

trial. Mr. Rysdyk, who was a great home man, was loth to remain away from Orange County for this purpose, but yielded to Mr. Roe's solicitation, in hopes, as he urged, it would teach the colt something. Much to Mr. Roe's surprise, Hambletonian beat his horse in a little slower than 3:00. Somewhat nettled at the result, he drove Abdallah Chief a trial alone, and so far improved upon his first effort as to complete the mile in 2:55½. Mr. Rysdyk then drove Hambletonian a trial in 2:48. This was the concurrent testimony of Mr. Rysdyk and Mr. Roe, after the stallions had grown to be rivals. The result had the effect to create some coolness between the owners, and, subsequently, Mr. Rysdyk published a challenge in his stud bills, to trot Hambletonian two named races against Roe's Abdallah Chief; or, failing to secure those engagements, would match him to beat 2:40, for \$5,000. He was never started, however, and died without securing a turf record, though his descendants head the lists.

Some years ago we described him in *The Spirit*, and will now reproduce that description in modified form: In the prime of life Hambletonian was a deep rich colored mahogany bay horse, 15½ hands, with black legs, mane and tail, the color of his limbs extending well above his knees and hocks. He had a small star, and two white socks behind, extending to the top of the ankle-joint, but the coronets were dotted with black, so that each hoof was in good part black, or rather of a deep bluish slate color. His head was large and bony, with a profile just inclining to the Roman order, with somewhat deep jowls, yet as widely spread as many would desire, yet not deficiently close. Eye very large and prominent, giving him an appearance of much greater width across the forehead than would otherwise have shown. His ears were of good size (not as large as many unobserving persons have pronounced them), well set and lively. They were not over long, and were peculiar in the fact that they rose evenly on both sides, having none of that crook or notching out towards the point so frequently noticed in the Abdallah ear. His muzzle was dark colored, and rather broad, nostril full and expansive. Neck rather short, a little heavy underneath, but clean and sharp at the crest. His mane was very ornamental in his younger days, straight haired and rather light, like that of the blood horse, but uniform in length, never reaching the lower line of the neck. He was predisposed to baldness of the crest, and his mane had entirely disappeared some years since. His foretop, at rays light, had nearly gone. His tail was long, and in former years quite full, clear to the ground. It appeared to have

no short hairs in it, all reached to his ankles, and hung as straight, black and free from wave or curl as the war-lock of a Mohawk Indian. It remained ample, though not as heavy as in years past, to the time of his death, and showed no tendency to the baldness which marked that of Abdallah, and so many of his descendants. His shoulders were fairly oblique (as he settled in his back with age, they became very much so), deep and strong. The upper points of the blades were well apart, giving him a low broad formation through the top of the shoulders, with next to no wither, sway short, and coupling smooth. His well-sprung ribs, topped with great fillets of muscle, running back along the spine, gave extraordinary width to the loin, threatening to lose the closely set hip in the wealth of its embrace. Still back of there it swept away into the immense and powerful machinery that, imparted to his sons and daughters, has ever placed them in the foremost rank of trotters. His hip was long and croup high, with great length from hip-point to hock. Thighs and gaskins harnessed with the sinewy muscle, which extended well down into large clean bony hocks hung near the ground. Below, the leg was broad, flat and clean, with tendons well detached from the cannon-bone, and dropped under him at a considerable angle with the upper limb, giving him the well bent rather than the straight hock. Pasterns, long but strong and elastic, and let into hocks that were perfection in shape and quality of horn. In front his limbs and feet comported in strength and muscular development with the rear formation. He was a heavy boned horse, with large well-formed knees and hocks. The texture of his limbs throughout was so fine, clean, and ivory-like, that we have never seen in those of any other animal as much substance in so blood-like form. There is no long hair at the fetlock, though the shears never touched them; no gumminess or adipose deposits were lodged about his legs or joints. No sculptor ever carved from marble, or fashioned in bronze, so fine a modeled limb and foot. A few years ago his forefeet were destroyed by a radical operation performed by Dr. Dunbar. It was, doubtless, necessary at the time, to save the horse's life, but so permanently mutilated them that they afterwards gave but faint idea of their natural strength and perfection, which we have only seen paralleled in those of Gloster and one other animal.

His chest was broad and prominent, with forelegs well apart, and he was deep through the heart. Notwithstanding this, and the fact of his roundness of barrel, there was no appearance of heaviness or hampered action when he moved. The casual observer might think for the

moment, as he saw him in perfect repose, that he was too massive for action, but the instant he moved the thought was dispelled, for he was *all* action. Taken at a glance, the impressive feature of the horse was his immense substance, without a particle of coarseness or grossness. No horse that we can recall possesses so great a volume of bone with the same apparent texture and true blood-like quality. Though short backed, he was very long underneath. He always stood considerably higher over the rump than at the withers, and the whole rear, or propelling part of the machinery was sometimes called disproportionately large on that account, but the eye failed to detect any deficiency or want of size in front, save that his withers were low. The immense strength of his shoulders and foreleg compensated in full for want of height at the withers, and kept good the symmetry of contour and perfect balance of action. As an evidence of the immense reach which his admirable rear construction enabled him to obtain, it was often noticed, by visitors, that in his favorite attitude, as he stood in his box, his off hind foot was thrown forward so far under him as to nearly reach the one in front of it, an attitude which few horses of his proportionate length, could take without apparent effort, yet which he assumed at perfect repose.

Standing behind him, he appeared rather narrow across the hips, but rounded up smooth between. Below, his quarters were full, and, he was always kept in stud condition, somewhat beefy. His stifles and gaskins, arched out with muscle, gave him an appearance of power. We remember him in the old days, when the pride of his strength was upon him, led forth by his faithful colored groom, Harmon Showers, who for more than twenty years, has alone cared for him. Horse and man were a splendid pair in physical power. The walk of Hambletonian was different from that of any other horse. It cannot be described further than to say that it showed a true and admirable adjustment of parts, and a perfect stability and elasticity of mechanism that showed out through every movement. Many have noticed and endeavored to account in different ways for this peculiarity, some crediting it to the pliable pastern, others to a surplus of knee and hock action, but in fact the trait is not limited to the influence of any one part. There seems to be a suppleness of the whole conformation that delights to express itself in every movement and action of the horse. Bounding with animal spirits, as his groom led him back and forth, he has many a time charmed us with his action and display of power, while the control which Harman possessed over him was marvellous. The man