



J. Smith sculp.

PHILIP ASTLEY.

Born Jan^y. 8th. 1742

—*—
*'Twas here the Painter's Task to trace
But the mere Semblance of his Face,
The Portrait of whose Mind, more true,
Lo! his own Work presents to view.*

ASTLEY'S
SYSTEM OF
EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION,
EXHIBITING THE BEAUTIES AND DEFECTS
OF THE
HORSE;
WITH SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT
OBSERVATIONS
ON HIS GENERAL EXCELLENCE,
PRESERVING HIM IN
HEALTH, GROOMING, &c.

WITH PLATES.

The Fourth Edition.

“To prevent Accident is better than to Cure.”

London

Printed by T. BURTON, Little Queen-Street, Lincoln's-Inn Fields.

SOLD BY S. CREED, AGENT AND PUBLISHER, NO. 2, NEAR THE AMPHITHEATRE OF ARTS, WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE-ROAD, LAMBETH, AND THE PRINCIPAL BOOKSELLERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Price 10s. 6d.

[Entered at Stationers' Hall.]

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DEDICATION.

TO

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES
GEORGE PRINCE OF WALES,
&c. &c. &c.

AND

FIELD MARSHAL
FREDERICK DUKE OF YORK,
&c. &c. &c.

IN presuming to dedicate this work to your ROYAL HIGHNESSES, the Author has the honour to acknowledge that he is prompted to it by a TWO-FOLD MOTIVE--- first, a thorough conviction that

the elevated rank, you hold in the army (by which you are so deservedly beloved, for the sedulous care you take of its dearest interests) pre-eminently points you out as the NATURAL Patrons of a publication, which has for its avowed object the EASE and SAFETY of His Majesty's Subjects, whose LIVES are but too frequently endangered by the want of experience in Horsemanship; an experience which can only be ATTAINED by an acquaintance with EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION, founded on SCIENTIFIC principles---happy is he to learn, that it is the wise intention

tion

tion of Government immediately to establish national MILITARY SEMINARIES for this salutary purpose !

The Author's second inducement, in laying this humble tribute of his respect at the feet of your ROYAL HIGHNESSES, proceeds from a high sense of favours munificently conferred on his establishment near *Westminster-Bridge*. Under the auspices of your ROYAL HIGHNESSES, it has thriven, and is thriving, and such benefits, he conceives, call aloud for public acknowledgement ! With these sentiments,

the Author has the honour to
subscribe himself, with profound

Respect and Gratitude,

Your ROYAL HIGHNESSES'

Most dutiful and

Devoted humble Servant,

Philip Astley.

CON-

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P R E F A C E.

WERE men in general to consider how much a little good management would add to the beauty and perfection of the horse, I flatter myself, no gentleman would think his time ill-spent, in promoting the due cultivation of such a noble, useful, and sagacious animal. It is generally understood, that horses of a middling size have the most spirit and agility. Indeed, I am extremely fond of this kind of horse, if good tempered, if the eyes be at once bright, lively, resolute, and impudent: by the eye may be discovered his inclination, passion, malice, health, and indisposition.

Although, for a series of years, the management of the horse has been my chief, my peculiar study, it may be supposed my system will experience SOME opposition. Many persons, too wise to be taught, will exclaim—what unbounded ignorance
in

in the author! how ridiculous and absurd, to teach what every body knows!—But the many fatal accidents, which daily occur, sufficiently prove the necessity of acquiring some knowledge of *equestrian education*, of which a pliability and command of the body, on horseback, certainly forms a most essential part.

It is a known fact that many gentlemen have purchased commissions in the cavalry, merely because they could ride a fox-chase, or a horse-race; but a little actual DASHING SERVICE in the field of honour soon convinced them of the necessity of being taught to ride on pure scientific principles, and under able professors. Certainly this precaution is the more requisite in a country so much admired by all Europe for its breed of excellent horses; but if we neglect to improve the action of this animal, its great qualifications become but a mere shadow.

I crave permission to remark, that this generous and serviceable creature possesses the courage of the lion, the fleetness of the deer, the strength of the ox, with the docility of the spaniel: by his
aid,

aid, men become more acquainted with each other; he not only bears us through foreign climes, but likewise labours in the culture of our soil; draws our burdens and ourselves; carries us for our amusement and our exercise; and both in the sports of the field and on the turf, exerts himself with an emulation, that evinces how eagerly ambitious he is to please and to gratify the desires of his master.

He is both our slave and our guardian; he gives profit to the poor, and pleasure to the rich; in our health he forwards our concerns, and in our sickness lends his willing assistance for our recovery.

This fine, this spirited animal participates with man the toils of the campaign, and the glory of conquest; penetrating and undaunted as his master, he views dangers, and braves them; accustomed to the din of arms, he loves it with enthusiasm, seeks it with ardour, and seems to vie with his master in his animated efforts to meet the foe with intrepidity, and to conquer every thing that opposes itself to his matchless courage,

In tournaments and Equestrian Exercises, his fire and his courage are irresistible. Amid his boldest exertions, he is equally collected and tractable; not obeying his own impetuosity, all his efforts and his actions are guided solely by his rider. Indeed, such is the greatness of his obedience, that he appears to consult nothing but how he shall best please, and, if possible, anticipate what his master wishes and requires; every impression, he receives, produces responsive and implicit obedience; he darts forward, checks his ardour, he stops at command; the pleasures, attendant on his own existence, he renounces, or rather centres them in the pleasure and satisfaction of man.

Nothing can be more wonderful than the precision with which he performs every thing that is required of him; resigned without any reserve to our service, he refuses nothing, however dangerous or difficult to execute.

He serves with all his strength, and in his strenuous efforts to please, oft-times out-does his nature, and even dies in order the better to obey!

In a word, wise Nature has bestowed upon him a disposition both of love and fear for the human race; she has endowed him also with that perception, which yields him the knowledge of every service we can, and ought to render him. Such, indeed, are the acute and generous feelings of this animal, that he is less afflicted with his own bondage, than with the want of our protection! Pleased in an unceasing round of labour for our health, pleasure, profit, and protection, he feels no distress but what is caused by our own CRUELTY, our INGRATITUDE! All he demands from us, therefore, for a life of uninterrupted fatigue, is *support*, and a *reciprocity of good offices*; his chief gratification arising from the sense of our being pleased and satisfied with his unwearied endeavours to serve us.

If such, therefore, be the qualities of this noble creature, surely he, who has devoted his life to the study of his dispositions, has SOME small claim to the protection of his country, and his opinion should have SOME weight in a Treatise of this kind

It

It is by an unwearied application in observing the temper and EXTRAORDINARY SAGACITY of this generous animal, that I have attained the knowledge of rendering him more pleasing and useful to his rider than he would otherwise prove; and I flatter myself this work will be found to contain such information and improvement, in the art of instructing the horse, as were never, till now, presented to the public. I trust, it is no presumption to suppose from my continual application to this science, (which has been upwards of 40 years,) that what is here offered, will contain such material discoveries, relative to the disposition and management of the horse, as to render it a work of the greatest public utility.

I beg leave to recommend particularly to the attention of the reader, that, from my having so long devoted my study to the temper of the horse, I have been able to improve the art of horsemanship, thereby furnishing a greater variety of PUBLIC AMUSEMENT, of higher entertainment and gratification to the public, together with much more security to the Equestrian Performer

former in general. “*Certainly he that prevents accident, does more than he that cures;*” and I cannot but think, from the great encouragement I have received while exhibiting EQUESTRIAN AMUSEMENTS in my native, and in foreign countries, that PUBLIC DISCRIMINATION has noticed the rectitude and JUST FOUNDATION of my intentions in this NECESSARY POINT, as well as in the NUMBER of PUPILS instructed by me in the art of EQUESTRIAN PUBLIC PERFORMANCE, and who have also, in return, experienced the MOST LIBERAL ENCOURAGEMENT in every country. I could wish this SPECIES OF AMUSEMENT, if possible, to become a part of our EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION:—First, because a greater command and pliability of body is necessary when the feet are placed on the saddle, than when we are seated in it.—Secondly, the practice of such exercises not only informs the mind, but is CONDUCTIVE TO HEALTH, I conceive, more than the practice of the *Manege* system, so much neglected in this country, but for what reason I know not, unless it be concluded, that

BOTH

BOTH exercises form too laborious a task for our pursuit.

How amusing is it to the pure and perfect horseman, to see in Hyde Park, for instance, so many untutored Equestrians, who, not knowing how to adapt themselves to the motions of the horse, experience shocks in the saddle, which excite laughter in the bye-stander;—and yet they mistake their strained and distorted attitudes for grace and for elegance! The Enfield-Chase air on Easter Monday is still visible; they are stalking caricatures, fit objects for the wit and ingenuity of Mr. Bunbury!

ASTLEY'S

EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION.

CHAP. I.

Mr. ASTLEY'S System of BACKING and BREAKING COLTS, or ungovernable Horses; teaching them to bear the glittering of Small Arms, to stand the Explosion of Ordnance, the Sound of Trumpets, Drums, Waving of Flags, Motions of Soldiers, and Objects of every Kind, that may alarm their Sight or Hearing.

JUDGEMENT, TEMPERANCE, and PERSEVERANCE, are indispensably necessary to bring the brute creation to a proper sense of duty. Many gentlemen too fatally experience the bad effect of Horses being intrusted to ignorant persons, whose
B knowledge

knowledge of feeding, riding, training, breaking, and exercising, may have been obtained from practitioners of much less sagacity than the very beasts consigned to their care and direction.

No man can render the horse obedient, unless he has had such experience in the art and execution, as to have acquired a thorough knowledge of what the creature is capable of performing, with the most ready, perfect, and easy submission; and it is requisite to have much penetration to know every particular, in point of execution; as also the temper of the horse you are desirous of training and instructing for service, amusement, &c. Without such great depth of discernment you may confirm, instead of correcting, a bad DISPOSITION, or change the most GENEROUS to the most OBSTINATE and REFRACTORY. No man, therefore, I repeat, should attempt to reduce the horse to obedience, without being perfect master of the practical part of Equestrian Education.

In Germany, France, &c. &c. many of the nobility and gentry obtain the most sage and experienced masters that can be procured, and these are required constantly to attend their riding-houses, to preserve their horses in health, discipline, and exercise.

This country (inferior to none in Europe for the beauty of form, excellence of quality, and perfection of breed, in every species of the horse, whether for battle, the *manege*,* for drawing, or the road, &c.) has too much and too long neglected this most essential point. The utility of being more circumspect in the choice of able, informed, and experienced persons, is apparent, from the great number of horses that are spoiled by the indiscretion of their owners, and the inability of their trainers and keepers.

If the natural motion, attitude, and demeanour, of the human species be improvable by the art of dancing, and by military tuition, surely the natural motions of the horse may be so improved, as to render his pace in pure *cadence*; † easy to himself

* *Manege*. Place where saddle horses are exercised, and where they are dressed in the various airs; also every thing appertaining to the horse in the art of war. In a figurative sense—Certain fine manners, with grace, address, and elegance, joined to a perfect knowledge of the use, perfections, and imperfections, (discipline and combats) of the horse, and the purity of its action, &c. and it would be of some benefit to the rising generation, if also were added—a knowledge of equestrian exercise, so far as appertains to public amusement: of its utility the Author is most seriously convinced.

† *Cadence* means the agreeable equality of the walk, the trot, the gallop; as also the various artificial paces of the horse. I

himself and pleasant to his rider, uniting grace and elegance. Thus improved, we receive exquisite pleasure in beholding utility and beauty combined; and it certainly becomes an object, which yields the highest satisfaction to an observer, endowed with taste and discernment.

conceive the rider may be said to be in *cadence*, when his seat on horseback is strictly agreeable to the eye: every corresponding action of the rider's body, as well as the horse, may, if regular and conformable to the pure art *d'equitation*, be called in *cadence*, similar to such measure regulated in dancing, &c. Musical expression, or sound, certainly belongs to the tuition of the horse, which I consider as an index to direct his most willing obedience; more particularly where the animal is tutored to take up your hat, whip, or handkerchief, and the like. Hence it becomes necessary, in some degree, that the professor or rider have a quick eye, as well as a good musical ear, in order to his acquiring some idea of what is understood to be necessary on the first point, with regard to regulating his action; and, on the last, to his attaining an idea of soothing and caressing immediately on the least compliance on the part of the horse to the will of his rider. *Cadence* also, in my firm opinion, is the very essence of regulating not only the horse's natural paces, but also his artificial airs: in short, every thing in which perfection and skill are necessary. But from the word *cadence* being so superficially mentioned in literary works, as well as in the riding-school, one would think that the practical part of the art of *cadence*, so far as it relates to equestrian education, was a mere shadow. 'But I am strictly and firmly of opinion, having derived the greatest benefit from it in the course of my practice, that it ought to be considered as the *ne plus ultra* of equestrian execution, and generally accepted as such by all professors of the equestrian art.'

It

It is well known that recruits, taken from the plough, are, under experienced disciplinarians, rendered the best of soldiers; but should you have to improve or perfect a recruit, who has been before under bad tuition (such I have found by experience, when in the 15th Light Dragoons), you will find it scarce possible to correct the bad habits he contracted, or to remove the prejudices he imbibed, in favour of those erroneous principles.

Thus it is with a horse that has been under the tuition of an experienced master: it becomes in the extreme difficult to correct his false habits.— Nothing in fact but the most incessant application and consummate knowledge will prove capable of effecting his amendment; the perseverance, however, of an able horseman will no doubt correct, in time, his faults, so as to render him as serviceable and accomplished, as his nature is capable of being made.

The present mode of training and breaking horses is highly reprehensible, and injurious to the character of a country so distinguished, as this is, for the breed of horses. There is not a scientific riding-school in this kingdom, nor any regular professor of *Equestrian Education*: neither are there any authors who have written on the subject, nor that have, as yet, recommended in any of their

publications an effectual method of teaching horses to stand fire! So that one of the most useful and necessary points, which has reference to the art of war, is at once shamefully and unaccountably neglected, and that too in a land where military virtue is the natural produce of the soil!!

We have a Veterinary College establishment, which I conceive to be of the utmost importance to this country; one would suppose an Equestrian institution would prove of equal benefit. But to return to the faults and errors of horses, which I apprehend most frequently occur in the first stage of training them; for horses possess such an extraordinary degree of remembrance, as always to retain a strong sense of *cruel* or of *tender* usage; and from this strong faculty of discrimination they frequently become docile or ungovernable.

Thus it is necessary that their tutor or instructor should possess sound judgement; because those who treat them with severity, they obey with the greatest reluctance; while, on the contrary, all who treat them with tenderness, will assuredly be repaid with the utmost gratitude and most implicit obedience.

It has been known that cruel instructors have absolutely been seized, in the height of their vengeance;

vengeance, and killed ! This surely is sufficient to demonstrate the necessity of using them with JUDGEMENT, JUSTICE, and MERCY.

But the grand error, and of which I have had ocular proof, in the course of my practice in teaching Horses, is, the desiring and eagerly expecting too much from them at one time ; be it well understood, that they should be completely perfected in one lesson, before you attempt another ; this point, I am convinced, is the foundation of the whole art ; because, if you are over anxious in teaching them too much on one and the same day, you fatigue their attention, you damp their spirit ; thus are they rendered so dull, as to be incapable of perceiving what you are desirous they should learn ; and this stupidity being mistaken for obstinacy and perverseness, the instructor has recourse to untimely chastisement, which alienates the affections of the creature, and renders him so indifferent in obeying whatever you desire, that he executes it with visible reluctance : but by teaching him one and the same lesson at short intervals, and rewarding his obedience, giving him time to imbibe what your intentions are, before you burthen his faculties with another lesson, he will learn with ease to himself, and, I am confident, with the highest satisfaction to you. ' For it is the same with a horse as with a human pupil, never oppress his talents with more than they are calculated to bear.

Such precautions, I have found, have very much assisted me, during the tuition of my pupils, whom I have instructed to perform VARIOUS NEW EQUESTRIAN PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS; such I may, without vanity, say, as have given the highest satisfaction, not only in *Great Britain*, but also in *France, Germany*, and on the continent of *America*. All of which have immediately sprung from the adherence to MY SYSTEM.*

Having given these general hints, I proceed now to the particular instructions, necessary to complete the subject of this chapter.

The horse intended to be broken, or, in other words, brought to his duty, should be carefully led

* That equestrian exercises have been long studied, and even, in some degree, carried into execution, though lost again for so long a period as to the year 1765, when I first exhibited in public, the following beautiful lines from Homer, will illustrate more than a volume written upon the subject. See the *Iliad*, by Mr. Pope, vol. iv. book xv. page 182.

“ So when a horseman from the wat’ry mead,
 “ (Skill’d in the manage of the bounding steed)
 “ Drives four fair coursers practis’d to obey,
 “ To some great city through the public way;
 “ Safe in his art, as side by side they run,
 “ He shifts his seat, and vaults from one to one;
 “ And now to this, and now to that he flies,
 “ Admiring numbers follow with their eyes!

to

to the place of exercise, which is supposed to be a circle of from eight to ten yards diameter; care is to be taken at the same time, that his stomach be not too much loaded with food or water,

Your chief endeavours must be directed, with easy and deliberate approaches, to convince him, that neither you, nor your assistant is his enemy; to do this effectually, you are to encourage him by kind words, such as, *so, so! so, so! so, ho!* endeavouring always to imitate the same TONE OF VOICE, which he will very soon comprehend in a MOST EXTRAORDINARY MANNER; more particularly if you do not CHANGE THE SOUND; also rubbing him, and wiping his eyes and nostrils with your handkerchief, giving him to eat a small piece of carrot, or a slice of a good sweet apple, and other similar inducements, by WAY OF REWARD. Here I have only to hint, that in point of smelling, tasting, seeing, and hearing, I conceive the horse to have the superiority over, and, in point of sagacity, no inferiority to any of the brute creation; that is to say, if such sagacity be directed by proper judgement.

But in all these endeavours, you must be careful at first (until your quick eye shall have discovered his real disposition,) not to be too familiar with him before you have got some dominion over him, lest he should strike you with his feet; which, I conceive,

conceive, the above rewards will, in some measure, prevent ;—but more of this hereafter.

The apparatus necessary for this business, consists, first, of a mouthing bridle or snaffle ; second, a leather strong pad surcingle with three strong buckles on each side ; two of which four inches apart, nearly in a line with the horse's withers, the other four, at the same distance on each side below ; also between the two first, and exactly in a line with the horse's withers, a strong buckle and billet, for the purpose of receiving the snaffle rein ; to this surcingle a large ring must be placed, to receive a strong crupper, with a large dock ; third, a *caveßon* ; fourth, two strong *caveßon* straps, buckle and billet at one end, at the other, holes ; fifth, two ditto snaffle or bridle straps, with buckle and billets at one end, and holes at the other ; sixth, one hand or *caveßon* line of six or seven yards long ; with a strong buckle and billet at one end ; the rope about three quarters of an inch diameter, and three rings fastened to it, but so as to play. First ring, three feet from the buckle and billet ; second, five feet ; third, seven feet ;* also a small bridle or snaffle line, with a small buckle and billet at the end ; this line runs through

* Most saddlers are qualified to complete this business, but should they not thoroughly comprehend the description, the engraving, at the end of the book, will more particularly explain it.

the rings of the *caveſſon* cord, and buckles to the ſnaffle, or mouthing bit; laſtly, a *chambriere*, (or whip,) and a ſpur-ſtick of about two yards long, the rowel blunt.*

Suppoſe you put on the *caveſſon*, as above deſcribed, alſo the ſurcingle, with or without the crupper, as your judgement ſhall direct you; like-
wiſe *caveſſon* and bridle ſtraps, furthermore the *caveſſon* and bridle line.

Bear up his head a little with the bridle or mouthing bit rein, to the buckle and billet of the ſurcingle; the rein of the bridle ſhould have a buckle, in order to ſhorten it at pleaſure; the whole of the bridle and *caveſſon* ſtraps muſt, at the ſame time, be ſomewhat tightened; that is to ſay, three holes ſhorter to the hand you intend to work him to; and as he foreſhortens, and raiſes his head at the time of action, your judgement muſt direct you; namely, how much his head ought to be raiſed in point of elegance, as well as his neck bent, ſo as not to impede his action; the greateſt precaution is neceſſary to be taken, that neither the one nor the other give him the leaſt uneaſineſs, the firſt or ſecond day. Cauſe him to be led by your aſſiſtant round the circle; ſay, in order to your having greater dominion over him, to the left; con-

* See the end of the book.

tinue the action of a good bold walk for three or four minutes, if he pleases you in the walk, put him in the action of the trot, continuing it five or six minutes. Your assistant having a drum near you, strike it, as a signal for him to halt from his **SUPPOSED LABOUR**; if he disobey it from fright, or not understanding the intention of the signal, cause him to trot round the circle again, in the same manner as before, for a few minutes; and thus repeat the signal, **BUT NOT SO LOUD**, and exercise him until he learns to halt in obedience to it; yourself assisting him in this business, with all your judgement. Should he express much fear at the sound, endeavour all you can, by your caresses and encouragement, to convince him that it is not meant to hurt or to terrify him, but as a kind of language by which he is to **UNDERSTAND YOUR DESIRES**.

In order to impress him the deeper and sooner with the meaning of this language, let it always be used as a signal for the **END OF HIS LABOUR OR EXERCISE**.

The grand secret is, invariably to use a soothing tone of voice, as before directed, and the reward of an **APPLE OR CARROT**, when he shews obedience.

The

The sound, or musical expression, the horse most readily becomes acquainted with, and the correction being in a much stronger and different tone of voice, such as A! HA! HA! WONDERFUL TO SAY, the horse readily obeys the one through a HOPE OF REWARD, and the other THROUGH A SENSE OF FEAR. Somewhat in like manner, we find the cart and waggon horse obey the sound. The London carmen and the provincial waggoners direct their horses to move right and left, &c. with the DIFFERENCE OF SOUNDS MERELY; now let the Londoner take the countryman's horses, and the countryman the Londoner's; or an Englishman the horse of a Frenchman, or *vice versa*, this point will clearly elucidate my argument.

Hence arises the great necessity of every horseman being thoroughly acquainted with the disposition of his horse, more particularly when he is YOUNG OR REFRACTORY. Moreover, I have considered signals of this kind, as the very foundation or ground-work of instructing horses to PAW WITH THEIR FEET THE EXACT HOUR AND MINUTE OF THE WATCH; nod as an AFFIRMATIVE, and shake the head as a NEGATIVE, to any QUESTION PROPOSED.

Furthermore, it is the very essence of educating them, to take up from the ground a handkerchief,
hat,

hat, whip, spur, sword, pistol, or any thing within the compass of their abilities, which the fancy of the instructor may conceive either for utility, or the amusement of spectators.

Having taught him, by repeated trials, the full extent of this lesson, which I call, from its being the first, letter A. We proceed to teach him the next, which may be called, by way of illustration of the argument, letter B. That is, to exercise him to the right, precisely in the same way and manner as you did to the left; using the same signal, reward, and gentle punishment. Care must be taken to make his neck bend agreeably;—likewise, that his head be neither fixed too high nor too low; if the former, place the straps to the lower buckles; if the latter, place them to the upper buckles of the surcingle; but in all this EXPERIENCE and JUDGEMENT must be your guides; for if he carry his head too low, and you do not, on the first day, correct this capital fault, it will give you the GREATEST TROUBLE to raise it hereafter; in my opinion, a horse cannot carry his head too high, if PURE OBEDIENCE and good action accompany it. To the military man this may be called a defence to the body, against SMALL SHOT, or the point of the SWORD: it certainly, in SINGLE COMBAT, gives the horseman a SUPERIORITY over his OPPONENT above all calculation; if the head be too high, it is very easy to lower it, for the moment
you

you come to mount him, if you have the least skill, you will correct this point very easily.

In the lesson to left and right, I give them as follows : three quarters of an hour gentle exercise to the right, and half an hour to the left ; that is to say, short lessons of five minutes given each time both ways, and an interval of reward two or three minutes between each.

Having thus settled the management of his head, and PURE ACTION in the WALK and TROT, strictly observing the general rule, never to let his CROUP INCLINE TO THE INSIDE OF THE CIRCLE, on the contrary, every caution must be used to prevent it ; care, I repeat, must be taken, not to impede his action, nor to corrupt his *cadence*, either in the walk or trot ; and if your circle be less than eight or ten yards diameter, the more judgment is requisite to prevent it.

Thus exercised, the horse begins to have some little knowledge of what you are desirous he should learn ; he works with more ease, gives greater satisfaction, and you find him improve faster, in proportion as he becomes acquainted with you and his duty ; more particularly, if you do not disgust him with too much SEVERITY.

When

When you have exercised him to be familiar with the drum, and to follow it, you then, caring and rewarding him, proceed precisely in the same way and manner (that is to say, walk and trot, for I could wish no galloping to be resorted to during this particular lesson) to instruct him to stand the explosion of a pistol—making use of a very small charge—and firing of it, at first, rather behind you, and on the ground, unperceived by the horse; if he obey, be careful to assist his inclinations when inclinable to halt, by pulling the *carriage* and bridle-line, and bring him to the centre of the circle: care and reward as before in the lesson with the drum, increasing the explosion by degrees to a good charge, in like manner as you increase the blow on the drum-head.

Thus your care and judgement will teach him to bear the glittering of small arms, sound of trumpets, waving of flags, and every thing that may alarm his SIGHT OR HEARING.

By persisting in the foregoing lessons, four or six times a day, for a week or ten days, you will reduce him to obedience, however stubborn he may be; more particularly, if your rewards overbalance the punishment, and the latter be inflicted in PROPER TIME, and WITH JUDGEMENT.

Some horses, it must be confessed, require a considerable time to convince them, amid all these alarms, that you mean nothing inimical or unfriendly to them. But still, by perseverance, you will dissipate all their apprehensions, and render them subservient to every thing you can possibly require, more particularly when great temperance is used ; and nothing promotes the learning and acquiescence of the horse more (I again and again repeat it), than affording him time to reflect on what you require from him ; and on the difference of being treated with kindness, when he obeys willingly, and a little severity, when he refuses with obstinacy and perverseness ; he will then make his election, and choose rather to perform what he knows will not only please, but RECEIVE THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF HIS MASTER.

Exercising him in the circle, he presently finds is a SPECIES OF PUNISHMENT : and the beating of the drum, firing the pistol, &c. A KIND OF RELEASE : time should therefore be given him to discriminate between the GOOD and the EVIL, which is thus presented for his choice ; or how can you expect he will be able to know which he should REFUSE or which ACCEPT ? When the horse comprehends the difference, he will gradually stop, even on a smart gallop, the moment he hears any of the above signals most cordially, at your pleasure ; he will either halt, diminish his action, or
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approach with the greatest readiness the very object, that was before so much his terror.

Your horse being so far advanced in this lesson **B**, and the walk and trot being completed, proceed, as before, to teach him to gallop right and left, observing his *cadence*, and attending to the strict unison of the action of his legs, as well as the graceful position of his head and neck: this done, proceed with the same punishment, that is to say, the galloping round the circle every way properly, observing the signal to relieve him from such punishment, and the reward **IMMEDIATELY OF THE CARROT OR APPLE**. I press its being given **INSTANTANEOUSLY**, because the **LEAST DELAY IMPEDES AND TOTALLY DESTROYS THE EFFECT INTENDED** to be produced by such **REWARD**. First, because the horse's eye is fixed upon you; and, secondly, it is your pleasure that ought to guide him in his obedience: therefore, you ought to be before him in **DISCERNMENT**, which, if not properly applied, may tend to give you some trouble.

Care must be taken, during your exercising him, that he be not sweated too much, and that he be never brought out for a second lesson till thoroughly dry; nor that more than a pint of water be given him at a time, and very little hay; instead of which, two or three handfuls of corn, at the end
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of each lesson, will greatly assist you. Here it is indispensably necessary to observe, that, in all this exercise, you must give him time sufficient in the intervals to recover his wind; he should not be exercised again, until you perceive his lungs have recovered the proper tone of respiration; for if you force him to repeat his lesson whilst he is panting for breath, you will INEVITABLY TEACH HIM THE MOST VICIOUS AND PERVERSE HABITS, and DESTROY HIS EMULATION: being exhausted in strength and spirits, without having time allowed him to recruit himself, cannot fail of causing his exertions to be so languid, as to render it impossible he should perfect himself in any lesson you wish him to be taught. The bad habits thus acquired, you will find exceedingly difficult to correct afterwards; the greater care should consequently be used to prevent this inconvenience, which can only be done by particularly observing the caution above mentioned during the first eight days.

The next lesson the horse is to be taught is, to carry the fiddle with or without a crupper; but I would recommend the crupper and buckle surcingle to be put over the fiddle; then place a bag containing a bushel of sand on the fiddle, half at each end; but should the horse be too refractory to have either the fiddle or the sand-bag laid across his back, tie up his near foot with a cord, using every friendly means, as before recommended, to

quiet his apprehensions, until he has permitted you to place properly all that you desire on him; you must be careful not to use any VIOLENCE in this part of the lesson.

When all is thus placed, untie his foot, which is only drawn up to prevent his having the power of kicking you or your assistant; exercise him each way, that is, right and left, in the walk, trot, and gallop, still observing the signals, rewards, and punishments, as before directed.

Having given him a tolerable lesson with the sand-bag, take it off, in order to let your rough-rider or any other person mount, and exercise him as before; during which you must hold the *caveçon* rein, and by every friendly means endeavour to win his confidence and obedience. Let him, in this part of the lesson, be only walked the first and second morning; but should he not willingly suffer your rough-rider to mount, or, when mounted, not carry him as he or you desire, then place the sand-bag on him again, and gallop him severely, to convince him of what he makes himself suffer from his disobedience.

When you have brought him, by these means, to let you or your assistant mount him, let him be ridden by your rough-rider every two hours, observing that, if he prove refractory, you first exercise

cise him with the fand-bag; this will make him the more desirous of being ridden gently, than of carrying this weight, under which he finds himself, as I before observed, so uncomfortable.

I would particularly recommend all quarrels to be avoided between the instructor and his horse, during his teaching him these lessons; but yet, I would not advise you to stand inactive with the whip in your hand; the horse may consider this kind of indulgence as arising more from fear than from humanity: and if he should once think you are really afraid of him, you will find he will exercise every means to convince you, that he considers himself YOUR MASTER, INSTEAD OF ACKNOWLEDGING, by IMPLICIT OBEDIENCE, that YOU ARE HIS.

However, in teaching him where the superiority lies (I cannot desist from repeating), be sure to use your power of discipline with JUSTICE and with MERCY. The horse can reflect;—he can discriminate between deserved chastisement and unprovoked severity; and if you find it necessary to punish him for his disobedience with the whip, spur, &c. it must be on the most urgent occasions, and with the greatest moderation.

The horse being instructed in this third stage of the business, next proceed to teach him the fourth.

This consists in making him thoroughly obedient to the bridle-hand ;* and the various pressures of the leg, &c.

And in order to adjust his natural paces ; THE WALK, TROT, and GALLOP, in a just and elegant manner ; also the teaching him to rein back, turn to the right and right about ; turn to the left, and left about, on his own ground ; and to leap, standing or flying, without which, no essential services can be expected from him : but to accomplish these points the horseman must have a perfect pliability and command of his own body, other-

* *Bridle-hand, &c.* Comprehending its numerous requisites, namely, the elegant and delicate *appui* ; the necessary *aids*, &c. ; for, I consider the *appui* a kind of telegraph-communication between the bridle-hand and the horse's mouth that is to say, if the horse's mouth be delicate, fresh, sensible, and obedient to the bridle hand ; but on the contrary, if the mouth be hard, callous, and the horse disobedient, the *appui* is totally lost, and of course cannot operate ; thus, from the last cause, nothing but destruction stares the rider in the face ; particularly in SINGLE COMBAT, &c. in the field of honour, and in the SERVICE of his COUNTRY. The necessary aids I consider such, as turning to the RIGHT, to the LEFT, &c. The latter, persons of moderate capacity easily attain, but my great experience in the Equestrian Art thoroughly convinces me, the complete knowledge of the *appui* can only be acquired with considerable difficulty : and furthermore, I am of opinion, that this highly necessary part of EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION can only be attained in the *Manege*, by great practice, under judicious, experienced, and able professors.

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wife he will never be able to adjust and regulate the different paces which are required of him.

Persist in the before-mentioned exercises until he is thoroughly fearless of all objects that before used to be his terror; for the teaching him to be familiar with drums, trumpets, flags, fire-arms, &c. prevents his startling at any unusual noise, or uncommon objects on the road.—The more frequently he is thus exercised, the sooner will he attain perfection in his duty.

Most men, however, are liable to be so much mistaken in the proper method of correcting a horse, which startles at any object on the road, that they spur and whip the intimidated animal up to whatever has thus frightened him.—By this means, they not only risk spoiling, or breaking the spirit of the horse, but they hazard their own safety,

It was by this improper and injudicious mode, that Mr. ASTLEY, surgeon, at Putney, lost his life. His horse startled at a broad-wheel waggon on the road, Mr. A. adopted the usual method of spurring his horse, until he made him approach the waggon; which he no sooner did, than the wind gathering under the tilt, raised it in such a manner, that it alarmed the horse so much, as to cause him to throw his rider instantly under the wheels, which

passed over and killed him on the spot. The danger of this method is sufficiently evinced by this, and a thousand similar examples. By obliging the horse in this hasty manner to approach what terrifies him, you increase his fears, in the proportion of his proximity to the object, and when he is driven close to it, if he have any spirit, you will find that he will so suddenly fly from it, as to render it almost impossible for the best of horsemen to keep their seats.

What renders it so difficult is, that the rider having accomplished his desire of forcing his horse close to the object, thinks himself no longer in danger; and thus is so easy and careless in his seat, that when the horse startles in this unexpected manner, it is more surprizing that he should not be thrown, than that he should.

Having shewn the danger of this imprudent method, it is proper I should give such directions as may cure the horse of this vice, without endangering the life or limbs of the rider. When he startles at any object, instead of increasing his fear, by forcing him to what he is thus endeavouring to shun, or risking yourself being thrown over a bridge, under a carriage, into a pit, &c. you should chastise him at a PROPER DISTANCE FROM THE SAID OBJECT, until his fear so much abates, that you perceive him rather inclined to approach of himself.

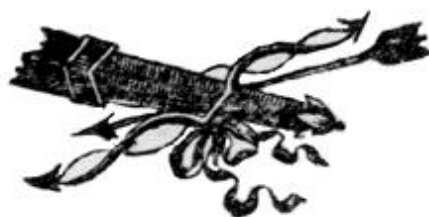
self. Then you may direct him gently to it; and, as he goes nearer and nearer, encourage his confidence with the most gentle words and endearing careffes. In this manner, you will find, when he has gone intirely up to the object, his spirits will be so calmed, that you will not be in the least danger of flying from it, in a more violent and dangerous manner than he did when it first caught his sight or hearing: but should this first trial prove unfuccefsful, IT MUST BE RRPEATED, UNTIL YOU HAVE OBTAINED YOUR DESIRE. In this you must be fure to observe never to force him to the object, until you find his fears have subsided, and that his confidence has returned.

To shew the value of having horses properly trained and disciplined, it may not be improper here to observe that I have, several times, bought, at different repositories, horses, for a very inconsiderable sum, in consequence of their not being completely corrected of those vices, which they derive from their natural shyness and untamed spirits: for, when they have been found to startle at any object they meet, and are undisciplined, little use, profit, or convenience will they afford to their owners, who are thus happy in availing themselves of the first opportunity of selling them for what they can possibly get offered.

Thus

Thus have I bought the best horses, and for a few guineas! The danger of riding horses of this description is so great, as to render them, indeed, scarcely worth keeping by any, except by the most experienced horseman. It is only by such, that they can be governed or managed with safety, and with any prospect of having them corrected of their vicious habits; and as there are very few riders, who have any claim to the title of horsemen, the difficulty of rendering such horses useful is still the greater, and consequently tends to reduce the price in proportion.

Horses of this denomination I have never bought, unless I discovered they had good form, great activity, and much spirit; for without these qualifications, all the discipline and instruction, the best master can give them, will prove of no possible avail.



CHAP. II.

Dialogue on Equestrian Education.

INTRODUCTION.

IT is but too true that the science of the *Manege d'Equitation* is considerably in arrears, with respect to the execution and pure *cadence*, to be observed, not only in regulating the natural action, but also the artificial paces of the horse.

I have ever evinced a zeal to convince the rising generation of the great benefits naturally to be expected from the gentle treatment of the brute creation in general, and of well and deliberately considering their temper and disposition; strictly having an eye to the grand outwork-*cadence*; an essential point which few persons trouble themselves about, notwithstanding the great advantage that may be derived from its practice.

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The late Earl of Pembroke, in the year 1759, placed me on horseback in the *Manege*, at Wilton; my worthy friend, the late Sir Sidney Meadows, who laboured late and early in promoting the scientific part of Equestrian Education, seeing the minuet danced by two horses, mounted by myself and son, expressed himself to me as follows: "I see, Astley, your horse is sensible of the aids to a very great degree of perfection; and you are also truly sensible of the encouragement necessary to gain his acquiescence; continue, Astley, to consult his inclination, and the horse will take a pride to obey."

It is understood by professors that if the experienced horseman but touch the intelligence of the theory of this honorable and useful science, the end will be answered.

My late general, George Augustus Elliot, (Lord Heathfield,) as well as his son, the present gallant Lord, also the present gallant Earl of Pembroke, and the brave General Floyd were with me in the old Equestrian School; and I know well these heroic noble characters most anxiously wish for scientific schools, in order to promote a more extensive knowledge of Equestrian Education; and I am convinced they would afford every assistance to professors of this art.

Prejudices

Prejudices and ill-grounded opinions, ignorant opposition, and cross-tempered difficulties, have, I conceive, in some degree tended to obstruct a knowledge so useful, and so highly necessary to the safety of the horseman.

The late Lord Chancellor Clarendon, in his excellent dialogue on education, among his tracts, page 325, strongly recommends the establishing of riding-schools, both at Oxford and Cambridge.

He observes that such establishments are worthy of ROYAL BOUNTY: I think his words ought to have been printed in golden characters.—I hope it will not be long before such institutions will be formed, not only in Oxford and Cambridge, but also in every great town throughout England, Scotland, and Ireland, in like manner as they are in Germany, France, &c. In my travels, taking Brussels, Vienna, &c. in my road to Belgrade, in 1782, I had the honour to be introduced, (by sending my name to the Professor) into every principal *Manege* in those countries. Sir Robert Murray Keith, then minister plenipotentiary at the court of Vienna, did me the honour of introducing me to the Emperor. His Majesty expressed himself very desirous of seeing me on horseback; I immediately complied, and observed to his Majesty, “ That I should be highly obliged to his Majesty, if he would permit me to amount an old horse ;

horse; for, added I, being a young horseman, two who are both unexperienced, might not afford his Majesty much pleasure." Accordingly an aged *Manege* horse was brought me, equipped with a half peak saddle; on my taking a view of the whole, I found (in their hurry) they had not placed either saddle or bridle properly; I therefore adjusted them myself, using every precaution as I would with a young colt; on which one of the assistants told me, I had no occasion to be afraid of the horse;—I very politely uncovered and thanked him—repeating these words: "The horse never having seen me before, may shew some signs of his sagacity; and that I always made it a point, till the animal was convinced of my disposition towards him, to act with precaution, that I conceived there was more merit in preventing an accident, than in curing one." The Emperor replied in French, (conceiving I did not speak that language,) as follows, turning himself to the assistant: "You see, sir, the gentleman is right, and I wish this measure of prudence was generally adopted."

Stirrups and every thing being adjusted, I mounted, keeping in view the pure Equestrian system, uncovering, &c. to his Majesty; I recovered my whip, and walked the horse right and left up the middle of the *Manege*; made several small circles both ways; finding my horse thoroughly obedient

obedient to my hand and heel, his head lofty, and that, by the usual aid, I could foreshorten him at pleasure, I dispensed with the trot, and encouraged him to the *passage*; increasing each way to quick action, *terre-à-terre* in various figures, inclining by my aids to the *pirouette*; knowing that the greatest skill was necessary to accomplish this artificial pace, the execution of which I consider as the *ne plus ultra* of pure *cadence*; the horse readily obeyed; after a moment I caused him to walk, advancing him in this natural pace till I came between the pillars; I raised his head, pressed his sides, and put him into the *piaffe*; uncovering, I thanked his Majesty for condescending to honour me with his approbation; which his Majesty was pleased to return, paying me the highest compliment.—I stopped the horse, dismounted, and wiped his face with my handkerchief, shook the snaffle, (for be it understood, it was with the running snaffle I rode him,) and gave him a couple of APPLES TO EAT, which being observed by his Majesty, he asked me which of the two was better for horses, CARROTS OR APPLES? I informed his Majesty, that CARROTS were excellent, but I conceived that AN APPLE greatly assisted in refreshing the mouth, and that it was one of the rewards I made use of to gain their affections.—His Imperial Majesty smiled, and requested me to walk into the palace.

DIALOGUE

DIALOGUE *between the AUTHOR, a PROFESSOR of the Manege D'Equitation, and a young CAVALRY OFFICER.*

OFFICER. **HAVING** a long time entertained a desire to learn the art of training the horse, I am anxious to know what are the qualifications necessary for attaining the knowledge of a science, which, from its importance, claims at once the patronage of the sovereign, and the particular attention of the subject.

PROFESSOR. Your intention to acquire the knowledge of an art, the most noble, and of exercises the most useful, redounds greatly to your credit; inasmuch, as they amuse the mind, while they give grace to the body. The information necessary to be acquired, for perfecting you in this science, Mr. Astley is amply qualified to communicate.

OFFICER. Of his ability, I entertain not the smallest doubt; I have seen, with pleasure, his equestrian amusements, both at home and abroad; he has obtained great reputation in that art.—Mr. Astley, I beg therefore, in the first place, to be informed, what are the proper means to obtain a knowledge of the cavalry-exercise? In the next, I will thank you to explain the assertion of the Professor, namely,

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ly, that this exercise is not only necessary to the body, but to the mind ?

MR. ASTLEY. I am happy to hear that you feel yourself inclined to acquire a perfect knowledge of the science of Equestrian Education. To satisfy this laudable curiosity, it may be remarked, that all sciences and arts, acquired, as it were, by reason, are obtained amidst repose, uninterrupted by any torment, agitation, or uneasy apprehension ; thus affording the scholar an opportunity, as well in the absence as presence of the master, of profiting by the lessons, which he has received—but in the cavalry exercise it is widely different, for that cannot be obtained without mounting the horse.—Here the pupil has to encounter all the extravagances belonging to a powerful, and perhaps a vitious animal ; and the perils which arise from his fury and sloth, joined to the apprehensions which may result from them. These can only be shunned by obtaining a knowledge of the science, and possessing a good disposition and sound judgement ; without which, he will not discover, (and which is necessary to be known,) that, in order to succeed with the horse, it is absolutely requisite to be acquainted with his disposition, and with his vices ; and with the same readiness and promptitude that a scholar enters into the spirit of an author, whom he is anxious to understand. Hence you may discover, how far this science is useful to
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the mind; since it instructs and accustoms it to execute, in the most perfect order, all its functions, surrounded with the bustle, agitation, and continual fear of danger; the only method of fitting a horseman to the performance of the like operations in the field, amid the many hazards which there surround him.

Relative to the advantages, which the body derives from a frequent use of this exercise, it is to be remarked, that it gives a pliability to its members, and improves the constitution; but it is necessary to live soberly and regularly, free from debauchery, and, indeed from every excess: for if the constitution be at all impaired, success in horsemanship is utterly unattainable.

PROFESSOR. I am perfectly satisfied with the remarks of Mr. Astley, who is assuredly in possession of every requisite for the attaining a perfect knowledge of that most useful art; such as relates to the cavalry and to the safety of the individual in attack and defence;—and I am convinced that, so far as an acquaintance with the theory can assist the young horseman, the system of Mr. Astley is the only one to which he can turn his attention.

OFFICER. I believe I understand the points on which we have treated, and I wish to know
how,

how, in the first instance, Mr. Astley instructs his scholar ?

MR. ASTLEY. The major part of mankind are, generally speaking, endowed with the capacity of performing in some degree, in the different exercises invented for their amusement ; some, however, more expertly than others, especially those to whom nature has given a good understanding, limbs supple, and a body well proportioned ; every way desirable for obtaining the pure knowledge, requisite for the equestrian art distinctly.

OFFICER. What sized person do you consider as the best adapted to this exercise ?

MR. ASTLEY. I give the preference to the middle size, provided he be steady, light, and of suitable vivacity ; he being the best adapted to afford pleasure to the horse ; the larger sized man is, in general, not so firm, and from being too corpulent, deprives the horse of that pleasure, which he would receive, if under the instruction of one of the former class ; hence arises the maxim, that “ TO PERFORM WELL AND WITH A GOOD GRACE, THE HORSE, AS WELL AS THE HORSEMAN, SHOULD AND MUST TAKE MUTUAL PLEASURE IN THE EXERCISE.” But although men of short stature are the most firm on horseback, that is the sole advantage they possess ;

for not having, generally speaking, sufficient power, they cannot enforce obedience on all occasions; and this the horse soon discovers, by his wonderful sagacity, and refuses to obey, from a knowledge that he cannot receive the chastisement due to his disobedience. If, however, as is sometimes the case, the necessary qualifications be found united in a person of the middle size, he cannot fail to insure success to the greatest extent of his wishes, whether his views be directed to the pursuit of glory in the field of battle, or to the more homely amusements of the chase.

OFFICER. In what manner should a horseman be habited?

MR. ASTLEY. It is far from being my desire to restrain any person from dressing according to his fancy; persuaded, that men of sound judgement, will always study utility, and adopt that best suited to the occasion; but, since long experience has taught me to avoid that which incommodes the body in the execution of its functions, I shall briefly state, that the fashions of the day are to be avoided, when found to operate to the disadvantage of the horseman; I prefer those only, which do not deprive the rider of the free use of his limbs, nor obstruct the horse while under tuition.

OFFICER.

OFFICER. What are the first things to be required of the scholar ?

MR. ASTLEY. Nothing can be more unpleasant than to see a man on horseback in an ungraceful position ; and too much care cannot be taken in the manner of sitting, to avoid bad habits, which, once established, are not easily removed. To constitute the pure horseman, the scholar must acquire, by practice and observation, the methods of dressing and exercising all kinds of horses in the various departments of the *manege*, and under able professors ; he must become acquainted with their strength, inclinations, habits, perfections, and imperfections, as also with their nature in the strictest sense of the expression.

Arrived at this knowledge, he will soon discover the powers and capacity of a young horse, and train it accordingly, whether for BURTHEN, DRAUGHT, the ROAD, or FIELD : in the execution of which, it is proper to remark, that patience and resolution, gentleness and force, (when required) are to govern his conduct.

OFFICER. Pray explain how a pure horseman ought to place himself on horseback ?

MR. ASTLEY. Having taken his seat, he holds the bridle in his left hand ; the thumb above, and

the little finger underneath, in order to separate it; at the same time adjusting it with the right hand, to form it into a proper length; he must then grasp and fix it to its place, which is about three fingers above the pommel of the saddle: on the saddle he should sit upright, touching it, as it were, only in the centre; and gaiety should mark every movement. His shoulders should be kept down; his breast forward; his elbows at a short, but equal, easy distance from his body; his right hand within four or five fingers from his left; holding in the former his whip, pointed upwards, but inclining a little towards the left ear of the horse; his thigh advanced, and his feet firm, but unconstrained, in the stirrups, with the heels turned rather out, so as to expose the seams of his boots: two things necessary to be remarked, in order to their BEING AVOIDED, are, the bringing the shoulder too forward, and the turning out the heel, to keep the rowel of the spur from the belly of the horse, lest, by a sudden effort of the animal, he might prick himself, and increase his fury: these notions, as they are wrong, ought to be reprobated; since by shunning such practices, a pliancy of body, and its due equilibrium on the saddle, are, alone, to be acquired. Such is the position in which I wish to place my scholar, as the only one calculated to give him that grace, without which he cannot be styled A FINE FIGURE ON HORSEBACK; nor acquire that power over the horse, so necessary on

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all occasions; of the truth of this assertion, the following remark is a sufficient proof:—In turning to the right, the rider turns the wrist of the bridle-hand, with the nails *upward*, letting fall the whip on the neck, and this without raising the elbow, lest it should be found necessary to check the horse for laziness; which is done by striking him upon the left shoulder, thereby causing him to take a firmer position on his haunches, and to raise himself forward: or if the rider wish to bring his head to the left, he must observe the contrary: in either case, care must be taken neither to incommode the horseman, nor the horse, so as to make either quit that graceful position, which it is necessary mutually to preserve.

OFFICER. I clearly understand you—but I wish to learn more distinctly the rules, which you observe, to give that grace, you and your pupil possess; and those, also necessary, to train (with that facility for which you are so much esteemed,) the different horses intrusted to your care?

MR. ASTLEY. It is impossible to instruct a man and a horse at one and the same time; for the very plain reason, because they are both ignorant.—I prefer, however, to instruct the rider first, and for this obvious reason:—The science of horsemanship, as far as it relates to EQUESTRIAN AMUSEMENT, never arrived at that perfection, which it has

at present attained. In early times, when the art was in its infancy, the horse was only instructed in the three paces of WALK, TROT, and GALLOP; in after ages, experience taught our brave ancestors that the *terre-à-terre*, *courbettes*, *balotades*, *croupades*, *cabrioles*, &c. were necessary for self-defence, in single combat, as well as to acquire a greater command of body.

But, in commencing with a young scholar, I instruct him in the different movements of the horse, in its various natural paces; in the true use of the bridle-hand; in the delicacy of aids (as they are termed); how and when they are to be applied; and when chastisement is to be inflicted: this I do by placing him on a well-trained horse, the better to explain the different movements, which one, not judiciously dressed, would attempt to oppose, to the certain injury of both. Hence arises the reason for which I prefer, in the first instance, to instruct the man, that he may avoid the dangers to be encountered by his being seated on a young, and perhaps, a restive horse, and also to prevent him from contracting any bad habits under an unexperienced rider.

OFFICER. I approve very much of the reasons, you have assigned for instructing the man first; since it appears that the horse, being well trained, affords him that assistance and confidence not to be
derived

derived from one of the opposite description:—but to avoid giving you the trouble of a farther relation of the method you employ to instruct the pupil on such a horse, I will thank you to state the plan you pursue, when a person, sufficiently qualified to perform the various exercises in your presence, takes one to break for the purposes before described.

PROFESSOR. Much, I have often remarked, depends upon the inclination, the spirit, the capacity of the scholar, and equally as much may be advanced with regard to the horse.

MR. ASTLEY. Exactly so; and in order to discover his temper, the eyes must be minutely inspected, with a view to find out his force, and his *vices*, if he have any—His modes of defence must be ascertained, together with the action, which he employs when inclined to disobedience; and his action, when his passion has subsided. Until this information can be obtained, the man and horse cannot be said to have established their friendship, and patience, with a fund of resolution, on the part of the performer, are the only means to effect it. I again repeat—patience to discover and correct the trifling faults of a horse, and resolution, when necessary, to punish them.—But it is worthy of remark, that there is as great an impropriety in
chastising

chastising him, when not really guilty of an error, as there is in withholding correction, when through ignorance, inattention, or passion, he refuses to obey.

OFFICER. I am perfectly satisfied with these reasons, the more so, as they are given previously to our coming to the practical part; but I believe, it would not be improper to state here, the method you adopt in selecting your horses for the different uses to which they are applied.

MR. ASTLEY. Italy, once famous for horses, furnished a great many to the neighbouring nations;—the Spanish breed, too, was ever in high estimation;—Turkey always had, and still has, excellent cattle; very few, however, are allowed to be exported;—Germany, and the Low Countries, possess a hardy race;—and some (though not many) there are in France, that deservedly have their admirers also.—The Barb, from its many excellent qualities, has been introduced into most countries; and it is from this horse that the present English race may be said to have derived that superiority so peculiar to themselves: provided, however, a horse be well made, with handsome legs and feet, sufficiently strong and active, according to the duty required of it, and (what is highly necessary,) of a good disposition, I care little, if at all, from what country it comes.—I must, nevertheless, acknowledge,

ledge, that the more it partakes of the breed of the Barb, the more it is to be esteemed.

PROFESSOR. Mr. Astley has wisely chosen the Barb; but I have discovered that this horse, generally speaking, has a very tender mouth: for this, however, he will tell you there is a remedy, since a good riding-master is in possession of means to assist it in this point, by making use of certain artificial bits, invented to prepare the mouth for the reception of the real ones: with respect to their utility, I can declare that the Barb has in a shorter time than any other horse acquired a perfect knowledge of the movements and manœuvres required of him, and which he has executed with a grace, of which no description can possibly convey an adequate idea.

OFFICER. The rare qualities which you describe this horse to possess, make me particularly desirous of knowing how one of this description is treated in the action of dressing it.

MR. ASTLEY. I do not call a horse trained, until it be perfectly obedient to the hand and heel, quietly suffering itself to be directed in its various movements, according to its force and vigour, at the will of the rider; for a horse must be passive and have no volition. The mind of a horse may be compared to the bloom on fruit, once corrupted it
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is destroyed for ever ; and that gentleness of disposition which it before possessed gives way to vice, which the horse cherishes to his own destruction, and oftentimes to the very material injury of that instructor, who has the temerity to attempt again the reducing him to obedience. Having found by experience that it is with no small degree of difficulty the horse is instructed in the good *voltes*, as well as in the *terre-à-terre* (in doing which much depends on the eye and knowledge of the rider, and in the choice of the ground), I first teach him those exercises in the circle and on the square ; bringing him, by little and little, to endure the bit, by placing a small rope in his mouth, and using a *caveçon* made of cord.—In these exercises I employ two men, one to hold a long line used on the occasion, the other a *chambrière* ; the latter, walking by his side, causes him to approach the spot determined by the length of the line, and, arrived there, he turns with the croup out of the circle, the head facing the centre, to which his eye is naturally directed.—Thus he is accustomed to a very good habit, that of observing his track in perfect *cadence*, right or left, whether the croup be directed toward the centre or the head.

PROFESSOR. Mr. Astley is perfectly right in noticing the great difficulty there is in turning the horse, and directing his eyes, which is the foundation of the *voltes* ; for very frequently I have known
him

him to avoid the hand, when taking a position on his haunches he has formed a quarter or a half *volte* with such a line, but never the *intire tour*. Sometimes, indeed, I have seen him, as if for amusement sake, make two or three *courbettes*, *cabrioles*, or *balotades*.—But most horses have a particular kind of gift, and in nothing more do they differ than in their dispositions; yet it is remarked that the movement of turning is the most difficult.

MR. ASTLEY. That which my friend has observed respecting the reason for my commencing with the most difficult part of the exercise, styled, changing in the *voltes*, is strictly just; and it is very essential to pay the greatest attention to the choice of the ground, so far as relates to a true circle, or square of such line as the horse is required to work on in perfection. Having, in part, succeeded in this movement, I take him to the pillar (or a round table as a substitute), and there exercise him right and left in the walk, two or three days, without inflicting any punishment with the whip: in the next place, I employ him ten or twelve at the trot, and it is at this period that he shews his nature, force, inclination, and docility; by which I discover (and the better without a rider on his back) the particular service for which he is adapted; I say, the better without a rider, as he is then more master of himself, and has the greater power and inclination to oppose the horseman.

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When in the trot or gallop he must not be pressed too hard, nor kept too long at it at one time, lest the foot of one leg should strike the other, and by causing pain induce him to set up a defence, and refuse to obey.—When he goes freely in the walk and trot (which is easily observed by his *cadence* and gaiety), he may be put into the gallop, and occasionally into the *terre-à-terre*.—But too much attention cannot be directed to the circumstance of keeping the horse in GOOD WIND, since an opposition to respiration will induce him to REBEL; he will be insensible to the tongue, whip, and spur, and totally unfit for any vigorous exercises on that day; indeed I have known more horses forced to disobedience, by the inattention of their tutors to this very particular, than to any real disposition of their own.

In working a horse in the circle, it is generally to the left, and the reason is, that on that side the instructor has the most DOMINION OVER HIM: this I allow; but I never lose sight of working him also OCCASIONALLY TO THE RIGHT; and this I do with a view to break him, in some degree, of the natural inclination of turning to the left; from the following causes: he is accustomed always to be mounted, and to have his caparisons put on, from the left, and very often (though improperly) to receive his corn and water on the same side. Again, when a horse goes to rest, he lies down on

the right side, which obliges him to turn his head and neck the contrary way.—These reasons incontestibly prove the inclination of the horse to keep his head towards the left, which warrants the improved practice of leading him always with the **RIGHT SIDE REIN**, and of working him occasionally to that side in the above lesson.

OFFICER. I perfectly well understand the reason for your instructing the horse in the right-hand *voltes*, and am aware of the difficulty in effecting it. With respect to the circumstance of not allowing the horse to be beaten in the commencement, you imagine, I presume, that all horses are disposed to obey without having recourse to harsh means; but if, as there are horses of different tempers, bad as well as good, one of the former description should fall into your hands, how would you treat him?

MR. ASTLEY. I have said that care must be taken not to beat the horse in the commencement, if possibly it can be avoided; and I now go farther, and declare, that if all chastisement can be dispensed with, even during the whole of the time employed in training, I prefer it; firmly persuaded that gentleness, on the part of the tutor, will effect more than all the beating that can be inflicted; and the reason will appear obvious, when it is proved that mild means are alone capable of
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creating a desire in the horse to learn his exercises; which is discovered by the grace he displays while under tuition.—Force has the contrary effect, and often occasions accidents both to MAN and HORSE; insomuch as the former runs the risk of being maimed, if judgement do not accompany chastisement, and the latter, in addition to the like risk, receives a check in his gentleness, and his legs and feet are rendered, perhaps, incapable of performing their necessary functions. The better to elucidate this passage, I will give a short account of the nature and capacity of horses. In Italy, where the practice of training the horse is much encouraged, every one is rejected that may be found not immediately to possess the necessary qualities, whatever may be his form; there, the furious, the wicked, and the lazy, are invariably sent to the coach or the cart. In this, and in most other countries, however, I observe the natives are not so particular in this respect as the Italians; a circumstance which accounts for the greater patience necessary in the teacher, and for the improvement made in the science.—In the method I have adopted, I have, as before observed, paid particular attention to brevity, from a dislike to perplex either the man or the horse.

When this animal refuses to obey, a prudent horseman will consider the cause. If the horse be impatient, furious, or mischievous (or whatever be the

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the opposition he may seem inclined to make), he will only THREATEN to beat him, shortening the cord: this is sufficient chastisement, and better, by far, than any to be inflicted with the bridle or spur, if he be mounted; since the reins, the legs, and the *caveçon*, from being rendered uneasy to him, give him an opportunity to avoid punishment, by doing that, which he soon understands, he is required to accomplish: but if, through the ill construction of the *caveçon*, he should have recourse to other means of defence, whether in retreating or running against the post, a stroke or two with the *chambriere* will bring him up and compel him to advance.—Here let the instructor give him to understand that obedience will invariably produce caresses: by pursuing this method, the horse discovers the necessity, and cherishes the inclination, to execute every manœuvre required.

When a horse shews a disposition to be lazy, or to perform in a slovenly manner, and when these faults (and great ones they are) incline him to disobedience, the *chambriere* must be used, and vigorously, but not frequently; JUDGEMENT, JUSTICE, and MERCY, being points which the horseman must ever keep in view: however, this is considered as the last resource, and to be applied only in extreme cases. If he discover a hard or a dry mouth, his defence will be forward, forcing the hand; but for this he should not be beaten, but

thrown upon his haunches, and exercised gently in the trot and gallop until he perform his lesson with freedom and ease; and an apple or carrot frequently given will refresh his mouth, and assist the *appui*. On the other hand, if the horse be heavy, and such weight prevent him from doing his duty, it must be rendered lighter by a continuation of the lesson; but if he discover any signs of malice, care must be taken, unassisted by force, or it is very likely his own weight will bring him to the ground.

OFFICER. You have given excellent reasons for commencing with the most difficult parts of the exercises, and have explained the means employed in reducing the most violent tempers.

MR. ASTLEY. When I discover that a horse obeys me freely in the walk, trot, and gallop, and that he has some notion of the *terre-à-terre*, I endeavour, by degrees, to acquaint myself with the power of his memory; for, after the lesson round the ONE PILLAR, I fix him between the two, and, with the whip-hand, teach him to avoid the strokes, causing him to proceed slowly on different sides. As the horse finds himself much constrained by the *caveçon*, he cannot, here, be exercised in too gentle a manner, which is the only way to break him of his faults; and to this he submits, as it were, voluntarily, perceiving that he cannot
escape

escape by advancing, retreating, or turning to the right or left; but if, which is very rarely the case after application of the above means, he should refuse to obey, he may again be taken to the ONE PILLAR, and the cord of the *caveçon* shortened, so as to bring his head close to it; and there, with the whip, thrown on his haunches: thus the horse sees the necessity of complying, in the first instance, where he is at liberty to act, and which generally he prefers ever after.

OFFICER. I am of opinion that this lesson, well given, is sure to produce the desired effects.

MR. ASTLEY. Doubtless: before this time too the horseman has ascertained the powers and capacity of the horse, and the particular service for which he appears designed; he teaches him to shun the *chambrière* in his exercise round ONE PILLAR, and then ties him between the two: he instructs him, by means of that fear which is caused in the horse, to go from the walk to the trot, from the trot to the gallop, thence to the *terre-à-terre*, and to inflict on himself that punishment with the *caveçon* not to be given by man.

From a continuation of this lesson, three good effects result:—first, the horse never has a bad mouth;—secondly, he is not restive;—and, thirdly, he is no ways obstinate, having no desire

to turn to either side : faults often observed in young and unexperienced horses.

OFFICER. How is it possible that a horse with naturally a bad mouth, having an inclination to be restive, or possessing various vices, is taught to avoid them ?

MR. ASTLEY. By turning he is compelled to go forward, and when shewn the *chambriere*, he is also compelled to stop short at the will of the instructor.

OFFICER. It appears to me that you find the ONE PILLAR so useful, that you commence, continue, and complete, by its means !

MR. ASTLEY. It is true, that those who work the horse with judgement, adhering to the lessons contained in this treatise, for their guidance, may instruct him in the due carriage of his head, and use of his limbs, in every part of the exercise.

OFFICER. How long is it before you place a man on horseback ?

MR. ASTLEY. Before I place a man on horseback, I request him to execute, and that with facility, the lessons with the bridle and saddle ; which may occupy his attention nearly five days (provided the
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the instructor be a good one): but it sometimes happens that, for want of such knowledge in the scholar, and such caution or ability in the master, the horse is spoiled, and the rider exposed to danger: indeed, if the latter be at all deficient in this part of his profession, he cannot see the inutility of beating, or not beating, the horse, or be a sufficient judge when punishment ought, or ought not, to be inflicted.

OFFICER. What is the reason that you have the stirrups hanging when no person is on horse-back?

MR. ASTLEY. I do this for two reasons, particularly when I meet with horses possessed of more sensibility than the generality of them have; in the first place, I do it to accustom them to the motion of the stirrup against the belly; and in the second, as it gives the horse a firm tail (a circumstance which requires attention) nothing having a worse appearance, than to see a horse whisk it about while under the management of the tutor.

When accustomed to the stirrup, and the movements required of him, without offering any resistance, I place a light scholar on his back, that the horse may be as little interrupted as possible; and, by giving the rider a good seat, I enable him

to oppose the animal, in case he should refuse to obey the rein.

At the first time of mounting he should not wear spurs, but sit still, and not move the bridle; permitting the horse to carry him, as it were, voluntarily. This lesson should be continued two or three days, in the presence of the instructor, using the *chambriere*; when the horse will discover that he received no injury from his rider, he will allow him afterwards to approach and mount with the greatest facility.

OFFICER. I clearly perceive the means you employ, with a view to avoid the dangers, that may present themselves; and you have plainly demonstrated the impossibility of a young scholar's training a horse.

MR. ASTLEY. It affords me pleasure to find that you are satisfied with the reasons adduced for the PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS; the first being the most dangerous lessons, both for the rider and the horse, the intention of which is to bring the former animal from one extreme to the other; namely, from a state of uncontrolled liberty to that of absolute obedience, to bear the saddle and the man, to which all horses make objection, in some way or other, according to their nature and their strength.

strength. No doubt, however, remains that if the horse obey in the first movements, he will ever after, (while his strength shall prove sufficient,) be equally submissive and docile.

OFFICER. I now see the man motionless on the horse, and am anxious to know what you intend to do with him ?

MR. ASTLEY. When I find a horse taught to carry and obey the rider, I put him into the hands of a more perfect scholar, one who understands the use of the hand and heel, as well as the necessary *appui*; carefully commencing, by shortening the reins gradually that he may be accustomed to the former; thus he will soon become tractable, and obedient to the hand. This lesson must be repeated until the instructor succeed in his point. But it is to be observed, it must be given with discretion and without incommoding him with the bridle, fixing the hand conformably to the position of the horse; then according to the obedience, which he displays, while working round the ONE PILLAR, he is, sooner or later, taken to the TWO, where he must go through his movements on the different sides, without using the spurs, at least, while he submits to the bridle, and the *chambriere*, lest he should be driven restive.

OFFICER. I perceive that this lesson is to give a proof of the assertion which you have advanced, viz. That the horse is perfectly well dressed, when obedient to the hand and heel, and when he permits himself to be directed at the will of the rider; but tell me, if you please, why you use him first to the hand and not to the spur?

MR. ASTLEY. I do it for the very plain reason, before assigned, that turning the horse is attended with much difficulty, and also, that it is with great reluctance that he receives the bridle into the mouth; sooner far will he bear the rider than the bridle. On this account, I begin with those parts of the exercise, in which the instructor receives the most opposition: again, it is with the bridle that the horse suffers himself to be guided, and without which he would be of little or of no service to man. Hence arises the necessity of making him, in the first instance, obey the hand; for as the horse is naturally inclined to go forward, stop, or turn, without grace, there are no means of compelling him to do this, in any sort of order, without the assistance of the bridle.

OFFICER. I am satisfied with this information; therefore, sir, proceed.

MR. ASTLEY. When the horse becomes sufficiently tractable, the rider must fix himself somewhat
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what strongly in the stirrups, and induce him, by certain movements, accompanied by a good *appui*, to entertain a sort of desire to further his progress in the improvement of his paces; in the prosecution of which, the rider must keep his body upright, his feet firm in the stirrups, but rather pliable; observing a proper balance and command of body. If these, with the addition of the voice, be found insufficient to enforce obedience, the person holding the *chambriere*, may threaten to punish him, the rider, at the same moment, striking his boot with his whip, giving the horse to understand, that he expects to be obeyed. This he soon learns jointly from the rider and the person on foot, and when he has given proofs of a little obedience (and not before) he may be led back to the stable, and there fed, as an encouragement for his future submission. As soon as he has received proper refreshment, he may be worked with temperance in any of the preceding lessons, conformably to the fancy of the rider, who is by no means to quarrel with the horse, if it can be avoided: for, from a little correction much good may result, but from great opposition nothing is to be expected.

OFFICER. By this lesson, if I understand rightly, the horse finds himself induced, as well to obey his rider, as the person charged with the *chambriere*.

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But why do you use the whip in preference to the heel, since you apply both to one and the same place?

MR. ASTLEY. For the reason that I do not like to have recourse to the heel, except in extreme cases; and this, from a conviction of the impropriety of applying the spur; persuaded that there can be no pleasure in reducing the horse to obedience by *force* alone. No grace can possibly be acquired by the rider, who is continually obliged to beat and spur his horse; and no horse can afford any pleasure in the *manege*, unless he expresses satisfaction while under tuition.—It is for this reason that I use the whip, to convey an idea of the spur, which the horse observing, by the movement of the arm, is obliged to obey, fearful of being chastised by it: and each time that it may be necessary to touch him with this, prepares him to receive the spur.

OFFICER. When is it that you accustom the horse to the spur; and how do you proceed in it?

MR. ASTLEY. When I find the walk, the trot, and the gallop, also the *terre-à-terre* round the ONE PILLAR, readily performed by the assistance of the *appui*, &c. and in pure *cadence*, I then, and not till then, allow the rider to press him with the leg and spur, assisting with his voice, and exhibiting

biting the whip.—But I observe, that no other horses are working in the *manege*, lest such aid might animate them at an improper moment, Should this new movement induce him to oppose resistance, the application of the spur must not be repeated, but recourse had to the whip; which done, and the horse having recovered his wind, the following plan must be pursued:—The rider must press his sides with the calves of his legs, and pinch him again, by which, in a very short time, the horse will be brought to obey the spur, until, at last, the pressing of the legs only will answer the end; unless the beast be a very dull one indeed: should, however, this fail, (though far from being likely,) the person with the *chambriere* must quit the pillar, that the horse, losing sight of him, may be invited to conform through pleasure, instead of fear; when, in shewing him the whip, he must apply the spur gently, and indeed both, if required.

PROFESSOR. I plainly perceive the probability of succeeding by a strict attention to this mode; but what means are proper to be employed to bring the horse to the performance of a good *terre-à-terre*, since some hesitate to comply?

MR. ASTLEY. The question is certainly well put; there are horses which obey the hand and the spur, perform well in the walk, the trot, and the gallop,
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and yet cannot execute the *terre-à-terre*, in *cadence*. The method I pursue with such horses, (those I mean of a more violent turn,) is by a strict attention to patience, industry, and a proper resolution; without which they cannot be instructed in any action, in which *cadence* is required. If, as it is termed, he be disunited, the rider will return to the lesson at the ONE PILLAR, the better to supple his shoulders, and to fit him for the action of crossing his legs; then to the TWO PILLARS, and there somewhat encourage him in the *courbette*. Here, if the horse should not obey, it must be ascertained, whether his refusal proceeds from passion or from stupidity, as he must be corrected accordingly: For example, when the faults arise from the former cause, he must be chastised for the refusal; when, from the other, by objecting to raise himself high from the ground, or to bend his knees, (one of the finest graces of a horse, while exercising in the *courbettes*,) he must receive a stroke from the whip on one of his hindermost legs. If the horse possess the least sensibility, he will soon observe the necessity of raising the legs, the whip being in sight.

Admitting that these efforts of the horseman should prove ineffectual, and he should still refuse to raise himself, a large stick, about six feet in length, must be procured; then, taking one of the cords of the *caveçon*, cause him to leap over it, observing

observing that, just before he is in the action of rising, the rider must assist him with the voice, and apply the whip on one of his shoulders. By such means, the horse will certainly learn to perform a *courbette*, provided the horseman be careful to aid and caress him, at all times, when obedient: for horses, I repeat, can only be instructed by caressing them with the voice, or hand, or by giving them something to eat, as herbs, fruits, &c. And, when in the wrong, every effort must be made to punish them with the voice, the whip, and the spur, but with moderation. Every fault must have its particular punishment, which must not be altered. The horseman will, nevertheless, be sparing of his blows, and prodigal of his caresses; for, as I have already stated, the horse is always to be brought to his duty by gentle, but NEVER by rough means.

OFFICER. To possess the method which you do, of rising him before, as the means of enabling him to perform well a *courbette*, it is requisite that the instructor should narrowly inspect his movements, as well for the safety of the rider, as for that of the horse; governing himself, in the choice of the modes he may employ, by the ability of the animal under his tuition.

MR. ASTLEY. Although one good *courbette* be no very great recommendation, the horse that can
perform

perform one *well*, may be considered as far advanced in this lesson ; for when he can execute this, he will soon be enabled to arrive at the second and third ; of which, being master, he will certainly increase the number, so long, at least, as his wind shall last : but here discretion is required on the part of the instructor. A good *courbette* is understood to be that which is performed freely, assisted only by the voice, and that only when found expedient.*

If a horse refuse to rise himself forward, and that refusal be attended with the risk of throwing himself down, it is considered as an imprudent act, on the part of the instructor, to oppose it by a continuation of the like means : on the contrary, such a horse should be conveyed to the TWO PILLARS, and there employed in acquiring a better *cadence*, in order to induce him to forget the circumstance of his refusal ; when, if he resist the spur, or become restive, it is not considered advisable to rise him ; unless he should carry himself too near the ground, and, even then, he must not be shortened, under the idea of rendering him light, until he be perfect in the action of going forward, and truly obedient in the above lessons.

The wise and prudent horseman will weigh every circumstance, among the multiplicity, which oc-

* See the engraving at the end of the book.

cur in the course of the exercise, the better to prevent accidents, and particularly the injury, to which the legs and reins of the horse are the most liable ; he endeavours also to exercise and divert his mind, and assist his memory, in whatever manner appears best calculated to insure success ; and too much application and art cannot be employed.

OFFICER. I conceive that man requires much diligence and attention to complete him in this science. Explain, if you please, what you expect farther of the horse after he has learned to perform three or four good *courbettes* ?

MR. ASTLEY. When the horse freely submits to the above lessons, and is able to perform three or four good *courbettes*, between the TWO PILLARS, without sustaining himself by the cords of the *caveffon*, I remove them to a given distance, that he may become obedient to the hand ; and when I find that he takes a firm position on the reins, and not on the *caveffon*, I throw him on his haunches on one side, touching him with the spur, sometimes with the left, at others with the right ; then, repeating the lessons in the *courbettes*, two or three times, at discretion, I invite him, by caresses, to go to the other side, aided by the application of the heels, supported by the hand, and
 secured

secured by the whip, lest he should not rise himself sufficiently either before or behind.

OFFICER. But if, in such lessons, he should refuse compliance, what is to be done ?

MR. ASTLEY. If he refuse to obey, the cause must be ascertained ; for if he be light and vigorous, and go forward leaping, instead of performing *courbettes*, but is, nevertheless, easy in his movements ; if, I repeat, the horse only offer this defence, when the rider is about to rise him, he must not be checked, but indulged and perfected in the *cadence*, which he thus adopts, whether *croupade*, *balotade*, or *cabriole* ; for, be it remarked, that the horse is naturally endowed with airs ; and it is held advisable not to oppose those movements in which he mostly excels, and to which he appears principally inclined : for this reason, the horse should not be chastised for having recourse to other airs, whether willingly, or by way of defence. Certain also it is, that when a horse has not sufficient force to continue in *croupades*, *balotades*, or *cabrioles*, he will, naturally, and easily return to *courbettes*, and he who would attempt to act otherwise, by opposing the horse, when vigorous and full of fire, may occasion a thousand accidents to both.

OFFICER.

OFFICER. I thank you for this explanation ; but, if you please, we will return to the horse between the TWO PILLARS, now able to make four or five *courbettes* in one place. When thus instructed, I wish to know, what next you require of him ; for it seems that the horse, so far perfected, has regularly gone through the lessons which you have described ; commencing, continuing, and ending at the ONE PILLAR, and between the TWO.

MR. ASTLEY. You are perfectly right.—I have found, by the adoption of these means, that the horse is brought to comply in all that may be required of him, without tormenting the body, legs, or feet, the mind being the object to which I principally direct my attention ; for while, in his exercise round the ONE PILLAR, the horse takes a firm position on his haunches, and obeys the spur, in like manner between the TWO PILLARS, he will go better in *cadence*. I continue and conclude generally between the TWO PILLARS. For my own part, I conceive that the most excellent parts of the lesson are, to fix the head of the horse lofty, so as to make him obedient to the hand, to give him breath in the *courbettes*, which is done, by not permitting him to draw from the *caveçon*. In this lesson, I fasten him between the TWO PILLARS, with the halter in his mouth, instead of a bridle, and there work him without a saddle ; for he will

chastise himself, in case he should rise his head too high, or lean too much, or not enough on the side; thus he finds it necessary to work on his haunches, in a just position, fearful of the *chambriere*, shewn to him from behind, and with which he may be touched slightly, if judged expedient.—I cause him to rise himself before, driving him forward, which is half *terre-à-terre*, and half *courbette*, thereby preparing him for the *volte*.

OFFICER. It appears that you have employed every possible means to oblige the horse to rise himself forward for the making *courbettes*; and it is observed, that the highest are the most handsome: at present you instruct him in half *courbettes*, and half *terre-à-terre*; but are you not apprehensive that, by so doing, the horse will acquire a bad habit?

MR. ASTLEY. Far from giving the horse a bad habit, it enables him to perform whole *courbettes* with greater facility, for, by this lesson, properly used, he is made firm on his haunches, pure in his *cadence*, and enabled to receive, freely, the AID^S of the hand, of the spur, and of the whip. The lessons for the instruction of half *courbettes*, and half *terre-à-terre*, are highly requisite at times: namely, when a horse is wanting in resolution, faltering in his whole *courbettes*, if not obedient to the

AID^S.

AIDS. I never met with a horse, however perfect he might be, that received an injury from its application: a circumstance that warrants me in its adoption, particularly in the cases before stated. When the least assistance of the hand causes him to obey, (for it is known that a steady hand inclines the horse also to be steady), he may easily be brought to exercise in the *courbettes*, or *cabrioles*, and from these to the good *voltes*: and I continue to work him round the **PILLAR**, until I am satisfied of his ability in this performance, in pure *cadence*, and of his attention to the **AIDS** of the heels.

OFFICER. What am I to understand by the term obedient to the heel?

MR. ASTLEY. The horse is obedient to the heel, when, by pressing with both, he flies forward, or by touching with one he turns to that side on which it is the intention of the rider to direct him; or, when in other respects disobedient, he allows himself to be brought to a due sense of his duty, by pinching him with one or both of the spurs.

OFFICER. I now perfectly comprehend you; but what method do you pursue to make the horse sensible and obedient to the spur?

MR. ASTLEY. Many horses there are that pay no attention to the spur, and with such I use other means. I shall omit, at present, treating of them, but return to horses more sensible to the touch of the heel; by commencing with its application, being well assured of its perfection in the *courbette*. I generally make the horse begin this lesson at the ONE PILLAR, and there, putting him into the *voltes*, touch him with one of the heels once or twice only; if he allow this, quick caresses, on the part of the rider, should necessarily follow, if not, the AID must be withheld. Observing that the horse does not kindly admit of being pinched, I tie him between the TWO PILLARS, shortening the cords; when, on rising him, I cause him to be pressed very softly: if he should alter his measure, he must be struck on the CROUP with the whip, at the time of AIDING him.—This is practised to give the rider an opportunity of continuing the pressure, by which the horse is taught to remark, that he is required to answer to the AID of the heel, as well as to the whip: to effect this, however, the rider and the person with the *chambriere*, must act in concert, and the horse is soon induced to understand and obey.

OFFICER. But provided the horse be so impatient, or sensible, as not to admit of the touch of the heels, in the manner before described, but
 becomes

becomes furious, even to a degree of madness, is it advisable to make him suffer? From your former observation, "that horses should not be beaten," I am induced to put this question; as also, what you mean by the term pinching?

MR. ASTLEY. To pinch the horse, while in the action of working in the *courbettes*, or, indeed, in any other movement, is to press gently its sides with both spurs, or with one only, as necessity may require; so that, being accustomed to this AID, he may rise himself behind, little or much, according to the force applied by the horseman; a circumstance which requires particular care and attention; for, without a complete acquaintance with this part of the science, the horse cannot acquire any true grace.

The furious horse, that will not bear the spur, I fasten to the PILLAR, shortening the cords: I then fix two balls, (such as boys use at play) to the rowels, and work the horse gently to the side, causing him to feel the balls, by which he understands that the injury is not great. The next lesson is given between the TWO PILLARS, when the heels are applied with the spur, and without exercising it, but, at such times, I approach the horse, who soon submits to the spur, armed as before stated, with two balls. These balls, it may

here be remarked, may be dispensed with, by omitting the spurs intirely, and using the heels; but the preference is certainly to be given to the former mode; the reason of which is, that the heel, not being sufficiently long, cannot touch the belly without pressing too much with the calf of the leg at the same moment. When the horse admits the touch with the balls, without shewing an inclination to opposition, I use spurs, that do not prick, and continue the same lessons until, at last, I have recourse to the real ones, (horizontal rowel spurs I have ever given the preference to,) using them gently, or with such force as may be required. Hence you may infer that all horses are rendered obedient to the spur.

If a horseman, surrounded with dangers in the field of war, cannot direct and cause his horse to obey him, but, on the contrary, that he become restive, a valuable life is lost! At such a time, the animal that is well trained will not feel himself insulted, or be induced to rebel, although the rider may press an additional exertion of his powers; and hence arises the necessity of bringing a horse to obey, AT ALL TIMES, both the hand and the spur.

OFFICER. Your ideas agree with mine:—I now see the point distinctly, and how you contrive
by

by slow degrees (which you prefer) to instruct the horse. I am anxious to hear the remainder of your discourse, particularly how you treat him when trained in the manner before related.

MR. ASTLEY. After having succeeded, by the lessons before stated, I commence round the ONE PILLAR, and with the *voltes*, the better to complete him in the obedience of the hand ; then tying him between the two with the cords a little longer, I make him work gently to the sides.

As the horse becomes acquainted with this alteration of movement, I oblige him, if possible, to return to that to which he appears most inclined. This he learns in a few days, from the circumstance of being worked to the left and right.

OFFICER. Why are you desirous that your horse should know how to work to the side, and that he should change from one to the other by the application of the spur ?

MR. ASTLEY. Because the horse that cannot work sideways, cannot perform good *voltes* ; but if, in going into the *voltes*, he should enlarge himself too much, the spur on the other side will correct him ; and if, working to the right, he should incline obliquely to either side, the spur will adjust

his position : — this is the chief reason why I exercise the horse sideways ; others I could assign, were they requisite or desired.

Sometimes I take a horse from the TWO PILLARS to the ONE, and there work him, to divert his attention, which having been previously accustomed to, he will appear to take much delight in ; and that may be easily discovered by observing the just position of his head turned against the pillar, and his ready obedience to the spur when applied, for the purpose of foreshortening him.

OFFICER. What advantage has this lesson over that between the TWO PILLARS, since it only instructs the horse to work to the sides ?

MR. ASTLEY. I discover two — first, that the horse, not being made fast on both sides, has little apprehension of receiving any check at the ONE PILLAR ; consequently, independent of his obedience to the hand, he permits himself to be conducted with the head against it. Secondly, that he becomes likewise tractable to the spurs, and particularly obedient to the person holding the *chambriere* ; convincing proofs that the horse is far advanced in his education.

OFFICER. I believe you have asserted, there are horses so void of sensibility, that they are not
irritated

irritated by the spur; with such, other treatment is necessary: and I wish to be informed what method, in such cases, you pursue?

MR. ASTLEY. There are horses so stupid and timid, so weak in their reins, feet, and legs, as only to be capable of travelling thirty miles in a day; such are alone suited to the cart, and necessarily rejected in the *manege*: but there are others, of tolerable good strength, with handsome feet and legs, but wanting in spirit; much art and cunning are therefore requisite in rousing them: when I meet with horses of this kind I use them tenderly in the first instance; then (if in good health and condition) I place them in the stable into which no light can enter, and there let them remain two or three weeks, taking especial care that they have plenty of food: IF THIS ANIMATE THEM, MY END IS ANSWERED.—Should this remedy, however, fail, it is out of the power of man to do any thing farther with such a horse!

PROFESSOR. From what you have heard, it is clear that Mr. Astley's method is the most certain, concise, profitable, and the least dangerous, of any extant. For my part, I can assert that, as far as I have travelled, and the many horses I have seen, I never met with any so well dressed as in the Amphitheatre of Arts, Westminster-Bridge.—I can

go farther, and declare, that I never knew him to instruct any man (properly qualified for the science of equestrian public amusement) who did not make a wonderful progress under his tuition; and that more men and horses have been instructed by him than by any other professor in the kingdom.—I have not forgotten the minuet danced by two of his horses, (one mounted by his son, and the other by himself;)—it was the *ne plus ultra* of the *manege*, in short, the admiration of every professor.

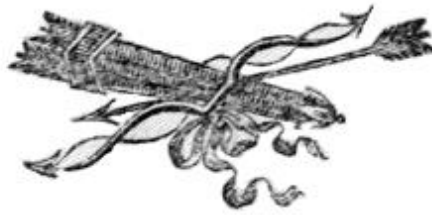
OFFICER. Exactly so:—but as Mr. Astley has not spoken much on this head, I will put the question; perhaps it may assist me in discovering something more of the *appui*, the aids, the stop, &c. the knowledge of which I am very desirous to obtain from him.—Mr. Astley, will you then have the goodness to explain the ground-work of your celebrated minuet, danced by two horses?

MR. ASTLEY. Willingly:—In the first place, my horses were educated to *piase* loftily, with grace, with elegance, and with agility, (Haydn's minuet regulated the action of the *piase* during the salute) as also the *terre-à-terre*, which brought us to opposite corners.—The action of the *demi-voltes*, to approach each other for the purpose of giving our hands foreshortened our horses to
great

great animation by a corresponding *appui* and aid of the leg; in the action of the *piase* we came nearer each other, head and croup, continuing the *piase* on our centre, an intire round; prior to which we gave our hands, and then let them gracefully descend to their original position: both horses, at this instant, being put in the action of the *terre-à-terre*, gained a given ground from the centre: my son's horse made a *demi-volte*, my own a *pirouette*; this brought us *vis-à-vis*, and after a short stop or pause (strictly in *cadence*), each horse passed in the action of *terre-à-terre*, head to head, describing the exact figure of the minuet: my son, having but little ground to go, immediately passaged in his station; myself, being at the opposite corner, at a much greater distance, obtained such ground, by the action of *terre-à-terre*, at one and the same time.

Here both our horses fronted the spectators, and (precisely on the same ground we occupied at the commencement of the minuet) each, by a graceful *appui* and corresponding *aids*, foreshortened and threw himself well upon his haunches (nearly to a balance), we encouraging them into a brilliant and lofty *piase*.—At the last part of Haydn's minuet we both uncovered; my son, being on my left, caused his horse to *piase* to the right, myself *piasing* to the left, which brought us

head to head at a given distance. After a *cadence* with a stop, we each made a *piafe* back to the same ground, my son to the left and myself to the right, and, continuing the *piafe*, concluded the minuet with the music: after which, each of us pressed his horse's side with sharp horizontal spurs, animated him to the highest action of the *piafe* in quick time, to a sprightly air, which concluded the performance; our horses retrogading out of the Amphitheatre by opposite doors, croup foremost, amidst the highest applause of the spectators.



CHAP. III.

Serious Advice to LADIES and GENTLEMEN, teaching them the most safe, approved, and graceful Seat; by which they may attain the greatest Perfection in Riding, with Ease and Pleasure to themselves and Horses: with a Description of the Side-Saddle.

TO complete ladies, and indeed gentlemen, in the management of a horse, I would desire they should first attain a just and adequate idea and knowledge of the bridle-hand; and even then I would only desire to place them on horses perfectly obedient and of easy action.—I never allow a learner to mount a horse, which I have not previously experienced to be the most safe, gentle, and tractable; it is placing them indiscriminately on horses, not sufficiently docile, which frequently terrifies young ladies so much, as to prevent their having that confidence and pliability of body, which is so indispensably necessary for them to attend to

and adopt.—How, in effect, is it possible for a man, under an impression of fear, to sit with that freedom and confidence, which conduce so much to his safety and to the gracefulness of his seat? But if he have a horse which he is certain possesses no vicious disposition, he is then free from any terror; his form and action are unembarrassed, and his mind is perfectly at liberty to adapt himself and his actions to the various movements of the horse.

With regard to teaching a lady to attain a safe, easy, and graceful seat, it is first proper to give some instructions respecting the side-saddle; for if this be not judiciously made, it will be impossible for the female learner to perfect herself in this necessary part of the art.

First, I condemn the use of all cantlets to side-saddles.

Cantlets are ridges which are at the back part of the saddle, and were invented as a means, though very injudiciously imagined, of assisting ladies to sit with more safety than it was supposed, they possibly could without them. Their inconvenience is, that when ladies are seated, they are frequently, by the motion of the horse, thrown upon the ridge itself. This being uneasy, to avoid it, the rider sits so forward, as to lose the purchase which the right HAM should have of the short head

or

or pomel part of the faddle.—Her feat is, thereby rendered unfixed, and ſhe is out of that part of her ſituation, which would give her the neceſſary equilibrium, agreeable equality, and requiſite attention to the horſe's motion.—By this ſhe not only rides uneaſy, but is in danger of being thrown; for it is impoſſible to ſit with eaſe and in ſafety, unleſs your feat be on that part of the horſe's back, which gives the proper poſe between the motion of his fore and hind legs. The ſame eaſe of motion is obtained from ſitting in a proper medium on the back of the horſe, as there is in placing yourſelf midway between the head and ſtern of a veſſel under fail; for in both you will find yourſelf leſs ſenſible of their reſpective motions.

Another fault of the preſent ſide-faddle is its convex form. This rotundity is liable to occaſion the rider's ſliding off, either on the one ſide or the other, and to make the feat very unpleaſant, while it galls and wrings the horſe at the ſame time: could he ſpeak, the oppreſſed animal, I am certain, would perſuade you to eaſe the preſſure by ſitting more in the centre,

To deſcribe in what manner I ſhould recommend a ſide-faddle to be formed in this particular, I muſt quote the complaints I have heard of new chairs: A ſingular lady, whom I inſtructed in riding, uſed to ſay, “ New chairs were the moſt uncomfortable
furniture

furniture in a house ; for when a person wished to rest on them, they always gave more pain than refreshment, their convexity was so exceedingly troublesome, and therefore she always gave her servants the *first seats* in her house, until they had pressed them into a concavity ; and she was convinced that my advice, respecting side-saddles, in this particular, was equally proper, and perfectly agreeable to her idea of chairs :” for, when they are thus hollow in the seat, the rider sits certainly with more ease and safety than when they are convex, and, by enabling the rider to keep her centre, she attains her just equilibrium.

It may be thought by many rather presumptuous in a horseman to trespass thus on the province of the saddler ; but this accusation will be found unjust, when it is considered that a horseman *only*, who has, from the nature of his avocation, experience of the different effects of saddles, both with respect to the rider and to the horse, is capable of properly deciding upon this point.—Saddlers cannot be competent judges of their particular utility or disadvantage ; their time being engaged in learning to make them, to appearance, worth the attention of the purchaser, from the goodness of the materials, and the elegance of the form and the workmanship ;—not at all considering the ease and convenience of the rider, nor the preservation of the horse from pain and injury.

Thus

Thus it is that I have seen, in the course of my practice and experience, that the most costly saddles have been oft times the worst, both for the horse and the rider. A shoemaker can make a shoe, but it is only the wearer who can tell you where it pinches ! this is an old adage—than which nothing can more illustrate what I would here enforce. I wish, at the same time, not to be understood to mean this as an illiberal reflection, or aimed against all saddlers and tree-makers ; on the contrary, there are many who are excellent in their profession.

Before I dismiss this subject, I would advise, that the pommel, seat, and pannel, be all stuffed with horse-hair : the advantages of this sort of stuffing, are, first, it imbibes not the sweat of the horse as the flock does ; and, consequently, it is always soft, and free from those clottings, which too frequently gall the horse's back, and cause him to travel in great pain ; his carriage is thus rendered very unpleasant to the rider. The next convenience is, that from the softness and elasticity of the horse-hair, whatever is stuffed with it exactly conforms itself to the surface it is meant to bear, press, or cover ; and another conveniency is, the durability of this species of stuffing ; for it requires only to be taken out and beaten, and you will find it as good, after seven years wear, as it was when it was first used. With respect to saddles for ladies having cantlets, I must here again condemn them.

In the army they have their use, by enabling the foldier to fix and keep his cloak-bag more safe and steady, than he would otherwise have the power to do ; besides, as men take up so much less room in the seat than women, the inconvenience which the female rider suffers from the cantlet, they do not experience ; for the nature of a lady's fitting on horseback, is such, as to require more room than can be left in the space between the short head, or pommel, and the cantlet.

Presuming this hint is too obvious to require any farther explanation, I will not trouble my readers with any thing more on this subject.

As a general rule for what the length of side-saddles should be in proportion to ladies of different heights, I offer this observation ; that a young lady of five feet high, should have her saddle-tree as long as seventeen inches ;—one of five feet two, eighteen inches ;—of five feet four, nineteen inches ;—of five feet six, nineteen and a half inches ;—of five feet eight, twenty inches ; of five feet ten, twenty and a half inches ; and of six feet, twenty-one inches.

With regard to stirrups, I pretend to give no instructions, as they are of no great consequence in their difference of bar, clog, or slipper, provided they fit the ladies' foot easily : and as to their fashion,

shion, that is to be directed entirely by the taste of the rider. But were I to recommend any one in preference, it would be the slipper-stirrup, from the safety arising in consequence of the impossibility of a lady's foot going through it, by which she might be dragged in case of a fall, along the road. This is an accident, which has too fatally attended men in their riding, and is, therefore, more particularly to be guarded against when a lady takes this exercise.

THE SEAT OF THE LADY.

As soon as she is on the horse, she should immediately place herself in such a manner, as to look directly between his ears. She should not sit with her elbows to the head and tail; if she does, she will be liable to fall backwards or forwards, according to the side of the horse on which she most preponderates.

Her right hand should hold the whip in an easy graceful manner, with the lash flanting and bearing gently on the flanks of the horse. In the left hand she should hold the bridle, with her wrist turned so that her thumb do point across the horse; and this hand, which I call the bridle-hand, should be equidistant from her body and the pommel.

Her seat should be such, as not to press particularly on the shoulder, nor back parts of the horse; if she press forward, she may cause the horse to fall under her; for nothing will occasion a horse so soon to fall, as his shoulders being embarrassed by either the saddle being too forward, or the rider sitting in this awkward, uneasy, and dangerous position. The body should be easy and supple, otherwise she can never conform herself to the motions of the horse.

Ladies and gentlemen are too apt to forget the pliability of body; such inattention destroys their gracefulness of attitude, renders them a great burthen to their horses, and prevents their attaining that ease and command, which should always partake of the horse's motion in all his different paces. It is superfluous to inform my readers, that ease of action on horseback distinguishes both the lady and the gentleman; it becomes, therefore, unnecessary to recommend its adoption any farther.

The next observation I have to make, respecting a lady's position on horseback, is, that her body should not incline towards either side, forward or backward; but if there is to be a tendency to either, I would recommend it to be back; this will draw in the shoulders, and give the body an appearance of confidence, which should always characterize every rider; it will likewise prevent

her being liable to press too forward, so as to lose the hold or purchase she should always have with her HAM, of the short head, or pommel of the saddle; and also her pressing with her weight too much on the shoulders of the horse.

The direction of the bridle should be governed by passing the hand across the body, when you want to turn to the right, and the contrary way when you would turn the horse to the left. You should practise turning him to the former, more than to the latter, in order to attain a familiarity in what you will find the most difficult of the two directions: for every horse is more easily turned to the left, than to the right, from their always receiving their food on the left side, and their rider being obliged to pass the bridle-hand across the neck to turn him to the right. In pulling the bridle, if the lady pull more, than at the rate of a pound weight, she may be said to carry her horse, and not the horse her.

THE LENGTH OF THE STIRRUP.

Having given the above directions, respecting the position of the body on the side-saddle, it is necessary to say a few words on what should be the length of the stirrup. I should not recom-

mend it to be short ; if it be, it will force the lady too much towards the off side ; and should it be too long, she will find herself too much on the near side : Either of these will destroy that equilibrium, which I can never too much enforce.—But of the two faults, I would rather the stirrups should be too long than too short ; for the rider is so far tending more towards the left than the right side. The position of the leg, and that of the foot in the stirrup, should be as easy as possible ; if it be forced out in an awkward manner, the lady will find her whole form rendered ungraceful, and the leg itself, if not cramped from the extreme tension of the muscles, will be greatly pained and fatigued.—But whilst I thus condemn its being extended so far from the horse's side, I would not desire it should press the horse ; it should preserve that easy position which it would have, were the lady to sit upright in her chair, without pressing the legs of it, or extending her leg in a slanting manner from it : Nor let the rider too much support herself by the stirrup ; for this will only increase the fatigue of her riding, in consequence of her weight depending more on her feet and legs pressing on the stirrup, than on the horse, by which she should alone be carried. In avoiding this error, however, care should be taken not to neglect totally that moderate support, which the stirrup is meant to afford the body. The foot should press the stirrup just enough to prevent the whole weight of the body
from

from lying in too heavy and sluggish a manner on the horse, and to have its assistance, whenever the body requires its support, in case of a sudden removal from its equilibrium, so as to re-estate itself in its lost seat.

THE DRESS OF THE LADIES.

Before I end this subject, I have one caution to give respecting the ladies' dress.—This is relative to the hair and hat being in such a state, as not to be liable either of them to be so materially disturbed by the motion of the wind or the horse, as to engage too much attention. This is an inconvenience which may be attended with very fatal consequences. A lady, who is embarrassed by the falling down of her hair, and the flapping of her hat, may lose so much her proper seat and the guidance of her horse, as either to be in danger of falling, or being exposed to meet carriages, which she is not prepared to avoid in time, to prevent herself and her horse from being hurt from such a *rencontre*.

To remedy this, I most respectfully recommend to all ladies, who ride, to have their hair very firmly and closely dressed, and their hats pinned, so as to prevent their being moved by the motion

of the wind or the horse, or the brims flapping over their eyes ; for either of these not only greatly embarrasses the rider, but prevents her seeing how to guide her horse, as observed above, from carriages and horses which may be passing on the road.

To conclude this chapter, I would finally advise every lady to be particularly cautious in riding such horses, which they are not certain have carried ladies before. Such are very apt to be frightened at the flapping of the coats of a lady's dress against their sides ; and very frequently have been known to run away with a lady the instant she has been mounted. To avoid this danger, let a groom put on a petticoat, and first ride on a side-saddle as a lady does ; if the horse be steady, docile, and obedient, without shewing any signs of fear, the lady herself may then venture to ride him with safety,



CHAP. IV.

Necessary Precautions in purchasing a Horse.

APPROACH the stable very quietly, and by no means disturb the horse, that you may find out his imperfections; suffer no one to go near him, until you have thoroughly observed his position, while standing quietly in the stable: horses with tender feet, or otherwise lame, generally favour themselves in the part affected, while in this state.

Being thoroughly satisfied with his appearance, order him out; but suffer no whip or spur to be applied to him, as correction, if he be a little lame or tender-footed, will make him forget it for a moment. Let him be taken to a convenient place, between light and dark, that you may thoroughly examine his eyes; for all eyes, in the sun, appear much better than they really are, and
it

it requires much skill to discover their degree of goodnefs.

Two things are to be particularly confidered in the eye: firft, the cryftal; fecondly, the bottom, or ground of the eye.

Let your obferyation be rather oblique: if the eye appear good, not funk in the head, and the fight free from fpoats, they are favourable figns; for if you expect to be carried fafe, the eyes, as well as the legs, fhould be ftrictly attended to.

His age is known by his teeth: horfes for the road or field fhould not be under five years old; though, in fact, the country-dealers, by cutting the gums, make them appear older than they really are; a practice which ought to be entirely abolifhed.

I have obferved horfes at eight and nine years old with a black fpeck in their teeth, much refembling the true mark, but then it was not hollow; for, at that age, the lower teeth are all even, when the upper are abfolutely not fo until the horfe is twelve years old, (cribbiters excepted); at thirteen the horfe's upper and lower teeth appear nearly all even; at fourteen the teeth overhang, and get long: if any gentleman fhould difpute the fact, let him carefully examine horfes at
various

various ages, and he will find the above to be indisputable assertions.

View his withers, back, and **CROUP**; observe that his fore legs be not inclined to bend forward, and that he have no scars on the knees, or six inches below or above; the hair on the above place should lie equally as sleek, as on any part of the body; if otherwise, you may expect he has tumbled down; then, at all events, reject him.

The next point that comes under consideration, is, the walk, the trot, and gallop, in perfect *cadence* (being natural paces). If any pavement is near, let him be mounted and ridden on it; even then suffer him not to be spurred, whipped, nor otherwise ill treated. Observe that the walk be bold, that he neither cut nor interfere before nor behind: scars on the inside of the legs, denote a horse not going well on them; but I must frankly confess, that the farrier is as often to blame as the horse.

His trot should be free, steady, and performed with great agility; two legs up in the air, and two down on the ground: if he appear sound in the trot, and please you in his different actions, order him to gallop.—Horses, galloping straight forward, may lead with the right or left leg before; but then the hind leg of the same side must immediately

diately follow, otherwise they gallop disunited; a certain sign of not being properly instructed.—Horses, broken by able masters, commonly gallop with their right leg foremost, especially when turning a corner to the right hand; and if they turn to the left, will immediately change and take the left leg.

Being satisfied with the walk, trot, and gallop, and that the horse is found and temperate in all his actions, as also thoroughly obedient to the bridle-hand, I pronounce him valuable; for I have found by experience, that a horse well broken makes a man a tolerable good horseman, and nothing, that I know of, contributes so much to the attaining this desirable end, as the prudent and steady action of the rider.



CHAP. V.

Of the Bridle, Saddle, and Stirrups.

WE come now properly to equip the horse; and, indeed, many gentlemen have various ways in doing this.—I recommend the snaffle for hunting; and, in biting a horse, to give him such a bit as may readily gain his acquiescence in the actions you may require of him; and if your horse has been properly bitted, care should be taken that he is not spoiled by bad management.—Nothing should be more attended to than biting a horse; every movement of the bridle with the bit-rein, should be light and easy; if the rider has not a tolerable command of the body, he should never attempt much with the bit-rein, as well as some knowledge of the *appui*. Changing bits makes a horse disobedient; and I have observed several accidents proceeding from a spirited horse not being properly curbed: the most quiet horse may bring his rider into great danger, should the curb hurt him; if, in fixing the curb, you turn the chain
to

to the right, the links will unfold properly; put on the chain to range rather loose, that the bit may have liberty to move in the horse's mouth; and before you attempt to ride your horse in a new bit, let it be put in his mouth three or four mornings, previous to your mounting him, and just let the bit-rein be brought up, that the horse may feel the effect of the curb.

The saddle should fit the horse with great ease, and be placed on his back in such a manner as not in the least to press on one part more than on another.*

The stirrups should be of an equal length; nothing is so bad as to see a gentleman ride with unequal stirrups, nor with such can a proper seat be obtained in time of danger. I recommend the stirrup-irons to be jagged, in the manner of a baker's rasp, which will greatly assist the rider in wet or frosty weather, as well in mounting as dismounting, in flying or standing leaps, and, in short, upon all occasions.

* Most saddlers, as I have already observed, consider nothing more than the appearance of a saddle: those which I use have little or no cantlet; such are best calculated to enable the indifferent rider to keep his body back, and maintain his seat with equal proportion of weight on each quarter of the horse.

CHAP. VI.

ASTLEY'S System of training Horses to Leap.

IN order to exercise the horse in leaping with your weight, I would recommend you to use a bag, filled with sand, weighing from four to eight stone, increasing every morning half a stone, till it arrives at your own weight. Place this across his back, and fasten it; then begin to accustom him to leap about a foot high; continuing to increase the height of the leap in proportion to the additional weight on his back every morning, until he has learned to clear the height of five feet and a half, with such a weight as you may judge proper.—Observe to exercise him in this manner, until he can effect this leap with great ease and agility.

The horse being thoroughly enabled to leap the above-mentioned height by practising him at the bar, let him next be exercised to leap over a ditch; for I have seen many good hunters leap a bar or
hedge,

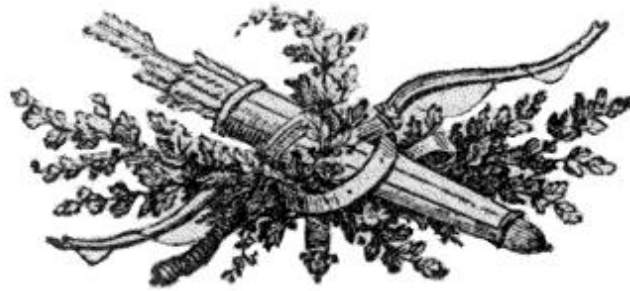
hedge, with great agility and readiness, that were shy, awkward, and embarrassed, when required to go over a ditch. In order, therefore, to render BOTH easy and familiar to him, he should be exercised equally at the bar and ditch; observing to feed him with a little corn, &c. by way of reward, as recommended in the preceding discourse.

Your horse being properly trained to leap with an equivalent weight to your own, namely, the sand-bag of such, or more weight, you may then discontinue the bag and mount him yourself; for the sand-bag is only used as a substitute for the rider, in order to prevent accidents. Having mounted him, leap him over the bar, observing to begin with SMALL HEIGHTS, not only for your own security, but for your improvement. Having acquired a competent knowledge for taking a standing or flying leap over a bar, gate, or hedge, next exercise him over a ditch, as you did before with the sand-bag.

In this exercise, I have seen many an excellent horse spoiled, from the eager and imprudent manner of forcing him over heights he had refused. Should he decline to leap any desired height, do not chastise him, but accommodate the bar to his ability and inclination, by placing it lower.

Having

Having leaped him over the height, adapted to his present temper, and given him a little corn in a sieve, taking off the burthen, you may then, by raising the bar from hole to hole, insensibly train him to leap the height, which he before refused, and you desired. By this means, you preserve the temper of the horse—reward his exercise by such an indulgence, and prevent, very frequently, his fore or hind quarters from being hurt, by striking against the bar, in consequence of his reluctance to take a leap, to which he has not been patiently and gradually trained.



CHAP. VII.

NATURAL PACES. *The Walk, the Trot, and the Gallop.*

SUPPOSE yourself mounted, with your bridle-reins adjusted in either one or both hands ; the position of your switch or whip corresponding ; then put your horse into a walk ; in directing him, you should be careful to avoid using the spur. The greatest judgement is necessary for inducing him to execute his natural paces well, for I consider a good walk, as the foundation of his other paces. The action of the walk is four distinct beats, in perfect running *cadence* ; namely—the off fore-foot leading first, marks one ; the near hind-foot, two ; the near fore-foot, three ; and the off hind-foot, four ; encouraging the horse to a bold action by the excellence of the bridle-hand, and its corresponding *appui*.—Both united to what is termed a good bridle-hand, cannot but assist in bringing up his hind, in strict unison with his fore quarters. Here I must remark, and endeavour to impress

impress on the reader's mind my former observation, *viz.* the necessity of possessing a good musical capacity, without which, the walk may be corrupted, and the horse's action rendered disagreeable to the eye, as well as uneasy to the horseman. Pliability in the rider is also requisite as well as in the horse; perfect and absolute reciprocity is here necessary.

OF THE TROT.

The excellence of this action depends much on the degree of perfection in the walk; for I have found that when a horse walks well, with shoulders pliant, lofty head, &c. he is seldom deficient in any of his other natural paces.

The trot is two legs in the air, and two on the ground, at one and the same time, in the form of a St. Andrew's cross, *viz.* The off fore-foot, and the near hind-foot—and the near fore-foot and the off hind-foot—so that the action of the trot is 2-2 equal, instead of 1, 2, 3, 4, as in the walk; both actions must be in perfect *cadence*, without which, the horse cannot arrive at the degree of excellence or perfection necessary.

THE GALLOP.

The gallop I consider under three distinct heads, namely—That of the Racer, on the course at Newmarket; the Hunter, under moderate animation on the plain; and the lady's or pleasure horse, on the road. Each of these actions has its peculiar excellence; but the last I conceive to be the most difficult to accomplish, it requiring the skill of an able professor to foreshorten and throw the horse on his haunches, sufficiently to complete this action. Lastly, due care must be taken, that the horse does not gallop disunited: be it here understood that, in galloping straight forward, the horse may lead with which fore leg he pleases; but with whatever fore-leg he leads, the hind leg of the same side must follow, otherwise, I term it, false action, or being disunited; but in dashing forward, and turning to right or left, it is necessary that the fore-foot, nearest the centre, should take the lead; if otherwise, you may bring your horse to the ground.

I cannot conclude without noticing the AMBLE, which may be considered as a natural pace of the horse; because, most foals following their dams amble more or less to keep up with them: the difference between the walk and the amble, is, that two legs of a side are raised in the latter at one and the same instant, and so on *vice versa*.

But to return to the bridle-hand, and the advantages to be derived from a due knowledge of it.

To arrive at the thorough knowledge of the bridle-hand must be a work of time ; and I am strictly of opinion that no one can ever attain the appellation of a good bridle-hand, without much practice, pliability, and great command of body on horseback. If I be allowed the parity, I am sure there are as many *notes* appertaining to the bridle-hand, as to the *gamut* for any instrument.

By the knowledge of the bridle-hand, you obtain dominion over, and out-manœuvre every cunning of the horse ; from the bridle-hand you refresh the horse's mouth ; in short, every thing that is desirable is acquired by it.—Thus regulating each action of the horse to what best suits your feat ; for, in fact, it may be said, that the safety of the horseman depends upon a good bridle-hand ; supposing that he has a sufficient knowledge of the force and utility of the snaffle, or bit, as well as holding the bridle-reins ; which all the theory of the most able professors, cannot complete you in, and can never be acquired without much practice and experience.

My method is to ride with a snaffle and running rein-bridle ; indeed I use it for my chaise and coach horses, having some aversion to the long branch-bit.

This species of bridle greatly assists me in raising the horse's head, when riding, driving, and more particularly in the *manege*. There is positively no doing without it ; but the use of this kind of bridle I consider as similar to poison in the hands of an ignorant physician, for without a proper knowledge of its tendencies, nothing but destruction will ensue !

Moreover, a good bridle-hand makes a steady horse, chiefly, if the just *appui* be observed.—Horses receive some punishment from the mouth-piece of the bridle, where the *appui* is corrupted ; or, if I may be allowed the expression, disorganized.—The former, in every sense of the word, operates as a kind of insensible communication between the hand and the mouth, directing the horse in his pure *cadence* ; when the latter may produce untimely punishment, and such punishment, nothing but imperfect or corrected *cadence*, and a total destruction of the horse's action.

The reader will find, under Chap. I. and II. other remarks on this head, and to which the young practitioner is most respectfully recommended, by the Author, to pay particular attention, he having, in the course of long practice, been much benefited by the prescribed method.

CHAP. VIII.

Of Draught Horses.

I HAVE found by experience that most horses submit to draw, when they have refused to carry quietly; or, in other words, have been spoiled by unskilful jockies. With regard to teaching horses to draw, I would not recommend them to be put into harness before their shoulders are suppled, and they have learned to trot the circle with great address and agility.

After the horse has been thus properly worked, accustomed to back, and will suffer a bit to be put in his mouth, let him be harnessed and worked in hand. In teaching him to draw, you should first fix one man to the traces; when he has learned to draw *him* quietly, fix another, and thus continue increasing the number of men.

By this gradual method you will find he is insensibly taught to draw, when, perhaps, had you fixed

him at first to the carriage, he would have been so frightened and prejudiced, that you would never have been able to have taught him afterwards. Observe that the traces be of sufficient length, so as to suffer the man or men he draws to be out of his reach of kicking ; if he backs, let the man or men fixed to the traces abstain from pulling against him ; but if he draws willingly, be sure not to continue his exercise so as to fatigue or prejudice him against the lesson he is learning ; rather let him rest very frequently, and in those intervals use every means of caresses, feeding him with a little corn, in fine, holding out to him every possible encouragement, such as I have so much recommended in the former lessons :—for he deserves your kindness, when he shews you the least disposition to obey, and you have obtained a great deal of him when you find he is willing to draw even the weight of a single man.—This mode is particularly to be adopted in preference to harnessing the horse at first to the carriage ; for in this latter injurious, injudicious, and dangerous method, the horse, in his fright, and reluctance to draw, frequently ruins himself intirely.

Such an accident as this I witnessed near Westminster-bridge :—some butchers had hired a cart, with an intention of trying a horse which one of them had bought ; the consequence was, that the horse, proving restive, set off in full speed with the
cart

cart and three men in it, bore every thing down in his way, broke one of the party's leg, dislocated the shoulder of another, and totally ruined himself.

This lesson is particularly directed to all who delight in draught horses ; for nothing can be more useful to the community in general, than to know how to teach them with safety to draw any carriage.

In exercising the horse, it must be observed that you make him form a path representing the figure of eight, which being two circles joined, you may then exercise him round each separately, first to the right, then to the left, alternately ;—he consequently will be suppled each way : but when you put him to the carriage, avoid quarrelling with him for the three first days, otherwise you may, perhaps, render him as refractory as he was when you first began to teach him to draw. Should he then refuse, instead of correcting, take him from the carriage and repeat his exercise with men in the traces, as you did at first, and continue so until you make him obedient to your purpose.

Before I conclude this chapter, I would particularly advise that the horse be not oppressed with the pinching of the bit, the tightness of the harness, nor the too great weight of the carriage ; for
all

all these circumstances irritate his temper and render him unwilling to perform what you expect from him. If you have two horses to your carriage, be sure to choose them of equal strength and spirit, otherwise the more vigorous one will be liable to be spoiled, from his having the greater share of the labour in drawing, arising from his superiority of spirit:—and in your journies, particularly remember to go stages of no more than eight miles, at which feed them with a little hay and corn at a time; be sure, likewise, to give them a little water, not exceeding two quarts, at every stage. Another great article in travelling to be observed, is, to have the wheels of your carriage greased, whilst you are on the road, at least once a-day; for I deem greasing the wheels to be actually increasing the strength of your horses, at least, if it be not literally so, it conduces to that effect.

And, finally, observe, when you arrive at the inn where you mean to lie, to have their feet picked, oiled, and stuffed; and, before you leave it in the morning, let them have no hay in their racks for at least two hours previous to your departure, and instead of it give them a feed of corn.

Observe, when you set off, not to begin your stage so fast, as to fatigue your horses before they have scarcely warmed themselves; and when you are approaching the end of your stage, not to heat
 them

them in such a manner as to endanger their taking cold; to which accident the best horses are liable, from being driven in a great perspiration into the stables, and there left to stand on the cold stones. If accident or circumstances should oblige you to heat them too much, when they arrive, be careful to have some litter immediately placed under their feet, and to have them rubbed as dry as they possibly can be by the hostlers. As soon as they arrive, give them a pint of water, which you will find will refresh them, and serve as a stimulus to the food you intend for them. The stables should neither be too close, nor too much exposed to the cold, neither should they be too public; for if they are, the noise your horses will hear must undoubtedly prevent them from going to rest, which is the most necessary species of refreshment that animal requires, to enable him to bear the fatigues of the road.—Observe, finally, that the halters have logs, and be of sufficient length to admit your horses to lie down without any restraint; for want of this requisite, trifling as it may appear, I have known horses prevented from taking any rest, and even lying down with ease the whole night.

CHAP. IX.

*Feeding; Watering; Dressing; and Managing Horses,
either at Rest, or on a Journey.*

PREVENTING diseases in horses is as desirable, as the curing them; many disorders with which they are afflicted being caused by improper treatment.

With regard to the feeding, and the managing them in every other respect, I would first be cautious to prevent evils, before I say any thing relative to the cure; for I am certain most of the diseases, incident to horses, are to be avoided by proper attention and management; those, which are not to be prevented, I am equally certain, may be effectually cured without sending for a farrier to bleed or rowel them; or to the chymist to drench, purge, or sweeten them.

With respect to the prevention of disorders, be sure your horses are first provided with good hay, oats, and straw; in feeding them, be careful not
to

to give them too much hay, which occasions horses more disorders than can be imagined:—too much hay, or of a bad quality, occasions flatulencies, difficulty in breathing, indigestions, slowness of circulation of blood, and foul humours, which frequently settle on their lungs, and cause that disorder, to which horses are so liable, namely, greasy heels. All their maladies are chiefly caused by giving them more hay, than, perhaps, their age or their labour requires.

A horse, not more than seven years old, requires not so much nourishment as one of ten, unless he have more labour to undergo: if he have, then his food should be, in the same degree, increased.—A young riding horse, not exceeding seven years old, should not have more than eighteen pounds weight of hay per day, the same quantity of wheat-straw, and two feeds of corn. From that age, to twelve years, he may have as much, as twenty pounds weight, and a preparer and straw; but in no instance whatever should any horse have more than twenty-four pounds weight per day. I have been convinced of the bad effects of giving horses more than in this specified proportion. Greasy heels may only be attributed to the great quantity of bad hay they eat, unqualified with a proper quantity of corn; had they more corn, the bad effects of eating so much hay, would be, in some degree, corrected;
but,

but, as they are chiefly fed on hay of a bad quality, they are always afflicted with the above disease.—A little good wheat-straw, laid in the manger, with the hay, whether good or bad, is very wholesome.

In the above directions, respecting the quantity to be given to riding horses, I forgot to mention that draught horses should have in the proportion of four pounds weight more per day; observe also, never to water your horses until they are entirely cold; and if you are travelling, be careful to have their feet examined before you leave the inn, at every stage; by this means, you will see if any stones or gravel are in their hoofs, or between the shoes and the hoof; you will likewise know if their shoes be bad, or requires removing; should they want shocing, or to have their shoes removed, let it be done two days at least before you begin your journey, in order to afford time sufficient for them to settle and conform to the feet. Commence your journey, if possible, with short stages; never check or prevent your horse from staling, for this causes many accidents, such as the stone, the gravel, the dropfy, and the stranguary.—The first pure and wholesome water you pass, on the road, after seven in the morning, in summer, and nine in the winter, let them drink a little; but the faster you intend to travel, the less water you need give them; if you be not in particular speed,
ride

ride or drive your horses for six minutes before you arrive at your inn, rather leisurely: this will enable them to recover their wind, and when unbridled, they will, with greater avidity and appetite, take whatever feeding you think proper to give them, provided it be such, and in the quantities, I have before recommended; should your business require you to travel with more haste, order them, if it be warm weather, to be walked about the stable-yard, or inn-door, in a man's hand; by this method they will cool by degrees, and, consequently, not be so liable, as they otherwise would be, to chill in the stable; but should the weather happen to be cold, let them be covered with proper clothing, and then order the groom or hostler to walk them in some ride or place, that is covered and sheltered from the wind and weather; should there be no such covered place, let them be taken into the stable, and their whole body rubbed down with fresh straw, until they be perfectly dry and clean.— These are all the rules, that I think requisite to give, respecting the management of your horses, before you feed them.

With regard to their food, and farther care in the stable, it may be proper to observe, that should your horses be dry, in consequence of your not having given them any water on the road, let the oats you order them be washed in good mild
ale.

alc.—Dust, sand, and quick respiration, sometimes dry the mouth and tongue of a horse, so as entirely to destroy his appetite; to restore this, give him some bran moistened with water, which will likewise greatly cool and refresh him; should you have ridden him excessively hard, order him to be unfaddled immediately, have his sweat scraped off, and desire the hostler to take a little vinegar in his mouth, and spirt it into that of the horse; then let his head, his chest, between his fore legs, his belly, between his hind legs, and, indeed, all his body be rubbed with clean straw, until he be as dry as he possibly can be made; suffer him not to drink until he is entirely cool, and has eaten a little hay or a few oats; for many horses, by being permitted to drink too soon after they are taken into the stable, have been ruined.—This careless and precipitate method is the cause frequently of staggers and of surfeit in horses;—to dry the pannel of the saddle, from the moisture it imbibed from the perspiration of the horse, order it to be placed in the sun or before a fire.

Should you have come a long journey in the day, examine, at night, your horse's back, in order to see if it be galled, pinched, or swelled from the too great pressure of the saddle.—You may, perhaps, not discover it immediately on your arrival at the inn, as the tumour or swelling frequently

frequently does not form itself until some time after the saddle is taken off; in this case, I would advise your examining the back again after supper, when, if it be wrung, you will certainly perceive it, and the place.—Whenever you find such an accident, you can apply nothing better to cleanse and heal it, than good brandy, mixed with the white of an egg, and should the horse gall between either its fore or hind legs, use the same remedy; but if you be careful to have the hostler rub the horse well between the legs, he will seldom gall in those parts.

Having given these directions for feeding and managing horses, at night, on a journey, I think it proper here to conclude with repeating, what is indispensably necessary, namely—to have your horse's feet well washed, after which to be examined, in order to have all the sand and gravel, lodged between the soles of their feet, picked out, and their shoes, should it prove necessary, well put on,

Let their feet be stuffed with cow-dung, which will greatly cool, ease, and refresh them, from the weariness of the past day's journey; and consequently prepare them better to sustain the fatigue of the succeeding day.—The reader will find more on this head in the following chapter.

CHAP. X.*Dialogue between Mr. Astley and a Traveller.*

TRAVELLER. **I**T gives me great pleasure, Mr. Astley, to have had an opportunity of dining with you this day, and I shall consider myself highly favoured, if you will afford me half an hour's conversation on the indisposition of my horse, which has given me much trouble and concern.

MR. ASTLEY. Most willingly, Sir, it always affords me the greatest pleasure to administer every assistance, in my power, to the brute creation, and especially to so valuable a part of it.—You will, therefore, please to inform me, what you have observed with regard to your horse's indisposition.

TRAVELLER. When I left London, a fortnight since, my horse, apparently, was in good health; I
have

have travelled about forty miles a day, using the precaution of stopping every ten miles to give him a little water and hay, prior to my offering him corn: both of which (for I closely examined them) have been of the best quality, neither have I ridden him at the rate of more than five miles and a half an hour.

MR. ASTLEY. I discover, Sir, that you know the necessary point for preserving the horse in health on a journey; namely, strictly attending to his being fed with the very best hay, and also the best corn; which certainly is one of our first duties.

Pray Sir, how did you discover that your horse was indisposed?

TRAVELLER. From his refusing, in part, his allowance of corn and hay; in fact, his loss of appetite daily increased.

MR. ASTLEY. How did you proceed, thus circumstanced?

TRAVELLER. I sent for a farrier, in order to deliberate what was best to be done; he advised the taking a little blood from him, but I fear he took too much.

MR. ASTLEY. If the horse had any signs of fever, or his pulse was very high, I think he was justified.

TRAVELLER. I believe he had no fever.

MR. ASTLEY. In that case he did wrong ; for, as the stomach is influenced by health and disease, and as that alone was affected, I could have wished a stomachic had been applied, instead of the bleeding.

TRAVELLER. Pray, Sir, what is the best under the present circumstances ?

MR. ASTLEY. There are many ; but first, I would advise you to find out a substitute for the hay, and another for the corn ; in short, a proper regimen of diet, which may afford some relief, and, in time, effect a total cure — Of such substitutes, being timely administered, I have many times experienced the efficacy, and furthermore, I know they at least enabled the horse daily to travel short journies, when he had no other weight, except that of the rider,

TRAVELLER. Sir I admire your ideas ; pray lose no time, but inform me what are these substitutes ? and are they really conducive to the preservation of horses in health, on a journey ?

MR.

MR. ASTLEY. Unquestionably so, Sir; for in the thousands of miles that I have travelled, and the number of years experience which I have had, such have been their use to me, more particularly in hot weather, that, in some cases, similar to the disease under which your horse labours, I could never have got to the end of my journey without them; and I have found that the horses of five years old, unaccustomed to travel, have been more subject to such disease, than horses much older.

TRAVELLER. From your observations I may infer, as my horse is only rising four years old, that that circumstance might, in part, be the cause of his being not altogether equal to the journey, and, of course, though not ridden over hard, it might affect his appetite; but pray, Sir, proceed with your substitutes.

MR. ASTLEY. Half a pound of honey, nightly, dissolved in a quart of boiling water, and immediately thrown over half a peck of malt, (in a pail) incorporated well together, and given to the horse, a handful at a time, a little warm, I have found to be an excellent substitute for oats, for the night and morning feeding, or an increase of the quantity, according to art.—Honey I have found by experience to be excellent for horses on a journey; its balsamic, diuretic, and diaphoretic qualities, &c. I have no occasion to speak of, being
1 3
sufficiently

sufficiently known. I have also given, with great success, a quarter of an ounce of sulphur, incorporated with the malt-mash for a week together; and where honey could not be obtained, I have made use of treacle.—As a substitute for hay in diseases of horses, or to keep them in health, sliced carrots, parsnips, apples, and pears, I have found to be excellent in the winter months; and a little grafs with the malt-mash, highly necessary in the summer months, in addition to the carrots, &c.

TRAVELLER. I most heartily thank you for your hints, and I hope I shall profit by your advice; I most certainly will adopt your prescription; but pray, Sir, have you noticed, during your long experience, what have been the chief causes of the loss of appetite?

MR. ASTLEY. Great fatigue, bad food, travelling in cold and rain; carrying greater weight than the horse's strength is equal to; pushing him smart up hills, while he had water in his stomach, and keeping him long on the road, when the loss of appetite first appeared; such circumstances certainly tend to bring on and to encrease this disease, more particularly with young and spirited horses; I may add, from being too heavily shod, or having too much iron put in the shoes, which fatigues a horse beyond all calculation, such I mean, as are for a considerable time on the road—a precaution to the contrary must tend to prevent the complaint.

TRAVELLER.

TRAVELLER. I have ever had my eye on this point, considering that an ounce of iron, placed at the extremity of the horse's foot, may be considered as equal to three pounds on his back.

MR. ASTLEY. Sir, you are before-hand with me—you have anticipated my remark, and it is certainly well founded.

TRAVELLER. Now, Sir, as we have got to the horse's feet, will you have the goodness to inform me of the best mode of preserving them on a journey?

MR. ASTLEY. My practice has been to take two pennyworth of each of the following: linseed oil and turpentine oil, shook well in a bottle, and when the horse's hoof is dry, I cause it to be rubbed well round the coronet, as also the whole hoof, sole, &c. this to be applied every second night, in hot weather, and every third night, when the weather is damp or cold; I have found it to be excellent, easily to be obtained, and every way equal to the purpose.

In the intervening nights, I make use of a little warm hog's lard, and stuff the feet up with a little tow; first dipping it in the hog's lard, and placing very little sticks, crossways, under the shoe, in order to keep the tow in its place.

CHAP. XI.

The many Diseases to which Horses are liable, their Regimen, and Method of Cure.

I DO not mean here to give a long and elaborate list of all the disorders with which horses are afflicted, but only such as are the most frequent and dangerous, with particular directions to be observed in the management and regimen, as well as the best and most ready physical means of preventing and curing them.—So that whatever rules I take the liberty of suggesting, will not be dictated by dogmatical theory, but by the unerring proofs of my own long experience.

Young horses, of spirit and vigour, I have always found the most liable to disorders, and those too of the most dangerous nature—their animation and natural heat of blood, cause them frequently to exhaust even their great portion of strength, in such a manner, as to leave them, when under unskilful
management,

management, a prey to langour and to loss of appetite.—Their too violent exertions often inflame their blood to such a degree, as to bring on them the most alarming fevers.—Other disorders to which they are liable, from great and extraordinary efforts to serve you, are colds, obstructed circulation of the blood, and surfeit.—But all these, as I have hinted, may be caused by careless and ignorant treatment; leaving them to uninformed, unexperienced, and indolent grooms, occasions them more afflictions than any other circumstance whatever. The horse, indeed, could he speak, would reiterate in your ears the following golden advice: “BE WATCHFUL THAT I AM TREATED WITH PROPER CARE, AND FED WITH WHOLESOME FOOD, AS A REWARD FOR MY SERVICES, AND FOR THE ENABLING ME TO CONTINUE THEM.”

Over-working horses is not only the most cruel, but most impolitic conduct you can observe in the management of them.—Many, to gratify a few minutes vanity, in shewing that their horses are better than any they pass, or travel in company with, will ride them in such a mad, inhuman, and imprudent manner, as intirely to ruin the best of creatures.—Others will, to arrive, perhaps, an hour sooner at the end of their journey, ride or drive their horses as fast up hill and down dale as possible.—Hence originate all those evils attendant on sprains, on dislocations, and consumptions: I can-

not, therefore, too much recommend the greatest care and moderation in riding or driving them; for the disorder, first occasioned by this indiscreet management, if not cured immediately, brings upon them a host of other disorders, which combined, baffle all the united powers of skill and medicine.

As most of their diseases are chymical, and have their origin in their blood being vitiated by too much heat, cold, or improper food, every precaution should be used in riding and in feeding them.

A number of grooms erroneously imagine that a horse cannot retain his health and vigour, without their constantly bleeding, purging, sweating, rowelling, &c. What ignorance and stupidity! From this false opinion and conduct, many horses are bled and physicked out of their strength and existence. Could a remedy be found thoroughly to cure the effects of idleness in the stable, to prevent hostlers, drivers, and grooms, from leaving their horses, after violent exercise, at a public house, or the door of a gin-shop, many diseases might, indeed, be prevented; not that I mean to fix a general stigma on all grooms, for I know there are some perfectly qualified to be intrusted with whatever horses may be committed to their care.—It is almost a certainty if you find a groom careful of his
own

own money, he will take particular care of your horse !

The moment your horse is attacked with any indisposition, he should be turned loose into a large open stable ; but should the weather be warm, he should be at liberty out of doors : for leave nature to her own unerring operations, and she will perform more wonders than all the list of medicines collected in one general mass ! I have seen horses killed by ignorant persons administering strong purges ;—a proof that the habit of body or the disease of the horse rendered them improper.—But although I condemn the general administration of medicines, whenever a horse has the least illness, yet I acknowledge there are some acute diseases, which absolutely require the immediate assistance of physic, whilst others require very little or no attention.

LOSS OF APPETITE.

As the stomach is the principal seat of this disease, the greater attention ought to be paid to it.

Young horses are most subject to this disorder, from being liable to contract colds, coughs, fevers, &c. in consequence of being over-worked : when a
horse

horse is afflicted with this disease, and it should proceed from the above cause, and be attended with a little fever, take away from him *immediately*, one pint of blood, and one pint a day for four mornings after; but if the fever increase, go on with one pint a day for seven mornings, give him the fever powders (*see index, at word fever*) whenever the fever appears, but not otherwise—then take half a pound of honey, and dissolve it in a quart of boiling water; pour this to half a peck of malt or bran, and after you have blended it well, give the horse three or four handfuls every hour; continue this regimen for some days, at the same time, let him be perfectly at rest; and if it be in the summer season, cut a little grass for him, which, as it is his natural food, will greatly refresh and nourish him—but should he refuse to eat the above, give him some water-gruel, sweetened with honey, to the quantity of three pints a day, in equal proportions.—You may add to the gruel, a quarter of a pint of distilled anniseed water, which may be had at any inn, or public-house on the road. But should he not take cordially any of the above preparations, turn him immediately from the rack, and tie to his bit a quarter of an ounce of asa foetida, put in a rag.—Let him champ on this for a few hours, which will greatly tend to recover his spirits, and restore his appetite.

Should

Should he have a purging at the same time, which frequently happens, give him a pound of treacle, dissolved in a quart of water, by the assistance of a horn or a bottle.—You will find this an excellent remedy to clear the bowels of all those corrosive particles, which lie in his stomach, proceeding from unwholesome feeds and weeds, that often are found in hay, and are the cause of his being thus purged.—If he have this additional disease, you will find him waste in strength, spirits, and flesh, so fast, as to render him irrecoverable, if you lose a moment in applying the remedy I have here advised.

Should his loss of appetite proceed from a violent cough, and very high fever,* let two quarts of
blood

* A fever is known by every groom or farrier, who has the least knowledge of what is the regular circulation of a horse's blood: for by the slowness or quickness of the pulse the state of the animal is to be ascertained. A violent quick pulse will always denote either the symptom or the paroxysm of a most raging fever. This is likewise to be known by other signs, such as extreme languor of spirits, chillness in the extremities of the body and limbs, intense heat in the mouth, torpor of the faculties, drowsiness of the senses, and a total inaction in the whole frame and animal system. When these symptoms appear, the horse should be immediately bled as directed; if not, the animal is in danger of dying in the course of a few days; for this is generally his fate, in a violent fever. Many hundreds of horses have I known to be thus rapidly carried out of existence, for want of the immediate care, which
I have

blood be immediately taken from him, and give him small doses of fever-powders, frequently repeated, with walking exercise, if possible. Observe, at the same time, to keep him clothed with several rugs, and instead of placing them over his back, as the seat of his disorder lies in his bowels, let them be placed, so as to cover his belly entirely, and only meet on the back. Put a cloth over them and the body roller, which bind together with the surcingle.

Honey is excellent for horses afflicted with great difficulty of breathing, violent coughs, colds, and obstructions, indeed I have never found any thing more effectual.—Nothing is more easy in its operation.—From the experience I have had of its qualities. I have taken myself, for these last twenty years, a large table spoonful of it every morning in water gruel, which is my constant breakfast in winter.—In summer I take milk, which, I consider, has then all the qualities of honey, from the cows feeding upon the herbage and flowers, whence the bees extract this divine substance.—That honey should be salutary in the highest degree to horses, is not in the least surprising, as it is the essence of their natural food, and therefore, must be congenial to their constitution and their nature.

I have recommended—but when they have been bled, as I have prescribed, and had the fever powders (*see index, word fevers*) I have known as many to be layed,

When the disorder is at its crisis I would advise the following drink;

Take one quart of thin water-gruel, sweetened with honey; of linseed, anniseed, and carraway seeds, each half an ounce; two cloves of garlick; the latter beaten in a mortar, are to be put in the gruel, give of this preparation, night and morning, one quart each time.—Repeat this medicine until the cold is intirely cured, and the appetite of the horse restored.

During this, let him have no water but what is rendered luke warm, by the addition of boiling water. Use moderate exercise, which will tend to cause the medicine to be more effectual in its operation;—by observing this with proper care and perseverance you will find your horse very soon recover from his indisposition—but you must be careful, whilst you are administering the above drink, to have him rubbed down with straw, and clothed carefully, agreeably to the urgency of the season.

To aid the above remedies in their operations, if the horse be of a costive habit of body, administer the following clyster:

Take five pints of whey, three ounces of fenna, half a pound of common sugar, half a pint of sweet
oil,

oil, and a handful of falt; boil these ingredients all together, and give a fufficient quantity as a clyfter, tolerably warm, to the horfe.—Repeat this for three days fucceffively; fuffer him to eat bran-mafhes, give him a good bed of ftaw to indulge his inclination for lying down; and if his ftable be paved with ftones or bricks, to prevent the cold from chilling his bowels, cover his belly and loins with proper clothing, as a defence againft this danger.

STRANGLES.

They generally commence with a tumour or fwelling under the throat, and many times in other parts of the body.

REMEDY.

Be careful the horfe has not any cold water given him, feed him as recommended in the other diforders, keep him moderately warm, and exercife him gently until the tumour difcharges itfelf of the collected matter—then anoint the fwelling, which may remain, with warm linfeed oil, and keep it from the inclemency of the air; for I am convinced, fhould you attempt to difperfe the fwelling by mercurials, you would only drive the infectious matter through the whole frame, and
thus

thus vitiate his intire mafs of blood, which, by an effort of nature, was thus purifying itself, by forming in the tumour a collection of that foulnefs, it might have contracted from fufteit, contagion, or fudden transitions from heat to cold, and from cold to heat.—Thus, by not permitting nature to end her own work, you prevent her all-wife intentions, her beneficent defigns.

During forty years practice, I have had a great number of young horfes, that have been moft violently afflicted with this diforder.—Others very flightly, but I have not had a fingle horfe die, in confequence of this diftemper.

Before I difmifs this fubject, I wifh to obferve that, fhould the tumour be difficult in admitting of a felf difcharge, it would not be improper to affift nature by lancing it in two places, and then in the orifices placing two or three twifted horfe-hairs, tying their ends together in the form of a ring; this will keep the tumour open until all the matter be difcharged.—Anoint the place afflicted at the fame time with ointment of elder, until it is intirely healed; alfo give the veterinary powders, recommended for the ftrangles, &c. (*See index, at word ftrangles.*)

THE VIES

Appear somewhat like the strangles, but are more virulent, numerous, and dangerous.—They gather in small swellings on each side of the throat, cause the horse a considerable degree of pain, deprive him of his appetite, and are exceedingly difficult to cure.

THEIR REMEDY

Is the same as for the strangles, excepting, that should the attendant inflammation be very great, you are to bleed the horse proportionably, and preserve his throat from the cold by proper bandages, which may not irritate the parts afflicted: give the horse the veterinary powders, as for the strangles.

GLANDERS.

Their signs are a violent emission of white, yellow, and green fœtid matter; it is frequently streaked with blood; it flows from one or both nostrils; they are likewise attended with kernels underneath the jaw-bones.—Both young and old horses are subject to this disease.—The cause is mostly to be attributed to long and continual colds, which impoverish the blood and juices, and such as have
not

not been properly and effectually cured.—The nature of this disease is such, that, in its last stage, it may be compared to a man in a consumption, and is equally difficult to remove.

The experience which I have had, in the cavalry in Germany, has clearly demonstrated to me the truth of this.—I have known horses, after standing two campaigns, to have been shot, under the prejudiced supposition (from their being afflicted with this disorder), that they were incurable, and would infect the rest of the horses. But as I have known horses shot on the right and on the left of them for this disorder, while others that were intermediate escaped its effects, nothing can be a greater proof to me that this disease is not contagious by the medium of the air.—Should a healthy horse imbibe or taste any of the saliva of one, which is affected, I will not say but that, in such case, the disorder might be caught.

With regard to its being incurable, from the many I have restored, I can, with the greatest confidence, conclude such assertion to be equally founded in error.

When the running of this fœtid matter has been so great, as I have witnessed, it has defied all the powers of medicine, and the skill of the most ex-

perienced farrier.—The disorder thus continued daily to increase, without the least hopes or prospect of its being diminished.—The horse's strength thus decreasing very rapidly, and his whole system debilitating, he was at length found to be totally irrecoverable, and was under the necessity of being shot.

Some horses, though they stood in the same stable with those afflicted with this disorder, escaped from even the least symptom of it. But I have known others that have been exposed to the inclemency of the weather, very much afflicted with it. It appears, therefore, to be more the effect of cold than of contagion;—it proceeds likewise from hard riding in winter, bad food, extremes of heat and of cold, and from not having that care taken of them, which they require after a long, a severe, and a violent exercising.

If this disease be in its first stage, it is curable, but if in the last, it is very difficult, indeed, to recover the horse so afflicted;—yet I would not recommend either too much confidence, nor too much despondency in prejudging the possibility or impossibility of curing any disease; for I have seen horses most violently afflicted with this disorder, and even in its worst stage, restored to their former health and vigour.

CURE.

CURE.

In the first stage of the glanders, bleed, and keep the horse warm; give him bran-mashes sweetened with honey, and infuse into them a handful of linseed, and one ounce of brimstone; let him drink nothing but warm water, in which plenty of honey has been dissolved.

Ground-ivy, cut very small, and mixed with his corn or bran-mashes, I have found most excellent in the cure of old coughs, colds, and the first stage of the glanders;—it is likewise most effectual in dispersing the tumours under the throat of the horse.—In administering these remedies, strict care should be taken, that the horse have very moderate exercise every day, that he be then rubbed dry with clean straw, be in a warm stable, and well clothed.

As a still more effectual means of furthering the cure, you may inject every morning a little warm vinegar up his nostrils.

In the last stage of the glanders, the greatest care must be taken in administering the remedy hereafter prescribed; lest the disease should so much increase, as to make the cure afterwards too

difficult to be effected by your skill and endeavours. Thus rendering useless and of no avail all your former care and your medical applications.

Having given the medicines already prescribed for the first stage, for about a fortnight, and finding the disease rather increase, than diminish, adopt the following external remedy:—Cut out the kernels under the throat, and dress the wounds well with the Author's veterinary arquebuse (see *index, at word arquebuse*) and keep the wound open with a small tent for a month or six weeks; let the tent itself be dipped in the following simple, but excellent ointment: take half a pound of hog's lard, half an ounce of virgin-wax, a quarter of an ounce of Venice turpentine, and the yolks of four eggs, beat up with sweet oil; melt the three first ingredients in a pipkin or ladle; then pour in the mixture of eggs and oil, and stir them until they be cold. Should the ointment be found too hard for use, you may soften it with sweet oil.

Continue giving the horse warm water sweetened with honey, during the administering of these remedies — If the glanders be curable, you will find the following effectually to answer your endeavours to restore him to his former health. If the cure be practicable, you will see it effected in about a month, or six weeks; but should your remedies, during this time of application, prove so
ineffectual,

ineffectual, as not to have afforded your horse the least relief, there remains then little or no hopes at all of his recovery.

THE LAST REMEDY.

Take half a pound of guiacum-raspings, three ounces of liquorice, one ounce of tar, 4 ounces of Peruvian bark, and six drachms of balsam of Tolu. Boil these in eight quarts of river water, until you reduce it to six quarts; strain it off as soon as possible, and give a quart of it milk-warm every day, for three weeks.

During the above, take aloes in powder, two drachms; flowers of benjamin, half a drachm; Æthiops mineral, thirty grains; infuse the whole in warm ale, and give it to the horse every morning for ten days, keeping him moderately warm.

DISEASES OF THE EYES.

If any accident happen to the eye or eyes of a horse, from a blow or contusion, he should be bled plentifully, and kept upon moderate diet.—Should there appear a whitish film over the ball or sight, blow into it with a quill, a small quantity of lapis calimmaris in powder, night and morning:

but should neither bleeding, nor this outward application prove effectual, take a quarter of a drachm of white vitriol, and mix it with a drachm of lapis calimnaris; reduce these into a powder, and blow a very small quantity of it on the film, every morning, which, in about five or six days, will intirely remove it.

Should the distemper proceed from a cold, or a natural defect in the eye, caused by hard riding, gross feeding, or want of exercise, and it should appear swelled, closed, and streaked with blood, bleed very frequently, which will remove the inflammation, and, without any other assistance, bring about an entire cure.

If the horse's eye be naturally defective, and the sight or chrystal have spots in it, you may deem it incurable; but there are some horses, which have lost their sight, and yet preserve their appearance in so perfect a manner, as to render it almost impossible for the greatest skill and experience to discover the blemish;—no wonder, therefore, that it should be found so difficult to ascertain the goodness or badness of a horse's eyes in general!

To prevent, as much as possible, this accident of bad eyes happening to horses, I would advise them not to be fed above the due proportion to their work. Corn, frequently given in large quantities,

tities, is the cause of horses losing their sight; as a preservative they should be bled one quart at least, once a month; unless their exercises be sufficient for the evacuation of those humours by perspiration.—I have known none subject to this evil, that have been fed with a proper quantity of straw.—Such are the virtues of straw mixed with the horses food, that it not only cleanses, but invigorates the body;—by occasional straw-diet, horses are adapted for war, by hay and corn, given in greater proportions, than is, necessary, they are only fit for their own dunghills!

CHOLIC AND GRIPES.

SYMPTOMS.

A horse afflicted with this disorder is known by his frequently lying down, and rolling incessantly, from the acuteness and violence of the pain, he suffers; he breathes short, which is perceived by the great heaving of his flank.—Cart and coach-horses are mostly subject to these disorders, from their being more exposed to stand in the weather, by which they are often seized with the most dangerous coughs and colds, and these are generally attended with the bowels being more or less affected.

THE CURE.

With regard to the method of curing either the cholic or gripes generally adopted, I cannot, from what I have practised and experienced, give it my recommendation. But clysters may be given with safety and efficiency. Bleeding and purging, is the common method, are sure to debilitate the horse, without affording him any relief; for the disorder of the bowels, not arising from any distemper the blood has contracted, it is contrary to reason, to suppose any means used for its purification can avail in removing what has a different cause, and a different seat in the body.—So excellent are clysters in all complaints, arising from indigestion or indisposition of the viscera, that almost in every internal malady of this nature they will be found, if given at proper intervals, most salutary.

Many persons have resorted for a cure of these disorders, to riding or driving their horses in a violent manner; but the consideration of a moment would inform them that such a mode must agitate, and therefore, inflame their bowels, which are but too much so already. Others will rub the belly of the horse with a stick, which is equally pernicious and ineffectual, as riding them violently;—by this means, the bowels are frequently bruised
instead

instead of being relieved ; it is true that gentle friction will give the animal temporary relief ; that is if you have his belly rubbed gently with straw, you will find it afford him a little ease ; but then this is not a radical cure, which nothing will so soon effect as clysters, given opportunely and repeatedly. It is necessary here to observe that, from the horizontal position of the horse, these complaints have not those means of natural relief, which they have in man, arising from his erect position ; consequently these diseases are, in general, more severe and difficult to cure in horses, than in human beings ; so that greater care, patience, and tenderness are requisite towards them for their recovery from these terrible disorders.

REMEDY.

Take a quarter of a pint of thin water-gruel sweetened with honey, into which put a quarter of a pint of anniseed, which you may get at any inn or public house, and add five or six cloves of pepper ; give half a pint of this preparation, milk-warm, every three hours to the horse, until you perceive the disease is somewhat abated, give him likewise bran-mashes tolerably warm, as recommended in some of the disorders before-mentioned. Let him then have as soon as possible the following

CLYSTER.

CLYSTER.

Take two quarts of water in which tripe has been boiled;—four ounces of olive oil and fresh butter; a handful of camomile flowers; half an ounce of fenna; two ounces of common sugar or honey; boil all those together, and then strain the composition through a fine sieve, or coarse cloth; and give from half to three quarters of a pint tolerably warm.—Repeat this clyster every three hours, until you find the horse relieved from his pain.—Let him be kept, during this indisposition, in a large stable, well littered with clean straw; be sure to keep him warm, and take off his halter, in order to let him range at full liberty.

 GIDDINESS.

Sometimes a horse will be seized with such a giddiness as to fall down the moment he comes out of the stable into the air. This is chiefly caused by a phletoric habit, grossness of the blood, and humours, occasioned by over feeding, want of proper exercise, and being confined too long in a close stable.—The spirits and circulation being thus rendered torpid and inactive, when they are roused by the action of fresh air, the brain is not
able

able to endure the impetuosity, which causes that swimming in the head, you will always find attended with a failure of the limbs;—as children when playing will frequently turn round so many times as to cause them to be incapable of preserving themselves from falling, unless they lean or support themselves by a chair, table, or any other thing which presents itself for their assistance; so are the effects of this giddiness shewn when a horse is seized with it.

This disorder is rather to be prevented than cured, by giving the horse moderate food, gentle exercise, and at intervals a clyster, or purgatives (*see index, at word aloes*).

SHAKES OR WRENCHES IN THE SHOULDERS.

Young horses are mostly liable to strains, and notwithstanding the greatest care, they still may happen to the best of horses; when they do, they are mostly beyond the reach of medicine.—However, the following remedies may be used, as they have been known frequently to effect a cure, when the strain or wrench has not been excessively great.

Let him be bled in the plate-vein, and put in his chest a rowel, well steeped in the tincture of cantharides; then turn him into a large open stable, if it be winter, or to grafs, if in summer: should the diforder be not desperately bad, you may try the following ointment, which has proved wonderfully efficacious in some difeases of the above nature.

Take of bees-wax, pitch, and common turpentine, each half a pound; of olive-oil one pound; of mutton-suet half a pound; of oils of turpentine and linseed, each, four ounces: melt these ingredients in an iron ladle separately; then put them into an earthen pot, in order to incorporate them well together by means of a gentle fire.—Rub the ointment well over the part affected, and, in order to make it penetrate the skin, hold a hot fire-shovel before it: repeat this application every two days for a fortnight.

STRAINS, WRENCHES, AND WINDGALLS, FROM THE KNEE TO THE HOOF,

Occasioned by hard Riding, &c.

CURE.

The following simple and cheap embrocation will be found serviceable in curing these casualties.

Take

Take of oil of turpentine, double-distilled vinegar, and spirits of wine, each a gill; but observe to mix first with the turpentine, alone, the whites of two eggs, in order the better to dissolve them; blend the whole together, and rub the part affected with it, night and morning, using a flannel wrapper to keep it warm; so efficacious is this medicine, that there is scarcely a strain, or bruise, but it will cure, if the bone be not injured; but should the bone be hurt, it is necessary then to foment the part with such common herbs as are used on such occasions: this must be done before you embrocate the part.—The best manner is to take a piece of double canvass using a stick to each end; then steep a piece of flannel in the fomentation—and having wrung it rather dry, by the aid of the canvass and sticks, apply it as hot to the strain, &c. as the horse can possibly bear it, covering it with a horse-cloth.—Having repeated this application several times, let the part be rubbed entirely dry, and then bathed with the embrocation twice every day, for three days together: then once a day;—and thus, discontinue it, in proportion as the disease disappears.—The fomentation may be used as frequently, as you think proper, in all cases where the bone has received any injury; but where the ligaments, muscles, and nerves are only strained, the embrocation may be found sufficient;—care must be taken that you do not use it more than six times successively, lest it should bring off some of the
hair,

hair, to prevent which, apply the opodeldoc till the horse is cured. (*See index, at word opodeldoc.*)

SADDLE-GALL, AND GALLING BETWEEN THE FORE LEGS.

These complaints arise from not being circumspect in keeping the horse rubbed dry from sweat, and clean from dirt, which he contracts between the fore legs: these negligences cause the horse to chafe in those parts.

CURE.

Should the gall in either the back, or the fore legs be recent, nothing will be found better than the white of an egg, spread on white-brown paper, and then laid on the sore, after it is well cleansed with brandy and water; but should you be on a journey, and not be able to apply this remedy, you must, in such case, bathe it with brandy and sweet-oil, till you arrive where the horse can have rest, then use the green ointment, made as I shall hereafter prescribe.

THE GREEN OINTMENT.

Take of bees-wax, one ounce; of mutton-suet, two ounces; and of verdigrease in powder, a quarter

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ter of an ounce : melt these together, and keep stirring them until they are cold : soften the whole with sweet-oil.

THE AUTHOR'S SPERMACETI LINIMENT,
FOR CRACKED HEELS, &c.

Take of spermaceti, four ounces ; of yellow wax, one ounce ; of Venice turpentine, half an ounce ; of verdigrease, in fine powder, a quarter of an ounce ; of Euphorbium, in fine powder, half an ounce ; linseed-oil, one ounce ; (let the wax and spermaceti be melted) lastly, put in the linseed-oil, turpentine, verdigrease, and the Euphorbium, and, when the vessel is taken off the fire, stir it till the whole be cold.

This liniment, applied to cracked heels, fores, ulcers, or the like, will prove exceedingly serviceable.

MANGE, BLOOD-RUNNING ITCH, &c.

CURE.

The cure is as simple as the cause, and is effected by using the following recipe :

Put three ounces of crude mercury into two quarts of boiling water in a stone bottle, then put
L a blad-

bladder on your hand, in order to defend it from the effect of the mercury: thus guarded, rub with a sponge, dipped in this mixture, all over those parts of the body of the horse, on which the mange or itch appears.—Observe to let the mercury subside, before you attempt to use the water: two or three such rubbings generally effect a cure; but should they be found insufficient, a fourth may be resorted to with safety.—Give, at the same time, physic, as prescribed, internally, which will greatly accelerate the cure, by cleansing the body. You may likewise give the horse a table spoonful of brimstone, in a bran-mash, night and morning; but he must not be rubbed more than once a day, and care must be had not to touch his eyes, his privities, or any other part, too tender for the corrosive properties of this medicine.—To prevent his imbibing any of the mercury, by licking it off his body, let his head be tied to the manger, in such a manner, as to prevent his having the power of making his mouth fore.—Having used the liquid three days with success, mix together six drachms of aloes, the same quantity of rhubarb, and half a drachm of ginger, all in powder, with sirup of buckthorn, and liquorice-powder: form the whole into two balls, which constitute a dose.—Give him a second on the third morning after, and another on the sixth.—The first dose may not purge him, but the second and third most certainly will: let his water be luke-warm.

It

It would be proper before you begin the application of rubbing him with the mercurial water, to cause him to perspire, by riding half a mile or a mile, on a pace sufficient to make him sweat.

The second Remedy.

Take gunpowder, dissolved in vinegar, and rub the horse every morning all over his body, particularly his mane and tail; repeat the same for a week, giving him three times a day a warm malt-mash, with a small table spoonful of sulphur, well mixed with the mash, for seven days; at the end of which omit both, and wash off the powder with strong warm lecs of tobacco-water, viz. three pounds boiled in three gallons of water, till half the water is consumed; repeat this three days, after which, dress the horse as usual.—This remedy, for the mange in dogs, is the best I ever knew, provided plenty of boiled milk and bread be given to them during its application.

A third Remedy. (Generally made use of in France, and with great Success)

Take equal proportions—say three half pints of turpentine, and three half pints of beer, put them into a bottle, and shake them well together; put two halters on the horse, and fasten him to a post or tree, with a quantity of dung spread round it, to prevent him from hurting himself. Shake the bottle, and with a man on each side, rub him well

all over, and quick, particularly if the disease be very bad; but in three quarters of an hour the pain totally abates, and you may untie the horse with safety.—A malt-mash should be prepared for him, observing he is not to be curried or dressed for several days; after which, wash the horse all over with a strong decoction of tobacco-water, as in the SECOND REMEDY, three successive mornings, and he will be effectually cured. The French object to this remedy for dogs, but apply it to their horned cattle.

N. B. During the cure, give the veterinary powders for the mange. (*See index, at word mange.*)

BROKEN LEGS.

It is unnecessary to engage the reader's time with detailing a cure for such accidents; for it is almost a phenomenon to effect that of a broken bone in a horse, so as to render him again fit for service.—It is true, I have known a horse cured, by having been slung for three months, and his leg splintered and properly bandaged during the whole time; but when the great hazard of his ever being restored, so as to be fit for service, and the great expense of keeping him useless, during all this time, are considered, it will surely appear scarcely worth

worth any person's while to keep a horse so long an unnecessary victim of torture. I would, therefore, advise him to be shot immediately on his meeting with such a casualty. Should it be a mare, from which you would wish to breed, you may then use your own discretion, by endeavouring to have the bone set in the best manner possible.

A LOCKED-JAW.

The Author, in the course of forty years public exercises, has lost, by this dreadful disease, four of his most valuable horses; the first was in the year 1780, in the city of Vienna, by the horse treading on a piece of a broken bottle, with the off fore-foot. The second was in the year 1788, in the city of Paris, by the horse running against a bar of small square iron (that entered his flank), which a cart was conveying through the streets. The third in the year 1792, in Dublin, by the horse, in the course of his Equestrian Exercises, treading upon a rusty twenty-penny nail, which entered the centre of his near fore-foot, about one inch and a half deep. The fourth was in London, by the horse treading with his off hind-foot on some edged tool, supposed a chisel; the wound about three quarters of an inch in depth.

The Author, not satisfied with his own judgement, in the above cases, called in the assistance of several professional men, to deliberate with him on the possibility of effecting a cure, but was unsuccessful, for within nine days they all died.

It will here, perhaps, not be improper to mention the different modes recurred to in the different places. In Vienna, the foot was carefully opened, and the warmest vulneraries applied, with the frequent administration of clysters, but to no purpose. In Paris, the wound was dressed by the professors of the Veterinary College, and with the warmest balsamics of every sort, that human wisdom could devise; but the horse had a very high fever; in consequence of which, manna, sirup of roses, sal mirabile, &c. were administered in small doses, but to no effect. The third, the horse's foot was opened, entirely round the wound, by myself, and burnt alum, vitriol, &c. poured in; after which, a plentiful use of digestives was resorted to, also without success, for the horse died within eight days. The fourth, the part round the wound was laid open, with the greatest care, and a small hot iron pressed to the bottom of the wound; after which, the best digestives were carefully applied, and the horse was immediately given a strong dose of Æthiop's mineral: this method failed; he died within nine days.

I should

I should think myself highly indebted to any gentleman, who would have the goodness to furnish me with an effectual cure for this dreadful, this fatal, disease in the horse, as the numbers, which I have known to have died of the locked-jaw, in the army, &c. are beyond my calculation.

A CLYSTER FOR AN ACUTE FEVER.

In a common emollient decoction, made with an ounce and a half of polychrest, mixed with herbs, to which you will add fennel-seed, pounded and boiled with them, and two handfuls of whole barley; after having strained the whole, you are to add, of the oil of roses and of violets, each four ounces, and two ounces of benedicté, or three of cassia; thus prepared, the clyster will deterge the bowels, while it comforts them; it would not be amiss to rub a horse that has a fever *against the grain*, for the purpose of more effectually opening the pores, and expelling the fuliginous, smoky vapours, that exist under the skin, thus promoting perspiration; give also the fever-powders. (*See index, word fever.*)

I have known this medicine prove of infinite utility to some horses; to others, it was not given with equal success: but when I find a horse continue to have a violent fever, from four to six days,

without intermission, I give myself no farther trouble about him, judging him to be incurable; for I have not known any to recover, after having been so long afflicted with a fever, which ends, I repeat, by totally consuming the liver.

GOLDEN SULPHUR OF ANTIMONY.

Boil the regulus of antimony, with crude ditto, two pounds; of tartar one pound; and of fine nitre half a pound; for the purpose of procuring the scoria. The regulus is found to be of great utility in medicine, but in this particular instance it is resorted to, merely to obtain the scoria, in which the golden sulphur, which we are searching after, is contained. You are, therefore, to separate the scoria, and put it into boiling water; stir it frequently—it will dissolve—take it off the fire, let it settle, and pour the clearest part off at pleasure.

Boil, in other water, tartar in powder; stir it often, and make it dissolve; take the water you poured off first, and throw the latter into it by slow degrees; you will find it to emit a disagreeable, fœtid smell, and a brownish powder will be found at the bottom, which powder is the *golden sulphur of antimony*; let it dry on brown paper, and keep it for use: the dose is be from half an ounce to an ounce, mixed with double the quantity of very
fine

fine wheaten flour; dissolve the whole well in a pint of wine; let it infuse a whole night, and give it to the horse every morning, taking care to keep him bridled two hours before, and three after, and continue so doing fifteen or twenty days; thus, without any other remedy, the animal will soon recover.

I have blended the flour with the golden sulphur, that the latter should not precipitate to the bottom of the vessel, and that it should adhere to the wine, in order to be the more easily swallowed.

This remedy is not a purgative for horses, it is called the *PANACEA*, and is well worthy of the name, by the frequent occasions, on which I have witnessed its efficacy, when administered to the human species. It operates on horses by perspiration, purifies the blood, cools the bowels; dissipates noxious waters and obstructions; opens the passages, and increases, to a wonderful degree, the natural heat of the animal; it also cures the farcy, the mange, and the cough; it prevents cattle from being broken-winded, nor is it less salutary for men, than for horses: on trial, you will find it well deserves to be considered as a *CATHOLICON*, or, universal remedy.

This medicine is too costly to be given to horses of inferior quality, but it would be greatly criminal to neglect even these.

FOR

FOR A HORSE GREATLY FATIGUED.

Bleed your horse in the neck, half a pint; the next day give him a clyster, with an ounce and a half of polychrest; and the day following give him half a pound of olive-oil, in a quart of milk, keeping him bridled two hours before and two hours after; in four days, (the day he took the oil included) give him the following

POTION.

Take, of electuary catholicon, one ounce; two drachms of treacle; of liquid conserve of red roses, one ounce; of cassia, one ounce; of liquorice juice, half an ounce; of fenna in powder, half an ounce; two drachms of scammony, prepared with sulphur; of anniseed and cummin, each a drachm: mix the whole with a pint of white wine, and give it to the horse, who is to be kept bridled two hours before, and four after the remedy has been applied; if the animal has not been much purged, continue the clysters. Give him wet bran, good hay, and half a pound of honey, dissolved in hot water, after which mix it with the water he drinks night and morning, for his common beverage.—This done, allow him some rest, in order to see the effects of the medicine; if you perceive no great amendment, you must resort to the golden sulphur of antimony, and to clysters once more; keeping

keeping the horse warm by an extra rug, in order to promote perspiration, giving him as much rest as possible; but, on no account, keep him in a small stable, air being necessary in this complaint.

VETERINARY POWDERS FOR ACUTE FEVERS.

Take of antimony, finely powdered, and of shavings of hartshorn, half a pound; incorporate them well together; put them in a crucible, and place it in the centre of a strong fire (melting heat) until the whole is red hot—take it from the fire and let it cool—after which, break the crucible, and powder the medicine very fine. The dose for horses, in acute fevers, is twenty-five grains every six hours, given in half a pint of water-gruel; ten doses are sufficient within sixty hours, and if the symptoms should not abate, increase the dose to thirty grains every four hours, to the extent of ten doses; allow an interval of one day, and if the pulse be moderate, continue the powders, night and morning, twenty-five grains, until the horse is well.—Give him, for his common beverage, water, sweetened with honey, or treacle; should the horse purge very much, take ten grains from each dose of the powders.—If the fever is violent, bleed thrice, one pint, every six hours.

hours.—If it continues so for five days, give yourself no more trouble about him; in this time, his liver will be consumed, and he will be only fit for the dunghill.

VETERINARY POWDERS, EXCEEDINGLY SERVICEABLE IN THE FARCY, STRANGLES, VIES, MANGE, AND ALL IMPURITIES.

Take Æthiop's mineral, made without fire, half a pound; of crude antimony, one pound, and mix them into a fine powder. Give the horse two drachms, night and morning, in half a pint of water-gruel, sweetened with honey, until the cure is completed. While the horse is taking the medicine, linseed mixed with the oats will be found exceedingly serviceable in most of those diseases.

VETERINARY EGYPTIAN OINTMENT.

Take of verdigrease four ounces; of double distilled vinegar, six ounces; of honey, one pound; put them into a pipkin, that will stand the fire, and let them boil gently to a dusky colour; add, towards the latter end, roche-alum, and sal ammoniac,

niac, in fine powder, of each half an ounce, and make them into an ointment *according to art*.

VETERINARY TAR OINTMENT.

Take ten ounces of tar, and four ounces of yellow wax, cut small; put them into a glazed pipkin, that will stand the fire, and let them incorporate over a gentle heat.

SWELLED LEGS, CRACKED HEELS, OR WHAT IS COMMONLY CALLED, THE GREASE.

These disorders may be attributed to violent and frequent exercise, improper management in grooming,* feeding, &c.

* Nothing is more injurious than washing horses feet and legs, particularly in cold weather, and leaving them *wet*.—Were grooms to let *their* hands dry without wiping them, after being washed, they would soon be convinced of the absolute necessity of rubbing their horses legs dry at all times; the more so, if the least appearance of inflammation, cracks, &c. should be perceptible.

I have to remark on this subject, that, in the course of forty years practice, I have known more diseases in the legs proceed from an unpardonable neglect of this nature, than even from the bad habit of body of the animal.

With

With regard to the mode of cure, I am of opinion, that all external remedies, poultices, ointments, washings, &c. are ineffectual; and that nothing will so speedily relieve this distemper and prevent its recurrence, as alteratives, and a proper regard to diet during their being administered, keeping the wound clean, &c. Poultices, though they may give the horse temporary ease, increase the disorder, by drawing down what humours are in the body to the parts affected.

The most effectual remedy, that I know of, for this disorder, is as follows: put your horse to feed on the best hay possible, about fourteen pounds per day, and as much good wheaten straw as he can moderately eat: give him half a peck of bran, three times a day, moistened with water—add two tea spoonfuls of sulphur, each time, to the quantity. During this regimen of diet, take three drachms of aloes, two ditto of rhubarb; a quarter of ditto of ginger, all in fine powder; dissolve the whole in a pint of hot table-beer, or ale; give this mixture, when cool, every morning, with the assistance of a horn, or bottle, keeping the horse half an hour without eating before and after the dose.—Repeat the same until he purges moderately; suppose, four, or six days; then omit the draught until the purging is diminished, for one or two days; (at the same time not neglecting the sulphur and mash, as described) after which, repeat the draught

draught six or eight days more, or until he again purges.—You will then omit the draught for three or four days, as before, and proceed in this manner until an alteration for the better be discovered: then, in such case, give the draught only every third, fifth, or seventh, until he is completely cured: should the heels be very bad, and fores deep, apply the Egyptian ointment one day, and the tar ointment the other: (*See index, at word Egyptian and tar ointments, &c.*) bathing the fore with a little arquebusade water; a little tow and a roller of canvas will assist in keeping the dressing proper.

During the cure, gentle exercise, attentive grooming, and hand-rubbing the swelled legs, will greatly assist in promoting his recovery. You may, on the horse's convalescence, give a few oats, with carrots sliced among them; the water, in order the more to hasten the cure, may be made moderately sweet with honey, or treacle, namely, half a pound dissolved in a quart of boiling water; after which pour it into a pail of cold water, and give it every night and morning, by way of diet-drink.—I have known some horses to be entirely free from this disease, strictly following the above remedy, in the course of twelve days—others in a month: if the horse is turned into a large stable, or stall, well littered, it may induce him to lie down, consequently, will expedite the cure, as will also a little grass, if in the summer months.

I have

I have here to notice that aloes will have a better effect when administered in small quantities, than in the usual way: giving it, thus, it will strengthen while it cleanses the intestines, it will purge the brain, and resist the corruption of humours; this is the reason why it is so much used in pills, namely, the best succotrine: for my part, I know no better purgative, nor one so friendly to the nature of horses.

The following Dialogue, between the late Sir Richard Jebb and Myself, will illustrate this Fact.

SIR RICHARD JEBB. Pray Mr. Astley, what do you conceive to be the best purge for a horse, and what has been your practice.

MR. ASTLEY. On account of the horizontal position of the horse's body, Sir Richard, I have been always careful to moderate such purgatives, as I conceived would produce little or no inflammation in the intestines; and having myself, for a series of years, taken eight grains, occasionally, of Ruff's pills, (a preparation of aloes, myrth, and saffron) much to my satisfaction, I turned my thoughts that way, and tried various experiments to ascertain their true quantity and effect, and I found that aloes for horses was invaluable, if given

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under four drachms and repeatedly until the desired effect was produced, and this instead of eight drachms or upwards, which quantity, administered within four days, has been found for some horses to be too powerful. To correct the aloes, and as a substitute for the myrrh and saffron, I have made use of rhubarb, with a small quantity of ginger, which I found completely answered my purpose ; for, from being convinced of the efficacy of the aloes upon myself, and the good state of health I enjoy, notwithstanding the most violent exercise, which my profession naturally caused, I was satisfied that I was sufficiently authorized to try the same on my horse.

SIR RICHARD. You are perfectly right: it did not strike me so forcibly, as it has done you, with regard to the horizontal position of the horse: pray, in what diseases do you generally give the aloes?

MR. ASTLEY. Whenever my horses have been taken from grafs, and more particularly from the straw-yard, I have been in the habit of giving the aloes in small doses of three drachms, every other day, for eight days, or a fortnight, according to the age and constitution: I have likewise given the same for all eruptions of the blood, diseases of the eyes, &c. and, more particularly for botts and worms, to horses that have been

hard-worked and kept upon bad hay, and for the disease, commonly called the grease, I know of nothing better.—As I kept myself in health and good appetite by taking Ruff's pills, when I found myself heavy and loaded, so I kept my horses in health, by giving the aloes in small doses, once or twice a month, or whenever I found occasion.

SIR RICHARD. I believe you are right; but what fluids did you give while you were administering the aloes in small doses?

MR. ASTLEY. I am a great admirer of honey, having taken it in gruel for a number of years, and so convinced am I of its excellence, that I shall continue it.—I, therefore, Sir Richard, when I administer the aloes to my horses, give them half a pound of honey, dissolved in a quart of hot water, which is then thrown into a pail of water for their ordinary drink; but when honey could not be obtained, I have substituted treacle, and I have found the highest benefits from both, when travelling long journeys, such as to Paris, Dublin, &c. particularly in cold weather. I would now be happy if you would give me your opinion on the propriety or impropriety of my conduct.

SIR RICHARD. Indeed, Mr. Astley, your observations on this point are, in every way, so
congenial

congenial with my own ideas, as to render my opinion unnecessary, being convinced that you have acted both judiciously and cautiously.—Great skill and dexterity are required in the management of aloes to cause it to operate, as an alterative; but if I must give advice to the veterinary surgeon, it is, never to lose sight of moderation.—Will you name the diseases for which you have given aloes with success?

MR. ASTLEY. I administer it in all scorbutic cases; in the blood-running itch; in the mange; in the farcy; for old sores, ulcers, and the like; cracked heels; strangles; in the mad staggers; and, lastly, in the glanders, with the addition of Æthiop's mineral, (*vide glanders*). Indeed, Sir Richard, I am partial to aloes, viz. the most transparent possible, from its being the least active in quality, and I know of no chronic disease, to which horses are liable, in which aloes, given in small doses, can be injurious.

SIR RICHARD. I approve much of your method; long practice and experience are sufficient authority.

The following are three Receipts, perhaps the most valuable, that ever appeared in any Publication of this Nature :

FIRST, A VETERINARY GENERAL RESTORATIVE POWDER FOR HORSES,

THAT HAVE BEEN RIDDEN HARD, ARE SUBJECT TO A COUGH, &c.

Take of linseed in fine powder, eight ounces ; of carraway-feed, cummin-feed, anniseed, fenugreek, carthamus, and coltsfoot, in ditto, three ounces each ; of liquorice-root, in ditto, eight ounces ; of flowers of benjamin, one ounce ; flowers of sulphur, one ounce ; mix the whole well together. Give the horse two ounces of this powder, in a quarter of a peck of good malt, made into a mash ; and this, exclusive of his usual quantity of corn, twice a day, for a fortnight, or three weeks together. This is, perhaps, one of the best restoratives for horses, after a violent day's hunting, that the ingenuity of man can devise—it removes all obstructions of the bowels, increases respiration, and adds vigour and strength to the whole frame, cures chronic diseases, arising from over-heated blood, such as colds, coughs, inward decays, and, in short, prevents all such diseases.

SECOND,

SECOND, A VETERINARY OPODELDOC,

FOR

Strained Shoulders, Wrenches in the Haunches, every Kind of Bruise, Swelling, Contusion, and the like; whether from Falls, Blows, or similar Accidents; for refreshing and fortifying the Legs of a Horse, when fatigued by long Journeys, or when Horses are subject to Rheumatic and Paralytic Complaints; and I am here free to confess, that, in the extensive Course of my Practice, I have never found a more efficacious, nor a more general Medicine for the above-mentioned Accidents, Diseases, &c. not only as proper to be used for a Horse, but as being of astonishing Virtue when aptly administered to the human Species of all Ages, and both Sexes, where Nature affords no Nourishment to the Part afflicted.

When horses have been strained in the shoulder, and neglected, from the duration of such complaint, and through extreme pain the part becomes withered, almost void of feeling, and, in a great measure, motionless; so that it may, with much propriety, be said to be a dead member, attached to a living body; and, unless a powerful ALKALI be administered, for the purpose of extinguishing this unnatural heat, the part affected will be for ever

incapable of resuming its primitive and original functions—this happens to horses that have received a hurt in the foot, which prevents them from setting it to the ground for a month or two. If the hurt be before, it is the shoulder, if behind, it is the haunch, which is thus withered and consumed, and this, on account of its having been too long deprived of nutriment, and debarred from its due exercise, so infinitely conducive to natural warmth.

People may conceive that I err against the first principles, by attempting to restore animation to a part so dreadfully affected—but in fact, it is otherwise, and it will be found that the affected member still retains sufficient heat, when aided by some powerful alkali, to recover that which was lost, and to restore it to its former energy and vigour; and whoever inspects this method with a scientific eye will immediately discover that it rests on the broad basis of philosophy.

RECIPE FOR MAKING THE VETERINARY OPODELDOC OINTMENT.

Take of dried roots of marshmallows, comfrey, gentian, long birthwort, angelica, of each one ounce and a half; of ladies' mantle, mouse-ear, adder's tongue, sage, lavender, ground-ivy, a handful; of juniper-berries, cummin, castor, camphire
and

and garden mustard-feed, of each one ounce, reduced into powder; put the whole into a glass vessel and pour thereon one quart of spirits of wine; cover it with the top of an alembick, that has no aperture to it: this vessel is admirably calculated to make the ingredients blend properly together. To prove your spirits of wine, put a small quantity of gun-powder into a spoon, filled with the said spirits, set fire to the liquor, which, if genuine, will cause an explosion of the powder instantaneously to take place.

In order to make up the medicine, if you have no glass-vessel, make use of a thin retort with a long neck, the two-thirds of which must be empty when all the ingredients are in; in the mouth of the retort, place another small one with the bottom upwards—this is called a meeting vessel, that thus the ingredients may mix together in the most perfect manner; cover the joints of the retort with thick paper, which rub over with the white of an egg; confine the whole with a thread, and let the materials undergo the process of fire, as follows: place your retort in the exact centre of a boiler, suspended, and so fixed as not to move backwards nor forwards; put some straw between the bottom of the retort and the boiler, for the purpose of keeping them about two fingers breadth asunder; this part of the process is to last ten hours, during eight of which the water is to be so

warm, as scarcely to allow you to keep your finger in it; and during the two remaining hours the heat must be increased, but not so as to cause it to boil: by this method the ingredients, contained in the retort, will dissolve, blend together, and completely unite; the spirits of wine will attract and assume the tincture of the various simples, in which their fanative qualities are principally contained.

The spirits of wine having thus attracted the tincture of the roots, of the powders, and of the vulnerary herbs, let the whole cool, strain it well through a linen cloth, put back the spirits into the retort, as before, add thereto a pound of mottled castile soap, cut into thin slices, and put the retort again into the boiler, till the soap shall be so incorporated with the spirits of wine, that the whole may form an ointment: you must then take your retort out of the boiler, and let its contents cool: it is in this soap that the alkali, which I have mentioned, is contained; it is this alkali that is to consume and destroy, in fact, a real fire, which is devouring the shoulder, &c.

If you have minutely attended to the mode I have prescribed for making this salutary ointment, you will find it neither too thick nor too thin; and the better to ascertain whether you have perfectly succeeded in the process, rub a little of it

on your hand; if it leave behind it a GREENISH hue, though the natural colour of the ointment be BROWN, then, and only then, you may be sure you have acted agreeably to my instructions.

To apply this valuable and intrinsically excellent medicine with effect, the injured part must first be well chafed, by rubbing it properly with flannel; after which the ointment is to be put on and rubbed into the skin; repeat the application seven or eight times, not omitting, at each time, to rub in the ointment with good spirits of wine, which is to be applied gradually and rubbed in by regular degrees, that the ointment may penetrate thoroughly—a gill of spirits of wine to be consumed at each application; if it should raise a lather while the ointment is rubbing in, you are not to discontinue till you have entirely exhausted the quantity of spirits above-mentioned.

The opodeldoc is to be used cold, and it is of a nature so extremely penetrative that, in one application, the whole of the ointment, composed agreeably to my method, might be exhausted; but infinite care is to be taken to employ it with becoming moderation, each time, that it may assist the natural heat in vivifying the affected member, and in restoring it to its wonted tone and native vigour.

The opodeldoc, as has been already stated, has been found of almost general utility, when administered to the human species.

I have particularly experienced its excellent effects on a horse of mine, to which, during a very long excursion, I allowed no very extraordinary repose; it is true, he was led by one of my people, but it is equally so that, in a short time, by the aid of this ointment ALONE, he recovered his accustomed strength and vivacity.

Should you find it necessary to apply the opodeldoc to very fleshy parts; for instance, to the shoulder, &c. before the part is dry, and before the application can have produced the wished-for effect, you are to repeat it: indeed, it would not be amiss to anoint it one day, and the next, to be careful in rubbing the ointment in well with the spirits of wine, as I have already directed; and so on in uninterrupted succession for sixteen or eighteen days,

There are thousands of people ready to vouch for the efficacy of this medicine: several coach and saddle horses, (whose shoulders were entirely decayed and dried up, in consequence of having been neglected, after having received an injury of the kind before specified,) who were as lame, as can possibly be conceived, were radically cured by it,

it, proved useful to their owners, and never after experienced the smallest inconvenience from the former complaint;—but you are to take particular care that, for a month, or more, the horse be not worked at all; and after that space of time, that he be only walked about for a quarter of an hour, the first day; then, by degrees, to take more exercise, in order that the injured part may be more effectually restored.

People, who incautiously work their cattle too soon, not only renew the complaint, but render all further attempts to effect a cure impossible.

The ointment will not injure a hair on the decayed shoulder, &c.—it is of infinite efficacy in sprained legs, in strengthening the limbs of horses, to those that are apt to stumble; I have witnessed such astonishing cures by the application of the opodeldoc-ointment, that I do not hesitate to recommend it most strenuously to those, who are fond of horses—and even for the physical system of man, I advise it, having, in various instances, found the greatest benefit from its effects, as well as from the following Veterinary Arquebufade.

VETERINARY ARQUEBUSADE

For horses that have received wounds, whether from muskets, swords, or sharper instruments, of whatever kind, or that are flaked in leaping, torn in any direction, broken in the knees, &c.; also for swellings, bruises, and contusions of the legs, or body; cuts in any direction, depth, width, or extent, even when the members are divided, particularly during a campaign, or accidents when exercising—nothing will be found more effectual, in such cases, than the arquebusade, as follows.

The Author's Manner of Making his Veterinary Arquebusade.

Take leaves of the greater and lesser comfrey, cut small, of each two handfuls; birthwort, soapwort, and galangal, of each three drachms; zedoary, cut small, half an ounce: pound the whole, but not too fine; crabs-eyes, four ounces, also powdered fine; put the whole into a new pot, to which, add four pints of the clearest and best white wine; cover the pot with the utmost care, and let it infuse two days in a sand-heat; after which, place it on a moderate fire for one day; then boil it for half an hour—strain it off, according

ding to art; and, when cool, draw off the clear part and cork it up in a bottle for use. This excellent medicine cures wounds in general.

If the horse be inclined to fever, or his pulse beat quick, administer a clyster (*see index, at word clyster*) every four or six hours; till it operates; but be careful not to give him any arquebusade to drink, for, being composed of warm simples, it would add very considerably to the heat; but again, it occurs not unfrequently that a horse, though very feverely wounded, has no fever; in such case, the arquebusade may be given, a gill every day, with the assistance of a horn or bottle.

Among the natives of Germany, Switzerland, and France, a much inferior medicine is in great and general repute; the superior arquebusade, made and recommended by the Author, is astonishingly efficacious in all cases above-mentioned; and when symptoms of fever appear, he earnestly recommends bran-mashes, and water-gruel, sweetened with honey, having found the highest benefit from them.

EQUESTRIAN EDUCATION.

THE science of horsemanship, as it relates to war-mancœuvres, is of infinite utility in the field of honour: this is a fact every General Officer will allow. It is an exercise highly conducive to health, and has such a variety of advantages attached to it, that princes have deigned to make it their study in all ages, and almost in every clime. Different countries have their peculiar systems, but that squadron, though inferior in number, which has adopted the best, has the fairest prospect in the field: often it has happened, and many can testify the same, that a battle has been won by the superior discipline of the cavalry, or lost where it has failed.

To discover the capacity of the *MANEGE* horse, naturally a friend to man, and to employ that capacity in the way the most advantageous, is the chief end the Author has in view; but to arrive at perfection in any art or science at once is contrary to the nature of things; happy, however, will he feel himself, if he can contribute to
the

the completion of a system of such national utility, so noble and manly in its nature, and so peculiarly beneficial in its effects.

The intention of adding the following sketches (of various airs*) is to convey a farther idea of what the horse may be instructed to perform in the *manege*; proving the powers and sagacity of that animal, and the ability of the Equestrian Professor, &c.

* DEFINITION OF THE WORD, AIR.—The rider teaches his horse a variety of actions, either for pleasure or for self-defence, &c. These are the *pesade*, the *croupade*, the *balotade*, the *cabriole*, the *courbette*, the *terre-à-terre*, the *pirouette*, and the *piase*; some low and some more lofty flights; all these ACTIONS, are called AIRS—derived, from the act of rising off the ground into the air, when horses perform any of the above-mentioned actions. In the execution of this part of Equestrian Education, promptitude, and quickness of thought are requisites worthy the attention of KINGS, PRINCES, and NOBLES; but above all, of soldiers in action: of this strong assertion I have witnessed the most incontrovertible proofs, as well with respect to the OLD as to the NEW school, amongst the former I beg leave to mention the following personages:—Prince Ferdinand—the Duke of Brunswick—Lord Granby—Lord Frederick Cavendish—Lord Cornwallis—Sir Frederick Evelylin—Sir George Howard—General Conway—Colonel Beckwith—Colonel Harvey—Colonel Frazer—Colonel Gun—General Ainslie—General Sir William Erskine—and my ever to be lamented and worthy friend, the Hero of Aboukir, General Sir Ralph Abercromby—General Luckner—General Fritag, &c. &c. (The names of the illustrious characters of the modern school, and those omitted in the old, shall appear in the second volume.)

PESADE.

PESADE.

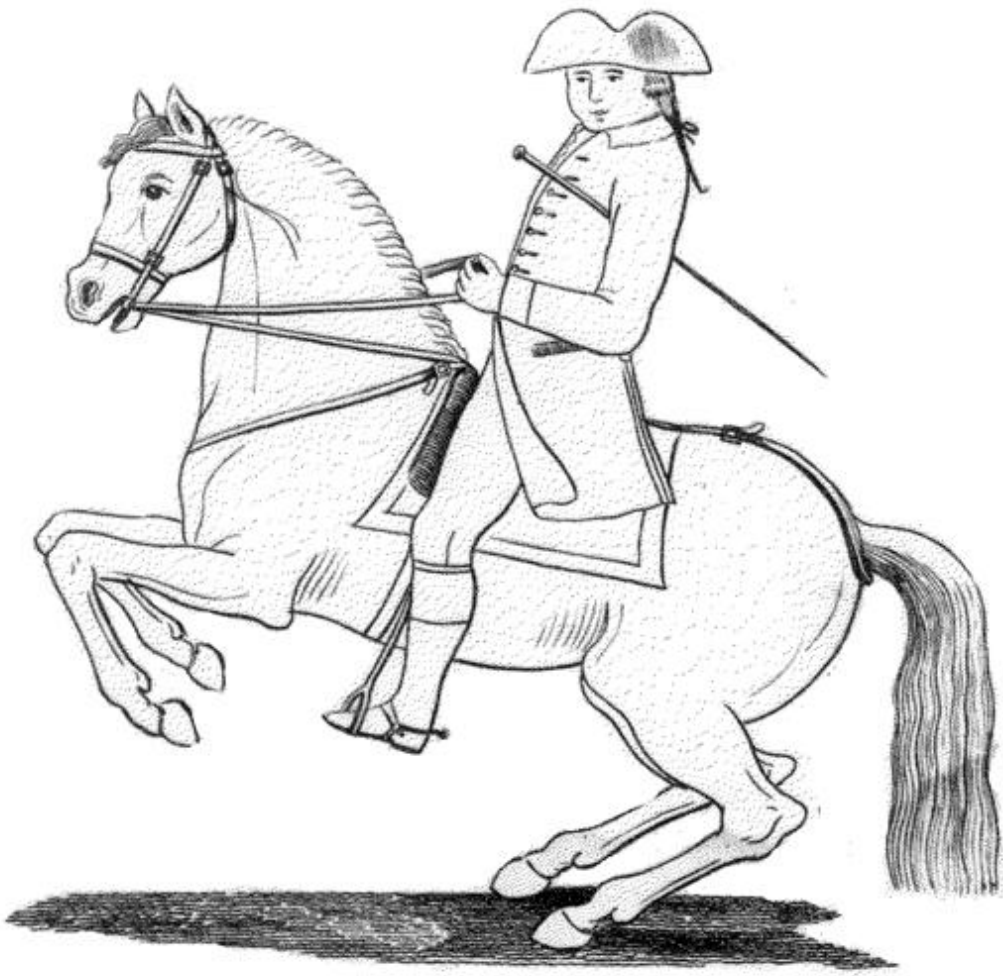
To prepare the horse for this action, his shoulders must be suppled both ways; he must be thrown on his haunches, and acquire a lofty head (as for single combat); all this must be done in the circle.

The *pesade* is the movement performed when a horse rises his fore-feet, and immediately bends them up towards his body, without moving those behind: the professor has to throw all the weight of the horse on his haunches, in order that it may be raised more or less in perfect *cadence*.

The *pesade* is the first lesson: indeed, I consider it as the ground-work of the following airs; but great precaution is necessary to render the horse thoroughly obedient to the hand, the *appui*, and the heel. Light lessons, in the beginning; moderation and rewards in the circle; while exercising round the SINGLE PILLAR; against the wall; and between the TWO PILLARS, will effect wonders.

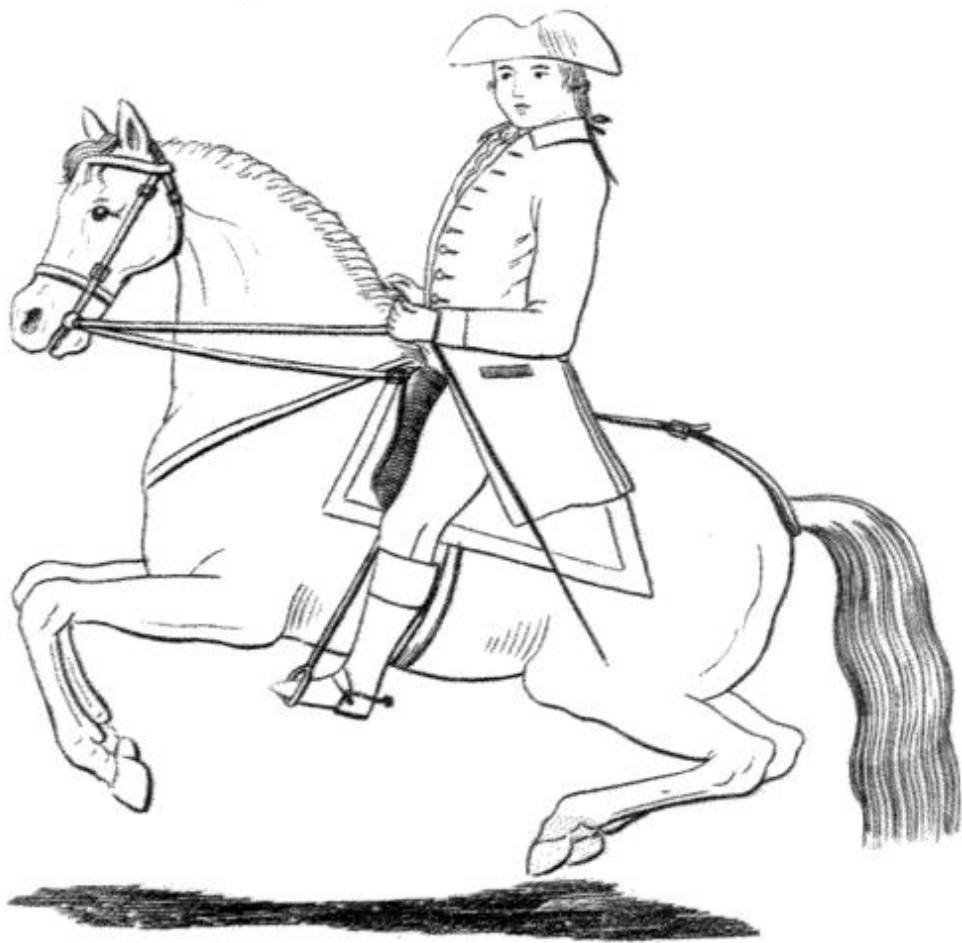
CROUPE.

to face page



Sketch of the Pesade

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Sketch of the Croupade

CROUPADE.

The horse leaps into the air with all his feet off the ground at one and the same time, and without stretching out those behind: by an attention to this action, much good might result to the cavalry: and here I will relate a manœuvre, to which I often had recourse in 1761, and at other periods of the seven years war. I instructed my horse to strike an object, or objects, at the will of the rider, within a given distance, before, behind, or together; and necessity furnished me with the idea.

In patrolling, a soldier sometimes wants a guide, and gentle means often prove ineffectual to induce a peasant to quit his bed, at the dead of the night, for the accommodation of others—to dismount for the purpose of procuring admittance into a house, at such a time, barred and bolted within, and perhaps in an enemy's country, would be dangerous. I knew my duty, and, ere this, my horse knew his. On approaching the door, I caused him to strike it with his fore-feet; and if this did not answer my purpose, (for it would sometimes fail,)—I faced him about, when with his croup he would break the door in pieces: this he would accomplish in a few moments, to the surprize and terror of the inhabitants; on the other hand, when upon the defensive, no person could approach me without danger; and when on the offensive, and animated at my pleasure, to the highest pitch, he would strike in every direction, and clear his way!

BALOTADE.

This action, which requires much attention and skill in the professor, may be considered as a key to the *cabriole*. The horse being now foreshortened, well on his haunches, and every way obedient, is instructed to rise forward somewhat higher than in the *croupade*; and, at the moment he has drawn up his fore-feet, (as in the act of leaping,) a stroke from the *chambrière*, or a touch of the spur-stick, at his croup, causes him to strike with his hindermost feet, sufficiently only to shew his shoes. This action may be styled a half-*cabriole*. The general practice is to teach the *balotade* in hand, or between the TWO PILLARS, and when advanced in this lesson, a light weight is placed on his back: but to perform *balotades* well, the horse must be accustomed to the rider, and the rider to the horse.* The *appui* must be sure, and the aids be delicate.

CABRIOLE.

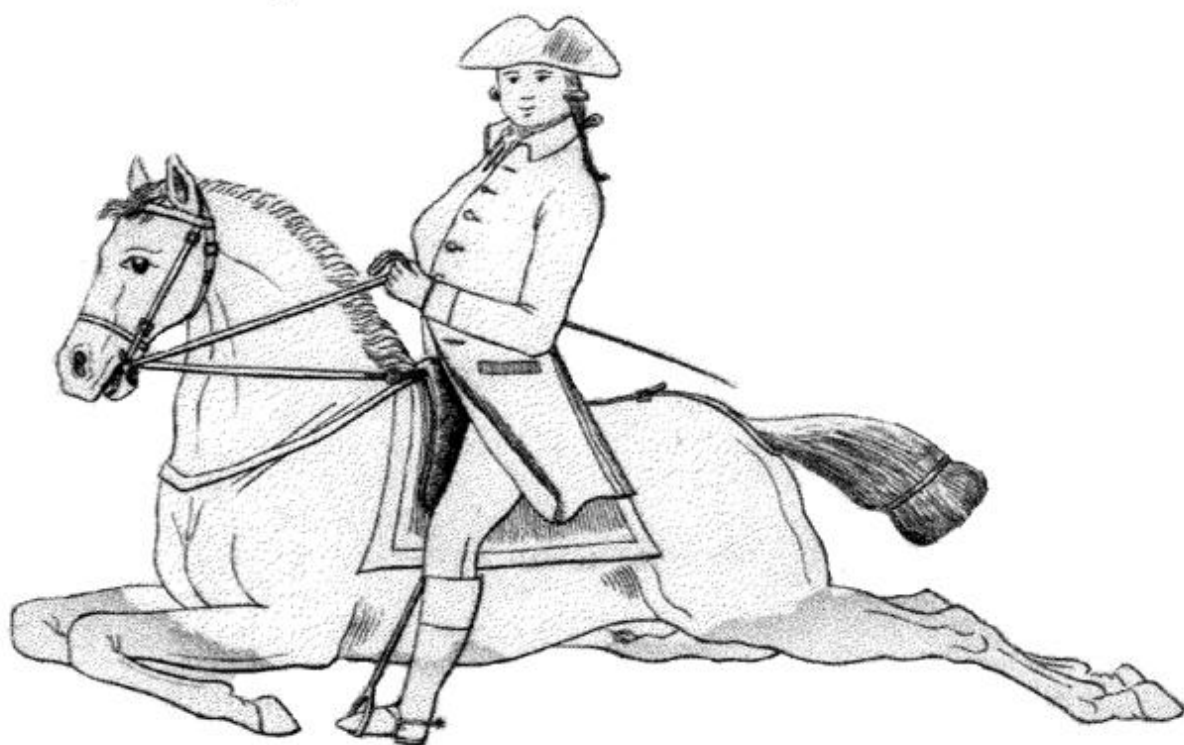
* To prove the utility of well-dressed horses to the army, it may not be improper to mention the following circumstance:—In the year 1762, when the 15th Light Dragoons were in Westphalia, a great number of recruits, and young horses, were attached to the regiment, both were wanted for special service; and an experiment was tried to mount the young men on the old horses, and the old men on the young horses; several field days took place in consequence, and answered tolerably well; but the regiment being called upon to attack an out-post of French infantry, who giving their fire, the young horses instantly turned tail, nor could they be brought back to the charge. The young men, though mounted on the old horses, being ignorant of the sword-exercise, and of the proper use of the bridle-hand, could not force the enemy's line; of course the old men regained their horses. This may do very well for numbers on a hill, but for actual service it will not answer.



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Sketch of the Balotade

to face page



Sketch of the Cabriole

CABRIOLE.

From the *balotade* is drawn the *cabriole*, considered as one of the most difficult actions to be performed by the horse, he being, for a time, suspended, as it were, in the air: great skill is requisite in the professor, as well as in the choice of horses, adapted to such performance, which must be lively, active, and of a proportionate strength: by means of the *cabriole*, persons engaged in single combat, often obtain a great superiority over their opponents, not acquainted with this excellent manœuvre, and with the necessary *aids*.

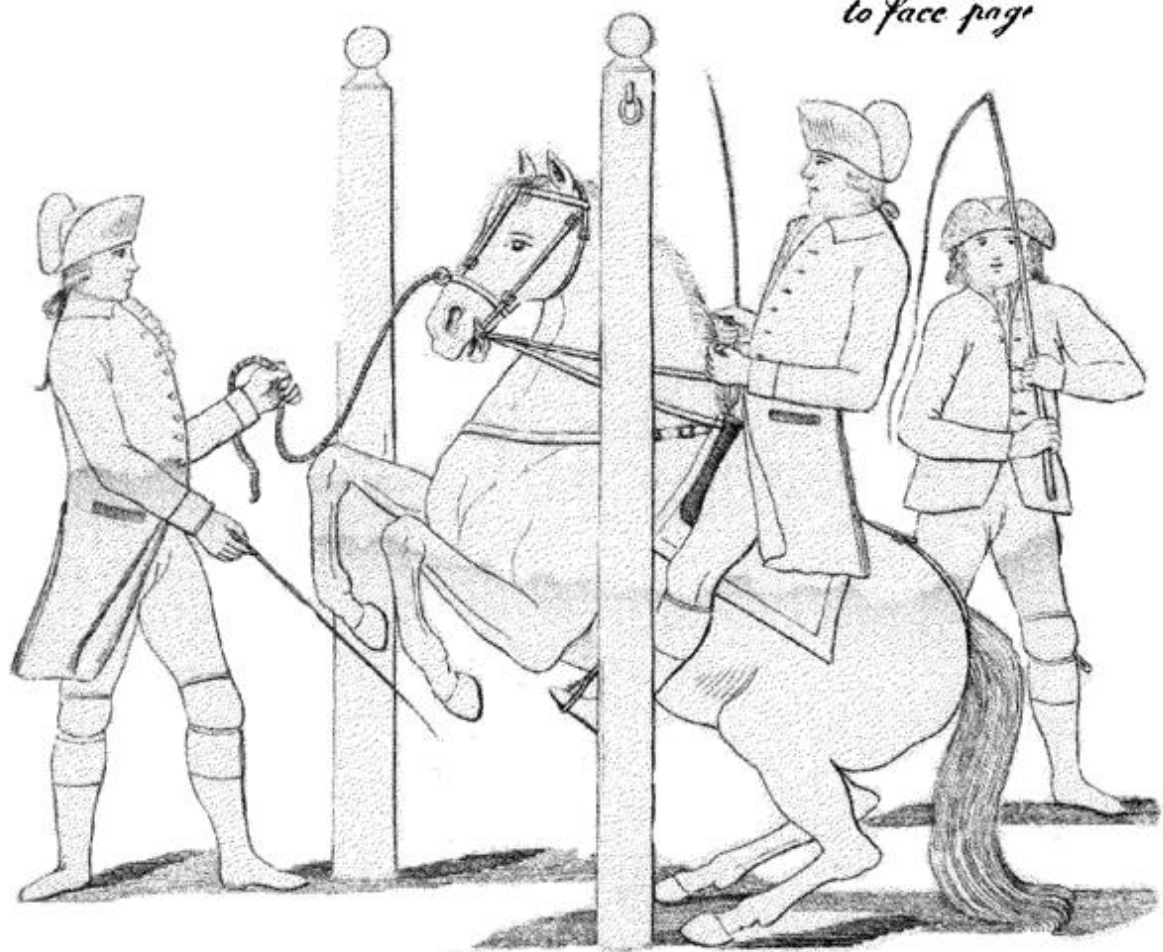
Horses every way complete for war exercises are in value beyond calculation. I have known some of the old and experienced Generals purchase such well-dressed horses at any price. Furthermore, I have witnessed in the seven years war, while a scarcity of accomplished military horses prevailed, frequent application to be made by Prince Ferdinand, Lord Granby, my old and intimate acquaintance General Luckner, &c. to the Quarter and Riding-Masters of the British Army, then in Westphalia, in order to purchase THEIR horses; one in particular, the best war horse I ever mounted, was the property of Quarter-Master Henry Richards, of the 15th Light Dragoons, and, I believe, the oldest soldier in the army.

My worthy friend, Richards, had purchased the horse of a farmer at Salisbury, for twenty-five guineas, prior to the regiment going to Germany, and he sold him to General Luckner, for four hundred ducats, two years after. I was also present when Lord Granby offered the General six hundred ducats for him. The veteran chief, however, was not to be caught by gold, knowing that, in a great measure, his life depended on the excellence of his horse. I further recollect, that Lord Brome, now MARQUIS CORNWALLIS, (then Aid-de-Camp to the Marquis of Granby,) had as good horses as any in the British Army; but, I suppose, like General Luckner, he knew their value.

THE COURBETTE.

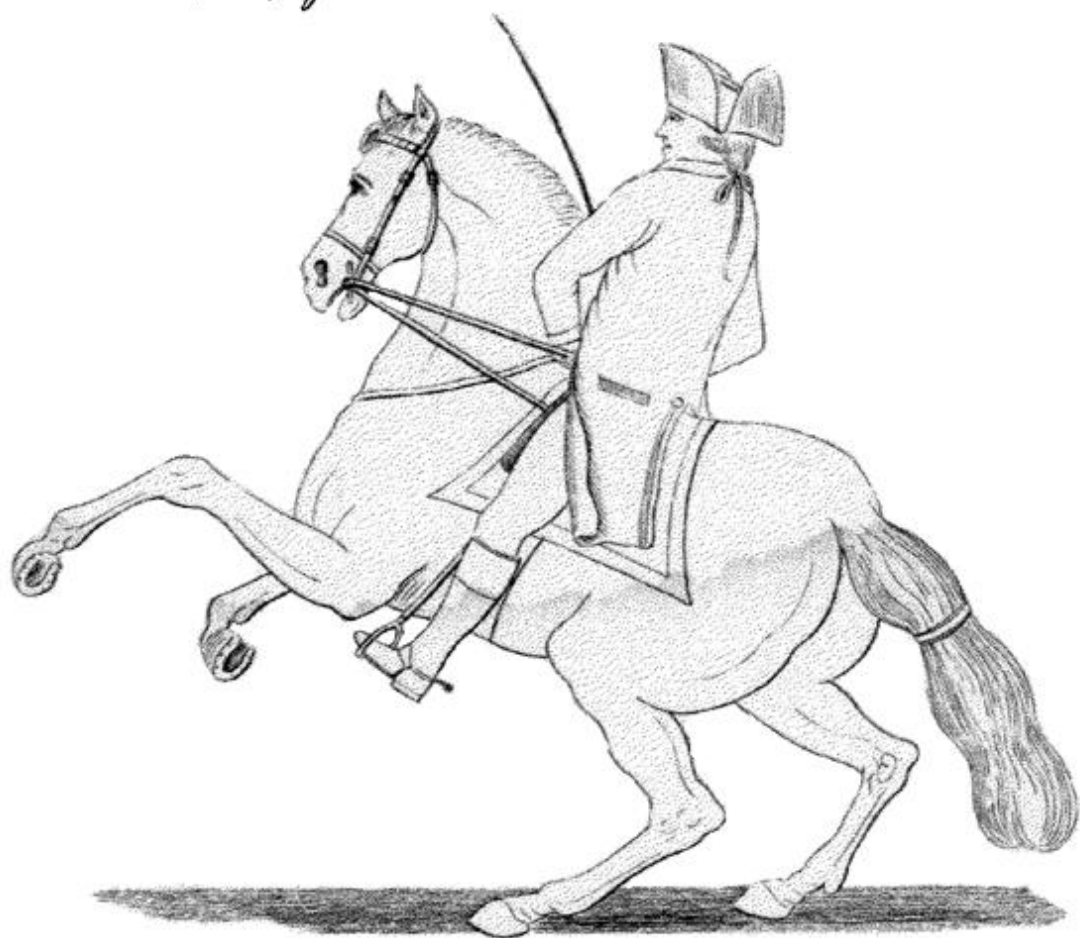
A horse that can *pesade* and *croupade* well may be placed between the TWO PILLARS; there still more thrown on his haunches, and raised before, rather higher than in the two foregoing airs; which is effected thus—the professor aids him forward with two small whips, while an assistant, with the *chambriere* at his croup, encourages him to bring his hindermost legs well under, and to support his body in the action of, what the Author terms, foreshortening. Many horsemen conceive, that there is not much difficulty in instructing the horse in this AIR; but practice will convince them to the contrary. The horse, capable of performing a good *courbette*, may be considered as far advanced in *terre-à-terre*, *demi-voltes*, and *pirouette*; but it is necessary that he should become very expert, and his action easy in the *courbette*, between the PILLARS, before he is mounted.

to face page



Sketch of the Courbette

to face page



Sketch of the Serre à Terre

THE TERRE-A-TERRE.

Previous to any attempt being made to bring a horse to *terre-à-terre*, he should be perfected in the *pesade*, *croupade*, and *courbettes*, and not unacquainted with the *voltes*. He should be well suppled in the circle, but with judgement; for his croup, at no time, must gain upon the centre or given ground, you wish to obtain.—In every air the horse should be well together, particularly in those in which his shoulders should have a position more forward than his croup, in the proportion of about two-sevenths.

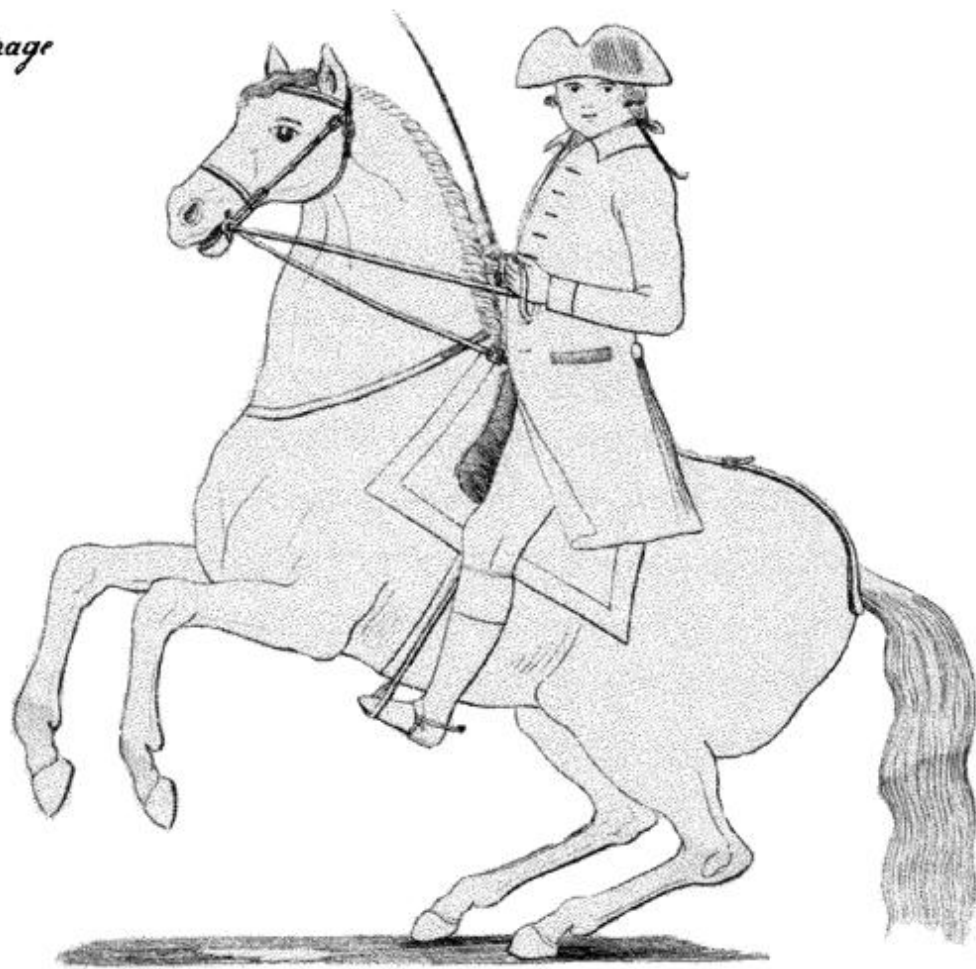
Professors have wisely observed that, in *terre-à-terre*, the horse cannot, in reason, be too much foreshortened—this action may be performed in a circle, right or left—in a square, right or left—and on as many ground lines as the professor may fancy, either with head or croup to such lines. It is a kind of compressed gallop, in an oblique direction, with the shoulders more advanced than the croup, as before expressed. A good professor, mounted on a well-dressed horse, can, however, *terre-à-terre* with one-fifth of the shoulder forward; but it must be a person completely master of the Equestrian Art, who can perform on equal lines, losing sight of the oblique direction altogether.—Lastly, the position of the rider's body should be firm, his foot rather light in the stirrup, on the side approaching, the other giving the *aid*; which is done without moving the body. The horse must be well raised, lofty in head, and, to give him freedom, his haunches must be kept in a just position; the *appui*, rather strong on the opposite side, namely, if you *terre-à-terre* to the right; such *appui* and *aid* are to the left, and *vice versa*.

THE PIROUETTE

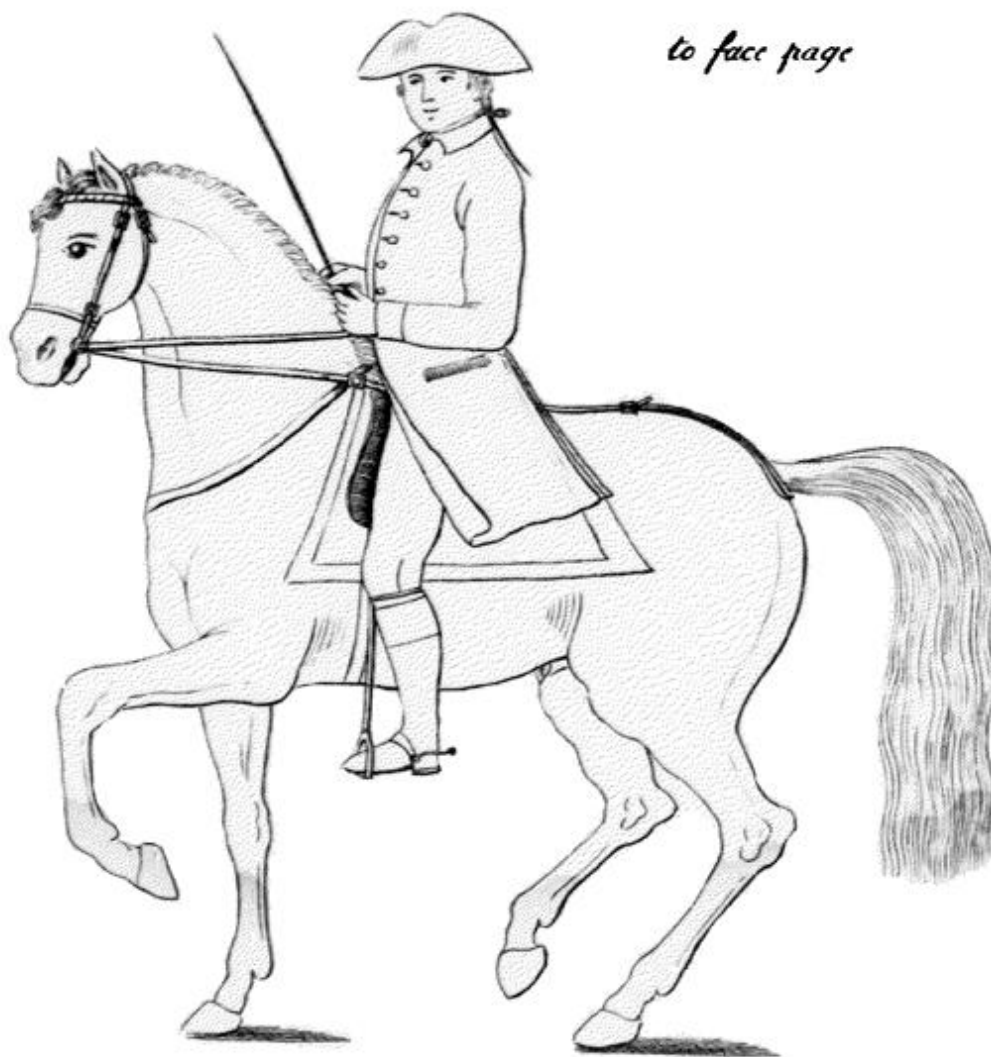
Is the action of a horse galloping entirely round, either right or left, on a centre, with one leg, as it were, on the ground.—To complete the horse in this difficult air, much skill and patience are required; but he should not, by any means, be exercised in it, till he is perfectly suppled in all directions, namely, in the *terre-à-terre* in a circle of twenty yards diameter; in a large square, and by the side of a wall, keeping the head, shoulder, and croup, to the centre in every oblique position; he should also be well instructed in the *demi-voltes*, or what very properly may be termed half-pirouettes; for example, suppose the *pirouette* is intended to the right, the horse, in such cases, raises his fore-feet and the left hindermost, supporting himself on the right, while turning, and *vice versa*; if to the left, the aids are the outside rein to the turn, raised somewhat higher than the inside, first throwing him well on his hanches—firm position and command of body, *appui* rather strong, and the body of the rider and horse towards the turn; at the same time, if the horse's head be not sufficiently high and obedient to the bridle-hand, the professor will experience much interruption in the execution of this action, which may be considered as the **SUBLIME** of *cadence*.

It is a known fact, that the horseman in battle, who has the best dressed horse in this action, has a wonderful advantage over his opponent—nothing can bring such a dragoon to the ground, but a ball.

to face page



Sketch of the Pirouette



to face page

Sketch of the Piase

THE PIAFE

Is a graceful air of parade in the action of the trot; the first lesson is given between the two pillars; the professor in the rear, with the whip and *chambriere*, encouraging him to move to the right, to the left, and sometimes forward, until he is foreshortened and well on his haunches; for the more he is so, the more graceful will be his action: this is effected by short lessons, long intervals, and frequent care-fes—care must be had to make him draw from the pillar-rope,* and by no means from the bridle, till far advanced, preserving, however, throughout, a lofty head. Much judgement is, now, required to aid the horse, particularly when mounted; whether advancing, retreating, or returning to either side; for it is at such time, that the horseman is obliged to call in the more tender aids of the heel and spur, together with the necessary assistance of the bridle-hand, and its delicate *appui*: this, it may be remarked, was the action made use of in the famous Equestrian minuet, forming part of the amusements at Westminster-bridge, first invented and attempted by the Author, who caused his horse to mark his name on the ground of the Amphitheatre.

The few rules, directions, and observations, herein given, I present most respectfully to my country, as the result of my experience, during a practice of forty years in the service of the public; to whom I beg to express my most grateful ac-

* The pillar-rope (or collar) should be very strong, the nose-part lined, and two inches broad, to prevent its chafing; the pillars should be firm in the ground, seven inches in diameter, and round; six feet four inches clear in height, and about five and a half feet in distance; stuffed and lined on the inside.

knowledgments for the long and liberal patronage, with which my efforts, as well as those of my son, have been so distinguishedly honoured.

Convinced that it is not in mortals "TO COMMAND SUCCESS," I have always endeavoured "TO DESERVE IT;" and I trust, my patrons have been well assured of every exertion, on my part, to render myself worthy of that liberality, which has ever been the pride of my heart to obtain.

Having said thus much in behalf of the encouragement bestowed on my individual public labours, (which it is my ambition to say, have been honoured with the ORDER OF MERIT, during my residence in France,) and having resigned, for the term of seven years, the ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE OF ARTS, Westminster-bridge, with that in DUBLIN, in favour of my son, (reserving to myself the AMPHITHEATRE in PARIS,) I now leave HIM to the protection of that generous, discerning public, of whom I am,

With becoming gratitude and respect,

The most obedient, and

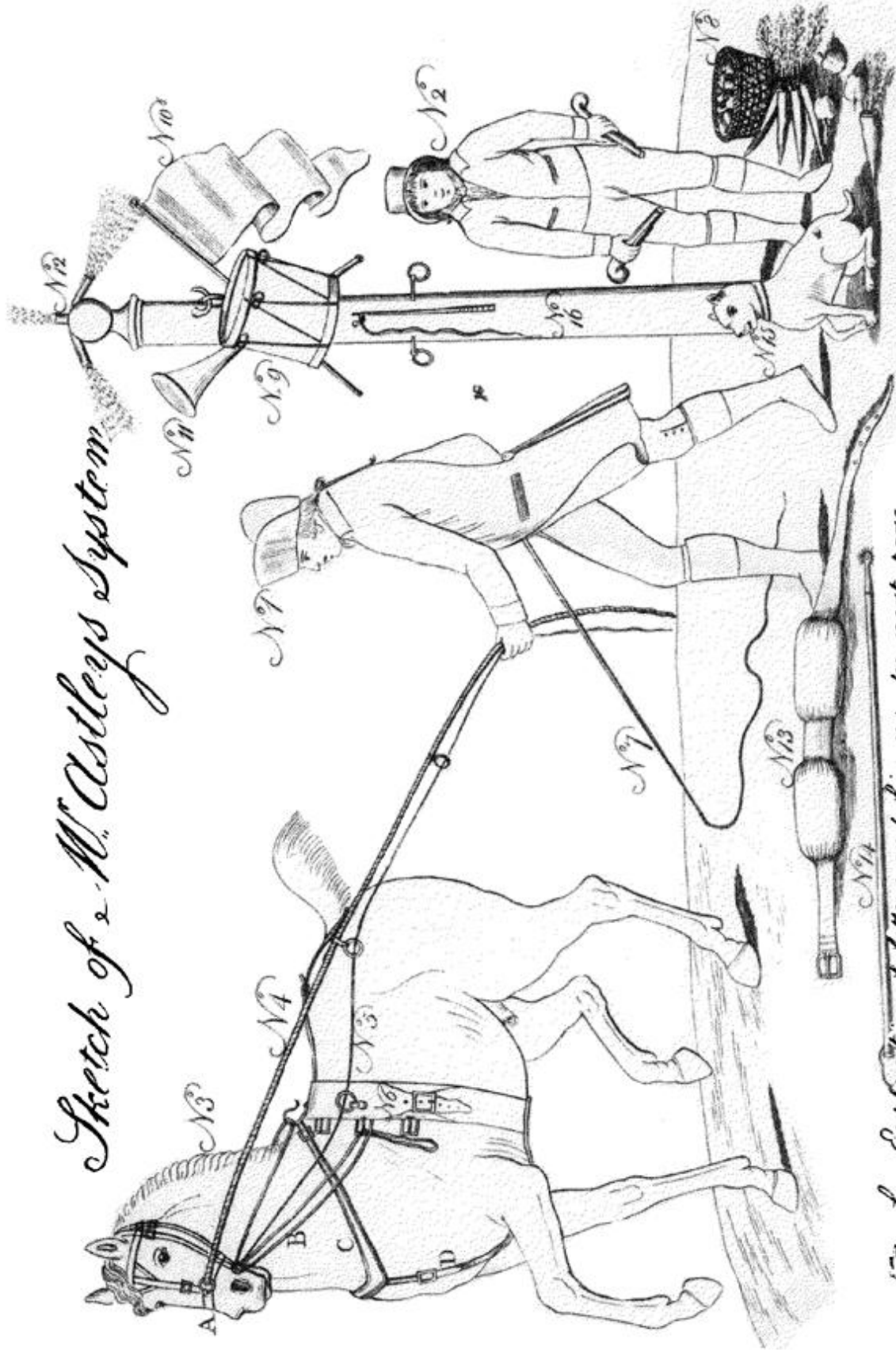
The most devoted humble servant,

*Hercules-Hall, Lambeth,
London, 1st of May,
1801.*

Philip Astley,

Professor of the Art of Riding.

Sketch of Mr. Astley's System



For Explanation of Letters and Figures see next page

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EXPLANATION

OF THE

General Apparatus in the adjoining Page.

- A—Caveffon and cord.
- B—Snaffle-reins, intended to adjuft the given point, or exact pofition of the horfe's head.
- C. D—The breast-plate, belonging to the buckle-furcingle, bearing-rein, crupper, &c. and intended to keep the whole fecure.
- 1—Profefor in the act of working the horfe; circle to the left.
- 2—His affiftant, in each hand a pistol, waiting for the fignal from the Profefor.
- 3—The pofition of the horfe's head.
- 4—The caveffon cord; two fmall rings thereon.
- 5—A fmall hand-line, (paffed through two fmall rings to keep it ftady,) occasionally ufed to refresh the horfe's mouth, and to render it fenfible to the motion of the hand, when the profefor judges proper to eafe him and reward his labour.
- 6—The leather buckle-furcingle, communicating with the breast-plate, crupper, bridle-reins, bearing-reins, &c.
- 7—The chambriere.
- 8—A basket, containing (the fuppofed) rewards, viz. corn, carrots, apples, pears, &c.

9—A

- 9—A drum, for the familiarizing a horse to it, when wanted.
- 10—A flag, used for the like purpose.
- 11—A trumpet, to sound on similar occasions.
- 12—Fire-works of different explosions, intended to be let off at the will and pleasure of the professor, either by the assistance of a rope-match, lighted, or by the leader of such fire-works being conducted to the pan of a pistol, primed only—for the like purpose—the pistol being previously made fast to the pillar, &c.—according to art.
- 13—Sketch of a bag to be filled with any given weight of sand, the more effectually to habituate the horse to bear his rider; and which the author buckles round the horse for such purpose..
- 14—Sketch of a spur-stick, six feet long, used on various occasions; also to accustom the horse to the use of the spur, previously to his being mounted.
- 15—The assistant's dog, which he occasionally causes to bark, at the pleasure of the professor.
- 16—A small hand-whip, hung on the pillar, for the use of the professor.

N. B. The various pages in the body of the work, and which refer to this sketch, will fully explain, and direct the young practitioner to the knowledge and utility of the whole of such apparatus, &c.

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