



Thomas H. Smith & Co.,

STRAW HAT MANUFACTURERS,

115 to 121

Nos. 85, 87, and 89 Orchard Street,

Elizabeth, N. J., Oct 27th 1879.

Gen Wm D Withers

Lexington, Ky.

Dear Sir After I left you at Prospect Park, I arrived at our State Fair grounds and found I was late to exhibit my team "Maud Almont," and "Almonia," and the judges had deferred the matter of judgement on "Gentlemen's Road teams," until late in the afternoon as they knew of my team, and awarded me the 1st Premium, I also exhibited them at the Middlesex and Union Co's Fairs and took 1st Premium, but on the 18th my mare "Almonia," was taken sick and died in less than twenty four hours, although I had Skillful Veterinary^s and they could not save her, they pronounced the trouble "Spiral Meningitis," I feel it a great loss, as I had every reason to expect her to trot below 230 next summer as she could show a 30 gait most any time and I only used her for the road, she had trotted in 235 and my other Mare can trot below 240 and shall expect her to trot in 235 or less next summer, I think she can do a mile now in 235 or less to the pole as she knows nothing else, at the pole, and she looks as well speeding as the "Great Almont," does that I have hanging in my Library I enclose some scraps from our papers, and I assure