BLUE GOWN DIES AT SEA.

MR. KEENE'S VALUABLE HORSE IS THROWN OVERBOARD.

Turfmen throughout the country will leran with regret that Blue Gown, the famous winner of the Derby in 1868, for whom Mr. James R. Keene paid $20,000, died on the voyage to this country, having been shipped in the steamer Victoria, which left London Nov. 13, and arrived here yesterday. The vessel had been tossed by rough seas until her rudder broke on the 25th, and no doubt Blue Gown, from severe suffering, was ruptured by being knocked about, and was then thrown overboard.

Not only is the death of Blue Gown a great loss to Mr. Keene, but breeders of thorough-breds and turfmen generally will feel it, for the arrival of the horse had been eagerly anticipated for more than a week past. The sympathy of the sporting public will go out to Mr. Keene, as he as shown much enterprise in his brief turf career.

The success of imported stallions in this country, from Glencoe to the days of Australian, Bonnie Scotland, Phaeton, and Leamington, has induced breeders to look abroad for sires to cross with native mares, and Mr. Keene followed closely in the path of Mr. Lorillard in paying large prices for high bred stock. The recent arrival of the famous Mortimer had kindled the enthusiasm in behalf of Blue Gown, and the announcement of his death at this time will be received with general regret, especially as it is understood that Mr. Keene intends to enter largely into the business of breeding thorough-bred horses for the turf. In buying Blue Gown, Mr. Keene secured not only a highly bred animal but a fine race-horse, for such he proved during his short and eminent career on the turf. Blue Gown was bred by Sir Joseph Hawley in 1865, and was described when a 3-year old as a bay in color, and about 15 hands 2 inches in height. He was sired by Beadsman, (son of Weatherbit and Mendicant,) who won the Derby in 1858, and his dam was Bas Blue, by Stackwell, out of Vexation, by Touchstone, so that the horse was closely related to the Whalebone family. He made his début at Ascot as a 2-year old, winning the Summer Hill Stakes, half a mile, in which he defeated a field of 10. In all he started six times that year, and won three times, closing his "baby year" by winning the Clearwell States at Doncaster. At this time Sir Joseph Hawley had also Rosicrucian and Green Sleeves, and was of opinion that either of the three was capable of winning the Derby. In the Champagne stakes at Doncaster, Blue Gown passed the winning post first, but was disqualified, as his jockey, Wells, played a trick on the clerk of the scales, who passed him as all right. It so happened that the famous jockey, Fordham, was on bad terms with Wells, and as he rode Virtue, the second horse in the race, he exposed the trick of his competitor to the stewards. As no declaration of overweight had been made when it should have been, Blue Gown was disqualified, and there was great excitement in consequence for some time afterward.

The colt's performance, however, was so good that he was a great public favorite for the Derby of 1868, the year that brought so much disaster to the Marquis of Hastings. The latter had the filly, Lady Elizabeth in the race, and the Marquis and his friends declared so heavily upon her chances that she took precedence in the betting. When a 2-year old she had not been beaten. In the race, for which there were 19 starters, and among them Sir Joseph's two other horses, Rosicrucian and Green Sleeves, Sir Joseph declared to win with either of them, as he thought both superior to Blue Gown. This, however, hid not affect the outside public, which remained true to the fortunes of Blue Gown, in remembrance of his Doncaster performance. The result was that he won in a canter, and Sir Joseph, who had backed his other horses, lost money on the race, while the Marquis of Hastings was ruined. After this Blue Gown won the Gold Cup at Ascot and other events, taking eight out of eleven races. Like Buccaneer and other good horses, after a short but brilliant career, (for he did not start as a 4-year old,) he was sent to Germany, and as a sire was very successful, the winnings of his horses in 1879 being second only to those of Buccaneer. Last year Blue Gown was transferred to the Marden Deer Park Stud, Caterham, Surrey, from whence he was purchased by Mr. Keene. There were two other horses on board the Victoria belonging to Mr. Keene, and as far as could be ascertained they were sound after their long and tempestuous voyage.

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