

THE CANADIAN GENTLEMAN'S JOURNAL AND SPORTING TIMES

THE THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE HOW TO BREED, REAR AND TRAIN THEM.

BY AN OLD TRAINER.

CHAPTER XLII.

The Stallions of Kentucky.

[From the Spirit of the Times.]

is Lelaps' first season in the stud. He possesses a remarkably-formed body, with strong, straight hind legs, a broad, well-developed hind, very smooth over the lumbar region, a good neck, filling the shoulders well, and a head. In fact, he shows a great deal of class, and from his rich English blood he will cross well on our native mares, especially with a Lexington cross. He was unfortunately upon the turf, although he beat good horses, but I do not think he scored more than one or two winnings. He broke down a two-year-old form, and although kept in good shape, he has always been a runner upon groggy legs, patched up for the season. He is now five years old, and has run in races since he was a two-year-old, and I venture to say in the last two years he has not two sound legs, and they were behind. The owner is one of the few men in Kentucky who understands how to treat a stallion previous to entering the stud. The day will come in the management of stallions, that the owner of a stallion, if he is valuable, allow him to cover unless he is almost in the condition of a dead horse. It is dangerous to allow a gross to serve a mare, for in the act the bowels are pressed up against the diaphragm, and the lungs in turn against the lungs, engorging the heart and brain, which often causes apoplexy, and the cause of stallions dying of apoplexy in the act of copulation.

One day, looking at some racehorses, I saw blind horses all in training, and one of them, not yet three years old, is engaged in stakes, and has to be trained this season. It arises from three causes; they were either too much corn when yearlings, or were overfed and run when two-year-olds, or were by a plethoric stallion who had been winning upon corn. Next is Fellowcraft, who has only two seasons in the stud, and belonging to a good establishment, has covered but few mares. He is a strong, plain, made horse. Was a good racehorse in his youth, although often not able to run during his season, owing to the empirical doctoring of his feet, so that half the time he was on the track was lost to his owner. He ran in 1893, at four miles, before he left the track, which stands as evidence that he was a good racehorse.

Useless to say more about War Dance, a running of his get establishes his character as a successful sire. The same may be said of him. He is sire of several good ones, who run at all distances, and so has Hunter's son sired several good racers. Enquirer is the sire of several good ones. Asteroid is a sire, and is a fine, level-made, muscular horse, and was a good racehorse, and is the sire of a number of good ones, who have run on at all distances. Imp. Australian was a racehorse, and was a capital sire before he was overtaxed, but he is a private horse, and the public have but little interest in him. The old aphorism was never more applicable, that it is folly to kill the goose which lays the golden eggs, than it is to abuse of stallions when in the stud. How does it occur that stallions who have sired so many good ones, should be so popular that their barns are overstocked, and the mercenary owner to make money out of his horse whilst he is in the public neglect him. How often has been the case. It was the case with Sir Archie, American Eclipse, Gladiolus, and many other stallions who, by previous overwork and want of rest, were greatly injured.

Thoroughly satisfied that the time has arrived when American racehorses can be trained with the English thoroughbred. The results made by two of the most eminent trainers of this country in England give evidence of this. Not because American horses are not as stout and as fast as the English, but because our system of handling and training is inferior to theirs. It is true that Mr. Richard Thompson, and Mr. J. M. Smith, rather than to deplete and weaken him, and then by impair his energy, vigor, and the brilliancy of his performance.

It is only for this has been earnestly sought for by owners and the more intelligent trainers in this country, and great improvements have been made, but much yet is to be learned. The strife between progressive knowledge and the prejudices of ignorance has long been waged, and the fight, though a persistent and protracted one, will, I feel confident, finally result in a victory in favor of the former. When we reach that period we may, with implicit faith in our thoroughbreds, challenge all countries to a trial of conclusions. Until it does come, we cannot hope for success against the superior systems of handling and training adopted, and so carefully followed in England and France.

These views prompted the author, more than a year since, to go before the public with the hope that something might be accomplished by giving to the reader the observations and experience of many years in the paddock, in the stable, and on the course in rearing, handling, and training the thoroughbred racehorse. The chief regret is that the task had not been undertaken by a more competent hand. The work was one of great delicacy. No one had preceded the author in this particular field in this country. It was an unexplored region. The facts to be systematized and grouped together in order were uncollected, and often inaccessible, or, if found, were frequently confused, so much so that the labor of bringing order from chaos was an exceedingly arduous one. Indeed, the difficulties in this respect were so great that the preceding chapters are chiefly the result of my own observations and experience, covering a period of more than forty years, spent, almost without intermission, in the paddock, the stable, or on the turf. During this long period, in which the most eventful incidents of the history of the country have transpired, I have been thrown in contact with the most prominent, intelligent, and successful breeders, owners, and trainers. From them I have gathered much of priceless value, and much of what I have written in these chapters has been gathered from such sources.

In concluding I must again urge that the details of the business must be carefully looked to if success be desired. Without this no business can be made successful. As the merchant and banker cater for the smallest and most insignificant departments of his business, those departments which, of themselves pay no profits but are props upon which the greater branches of trade rest, so much the details of the stable, the paddock, and the course be watched. The condition of the horse, his temperament, and disposition must be carefully studied. His appetite and taste must be catered to. Teach him cleanly habits, and you improve his health and condition, for cleanliness is productive of health. Be kind to him, and he will learn to appreciate, love, and obey you. Kindness begets in the horse good temper, as well as in human beings, and the good-humored horse does his work willingly, and does it well.

In training, let the controlling idea be to preserve unimpaired the whole powers of the horse. To be sure to accomplish this most desirable end, he should never be overtasked. Nothing will more certainly bring evil results than overtasking the powers of the thoroughbred. By nature he is high-strung and mettlesome, but when his courage is once broken, it is hard to restore. He long and stubbornly resists inroads upon his powers of endurance, but if once conquered he rarely recovers, and never except from much careful nursing and protracted rest. My labor is closed, and my work is before the public. I have not been vain enough to believe that it is complete in all its parts, or that it may not deserve criticism at the hands of the public, and no one shall be more rejoiced than myself to see it pass under the rod of the just, impartial, and intelligent critic. Perfection can only be approached by correcting the errors and mistakes of each other. If I have, however, written anything that may by possibility induce any one to quit impracticable and profitless paths, or have been the means of turning them into the highway of success, then I am content. If I may have, by my appeals for humanity to animals, saved one horse from cruelty or barbarous methods of training, I am content. If I may have aroused any breeder to look more carefully to his interest, or encouraged him to a more liberal and generous treatment of his stallions, mares, and foals, I have done much, and shall not have cause to regret my labor and pains.

The thoroughbred horse has long been my daily companion. He is the noblest animal that God has given to man. His intelligence is most remarkable, his powers are rare, his courage,

A TROTTER'S EXPERIENCE WITH TOE-WEIGHTS.

By H. T. DANE, CHATHAM, ONT.

(From the Spirit of the Times.)

The horse's shoes are the foundation upon which he stands, and when hidden under him, like the foundation of the building, they add nothing to his beauty; yet, unless they are properly formed and scientifically applied, the horse, like the building, will soon become racked and tumble down. This proves that the shoes are fully as important to the horse as the foundation is to the building. Thousands of horses are rendered useless every year by bad shoes, and thousands more are but the moving monuments of man's ignorance.

In order to enable man to utilize the various kinds of motive powers, and get their best results, more particularly when speed is the desideratum, he has been compelled to toe-weight his horses. Steam, one of the most useful motive powers that man has ever been able to capture, harness, and control, has to be toe-weighted to regulate its gait, and give it the desired action. The steam engine carries toe-weights in the form of a governor, the weights are globular in form, and are formed out of a dense metallic substance, attached to the extreme ends of the iron horse's arms.

When he is speeded, they govern and regulate his way of going, by the influences that the force of gravity and centrifugal force exercise over them. Should the iron horse attempt to run away, or speed at a faster gait than he is able to stay, the centrifugal force developed in his weights check and regulate his gait. Should he commence to quit and require urging, the force of gravity at once seizes his weights, and helps him on. The delicate motive power produced by the mainspring of the watch has to be toe-weighted before it can be utilized. The watch carries its weights in the form of a balance wheel, and without this weight it would be of no little use to man. He could get no time out of it. Many different kinds of machinery have to be toe-weighted to regulate their actions and obviate their irregularities, when motive power is applied to them. The fly-wheel is a common form used on many of them.

It would appear that the machinist had exhausted his toe-weighting powers in the construction of the clock. He produces its motive power by means of weights, and when he attempts to give it a trial of speed, to show time, he toe-weights the pendulum wire, and by the aid of this weight, he is enabled to regulate its speed and control its action.

The horse, although highly organized, is but a beautiful and useful piece of machinery, designed and constructed by the Great Architect of the Universe, and handed down, by him, through the laws of nature, to man, for his pleasure and use. By reading the history of the Creation, as given in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, we learn that, as the animals were created, they were endowed with motion power, and given what man has chosen to term instinct, to enable them to use that power to the extent of reproducing their respective species. While we learn this, we also learn that, after man was created, he was given power over all beasts, and to enable him to utilize the power invested in him, his creator endowed him with the superior power of reason. It is by this power of reason that man is enabled to utilize and regulate the different movements of the horse, that are produced by his inherent motor power.

Toe-weights, when applied to the horse, are to him what the governor is to the steam engine, the balance-wheel to the watch, the fly-wheel to the various kinds of machinery, and more particularly, from its peculiar motion in action, what the pendulum-weight is to the clock. When the movement of the clock has its motor power placed in position to act on it by means of winding up the watch, it starts off as a rapid gait, and soon runs down or exhausts its motor power, unless the pendulum wire is toe-weighted by means of the pendulum-ball. In like manner, it is the case with some trotting horses; unless toe-weighted, the great motor power, produced by the force of their muscles, when applied to their movements, causes immediate action, and the horse soon exhausts that motor power, and they stop, run down. We see that the machinist, in his use of the pendulum-weight, has been enabled to utilize the movements of the clock, and show good time, and many hands point to that fact every day. In like manner, the trainer of the trotter is enabled by means of the toe-weight, to utilize the great power of the horse, and show good

ball in a small compass, and, owing to its shape, it meets but with little resistance from the air, in its oscillations. In like manner, I have learned that the form and bulk of the toe-weight has much to do in regulating the horse's gait, and, in accordance with the same, I use that weight in which I can concentrate the greatest amount of weight in the least bulk. I have that weight formed in that shape that is least liable to come into contact with any of the horse's limbs to affect its proper motion, when caused to move in connection with the trotting horse's foot. The chief forces that are liable to affect the proper motion of the toe-weight, when not properly formed and applied, are produced by some one of the limbs of the horse, opposite to the one the weight is attached to. Too much bulk in a toe-weight, when applied to the foot, causes a bulge in contact on the inside of the toe, consequently, it is liable to come into contact with the opposite limb. The result is an injury is produced on that limb, and the force produced by the injured limb drives the limb that the weight is attached to, out of its proper direction.

When a toe-weight is placed too low down on the wall of the foot, it is liable to be struck by the toe of the hind foot when in the act of passing; the consequences are that the weight is detached to some extent, and both limbs are carried out of their proper course by the action of the forces. So, if the toe-weight is placed lower down on the toe than others, without producing injurious effects, owing to their peculiar action.

When toe weights, that are attached by means of straps and hooks, are placed low down on the wall of the toe, they are frequently struck in this way. The hook is driven out of its recess, and the weight is left suspended to the limb by means of the strap, and in a position to do much injury to the horse. I have known a number of horses injured in this way. Stretching of the straps, more particularly when they get wet, is another cause of this trouble.

The toe weight meets with resistance from the force of gravity, and that form of weight, whose centre of gravity is the most easily maintained, is the best. When a horse is trotting fast with a toe-weight on his foot, its centre of gravity is continually changing, owing to the peculiar motion of the horse. Persons that dance on ropes or walk on them, usually carry a long pole, owing to its peculiar shape they are enabled to easily balance themselves while on the rope, and maintain their centre of gravity. The centre of gravity can be much more easily maintained in a proper toe-weight, than it can when the same amount of weight is placed on the foot in the form of a shoe. In this fact lies the great secret of the superiority that toe-weights have over weight when applied in the form of a shoe.

When a horse, that carries weight in the form of a shoe, brings the foot, or any part of the hind foot, against the front foot in passing, he can see a great change of the centre of gravity in the front shoe, let the force of the brush be ever so light. Consequently, the foot is carried out of its proper direction, and the sure result is that a certain amount of the muscular force developed by the horse is retarded, and in many cases the opposite limb receives an injury from the same cause.

Yours, S.T.B.

A RAFFLE FOR FREEDOM.

We translate from a German sketch of American travel the following account of an incident alleged to have occurred on a Mississippi steamboat a short time before the war.

"I ascended the Mississippi," says the writer, "on a steamer on board of which were Judge J. and General K., of Pennsylvania, with both of whom I was slightly acquainted."

"A hard set, these Natchez men," said the captain, who met us on the cabin-stairs. "There's some of them down in the saloon, playing a big game. How men can be so fond, I could never see!"

"Let's go down and look on awhile," suggested the judge.

"In the saloon we found four men seated at a table, around which a crowd of spectators was gathered. The four were the heavy players."

"The game was poker, and the men were changing hands rapidly. We had not been looking on long, when one of the players, a middle-aged man, who I learned was a cotton-planter, bet his last dollar against the hand of one of his antagonists. The latter, however, four kings, while he had only four

took two chances, and he was followed by his three fellow-players, who each took one chance more. Finally, three more chances were taken by the spectators, when the planter cried out:

"Two chances still, gentlemen! Who will have them?"

"General K. was asked something by Judge J., and then went to the table and had two ten-dollar gold pieces on it."

"Never mind the name. Put it down for the woman."

"Eh, what for the girl herself?"

"Yes, certainly; let's give her a chance!"

"All right! One for Ninette. And, now—"

"That's for the boy," said Judge J., "for he had twenty dollars on the table."

"Good! bravo! bravo!" cried the planter and several of the bystanders. "One for Tommy, which makes the thirty. Now, gentlemen, let's see whom to back for."

"The dice were brought and the throwing began. Each chance cost the bidder to three dollars."

"Thirty-six was the highest throw until the holder of the eleven-dollar chance threw. He threw forty-two. Then a less number was thrown, total number twenty-one scored by the man. The excitement now became intense. Forty-nine was hard to beat; the highest throw possible being nine-sixty-five."

"Again and again the dice rattled in the box, until it came to number twenty-one."

"Come, Ninette—it's your turn now!"

"A poor woman came forward, her hands crossed and pressed convulsively against her breast, it was truly painful to witness her agitation."

"Would the good man that took the chance for me please throw? she asked, in a low tremulous tone."

"No; let your boy throw," replied the general; "perhaps he would have more than I."

"Come, Tommy," said the planter. Tommy came forward and picked up the box. The woman pressed her lips firmly together and clasped her hands as if in prayer. The boy trembled like an aspen leaf, but shook the dice, and threw—three!"

"For a moment he stared at the die, as though he could not believe his eyes, then he put down the box and stepped back pale and dazed."

"Come, Tommy, throw again," urged the planter.

"It's no use, ma'am; I couldn't throw forty-nine now."

"True, true! But you have your own chance, throw that."

"Certainly," said Judge J., "that one was your mother's. Now throw for yourself, on the chance. I gave you. Have a stout heart, my boy, and may Heaven smile on you!"

Again the boy returned to the table and took up the box. He pressed his lips together and did his best to control his trembling limbs. Not a sound was to be heard in the saloon but the rattling of the dice. For a moment every man seemed to hold his breath.

"H. throw."

"Two fives and a six—that's a seven!" said the planter, putting down the number, while a murmur of satisfaction ran through the crowd.

"One of the by-standers, caught up the dice and put them in the box and the boy began again."

"Two sixes and a five—seventeen!"

"That's the most I know of bonds, and the bravest I saw on every hand. The boy, as he took up the box to throw for the third and last time, was as nearly as possible as it was possible for him to be with his yellow skin."

"Out rolled the dice, and up came three sixes and a four—thirty-two!"

"Tommy, my boy, I congratulate you! on the part of your own and your mother's name!"

"Eh, I'll be a millionaire, and I'll be a gentleman with it!"

"I will not attempt to describe the scene that followed. The general sat for an hour, and the crowd of spectators