

were racing English thoroughbreds long before Selima came out to Maryland in 1750. In fact the century that elapsed between the English and American revolutions—between Cromwell, whose master of the horse was Place, and Washington, who was no scorner of horse-flesh—gave the old Cavalier families plenty of time to get the contests between English thoroughbreds and their descendants very fairly organized after the pattern which their traditions brought down from the court of the Merry Monarch and his immediate successors.

In conclusion I would say that in their insane—and it seems to me, purposeless—desire to prove that the best trotters do not owe their excellence to the thoroughbred, I am every day reading diatribes from writers no less foolish than this one. I am not desirous of entering the lists in that dispute; but I consider it a matter of easy demonstration to show that, whereas all come of a common and not very remote ancestry, those with what I call harness shapes (notably the descendants of Lord Westminster's Mambrino) are likely to trot better than those of purely galloping conformation. Endurance, pluck, spirit, stay, and resolution are ascribable to the blood of the Barb—generally called an Arab. The best lineal exponent of these indispensable qualities is the English (or American) thoroughbred, because he has more of the blood, and it has been kept free for two centuries from vulgar slobbering contamination; but neither need it be contended that his is the only channel through which the blood of the Barb has reached American harness horses.

To institute a comparison between thoroughbreds (so called) and pacing families, American or Canadian, in favor of the latter as regards purity of blood, is simply ridiculous.

T. C. P.

Toronto, March 17th, 1885.

#### HORSE-BREEDING IN CANADA.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN BREEDER.

There are some points of your review of my little article entitled "Horse-breeding in Canada" that I must beg the privilege of replying to through your own columns. If I wait to reply through the Monthly, the subject will have lost much of its interest to your readers, and besides this, you have fallen into some misrepresentations of facts that I feel sure you will gladly afford me an opportunity to correct. You gave quite a liberal quotation from my article, but cut it off at the very point where the true doctrine of breeding commenced to be developed. This doctrine is expressed in twenty lines, and with your permission I will commence at the next word after where you left off and give the whole of it. We were uttering some expostulations against your clamor about not breeding to mongrels and still failing to tell your readers what to breed to, and we said:—

"If we had the ear of our contemporary, we would whisper to him not only to quit wasting his good ammunition firing in the clouds, but to bring down his piece to a level of the horizon

at least and see if he couldn't hit something. His readers already know what they should not breed to; now let him tell them what they should breed to. If they want a runner let him tell them to go to a runner of the best running ability and the best running inheritance. If they want a trotter let him tell them to go to a trotter of the best trotting ability and the best trotting inheritance. If they want a pacer, let them go to a pacer. If they want a draught horse, go to a draught horse. If they want what is sometimes called 'a horse of all work,' tell them to find the best of that description, help them to find him, and when found, breed to him. In short, let every man breed to what he wants to get. This is the whole problem in a nutshell."

Now, Mr. Editor, these brief lines contain the summary of what I have taught and of all I have taught for several years on the philosophy of breeding. Is there anything erroneous in them? Is there anything in them that is not in strict accordance with experience, common sense, and the law of heredity that governs the whole animal creation? If there is please point it out. I will not ask for space to reply to the flippancies you have introduced going to show that I am a very inconsistent man, not very well posted in horse history, and that I don't amount to much at any rate. Your attempt to represent some theories of the history of given horses as theories of breeding, that we have held, is not altogether ingenuous. I have held to many theories about the history of different horses, and I expect to hold to many more, for just as often as new light is brown upon a piece of history, if it is better and stronger than the old, the old theory must give place to a new one. As an illustration of how this works, take the case of Old Tippoo to which you have referred. The story that he was by Ogden's Messenger, probably, seemed reasonable and was given me quite circumstantially, but I never treated it nor considered it as settled. The new history of his origin which I received two or three years ago and then published, that he was got by a pacing horse brought from Rhode Island and taken back there, was altogether more satisfactory and I may say conclusive, hence the first historical theory had to give place to the second. So it was in the case of the dam of Pilot, Jr. For a long time I accepted the theory that she was at least half and possibly three-quarters running bred, but when the question came to be investigated by the National Association of Trotting Horse-Breeders, it was *judicially decided* that she was not known to possess a single drop of running blood. Thus theories of history are constantly changing, if we are honest men, but theories of breeding remain forever if they are based upon the axiom, "like begets like."

Messenger was the only horse ever brought to this country that by his own power and in his own right founded a family or tribe of trotters. There were just forty other imported English horses contemporaneous with him and bred to the same mares he was bred to, but

neither then nor since has any other English horse founded a line of trotters. He was the chief source of trotting speed, but not the only source, for the pacers of Rhode Island and Virginia were winning races from each other in wonderfully fast time, not only long before Messenger came to this country, but long before any such thing as an English thoroughbred was known in England. From this source have come many of our fastest and gamest trotters. Now I beg of you to accept these points as matters of history and not to represent them as theories of breeding.

Your admonitions against breeding to "mongrels" seems to have been somewhat unfortunate, for a "mongrel" is simply an animal of mixed breed. This is the definition given to the word by Webster, and it is the exact meaning in which it is used among all English speaking people. Your Tippees, your Grey Eagles, your Clear Grits, your Royal Georges are all mongrels. On this side our Hambletonians, our Mambrino Chiefs, our Pilots, &c., are only mongrels. All our greatest performers are mongrels, and nothing but a mongrel has ever been able to trot a mile inside of three minutes, according to the records.

I will now state, without argument or explanation, my reasons for objecting to the addition of any more running blood to our trotting blood, and then close. Running blood never has been able to trot fast, unless it was carried by trotting or pacing blood. Judging from the records it has not added anything to the staying power of the trotters, whether it was for one mile or twenty miles. Admitting that Maud S. has twenty-five per cent. of running blood, which is all that is claimed for her, she is still several seconds behind Johnston that is not known to have any of it. These are the negative objections and now for the affirmative. We are seeking to breed a horse that will instinctively fly for his life on the trot as his fastest gait. We are seeking to intensify his instinct to stick to the trot under all excitements and under all circumstances. We are seeking to divest him of all knowledge of the gallop and to fix his habit of trotting action so firmly in his nature, that, in the supreme effort he would no more think of flying into a gallop than a running horse would think of flying into a trot under the same circumstances. In order to reach this point in breeding the trotter we must constantly build up and intensify the instinct to trot, and bar out the instinct to run. We are successfully and rapidly forming a breed of trotters, and the introduction of any blood that can't trot is simply the introduction of blood that is "mongrel" to the breed we are forming.

Very respectfully,  
JOHN H. WALLACE.

New York, March 16th, 1885.

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