

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.—The publishers of the above well-known agricultural paper have kindly sent us a copy of their Christmas number, a truly marvellous production of the printer's and engraver's art. The "Native Maple-hedge, the two farms and buildings, on page 532, 533, and the "French-Canadian-Harvest-scene," are particularly meritorious.

The Horse.

THE COACH HORSE.

The Arab Thoroughbred—Its action — Cleveland Bays—French coacher — The Hackney - Trotters Laws of breeding - Studs.

In these days, when all the world is agog to find out the newest and best thing in horse-less conveyances, it seems folly, or waste of time to write on the breeding of Coach-horses, so to those who are wistful to relegate "man's truest friend" to the forgotten past, the apology is made that the following is written in the hope that it may prove of historical interest in years to come, and to those who are still dubious as to the merits of the new mode of travelling, no apology is needed.

It is a remarkable fact that, the Arabian horse is the foundation upon which has been built the superstructure representing all the breeds of light horses. From a trinity of Arabian lineage—the Darley Arabian, the Godolphin Barb, and the Byerly Turk the parent stem of the thorough bred began its growth, extending branches throughout Great Britain, and making the Hackney, Cleveland Bay, and Yorkshire coacher, passing over to France and evolving the French coacher, and finally coming to America, and assisting in the production of all the varieties of light horses. The Arabian horse, though essentially a saddler for early times, had some qualities that are included among the merits of the modern coacher. What they lacked in size they made up in quality, and beauty of finish and form. They had much of that stateliness in repose, or action, which seems to be the seal of high breeding in coach circles. Out of fair sized mares, and by an Arabian stallion typical in size, quality, and action of the kind most prized in their own country, progeny can be seen, that have smoothness, symmetry, substance, quality and action, which culminate in the high class coacher.

It is a fact that all the breeds of light horses have drawn on the thoroughbred for some of their features.

In its relation to the coach breeds, the thoroughbred has the same position as the Arabian, in as far as he can be utilized for this purpose only as a leaven.

The thoroughbred in itself, has never possessed coach characteristics to any extent, but they had some qualities which could not be done without. The action of the influences of the hoof, the strain and excitement of racing contests, on the temperament of the thoroughbred, resulted in such courage, dash, and quality of bone, tendon, and muscle, as no other breed can claim. A stallion of thoroughbred breeding invariably had these merits, and if he showed any deviation from the generality of the breed, breaking away from the stiff legged action common to most of them, towards a movement

more graceful, and with flexion of hock and knee, he became invaluable as a sire to use on coach form and style. If our Canadian breeders would take the trouble to turn out horses of this class, they would not have to go any further than Buffalo, or New-York, to realise good prices.

The Hackney horse at an early day was distinctly a trotter, as the early records well show, and it was at the time these records were made, that the breed occupied a sphere of its own, outside the pale of the thoroughbred. The coach horse of early times in England, especially those of Cleveland Bay descent, were large horses, inclined to be coarse in organization unless there was a dash of thoroughbred blood, close to the last generation. As a writer says, the type of coach horse during the time of Queen Anne, and most of the reigns of the two Georges, was "of great size, fat as prize oxen, proud and prancing at starting, all action and no go." With the change that came about in the means of transportation, and the use of lighter vehicles, a lighter horse of more quality and energy was required, and for this reason chiefly, the thoroughbred was used in the improve-

ment of all coach breeds. The French coacher, has had the quality of the individuals it includes improved in a similar manner, and it is by no means a slur on the breed to have it known, for the thoroughbred was undoubtedly the best source to go to for this merit. Of the European breeds to-day the Hackney is undoubtedly the strongest, and most independent branch, with the Cleveland Bay, Yorkshire coach, and French coach, still drawing heavily on the parent stem for sustenance. All the breeds of European coach horses have some qualities, that enable them to merit their position as such, but it is only fair testimony to say that, all things considered, the Hackney shows better breeding truer form and more perfect action, than any coach breed of to-day. But the fact that they are all being continually moulded to meet the demands of the times, is clearly illustrated by the assertion, that all the breeds of light horses, are still drawing on sources outside themselves for their foundation stock. The refining influence which the thoroughbred infusion carries with it, gives it easy access

to any of the stud books of the breeds of European coachers. In tracing out the development of the European branches of coach horses, it is clear that the thoroughbred played an important part, and there is no doubt but that in America the trotter takes the place of the thoroughbred racer. The action of the influences of the running track, has done for the thoroughbred, what the trotting track is doing for the trotter. The effect of racing has given the trotter, certain decided and clearly defined characteristics, which no other breed of horses, except the thoroughbred, subjected to the same influences, possesses to a like degree. From this source, trotting horses, have secured exceptional quality, clean limbs, and the energy and courage, which are valuable in horses for coach purposes.

In the history of the European breeds, we can see what has been done, in the making of the breeds of coach horses, that are now in existence.

From an early day, the governments of many European countries, have given such encouragement to their light horse interests. Special enactments of law have been made and liberal

methods in this country: others, that in-and-in breeding the strains we have already, would give the most effective results, while many more would advocate line breeding, within a family already known to possess the desired characteristics to a marked degree. From a general study of the breeding of all domestic animals, that which may be termed "balanced breeding" offers the best guidance in the improvement of any class of stock. Historical evidence for the animals of all breeds, shows that certain strains differing somewhat in characteristics, seem to unite, so as to produce balanced results. The coach horse above all horses, is a balanced product, and it would seem as if balanced breeding, would be very effectual. As far as one is able to study it, the reason for this seems to be in the fact, that it is the most successful way of offsetting merits and demerits of temperament and conformation. As to the breeding of horses in Canada, that shall claim with justice the title of coach horse, it should be through the union of mares of the strains that show some of the features of coach form, and much of the action required, with the stallions, that reflect the quality,



No. 9.—PRIZE BERKSHIRE PIGS, property of D. A. Robertson, Logoch, Man.

money allowances have been used to develop these interests. In England at various times laws have been enacted directing the breeding of horses along prescribed lines, and during late years, the premium system, has been used with good effect. This work carried on for years, has produced several distinct classes of horses, that up to this time, have been superior in their spheres. In France, the government has been still more liberal. Large breeding studs, in which the breeding of coach horses, has been closely studied, have been established from time to time, until now there are about twenty five hundred state stallions are used in this work. Under these circumstances, it is not remarkable that progress has been made, in developing a breed of coach horses, of national prestige. In the matter of breeding, there are many methods which will find supporters. Some would be of the opinion that cross breeding either the thoroughbred or trotter—by the latter I mean one of high class—with some European coach breeds, would be the most effective

beauty and courage, which is characteristic of the thoroughbred and best class trotting strains.

W. R. GILBERT.

IDEAL ROAD HORSE.

THE KIND OF ANIMAL THAT WILL ALWAYS BRING A GOOD PRICE.

Dr. G. M. Twitchell before the Maine Board of Agriculture said: The 15 1-2 to 16-hand horse of solid color, with broad forehead, ears of good size and well-proportioned, good length from base of ear to eye, eyes full and expressive, with lids free from meatiness, face straight, nostrils well rounded, full, large and thin lips, not thick, well closed neck of good length, shapely, clean cut at jaw, and fitting well at shoulders, which can hardly be too sloping, the point of the withers being well back of the saddle, chest of good width, forearm long and heavily muscled, knees firm, broad, straight and strong, cannons short, flat, broad and flinty, pae-