

CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE THAMES.

This great contest, perhaps the most extraordinary boat-race ever witnessed, came off on Monday afternoon. The result is, that, after the most gallant struggle on record, from the first to the last, over a course of nearly four miles and a half, Robert Coombes, the champion of the Thames and Tynes, the hero of nearly half a hundred desperate conflicts, the pride of the Thames, sustained a defeat; yet, so confident were Coombes' friends, that, at the moment of starting, he was backed by many at 2 to 1.

The match was for £300 a side; and the competitors Robert Coombes of Westminster, and Thomas Cole of Chelsea.

In the course of last season Coombes imparted some of his principle and practice of training to Cole, who was at that time taken under his charge

MASONIC PLATE FOR THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

This superb Plate, consisting of cornucopia, ewers, and pillars, has just been manufactured in silver gilt by Messrs. Lambert and Rawlings, of Coventry-street, for the Grand Lodge of England; together with three ivory gavels, for the use of the Grand Master and his Wardens, in the ceremony of laying foundation-stones. The ewers are for holding oil and wine, one having olives as the emblematic decoration, and the other bunches of grapes. The horn of plenty is to hold corn, and round its lip



NEW MASONIC PLATE FOR THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

to be got in condition against Robert Nowell; and the pupil has proved superior to the preceptor. Cole won Dogget's coat and badge in the year 1849; but there was little else on record to recommend him. Both men had been in training since the early part of the winter; and they came to the starting-post in the most beautiful condition. Coombes, who has in his time beaten 11-stone men, is in his 43d year, and his rowing weight was 9st. 1lb. Cole is only twenty-five years old, and is half a stone heavier.

The distance was from Putney-bridge to Mortlake, and the attendance of spectators was very great. Betting was brisk at 6 and 7 to 4 on Coombes, and

is a wreath of corn. The gavels are exceedingly large, and are made solid, from the best Siam ivory, with silver gilt plates, on which are engraved the emblems of the office of the Grand Master and his Wardens. The manufacturers are members of the craft, and past masters of the Percy Lodge No. 324. They were exhibited to the brethren at the grand festival held at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, London, on the 28th of last month.

