

curb, only use it occasionally. Choose a snaffle that is full and thick in the mouth, especially at the ends where the reins are fastened. To regulate the management of the curb is a nice matter—some people apply the weight of the arm where only a slight turn of the wrist is required.

Some people think the bridle has the chief power over a horse, but it has not; for instance if the left spur touch him, and he is at the same time prevented from going forward, he has a sign which he will soon understand to move sideways to the right. In the same manner he moves to the left if the right spur is closed to him; and afterwards from fear of the spur he obeys a touch of the leg, in the same manner as a horse moves his croup from one side of the stall to the other when he is touched by the hand. In short he will never disobey the leg unless he become restive. By this means you will have great power over him, for he will move sideways if you close one leg to him and forward if both; and even when he stands still, your legs held near him will keep him on the watch, and with the slightest unseen motion of the bridle upwards he will raise his head and show himself to advantage.

On this use of the rider's legs in the guidance of the horse's croup are founded all the airs, as riding masters call them, by which troopers are taught to close or open their ranks, and indeed all their evolutions.

When a horse starts and is flying on one side, if you put your leg on that side it will stop his spring immediately, and he will go past the object he started at, keeping straight on, or as you choose to direct him; and he will not fly back at anything if you press him with both your legs.

You must keep his haunches under him when going down a hill, and help him on the side of a bank more easily to avoid the wheel of a carriage, and to approach nearer and more gracefully to the side of a coach or horseman.

When a pampered horse curvets irregularly, twisting his body to and fro, turn his head either to the right or left, or both alternately, but without letting him move out of his track, and press your leg to the opposite side; he cannot then spring on his hind legs to one side, because your leg prevents him, nor to the other because his head is turned that way, and a horse does not start and spring the way he looks.

The above rules may be of some use to inexperienced horsemen, by shewing them that something more is needful than what is taught by the breakers, and that force will seldom, if ever, make a horse subservient to his rider.

As to Nicking, Firing, Cropping, and Wrapping a broken bone, I must leave them to those that have knowledge of such things, for no general rules can be given for them.

THE END