

HORSES AND CATTLE.

A VERY SELF-WILLED HORSE.

There is an old nursery rhyme which teaches that kindness and patience are the best methods to pursue in the case of a "donkey that wouldn't go." An English gentleman relates that he had a horse that "wouldn't go," but when he came to try the patience remedy he found that the horse had a larger supply of that virtue than he himself possessed, which, as will presently be seen, was considerable.

The English gentleman's horse was a confirmed "balker." One Saturday afternoon, when he was returning home in his dog cart, the horse balked, as it had often done before, and its master thought that this time he would try what calmness and patience would do. Accordingly he sat still in the dog-cart, and addressed the animal in soothing tones and kindly words; but to no purpose. It was exactly ten minutes past four on Saturday afternoon when the horse stopped in the middle of the road.

The afternoon wore away, the sun sank beneath the horizon, darkness settled down over the landscape, and yet the man and horse remained to fight out the battle between obstinacy and patience. Through the long night they stayed there, the whip remaining quietly in the socket, and when the sun arose after his voyage around the world he found the contest still going on.

At six o'clock in the morning the owner bade his groom fetch a cart-rope and tie it to the horse's fore-leg; but when the groom did so, and pulled with all his might, the only result was that the horse stood with his fore-leg stuck out as if it were a bronze statue. At seven o'clock the horse became perfectly furious, seizing the shaft with his teeth, and shaking it, kicking and stamping with rage the while. At half-past seven the groom tried to tempt him with a measure of oats, but the angry beast would have none of it, notwithstanding that it was twenty hours since he had had a mouthful of food or a drop of water.

Then his master had to confess himself beaten in the trial of patience, and having procured some tough shoots of ground-ash, he applied them to Mr. Horse's back so vigorously that that self-willed quadruped was obliged to confess himself beaten so far as his hide was concerned. It was then twenty minutes before eight on Sunday morning, the contest having lasted *fifteen hours and a half*, during which the horse did not budge an inch, nor his owner stir from his seat in the carriage.

This is probably the most remarkable exhibition of obstinacy on the one side and of patience on the other that was ever known, and the story as told here is exactly true.—*Harper's Young People*.

ARE SHORTHORN CATTLE HARDY?

Yes, we answer, unhesitatingly, as much so as any other breed of cattle in existence, when properly reared. They have only become delicate when foolishly stuffed from birth, with an excess of rich food, kept shut up from healthy out-door exercise, and housed alike from summer heat and winter cold. There are thousands of thoroughbred and high grade Shorthorns in the western States that have been reared without an hour's shelter of any kind, and had no other food since weaning, than grass, from spring to autumn, and the run of a corn-field in the winter; and these prove so superior when full-grown as to win the highest prices often over all other cattle at the various stock exhibitions throughout the country. Shorthorn bulls when delicately bred, taken to the great western plains, and turned

out there among a herd of half-wild cattle to "shirk" for themselves, as a matter of course, could not long endure such a life; but had they been reared and kept in a proper manner, as some few of the wiser ranchmen have latterly done, these bulls would have served well and lived to a fair old age.

The grade progeny of Shorthorn bulls out of Spanish or Texas cows, one of the largest of the ranchmen says, "unite the heavy qualities of the former with the power and activity of the latter." And to this they undoubtedly add the further merit of maturity two years earlier than their female ancestors. They consume no greater quantity of grass, and turn out a quality of beef worth from fifty to seventy-five, and perhaps 100 per cent more than the Spanish or Texas bullocks. The same story is told in Great Britain, where Shorthorns and their grades have spread rapidly during a century past, from their original home in Durham, to the severe winter climate of the north of Scotland and the very mild one of the south of England; and throughout the country they are now successfully competing in thrift (and at a greater profit in breeding and raising) with many of the various sorts of the natives.

The celebrated African traveller, Livingstone, wrote, that in one large district of that excessively hot country, he found a native breed of cattle as large as and closely resembling the English Shorthorns in all their points. A similar native breed has existed from time immemorial, in the cold mountainous cantons of Switzerland.

Give the Shorthorns plenty of healthy food and pure water, and they will do as well as other beasts; but we say, all ought to be well sheltered from winter storms, by day and night, and have shade to go into at will during the extreme hot summer. On thin pasture, and rough, hilly, mountainous land, smaller and more active breeds are more profitable, and these should be kept in such districts in preference to Shorthorns, Herefords, and other large animals.—*American Agriculturist*.

HORSE MAXIMS.

1. Never allow any one to tickle your horse in the stable. The animal only feels the torment and does not understand the joke. Vicious habits are thus easily brought on.
2. Don't beat the horse when in the stable. Nothing so soon makes him persistently vicious.
3. Let the horse's litter be dry and clean beneath as well as on top. Standing on hot, fermented manure makes the hoofs soft, and brings on lameness.
4. Change the litter partially in some parts, and entirely in others, every morning, brush out and clean the stall thoroughly.
5. To procure a good coat on your horse, use plenty of rubbing and brushing. Plenty of "elbow grease" opens the pores, softens the skin, and promotes the animal's general health.
6. Never clean a horse in the stable. The dust fouls the crib, and makes him loathe his food.
7. Use the curry-comb lightly. When used roughly, it is a source of great pain.
8. Let the heels be well brushed out every night. Dirt, if allowed to cake in, causes grease and sore heels.
9. Whenever a horse is washed, never leave him till he is rubbed quite dry. He will probably get a chill if neglected.
10. When a horse comes off a journey, the first thing is to walk him about till he is cool if he is brought in hot. This prevents him taking cold.
11. The next thing is to groom him quite dry, first with a wisp of straw, then with a brush.

This removes dust, dirt and sweat, and allows time for the stomach to recover itself, and the appetite to return.

12. Also let his legs be well rubbed downwards by the hand. Nothing so soon removes strain. It also detects thorns or splinters, soothes the animal, and enables him to feel comfortable.

13. Let the horse have some exercise every day. Otherwise he will be liable to fever or bad feet.

14. Let your horse stand loose, if possible, without being tied up to the manger. Pain and weariness from a continuous position induce bad habit and cause swollen feet and other disorders.

15. Look often at the animal's legs and feet. Diseases or wounds in these parts, if at all neglected, soon become dangerous.

16. Every night look and see if there is any stone between the hoof and shoe. Standing on it all night the horse will be lame the next morning.

17. If the horse remains in the stable his feet must be "stooped." Heat and dryness cause cracked hoofs and lameness.

18. The feet should not be "stooped" oftener than twice a week. It will make the hoofs soft, and brings corns.

19. Don't urge the animal to drink water which he refuses. It is probably hard and unwholesome.

20. Never allow drugs to be administered to your horse without your knowledge. They are not needed to keep the animal in health, and may do the greatest and most sudden mischief.

Mr. C. F. Nurriss, Randolph, Vt., has invented, but not patented, what he calls "a step-mother for calves," which the *N. E. Farmer* describes as follows:

"To build one, erect a shelf in some convenient corner of the calf-pasture about as high above ground as an ordinary cow's udder, or a little higher. Cut out round holes in the shelf of sufficient size to receive the bottom of a milk-pail or other tin vessel. In the bottom of such vessel prick a small hole with an awl, and directly beneath it solder on a piece of lead pipe or other small tube, an inch or more long. Over this tube draw a piece of rubber hose and wire it tightly to the tube. With warm milk poured in the pail, insert the rubber teat into the calf's mouth and let him suck. To make the deception still more perfect, strips of old buffalo skin may be tacked to the under side of the shelf for receiving the humps of the calf, before he learns that bunting is a superfluous operation, which he soon will, as the flow of milk is constant till the supply is exhausted. This artificial mother allows the calf to take the milk in a more natural way, the usual amount of saliva is swallowed with the milk, and the calf is not as likely to acquire the disagreeable habit of sucking the ears of its mates."

CARROTS FOR HORSES AND COWS.

From several years' experience in feeding horses and cows, we have become fully satisfied that there is no other food that can be given to the milch cows and horses, during the winter months, that is so beneficial as good, clean carrots; given with other feed, about a peck a day to horses; and half a bushel a day to milch cows, will be more beneficial than the same cost of any other feed that can be given them, during the season when they are otherwise confined to dry feed—without pasture or ensilage.

Horses will be kept in better health, their hair smooth and bright, while it promotes better health and digestion of other food. Carrots may be mixed with grain and cut-hay, or separately as may be most acceptable to animals.