

the Egyptian, and the exposure of the Egyptian and Arabian horses of the Arabian, and may be considered the parent stock of the Arab stock of this day, improved, as we have seen, by the most careful breeding and management. This horse is figured on the monuments of Egypt, as about the size of the modern Arab, with a somewhat shorter back, large eyes, small ears, and clean limbs, and when the sepia is painted, the color is invariably red. It may be assumed that all the bay, chestnut and brown horses of the Egyptian and Arabian, and of the time of Cæsar, the Lydian cavalry were mounted on brown horses, and Lydia bordered on the region in which the Tarpan was indigenous. We find various breeds of this race mentioned in ancient writers, such as the Scythian Arabian, and the Syrian of Apamea, at which place Strabo tells us 300 stud-horses and 30,000 blood-mares were maintained for the service of the state; Egypt, on the Upper Nile, at Syene, and at Catamnia, in Lybia, a bay stock flourished, highly spoken of by the ancients; from Egypt the bay stock followed the line of the coast through Numidia and Mauritania, where it mounted in the Roman times the armies of Hannibal, and in later days the Moorish cavalry, who introduced it into Andalusia, when they came over into Spain to make war on the Goths. This breed was also taken into Italy and Sicily by Phœnician and Carthaginian ships.

The next stock is the Median or Nisæan, a pale dun or cream-colored horse. In the time of Darius there was an immense breeding establishment at this place—Nisæa—whence it is recorded that that monarch obtained 100,000 horses to oppose the invasion of Alexander, and still left 50,000 in its pastures, which Alexander saw when he marched through that country. Other circumstances, however, lead to the conclusion that the white Nisæan was a peculiar and choice breed, originally from Cilicia, and that the majority of the horses in these famous pastures derived their origin from the Dan breed, now, as then, existing in the Ukraine, and marked down the back and on the shoulders with the bars which distinguish the ass. Several varieties of this Dan race, with the peculiar marking, are yet found in the south of Russia and east of Germany, and in the Danubian principalities, Wallachia and Moldavia; an accidental specimen is occasionally met with in the British Islands. The white horses of Nisæa were especially dedicated to the service of the Sun God, and used in the state pageants of the Persian Sultans. A breed of white horses, curiously mottled with black, is still in existence on the Erythraean Sea, and sold at high prices to the grantees of the Court of Teheran for purposes of parade.

We now come to the Tannian or Tangun, the primordial spotted stock; that is, horses of a pure white, irregularly marked with large chestnut spots; in England known as a skewball, in contradistinction to the piebald, which is black and white. This species of the horse is still found wild in the highlands of Tibet. It was with horses of this breed that the Parthians mounted their horses of cavalry; it was known in European legends from the arrival of the Scythian Centaurs, it constituted the cavalry of Thessaly and Thrace, of this stock was the famous charger of Alexander, Bucephalus, and lastly, we find it ridden by the Huns, who, coming from the north side of the wall of China, were as far as we know, the last tribe of Gothic blood that reached the west, about the time of Theodosius. In the time of Charlemagne the spotted breed was in great demand as chargers for the heavily armed knights. In the Homeric ballads they are called "variegated and swift-footed." Statius describes them in the same terms, and distinctly tells us that they were reputed to have descended from the Centaurs, and we also find a similar account in Virgil.

It is unnecessary to enter into any minute detail of the varieties of the horse found at later periods in Greece and Italy, after the extensive commercial intercourse that obtained throughout the Mediterranean and the adjacent countries in the most flourishing ages of those great monarchies. It is sufficient to say that they can all be traced either to the bay, white, dun or dappled stock, all of Central Asiatic origin.

Each variety is the result of a race for black stock, which became known to the world, and when Roman valour had carried the Imperial Legions to the Rhine, Danube, and Britain. The Hæthman and Thane horses were marked by the same characters, and were believed to be in the same way—they were long-backed, high-hipped and heavy in neck, with small eyes and thick lips. In Cumberland and on the Lower Rhine there was found a lighter and cleaner limbed horse of the same color, which the Romans imported for the purpose of making their wealthy and warlike people procure horses during the times of the Emperors from almost every part of the known world, hence the great intermixture of the European races, and it is certainly remarkable that notwithstanding this the varieties of race can still be so clearly traced. In the British Islands there was an indigenous horse, of very small size, at the time of Cæsar's invasion, and found wild for many years after in many parts of the island; this race may still be traced in the Welsh, New Forest, Dartmoor, and Scotch ponies. The first intermixture in England was without doubt with the various breeds imported by the Roman invaders, and then with those of the Anglo-Saxon, Danish, and Norman conquerors. Having now rapidly run through the detail of what are considered by natural historians to be the five primitive stocks or races from which all the modern breeds are derived, I will proceed as shortly to notice the most celebrated modern breeds, beginning with the Arabian, because it is to Arabian blood that England owes her superiority in horses. I have already stated that the horse was not originally found in Arabia; that it was probably, nay, almost certainly derived from the Scythian Hyksos invaders—that it was of the Tarpan or Bay primordial stock, and that to climate and great care in feeding and breeding, it owes its present excellence, unvalued indeed in the world, except that the English race-horse, originally bay, is now found of nearly all colours, though the bay still predominates—and this is owing to its having been crossed at different times with the other races, particularly with the white or grey stock from Persia and the blue race from Tourkistan. With most of this race, more or less pure the whole of South-Western Asia, and the northern coasts are supplied, and as we have before stated, it was carried by the Moors into Spain. The perfection of the bay blood is due to the Arabs; though for centuries they have bred, in and in, as it is termed, from their own stocks, they still produce horses unrivalled in form, with fine bone, firm sinewy legs, limbs small and hard, elastic and close-grained muscle, every part of the animal free from vascular superabundance and needless weight. The Arab is generally rather narrow-chested, but the breast is well extended, the head small and most beautifully set on, the eyes large, soft, yet brilliant; the ears firm and beautifully pointed, every blood vessel prominent beneath the silken coat; though the English race-horse is faster, no animal in the world has more speed combined with endurance than the Arabian horse, and they are remarkably kindly tempered and intelligent. Among the Arabs themselves, it is said, proverbially, that the land of Nedgid claims the noblest—Hedjas the handsomest, Yemen the most enduring, Syria the richest in colour, Mesopotamia the most gentle, Egypt the swiftest, Barbary the most prolific, Persia and Kurdistan the most warlike. At present the five recognized races are the Tanweya, Monakey, Kohayl, Saklawge and Zaffer—the matter is, however, involved in some obscurity, the very best breeds being classed together as Kochlani, their genealogy preserved with great care, and claiming for them an unbroken descent from the stud of King Solomon. Some Arabs, of great pride, assert that the five races are descended from the five favorite mares of their prophet Mahomet.

The next conspicuous breed of the Tannian stock is the Morocco Barb, intermixed, as among the Arabs with a few greys, and some blacks, probably introduced by the Vandal conquerors of Africa. The Barb is a somewhat smaller horse than the Arab, of graceful action, with flat shoulders, round chest, joints inclined to be long, and a singularly beautiful head; they are far inferior to the Arab in spirit and speed. To the south of Morocco, on the borders of the De-

sert we find the Sherabat-ur-Retia, or swallowtail of the world, rare among the tents of the Maugrabins, they are brown horses of the Tannian conformation, of high spirit and great endurance, but from the poverty of their owners and the barren nature of the country, always found in bad condition. In Borneo, more towards the centre of Northern Africa, there is found a fine variety of the Arab; one of these horses was brought to England a few years ago, but was so incurably vicious that his owner was obliged to destroy him. In Sulu there is a breed commonly known as the Dongola Arabian, introduced at the time of the Mahometan conquest, and of undoubted descent from the five horses ridden by Mahomet and his four companions Abubeker, Omar, Atmar, and Ali, on the night of the Hegira, when they fled from Mecca. These horses often rise over sixteen hands high, but the head is not well placed, the shoulders are flat, the back curved and the eyes small; the limbs are excellent and very sinewy. Good horses of the Bay Tarpan race are found among the various tribes far down the eastern coast of Africa; on the Guinea coast no horse is produced of the slightest value. At the Cape of Good Hope the Dutch settlers crossed the old black Dutch horse with an inferior Arab race, named Kadi-chi, the result is a small active horse, still capable of great improvement. The present Turkish horses are a mixture of Arab blood with the Armenian brown stock, but as both are of Tarpan origin it is unnecessary to say more than that they are spirited and beautiful, but without vigor or durability; their skins are so irritable that they can be cleaned only with the sponge, and they are extremely docile. The Persian horse, on the frontier between that country and Arabia is essentially an Arab; further in the interior it is strongly crossed with the Tourkoman; in form they much resemble the Arab, but have a tendency to low-neck; their endurance of fatigue is almost unsurpassed by the purest Arab. A Persian courier, if we may believe Major Keppel, rode one horse from Teheran to Bushire, 700 miles in 10 days. There are various other breeds in the regions of Asia of minor value, among the small nomadic tribes, but all referable to the bay stock.

In India, the bay race is not the horse of the people, it has been introduced by conquerors, and still is so, the result is, that in India there are various breeds resulting from crosses of the native horse with Arabs and Persian studs, and of these again with blood horses brought from England, until a splendid race of Indian horses has been obtained and is rapidly increasing, and the cavalry of the East India Company is now entirely mounted on horses bred in its own establishments. As everything connected with Australia is now of interest, it may be stated that the Arab blood has been introduced into that country, and that a race of blood horses has been obtained, whose performances on the race course will bear a fair comparison with Epsom or New Market. Some years ago one gentleman in Australia had a stud of horses 300 in number, each of which was valued at £100. Returning to Europe we find in Transylvania a superb breed of the bay stock, averaging 15½ hands, with slender bodies, fine heads, and high withers, with long silky manes and tails, and in Greece a chestnut variety of the same stock, but with a much coarser head, though of great vigor and endurance, and excellent temper.

We have already noticed the Spanish horse of this stock, imported at an early period from the crass of Asia Minor, and highly increased in all its good qualities by the infusion of pure Arab blood at the period of the Saracenic conquest. Spain has now no good horses to boast of; the brutal order of the Bonaparte's Marshals to disable and put out the right eye of every serviceable horse in Andalusia, and the subsequent and long-continued civil wars have utterly extirpated the once celebrated Spanish blood-horse. It must be observed, however, that in those countries in South America, once Spanish colonies, the Andalusian blood is found in all its purity, while in speed, safety of foot and endurance, the horse of the American Pampas far surpasses its European progenitors. In Jamaica there are beautiful horses of English origin, with an Arabian cross, generally brighter and smaller than the English thorough-bred,