

Ex-Gov. Bowie's Retirement from the Turf.—"Yes, it is true that I have sold my racing stable and will retire permanently from the turf," said ex-Gov. Bowie yesterday. "It is hard to give up the excitement and sport that I have so long enjoyed, but circumstances compel this action on my part, and I will hereafter devote my attention to the other business interests with which I am connected." He has sold his racing stable of ten horses which he had at Saratoga, and will only keep a few stallions and brood mares at his farm, in Prince George's county, for breeding purposes. For, although he gives up his turf life, he says he loves a racer too well to part with him entirely, and will try to raise some good horses that will carry the colors of their owners to the front on the Eastern track, although his own colors will no longer fly. This conclusion was forced upon Mr. Bowie by the falling state of his health.

Sire Brothers, of New York, purchased nine of the horses, and Mr. M. Gorman, of Canada, one, (Lordlike.) The horses purchased by Sire Brothers are Belle d'Or, Alarm Bell, Blackwood, Twilight, Mirthwood, Teunessean, Belle Meade, Catamaran and Vosburg. The price, Mr. Bowie says, "was a good round sum." When it was learned that Mr. Bowie's stable was for sale he had numerous offers for Belle d'Or from the race men who were congregated at Saratoga, where the sale was made. He refused offers of \$6,000 and \$8,500 for the handsome mare, but offered this mare with Alarm Bell and Blackwood for \$10,000. This offer was not taken, but the same firm who finally bought the stable offered \$8,000 for the three, which was refused. They then offered a price for the whole lot which was accepted. A feature of the sale is that Mr. Bowie only parts with the racing qualities of Belle d'Or and Alarm Bell, for when the horses are no longer serviceable for the track they are to be returned to Mr. Bowie without cost. They will then be placed on his farm for breeding purposes. Lordlike was sold to Mr. Gorman for \$500 cash and a deferred payment of \$300 more, with a royalty to Mr. Bowie on his winnings. Mr. Bowie still has a lot of two-year-olds and yearlings at his stock farm. These he will send to New York in October and have them auctioned off at the regular sale of such stock, provided he cannot in the meantime otherwise dispose of them.

The ex-Governor speaks pathetically of his forced retirement, and says that he will greatly miss the excitement and sport that he has enjoyed so much for the past forty years. He said the first intimation he had that he would have to give up this pleasure was received from Dr. Draper, who attended him in the nervous sickness with which he was attacked in New York last June. He went there at that time to attend the sale of yearling colts with the view of adding to his stables. He was stricken with nervous prostration, and was told by Dr. Draper that the excitement of keeping up with the turf was too much for his run-down system, and if he valued his life he would give the sport up at once. This news completely upset him. He had his stable in New York at that time entered for the meetings which succeeded each other in that section, and he told the physician that it was impossible to do as he had suggested then, as he was in no condition to negotiate a sale. He was advised to send the horses home, but this was equally impossible, as the stable boys would not accompany them in the height of the racing season and they would receive no care or attention in Prince George's county. Finally, the ex-Governor consented to send the stable to Saratoga to remain until after the summer meeting, when, if he felt able, he would dispose of the horses. This has been done.

As breeder and owner of racers, Ex-Gov. Bowie has been on the turf forty years. During that time his name has become familiar at all the Eastern tracks and his horses have gained for him a reputation as a successful breeder of fast runners. He has owned some of the fastest flyers on the American turf and was always to the fore in all

matters that would elevate or advance the racing interests. Among the horses of national reputation which he has turned out are Catesby, who netted him a large sum in winnings and who was sold for \$15,000; Crickmore, another such flyer, who sold for \$15,000. Compensation, Oriole, Bessie and Belle, all of whom brought large amounts to the purse of their owner by feats on the track. About twenty years ago Australia, one of the best horses he ever bred, was permanently injured while being loaded on the cars at the Baltimore and Ohio Depot in Washington. Through the carelessness of the tralumen, the mare fell through a temporary platform and cut the tendons of her legs so badly as to be practically useless as a racer. He sued the railroad company for her value, and at the first trial was awarded \$10,000. The company appealed, and a second trial was ordered the result of which was a verdict for \$12,000 with interest from the conclusion of the former trial. The whole amount paid him by the company for the accident was about \$15,000. The mare was afterward used for breeding, and her offspring were some of the best of the ex-Governor's later horses.

Mr. Bowie was born at Fairview, Prince George's county, November 10, 1826. He served with distinction through the Mexican war, being twice promoted for gallantry. In 1847, when only twenty-one years old, he was elected to the House of Delegates from his native county, and was returned for several successive sessions and then advanced to the Senate. In 1867 he was elected Governor, but in consequence of the provisions of the new constitution allowing Gov. Swann to serve out his full term of four years he did not enter upon his executive duties until January, 1869. In 1860 he was chosen president of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, and in 1873 president of the City Passenger Railway Company, both of which positions he still holds, and to the duties of which he will hereafter devote his entire attention. Ex-Gov. Bowie was president of the Maryland Jockey Club from its organization to its dissolution.