

dandy was a pair of boots with deep tops reaching a little below the knee to the ankle, showing an interregnum of silk stocking.

Parliament may now no longer adjourn over the Derby; breeches and top boots as every day costume may have yielded to golf stockings and bicycle knickers: the coming of a horseless age may be definitely foretold, but this much is certain, the love of man for horse is coeval with the centuries of time. It seems an elementary principle in human nature. It has stood the test of the ages, and in these latter days, though the bicycle may glide smooth-tired over our busy city streets and our quiet country roads, though the motor cycle, in all its ugliness, may carry us in its train; for purposes of recreation and exercise, if not for utility, the horse will still hold his place.

In the United States no other circumstance has so marked the social progress and refinement of the present generation as the cultivation of the horse. To attain distinction in American society one must now be able to ride cross-country and drive a coach and four. Among the Four Hundred, as New York society is absurdly called, riding is a necessary part of a woman's education. The effect of these healthful pursuits shows itself in the physical improvement of the latter day American young men and women. They are a strong-limbed, tall and lusty race, and the thin, weazened stunted growth familiar in the post bellum days is passing away under the most excellent influence of athletic sports. When the social history of the last ten years in America comes to be written, the decade just past will doubtless be called the "horse age."

No one event has had such an effect in the direction of encouraging the equine passion than the horse show. This is an age of shows. There are dog shows, cat shows, sheep shows, bicycle shows and motorcycle shows, but the greatest of these is the horse show. The horse show, as it is now established in the United States, is *sui generis*. It is a product of modern American life, where much is done for effect—where people make a fashionable cult the medium of showing

themselves. It is the modern apotype of the tournament of the middle ages and the gladiatorial contest of old Roman days. Around the arena beauty is on parade, frills and feathers flutter frivolously, the world of fashion is showing itself along with the horses, and while the proceedings in the ring are the cause of the gathering, there are many other results. "Horse Show" or "Clothes-horse Show"—whichever it may be called—in New York and other large American cities it is now the greatest social event of the year. It is a product of rapid growth. The first National Horse Show in America was held in New York in the autumn of 1885. In the first year the attendance was small and the enthusiasm slight; but once fairly started, it sprang into popularity, until now there is no other occasion or event of annual recurrence in the United States which brings together so notable and fashionable a gathering. Held in Madison Square Gardens, a magnificent building constructed for the purpose, in an amphitheatre capable of seating 10,000 people, some 50,000 spectators pass in and out of the structure during the week. The profits are large, sometimes, it is said, reaching \$100,000, and it is out of these receipts that the immense building of recent construction is maintained. The American newspapers, which cannot refrain from reducing everything to dollars and cents, and judging importance by that standard, estimate that the show causes the expenditure of \$2,000,000 yearly in horses, carriages, clothes, seats, dinners and other necessities or luxuries. The exhibition of horses is such as is seen nowhere else in the world. The old country shows at Islington or Dublin may surpass New York in the breeding classes and in hunters, but in harness horses and roadsters the American show now probably leads the universe. The elements of furbelows and fashion and the gaping throngs who stare at the beauties in the boxes instead of those in the tanbark ring, are all distasteful to the true horseman, but he observes these things not without some satisfaction, as he knows the Horse Show will lead possibly to the education of these unen-