



THE CANADIAN JOURNAL

ENTERTAINERS



TORONTO, ONT., FRIDAY, MARCH, 16 1877. NO. 793

THE THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE
HOW TO REED, REAR AND
TRAIN THEM.
 BY AN OLD TRAINER.
 CHAPTER XXXV.

Series is Continuing—Shoeing and
 Plating.
 (From the Spirit of the Times).

Shoeing becomes very dangerous upon the feet of the horse himself. Whilst being resoled, scraped, rubbed off, washed, or sponged off, they will kick or lunge out something which looks and legs so severely as to cause lameness, and a kicking horse, when shod, is a very dangerous animal to have about other horses, even upon the track. I have known horses to kick each other upon the track when galloping side by side, and, in one instance, striking at a horse and breaking the hock. Often horses have had their heads and necks kicked by other horses when shod. The danger of the kicking is in the fact that the foot is loaded with it; it is like the knee-capping net with a brass knuckle upon it. It is very dangerous to the boys who are employed to be amongst them grooming, feeling, or washing for them, always liable to be pained or hurt by a vicious horse. Even the best of horses, when in play, may rear up and throw his fore feet upon the boy; and a horse may often be seen to throw a shoe upon the face of the boy which struck the thigh of the boy and cut the larger vein, and it was with difficulty the animal's life could be saved. This occurred with Mr. John Jackson in a breeze with Mr. Smith at Clark's, Ky. It will be seen from the above that horses, when working, are liable to kick a shoe, not only to the injury of themselves, but all other horses that may be working about them, as well as to the jockeys who are riding them. The danger of throwing a shoe from the horse's foot, when rapidly at work, is the velocity with which it is hurled, and if it strikes a horse or boy, it may cause serious injury. In the mud or heavy track it is still more dangerous for horses to throw their shoes, as the horse is on slippery or muddy tracks, and the shoe will fly rapidly in heavy or

Asile from the many, very many injuries that is brought upon the horse from shoeing, frequently resulting fatally, the shape, the health, the texture of the foot, all are altered for the worse, excepting in a few cases, by the wearing of shoes. If shoeing is commenced in the early stage of the horse's career upon the turf, by the time he is three years old he will neither have sound nor well-formed feet, for most of the blacksmiths cut away too much of the foot, either by cutting away the bars, which invites a contraction at the heel by weakening the brace that kept it open, from the heel, or leaving the toe too long, or rasping too much off the outer crust when finishing the foot, after the shoe is put on. I know of many horses whose feet have been so injudiciously cut away, during the process of shoeing, that it was almost impossible to keep a shoe on them any length of time during the season. Then again, there are so few blacksmiths who understand how to make a shoe fit for a racehorse. In making the arbor of the shoe they will run their swage close to the outside of the shoe, so that when the nails are driven in, they split the outer crust like a narrow wedge, and, unless well pointed, the nail will come out too high up on the hoof. whereas, if the arbor, or swage, was made near the centre of the shoe, the nail, when driven into the shoe, would take a thick and short cut to the outer surface of the hoof, with no danger of running up so high as to affect the sensitive part of the foot. A shoe of that form could be held upon the foot much longer than one where the nails are driven close to the edge, as a severe spring of the heel would throw it off.

There is no kind of treatment which has proved so fatal since the horse has been domesticated, especially the thoroughbred racehorse, as that of bad shoeing. Of course, good shoeing is better than improper shoeing, but it is all more or less injurious, as well as dangerous, to his feet and action. I have tried all kinds of shoeing, the old flat shoe, round-toed shoe, steel-toed shoe, and the concave-convex shoe.

The last mentioned shoe I introduced into general use for the thoroughbred over thirty years ago, although I was not the inventor, it having been invented in England fifty or sixty years since, but I now think it far the best shoe worn by the horse. They require some ingenuity in their construction over that of the ordinary shoe, and hence they are hard to procure, as they are mostly used upon racehorses, so that few blacksmiths make any use for them, or have learned to make them. The best maker of this kind of shoe is Mr. John Breez, who does most of the shoeing and plating for the racehorses in the North. He is one among the few men that I know of who can shoe a horse in accordance with nature, and since I have discontinued the use of shoes and plates, I have no use even for his services, but still, if it were necessary to consult him, in regard to a horse's foot, I would take his judgment in preference to any other man, and he has often done me the credit to say that my horses had better feet, from and heels

ascertained. In the other case the shoes must be removed and plates put on, and, after the trial, the shoes reset. All this is expensive, troublesome, and injurious to the feet, for in addition to the expense and trouble, there is great danger in his run with his new plates of cutting and grabbing his heels. I have seen the heel cut severely by the hind foot grabbing while the plate is on, often cutting so deep as to seriously injure the horse, and lay him up for some time. Every trainer must have witnessed this, both from shoes and plates. Then is it not a great deal better, as well as safer, to train horses without shoes, and run them without plates? No one ever saw a racehorse worked without shoes or plates cut himself in any place.

On the score of economy, it is a great deal better. In a large stable, during the season, the shoeing and plating amounts to several hundred dollars. If trained unshod, this expense would be avoided, for all you require for a stable of racehorses is a clinch cutter, hammer, a pair of pincers, a knife and a rasp. The reason you want three first implements named, are that horses may be sent to your stable shod, and, by having the above implements, the shoes can be taken off at the stable, without sending them to the shoeing shop, the blacksmith shop. Then there is greatly less danger in handling horses that are not shod, for if they kick and strike each other, or the grooms, the results are generally not so serious. Their feet are much easier kept clean and healthy, and if not allowed to stand upon wet ground, whilst in the stall, but kept dry, the hoof will grow so tough and horny that it will wear better than iron, and it is continually renewing itself. In fact, I have been told by soldiers, who have been on the plains fighting the Indians, that the cavalry have been detained in their march more from sore-footed horses, who had lost their shoes, than any other obstruction, sometimes losing days to have them re-shod, while the horses and ponies used by the Indians are never lame from sore feet, although always unshod. So it would be with our cavalry horses if their feet were properly cared for.

Of course their feet must be kept in proper shape, and all that is necessary is to rasp the hoof down to about its natural shape, the shape of a shod foot. Then rasp the horn of the outer crust to a round, blunt form, and, when used, it soon becomes hard and tough, and instead of wearing off to the quick, as many suppose who are unaccustomed to using horses without shoes, it actually grows so fast in many hoofs, that it has to be dressed off every three or four weeks, more especially at the heel, and that is one great objection to shoeing. Blacksmiths mostly cut away too much at the heel, which keeps it tender as well as too low.

Horses driven upon the road, from experiment, have better feet when shod with tips, or, at most, the tips tapering to the heel in a thin flat form, which allows the heel to expand, and from friction the frog is stimulated to an unusual growth, protecting articulation, and keeping

English Turf.
RACING IN ENGLAND.
 CROYDON, March 6.—Grand International Handicap Hurdle Race of 25 sovs. each, 10 sovs. forfeit, with 500 sovs. added; owner of second horse to receive 100 sovs. out of stake; any winner after the publication of weights to carry 7 lbs. extra; entrance, 3 sovs; two miles and a quarter, over nine flights of hurdles (120 subscribers, 61 declared forfeits.)

Sir J D Astley's br h Scamp, 6 yrs, by The Buke, dam Lady Sophie, 165 lbs. 1
 Sir J L Kaye's b c Lottery, 4 yrs, by Master Bagot, dam Katherine Logic, 153 lbs. 2
 Lord Dupplin's Woodcock, 5 yrs, 173 lbs. 3
 Mr Padwick's br c Broadside, 4 yrs, by Brown Bread, dam Jane Eyre, 153 lbs. 0

Nineteen starters. Betting 10 to 1 against Scamp, 50 to 1 against Lottery, 16 to 1 against Woodcock, 9 to 2 against Broadside. Won by eight lengths.

The Trigger.
 Dr. R. V. Pierce, the noted physician of Buffalo, N. Y., the proprietor of Pierce's Medical Dispensary in that city, was defeated in a Robson match on Feb. 10, in a match among the members of the Robson Club, 19 birds each, ground trap who was handicapped at 28 yards against Nowell, 25 yards, and R. J. ... yards, with a score of 8. In shooting medico was the winner.

Mr. Wm. Elliot, of London, has purchased the well-known Gordon setter from Mr. Simpson, of Exeter. He is the best broken dogs in the country.

PROPERTY IN DOGS.—At the Guelph Police Court last week Philip Krebs was charged by Moses Webster Osborn (colored), with having shot the plaintiff's dog on the 27th ult. Fined \$5 and costs, and \$15 was ordered to be paid plaintiff as the value of the dog.

Base Ball.
 A GOOD SELECTION.—We are glad to hear that old bull tosser, Mr. R. Southam, has assumed the management of the Tecumseh during the coming season. A better selection could not be made.

STALLIONS IN "SPORTING TIMES."
 This week we have the preliminary announcement of YOUNG ERIN CRISP and MAT CAMERON. The pedigrees are such as will probably satisfy most of our breeders, representing as they do, two most prominent strains of trotting blood. Royal George and Hambletonian. We will, in all probability, refer to these horses again when their routes are decided upon.

The Blackwood stallion Br. Joe, will attract attention. Upon reference to his pedigree it will be seen he is well bred into a good trotting family. He is half brother, by the sire, to the noted Tennessee horse Blackwood, Jr., a wonder among trotters. St. Joe himself is something of a speed horse as was shown at Ferrus last Fall when he won the 2:50 race after a hard contest, giving good evidence of his endurance. From his size and breeding he should be in great demand in the W. H. district, where a horse of his class has been for a long time wanting.

FROM KINGSTON.
 To the Editor of the Sporting Times:
 Dear Sir,—Facing matters are very dark here, and I am sure you will be glad to hear of a few birds that were shot on the 10th inst. at the Robson Club, 19 birds each, ground trap who was handicapped at 28 yards against Nowell, 25 yards, and R. J. ... yards, with a score of 8. In shooting medico was the winner.

There is some talk among Base-Ball men of taking on professionals and going into practice prior to entering the arena against Guelph and London, but nothing definite is known however.

Professor Randolph & Cecil intend giving an expose of spiritualism on Thursday evening.

FROM HALIFAX.
 To the Editor of Sporting Times:
 The long-talked-of races came off on Bedford Basin, on the 7th & 8th. On the first day the winners were Mr. E. Parson's Wild Harry, and Mr. W. Parson's Maid of Honour. The second day Mr. T. Robinson's King Wilbur and Mr. H. W. ...