

to innate timidity—shown in the aggregate by horses' readiness to stampede. He will shy at a newspaper in the road when he is twenty years old. Nature teaches him to trust to his heels, and when alarmed his first idea is to run away from the object. He does not show the sense and adaptability of a dog, nor does he approach so near reasoning power. There are great exceptions, depending on the animal's temperament and the pains taken by the teacher; but as a rule it must be admitted that even docile horses are unreceptive. The better they are fed the more prone to that silly affectation, which in default of hard work assumes the danger of habit. Freshness: the Canadian boy has a lot of it. Colts vary in disposition and temper as much as children do, and a vast deal depends on the first rider, after the colt emerges from the hands of the breaker. Conciliation is better than force. Still he must never get the best of you.

The bridle is the means of communication between the horse and rider, and the voice is more effective than whip or spur. The colt is very proud of acquiring knowledge, and nine out of ten start with an extreme desire to act as they are wanted to do. The trouble is that too many fall into the hands of incompetent masters. Therefore use the bridle to teach but never to hurt him. If he misbehaves wickedly or with set purpose, and you are sure he knows what it is for, thrash him; the harder the better. But kindness is preferable to severity as an ordinary measure. The breaker may want a martingale, but should turn out his horse so that you do not. The Dutch martingale, consisting of two rings, joined by a strip of leather, and through which the reins pass helps the control of a flighty stargazing horse and to keep his head where you want it; but a good mount needs no martingale.

A good saddle horse goes up to the bit without pulling a pound on your hands: free but not troublesome. His trot must be square. If you find his action becoming mixed—disunited—stop him. Riding in company is best deferred till you have taught your horse to go straight and well by himself. An experienced man in Temperance Street once told me that it took two years to make a good hack. *Perseverando* must be the rider's motto; and don't sicken and confuse the horse in an attempt to teach too much at any one time.

When out riding keep your eyes to the front. Watch for objects likely to alarm your horse, a cow rising out of the fern, a crow

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