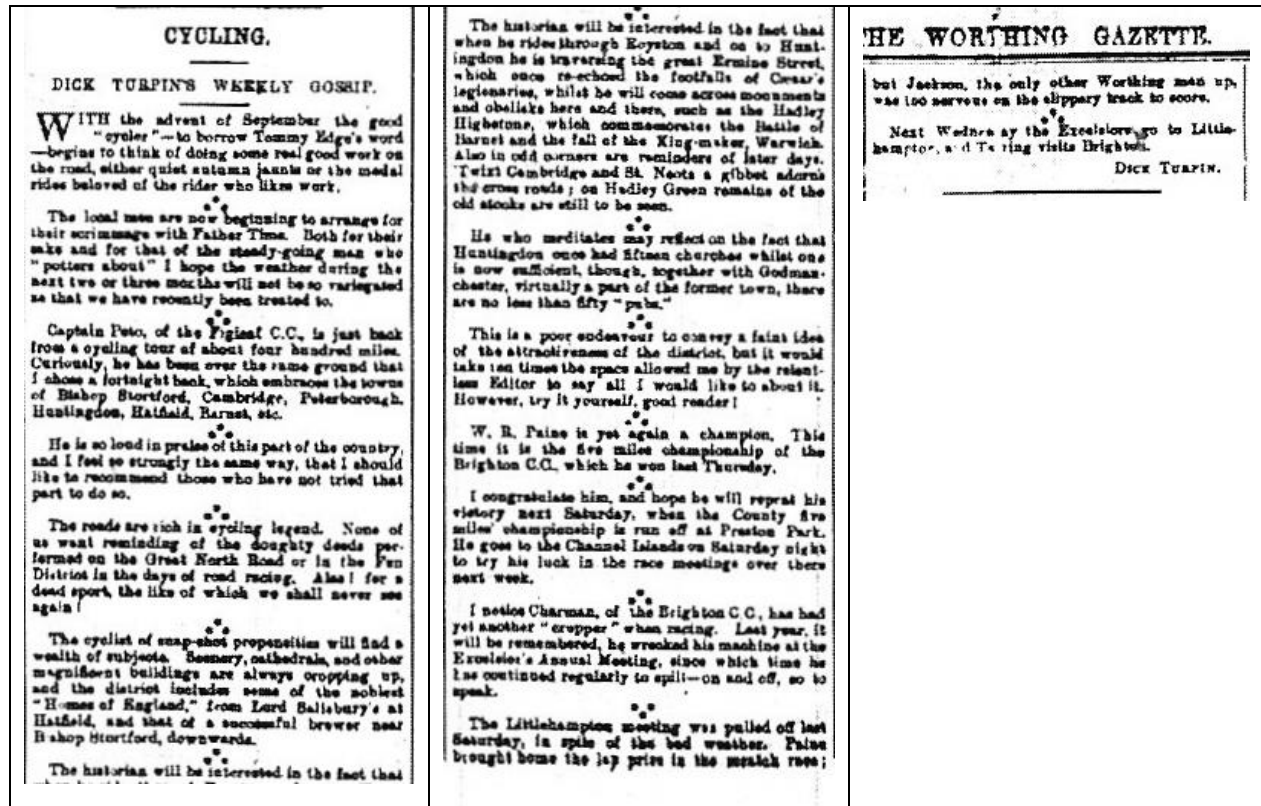


**GET BETTER PHOTOCOPIES –
SEE PENULTIMATE PARA**

Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.
Source: Worthing Gazette Archive
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Turpin: 5.9.1900 P2C3 – 01



CYCLING,

DICK TURPIN'S WEEKLY GOSSIP.

WITH the advent of September the good "cyclers" – to borrow Tommy Edge's word – begins to think of doing some real good work on the road, either quiet autumn jaunts or the medal rides beloved of the rider who likes work.

The local men are now beginning to arrange for their scrimmages with Father Time. Both for their sake and for that of the steady-going men who "potters about", I hope the weather during the next two or three months will not be so variegated as we have recently been treated to.

Captain Peto, of the Figleaf C.C., is just back from a cycling tour of about four hundred miles. Curiously, he has been over the same ground that

I chose a fortnight back, which embraces the towns of Bishop Stortford, Cambridge, Peterborough, Huntingdon, Hatfield, Barnet, etc.

He is so loud in praise of this part of the country, and I feel so strongly the same way, that I should like to recommend those who have not tried that part to do so.

The roads are rich in cycling legend. None of us want reminding of the doughty deeds performed on the Great North Road or in the Fen District in the days of road racing. Alas! for a dead sport, the like of which we shall never see again!

The cyclist of snap-shot propensities will find a wealth of subjects. Scenery, cathedrals, and other magnificent buildings are always cropping up, and the district includes some of the noblest "Homes of England," from Lord Salisbury's at Hatfield and that of a successful brewer near Bishop Stratford, downwards.

The historian will be interested in the fact that when he rides through Keyston and on to Huntingdon he is traversing the great Ermine street which once re-echoed the footfalls of Caesar's legionaries, whilst he will come across monuments and obelisks here and there, such as the Hadley Highstone, which commemorates the Battle of Barnet and the fall of the King-maker, Warwick. Also in odd corners are reminders of later days. 'Twixt Cambridge and St. Neots a gibbet adorns the cross roads; on Hadley Green remains of the old stocks are still to be seen.

He who meditates may reflect on the fact that Huntingdon once had fifteen churches whilst one is now sufficient, although, together with Godmanchester, virtually a part of the former town, there are no less than fifty "pubs".

This is a poor endeavour to convey a faint idea of the attractiveness of the district, but it would take ten times the space allowed me by the relentless Editor to say all I would like to about it. However, try it yourself, good reader!

W.R. Paine is yet again a champion. This time it is the five miles championship of the Brighton C.C., which he won las Thursday.

I congratulate him, and hope he will repeat his victory next Saturday, when the County five miles championship is run off at Preston Park. He goes to the Channel Islands on Saturday night to try his luck in the race meetings over there

next week.

I notice Charman, of the Brighton C.C., has had yet another “cropper” when racing. Last year, it will be remembered, he wrecked his machine at the Excelsior’s Annual Meeting, since which time he has continued regularly to spill – on and off, so to speak.

The Littlehampton meeting was pulled off last Saturday, in spite of the bad weather. Paine brought home the lap prize in the *masdf;lkj ck* race; but Jackson, the only other Worthing man up, was too nervous on the slippery track to score.

Next Wednesday the Excelsior go to Little-Hampton, and Tarring visits Brighton.

DICK TURPIN