

great monarchies, not imaginary, but taken from existing races and actual localities.

As there is no trace whatever of the existence of an indigenous breed of wild horses in Arabia or the adjacent countries, we must conclude that to great care taken in breeding and training the imported races, and to the selection of the finest forms, may be attributed the excellence of the Arabian stud—the natural quality was more fully developed by the sunny climate—the allowance of scanty but highly nutritious food, and the abstemiousness in drink—and the constant attention of the owner; and we may safely conclude that, as at this day, the superior excellence of the English horse may be attributed to the careful and judicious intermixture of races; so did the Arabs derive their small but superb chargers from the Egyptian, Persian and Armenian breeds. This may account for the fact that, in very remote times, the Arab chiefs received presents of beautiful horses from neighbouring kings with joy; not that they wanted them, but that they might add to the excellence of their own breeds. And this, too, accounts for the great intermixture of colour in the Arab races. The Arabian horse was carefully bred, and this was not, and could not have been the case among the riding nations of Higher Asia, when the immense herds ranged wild over the interminable pastures, almost independent of human intervention and control. Such a nation as this care more for aggregate number than individual value; the whole people were mounted, and in the saddle performed nearly all their necessary avocations. They crossed rivers by swimming their horses, or attaching them to rude rafts. Of all the human families, this alone eat the flesh of the horse; they drank the milk of their mares, and discovered how to form from it an intoxicating beverage. On horseback the marriage ceremony was performed; on horseback the Council of the nation debated its affairs; treaties of peace and declarations of war were dated from the stirrup of the Chaghan. In our own times the Polish nobles met on horseback to elect their king. Among many of the Riding nations the horse, man and colt, were fixed standards of value, as the cow was among the Celtic tribes; and they invented the bridle, saddle and stirrup, and probably the horse-shoe, of which latter we shall speak more at a future period. Tartar tribes at various periods in history, from the time of Attila to the 13th century, poured their swarms of cavalry westward, penetrating northward to Silesia, and southward to the Nile; twice, in the middle ages, they passed eastward, invaded and conquered China. There is no nation at this day that can oppose an equal force of cavalry to Russia. A cavalry officer of rank, in Canada, told me that he saw 60,000 Russian horsemen reviewed at one time by the Emperor Nicholas; and that among these there were very few Cossacks. Yet, just before the French Revolution, the Russian cavalry could not stand before the Turks, unless in squares eight deep, with guns at the angles, and the fronts further protected by portable *chevaux de frises*, and even then they were often broken by the furious charge of the Spahis.

When all these facts are carefully compared and considered, no doubt can exist but that the aboriginal region in which the wild horse was first subdued to the use of man, must be sought for in High Asia, about the fortieth parallel of latitude, the vast table from whence for ages past riding Nomade tribes have continued to issue, penetrating east, south and west, from periods long prior to all historical record.

It now remains to notice the various breeds of the horse as we find them mentioned in ancient writers, and rapidly trace them to our own times, it being primarily assumed that each race or tribe of men derived their own stock from the wild horses in their immediate vicinity—as the pied horse, or tangum, in the central mountains of Asia; the tarpan, or bay stock, more to the east and south; the pale horse, dun or edbach, on the banks of

the Caspian; the white or villous stock, on the Euxine; and the black, or crisped-haired, in Europe: notwithstanding the intercourse among the nations in commerce, and the invasions of war, the distinctive features of these races are still to be discerned, though there has been an intermixture for 3,000 years, as clearly and decidedly as at this day distinguish the different races of men. The tarpan or bay stock, originally seated on the banks of the Caspian, was most probably that which mounted the armies of the Hyksos, the Shepherd Kings, the first horsemen invaders of Arabia and Egypt; this breed was that which fell into the hands of the Egyptians on the expulsion of the Hyksos, and afterwards into those of the Arabians, 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 training. 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 sculpture is painted, the colour is invariably red. It may be assumed that all the bay, chestnut and brown horses, are of this race, for we know that in the time of Croesus, 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 Scenite Arabian, and the Syrian of Apamea, at which place Strabo tells us 300 stud-horses and 30,000 brood-mares were maintained for the service of the state; in Egypt, on the Upper Nile, at Syene, and at Calambia, 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 the 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 Dun 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 Dun 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 Euxine Sea, and sold at high prices to the grandees of the Court of Teheran for purposes of parade.

We now come to the Tannian or Tangum, the primeval spotted stock; that is, horses of a pure white, irregularly marked with large chestnut spots; in England known as a skewbald, in contradistinction to the piebald, which is black and white. This species of the horse is still found wild in the highlands of Thibet. It was with horses of this breed that the Parthians mounted their hordes 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