

### Oak Hill Farm.

Having wished for some time to have the pleasure of looking over this farm, with its stock, of which we had heard so much, especially the horses, we took a day not long since to visit it, and, although not having the pleasure of seeing Mr. Rogers, he being sick at the time, we were thoroughly shown around by the kindness of his foreman—Mr. J. Greenwood.

The farm itself consists of one hundred acres, eighty-four of which are as level as a table, the rest being pasture land. The entrance to it consists of a fine avenue well shaded on each side by maples, and at the head of the avenue the first thing you notice is the famous *Oak*, for which the place is named. The house is a very large and fine one, of some twenty rooms, old-fashioned, but of the most elaborate style and finish, and encircled by piazzas, the view from which is unsurpassed from any place in the county.

From there we were taken to the greenhouse, a building of some two hundred feet, filled with vines and flowers of the oldest and rarest variety, and in summer its surroundings must almost be a paradise. From the garden we were taken to the stable, pertaining to the inside of which our story will be the most interesting, as Mr. Rogers is a great lover of horses and cows, the former of which is his specialty, although the latter is not neglected.

Mr. Greenwood then turned us over to his trainer, John Cummings, a young man well-qualified for the position, and after talking a few moments, we were shown the stallion "Sterling," (formerly "Jim Fisk.") He is a bright bay, 16 hands high, weighs 1100 lbs.; of very fine figure and very fast, with a record of 2.38, and can beat it handy. He was sired by "Patchen Boy," owned by G. B. Martin, of Danvers; "Patchen Boy," by Godfrey's "Patchen," and he by "George M. Patchen." His dam was a "Messenger" mare of great endurance and speed, owned by Dr. George B. Loring, of Salem, who bred the colt. His colts are of the greatest promise, and will bear comparison with the best. Next to him was the three year old stallion "Jack Sheppard, Jr.," a dark bay, with black points, 15 hands 3 inches, who showed, last fall, 2.53 over the Manchester track, and never was harnessed twenty times. He took the first prize at the New England Fair, for three year old colts, over twenty-two competitors. His disposition is of the finest, and his style of going is perfect. His pedigree is as follows: By "Jack Sheppard," he by "Rysdyke Hambletonian," "Jack Sheppard, Jr.'s" dam by "Flying Morgan." Next comes the famous white mare "Frances," who trotted so fast last year, although being beaten in the only race she started. She began entirely out of condition, but has since shown her owner, rumor says, 2.25 in different trials. She will be trained this year. Her stock is "Patchen."

The next stall contains the "Hambletonian" colt, "Lady Kemble," lately purchased of Dr. Arthur Kemble," by Mr. Rogers, and they say she can trot a mile in 2.30. She is from old "Rysdyke Hambletonian." Now comes everybody's pet, especially the ladies—"Tommy Wonder"—and he was rightly named, and we don't wonder at Mr. Rogers loving him, for he has had more pleasure with him than any horse he has ever owned. He is very fast, (having a record of 2.29) a perfect picture, and he was the leader of all the trotters, until he was retired by Mr. Rogers for his wife, and she alone drives him now. Next to him the chestnut horse "Arthur" stands, five years old, sired by the "Steel" horse, and can trot in 2.40. We notice a little bay mare standing away in one corner, and we say: "John, what's that?" He looks at us in surprise and says: "Why, don't you know her? That is the famous road mare "Lady Hooker," who has made twenty miles in one hour, and three miles in less than eight minutes; one of whose colts at four months old, by "Sterling," sold for \$500 to Mr. Bailey, of Montpelier, who has since been offered \$2000."

In the last stall stands the black mare "Bessie," sired by young "Morrill," and raised by J. A. Lord, of Peabody, and purchased by her present owner of Dr. Kemble, of Salem. She is one of the speediest and best family mares in the county.

Besides all the trotters we have mentioned there were many brood mares and colts, among which may be mentioned "Empress," bay mare, 15 hands 3 inches, and sired by "Honest Allen," out of a "Star" mare, (she has a record 2.28 to saddle) with a colt by her side by "Lexington," owned by J. B. Thomas, of Peabody, with a record of 2.31. She is now in foal to "Jack Sheppard, Jr." "Lady Sawyer,"

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There are also others, which want of space cuts out in order to describe a few colts. There are quite a number of these, and among the most promising may be mentioned "Little Dot," eighteen months old, by "Henri Mambrino," he by "Old Mambrino," "Dot's" dam being sired by Chenery's "Grey Eagle," a mare of great speed and endurance. "Little Dot" took the ribbon and special purse for yearlings in Tennessee last fall, and is the most promising colt of his age in Essex County. He was lately brought from there for Mr. Rogers. "Minnette," bay filly, six months old, out of "Empress," by "Lexington," and it seemed to us as if she was hung on trotting stilts, as she could show a two minute gait across the yard. Mr. Whitten, of Peabody, owns a half sister, a year older, by "Sterling," whom they say acts just like her.

After the inspection of these, as we passed out we noticed his twelve Jersey cows, which any one ought to be proud of, both for their breeding and good looks, to say nothing of their milk. And, in closing, we have the pleasure of saying that this farm is complete in every respect and in a high state of cultivation, and we are very sorry that Mr. Rogers, on account of sickness, was unable to stay here this winter and enjoy his fine stock of horses.

A. B. C.