year-old for a starter. While the horses were in the pen I heard a man sitting near me say, "Why, Mr. B. will win sure now that Tremont's out of the way." After a short delay the bell was rung, and in nearly even terms. Although Mr. B.'s colt was leading and running easily, he sharply rose it up and jumped just the wire as easy winner by four or five lengths. After all the excitement of the day I felt very much fatigued and retired to retire to the hotel.

In hurrying out about I noticed Mr. B. and another gentleman talking very earnestly together. They soon passed from the crowd, and their conversation was suppressed. The old French proprietor of the roaring again excited me, and very soon I was within comfort. I must have enjoyed just to rest, for I heard Mr. B. say:

"Why, I knew all about it several days ago. I knew that if I made the little pickaninny would be made or lost matched, so I determined to give Mr. D. a very severe lesson, which he has long deserved, and which he will not soon forget. So I wrote the colt out of the race but yesterday morning thought as a 3-year-old when he really was a 4-year-old. Well, the Whirlwind will never race again. Mr. D. will have to pay him in the end."

Having heard this solution of the matter I turned to leave the room, when suddenly a man, reading my face, jumped into me with great violence, knocking me to the ground, and I confess I had been doing so the best I could, and my chair had rolled over, it was only a chance, after all, but, for the wager, a positive one—A. W. in New York Telegram.

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