

HORSES AND CATTLE.

THE PERCHERONS.

The Percherons, in Ontario, are few in number, although some very fine specimens of the breed are now to be met with. A number of practical agriculturists recently visited the establishment of Messrs. Hiram Walker & Sons, Walkerville, near Windsor, in order to see some very fine Percherons purchased by them not long previously from a number imported from France.

Mr. Hiram Walker describes the Percheron as follows:—

"The Percheron is a snug, close-built horse, easily kept, has a quick action, is a fast walker, and, for a heavy horse, a fast trotter; he is good-tempered, and has great endurance. The majority are grey, but in the lot I bought from there were several black horses and some bays.

"To cross our stock, or even as they are, they will, in my opinion, make excellent general-purpose horses. They don't eat more than half what other horses eat to keep them in the same condition.

"Our Clydes, I think, would get better action and a lighter carriage if crossed with the Percheron. The Percheron has good bone and strength in compact compass. A Percheron horse weighing 1,500 pounds will go twenty miles as light as a pony.

"A properly selected, large, well-developed, light, common mare, crossed by a Percheron horse, should give a good carriage horse. I think the Percheron colts will be equal to any imported horses. We have a large number of mares in foal by Romulus."

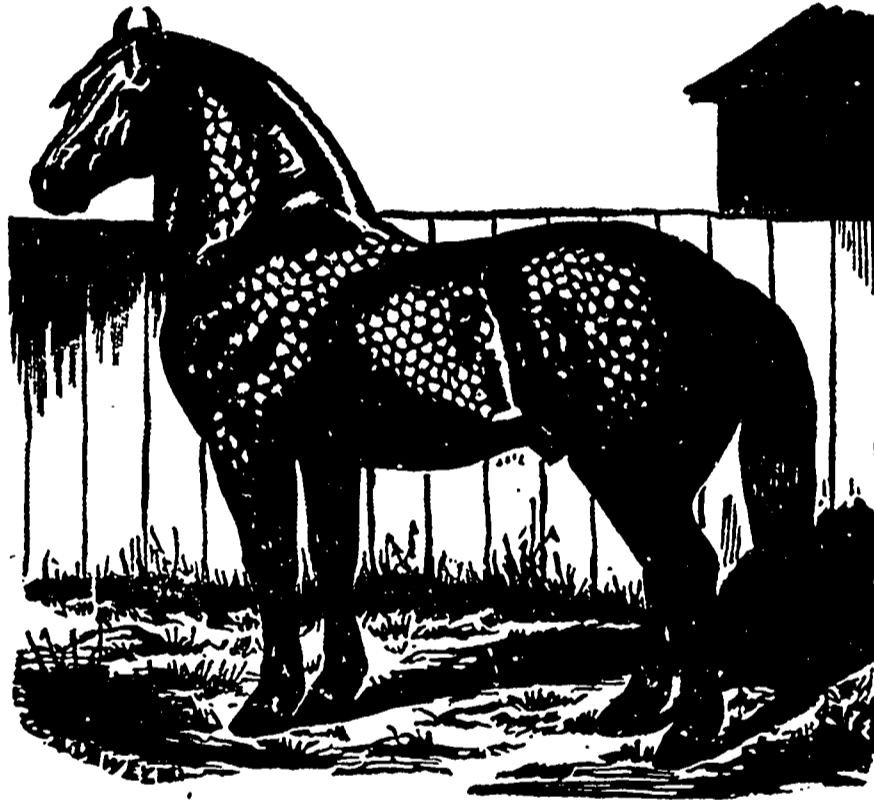
The horse in the accompanying cut, while in many respects a pretty faithful illustration, hardly conveys a just idea of the springiness and vivacity of the Percheron as represented in Messrs. Walker's stables. The latter consisted of one stallion, three mares and two colts.

KINDLY TREATMENT OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

Nothing can be more foolish than the attempt to catch either a horse, cow, pig, sheep, or dog by running after it. How many futile attempts to catch a horse have been made in pursuance of the above method! How many times has the horse, just as the hired man was about to walk up to its head and at the point of catching it, made a sudden wheel and shown the brightness of its shoes! At this juncture we have seen a little boy, who had never struck the horse with a whip, but who had given the animal many an apple in days gone by, stroking him and playing with him—at the time we have seen even this little fellow take the horse quietly by the foretop, and together they would go to any desired point. Or perhaps a lady makes her appearance, in whom the horse recognizes a friend who has frequently regaled him with a lump of sugar. He does not even wait for the lady to come to him; for he goes to her, and the simple lump of sugar will enable his mistress to lead the noble horse to his stall, a task which all the chasing and yelling of the hired man has failed to accomplish. The intelligent animal is attracted neither by the personal appearance nor the tone of voice of the rough fellow who strives to rule by force alone.

Another individual attempts by running and yelling to catch his cow or cows. Why do these naturally gentle animals run away from him? Because they remember full well that on former occasions, when he has succeeded in catching them, a series of blows from some heavy cudgel

has been their reward. Is there not some better way of securing the good-will of our herds and in managing them as we wish? There is a hollow place on the head of every cow, just behind the junction of the horns, which is commonly full of dust, short hairs, and the like, causing the animal an itching sensation. It is a source of extreme pleasure to the cow to have the spot scratched, and (since from its location the animal herself cannot reach it) hence, when her keeper approaches her, either in the stable or in the pasture, an era of good feeling may at once be established if due attention be paid to scratching this hollow spot. If, at your first approach, the cow is a little shy, offer her from one hand a nubbin of corn, while with the other hand you gently scratch the particular spot in her head mentioned above. In a very short time, whenever you go into their pasture, the whole herd will come to you, to have their heads scratched, and you will soon be satisfied that it is as easy to have them follow you as to resort to driving and loud noise.—*American Cultivator.*



THE PERCHERON.

POLLED CATTLE.

A writer in an exchange says: "No farmer who has owned a head of improved poll cattle will ever again have cattle with horns. A dozen of the polled cattle will drink at the same time from a trough which would accommodate but one animal having horns. The same number will crowd together under a shed for shelter the whole space which one horned animal would consider necessary for its comfort, driving its fellows out. With these polled cattle the farmer and the shipper of stock need have no fear of damage resulting from the goring of horns. There is now a demand from all parts of the country for young bulls of this breed, the progeny from a cross of these on horned cows being for the most part hornless. The bulls are notably quiet."

HOW TO CATCH A HORSE.

If the horse is shy and hard to catch, take finely-grated castor, oils of rhodium and cummin. Keep them in separate bottles, well corked. Put some of the oil of cummin on your hand and approach the horse on the windy side. He will then move toward you. As soon as you can

reach him rub some of the cummin on his nose, give him a little of the castor or anything he likes, and get a few drops of the oil of rhodium on his tongue. After this you can make him do nearly everything you want. Treat him kindly, feed well, handle gently, and your victory is certain.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

NOTES ON FARM STOCK.

It is nearly time to consider the winter feeding of farm stock; at least this is the month to make all the plans and get everything in order for the cold season that will soon be at hand. The question of winter feeding in all its bearings is an important one. There is a constant outgo of fodder, and the problem is to so govern the expenditure that the best returns may be obtained. Not only must the animals be "kept," but they must be kept well, that the opening of the new year of pasturage may not find them run down, or as it is termed "spring poor." Aside from bringing the stock through in a healthy and vig-

orous condition, there is the manure to be considered. This should be a good dividend upon the winter's outlay, and therefore it should have a place in the plans for winter feeding. It cannot be too strongly urged that the best manure is made under cover. The same system which gives the best protection and care to the animals will insure the most satisfactory returns in the manure from them. Feeding for manure is more and more to be a leading factor in the winter keeping of farm animals. A plenty of the best feed, a free supply of pure water, and warm quarters, are three essentials in profitable winter farming. This does not mean that the animals shall be in the stalls and stables all the time, but it does preclude that out-of-door, straw-stack feeding when the animals must stand in unprotected, shivering groups the whole night through. Sheds—and good ones—will pay for themselves in the better manure

that will be made in them—not to mention the economy in food for the animals thus protected.—*American Agriculturist for November.*

TENDER-FOOTED HORSES.

An old man who has had much experience in handling and dealing in horses for more than half a century, said recently that he had never known a horse to get "tender-footed" that was kept loose in a shed and yard, or in a box stall; that turning round and treading with their forward feet in the manure kept them constantly moist and soft. His theory seemed perfectly reasonable to me. "I have no box stalls, but I use shavings for bedding, and every morning with a large shovel I move the wet shavings from under the horse's front feet, and then the last thing at night cover these with dry shavings for him to lie on." He also remarked that he had never known a flat-footed horse but what was a great worker.

Young cows do not give as rich milk as those of mature age do.

Some of the Maine farmers are coming to the conclusion that more oxen and less horses would be an improvement on the present order of things.