

THE NATURAL HORSEMAN

The Horse

AND

Ploughman

BY ROBERT DEMPSTER

ALYTH

DUNDEE

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THE country to which the earliest history of the horse belongs is not known with any certainty. From Arabia, Egypt, ventral Asia, &c., we have the earliest accounts. This beautiful animal ran wild in these countries, as we gather from history, at a very remote period. There is too much useless gossip current about the horse, but nevertheless we consider it to be the noblest and most usefully animal that has been devoted to the service and companionship of man among the animated creation. There have been horsemen since ever this quadruped became the companion of man ; and many persons have devoted themselves to the art of training, and have adopted many methods to accomplish a beautiful result. But it is sad to observe that since every person that has connection with a horse pretends to be a horseman, the dumb animal has been subjected to a terrible amount of cruel usage. Some men are horsemen by nature, and have no trouble in teaching the horse to be so tractable as to do nearly anything but speak. Men, possessed of a discontented and bad temper, can never learn the animal to do anything with pleasure. I would recommend these not to works a horse until they have learned to sing a song or whistle a tune good-naturedly.

It is with a desire to see this noble animal treated with kindness that I have published this treatise.

ARTICLE FIRST.

Go near the animal you wish to get acquainted with, speak in a familiar voice, just as if you were speaking through love to a sweetheart, move gently to the head ; let the animal smell you ; give it something to eat out of your hand, such as clover, corn, carrots, potatoes, &c. ; patio at the back of the ear with the hand, handle the beast all over ; keep clear of the heels when going about the tail, for fear the animal turn, out a kicker. Also beware of biters, as they are dangerous. They will be known by the position of the ears when you are approaching them. Very vicious animals have a rocking kind of movement, lifting first the one fore-foot and then the other ; their ears cocked ; and although you call or coax them they won't turn their head to look at you, but watch with one eye, and their head in their own position.

ARTICLE SECOND.

As horse and men are strangers to one another at first, we ought to be extremely careful how we treat them, when for the first time we put them to work and be our servant, They are often subjected to cruel treatment that should be avoided, and ought not to be allowed by those who have the power. No person should speak to a horse in a rough angry tone, nor unnecessarily strike them with a stick, whip, nor anything else, nor throw stones, nor frighten them in any shape or form, but should do all that lies in their power to make them have confidence in those who have charge of them.

ARTICLE THIRD.

In training the horse there must be regard to three distinct principle - Nature, Art, and Reason. Very much depends on a real knowledge of the animal's nature. It is quite true that their intellect and memory differ very much from ours ; but horses are naturally well disposed to man, who ought to understand and study their different characters. An impatient man need not try to train a horse to do anything. The nature of the horse must be strictly watched, and art employed with reason. No violence should be used, nothing but gentle treatment. Of course correction cannot be administered but with a little violence, but it must be immediately after the fault. For instance, if a horse does wrong, and a whip has to be brought, the chastisement is or no use.

ARTICLE FOURTH.

We have a good amount of knowledge in the training and teaching of horses, and have gathered and studied a few of the different methods, and can give as much information as any horse tamer or trainer that we have read about as yet. But we have neither the time nor the practice that the like of Rarey and others had. We will give as much information as we can with justice, not to interfere with the secrets of professed horsemen. For such secrets the reader must seek a personal interview with us. So in regard to what is professed here, namely. Natural Horsemanship, the Horse and Plough, if proper attention be paid and practised, the result will be found to be highly satisfactory. We must be excused for giving our information in as short space as possible.

ARTICLE FIFTH.

It is not by nature that horses are vicious or restive. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it is bad management, ill usage, and so forth. Therefore, let us look into a few of the vices, &c.

ARTICLE SIXTH

Biting is a very dangerous habit, and is often acquired by being annoyed or teased. So when the teeth of a horse come in contact with some person, the poor dumb animal catches it, perhaps from the very individual who provoked the beast. The following has been proved effectually, but it must be, done on the very act. Having the skin of a hedgehog fastened on the back of a glove, you can be grooming or doing any other thing to the animal with the glove on your hand ; give him a slap in the mouth, and repeat until the biting disappears. A slag of anything that is rotten and stinking will have the same effects. With a small piece of the skin, a string through the centre, you can stop them from biting when you are setting back or taking the animal by the head. The above is only for desperate cases. If the vice is not too old, a short switch will do, if used when the animal is in the act of biting.

ARTICLE SEVENTH.

Bad workers are very often caused to be so by bad management, either having too much to draw before being learned, or being forced to go further than the beast is able ; checked in the head when going too fast, bad shoulders, &c. The above should always be avoided. Give easy loads to draw to begin with. When the horse actually refuses to draw, be sure you can steady the animal ; do something to frighten it away. Never mind although it be at the gallop for a bit. Get them steadied to the travel as soon as possible. After they have been frightened away a few times they will soon come to go away quietly. Then you can give them more to do betimes. You can frighten them with the whip. Some earth thrown on their hind quarters has driven away two young horses when they did not wish to draw in the plough. A shake of the plough to make it rattle has also done it. When you take horses that have been accustomed going in the traces to the cart they sometimes

do not care about it. Take double reins, and keep well back on the animal. If they refuse to draw take them by the head, get them back, a bit, touch them up with the whip; let them go the way they wish themselves, if there is no danger. Guide them the way you want them as soon as possible ; coax them, and pat them on the neck behind the ears when they have done nearly right. It is good horses I mean - not the ones that are poor and are not able. Pet, love, and be kind to your horses, as you would or ought to be to a sweetheart or wife. There can be more done by kind treatment than bad usage.

ARTICLE EIGHTH.

Kicking is a very bad vice, and is acquired to begin with by the animal being afraid at what is behind it ; and when it has hurt itself it will kick the more to drive away what is hurting it. If horses are not smartly punished to begin with they are not long in becoming common kickers, but if taken in time and in the act it is a vice put a stop to easily. Two or three smart lessons will do it. In bad cases the horseman must have proper control over the mouth of the animal. If in the cart, urge the animal back, giving a smart punishment at the same time. Repeat the lesson until there is no appearance of kicking. If in the plough, have a good rein properly fastened to the mouth through both rings of the bit. Give the animal a good smart punishment, always going forward if possible. If the above won't do, buckle up one fore leg, and learn it to go on three legs. The animal soon gets tired, when the foot can be let down. Do not be slack in repeating such lessons, as the sooner the kicking is put a stop to it the better. In desperate cases a very strong girth must be obtained, with strong D in the centre, and one or two shackle belts for hind legs ; fasten through the D below the belly to the mouth. You can work the animal in anything so attired. If a kicking strap has to be used, it must be close on 4 inches wide, securely fastened with buckle to centre D of bricham, having a good staple in each shaft to answer the strap. It cannot kick over the shaft with it. As I have treated of the worst vices, let me say to the reader not to do anything without obtaining sanction of the owner of the animal.

ARTICLE NINTH.

Bolting or running away is a very bad custom, commencing through being frightened at somebody or something. Catch hold of the animal as quick as you can, jerk it back, and punish at the same time. Let it see what has frightened it. Coax and pet it, and do not go forward. By taking hold of both rings of the bit, with your thumb in at the jaw, you can make a very fast-going beast go quietly. Desperate bolters should be jerked first the one side and then to the other.

ARTICLE TENTH.

Horses that are restive when shoeing should not be smashed with the blacksmith's hammer, &c. Fasten down the ear, take up one of the fore legs till the smith get hold of the hind one. He can lift when you let down. Taking hold of the hough joint will keep it quiet while the smith is at work, but there must be somebody at its head. Whistling will have a good effect.

ARTICLE ELEVENTH.

Desperate vicious horses are sometimes to be encountered. Decoy them into an enclosure with an old or quiet beast. Get a cover conveyed over their head. They can be choked if need be. You can secure the feet when the beast is down. You can easily put a bricham and bridle on before you let it up. Have a strong bolt for the middle of the animal, and have D S in it. Fasten good reins through them to the mouth, with one from the beast's head to lead with. The rein through the D will keep the animal from running at you. You can stop the horse with it although you be before it. In this attitude learn it to walk, trot, or stand, and then learn it to work. When you put it in stable, give a feed of corn. If you know the way, learn it to leave its corn and come back all the length of the bindle, which will be very handy when you require it again. Always repeat the lessons till the animal is come to go away quietly. Then you can give them more to do betimes. You can frighten them with the whip. Some earth thrown on their hind quarters has driven away two young horses when they did not wish to draw in the plough. A shake of the plough to make it rattle has also done it. When you take horses that have been accustomed going in the traces to the cart they sometimes do not care about it. Take double reins, and keep well back on the animal. If

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ARTICLE TWELFTH.

To harness a wild horse, have him learned to come to hand as quick as possible, having a headstool and noseband, and a bit to be attached if required, with a short line in it, substitute it for bindle. You can get the brecham on over the top of it. Keep him to hand till you get the saddle and brecham on. You can hold the rein with your teeth while you are putting it on. You must train such animals to stand steady when you wish them. When putting them in the plough, you can take the chains all off the backbands, book them to the swingletrees, spread them neatly out, and set the horses in between them. You can hook them on, and hold your horses by the heads, which is a good plan for kickers.

ARTICLE THIRTEENTH.

If you want people to think you are a horseman, get your horses to love you as much as possible. You can do this by being kind to the animals. Give them to eat out of your hand whatever you think they will relish, and pat them behind the ear. Whistle on them when you want them, and they will soon learn to come a long distance. They like locust cake, boiled rye, or barley. Even if you boil a pennyworth for every lesson, never call them without giving them something, although it was but a potato.

ARTICLE FOURTEENTH.

To make a horse pretend he is telling you the time of day, there must be a belt put around in front of the shoulder, with D in the centre ; a shackle

belt with D in the centre ; fasten a rein to it though the neck-belt, down again through the shackle D again, keeping the other end in your hand. You can work the foot with this rein and teach the animal to do it, by making a motion with your hand. This would indicate the number of times to pat for hours and minutes, letting your hand fall being an indication to stop. With two or three lessons every day the animal will soon come to do it without the belts and rein. Then you can show the animal your watch and exhibit. Put the shackle belt angle around the hoof in between the cakers behind.

ARTICLE FIFTEENTH.

To make a horse lie down at the will of his master, have one shackle belt, with D in the centre, on the off foreleg, a surcingle. with D in the centre, around the belly. Strap up the near foreleg by slipping a belt for the purpose up over the knee, with keepers in the centre to keep it in position. Pass a good rein through the D below the belly, fix it to the D of the off foreleg, twice through, retaining hold of the other end with your right hand, take hold of the bit with the other hand, pull the rein as steady as you can, press against his shoulder till he move. As soon as he lifts his weight your pulling will cause him to come to his knees. The rein must be kept tight, so that he cannot get his leg straight again. Turn his head to you, press against his shoulder with as much steady pressure as you can, in about ten or fifteen minutes he will lie down ; then handle him all over, pat him on the neck, let him lie for some minutes, say ten ; straighten out his legs and let him up, rest him a while, repeat again, giving three lessons per day ; using the words "Lie down." In three or four days the animal, if no bad usage is adopted, will lie down at the word of command. I want no person to use the above article unless at the owner's request.

ARTICLE SIXTEENTH.

When breaking the colts always secure the services of a good man. At present any goslin gets this to do, and they are generally a torture to themselves, and whoever has to do with them afterwards. Get the colt into a shed or loose box, and halter them with a halter that wont run tight on the jaws. If you have one of the buckling brechams it will be handy, but always slip it

over the head, making it tighter as the colt learns to push. When you put on the bridle open the jaws with the thumb into the wick of the mouth, do the same when taking it out - be very cautious for a long time when putting on the harness. Give them a lunge with a long rein first to the right, and then to the left, which lets you know what strength they are in the head. Give a slip or stick to draw to begin with. A good man can make the best job if he has a double sledge for them, and when they are couened. Having a plough brought, just lift the swingletrees to it, give then a number of rounds, not too deep to begin with ; give good round turns till they are acquaint with the swingletrees and chains at their heels. It is best not to have the tie hooks attached to the bits for a time, but to have a halter below the bridle to begin with. We have seen their mouths get so tender that we had to take out the bits ; this prevented the tilting of their heads through fear, but there is a danger of them running away, so you must be active man, and have faith in yourself. Colts and fillies should always be fat and full of vigour when broken. Tell the colt to go where you want it with a distinct, cheerful, commanding-like tone, at the same time pulling the rein with a stout hand in the direction wished. " Wish off," " high," " back," or " stand," " go on," " go steady," " go quick," &c. they soon learn the voice if it is used manfully. Speak light and easy to horses, and mind the good rule that what is well done is twice done.

ARTICLE SEVENTEENTH.

The horse in general is very healthy, especially when carefully fed, groomed, and cleaned out. A hot bran mash on Saturday evening is very good for them when on hard meat. Nitre and sulphur can be added as occasion requires. Nitre cures slight colds. Give warm aired water to drink in the morning. feeding should be done regularly. When the animal is to be away from home too long they should have meat in due time. When food is to be changed it should be done with care-grass, &c., mixed with something to keep them from taking a bellyful too quick. Along with corn and hay, the following can be given in small quantities :- Oilcake, locust cake, carrots, swedish turnips, steamed potatoes, barley, steeped at least twenty-four hours. Give salt, or have rock salt, in the animals dish. Always groom well. Keep the joints all well brushed out. Always keep the animal's bed dry. Be good to the horses, and they will be good to you.

ARTICLE EIGHTEENTH

In ploughing, see that your horses are fairly yoked. To describe the method of holding is impossible, as the plough is built in so many different sets. The best way is to work yourself into the position that the plough cuts prettiest, and presses best, Since the furrows are so much levelled in for machines, it would be a good plan to throw out a fur at every feering. If there was time to cart it away to the earth and lime depot it would give a better chance for level feering. The left band still should be kept well down when feering, which cuts the two furrows to lie lower. When holding narrower to take off a bend, hold deeper, and when wider hold aber ; this will keep the level better (surface level). In trenching to fill in the fur, skin light. Get as much soil as possible. Do not throw it on the last ploughed furrow, but begin at the edge of it to fill in the fur. Take it neatly off the back, working the soil before the board into the centre, the last round of filling in, running the plough up or down the very centre, Give five seed grooves about the same breadth as your ploughing. Have plenty of land on the plough, so that you will see by the horse. Hold the left-hand stilt low.

ARTICLE NINETEENTH.

Sowing is what a stout man has no trouble in learning, but care must be taken not to make a mess of it. Step always the same, and fill the hand equal. Watch the stuff that it is falling regularly, sprinkling about two furs over the edge. Keep it, falling at that. To join well, do not let, the one handful go over the next, nor two handfuls fall in the same place. On steep land, if you are making shorter steps going up the hill, take smaller handfuls, calculating the opposite going down. Count the ridges, and calculate the number for an acre for getting down the seed and sowing. Look back over it after it is sown occasionally to see that you are keeping it regular. If you are sowing newly pickled wheat or watered barley, and if you have been sowing it dry before, you may be apt to make it thin in the centre of the ridge with the wet stuff. You will detect it quickest by taking a look at it after it is sown. Pay strict attention, for it is not creditable to have seed badly sown.

ARTICLE TWENTIETH.

NO man should say he can build stacks unless he is quite sure he can do it. I don't believe there are five in every ten that can make watertight stacks. Although they come very little speed, and get the stack into pretty good shape, it only turns out a mess of muck when it is required to be taken to the thrashing mill. The size of a stack should be calculated by the order of the stuff. A boss can be set if required. A sack filled tight with straw, drawn from an open stathel below, will serve the purpose of a boss. When building on the ground give plenty of wattles, or set the sheaves of a ground stack pretty tight up to begin with. Although you should not require to heart for two or three gings, close every ging, and begin back a bit. Heart only as far out as keep the outside ging sloped to run off the water. Hearting out with the stubble ends about the hand of the outside ging is generally too far out, and only keeps the stack level, and wet gets in, On an ordinary stack you cannot err to have it up in the heart to the level of your shoulder when your knees are on the outside ging and especially when you come near the easing ; also keep the easing the least thing fuller than the body of the stack. To cast the drop clear to the ground, when ever you begin to put on the head or top it should be as straight as you can work on it, keeping the stubble ends of the sheaves tight down, with the ears or grain end the least sloped back. The up set sheaves should run with a straight by the glance of eye to the caring. Many formers would be better to pay a good builder X3 per week than have the stuff made a mess of as it is many a time, by inexperienced hands. The above sentence may also apply to sowing.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

It would be far pleasanter for all concerned if farmers would give their ploughmen horses and implements, such as ploughs, graips shovels, &c., all of the same kind. It is wrong to have the first man supplied with things first-class and the rest with old rubbish, as is often the case. Blacksmiths should try to make the ploughs all on the same model, selecting the most approved of working plough as the model. I notice that ploughs work well with file fore end of the beam and the back end of the left hand stilt on the straight. As indicated in the diagram above, the straight edge should come direct from before where the whole is fastened to the left hand stilt, the beam to be naturally bent from the wheel to the front sheath, so that the straight edge comes direct from the beam at the front sheath, and forms a direct line

in the centre of the stilts of the plough. The back sheath set so as to give pressure of land, the sock and point of the beam to be set for depth ; the front sheath to be set with consideration of the cut to be given. Angularity of cut is going out of fashion ; pressure is substituted. The backmost sheath should be put on about an inch full to the left hand, to give the plough land, It is a clever thing to get the socks to sit right amongst the soil. The head of the plough should be set so that the socks will cut deep from point or left hand side, which makes it cut thick, and gives the plough a position to sit into. You can have the back of the sock set high or low as the soil requires. The sock should be very particularly fitted. The sole and back end of the board to be well set to the level. The board should be kept well up in the front, being at the level behind, about 9 in. wide below and 18 in. above, The coulter to fasten on the right side of beam. To give angularity of cut the twist on the beam should be put on according to the angle cut. For instance, having the coulter properly set, and say you will generally plough 7.5 in. deep, the same height of sheath at breast or plough and coulter must come in unison, so that there will be no ruffling to make the soil fall into the breast of the plough, and spoil the corner of the furr when it comes past that most important place. One Of the new fashioned cutting wheels is a great improvement. They are fastened on the beam in front of the coulter, having a flange to cut about 1.5 inch deep in the very place where the cutter ruffles in cutting, 111d like a wheel on a grubber. Measure the depth. I think that Sellars & Sons' No. 29 steel boards, when properly hung on a plough, are good pressing boards. A great number of boards should be put out of date, and boards properly bevelled in the breast to turn ; the fur with the back end levelled to press substituted, so that a man could get satisfaction.

ARTICLE TWENTY-FIRST - RECIPES.

To Project Horses from Flies. - Get a handful of walnut leaves, steep them with a pint of water for one night, and boil for a quarter of an hour. Besmear the affected parts, such as the ears and flanks, with a spunging of the stuff. If right performed you will keep away the flies, and have a fine fragrance besides.

Recipes for Harness Composition - 0.5 lb. ivory black, 1 oz. 2 indigo blue, 1d heelball, 1 oz. gum arabic, 2 oz. spirits of wine, pint of turpentine, 0.25 lb. bees-wax. Dissolve the wax in the 0.25 turpentine, and the gum in the

wine. Mix the black and blue well together. Mix the whole together, and simmer over a slow fire ten or fifteen minutes. Take care that it does not run over, or that a fire be not too strong to burn the stuff.

Miscellaneous Recipes.- We commend that every person that has to do with horses guide them to the best of their ability. Be good to them and they will be good to you. Meat them well, and with good treatment they will grow fat and look healthy. Costiveness and the retention of food in the stomach are the prevailing cases of spasmodic colic and grips. If not paid attention to inflammation of the intestines takes place, and terminates fatally. As we are not veterinary surgeons, let us try with carefulness to prevent these, for it is cruelty to be careless with a dumb animal. The best remedy we can give is do not meat them and hunger them time about. Give them their meat at regular intervals. It ought to be of first-rate quality, and keep by that. Horses that have been starved when young should be taken care of not, to get too much, for they do not know their fill, and would spoil themselves. Keep barley straw, rimey grass, &c., that would not digest easily, away from them. Give the use of bran in the food, linseed cake, say one pound per day. Such tends as a preventive against sundry colic and tungitive grips. Boiling water, bran mashes, with a little nitre on Saturday nights when all their food is hard.

A FEW OF THE GRIEVANCES OF FARM SERVANTS.

The ploughmen as a class have much need of redress for their grievances.

They have too long hours specified as their working hours. They do not get their money when it is earned.

They have to sell their labour for every year on a market stance, just as the cattle were wont to be sold. The ploughmen do not get so keen competition for their labour as the farmer gets for his cattle at the new invention of public auctions.

There are not enough people employed on farms to do the work satisfactorily. Many farms would yield double the produce if properly cultivated.

The horses and implements in many instances are very bad, and although a man try his best he cannot do the work satisfactorily.

In many instances the houses and bothies are nearly uninhabitable, and often where a remodelling has been effected they are made little better.

The milk and meal in many instances are not of good quality. The milk is often a very very small pint. Farm servants get very few holidays indeed. If they get a Fastday it is with a grumble. Some farmers engage howling yowling men for greives and foremen, and all the people about the place are disturbed. The female farm servants are in worse bondae than men, and ought to be taken in hand by their brethren.

There area lot more grievances to which farm servants are subjected. Other workpeople are one generation before us nearer to the millennium.

We, the Farm Servants, should form into a Brotherly Lodge. The one should enliten and teach the other, and try and enlighten ourselves from the state of degradation into which we have fallen.

RULES OF FARM SERVANTS' AND AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' LITERARY AND BENEVOLENT LODGE.

1. That this combination be called the Farm Servants and Agricultural Labourers' Literary Lodge.

2. Any person may become a member of the Lodge by pledging themselves to do all that lies in their power for the formation thereof, and to be helpful one to another during distress and hardships, and with true brotherly kindness teach one another all that is possible, both in literature and workmanship.

3. That the members pay equally amongst them any small sum of money that may be deemed necessary by a majority of the members to defray expenses, or be considered no longer a member. The office-bearers to be elected from amongst the members as a position of honour.

ROBERT DEMPSTER,

Morne Street, Alyth.

SOUR MILK, CART GREASE BUTTER, AND MOULDY BREAD.

This is part of the evidence in a case heard at Forfar. The pursuer was D. C., dairyman at Letham at one time. Being engaged to get his meat in the house, he was to be hungered if he would not take what was not good, so he left. The nature of the food, as described by a witness, was - Milk, blaze or sour ; butter, like cart grease ; the bread mouldy. The dogs and hens got it when it could not be eaten by the servants. Cart grease is black, and so was the butter ; it was stinking. The smell was enough. The servants in the bothy got better milk than those in the house, who had to buy bread and herrings to keep themselves alive. If they took three cups of tea, they had to take one without sugar, or trick about. I never ate the butter ; I gave the milk to the sow ; I did not eat the mouldy part of the bread ; I never touched the cheese. I took the broth to keep me alive. If I am stout it is with the meat I bought. I did not keep an account of it I or I would have brought it with me to the court ; subsequently I went to the bothy, and was glad at it.