

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. The fifth variety is the crisp haired sorts or black stock, which became known to the world only when Roman valour had carried the Imperial Eagles to the Rhine, Danube, and Britain. The Helvetian and Gallic horses were marked by the same characters, and were believed to be indigenous—they were long-backed, high-hipped and heavy maned, with small eyes and thick lips. In Guelderland and on the Lower Rhine there was found a lighter and cleaner limbed horse of the same colour, which the Romans imported for military purposes, but that wealthy and warlike people procured during the times of the Emperors horses 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 accurately 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; relics of 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 primeval stock, and that to climate and great care in feeding and breeding it owes its present excellence, unrivalled indeed in the world, except by 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 black race from Tourkistan. With horses 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 useless weight. The Arab is generally rather narrow-chested, but the band is well expanded, 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 fleetest, 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, Monakge, Kohayl, Saklawge and Zulfer—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 piety, aver that the five races are descended from the five favourite mares of their prophet Mahomet.

The next conspicuous breed of the Tarpan stock is the Morocco Barb, intermixed, as among the Arabs with a few greys, and some blacks, probably introduced by the Vandel 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 Desert we find the Shrubat-ur-Reech, or swallows of the wind, reared among the tents of the Mangrabins, they are brown horses of the Tarpan 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 Bornou, 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 Nubia there is a breed commonly known as the Dongola Arabian, introduced at the time of the Mahometan conquest, and of fabled descent from the five horses ridden by Mahomet and his four companions Abubek, 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 carped and the eyes small; the limbs are excellent in shape 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 Kadischi, 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 they are spirited and beautiful, but without vigour 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 frontiers 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 Bushin, 700 miles in 10 days. There are various other breeds in this region of Asia of minor value, among the small nomade 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, and 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