

difference of sex, one parent giving the locomotive and the other the nutritive system. I stated that from my own observations I believed that the locomotive system was derived from the parent who from some reason or another was the most prepotent, and that the oldest and best established breeds were more prepotent than those of more recent date or mixed blood. But this rule which I think I will prove by illustrations, is subject to occasional exceptions, due probably to the respective state of health and condition of the animals at the time of pairing, perhaps also to age or other causes as yet unknown. In accordance with those principles, as I look upon the thoroughbred as the best variety in our possession, and I expect him from his long pedigree to be the most prepotent, I select him as a sire. For the dam I select the Clyde for their beautiful proportions, and because the breed, if not so long established as the thoroughbred, is now a fixed and well-defined one. I look to her for the nutritive system; she is larger, and the female parent generally governs the size of the foetus; she is more quiet and a better nurse, and as the organs of either parent must undergo a modification sufficient to harmony of action, her more lofty action ought to correct to a certain extent the low daisy-cutting motion of the thoroughbred. Such a cross, if successful, as I hope it will be, ought to be a very valuable one. For the larger, high, heavy carriages of the noble and wealthy families of London and other large cities of the world a big horse and at the same time stylish is required and hard to find. A choice pair will readily command from three to five thousand dollars, and sometimes more. In the event of the horse not being sufficiently stylish to command such high figures he will still be a very useful and valuable one. Powerful enough for any farm work, he can earn his living for one or two years until he is finally disposed of to reach his ultimate destination, and if not stylish enough for a tip-top price will still be in great demand at remunerative prices for many other purposes—omnibuses, grocery or express waggons, etc., etc., where his greater activity derived from his sire and great power derived from his dam will make him a most desirable acquisition. I have already two colts by Milesian out of Clyde mares, and although it would be premature to attempt to predict what animals only a few days old will ultimately be, I think I see enough to make me believe that I will not be disappointed. I said I would give illustrations in support of the ideas I have propounded, but this letter is quite long enough already, and I will reserve the sequel for your next issue.

Very truly yours,

H. QUETTON ST. GEORGE.

Oakridges, June 12th, 1885.

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### HIGH KNEE ACTION.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

DEAR SIR,—Allow me to say a word or two on this subject, as I see you incline to differ from the prevailing fashion. Let me say in the first place, that the term "high knee action" is entirely a misnomer, if by that is meant what is called and understood in England as simply *action*. I must in the first place quote from THE BREEDER this, to me, most amusing sentence: "The time was when the cruel and unnatural habit of close docking and the idiotic admiration for a coarse, up-headed, chuckle-throated harness horse that would jerk his knees up to his curb chain and step six times on a cabbage leaf, were exclusively transatlantic follies." Surely after this young Canada will discard such abominations forthwith, and hurriedly return to the rapidly disappearing overchecks, knee boots, and long tails. No doubt many absurdities exist among ignorant amateurs as to so-called high knee action, and many doubtless think that such an animal as you describe is just about the thing, when, as a matter of fact, it is really as far removed as possible from the genuine article. Such an animal as you describe would, if brought out in an English show ring, be not only never looked at by the judges but the spectators would hoot it out.

High knee action *alone* will never draw money out of anyone but a flat. No doubt plenty of horses of this kind are dealt in simply because flats are plentiful. In 24th street New York, they talk about "knee actors." The word is purely Yankee, and such an animal is no connection, I assure you, with the elastic, uniform, all-round-actioned horse on this side of the pond. True action involves all four legs, hocks and knees must all bend and be perfectly in unison one with the other, and owing to its great scarcity in perfection, such going commands in London, Paris, Italy, and Spain fabulous prices. Harness horses with *action* that command the most money here very rarely exceed 15-3, and the majority of them are below that at least an inch. No coarseness, no cabbage-leaf action, goes down here. The head and neck must be well cut and properly set, and the tail right on top of back, not half way down to the hocks; then when they move it must be with any quantity of vim and vigor, but with manners also. Every leg must be raised high but well extended *forward*, so that when going in proper form the pace should be a good twelve miles an hour, and this not for one mile, but kept up without losing form or action for an hour or more, without stopping at every little rising ground as obtains in Canada. The best representatives of this kind of animal come from Norfolk, where they have been bred for generations, and for cheerful, plucky roadsters they stand unequalled. I will here mention a few English prize winners in action classes to show how far they are removed from what you describe. "Movement" and "Maggie," each 14.2, go extravagantly high all round, the former can trot better than three

minutes. Then we have "Extravagance," "Exclamation," "British Queen," "Lord" and "Lady Go Bang," "Water Lilly," "Reality," "Confidence," "Maritana," and many others who all go in the right form, under 15.2. and fast enough for any one to drive. That high well-defined action entails slowness is certainly a mistake. Take for instance among American or Canadian trotters "Victor" and Eads grey horse (George B), then Henry in days gone by. Mr. Easton, of New York, some years since brought a little roan mare to England, with a record of 35, I think. She on account of her wonderful action was good enough to win here among the best, her speed at the same time was far above the ordinary. Depend upon it the genuine article coming from the shoulder, with hocks well bent underneath, never impedes sufficiently for the use of gentlemen, and action such as I have attempted to describe surely looks far more commanding than a brute blundering along propped up with an overcheck, that when asked to walk for a few yards goes so slow that you have to take sight against a tree to see if you are moving.

Some years since I wrote a letter on this subject that brought down on my devoted head considerable adverse criticism, to put it mildly. But the tide of public opinion has since, as I then predicted, swept away many old trotting landmarks, and the long tails and goatees, the knee boots and the buggies, the toe weights and the sulkies, will only be found by the next generation in museums labelled "Canadian curiosities previous to civilization."

C. I. D.

London, June 4, 1885.

### THE THOROUGHbred CROSSED ON THE DRAUGHT.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

SIR,—The two letters on the above subject published in your issue of May 8th I am glad to see coincide in the main with my suggestion. I am really glad that Mr. St. George is taking kindly to my proposed cross, and only hope he will be most careful in his mares, for if mated with wide, good-actioned cart mares I am satisfied Milesian will prove an excellent cross.

Mr. Muntz objects that I did not carry out my idea to a logical conclusion. I am in one sense glad he noted this, as it gives me now the opportunity to explain. At this early stage I thought it would be quite sufficient if farmers could be induced to experiment on a first cross, which if done with the very smallest amount of judgment will, I feel confident, produce a high average proportion of useful and saleable animals. But no doubt, were it possible, as Mr. Muntz suggests, to ultimately establish a breed of horses distinctly defined with my cross as its foundation this would indeed be what we all desire. The difficulty is, as I have before pointed out, that we have entirely to depend on a variety of private individuals to carry out these experiments, and unfortunately it is almost impossible to get two people to think exactly alike. By that I mean with the eye of a horseman to be able to distinguish between real and apparent excellence in the animal that they use for breeding purposes. What I suggested in my first letter is comparatively simple, and I found no difficulty in laying down plain rules for guidance, but beyond that point