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## TROTTING TRAINER'S EXPERIENCE WITH BITS.

Various Bits Described—The Kind of a Bit the Horse Should Use—Valuable Suggestions—Proper Treatment of a Horse's Mouth.

DETROIT, MICH., Dec. 10, 1877.

DEAR SPIRIT: When we are selecting bits for our horses, we should use great caution, and choose none but those that are perfect in their make. The great majority of bits on the market are imperfectly made—consequently, they are unfit to be used on a horse. It matters not what kind of bit we may be going to select, nor what kind of material it may be made, we should see that it has been perfectly made in all its parts. I have known persons who would choose bits because they were cheap. Cheap bits are made of poor material, consequently they are liable to break, and are not safe to use. When a bit is not properly finished, and rough places remain on it, it will chafe and sore the horse's mouth. When the joints in a bit are loose, and not well fitted, the parts of the mouth that they may come in contact with are liable to be forced into them, and injured thereby.

Chain bits are sometimes used on horses, but they are unfit for use unless they are covered with some flexible material to prevent them from cutting the mouth. Rubber is the material most commonly used for covering this kind of bit, and, when it is properly applied, it makes a good covering.

The rubber-coated chain bit works well on many horses. Crane & Co., of Newark, N. J., manufacture the best bit of this kind I ever used. Their bits have a better finish than any bit I have ever seen of this kind. Owing to the flexibility of this kind of bit, it works well on horses that are liable to become injured on the angles of their jaws. In consequence of its flexibility, it adapts itself to the angles of the mouth, whereby it gets a greater bearing than most other kinds of bits, and, consequently, is not so likely to injure any one particular part of the horse's mouth.

The snaffle bit (fashioned after the various patterns now in use) is used, on trotting horses, more than any other kind of bit. The Mace and Dexter patterns are those now generally used, and, when horses are properly fitted with this kind of bit, there are few but will work well with them, unless they have previously acquired bad habits.

The bar bit, when properly formed, is a good bit, and I have found I could not get along without it on some horses. The month pieces of many bar bits now manufactured are perfectly straight, and are of the same thickness throughout their entire length. Owing to this kind of formation, their bearing is limited, and they are likely to cause undue pressure on that part of the month they may come in contact with, which parts are usually the tongue and angles of the lower jaw, owing to their prominence.

My experience has taught me to prefer a bar bit whose month-piece is slightly curved, and

sometimes had a false tongue arranged in it in such a manner as to prevent the horse from carrying his tongue over the bit. This kind of false tongue I have found to work well on some horses, and there is not the danger of injuring the horse's mouth by its use that there is in using a bit that has a false tongue on it, formed out of some metallic substance.

Bits that have false metallic tongues, or bows, arranged on them, will prevent the horse from carrying his tongue over the bit, but the injuries they are liable to produce by cutting the horse's mouth, render them unfit to be used. Carrying the tongue over the bit is a very unnaughty and annoying habit for a horse to have, and one that is very hard to overcome in some horses.

I have been able to overcome this habit in some horses by using a piece of rubber pipe, about three inches long and one inch in diameter; when two bits are used on a horse, both bits may be passed through the pipe, and when the overcheck is held up against the roof of the mouth by means of the check, or other straps, the horse is unable to get his tongue over the bits. When I want to use this kind of rigging on a horse that will not work on an overcheck, I suspend the upper bit by means of a strap attached to the crown-piece of the bridle.

The leather bit, whose month-piece is formed out of leather, works well on some horses, and may be used either on the overcheck or driving reins to good advantage on some horses.

Besides the above named kinds of bits, there are many other different kinds used, too numerous to mention. Most of them are unfit to use on a trotting horse at all, but some of them may answer a good purpose when used on horses that are not wanted for the track.

While there are no general rules that may be laid down to govern a horseman in selecting a bit to suit his horse, there are many circumstances that may be taken into consideration that will aid him much in making a proper selection of a bit. The natural disposition of the horse has much to do in causing him to be steady at any gait. If all the bits that ever were invented since Eve forged the first one, on which Adam was driven out of the garden of Eden, were used on some horses, they would not become steady trotters. The more I see of trotters, the more I am led to believe that the brain of the horse has much to do in making him a steady and reliable trotter. Besides the natural disposition of the horse, there are many other causes that may tend to make a trotting horse unsteady in his gait. One horse may be made unsteady from hitting his elbows, another from hitting his knees, and others from brushing themselves in one of the many places that a trotting horse is liable to brush when speeded.

A horse may become unsteady from soreness of his muscles, from soreness in his feet, or from soreness in any other part of his body or limbs, of which there are many parts that are liable to become sore, from different causes; he may be unsteady from not being able to properly balance himself at the trotting gait. And yet, besides all these causes, he may be caused to be unsteady by having an improper bit used on

clusions.

If I am, I stand open for correction, and hope some one may yet invent a bit that will be less objectionable than any we now have.

I am under many obligations to "Traveller," for his description of Dr. Cole's bit, for I have been anxious to learn of some one who had seen the Doctor's bit.

As "Traveller" tells us, when the Doctor has his bits finished so as to get the glass finish on them he speaks of in his communication, I have no doubt all the boys will soon be rubbing their bits with a brick. Hoping what I have said about bits may benefit some of your readers, I will now bid them good-by, but may, at some future time, tell them more about *toy weights*, and what I have seen done with them.

Yours, S. T. B.

## Aquatic.

### SCHARFF REPLIES TO HANLAN.

Last week it looked as if there was a possibility that Scharff and Hanlan would come readily to terms for a match, but the New York Clipper of Saturday last contained the card given below from the Pittsburger. It will be seen Scharff promises to make a match in the Spring, but in this section that is only looked upon as an easy let down for the denizen of the smoky city, and a meeting between the two is considered very indefinite. It was hardly expected that Scharff would accept the Canadian's challenge, after the style the latter showed in his race with Ross; but as Scharff had some time before expressed a wish to get on with Hanlan the opportunity was offered him. It is understood the \$100 forfeit will remain in Frank Queen's hands until Spring, so as to give Scharff every chance to make his word good.

Pittsburg, Dec. 28, 1877.

SIR: In reply to Mr. Hanlan's challenge, I promise to make a match with him next spring. I don't wish to make a match with him or any other person six or seven months before the race is to come off. Hoping this will satisfy Mr. Hanlan, I am, most respectfully,

Yours, etc., WILLIAM SCHARFF.

P. S.—Thanks to Mr. Hanlan for his photograph.

### THE "TURF, FIELD AND FARM" ON AMERICAN OARSMEN.

It has been definitely settled that Trickett, the Australian oarman, will meet Courtney on American waters next Summer. Before judging the probabilities of the race we should desire to see Trickett's form, and gather from personal observation

and the tenth in 6:15, making the first thousand in 64 minutes and 44 seconds. The second thousand he shattered in 187 minutes 10 seconds. Then he rested for an hour. He broke his third thousand in 203 minutes and 15 seconds. The Captain now began to show signs of fatigue and he had his right arm frequently rubbed down. His cheek, against which the gun rested, also began to swell. He completed his fourth thousand in 282 minutes and 85 seconds. The audience had gradually increased and by eight o'clock the house was nearly filled. The Captain gained time on each thousand until 10 p. m. His right shoulder was then very badly swollen, his left arm was weak, his eyes were inflamed, his sight seemed to grow dim, and he missed many balls. He fired slower, too. He complained of nausea of the stomach and severe headache. Before the forty-seventh hundred was completed he was obliged to rest. He fired the rest of his shots while seated. He fired pretty steadily toward the closed, but he had to rest three times and take stimulants. The forty-ninth hundred was fired irregularly. His hand was swelling, and his right arm rapidly waking, but his indomitable pluck never failed him, and he hit the balls right and left. When he began on the last hundred his most sanguine friends doubted his ability to succeed. But he rallied, and shot almost as rapidly and as well as at first; and when he shattered the last ball he was 19 minutes and 25 seconds ahead of time. Cheer upon cheer rang through the vast building when the result was announced. The Captain mounted a chair and offered a wager of \$10,000 against \$1,000 that there was no man living who could repeat the feat just accomplished.

Then with his friends he went immediately to his hotel, where he was cared for. His hand and arm had swollen so as to be entirely useless, and the right side of his face was nearly twice the size of the other. He was suffering considerably, and complained of pain in his head, and of a sickness at the stomach. He partook moderately of whisky and water, and in half an hour he was comparatively strong and hearty again.

### SHOOTING AT GUELPH.

A pigeon shoot took place near the Silver Creek Brewery, Guelph, on New Year's Day, between sides captained by Messrs. Geo. Sleeman and J. Turnbull; Sleeman's side winning by five birds, as the following score will show:—

Geo Sleeman.....	1110011110-7
C Root.....	1000010111-4
H Cull.....	1011011010-6
G P... ..	101100010-4

## Base Ball.

### THE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

A meeting of the judicial committee, composed of Messrs. W. Macpherson, C.G. Moorhead, and Jas. T. Nichols, was held on Saturday at the St. Nicholas Hotel, Hamilton, to decide as to which club was entitled to the championship. The clubs represented were the Standards of Hamilton, the Atlantics of London, the Royal Oaks of Bowmanville, and the Maple Leafs of Guelph. After some discussion, the games of the Maple Leaf and Royal Oak were thrown out, and the contest lay between the Standards and Atlantics. The Standards claimed the championship on the ground of having fulfilled the terms of Rules 3 and 4 of the Amateur Association, to the effect:—1. That three games be played with every club entering for the championship. 2. That the Canadian Association of base ball players play under the same rules as the International Association. The decision, given in favor of the Atlantics was based on Article XIII., Section 8, of the International Rules, viz.:—The club who shall have won the greatest number of games in the champion series shall be declared the champion club.

In regard to the professional championship of Canada, the Committee decided that the Maple Leafs of Guelph are the winners, they being the only club that entered for the championship. The following is the record of games played for the amateur championship:—

CLUBS.	Standards.	Atlantics.	Maple Leafs.	Royal Oaks.	Games Lost.
Standards (Hamilton).....	1	2	1	1	
Atlantics (London).....	2	1	1	1	
Maple Leafs (Amateur, Guelph).....	1	1	1	1	
Royal Oaks (Bowmanville).....	2	1	1	1	
Games Lost.....	1	2	4	1	11

### THE DUKE OF HAMILTON'S AMERICAN PURCHASES.

The four colts and fillies purchased last year at Mr. M. H. Sanford's sale of thoroughbred yearlings for account of the Duke of Hamilton, have been named as follows:—

- CALEXIA GLEN, for b.c. foaled 1876, by Glenelg, dam La Polka, by Lexington, out of Duke's by Imp Geneva.
- GLEN JORNA, for c.c. foaled 1876, by Glenelg, dam Urica, by Lexington, out of Duke's by Imp Geneva.
- EMILIA (Australian's dam) by Imp Geneva.
- LEON TANTA, for b.c. foaled 1876, by Glenelg, dam Urica, by Lexington, out of Duke's by Imp Geneva.