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MANUAL
OF
HORSE-BREEDING,
FOR THE
EASTERN TOWNSHIPS OF CANADA.

[by George Barnard]

"Thou grasyer, that mayst fortune to be of mine opinion
or condytion, to love horses, and young coltes and foles to go
among thy cattle, take hede that thou be not beguiled, as I
have been a hundred tymes and more."

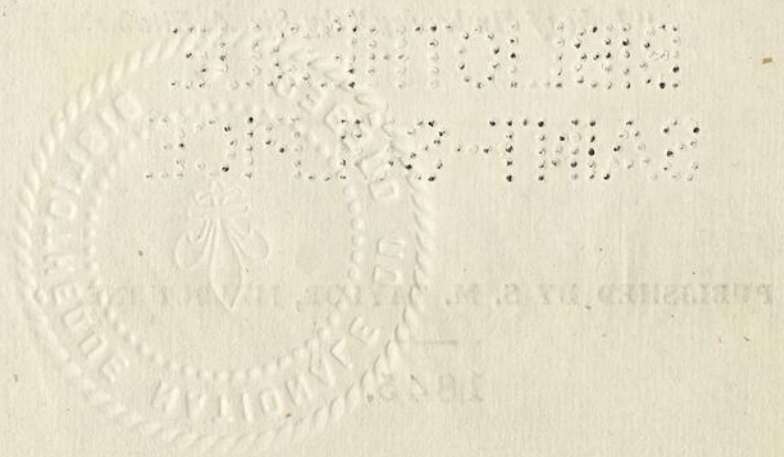
"Boke of Husbandry," by Sir A. Fitzherbert.

PUBLISHED BY S. M. TAYLOR, MELBOURNE.

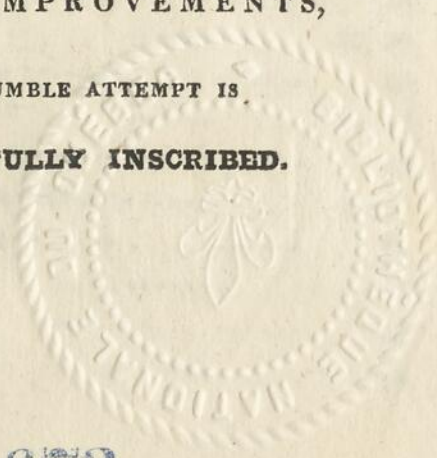
1845.

IN THE
COURT OF THE COMMONS
HONORABLE BREEDING
THE
LORDS OF THE COMMONS
IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

"When the year, that next, is given to be a year of
on a day, to the year, and year, to the year, and
and the year, to the year, that then be a year, and
have been a year, and more."



TO
ALEXANDER TILLOCK GALT, ESQ.,
Commissioner
OF THE
BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY,
AS A TOKEN OF
ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE
FOR
HIS ZEAL AND EFFICIENCY
IN THE PROMOTION OF ALL
PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS,
THIS HUMBLE ATTEMPT IS
RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED.



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TO
 ALEXANDER THROCK GALT, ESQ.
 COMMISSE
 OF THE
 BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY,
 AS A TOKEN OF
 ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE
 FOR
 HIS ZEAL AND EFFICIENCY
 IN THE PROMOTION OF ALL
 PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.



SIXTY

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EXPRESSIONS RELATIVE TO HORSE-BREEDING.

The mare, in bringing forth, is said to **FOAL**, and not *fold*, as some pronounce the word, from having heard it spoken correctly in the past tense; as "the mare *foaled* last night;" or "the mare has *foaled*:" *folded* is improper.

The young is termed **FOAL**, and **COLT** *foal* or **FILLY** *foal* until weaned; and then a *weanling* or *weaned* foal until one year old. After this it is called, from its age, a *yearling*, *two-years-old*, &c. colt or filly, usually bearing the name of its last year until grass grows, or the first day of May. At five years old the animal ceases to be called a *colt* or *filly*, and becomes a *horse* or *mare*. The term *colts* includes *fillies*; but *mare-colt*, though in common use, is, strictly speaking, improper; yet *horse-colt* is possibly admissible, because the word *colt* alone, from vulgar usage, may not always give emphatic distinction of meaning from *filly*. *Horse-foal* and *mare-foal* are common but not correct expressions; the proper terms being *colt-foal* and *filly-foal*.

Custom has sanctioned the phrase *in foal*, rather than *with foal*, to designate the pregnancy of a mare.

The term *young horses*, often used to specify the kind of stock for payments, is vague: the meaning would generally be better expressed by *young animals of the horse kind*. *Young horses*, in the utmost strictness, would mean those only of five and six years old; for, by racing rules, the animal is yet a colt at four, and *aged* at seven: but the term *young horses* is often used in promissory notes and agreements; and, being interpreted in its utmost latitude, embraces all animals of the horse kind not impaired by old age.

In turf or racing affairs, the word *old* prefixed to a horse's name is considered improper, unless for the purpose of dis-

tinguishing him from a more recent one of the same appellation: thus *old Eclipse* is understood to mean the earliest or first *Eclipse*, there having been several of the name.

Horsemen usually term the progeny of a stallion his **GET**, and that of a mare her **PRODUCE**, (the word being accented on the first syllable.) Farmers often use the word *stock*, which, though less definite, is not improper.

The male parent is called the **SIRE**, and the female the **DAM** of the progeny. In giving a pedigree, we should say **OUT OF**, in reference to a dam; as "*Fashion, by Trustee; OUT OF Bonnets o' Blue.*"

In giving the paternity of produce, the proper expression is *got by*, and not "*sired by.*" The celebrated John Randolph, of Roanoke, Virginia, said that one might with as much propriety use the term **DAM'D**, in reference to the mare, as "*sired,*" in regard to the horse.

To indicate a pedigree, we should not only give the immediate parentage, but also name the sire of the dam; thus, "*Peytona, by Glencoe; out of Giantess by Leviathan;*" or "*dam by Leviathan.*"

A **STUD** is not a single horse, but a collection of horses. The term *breeding-stud* includes the mares kept in such an assemblage, as well as the males used for breeding. **STALLION** is the proper term for a public sire, though *stud-horse* may be also admissible: but to call a single horse a *stud* is absurd.

Neither English nor any good authorities recognize such terms as "*sorrel*" for *chestnut*; "*full*" brother or sister for *own* brother or sister; "*blooded*" stock for *blood* stock; "*put to*" for *bred* or *stinted to*; "*raised*" for *bred* or *reared*, &c. When turfmen use the term *half* brother or sister, they allude to produce of one dam, and not of one sire; but a clearer mode of expression is thus: "*Boston, out of Robin Brown's dam;*" instead of "*Boston, half brother to Robin Brown.*"

PROXIMATE COST OF BREEDING AND REARING ECONOMICALLY UPON A FARM.

The outlays are stated in round numbers: interest at 6, and risk at 10 per cent. yearly. Expenses of breaking, castrating, &c. compensated by the colt's labour: attendance by the manure.

	Cheap.	Good.	Best.
Service of Stallion	\$2,	4,	6,
Use of Mare	5,	8,	12,
Risk and Interest	1,12	1,92	2,88
Cost of Foal weaned.....	8,12	13,92	20,88
Risk and Interest, 6 months.....	,64	1,11	1,67
Wintering Weanling	4,	5,	6,
Cost of Yearling	12,76	20,03	28,55
Risk and Interest	2,04	3,20	4,56
Summer's Feed	1,	2,	3,
Wintering Yearling	4,	5,	6,
Cost of 2-year old	19,80	30,23	42,11
Risk and Interest	3,16	4,83	6,73
Summering.....	2,	3,	4,
Wintering	5,	6,	8,
Cost of 3 year old	29,96	44,06	60,84
Risk and Interest	4,78	7,04	9,72
Summering.....	3,	4,	5,
Wintering	6,	8,	10,
Cost of 4-year old	43,74	63,10	85,57
Actual Outlays	32,	45,	60,
Average Worth, commonly	40,	60,	85,
„ „ cross-bred	60,	75,	95,
„ „ well-bred	65,	85,	110,
And at 6 years old.....	75,	100,	130,
When prepared for Market	80,	110,	150,

MANUAL
OF
HORSE - BREEDING,
&c. &c.

TO MY NEIGHBOUR FARMERS:

If these pages be of a useful tendency, the credit is due, in a great measure, to yourselves. The remarks of experienced men among you have indicated the right course and encouraged its practice. This little volume will be welcome to you for its motives, and with you rests the correction of its errors.

It is a common remark among us that "good horses were never so scarce as at present." There has been no decided improvement in the production since the first opening of the country. The mares of the early settlers were about equal in quality to those now reared by their descendants. A villanous mode of stallion-keeping has served generally to deteriorate the breed; while the few valuable animals—in many instances chance-bred—have been taken away for purposes of labour. No one who for a moment reverts to the imposing figures of our travelling stallions, such as *Lee Boo*, *American Eagle*, *Black Snake*, the *Sunbury White*, and *Jersey Grey* horses of

former years ; and *Leopard*, *Defiance*, the *Goldfinders*, *Negotiator*, and *Black Prince*, of the present or recent date—can say but that the stock within his knowledge has remarkably degenerated from its parent sort,—at least as to outward appearance.

This degeneracy, ruinous to the farmer's interest, and injurious to the fame of the country, is owing essentially, 1st, to a wrong mode of treating the stallions, and especially to their excessive service ; 2ndly, to lack of skill and attention in *Breeding*, or coupling the mare and horse ; and 3rdly, to erroneous practice in rearing the progeny. The two latter errors are your own : the first is that of your servants, and the remedy lies in your own hands.

At first thought, one may conceive that the improvement of our breed is to be effected by the introduction of superior stallions, and by that alone. This idea is fatally erroneous. The blood of the best horses in the world would, under the present system of mismanagement, soon decline to the common standard. There have been but two sources of radical improvement to our horses ; namely, crosses with the French Canadian and with the Morgan breeds, both of which are smaller races than our own. The improvement in these cases has been owing to an increase, not of the size of the frame, but of the organs of life,—giving greater powers of digestion and assimilation. These races, then, are advantageous to breed from, in a great degree, because they yield the quality necessary to compensate for our own defective treatment of the offspring. If we adopt a more rational—a more civilized—mode

of rearing our young horses, than that we now practise;—if we, farmers, as a body, will study this important branch of our calling, and adopt the generous and careful treatment of our promising colts, whereby pounds will come home in place of present dollars,—the introduction of superior stallions, both as to size and blood, will be called for, and followed by the most profitable consequences. It is a maxim with the English trainers that “the best part of a horse goes in at his mouth.” If this be correct with regard to the full-grown animal, it is of greater moment as to the more tender colt: but were an experienced trainer only to see the sort of shelter given our young things in winter, and the want of it in summer, he would probably be led to think that neither by what goes in at the mouth, nor otherwise, would it be in the power of man to reinstate, in the matured animal, the good natural qualities worried out during the period of its growth by exposure to storms and flies and the severest cold weather.

Let us notice the profit arising from good horses. The state of the Southern market is sufficiently indicated by this extract from the *American Agriculturist*.

FARM AND ROAD HORSES.

“There is nothing like that attention bestowed upon the breeding of good farm and road horses that there should be; we mean the horse of *all work*: one that is reasonably showy, and possessing strength, endurance, and docility; with a walk of four miles an hour, and an easy trot to itself, over

level road, of seven miles an hour. We have occasionally seen match horses, with which one could plough two acres in a day: at the same time they made a handsome appearance in single or double harness, were equal to nine or ten miles an hour, or fifty miles in a day, and were also easy and pleasant under the saddle. Such animals, however, are rare; yet they should not be.

“ For hardiness, strength, quickness on the road, in walk or trot, and in endurance, the Canadian horse has few superiors: but he lacks show, and is not of sufficient size to suit the generality of our citizens. A few of the Vermont horses come as near to perfection as any thing we have ever seen, for the road, save that they usually want four or five inches more of height, and a proportionable size in other respects, to fit them for the heavy work of the farm, or making a sufficiently showy appearance in the carriage. At the west, they have size enough; but, reared on their rich, succulent pasture, and fed with corn without stint, they are leggy, lathy, soft, spongy, and without endurance. If they were fed with oats instead of corn, we have no doubt that the same blood would produce superior animals; for oats make good muscle,—corn fat loose flesh. Good well-developed muscle (lean flesh) constitutes the main strength of any animal. South, and in the middle States, it is either the high-spirited racer on the one hand, or the slow, heavy-moving Dutch horse on the other.

“ Why it is that our farmers are so careless in the breeding of good horses, we cannot divine; for a

superior carriage-horse always commands a handsome price, and is of quick sale. We have looked over several hundred pairs of horses brought to the city of New York for sale within the past six months, and there were scarcely ten really prime ones sixteen hands high among them. These brought from \$700 to \$800 the pair readily; and \$600 is the very lowest price, on an average, that may be expected for them. The dealers usually calculate upon an advance of \$200, for breaking and risk and expense of marketing; which, considering the many mishaps that occur, is none too much. Estimating the average price, then, of good carriage-horses at \$600 per pair, and deducting \$200 for marketing, it leaves \$400 to the farmer, which makes it a fair business, and well worth his bestowing more attention than he now does on the blood and rearing of this most serviceable animal to man."

The writer above cited has no reference to horses of speed—fast trotters; but, only to those which "walk four, and trot with ease seven miles an hour," and, on occasion, are "equal to nine or ten miles an hour, or fifty in a day." The sales of horses of speed shew that they yield the largest profit of any commodity produced upon a farm.

The unrivalled pacing horse *Oneida Chief*, lately sold to go to England, after proving himself the fleetest in America, was purchased on a farmer's dunghill, when eight years old, at \$800.

Only last autumn, a fleet and strong bay trotting mare, purchased from Mr. Oliver Blodgett, near Lennoxville, at \$100, was taken to Boston, and after a few weeks' training, sold for \$700.

A Canadian friend of the writer's, at Rougemont Mountain, has a fine large fast-trotting gelding of his own rearing, for which he has frequently refused the price of \$1000.

Instances are common, of horses which shew speed being purchased at such prices as \$100, then sold for \$500, and afterwards fetching from one to two thousand. Numbers of such high sales are effected, of the particulars of which we never receive any account. It often happens that both parties to the sale are interested to keep the price a profound secret. The dealer who takes a fast horse from the country, and makes such an advantageous disposal of him, is especially apt to be silent as to the price he obtains. We may safely reckon that, generally, all horses of speed, when they become known as such, bring at least double the prices they would command without extraordinary fleetness.

These high prices are not owing to the demand for the Turf, or the uses of sportsmen, alone: fast horses are bought at a high figure *from economy*, by men of business, whose time is valuable; because such horses save it. Others, who are able, purchase them merely for fashion's sake, and many purely for the pleasure of fast riding, and the pride of outstripping less ambitious travellers.

The demand, at all the markets, for elegant, large, fast horses, is great, regular, and constantly increasing: and the adoption of a correct system of breeding will enable any person who wishes, after a little time, to produce such animals, and obtain such prices for them.

BREEDING, OR COUPLING THE SIRE AND DAM.

The assorting of male and female, with regard to their respective qualities, is the most important consideration in the art of Breeding. Although the good sense of the farmers guides them safely in many respects, in this matter, the want of extended observation often leaves them undecided how to act; and mere imagination leads them into error. The truth of the maxim, that "a little learning is a dangerous thing," is frequently evinced in the mode adopted of coupling the male and female, in the intention of cross-breeding, whereby an offspring is produced without the good qualities of either parent.

It would be impossible, even with a profound knowledge of the subject, to give precise rules for all cases, in a matter liable to such vast variety of circumstances, as the coupling of animals for the purpose of breeding. There is no publication which embraces an extended research into this subject. The writer, having enjoyed but slight opportunities of obtaining information, beyond his own limited experience, cannot be expected to promulgate more than the first principles and invariable rules established or sanctioned by both scientific and practical men.

The following precepts by one of the most distinguished anatomists in Europe, are generally received as established doctrines; although sometimes the course of nature is at variance with the most perfect theories.

PROFESSOR CLINE'S RULES.

" Muscles. The muscles, and tendons which are their appendages, should be large, by which an animal is enabled to travel with greater facility.

" Bones. The strength of an animal does not depend on the size of the bones, but on that of the muscles. Many animals with large bones are weak, their muscles being small. Animals that were imperfectly nourished during growth have their bones disproportionately large. If such deficiency of nourishment originated from a constitutional defect, which is the most frequent cause, they remain weak during life. Large bones, therefore, generally indicate an imperfection in the organs of nutrition.

" Improvement of Form. When the male is much larger than the female, the offspring is generally of an imperfect form. If the female be proportionally larger, the offspring is of an improved form. The proper method of improving the form of animals consists in selecting a well-formed female proportionally larger than the male. The improvement depends on this principle, that the power of the female to supply her offspring with nourishment is in proportion to her size, and to the power of nourishing herself, from the excellence of her own constitution.

" The size of the fœtus is generally in proportion to that of the male parent, and therefore when the female parent is disproportionately small, the quantity of nourishment is deficient, and her offspring has all the disproportions of a starveling. But when the female, from her size and good constitution, is more than adequate to the nourishment of a fœtus of a smaller male than herself, the growth must be proportionally greater. The large female has also a greater quantity of milk, and her offspring is more than abundantly supplied with nourishment after birth.

" To produce the most perfect formed animal, abundant

nourishment is necessary from the earliest period of its existence until its growth is complete.

“ The power to prepare the greatest quantity of nourishment from a given quantity of food, depends principally upon the magnitude of the lungs, to which the organs of digestion are subservient.

“ To obtain animals with large lungs, crossing is the most expeditious method, because well-formed females may be selected from a variety of large size, to be bred to a well-formed male of a variety that is rather smaller.

“ *Examples of the good effects of crossing the breed.* The great improvement of the breed of horses in England arose from crossing with those diminutive stallions, Barbs and Arabians; and the introduction of large Flanders mares was the source of improvement in the breed of cart-horses.

“ *Example of the bad effects of crossing the breed.* When it became the fashion in London to drive large bay horses, the farmers in Yorkshire bred their mares to much larger stallions than usual, and this did infinite mischief to their breed, by producing a race of small-chested, long-legged, large-boned, worthless animals.”

Here follows an extract from Wm. Evans:—

“ Davis of Longleat, one of the ablest agriculturists England has produced, has given some useful observations on the subject of size. He laments that the attempts which have been made to improve the breeds of cows, horses, and sheep, have proceeded too much upon the principle of enlarging the size of the animal; whereas, in general, the only real improvement has been made in the pig, and that was by reducing its size, and introducing a kind that will live hardier and come to greater perfection at an earlier age.

“ The possession of a hardy and healthy constitution is a most valuable property in stock. Where the climate is rigorous, it is essential that the stock bred and maintained there should be able to endure the severities of the weather, or

scarcity of food, or any other circumstance, that might subject a more delicate breed to injury: in this respect, different kinds of stock greatly vary, and it is a matter of much consequence, to select, for different situations, animals with constitutions suitable to the place where they are to be kept. They mistake greatly who expect to improve a breed of animals by crossing with large over-fed males, or suppose that such males will impart all the qualities of size and flesh, which they have acquired by superior keep, to their offspring. The progeny may certainly have bone and size, but, without suitable keep afterwards, this increase in bone will be most injurious to them and their owners. The best-informed farmers are well convinced that a great quantity of fat laid upon an animal cannot produce fat, or better stamina, in the offspring; nor were ever the best animals produced from the largest males."

A remarkable instance of successful breeding from small sires has long existed in Vermont, and latterly in our own district, in the excellent and well-known Morgan horses. One case may be particularized, as the fine animal employed is still to be seen at Beebe Plain, Stanstead. This horse was brought as a stallion, when young, sound, and untouched by service, to the village of Derby Line. The comment of the surrounding farmers was, "he is very pretty, but too small; we want a horse to weigh fourteen hundred." Thus nearly all the foals of that season's get in the neighbourhood were by large horses: the little Morgan, however, covered a dozen mares, and eight of them bore colt foals, seven of which have, at maturity, been sold in southern markets at an average of more than \$150 each, while those by the "large" stallions have averaged but about a third part of that sum—which is less than the cost of rearing.

As to the evil of large sires, the case is rational. A large foetus in a small womb is constrained to lie in a contracted shape: hence animals so produced have usually a raw frame, coarse head, short or ewe neck, upright shoulders, narrow chest, and sloping rump, derived partly from their cramped position, and partly from a stinted supply of the nourishing fluid before birth; while often afterwards a scanty flow of milk from a small dam, and subsequent neglect owing to the ungainly appearance of the weanling, conspire with the previous check of its growth to prevent a sufficient furnishing of flesh to the young bones; and it grows up an awkward creature, with neither good size, figure, constitution, action, nor spirit.

A small foetus in a large womb, on the contrary, has plenty of room in which to assume its natural shape, an abundant supply of the nourishing fluid, and does not attain a size to produce difficulty in parturition; or to require, after birth, a quantity of milk beyond that naturally produced by the dam. It is found, too, that the vital organs, the heart, lungs, &c., are proportionally larger and more vigorous in action, when the male parent is smallest. The animal bred from a comparatively small male, therefore, becomes of the most vigorous constitution, thrives best, and labours with least suffering.

CROSSING.

The coupling a male and female of opposite constitutional qualities is termed *Crossing*. The word

is also used to denote the mixing of any two distinct races. The effect of this mode of breeding is the production of great constitutional vigour; it being a law of nature, with wild as well as domestic animals, and also the human species, to provide against degeneracy, that an animal of either sex, being of a peculiar constitution, shall to a certain extent incline, as it were, from taste, to copulate with one of the other sex having opposite peculiarities; and that this crossing, or union of opposite sexual characters, shall not only be the means of reducing such peculiarities, but also give increased health and energy to the offspring. Crossing, therefore, in breeding the horse, is not only the means of producing hardiness and vigour, and consequently increase of size, strength, and general activity; but also serves to do away with, or destroy, peculiar qualities, whether of useful or worthless description. Thus it reduces *fineness* of form, spirit, or temper, and is a dangerous expedient in regard to speed of a special kind, as when either parent animal is remarkable for fleetness on a particular gait.

Care must be taken, in breeding, to preserve and improve upon the useful and desirable qualities of the parents, and do away with only their objectionable properties. When these good qualities have been kept up, and the bad continually pruned away for many generations, animals of the race are called, in regard to those qualities, *well-bred*, or of *good blood*, and may be depended on to continue those strongly stamped characteristics to their progeny for time to come.

The opposite course to crossing is called breeding *in-and-in*, which is the breeding between the nearest relatives, as the putting a male to his own dam, or to his own offspring. This is bad practice, at variance with nature and science, and only resorted to in order to stamp some peculiar excellence on a future race. Breeding between more distant relatives is called close or near breeding; from animals of one particular race or sort, it is called thorough-breeding, and the produce is termed *thorough-bred*. The improvement of the horse having been chiefly confined heretofore to the Racing or Turf sort, which are descended directly in a long line from Arab, or other kindred Eastern parentage, the term *thorough-bred* is commonly understood as applying to this kind alone.

When the choice of animals to breed from lies only among those of an inferior description, strong crossing is always a good practice. In assorting superior animals, approaching perfection, it is less necessary, and if resorted to, must be used with caution. A single cross, to any race for a long time close or thorough-bred, will add to its size and hardiness, and the pristine qualities may be reclaimed by immediate return to the pure stock. High and delicate properties can only be stamped by a long and arduous course of careful selection.

The maxim to use sound healthy stock of the sort desired, in the prime of life, and unexhausted either by excessive labour or sexual service, is sufficiently approved, though not always honoured in practice. Mares are seldom bred too young; often too old.

The produce of growing stock is apt to bear the appearance of a colt through life; that of aged animals, to exhibit a decrepid figure even when young. Neither sort is of the highest value. The progeny of a three or four-year-old colt will sometimes inherit a *growing propensity* that will bring it to sufficient size, and give a fulness and smoothness of form very agreeable to the vulgar eye; but such animals are apt to prove weak, awkward, or tender, on coming to service. From a filly, it may not be amiss to breed once, or even twice, before she attains full maturity: and it is best, with either a filly or a mare that has never bred, to use a decidedly small stallion; (which, in the case of a mare of mature age, may be, if most convenient, a four-year-old, but not younger,) because such females yield but a contracted space to the foetus, bring it forth with some difficulty if large, and are not apt to give milk in abundance. The stallion used in such cases should have a rather small head, and hips not too prominent, in order to facilitate the birth.

Most writers insist that every fine horse must have a small head. It certainly adds greatly to the neatness, lightness, and finish of his appearance: but the force of character of an animal is commonly in proportion to the size of the brain, and perhaps no small-headed horse is recorded as a remarkably great performer. To contain a large brain, it is not necessary that the whole head be large: the muzzle and jowls may be light and fine; and this sort of head has a vivacious and intelligent appearance, indicative of the true character of the animal. Phy-

siologists affirm that "men of eminence, great talents, and of original and expansive minds, are universally found to possess large heads, combined with active temperaments." All observers concur in recommending good width between the eyes of a horse: this indicates a full development of the phrenological organ, *individuality*, and is consonant to Napoleon's partiality to a man with a large nose, for business of importance.

CROSSING TEMPERAMENTS.

The temperaments of cultivated animals, such as the horse, may be considered, like those of the human species, to be four; namely,—

"*The Lymphatic, or phlegmatic*, in which the *secreting glands* are the most active portion of the system, producing both corporeal and mental languor, dulness, and inactivity." Horses of this temperament are of dull colours, have a thick hide, and are steady, dull, and quiet, and easily kept in flesh.

"*The Sanguine*, in which the *arterial* portion of the system is most active, giving strong feelings and passions; and more ardour, zeal, and activity, than strength and power." This marks animals with colours somewhat akin to that of the blood, and conduces to large growth.

"*The Bilious*, in which the muscular portion predominates in activity, produces strength, power, and endurance of body, with great force and energy of character." It is indicated generally in horses by dark colours, and conduces to that most satisfactory property of *bottom*, or the quality of lasting.

"*The Nervous*, in which the *brain and nervous system* are most active, yields the highest degree of activity, with clearness of perception and of thought, but less endurance." This temperament prevails in horses of a thin skin and great spirit and promptness, or irritability.

"These temperaments are generally compounded; the nervous-sanguine giving the highest degree of activity and energy; the nervous-bilious, activity and power; the bilious-lymphatic, weakness and indolence."

Where a horse is required for extraordinary performances, as a racer for instance, his temperament should be compounded of the nervous, sanguine, and bilious, that he may be large, keen, active, powerful, and enduring. In accordance with this doctrine, many of the best performers on record have been of a chesnut colour, and many also bay; both these colours indicating the requisite compound.

Nature dictates, in all breeding, that these temperaments at least,—if no other constitutional peculiarities,—shall be crossed; or that the parents shall be of opposite characters in this respect. In the human race, where marriages have been voluntarily contracted from mutual attachment, there is scarcely a case to be found, of a couple whose temperaments are alike. In the breeding of animals, perhaps the skill of the most refined practice—that is, the production of rare and high qualities,—depends upon the assorting of temperaments in the parents, more than upon any other one department of the study.

SADDLE USE.

Whatever purpose a horse may be intended for, he should be bred with a view to being easy under the saddle; not only because he may be occasionally required for that use; but from the fact that the horse which carries his rider easy, also carries his

own body in the same manner; and, in travelling, will consequently tire less and wear longer than a rough-going one of the same powers.

The following is extracted from the work on the horse, published in London by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. This is the standard English horse-book.

“The first axiom we would lay down is that ‘like will produce like; that the progeny will inherit the qualities, or the mingled qualities, of the parents.’ We would refer to the subject of diseases, and state our conviction, that there is scarcely one by which either of the parents is affected that the foal will not inherit, or at least the predisposition to it: even the consequences of ill usage or hard work will descend to the progeny. We have had proof upon proof that blindness, roaring, thick wind, broken wind, spavins, curbs, ringbones, and founder, have been bequeathed, both by the sire and the dam, to the offspring. Although these blemishes may not appear in the immediate progeny, they frequently will in the next generation. Hence the necessity of some knowledge of the parentage both of the sire and dam.

“Peculiarity of form and constitution will also be inherited. This is a most important, but neglected consideration; for however desirable, or even perfect, may have been the conformation of the sire, every good point may be neutralized or lost by the defective form, or want of blood, of the mare. There are niceties in this, of which some breeders used to be aware, and they employed their knowledge to great advantage. When they were careful that the essential points should be good in both parents, and that some minor defect in either should be met, and got rid of, by excellence in that particular point in the other, the result was creditable to their judgment, and highly profitable. The unskilful or careless breeder will often so badly pair the animals, that the good points of each

will be, in a manner, lost: the defects of both will be increased, and the produce will be far inferior to both sire and dam.

“ We would wish, then, to impress it on the minds of breeders, that peculiarities of form and constitution are inherited from both parents; that the excellence of the mare is a point of quite as much importance as that of the horse; and that out of a sorry mare, let the horse be perfect as he may, a good foal will rarely be produced. All this is recognised upon the turf, although poverty or carelessness have made the general breeder neglect or forget it. That the constitution and endurance of the horse are inherited, no sporting man ever doubted. The qualities of the sire or the dam descend from generation to generation, and the excellences or defects of certain horses are traced, and justly so, to some peculiarity in a far distant ancestor.

“ There is more difficulty in selecting a good mare to breed from than a good horse, because she should possess somewhat opposite qualities. Her carcase should be long, to give room for the growth of the fœtus, and yet with this there should be compactness of form and shortness of leg. If horse-breeders, possessed of good judgment, would pay the same attention to breed and shape as Mr. Bakewell did with sheep, they would probably attain their wishes in an equal degree.

“ As to the shape of the stallion, little satisfactory can be said. It must depend on that of the mare, and the kind of horse wished to be bred; but if there be one point which we should say is absolutely essential, it is this, *compactness*—as much goodness and strength as possible, condensed in a little space. If we are describing the reverse of the common race of stallions, the fault lies with the bad taste and judgment of breeders.

“ Next to compactness, the inclination of the shoulder will be regarded. A huge stallion, with upright shoulders, never got a capital hunter or hackney: from him the breeder can obtain nothing but a cart or dray-horse, and that perhaps spoiled by the opposite form of the mare. An upright shoul-

der is desirable, if not absolutely necessary, when a mere draught-horse is required.

"It is of no little importance, that the parents should be in full possession of their natural strength and powers. It is a common error, that because a mare has once been good, she is fit for breeding when she is no longer capable of ordinary work. Her blood and perfect frame may insure a foal of some value, but he will inherit a portion of the worn-out constitution of her from whom he sprung.

"On the subject of *breeding in-and-in*, that is, persevering in the same breed, and selecting the best on either side, much has been said. The system of crossing requires much judgment and experience; a great deal more, indeed, than breeders usually possess. The bad qualities of the cross are too soon engrafted on the original stock, and, once engrafted there, are not, for many generations, eradicated. The good ones of both are occasionally neutralized to a most mortifying degree. On the other hand, it is the fact, however some may deny it, that strict confinement to one breed, however valuable or perfect, produces gradual deterioration. The truth, here, as in many other cases, lies in the middle; crossing should be attempted with great caution, and the most perfect of the same breed should be selected, but varied by being frequently taken from different stocks. This is the secret of the course. The pure south-eastern blood is never left, but the stock is often changed with manifest advantage.

"A mare is capable of breeding at three or four years old; some have injudiciously commenced at two years, before her form or her strength is sufficiently developed, and with the development of which this early breeding will materially interfere. If she does little more than farm-work, she may continue to be bred from until she is nearly twenty; but if she has been hardly worked, and bears the marks of it, let her have been what she will in her youth, she will deceive the expectations of the breeder in her old age.

"The mare comes into heat in the early part of spring.

She is said to go with foal eleven months, but there is sometimes a strange irregularity about this. Some have been known to foal five weeks earlier, while the time of others has been extended six weeks beyond the eleven months. We may, however, take eleven months as the average time.

“ From the time of covering to that of foaling, the mare may be kept at moderate work, and that not only without injury, but with decided advantage. The work may be continued up to the very time when she is expected to foal; and of which she will give at least a day's notice, by the adhesive matter that will appear about the teats. When this is seen, it will be prudent to release her from work, and keep her near home, and under the frequent inspection of some careful person.

“ When nearly half the time of pregnancy has elapsed, the mare should have a little better food. She should be allowed one or two feeds of corn [grain] in the day. This is about the period when they are accustomed to sink their foals, or when abortion occurs: at this time, therefore, the eye of the owner should be frequently upon them. Good feeding and moderate exercise will be the best preventives against this. The mare that has once sunk her foal is ever liable to the same accident, and therefore should never be suffered to be with other mares about the time that this usually occurs, which is between the fourth and fifth months; for such is the power of imagination or of sympathy in the mare, that if one of them suffers abortion, the greater number of those in the same pasture will share the same fate.

“ If a mare has been regularly exercised, and apparently in health while she was in foal, little danger will attend the act of parturition. If there be false presentation of the foetus, or difficulty in producing it, it will be better to have recourse to a well-informed practitioner, rather than injure the mother by violent attempts to relieve the animal.

“ As soon as the mare has foaled, she should be turned into some well-sheltered pasture, with a hovel or shed to run into

when she pleases. If it be early in the spring, and the grass is scanty, she should have a couple of feeds of corn daily. The breeder may depend upon it, that nothing is gained by starving the mother and stinting the foal at this time. It is the most important time in the life of the horse; and if, from false economy, his growth be arrested now, his puny form and want of endurance will ever afterwards testify the error that has been committed. The corn should be given in a trough on the ground, that the foal may partake of it with the mother. When the new grass is flush and plenty, the corn may be gradually discontinued:

“ The mare may be put to moderate work again, a month after foaling. The foal is at first shut in the stable during the hours of work; but as soon as it acquires sufficient strength to toddle after the mare, and especially when she is at slow work, it will be better for the foal and the dam that they should be together. The work will contribute to the health of the mother; the foal will more frequently draw the milk, and thrive better; and will be hardy and tractable, and gradually familiarized with the objects among which it is afterwards to live. While the mother is thus worked, she and the foal should be well fed; and two feeds of corn, at least, should be added to the green food which they get when turned out after work, and at night. The mare will usually be found at heat, from ten days to a month after foaling, when, if kept principally for breeding purposes, she may be put again to the horse.

“ In five or six months, according to the growth of the foal, it may be weaned. It should then be housed, or turned into a distant yard or field affording both food and shelter, for three weeks or a month. The mother should be put to harder work, and have drier meat. One or two urine balls, or a physic ball, will be useful if the milk should be troublesome, or she should pine after the foal.

“ There is no principle of greater importance than the liberal feeding of the foal during the whole of his growth, and at

this time in particular, bruised oats and bran should form a considerable part of his daily provender. The farmer may be assured that money is well laid out which is expended on the liberal nourishment of the growing colt: while, however, he is well fed, he should not be rendered delicate by excess of care.

“ The process of breaking-in should commence from the very period of weaning. The foal should be daily handled, partially dressed, accustomed to the halter, led about, and even tied up. The tractability and good temper and value of the horse depend a great deal more upon this than breeders are aware: this should be done as much as possible by the man by whom they are fed, and whose management of them should be always kind and gentle. There is no fault for which a breeder should so invariably discharge his servant as cruelty, or even harshness, towards the rising stock; for the principle on which their after-usefulness is founded, is early attachment to, and confidence in, man; and obedience, implicit obedience, resulting principally from these.

“ At two years and a half, or three years, the regular process of breaking-in should come on. If it be delayed until the animal is four years old, his strength and obstinacy will be more difficult to overcome. We cannot much improve on the plan usually pursued by the breaker, except that there should be much more kindness and patience, and far less harshness and cruelty, than these persons are accustomed to exhibit, and a great deal more attention to the form and natural action of the horse. A headstall is put on the colt, and a cavesson, or apparatus to confine and pinch the nose, affixed to it, with long reins. He is first accustomed to the rein, then led round a ring on soft ground, and at length mounted and taught his paces. Next to preserving the temper and docility of the horse, there is nothing of so much importance as to teach him every pace, and every part of his duty, distinctly and thoroughly. Each must constitute a separate and sometimes long-continued lesson, and that taught by a man who will never suffer his passion to get the better of his discretion.

"After the cavesson has been attached to the headstall, and the long rein put on, the first lesson is, to be quietly led about by the breaker; a steady boy following behind, by occasional threatening with the whip, but never by an actual blow, to keep the colt up.

"Next comes the biting. The bit should be large and smooth, and the reins should be buckled to a ring on either side of the pad,—at first slack, and very gradually tightened. Occasionally the breaker should stand in front of the colt, and take hold of each side-rein near to the mouth, and press upon it, and thus begin to teach him to stop and to back at the pressure of the rein, rewarding every act of docility, and not being too eager to punish occasional carelessness or waywardness.

"At this period the body part of an old harness may be put on the colt in the stable, and he allowed to stand in it repeatedly for several hours in succession, or even through the night, until he is perfectly quiet at the sight, sound, and feeling of it. He may then be led out in it, and put to his biting exercise. Loose straps should now be attached to the harness, and he should be moved in this manner at different times, until regardless of their annoyance. He may now be gradually accustomed to moderate draught, if required, being encouraged only by an occasional pat or kind word: no whip or spur should be applied in giving first lessons either of riding or driving. Correction may, or must, be used to enforce implicit obedience after the education has proceeded to a certain extent, but the early lessons should be inculcated with kindness alone. Young colts are sometimes very perverse; many days will occasionally pass before they will permit the bridle to be put on, or the saddle to be worn; one act of harshness will double or treble this time. Patience and kindness will, after a while, prevail. On some morning of better humour than usual, the bridle will be put on, and the saddle will be worn; and this compliance being followed by kindness and soothing on the part of the breaker, and no inconvenience or

pain being suffered by the animal, all resistance will be at an end.

“ The colt may now be taken into the road or street to be gradually accustomed to the objects among which his services will be required. Here, from fear or playfulness, a considerable degree of starting and shying may be exhibited. As little notice as possible should be taken of it. The same or a similar object should be soon passed again, but at a greater distance. If the colt still shies, let the distance be farther increased, until he takes no notice of the object; then he may be gradually brought nearer to it, and this will be usually effected without the slightest difficulty: whereas, had there been an attempt to force the animal close to it in the first instance, the remembrance of the contest would have been associated with the object, and the habit of shying would have been established.

“ Some caution will be necessary at the first putting on of the saddle. The breaker should stand at the head of the colt, patting him, and engaging his attention, while one assistant, on the off-side, gently places the saddle on the back of the animal, and another, on the near-side, slowly tightens the girths. The mounting may be attempted a day or two afterwards. The breaker will need two assistants. He will remain at the head of the colt, patting and making much of him. The rider will put his foot into the stirrup, and bear a little weight upon it, while the man on the off-side presses equally on the other stirrup-leather; and, according to the docility of the animal, he will gradually increase the weight, until he balances himself on the stirrup. If the colt be uneasy or fearful, he should be spoken kindly to and patted, or a mouthful of corn be given him; but if he offers serious resistance, the lessons must terminate for that day; he may be in better humour on the morrow.

“ When the rider has balanced himself for a minute or two, he may gently throw his leg over, and quietly seat himself in the saddle. The breaker will then lead the animal round the

ring, the rider sitting perfectly still. After a few minutes he will take the reins, and handle them as gently as possible, and guide the horse by the pressure of them, patting him frequently, and especially when he thinks of dismounting; and, after having dismounted, offer him a little corn or green meat. The use of the rein in checking him, and of the pressure of the leg and the touch of the heel in quickening his pace, will soon be taught, and the education will be nearly completed.

“The education of the horse is that of the child. Pleasure is as much as possible associated with the early lessons, but firmness, or, if need be, coercion, must confirm the habit of obedience. The restive and vicious horse is, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, made so by ill-usage, and not by nature. None but those who will take the trouble to try the experiment, are aware how absolute a command the due admixture of firmness and kindness will soon give us over any horse.”

REARING OF COLTS.

In addition to the foregoing instructions, it is only necessary to repeat the precept, *to keep the young animal constantly and regularly growing, summer and winter, without a check, from weaning to maturity.* The best illustration of the rule will be found in recollecting the beneficial result, wherever any one has been kept in such a state of growth. The feed usually given to colts in this country requires considerable addition: the treatment, in regard to shelter, exercise, air, cleanliness, currying, &c., needs a thorough reformation. Almost every one's knowledge on this subject is sufficient to improve, if not to perfect, his practice: yet it may be proper to

state, that the feeding of oats daily in moderate quantities to growing colts, of whatever age, is not only safe and beneficial to their health, but necessary to the perfect development of their muscular powers. The injuries which frequently occur where oats or other grain is so fed, are not owing to the grain so much as to remissness in other respects, such as want of air and exercise, and a supply of such food as will keep the bowels from constipation, the blood from humours, and the system from inflammation and fever. Bran and the various kinds of straw, as well as carrots, potatoes, and turnips, are all serviceable in this respect.

Throughout the winter season, colts of all ages should be allowed plenty of room, and every inducement to gambol and exercise themselves in the open air during the day, and invariably kept through the night in stables whose temperature is just above the freezing point. Whenever a colt is seen to tremble or shiver with cold, he should be instantly transferred to a warmer place, or covered with a blanket. Every foal ought to be perfectly halter-broken at the time of weaning, and can then always be either tied in the stable or left loose in a box, as may appear best and be most convenient.

CASTRATING COLTS.

The common practice of the country is to castrate in the spring when the colt is two years old. At that time it generally becomes necessary, in order to keep the animal within bounds. Some have a fancy to defer the operation a year or two longer, in order

to have the crest grow higher, and make the horse more resolute: but the animal is seldom improved by a delay of the operation. Many judicious persons prefer to castrate the foal at the age of a few days or weeks, and there appears to be no reason why this should not be the best, as well as the safest and least expensive practice. The best mode of performing the operation is, probably, by *torsion*.

FOALING TIME AND AGE FOR WEANING.

Farmers generally choose to breed their mares so that they shall foal in June, or just after the spring's work, in order to use them at ploughing and harrowing throughout seed-time. This is a very convenient practice, and most profitable when the foal is to be of little value, as is too commonly the case; but if our farmers would wake up to their true interest, and use every means to breed really valuable horses, they would probably find the month of April to be, with good management, the best foaling time of any in the year. Such early foals generally make large and hardy horses; their first teeth appear just when the sweet grass starts for them to nibble; if it be necessary to use the mare moderately in the spring's work, they are able to keep out of her way; they live more upon grass while at the teat than later ones; shed their coat in season to get it replaced by a thick one before cold weather, and get through the first winter, (which is the most trying time for colts,) with little stint of

growth. But to practise this early foaling, the mare's work in the spring must be in part sacrificed; and she must be carefully tended and fed with roots, bran, or the like, for a month before foaling, to induce a flow of milk. This extra feed must be continued, too, until there is abundance of grass; and if the mare be worked in the spring, it must be done with the utmost care, not to sweat, heat, or fatigue her, and good feed in plenty must be provided to sustain her strength.

When the whitish matter appears on the mare's teats, indicating that she will foal in a day or two, her shoes should be taken off, and, especially if it be her first breeding, she should be continually watched until the foal is seen. Young mares, and others that are not regular breeders, sometimes fail to tear off the *blanket* or membranous covering in which the foal is dropped: in such a case it must be done for them; and it is sometimes necessary to cut the navel-string.

The earlier the foal the longer it is commonly kept at the teat, for the weaning is generally deferred until a demand for the labour of the mare renders it necessary. Four months is commonly spoken of among farmers as a sufficient age at which to wean a foal. The age of six months is far preferable; and it is sometimes practised, when convenient, to let it be with the mare until the very cold winter weather, when she will generally wean it herself. No benefit, however, is, in any case, likely to arise from allowing the foal to suck longer than nine months; and if the mare be with foal again, it

is better to wean soon after it becomes six months of age.

STALLIONS AND STALLION KEEPING.

The stallions of this district have hitherto come chiefly from Vermont; being aged and worthless, or, if young, inferior horses, that could not earn a support where they were better known. The possessors of these animals, for the most part, have been vagrant strangers, or known unfavourably if at all. When they have succeeded in selling, or rather "swopping" their prads to residents of the Province, it has been usually to some of their own kidney, such as a low trader, tavern-keeper, bailiff, or other idler, with no more interest in improving the stock of the country, than means to accomplish, or brains to comprehend it.

The mass of stallions and keepers being of such a sort, unfortunately constitutes a standard in the business; so that when an inexperienced man wishes to keep a horse for breed, as some farmer a colt of his own rearing, he is content with one of mere show, and weakly imitates a vile course, because practised by a number of persons, although these are known to be of the least good judgment and most questionable character.

The fatal hindrance to good horse-breeding is that scarcely any person can feel directly *interested* to keep a stallion of the best description, in the best manner, for the production of excellence in the pro-

geny, because the stock cannot mature for sale or service in less than five or six years, and then will be the property of others. This is a long period to wait for returns; and especially forbidding when we consider that the profit of our labours is to be our neighbours' gain more than our own. May it not be said, that the horse, being the noblest animal, can be produced in perfection only by exercising a nobleness of mind?

The remedy for the evil lies with the farmers;—the party most interested in its application. If *they* would withhold their custom from all horses, but such as should be of sterling and *useful* quality, and kept in a proper manner by respectable owners, the horse stock of the country would at once augment in value in a degree to richly compensate every individual concerned.

None but an ambitious and thorough farmer, or a public-spirited gentleman, of sufficient means, and possessed of sound judgment and correct taste in horse-flesh, can ever be expected to take up the business of stallion-keeping in a way to be of public benefit, and none but such a one should be encouraged or allowed to keep a stallion, for the public. The mere jockey is actuated by the sole aim that his nag shall cover as many mares as possible, in order to his pocketing the pay. With this view the beast is kept fatted, more like a hog than a horse, as well for the sake of show as with the idea of sustaining him against an excessive draught on his constitutional strength. Both these excesses are preventive of excellency in the offspring; and, when once committed, the damage is irreparable.

The following, by the Editor of the London Sporting Review, will show in what estimation a fat stallion is held, among the "knowing ones" in England.

"One word more as to the appearance of *Camel*: a casual observer might be almost led to imagine that, instead of being used as a stud-horse, he was in running order. The days, however, when fat was considered about the grand mark of good condition, are gone by, and it is now seldom to be found in abundance, except upon horses for sale, as, like charity, it covers a multitude of faults; or on travelling cart-stallions, which their attendants generally seem to fancy ought to rival either the sheep or oxen, in garbage, as they waddle up and down the market-place. With the John Bull farmer, who delights to see every thing, like himself, in "prime order," this plan of cramming horses may tell, but an immense accumulation of flesh is always to be avoided in thorough-bred stock, no matter for what purpose they may be intended, as not only utterly useless, but exceedingly detrimental."

With regard to the proper limit of a stallion's services, the writer lately applied to one of the ablest and most experienced horsemen in the world; one, too, most conversant with the views and opinions of others,—William T. Porter, Esq., Editor of the excellent American sporting publications. The following was the answer, in the *Spirit of the Times*.

"At the hazard of giving offence to many "enterprising" owners of stallions, we proceed to reply to the first query with entire frankness. The question is, "To what number of mares ought a stallion to be limited, in order to his getting the best of stock?" His age and constitution should be taken into consideration: if four or five years old, his limit might be fixed at *thirty* mares; though in England horses of the very

highest character are rarely, at any age, allowed more than this number. In this country it is not unusual for owners of stallions, and especially those who dispose of the services of their horses at exorbitant prices, to allow them to serve as many as may apply. In consequence, the country is overrun with light, weedy things, of fashionable pedigrees, but with neither the substance, the stamina, nor the form, requisite for the Turf or the Road.

"Stallions of robust constitution, middle age, and good feeders, and in fine health, might be allowed to cover *sixty* mares; but that number, in our opinion, should never be exceeded. And yet we know of more than one high-priced stallion, the owner of which has been induced by "the almighty dollar," to allow him to serve upwards of one hundred! Indeed, we believe we should be within bounds were we to fix the average number served by many "terribly high-bred cattle" as high as one hundred and thirty or forty! In England, the popular stallions of the day usually cover, by subscription, from thirty to thirty-five mares, including those of their owners, while many are limited to twenty. We can hardly conceive that any horse can do justice to himself, or have a chance of "getting the best of stock," which is not limited to a number not exceeding sixty."

The authoritative writer of the foregoing only refers to thorough-bred stallions, horses of greater constitutional stamina than ours, which are kept stationary and usually treated in the best known manner, besides having the advantage of commencing their season so early as the first of February. If sixty mares should be the highest limit of these, forty is a sufficient allowance to ours.

The bad effects of allowing a stallion a multitude of mares are evinced by the fact, that many experienced farmers prefer breeding to ordinary colts or

horses that have been left entire by chance; alleging that they have usually *the best luck* that way. The breeding from such inferior animals is absurd; yet not in an equal degree with the employment of horses pampered out of all tone of nerve, and distracted by the exhaustion of double and treble the amount of service to which the constitution is naturally adequate. The employment of young or growing stock to breed from is more pardonable with any other kind of animal than with the horse; because a fundamental requisite in a horse is that *firmness*, in every respect, which is only inherited from full grown and well treated parentage. It is equally important not to use breeding stock too old, or that has suffered from abuse; but the most dangerous species of abuse to the parent stock is the excessive service of a stallion.

We have the highest authority, along with continual experience, in assurance that the Exercise, Feed, and General Treatment, a stallion receives throughout the year, have a material influence on the character of his stock. The constant care and attention necessary in this respect, can only be found where the horse is kept, in good faith, to improve the breed, and not for immediate gain. The mass of those who infest the country with refuse stallions have not the knowledge, were they even susceptible of the will, to keep their animals in order. Their practices of fattening and stimulating serve, like their own tippling, but to ruin the constitutional stamina. The mode of keeping a stallion, with the limit of service, have as decided an influence as the

qualities of his blood on the character of his offspring.

In high breeding, or the production of very choice animals, the great requisite in the parent stock is good "blood:" that is, that they be descended from immediate progenitors and a line of ancestry eminent for the qualities now required to be reproduced. It appears that the Arabs, who have the highest breed of horses in the world, carry this view much farther than we do. The German Prince, Puckler Muskau, travelling in the East, says:—

"In general I have observed that Arabs and Europeans have very different notions of the qualities of a horse. The Bedouins consider but the breed; beauty is of very little consequence to them, and often have I seen them prefer a horse full of defects, to another, according to our ideas perfect, but whose blood was not so noble. Many defects, which would expel a horse from our studs, do not exist for the Bedouins."

Another extract, from the same source, will show that the Arabian* breed, whose excellence has made it to be sought as the source of improvement for every distinguished race in Europe, owes its high qualities far more to careful breeding than to the mode of feeding and rearing the stock.

* The large, loose, and disagreeable spotted horses, which in this country, are sometimes absurdly called *Arabian*, do not bear any resemblance to these small, active, beautiful, and hardy horses of the desert. The appellation must have been given in derision, and retained through ignorance; the Arab being as different as possible from the miserable sort alluded to.

"Neither can it be said that the Arabs tend their horses very rationally: they have all sorts of food, such as camels' milk, boiled thistles of the desert, and even meat, dried by the sun and reduced to a powder. When they come up with an oasis, the poor animals stuff themselves with grass, and then fast three or four days together. They are mounted when only two years old. They are neither sheltered from the sun nor cold; they are never washed or cleaned; and when they serve not, are left standing with their legs bound; and that position becomes so natural, that they retain it when free. The noble blood, therefore, cannot be sufficiently admired, which retains spirit and purity of form to the most advanced age, notwithstanding the stupidest treatment."

The following, from the *Spirit of the Times*, will give information and views on some points not hitherto touched upon in this essay.

"BLOOD HORSES *versus* COCKTAILS."

"For daily service and common use, the most enduring, active, vigorous, and handsome horses, are those which have a generous strain of pure blood coursing through their veins. The surpassing speed and game of the *American Trotter*, whose fame extends throughout the world, dates no farther back than the introduction of thorough-bred stock into the New England States and remote sections of New York and Pennsylvania. This stock went from Long Island and New Jersey; it consisted mainly of young thorough-bred colts, which, being unsuited for the race-course, were disposed of at low rates to country breeders; occasionally, too, a thorough or three-quarters bred mare found her way into the country, the result of all which was that every year or two a *Dutchman*, a *Ripton*, or a *Confidence*, made his appearance.

"Fifteen years since, thousands of dollars would have been wagered that no horse in the world could trot a mile within

three minutes; now, in this city alone, there are dozens of roadsters in daily use which can do it before a wagon, while there are twenty in the Union which can trot a mile in two minutes and thirty seconds. Twelve years ago, to drive a horse seventy miles between sun and sun would have been deemed a remarkable performance, but since strains of the blood of *Messenger*, *Mambrino*, and *Eclipse*, have been introduced into our road stock at the north, hundreds of horses can be found which can travel from eighty to ninety miles without distress. There are several horses now in this city, Philadelphia, and Boston, which can travel one hundred miles in a day without injury. The use of thorough and half-bred horses for domestic purposes has already become so common in England, that few others are employed for the road. The half-bred horse is not only much handsomer, but his speed and powers of endurance are infinitely greater, his head and neck are light and graceful, his limbs fine, his coat glossy and soft as satin, while his action is spirited, and his courage and stamina sufficient to carry him through a long journey without his falling off in condition, or to undergo an extra trial of speed and game without distress. The ordinary cocktail is, in most instances, a mere brute, that in travelling sinks daily in strength, losing his appetite, and of course his flesh and action, so that at the termination of a ten days' journey he is nearly knocked up: he can travel but about forty miles per day, and requires the whole day to perform the distance.

"In the course of the year 1843, probably not less than six thousand thorough-bred mares, and as many more of cold blood, were bred to horses of pure pedigree in the United States. Out of the vast produce of these mares, not above fifteen hundred, if so many, will ever come upon the turf, probably, so that more than one half will eventually find their way into harness. The colts of good form, that have plenty of bone and substance, will, of course, oust the common tackies that infest country taverns, while the others will be

used for the saddle and the road. The result will be that in a few years the stock now in use will be supplanted by horses of superior action, wind, and courage, whose greater beauty will not be more apparent than their better style of going and their unequalled powers of endurance.

"The breeders of New England and Western New York have already become so sensible of the absolute necessity of an infusion of "blood" for the improvement of their common stock, that they will only send their mares to thorough-bred stallions, or those which claim to be so. *Abdallah*, *Andrew Jackson*, and other popular trotting stallions, though not quite thorough-bred, command as high a price in the market, and for their services in the stud, as fashionably-bred and distinguished performers on the turf. A fine-looking gelding, a son of *Abdallah*, readily commands five hundred dollars, while he has several sons and daughters in this vicinity which can be sold at auction for two thousand five hundred dollars each! At the New York State fair, held at Albany in '42, there were not less than fifteen thorough-bred stallions exhibited, some of which were remarkably large, active, and handsome. It is from such horses as these, crossed upon the common mares of the country, that the superb "Northern Carriage Horses" are derived. We know of nearly one hundred mares of most fashionable lineage, which are owned in this and the Eastern States, that for several years have been breeding stock for the road. To these and such as these is the Sporting World indebted for its *Lady Suffolks*, its *Forrests*, its *Rattlers*, and its *Pizarros*.

"As a national benefit, it may be asserted by some that we do not require that breed in use for the turf technically called the blood-horse. To this a familiar intercourse with the most eminent breeders and turfmen of the Union, combined with no inconsiderable knowledge of horses and their relative powers, authorize us to dissent. Our extent of country and climate require horses of great action and durability, not en-

cumbered with unnecessary masses of flesh or ponderous bone, forming an overweight of carcase. Our farmers, in many situations, have a great extent of road to pass over, in order to reach a market, and that too upon ground often bound as hard as marble by the winter's frost, or parched dry and rendered equally obdurate by the summer's sun: upon roads of this description, or such as are macadamized (now coming into general use), no heavy-moulded animal can for any length of time bear to be urged beyond a walk or slow trot, without encountering much bodily distress, and permanent injury of both feet and limbs. Nor are any, except such as possess a large share of "blood," equal in extreme warm weather to the task of a mail-stage, or other duty where expedition and continuance are required. The coarse, heavy horse will not answer in a warm climate; the varying face of our country, and the heat of our summer months, are ill adapted to him, and his slow tedious movement equally repugnant to the genius of our people.

"In regard to selection, we cannot but recommend adhering as closely as possible to such as come nearest in pedigree or purity of blood, symmetry, form, apparent strength and action, to those in use for the turf, denominated "blood horses," as most adequate to long and severe exertion, under which horses of an inferior description so frequently sink for want of the constitutional stamina and inherent fortitude which those of higher pedigree and "pure blood" so eminently possess.

"In opposition to what we have here set forth as an established and incontrovertible fact, we shall, no doubt, be told by some that the "blood horse" has not sufficient *bone* and strength for the generality of business purposes. Upon this point we ask leave to introduce a few remarks:—this *want of bone*, so fashionably and eternally echoed and transmitted from one affected connoisseur to another, without the least knowledge of the internal conformation of the animal, or the most distant idea that any difference exists in the strength of bones

of the same size, taken from horses of different breeds; or knowing that two bones exactly of the same dimensions, the one appertaining to the "blood horse" and the other to one of the common breed, bear no comparison in point of either solidity, weight, fibre, or strength; or that the muscular and ligamentous appendages of the former, the very source of action and power, are much larger and stronger than those of the latter—that the use of bones is principally to extend the parts and support the frame—that, being in themselves inactive, the excess beyond what is thus required operates as dead weight to be carried along. An undue proportion, in place of being an acquisition, forms an encumbrance, and hence arises the folly, which we daily witness, of selecting for severe service, horses overloaded, like cart-horses, with this same bony structure, whose undue weight and inactivity of parts render them totally unfit for either rapidity of motion or continuance.

"There are some who in their selections affect a preference for such as are not of pure "blood," but a cross of the breed between the thorough-bred and the common horse, in England technically termed "cocktails," and an indifference for the possession of those high-bred qualifications which are indispensably necessary to constitute a runner; while they decline purchasing, at any price, such as are incapable of great performance and continuance; nor will any other, at this day, bring a price, in a city-market, that will defray the expense of rearing. We ask such connoisseurs, if every good racer does not possess these innate qualifications? And while we admit that there are many valuable horses of the "*cross breed*," we assert that they derive the very perfections which constitute their worth, not from the parent stock of the *common* horse, but solely from the species which we recommend: hence it follows that before we can obtain even a "*cross-breed*" with the necessary acquirements, we must be in possession of parent stock having these same requisites, only to be obtained from the "blood horse" in his greatest purity.

"We do not hesitate to assert that blood horses of proper

size, formation, and symmetry, full fifteen hands (five feet) and upwards in height, of full and just proportions and muscular appearance, bred from such as are known to possess constitutional stamina and fortitude sufficient to enable them when carrying the weight of from one hundred and twenty-six to one hundred and forty pounds, to continue their rate for four miles, and to repeat the same distance after a short interval of thirty or forty minutes, will exceed in speed, strength, or durability, whatever horses may be brought against them, on the road, in the field, the chase, or any service whatever; and when offered in market, either at home or abroad, command prices more than double that of any other class.

“That the excellence or superiority sought for can in no way be tested, except by actual trials, the most impartial and disinterested experiments, during a lapse of many years, have fully demonstrated. For this purpose *course racing* was originally instituted, and for more than a century and a half has been adopted and pursued with unremitting zeal in Great Britain; where the government, aware of its importance in a national view, promote it by giving a bounty, in numerous cases under the appellation of “Queen’s Plates,” yearly or semi-annually run for upon all the principal courses in the kingdom, and in almost all of the British Colonies. Thus encouraged and countenanced, their horses, whether taken into view for the field, the road, or the army, have, from judicious selections for breeding, afforded by this same test, arrived at a state of pre-excellence hitherto unheard of, and far surpassing the famed Arabian or Barbary horse, from which they derive their origin. Witness the ever-memorable battle of Waterloo, upon which hung the fate of Europe, decided, in a great measure, by the vast superiority of the British cavalry, which, while it roused the fears, drew forth the admiration of the greatest captain of the age: “*Regardez ces beaux chevaux gris—quels terribles chevaux!*”* he exclaimed. Compare

* See those beautiful grey horses—what terrible horses!

the superb steeds that carried dismay through Napoleon's ranks with the miserable louches our brave soldiers had to mount during the Revolution or the late war, and what of necessity our army would be equipped with were they even at this late day compelled to take the field! What a contrast "If I wished to ruin a province," said the Great Frederick of Prussia, "I would send a philosopher to govern it."

Soon after the above, the following appeared:—

LETTER FROM AN OLD BREEDER AND TURFMAN.

"Illinois, March, 1844.

"Dear 'Spirit,'—I saw in one of your February numbers some remarks of yours respecting blood and cocktail horses, in which you laboured very successfully to prove the former to be by far superior to the latter as *Horses of all Work*. To your opinion I have been attached for many years, in consequence of the experience I have had on the subject, not merely on the point of *fast travelling* (that being accorded by all to the blood-horse), but on the points of *fast and light* as well as *slow and heavy draught*.

"I will here give you a few instances. While practising a very arduous and laborious profession, a part of which was in the country—and mountainous at that, I was very much pestered by the frequent tiring and laming of my horses, of which I made mention to my professional neighbours, and found them in the same fix. I discovered that they, like myself, used large horses (perhaps a little *pride* was mixed up in this), and they all asserted that smaller horses would not answer the purpose, on the rough country roads, to pull a heavy sulky (for a light carriage would soon go to pieces on these roads); they would tire down, and the master be compelled to leave his carriage, and wend his way, leading his overdone *worthless little brute* over rugged mountains, or through the muddy roads of marshy valleys.

"I had at this time a large iron grey horse, which was so

handsome as frequently to cause passers-by to exclaim "what a splendid horse!" All this was quite welcome to my then young ears, and I prided myself much on my fine horse. He was a pretty good traveller, too, for a short distance, after which—*it was all up!* I was frequently importuned by my friend, the late Captain O., to put him away, and get a *Sir Solomon* horse. What! part with my splendid grey, for one of those small compact ponies? What sacrilege! But, at length, my horse's *large handsome* body split his *large tender* hoof, and your friend was unhorsed—completely "ruinated." My friend the Captain only laughed at my calamity, and said it was the best thing in the horse way that ever happened to me. Said he, "There is now a man in town with a first-rate young *Sir Solomon* horse; you can make a good trade with him, and if so you will not need another horse for ten years to come."

"Well, I was so humbled by the catastrophe to my superb grey, that a child might have led me. I stood mum. The Captain made the trade, and I, humbled and chop-fallen, betook myself to my vocation with my "donkey," as I termed him. But that first drive—(I was so discontented with, *not mine*, but the Captain's trade, that I wondered how people could so gladly leave their own business to attend to the business of others)—was twelve miles out, over the everlasting mountains! I was making money in those days, and the price of a horse was nothing to me. I thought I would just drive the Captain's bargain to death, and so get clear of my friend's interference and the horse at the same time; thinking that when I could find a suitable nag, I would fill the vacant place of my big grey.

"In this state of mind I "put out." Fire and lightning! what a pace! over a mountain road, too, covered with loose stones, not of the smallest either. I put him to it; and gallantly did he go, for he was equal to a mile in four minutes, until he returned with me to my door in a most incredible short time. The boy took him to the stable. In a short time

it was rumoured all over town that I had endeavoured to kill my horse in a twenty-four-mile drive over the mountains. I looked out, and saw many of my neighbours about my stable, as I supposed trying to *cure* my horse: "well," thought I to myself, "the *more* they *do* for him the *worse* it will be for him;—but, again, did he not go most magnificently? It was very cruel in me to drive the little fellow so hard (he was fifteen hands high, by the bye). I will go also, and try to do something for him." With these reflections I joined my well-wishing neighbours (and I here return my grateful acknowledgments to them); the horse was eating his feed with a keen appetite, and had completely recovered. My neighbours gave him the name of "Little Mountain." This horse I drove—aye, and rode, too, for many years, and never had his superior: no tire, no splitting of hoofs, no swelling of legs, in *his* case. He finally came to a melancholy end while in my possession (which he would never have passed out of). However, of that I will say nothing; as enough has been said of poor "Little Mountain," who possessed as much wear and tear as any other nag; and a cold-blood horse was never bred that could have borne up under such a trial to the end, on such a hot day as that was: of that I am convinced.

I here wish to say something of *Sir Solomon*; a horse as renowned in New Jersey as the *Morgan* horse in the East. He was got by Imported *Messenger*, out of Gen. Gunn's mare, which was an own sister to Gen. W. Hampton's celebrated *Paragon*, by Imported *Flinnap*. What could be better? He was a horse of most unconquerable bottom, and, when ridden by Mr Purdy, he beat the celebrated *Miller's Damsel* (the dam of American *Eclipse*), four mile heats, at Harlaem, New York. *Sir Solomon* left some splendid horses of his get in New Jersey. I well recollect one pair that were worked in a team by the present Judge S. They were about fifteen hands high, well set, compact horses, and were employed in hauling cord-wood from the mountains for the town-market; and although very many teams of large horses were

worked in the same business, none were capable of drawing such enormous loads as these same Sir Solomons; and this was the every-day test which satisfied every body. "But," said they, "no *other* blood-horse's colts can do the same; and now that *Sir Solomon* is gone, it is *too uncertain a business* to give any blood-horse a trial by breeding to him."—
So goes the world!

"Ten years ago I removed to what was then the "Far West;" and, to be sure, it appeared quite *far* enough. I brought some blood-mares with me; and, amid all the business and labour of building, making a farm, and ploughing stiff prairie sod, the working of these mares was imperative. Two of them, one by old *Oscar* and the other by Imported *Valentine*, were bays, and matched pretty well, so that they were worked together; and I am confident, although I have had many large farm-horses, that I never had a better farm-team for *all work* than these mares; and they were vastly superior to the large cold-blood horses. I will give an instance:—

"A Mr. C. followed me out to the West: in the fall he was anxious to put in a crop of wheat, and I lent my aid. He had in Ohio stopped at his brother's, who told him his small Jersey horses would not be able to draw his wagons through the soft grounds of Indiana, and prevailed on him to accept of a pair of *large wagon horses*. These horses did not perform the remainder of the journey so well as his other two, of the smaller and more compact Jersey breed. When they did arrive, they were put to the harrow, on the stiff prairie sod spoken of, which is the severest kind of work, to be sure, caused by the sharp teeth of the harrow tearing through the stiff sod; and it proved too much for them: they would in a little while actually "tire out." To assist my friend, I loaned my bay mares. "Well," said he, "they may go a round or two, and then"— "Yes," said I, "and then *keep on going*." And they did, to his utter astonishment, perform more labour than his large horses were at all

capable of doing. He has since bred from blood-horses, and has never regretted his course.

"I could add instances to instances of this kind, to the number of hundreds. But, Mr. "Spirit," how would it look? "Folly!" says one; "Egotism!" exclaims another; &c. However, I will give another instance of *quick heavy draught*.

"About a dozen years ago, Col. Reeside attacked in opposition the mail-stages over the Alleghany Mountains, with horses taken mostly from Jersey. They were good, compact, broad-quartered horses, of about fifteen and a half hands in height. About the commencement of this opposition I passed over the mountains, and was much edified by the remarks at the hostleries, about the different teams. "Well, now, I tell you for sure," says one, "these little horses won't do: we have tried it: none but big horses can stand grief over these hills. Why it is much harder work than to draw the big merchandize wagons to Pittsburgh, and we all know that little horses can't do that thing." Now what was the sequel? Why, in a few weeks after his horses had got accustomed to the "big hills," Col. Reeside mounted the box himself, made a perfect smash of the whole concern, and brought the enemy to terms!

"There is something in that indescribable thing called *blood*, that manifests itself in other animals as well as the horse. Now, for a short time, cast your mind to the *dog* family, and see what difference exists in the different breeds. A cur-dog may start out to the West, if you please, or to market, with a loaded team, if it should have forty or fifty miles to go, and he will grope his way behind the wagon on a walk—yes, on a walk!—and if the weather be warm, although walking under and in the shade of the wagon, he will *tire out*, and lay himself by the roadside: this occurs on the road near my house very frequently. Now what would be the state of the *hound* in such a case? He would run birds and hares the whole distance; sometimes miles behind his master's

wagon. Would he then lay himself *by the roadside*? Not he—he would put his nose to the ground, give a snuff or two, and strike a long stride, until he overtook his master.

“Now this same power to sustain a *long-continued severe action* is as manifest in the blood-horse over the dung-hill sort, as in the hound over the cur-dog.

EXPEDITION.

ORIGIN OF THE BLOOD-HORSE.

From “The Southern Planter,” Richmond, Va.

“The different soils and climates of the world have given birth to various races of horses possessing peculiar and distinctive traits. Upon the barren sands and under the torrid zone of Africa and Arabia is found a peculiar race, possessing in the highest degree those properties which, in a state of domestication, are most subservient to the requirements of his lord and master. It is not to be imagined that every horse born within the limits of Africa or Arabia is possessed of superior merit; but there is a race, highly valued by the inhabitants, and carefully preserved, which affords specimens of the greatest perfection of animal construction. They are marked by a fineness of hair, a cleanness of limb, a liteness of form, a nobleness of carriage, and a solidity of bone and muscle, unknown to any other sort.

“It has been long since these requisites were known and appreciated. The English, of all European nations the most remarkable for their devotion to this noble animal, were taught to *feel* the superiority of the Eastern horse upon the plains of Palestine; and many a Saracen steed found his way to England in the returning train of her noblemen. But it was not, probably, until about the time of Charles the Second, that selections from the Eastern race were made with care and judgment. This monarch, whose only redeeming trait was a good eye for a fine horse, introduced a lot of mares direct from Barbary, of a very different character from the

indiscriminate importations that preceded them. By means of these, the heavy draught-horse of Flanders soon yielded to a light, active, and nervous race, that placed the English horse where he stands now, at the head of his species in Europe. To them succeeded the celebrated Barb, known as the *Godolphin Arabian*, the *Wellesley Arabian*, and the *Darley Arabian*. The extraordinary properties of these horses and their descendants established their claims to a pure descent from the noble family of *Kochlani* and constituted them the founders of a new race in England, known as the *blood-horse*. And now no horse is entitled to the name of "thorough-bred," unless at least fifteen sixteenths of his blood can be traced to these fountains, pure and undefiled."

In the recommendation given of the blood-horse, as the great means for the highest improvement of the animal for general purposes, many may imagine grounds for difference of opinion, if not for censure. Trials at breeding, by admixture with the blood-horse, have often resulted in partial failure; being not conducted under a sound conception of the principles involved, nor skilfully adapted to existing circumstances: but, in the hands of breeders of knowledge and good judgment, such attempts have almost invariably been crowned with success. It is necessary for one to become thoroughly well informed, before he can reasonably expect to produce animals of great value, by any means.

Some of the most successful issues of horse-breeding, in this district, have resulted from copulations which common opinion would set down as unfavourable. Let it not be imagined that these occurrences militate against the established rules: on

the contrary, it is from observing the constant but remarkable operation of such cases, that the first principles of the art are ascertained. We will discuss two common instances in which these principles operate most strongly, although, in the vulgar opinion, the cases would be considered to be against the approved rules of breeding.

1st. The usually excellent quality of a colt out of a native American mare, and got by an inferior French horse :

2nd. The high perfections of the Morgan horses, so great as to impress them with a distinct appearance, by which they are known from others almost as soon as they are beheld.

In the first instance, the chief cause of the extraordinary growth, which generally characterizes the offspring, is the *strong cross*, or radical dissimilarity of the two parents. Other reasons for the improvement will be found in the moderate feed, great exercise, and limited sexual service, of such males ; and improved form results, by established rule, from the employment of a male of smaller race and more compact figure than those of the female parent. These causes operate most forcibly to develop the natural qualities of the blood ; and, of course, those which have been most strongly stamped upon the ancestral stock by systematic breeding, will now, under modifications owing to climate, treatment, and other circumstances, become the leading characteristics of the new and improved progeny.

Such half-French colts incline, even on the commonest fare, to cast off the shaggy and clumsy ap-

pearance, together with the diminutive form, bad action, shortness of wind, and inclination to leg-weariness of their French Canadian ancestry; and assume a size, figure, and style and power of movement, assimilating somewhat with those of classes nearly allied to the blood-horse. The cause of this approach to the established type of excellence is at once discovered by tracing back the lineage of the sire and dam. The latter claims kindred by remote crosses with the English turf-horse—crosses of weak effect from excessive service of the stallions—and their tendencies undeveloped for generations through various ignorance, mismanagement and abuse; while the remarkable capabilities of the Norman horse, the original stock of the French Canadian, are well known to be due to an admixture of the blood of Arab and kindred south-eastern coursers, brought directly from their native clime during and after the crusades; and other steeds transferred from Spain, where they had been produced from the same high stock obtained through the north of Africa.

With regard to the Morgan breed,—a most excellent and peculiar race, which has added greatly to the wealth and pride of New England, it has been recently proved that the horse from which this stock originated was brought at two years old, in the year 1725, by Justin Morgan, of Randolph, Vt., from Springfield, Mass., or the vicinity, where he was got by a stallion called *True Briton*, or *Beautiful Bay*. Morgan's own son, now living at Stockbridge, Vt., states that his "father always called him a Dutch horse;" yet the pedigree attested by Mr. John Mor-

gan, now of Lima, N. Y., brother of said Justin, who himself, as also his brother Justin, owned the stallion *True Briton* when they resided in Massachusetts,—shews him to have possessed high strains of the pure blood. His sire, *True Briton*, was said to have been reared by Gen. De Lancey, Commander of the British refugee troops on Long Island,—and ridden by him in the Revolution;—to have been stolen from him at King's Bridge, and sold to Joseph Ward, of Hartford, Conn., for \$300. His stock were bays, and some chestnuts,—not unlike the purest Morgan horses of the present day. He was said to have been got by “the noted imported horse, *Traveller*, kept in New Jersey.” Gen. Morton's *Trouveller*, here alluded to, was got by English “*Eclipse*, a horse that partook of the blood of the two Arabians,”—(the Darley and Godolphin, which served to perfect the English blood horse.)—“and was never beaten, never had a whip flourished over him, or felt the tickling of a spur, or was for a moment distressed by the speed or rate of a competitor,—out-footing, out-striding, and out-lasting every horse which started against him.”

A trait of similarity to the remarkable shape, as well as colour, of the great *Eclipse*, may be noticed in Morgan horses to the present time. Lawrence, speaking of *Eclipse*, says, “I paid particular attention to his *shoulder*, which, according to the common notion, was, in truth, very thick, but very extensive and well placed;—his hinder quarters or croup appeared higher than his forehead.”

The dam of the Morgan horse was, according to

Mr. John Morgan, got by a horse called *Diamond*,—he by a horse called *Wildair*, and he by imported *Wildair*, which was brought to America by James De Lancey, a nephew of the General, and a man of wealth and liberal spirit. This horse was afterwards, on account of the excellence of his stock, purchased at £500, and taken back to England; probably the only instance of such an occurrence in the history of America. The younger *Wildair* is stated by Mr John Morgan to have been "out of an imported mare of the same breed," and to have been "sold and taken into Virginia when about nineteen years old."

This account leaves it past a doubt that the great excellence of the original Morgan horse was owing to his high strains of pure blood, or, in other words, his near alliance to the Turf Horse.

A recent individual instance, in our own country, may be mentioned, where a cross, at the second remove, from Turf stock, has given a small fortune to the breeder. The great trotter, *Passe Carreau*, now called *Moscow*, the horse mentioned at page 6, for which \$1000 had been frequently offered, has lately been sold for \$2200. He was out of a large active mare, worth \$100, and was got by a son of *Sir Walter*, of no uncommon excellence. *Sir Walter* was a blood-horse, of good size and powers, well known at Montreal, and indeed throughout the Province.

These and many other cases enforce a conviction of the truth of the maxim, in breeding, that

BLOOD WILL TELL.

The precepts naturally derived from the foregoing opinions may be taken as the basis of a correct system of Horse-breeding. The writer has attempted, in accordance with these views, to improve the stock of his vicinity. The continuance of the undertaking will depend chiefly on the favour manifested when its merits may be fairly judged from this publication. The system adopted is, for the most part, that of Subscription, whereby breeders contribute all their custom to support a valuable and well-ordered Stud. If the purpose be persevered in with efficient improvements, it is believed that, with slight increase of the cost of production, horses may be brought to more than double the value of the present stock.

Such a subscription, being for the benefit of the subscribers, as an inducement and security for the supplying of valuable stallion-services, should be approved and liberally entered into by farmers, with stipulations for the benefits they are to enjoy, under the form of Rules, binding on all parties, and, in case of dispute or misunderstanding, reference without cost to some of their own number. The price of service should be amply sufficient to defray the yearly charges, including time, trouble, and risks, and based on a limit of about forty mares to each horse.

COST OF STALLION-KEEPING.

The labour which stallions may properly be put to, out of the season, is no more than a compensation for incidental cares and charges not enumerated

below. The cost of a common or standard horse may be stated at \$200, the interest of which may be called either 6 per cent., the legal rate, 12 per cent., the current value, or 20 per cent., the usual charge on sales at a year's credit.

	Low.	Med.	High.
Interest of Value, \$200	\$12	24	40
Risk of Life, 10 per cent.	20	20	20
Risk of detriment, 10 per cent. ..	20	20	20
Feed out of season, 8 months, 3 to 4 tons hay at \$5 to \$6	15	20	24
Grain, bran, & roots, the 8 months	8	10	13
High feed 4 months	20	24	30
Groom's wages and expenses, 3 months at \$16 to \$25	48	60	75
Use and feed of a hack, 2 months, at \$6 to \$10	12	16	20
Shoeing, saddlery, &c.	5	6	8
	\$160	\$200	\$250

Taking the medium amount of \$200 as the annual expense of a stallion which costs \$200, by the same rule a horse worth \$500 must be rated at a yearly charge of \$300, in round numbers, as the difference of interest and risk alone amounts to \$96. And these rates include no profit nor compensation for the owner's general supervision; nor do they provide for the expense of collection, or loss by bad debts, which may be set down at \$50 per horse, while as much more must be allowed for discounts wherever mares are stinted by the single service or by special warranty. To clear the bare cost and

charges, then, each stallion must serve fifty mares at \$6 to \$8 each. The writer's attempt is on a much more moderate scale, involving perhaps present loss, to be compensated by the pride of labouring for useful improvement, and possibly by future returns.

In order to economize by systematic regulation, the plan is carried out in conformity to Rules, the substance of which may be stated as follows:—

The Stud, or collection of stallions, is managed honestly, faithfully, and correctly, for the public benefit; and therefore, with all its concerns, placed under the supervision of Directors, who are gentlemen chosen, and consenting by their signatures, to counsel for the general good management of the establishment, and to decide without cost, and according to the Rules, all disputes that may arise between subscribers and the stallion-keeper.

The mutual engagements of subscribers and keeper—the former to give all their custom and otherwise assist to support the establishment—are permanent, unless formally relinquished by written notice, according to the Rules.

Two classes of stallions are kept; the **STANDARD**, fit to improve the breed of the country; and the **EXCELSIOR**: horses of superior sort, whose great value, speed, pedigree, or some distinguished quality, render it proper to hold their services at about double the common price.

Regular terms of service are closely adhered to, and only departed from by special written agreement inserted in the Keeper's book. No papers are given out by the Keeper, or on his behalf, except paid notes, or copies of receipts for payment, and other entries made in the Keeper's book.

The regular price of service to the public, unless varied from by written agreement or voluntarily for good cause admitted by the Keeper, is \$5 the season for a standard horse, and \$10 for an excelsior. Much lower terms, barely to pay

the cost of keeping, are made to subscribers: these are set down, for each horse, as occasion requires.

Subscribers are, on their part, to accept specified moderate prices for all entertainment and assistance which they may furnish in regard to the affairs of the Stud.

Persons at a distance, taking trouble to send mares, are often served at subscription prices: but abatements in favour of any parties are only made for good cause, at the Keeper's discretion; and will be as readily allowed after service, on explanation, as before by special agreement.

The privilege of warranty is always extended to the mares of subscribers; but not to others, save by special agreement. The warranty is in this mode only:—when a mare, being a good breeder, is properly brought to horse at least thrice in the season, and proves not in foal; if payment have been punctually made, she is allowed service *gratis* the ensuing season, provided it be commenced in the month of May.

When distant residence, or other circumstances, require service to be made by the single admission, a discount is allowed from the season price, the payment being in such cases usually made in cash: and this mode of service is available to all who choose to pay ready money. Credit is given to subscribers, and to others when thought proper, on approved promissory notes, payable with interest the ensuing 1st February; and grain and other produce of best quality will be accepted, at cash value, on such notes, until they fall due, but not afterwards. When these notes cannot be conveniently paid, their renewal, before maturity, is often allowed.

Mares from a distance have one month's pasturage *gratis*, and every care given; but accidents at the risk of the owners.

Subscribers sometimes give a share of the produce instead of other payment for the stallion-services; one third being the rule for the service of a standard, and one half for that of an excelsior horse. In this case the choice of stallions, within the prescribed class, belongs to the Keeper, being regulated by his judgment and conference; and the foal is brought, fit

to wean,—being at least four months old,—usually on the 1st of November, to his residence; and then becomes the property of the best bidder, in due proportion, for the other's share. A party thus breeding, who fails to perform his part of the contract, stands indebted in the regular non-subscription price of service, with interest.

In order to provide for the purchase of stallions, **SHARES OF THE STUD** are sold at \$25 each, entitling to ten Standard services, or half the number by Excelsior horses. Payment may be made on such a share by delivering the Keeper a good sound well-conditioned foal, bred from the Stud,—from weaning to one year old,—at the appraisal of a Director.

The Keeper is privileged to purchase, at the appraisal of a Director, from every Subscriber, any foal bred from the Stud, until May when it becomes a yearling: the payment to be money or a discharge of dues—whether the notes securing such dues be at maturity or not. This right of purchase ceases, if a foal be not accepted on presentment at or after weaning-time: and any subscriber may be free from this Rule by special agreement written in the Keeper's book.

Every practicable arrangement is made by moving some of the horses through the months of June and July, during the first part of each week, and keeping them at or about home, at Sherbrooke, always on Saturdays, to accommodate subscribers on the travelled route, as well as persons who may send from a distance. It is always incumbent on the owner of a mare to bring her wherever the stallion may be.

All necessary regulations, and all matters of importance, of whatever nature, regarding the business of the Stud, are inserted in the Keeper's book. The whole is open to the inspection of Directors; and all that in any way concerns him, to every Subscriber.

GEORGE BARNARD,

Sherbrooke, Canada East, May 1845.

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