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THE THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE HOW TO BREED, REAR AND TRAIN THEM. BY AN OLD TRAINER. CHAPTER XXXII.

*Clipping Horses—Origin of the Practice and its
Evil Effects.*

[From the Spirit of the Times].

I have repeatedly been asked my opinion as to the benefit or injury of the practice of clipping horses, and have often seen the same inquiry made in the columns of The Spirit. I will therefore digress from my legitimate subject—the training of the racehorse—and here give my judgment on the matter, the result of many years' careful observation. I believe that the practice originated in the brain of a lazy groom of either Milesian or Cockney origin. A century before this vile custom was imported into this country, the six New England States, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, all used horses for labor and pleasure, for few miles were used at that time. I mention the above States, because they all lie north of latitude 40 degrees. They used the horse for running, trotting, and pacing in the summer time; in the winter, for sleighing, driving, etc. They drove their horses much longer and more severe distances than now. Of course the introduction of railroads has superceded the necessity of using horses in very long journeys, but it does not alter my position in regard to the use and abuse of the horse of that day with the horse of this period. Thirty years ago I have known sleighing parties to drive from the City of New York, over on Long Island, out to Snediker's; put their horses under the shed, throw a blanket over them; take their ladies into the ball-room—to which the sweet strains of music had enticed them—dance a set or two, then set off again, driving their horses at their best pace to Jamaica. There they would make a halt for half an hour or more; then off again to Flushing, where they would dance all night and "go home with the girls in the morning." Now these horses were not only driven twenty-five or thirty miles that night, but stood unhitched in harness the entire night. After returning home, fed and rested the rest of the day, perhaps the same horses were out the next night (especially if they were livery horses), and every night, during the carnival of sleighing, they would be heated up, and suffered to cool off by standing still. Of course, when resting, they would be covered with blankets or buffalo robes, but still they were severely driven and often roughly treated from neglect or too long a delay at one place, yet we never heard at that time, or long before, of a horse dying from pleurisy pneumonia, congestion of the lungs, etc., in fact, those diseases were scarcely known at that time. If any had effect-manifested itself, it was a cough resulting from cold, which readily yielded and passed away with rest and a little medicine. Now none of those horses at that time were clipped. A hundred horses die now where one died then. Of course there are thousands of horses now where there were hundreds then, but horses now are not subjected to the severe exposure they were forty or fifty years ago. It will be seen that horses in those days could be worked, warmed up, cooled off, and rubbed dry without the aid of clipping.

Clipping is now encouraged by stablemen, because one hand can take care of ten, or twelve clipped horses, and that is a great saving of money in wages for labor; for all that is usually done to a clipped horse when he comes into a stable is to take off the harness, throw a blanket over him, and let him in his stall, where he stands until he cools off. In this way one or two hands can attend to a whole stable of

the stable, is injurious to the respiratory, as well as the circulatory organs, often checking the secretions which lubricate the pleura, and forcing the blood too rapidly from the lungs into the heart, which may result in serious ailments, and at times death. Then while the horse is out of the stable, driven in all probability without clothing, what is to protect him from the winter's cold. The little short hair left by the clipper will scarcely cover his body when he is warm; now, when out in the cold, it stands erect, and leaves the pores of the skin as it were naked.

The advocates of this cruel practice will say that his action, when in motion, will keep the horse warm. I grant you this, but how soon will it commence keeping him warm? Not until he is driven five or six miles will his body become as warm as it was when covered with blankets in a stable. But when you warm up his body, what protection will that be to his lungs? You cannot warm the atmosphere, too, and the horse's labored breathing shows how difficult it is to breathe this rarified atmosphere, so unlike that of the stable from which he has just been brought. Those horses which are clipped will be driven about like other horses, stopping at certain places on the road; they are taken charge of by the grooms while the travellers take a drink; they are taken under the shed, or perhaps blankets are thrown over them, and they are suffered to stand until the party comes out, and that may be a longer or a shorter time. Now, what is to protect the horse whilst standing in the snow, or under the shed, as the case may be, from the cold, wintry weather? Will they say they took the precaution to throw a blanket over him, but that only covers the back, and the shafts of the sleigh or waggon keep it from the body, so that his sides, belly, breast, the legs, head, and neck, are all exposed. If the horse had not been deprived of that which nature gave him for his protection, a long winter coat, the parts described above would have been covered with a bountiful supply of long hair, which, with the blanket thrown over his loins, would have been sufficient to keep him warm for an hour or so.

One advocate of clipping says, "You can, with pertinency, ask the advocate of the non-interference theory whether he would prefer a wet, heavy coat, or a dry, light one, and the answer you will receive can be easily anticipated." Now, I think it would be more pertinent to ask the horse which he would prefer, and in horology his reply would be that there is no necessity to stand chilled in a long, wet coat, if the groom is a painstaking and industrious man, for as soon as unharnessed the groom should be ready with some good lino rubbers, and rub him over for about twenty minutes, then throw a blanket over him, fasten it with a surcingle, put a light hood upon his head, and let the boy walk him for about half an hour. By that time he would be cool enough to be taken in and rubbed about thirty minutes more, then he should straighten the hair with a brush, a dry blanket thrown over him, and a surcingle to confine it around the body. He should then be placed in a stall, with a good bedding of straw under him, and, after receiving his feed, he should feel comfortable for the night. Why? Because the blanket keeps out the chilly air, and the heat of the body is retained. Thus treated, he should feel more comfortable than he would with three blankets, if he was clipped. Now, I think that is about the reply that a sensible horse would make to a clipper, providing he had been subject to the inhuman process of being sheared, and subjected, during a cold winter, to the vicissitudes of changes that take place in cities like New York and Boston, which are situated near the influence of the storms of the ocean.

I will admit that there are instances where a horse may be shorn of his hair without injury, and that is in a case where a horse has been kept in this latitude until his winter coat had grown, and then transferred ten or twelve degrees south or southwest. The temperature of the atmosphere

amount of clothing, with ever so much care, even to making blanket drawers for his legs, can protect his skin equal to his natural coat of hair.

Before our American fankeys began to imitate the aristocracy of England, and to import the Cockney to drive their horses in livery and a cockade hat, we had grooms here, but they were of American origin—Yankee boys and descendants of the Knickerbockers, who were Dutch—who knew everything about the horse, not only how to drive him, but to break him, both to saddle and harness, and from their intelligent painstaking and patience, when they got through with him, he would be so completely broke that anybody could drive him. They were not too lazy to pull off their coats, and rub their horses dry, let their hair be ever so long. An American groom then would take care of three or four horses in a private stable, keep the carriage and harness clean, drive the family out once or twice a day, feed the cow and pigs, cut the wood for the fires, and do all the necessary chores, and although he received moderate wages with comfortable quarters, he was satisfied, and seldom changed for a new place. Such were the duties and such was the work of an American hostler, now termed "groom," but that was before clipping was introduced. Now it requires from three to five grooms to take care of a private gentleman's stable. He must have a driver, two tigers in livery, and a groom to stay at the stable and take care of the other horses, when the coach is out. Of course the horses are clipped at the suggestion of the grooms, as they say to the master, and as many others say who are more intelligent, that the horse cannot be cooled off whilst wearing a natural coat, therefore, he may sicken and die, unless he is clipped. The grooms are in high glee, for the horses are clipped, and they have little or nothing to do, and what little there may happen to be done, they hire some poor fellow, who has no place to stay, for a mere pittance, to come and stay in the stable at night, so they can go to balls, parties, pot houses, and other places less reputable. This gentleman who employs these three or four grooms of the Cockney or Milesian stripe will find, from neglect of his horses after clipping, that they are nearly all sick, or not in condition to be driven out; he has often to depend upon the livery stable for horses to convey his family out. This kind of neglect upon the part of these worthless grooms has frequently driven many gentlemen to break up their private establishments, and send their horses to livery stables, where the animals could not fare worse and might fare better, and the saving of the expense of the grooms would pay their liver's bill.

Besides the want of industry of these foreign grooms, they introduce into this country that hated feature of inequality—class, which is an exotic that cannot flourish in this country whilst that glorious franchise, the right of suffrage, exists; but it flourishes in all aristocratic countries, and is more rigidly observed in Great Britain than on any part of the continent of Europe. From the prince to the chimney sweep, class makes a long step, but it steps the whole way down. No two classes stand upon the same step; in that country the head groom, or coachman, takes care of nothing about the stable or horses, excepting his own exalted personage and his whip, and when he mounts the box, takes the reins in hand, cracks his whip, and speaks a few patronizing words to his horses, he assumes, as the carriage moves off, a pompous dignity which is much admired by the class below him. When this coachman returns, he descends from his box with well-assumed dignity, passes the reins to the second groom, who merely calls to the third groom to take the harness off, and he to the fourth groom to take charge of the horses. And that same system of class has been introduced into this country to a greater or less extent, in our private stables. The clipping of horses and the banging of the tail both originated in the same

Pedestrianism.

MILE CHAMPIONSHIP RACE.

A. Clark, of Glasgow, and J. McLeavy, of Alexandria, Scotland, decide their match, to run one mile for the championship and £25 a side, at the Vale of Clyde Grounds, Glasgow, on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 20. About ten weeks previously the same men ran a like distance, McLeavy winning a cracking race by a few yards in 4min. 36sec. There were fully 5,000 persons present when the pistol was fired to get ready. So soon as the betting opened there were offers up to 6 to 4 on Clark; but a commission, cleverly worked for McLeavy, soon caused a shade of odds on the last named, though just as the pistol fired betting again veered round to 7 to 4 on Clark. J. Oliver got them to their marks, and at the second attempt sent them away at a merry pace for the first lap (they had to go five and a distance for the mile), McLeavy having the lead by two yards, and this position was never altered till rounding the second bend from home, where Clark, with a well-timed spurt, gave McLeavy the go-by, and never allowed him to get up, winning somewhat easily by five yards, in 4min. 45sec., which looks like being a novice's pace, instead of for the championship.

SNOW-SHOEING.

The annual races of the Montreal Snow-shoe Club came off on Saturday last, in the presence of a large number of persons. The two-mile Indian race was won by Lefebvre in 14:35, Kerarow second, Daillebout third. The thousand yards, in three heats, was not concluded. Mowat won the first heat, and the second was a dead heat. The 100 yards dash was taken by Vaughan. The two-miles club race was won by Geo. Roy, and the one-mile open handicap by Laing.

A CANUCK IN CALIFORNIA.

A foot race took place at San Francisco, Cal., on Saturday last, between James Harris, of Woodstock, Ont., familiarly known as the Cleveland Boy, and Robert Johnston, of Stockton, Cal., for \$2,000 and the championship of the Pacific coast. The distance was 200 yards. Harris was the favorite before the start at \$100 to 60, and won the race, the time being 21½ seconds. He is well known in pedestrian circles in Canada, and was supposed to be on the shelf, but this race shows he is able to tackle some of the best of them yet.

A NEW YORK AMATEUR GATHERING.

Mr. J. Marion Pollock, 235 East 24th street, New York, has announced an amateur meeting at the Metropolitan Riding Academy in that city, on March 1st. The events are a 75 yards, 440 yards, 800 yards, and one mile running; a mile and three miles walking; 120 yards hurdle race; throwing the hammer and putting the shot; and running high and broad jumps. The prizes are gold and silver medals. Entrance, \$2 each, close on 22nd inst. His description of an amateur is pretty strict; it provides that an amateur is any person who has never competed for a stake or for admission money, or with professionals for a prize, nor has ever at any period of his life, taught or assisted in the pursuit of athletic exercises as a means of

The Trigger.

POPPING AT DETROIT.

The Detroit Gun Club indulged in the medal shoot at their grounds, Huntington Park, on Thursday afternoon, 8th inst. J. V. D. Eldridge was successful, as will be seen by the accompanying score: J. V. D. Eldridge, 22; Cook Cousins, 21; E. H. Gillman, 20; James Caniff, 20; Ed. Biesbro, 19; L. O. Hawkins, 19. Goff Stenton and John Major drew out of the contest on the fourth and seventh birds respectively. Mr. Eldridge has held the medal twice before.

POOR SHOOTING AT GUELPH.

On Friday afternoon considerable interest was centred in the match which was shot between George and John Atkinson, at Lillie's Hotel, Marden. Seven birds were shot at by each, and the match was decided in favor of John Atkinson, who shot three out of the seven, while George only killed one.

LARGE PRICE FOR A DOG—Mr. L. H. Smith, of Strathroy, Ont., has sold to Messrs. H. W. Gause, of Wilmington, Delaware, and J. C. Higgins, of Delaware City, Delaware, his imported Laverack bitch, Petrel, in whelp to Leicester, for \$500.

A gun club has been organized in Windsor.

EQUINE OBITUARY.

DEATH OF HERALDRY.

This famous old brood mare died at Ashland, Lexington, Ky., on the place of her birth, December, 31, 1876, thus surviving through the Centennial year, and nearly to the age of 81 years. Heraldry was a chestnut, foaled in April, 1846, at Ashland, the first colt of the no less noted brood mare Margaret Woods, presented to the Hon. Henry Clay, by Col. Wade Hampton, of South Carolina, a prince among gentlemen and for many years the leading importer and turfman of the South. Col. Hampton was the father of the present Gen. Wade Hampton, Governor of South Carolina. Margaret Woods, when presented to Mr. Clay, was in foal to Herald, and the produce was Heraldry, who, like many other celebrated brood mares, was never trained, owing to an accident when a yearling. Heraldry, by Herald, 1st dam Margaret Woods, by imp. Priam; 2nd dam Maria West (Wagner's dam), by Marion; 3rd dam Ella Crump, by imp. Citizen; 4th dam by Huntsman; 5th dam by Symms's Wildair; 6th dam by imp. Fearnaught; 7th dam by imp. James.

DISTANCES OF THE DIFFERENT RACES IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1876.

There were 479 races run in the United States in 1876, and were divided in the following order: At one-quarter mile, 1; half-mile, 15; five furlongs, 10; three-quarters of a mile, 45; one mile, 65; mile and an eighth, 29; mile and a quarter, 43; mile and a half, 60; mile and five eighths, 2; mile and three-quarters, 28; two miles, 44; two miles and an eighth, 3; two miles and a quarter, 8; two miles and a half, 17; two