

springing from a bush, white "garments" on a clothes' line, a dog rushing out of a gateway, a pig lying in a puddle, a boy dropping off the top of a fence, a nurse with a perambulator, an old woman opening an umbrella, a snake gliding across the path, a man unfolding a newspaper; let another of your mottoes be "*semper paratus*." Sudden springs to the side are caused by such incidents, but the man who has his grip at the knee and his balance from the loins, ready for instant change, is not moved, especially if on the look-out. A highly nervous horse cannot stand the noise of an empty coal cart coming behind him at a trot on a brick road-way, and he is equally paralysed by a silent motor. He must be kept in hand on these occasions, and made to face the music: kindly but firmly. You should also see and by turn of the writs avoid stones, roots, holes, hummocks and things which a horse may stumble over. Most horses are so busy watching objects in the landscape (especially in strange places), with the view of noting and remembering what will assist them in finding their way back, that they fail to always watch their path. But the rider should never omit to do so. He should always be the one to place the horse to a nicety, exactly where he wants him to tread.

An incorrigible stumbler is, of course, a horse to sell, as is one that forges, cribs, balks, interferes, rears habitually or displays inveterate vice. Improvement may be made in animals so afflicted, but they are not to be depended on, and as riding is for pleasure it is better to let them go to the auction yard. I have seen a bad rearer treated both by pulling him over, and by breaking a bottle of cold water between his ears. Both plans are dangerous to the horse.

Good hands and good seat are inseparable. You are not likely to have one without the other. I have said that you must not use the reins to keep your seat. Your seat must be independent of the reins, but you must be sitting right to use the reins right. Seated on your crotch, down in the saddle, (Nelson on the Third had the best seat I ever saw), your knees tucked as much in as you can and held immovable at the grip, the leg below the knee should hang straight down loose, except for the tension required to keep the toe up and the heel down, and the foot straight with the line of direction. There should be no movement except from above the hips, where the small of the back should be a pivot, and every movement in unison with that of your horse, sitting naturally, neither in a slovenly attitude nor as stiff as a