PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

ONTINUING IT RE-THAT OVERREACH —I was bred from my youth a blacksmith and farmer, and whether a natural mechanic or not, I was always anxious to know the whys and wherefires of things, or more properly speaking, the causalities and preventives. I was also fond of trying experiment upon such things as appeared to flavor of improvements. I was generally in the shop with my father in the evenings, rainy days, and such other times as I could be spared from the farm and school. By being in the shop so much, I obtained the views of the farmers generally, and by that was enabled to make many improvements on the farm. I learned also, that many farmers entertain very erroneous views about block-mithing, (and I might add blacksmiths too;) still they were bound to dictate according to their prejudices; as, for instance, one says: "This horse over-reaches, I want you to put the forward shoes as far forward as possible, and set the hind shoes as far back, or he will tear them off." I would sometimes try to reason the case by saying the way to prevent a horse from over-reaching, is to augment the speed of the forward feet, and retard the motion of hind ones; but in order to accomplish that, I shall have to reverse your directions.—Some who had little or no mechanical genius, would cut short all argument, and say, "follow my directions or else not shoe the horse." Of course; a mechanic must obey orders, if he breaks owners; so the horse would go out of the shop, nicely fettered, with his shoes clicking at every step; while, perhaps, the man of inquiry would desire a full explanation. My way is, to make the toe-corks very low, and standing a little under, and the shoes set as far back as convenient on the forward feet, with high heel corks, and the toe-cork a bg, projecting forward, thus keeping back the hind foot, while coming up over a high toe-cork, giving time for the forward foot to get out of the way. If thus shod, the horse will travel clean, without a click, and his speed will be increased on a trot, fifteen or twenty seconds to a mile.—*New England Farmer.*

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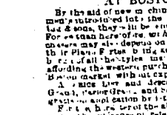

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