

with thunder, pawing the valley and rejoicing in his strength. He mocketh at fear and is not affrighted; neither turneth he back from the sword; the quiver rattleth against him, the glittering spear and shield. He saith among the trumpets ha! ha! and he snuffeth the battle afar off; the thunder of the Captains and the shoutings.

"Homer describes the steeds of Æneas as of celestial origin, for he says they were given by Jove, the Thunderer, to Æneas as the price of his son Ganymede, who was taken up to Heaven for his beauty to be the cup-bearer of the Gods.

"Virgil speaks of a breed that had the east wind for an ancestor, so swift were they and so light of foot.

"He describes the animal most in esteem in his time and says:—

"Lofty his neck, his head small and slender; short in the loin with a chest swelling with brawny muscles. His colour, bay or bluish grey; his mane thick and waving upon his right shoulder, his back seems braced with a double spine and his solid hoof resounds upon the plain; such were the brace of Mars and such the chariot-horses of great Achilles."

"But without stopping to enquire whether the poetic coursers of Homer and Virgil were entitled to the high commendation bestowed upon them by these authors, one thing is certain, that the best horses now to be found in Europe and the United States have had their origin in the East and most probably in Mesopotamia.

"When the Crusaders went to the Holy Wars, they took with them the powerful but heavy horses of Normandy, Flanders and Hungary; and although these animals, with Knights upon their backs, full armed, were like "Elephants endorsed with towers of Archers," yet they melted away like dew before the heat of Asiatic sands and the thorough bred cavalry of Saladin.

"In mail their horses clad, yet fleet and strong,
rancing—their riders bore.
See them in their forms of battle ranged,
How quick they wheel and flying, behind them shoot
Sharp sleet of arrow showers, against the face
of their pursuers; and overcome by flight"

"This is a very exact description, drawn by him who equaled "blind Thamyras and blind Mæonides" not only in fate, but in the power and sweetness of his song; and hence King John, when he succeeded to the throne of Richard, the Crusader, introduced some of this blood into England, and encouraged its cultivation by establishing race courses, and offering prizes to be run for, by the Arab, the Barb, and their descendants.

"By these and the like means, from generation to generation, by the aid of the government, by private enterprise and emulous rivalry, the English had infused so much of the eastern blood into their horses that at the time of the American Revolution and from those days down to our own, they had the best breed in the world.

"They improved upon the Arab by giving him size, preserving at the same time all his admirable qualities of speed, stoutness and endurance; for it is a maxim upon the turf—"that a good big one always beats a good little one."

"John Blunt, an Arab in every particular, and as good a racer of his size as the world ever saw, not fifteen hands high, could not contend successfully with Fashion, because her superior height and length gave her a stride which told so upon the little horse, in a race of four miles, that he was compelled to yield the palm to that renowned and, in my opinion, matchless and unrivalled courser.

"To come down to practical results then, you may ask, would you have farmers to breed and use race-horses? Certainly *not* thoroughbreds; by which I mean animals whose pedigree can be traced directly to Arab originals; but I would have them nevertheless employ any that were not strongly imbued with the best properties of oriental steeds.

"We have bred in this country from the best originals; and our trotters, including the Morgans and Blackhaws, owe their speed and endurance entirely to their eastern blood. Old Messenger, one of the best racers that England ever lost, was introduced into this country shortly after the Revolution. He was the sire of Mambrino, a thoroughbred trotter, who could knock off a mile in three minutes in his twenty-first year when I saw him; and he transmitted his blood to the famous Lady Suffolk, who could go the same distance in two minutes and twenty-six seconds.

"He and she had the hardy grey colour of Old Messenger, who gave to *them* the speed and endurance of the trotter; while the same Patriarch imparted to Eclipse his swiftness as a racer.

"Trustee, who not long ago astonished all England by going over a course of twenty miles within the hour in harness, was a son of imported Trustee, a thoroughbred race-horse, whose price at one time was three thousand guineas."

The portrait at the head of this article is of a famous thorough-bred, now owned by Col. L. G. Morris, of Mount Fordham, who is also the owner of "Fashion" the "unrivalled courser," alluded to by Mr. Hall. She has won upwards of \$60,000 on the course, and was seldom beaten. We hope to give a portrait of "Fashion" in a future number. Mr. Morris is no sportsman, and has no idea of appearing on the "turf" in any other character than that of a breeder. He has purchased these celebrated animals in order to rear a progeny possessing their qualities, which he deems the best for breeding purposes, especially for crossing with the common breeds. The following is a statement of

MONARCH'S PEDIGREE, CHARACTERISTICS AND PERFORMANCES.

Monarch was bred at the Hampton Court Stud by his Majesty William IV., in 1833. He was got by Priam out of Delphine by Whisker; Delphine was out of My Lady by Comus, and she out of The Colonel's dam by Depini; The Colonel's dam out of Tipple Cider by King Fergus, and she out of Sylvio by Young Marske out of Ferret by a brother of Sylvio—Regulus—Lord Morton's Arabian—Mixbury—Mulso Bay Turk—Bay Bolton—Coneyskins—Hutton's Grey Barb—Byerly Turk—Burtler. Nothing can be richer than this pedigree.