

To trace and establish the origin of this horse Tippoo was among our first attempts in this line, and from then till now we have not failed to improve any and every opportunity that opened and seemed to promise further information concerning him. In reply to an extended system of inquiries, we received some information from many different sources, and many promises of more that never came. With regard to these promises we must say that our experience with many Canadian correspondents convinced us that, like their horses, they were not all "stickers." Still, we should not complain, for at last, and in a great measure unsolicited, we were furnished with what seem to be the bottom facts in the origin of this great horse. All our correspondents had missed the original source of information, and in missing that original source no two of them agreed in the facts that were vital to the enquiry. In some of the collateral facts, however, there was a substantial agreement, as will appear further on. As we have now reached what we think is solid ground in this investigation, and as we desire to put the whole matter at rest, we will recite, briefly, the different claims that have been made and the different phases through which the investigation has passed. From the first, there never has been any substantial disagreement about the locality, the description, the identity, ownership, or history of the horse. There has been but one element of uncertainty, and that has been the paternity of the horse.

To give all the incidents of this investigation, real and imaginary, would become tedious to our readers and swell this article to unprofitable length. We will, therefore, give the leading facts and phases in the order in which they presented themselves. Our first co-laborer in the investigation, who treated it as serious work, was Mr. V. Sheldon, of Canton, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. In many other points we had learned to look upon Mr. Sheldon as a very careful and reliable investigator and a thorough stickler, when he once struck a trail. He learned from several sources that were satisfactory to his mind that a certain Mr. Howard, a travelling preacher, had ridden a mare from Lowville, N. Y., over into Canada, that this mare was in foal "by a very noted horse that stood at Lowville," that when the mare became too heavy for his use under the saddle he sold her to Isaac Morden, and the foal she dropped was the famous Black Tippoo. The name of "the very noted horse that stood at Lowville" was not remembered, but as Ogden's Messenger was there at the time—1816-17—in charge of Chas. Bush, the conclusion followed that he was the horse referred to. This, in a manner, seemed to correspond with the original claim that Tippoo was by a horse called Messenger, but it lacked the well-defined facts that are always necessary to establish a point of this kind. We, therefore, accepted and treated it as a probable theory of the paternity of Tippoo. In support of this theory we had the claim of different very intelligent sources that there was a strong family resemblance between the Tippoos on the one side of the St. Lawrence and the Ogden Messengers on the other. With some people this would probably be considered corroborative evidence of kinship, but we learned long ago to place no confidence in supposed resemblances, as proving or even supporting anything, for they are so liable to be only in the eye of the observer rather than in the animals themselves. Upon the whole we accepted this Ogden Messenger theory as altogether more probable than anything that had preceded it, and we held to it as still more probable than any one of two or three other stories that followed it.

The second representation about the origin of

this horse came to us through the politeness of John Leys, Esq., of Toronto, and was made by Mr. Lewis T. Leavens, of Bloomfield, Ontario. Mr. Leavens derives his information from his father, a man then (1877) eighty-five years old. He was, therefore, old enough at the time of the events he relates to have known personally something of those events. But whether his knowledge was personal or only traditional cannot now be made to appear. If we are to judge from what he says we must certainly conclude that whatever the sources of his knowledge he had become very much mixed up in the details. He says Tippoo was got by an imported horse called Escape, and we will ask our readers to note this name "Escape." In describing and giving the incidents of the history of this horse, Escape, he says: "When Escape was on the ocean the vessel encountered a severe gale and the horse had to be thrown overboard, and he was picked up the ninth day off the coast of Newfoundland, on a bar, eating rushes." This same story of a horse picked up in mid-ocean that afterward became the progenitor of the great tribe of Narragansett pacers was told and possibly believed a great many years ago. In speaking of the dam and her ownership, etc., Mr. Leavens, like all the others, brings in Erastus Howard and the Methodist preacher. In regard to the changes of ownership, locations of owners, etc., Mr. Leavens is more definite and specific than any other of the many accounts we have received. It is quite evident he did not come into possession of Isaac Morden till he was six or eight years old. The date of his death is fixed by Mr. Leavens in 1835, and while this is more definite than our information from other sources, all agree that he died from a kick about that year.

The next representation that seems to be worthy of some attention is to be found in a communication to the *New York Sportsman*, written by somebody who signs himself "Dick." The failure of this writer to give his name is unfortunate for the truth, but perhaps he did not wish to be cross-examined, and therefore prudently concealed his identity. This anonymous writer seems to depend upon Isaac Morden, at one time his owner, for his information, but it does not follow that an owner in that day, or indeed in our own day, should know anything more about the pedigree or origin of his own horse. In the minor details there is no substantial disagreement, but in the central fact of what horse was his sire, we are treated to a most foolish and absurd claim that it was a horse imported from England to New York in 1811, and called Fleetwood. Why a horse imported from England into New York, with a New York owner, should be sent up into the wilderness of Canada in 1816 is beyond the comprehension of man. Besides this, no such horse was ever imported into New York. Whether, in his communication, "Dick" was merely trying to "sell" somebody, or whether he was foolish enough to believe what he wrote, we need not stop to determine, but our judgment is that it was intended as a "catch."

In January, 1883, we received from Mr. J. P. Wiser, of Prescott, Ontario, the following letter, which he had just received from the writer:—

WELLINGTON, Dec 27, 1882.

As the origin of the Tippoo horses seems to be a mystery to you, I will tell you. Erastus Howard was a travelling preacher in those days, and he travelled on horseback. He bought in Kingston a dark chestnut mare and bred her to a horse called "The Scape-Goat," brought from Narransett Bay, in Rhode Island. The horse was a large brown horse, and could rack (pace) faster than he could run. The colt was coal black and large, was sold to Mr. Wil-

cox, who named him Tippoo Sultan. His gait was like the "Scape" some, but soon squared off to a trot, and the way he could go was dreadful. In June, 1836, he broke his leg and was lost.

WILSON SERLS.

This letter was a great surprise to us, for we never had heard of Mr. Serls before, and it was quite evident Mr. Serls knew nothing about the discussions that had already been given to the public on this subject. He entered the investigation voluntarily and unbiased for or against any other man's theories, and gives his own recollections just as they had come to him from the original source. It was apparent that this man knew more about the question than any other we had heard from, and we were impressed with the conviction that he was entirely honest and disinterested in what he said. He was well advanced in years, but neither he nor any other living man could have distinct personal knowledge of the horse that got old Tippoo, so all that is left for us to do is to make the best and clearest discrimination as to the channels through which this information has come down to those who assume to testify in the matter. We at once opened a correspondence with Mr. Serls, and we submitted a series of questions to him that would not only test the accuracy of the information he gave on this point, but also the general accuracy of his memory. To these interrogatories he gave full and satisfactory replies, and his memory seemed to be safe and reliable at all points. There was no avoidance of facts, dates, locations, etc., by which a dishonest man can be detected, but all were given in such minuteness and detail as to satisfy us we were dealing with an honest man.

(To be continued.)

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF THE STALLION.

### WHEN THE MARE SHOULD BE TRIED, ETC

From the *Maine Horse Breeders' Monthly*.

The most frequent mistake made by inexperienced persons, and even by many who ought to know better, is the endeavor to have the stallion in fine show condition by the time the season opens. To this end various drugs, nostrums, and roots are recommended; the horse is kept carefully housed and closely blanketed; he is loaded with fat; his muscles become soft and flabby for want of exercise, and, although he may come out in the show yard at the opening of the season looking "as sleek as a mole," and apparently in the very pink of condition, he is in reality not nearly so well fitted for service in the stud as he would have been had this fitting-up process been entirely dispensed with.

It may be laid down as a general rule that a healthy horse needs no medicine whatever to put him in condition for the stud. The whole secret of successful preparation lies in a few words. Let him be well and regularly fed on healthy, nutritious food, with plenty of exercise every day, to keep his muscles firm and hard, and let him be well groomed, so that his coat may present a fine appearance. The skin should be kept thoroughly clean by occasional washing and frequent brushing and rubbing. The mane and tail should be especially looked after, with reference to the cleanliness of the skin. If very dirty, soap may be freely used in the cleansing process; and when this is faithfully attended to there will be but little danger of having a fine tail or mane ruined by rubbing. The food should be mainly good, sound oats—nothing is better; but this should be varied by an occasional ration of corn or barley; for horses,