

Cariboo region, but they are so wild that little is known of either their habits or haunts.

One might suppose that these animals, living such secluded lives, would be of no interest to anyone. This, however, is not the case. The ranchman who has large herds of cattle and horses, often finds his pastures eaten bare by the frequent visits of these mountain pirates. This is not their worst habit, from a civilized standpoint. Many an Indian has been suspected of stealing horses, while, if the truth were known, he was entirely innocent. Occasionally these wild horses will journey down the mountain sides in search of better pasture, and in that way get acquainted with the tame horses of the ranch. The laws of greed, so common among all animals, prompts the wild horses to add to their numbers. Ranchmen have often been surprised to see in the distance the wild stallions fighting with the mares of his herd, driving them up the hillside and compelling them to join their forces in their cause for freedom and the heights. In this way many valuable horses have been led from the paths of rectitude and duty. After all, how closely they resemble the human animal with wayward tendencies. If they only knew what numerous examples their superior brothers have, all through the ages, given them to follow, they would not be surprised at their inborn tendencies.

How to rid the Province of these worthless pirates, has for some time been considered. The

"Everyone who has much to do with horses must know that they are excessively intelligent and sensitive, and that they have most retentive memories, says a correspondent of an English journal. They never forget localities, and they resent injuries after years of absence from those who have been guilty of them. 'The Druid' in his charming reminiscences gives several examples of this. There was Don Jon, the winner of the St. Leger in 1838, and because 'Bill' Scott hit him rather hard in one of his races, he became furious whenever he heard his voice. Jack Spigott was the same in regard to Scott also, and, for some reason or other, The Princess, the Oaks winner of 1841, took a violent dislike to John Scott, her trainer. Years afterwards, when he went to see her in the paddock of Brethby she flew at him and chased him out of the enclosure. With such animals ruminating, as they must do, over the past, they may not be always treated naturally when leaving the excitement of the racecourse or the show-yard for the monotony of the loose box. The stallion's life is much that of a recluse, if he does not travel. He is led out for exercise once a day, or, if particularly bad-tempered, that change in the day's doing is often dispensed with. In most cases it is the same box year after year, the same man to look after him, no change in the routine, and, as a rule, the stallion under such treatment becomes tame and very dangerous. In other cases

season. It was asserted that he was the surest getter of any horse in the country. There was another there at the same time called Half-and-Half, by Armagnac, and his winter days were passed by carrying a lady with the Devon and Somerset staghounds. He got some extraordinarily good hunters, and was in better repute than First Lord.

"The custom of riding stallions has become a more ordinary practice of late years. The Duke of Portland's Carbine was so managed before His Grace purchased him from Australia, and it was continued after his arrival in this country. This would be always easy enough if the horse were ridden from the time he was taken out of training, but even under different circumstances the practice can always be adopted. A gentleman residing in Sussex kept two Thoroughbred hunting stallions and an Arab, and having some difficulties with his men, applied to the War Office for a cavalry pensioner or a reserve man. He was provided with an ex-corporal of the 9th Lancers, who described himself as an able horseman, and that he did not care much what he rode. Interviewed by his new master the night before he commenced his duties, he was told that he would have to exercise the three stallions early in the morning, the owner meaning, of course, to have them led out; but the trooper mistook that view, and thought he meant ordinary riding. One was an old horse, seventeen or eighteen years old, and had not had a saddle on him for at least eleven years. The corporal commenced the operation, and acknowledged afterwards that he had a very rough seat on both the Thoroughbreds, but as he had apparently conquered their objections in the first ride, nothing was said, and they were henceforth regularly ridden.

"To give stallions the desired amount of exercise, a pony has been often brought into use for the man to ride and lead the stallion; but, although this has answered remarkably well with some horses of mannerly dispositions, it has not been altogether successful in regard to others that have shown an inclination to savage the man or the pony, or both. Such a plan adopted in the season for travelling Shires has answered admirably in many cases, and the horse has become so fond of the pony as to be fretful if separated at all, the small animal being always accommodated with a stall next to the stallion. Companionship in various forms has been recommended by stallion owners. The late Mr. Mytton, who had the successful sire "Flash-in-the-Pan" for many years, insisted on his being turned out in a straw-yard every winter with the young bullocks and any old mares in foal, or such like, that would not hurt him, and he lived to a fairly good old age under this treatment. The companions, though, can be admitted without such undue risk, and a stallion will be wondrously fond of almost any sort of an animal. Lanercost had a large dog, a cross between a sheep dog and a retriever, as his friend, and he was a bit of a guardian as well. When the horse took his racing circuits, they were inseparable, and Linercost would not feed unless his canine attendant was with him. Voltigern's fondness was for a white cat, and to the day of his death he had one that used generally to sit on his back. Another frequent companion chosen is a goat. The late Mr. Forest Todd, in considering the excitable disposition of "Satiety," thought of a goat for him, and it quieted him immensely, the two, during the winter months, occupying a large box stall, with a yard to walk in and out of.

"The most reasonable treatment for a stallion in the off season would be to give him a two or three acre paddock, well fenced, and a comfortable shed in one corner closed in on all sides, bar a very wide doorway; a thatched roof, if possible; and to be away—a mile or two—from the breeding or stable. With a goat as a companion, time would pass away pleasantly. There would be no necessity to irritate the stallion by putting his tackle on or leading him out. He would exercise himself and be happy. The feeding should be changed, also, from quantities of hay and corn to a good share of roots in variety—carrots, mangles, swedes and kohlrabi. Horses like a difference of food as well as humans, and their whims and fancies should all be attended to. Numbers of horses are spoiled in all their stages of growth and maturity from a want of sympathy with their characters and natural requirements. A senseless lad may spoil a Thoroughbred two-year-old by one act of cruelty that has been unnoticed by the trainer or head lad, and a Shire may be rendered a savage because some ruffian has struck him unjustly. Then there is the monotony of stable management, the hours



A GROUP OF NOTED SHORTHORN BREEDERS AND DEALERS.

Reading from left to right, Stephen Mitchell, Wm. Duthie, John Marr, Lord Aberdeen, Senor E. N. Cesares, J. Deane Willis.

case scarcely justifies the Government in offering a bonus for their destruction, but I think it will have to be done if the Province is ever to be rid of them. An act was passed at the last session of the Legislature authorizing any one to shoot these horses at certain times of the year, and after giving due notice to horse owners in that district, so that any tame horses which were among them might first be captured. In spite of this act, however, it will be a long day before this uncontrollable little animal will be exterminated from the wilds of British Columbia.

#### The Care of Stallions in Winter.

This is a matter on which the old and practised horseman needs little advice, but the novice is often helped by suggestions, if nothing more. Exercise in the open air is one of the essentials for the maintenance of health in a breeding animal, and in stallions it is as essential as in mares. A few days ago, when at the stables of one of the big horse importers, we saw one of the grooms astride a stallion driving a bunch of fillies around the yard; another well known Canadian importer turns his stallions out together, and has no trouble, provided the mares are kept away. Some turn the stallion out with the old in-foal mares. All horses like companionship and are more tractable if such is provided. An Old Country authority pronounces thus on the matter of wintering stallions:

he shows age much before his time, and is as ancient looking at seventeen as others are at twenty-seven.

"Many owners of stallions of all kinds and degrees have considered all this, and various have been the ideas promulgated. Hackney stallions are frequently driven during the winter months; Shires in some few instances are given light carting work, and hunting sires are often hacked to cover, and sometimes even ridden to hounds. Foco, winner of the great Metropolitan in 1864, was hunted generally twice a week in Berkshire during the time he was there as a sire, and, to quote one in more recent years, Savoy, a most successful hunting sire in Staffordshire, was hunted regularly every winter, and travelled in the spring and summer. A remarkable case again, is that of First Lord, by Stockwell, out of Vlie, by Zuider Zee. He had run pretty well in the Derby, and was a winner of other races, until fate brought him into North Devon as a hunting sire. There he belonged to a publican at Bideford, and this practical owner had him broken to harness. As he got older he was sent to a moorland farm every winter, and there employed to draw out mangels and turnips for the bullocks, being fed at the time mostly on mangels and hay. The latter end of February he returned to his own quarters, was given plenty of oats, bran and linseed for six weeks, and was then fit for the