

The Huntingdon Journal.

"LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND FOREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE."

WM. BREWSTER, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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Advertising and Job Work.

We would remind the Advertising community and all others who wish to bring their business extensively before the public, that the *Journal* has the largest circulation of any paper in the county—that it is constantly increasing—and that it goes into the hands of our wealthiest citizens.

We would also state that our facilities for executing all kinds of JOB PRINTING are equal to those of any other office in the county; and all Job Work entrusted to our hands will be done neatly, promptly, and at prices which will be satisfactory.

THE AMERICAN ART OF TAMING HORSES.

Originally Systematized and Practiced BY JOHN S. RAREY.

Its History, Different Methods, &c. BEING A COMPLETE COMPENDIUM OF ALL THAT IS KNOWN OF IT.

Horse-taming has for ages found its votaries in every part of the world where the horse subserves the interests of man. But it has been left to the last ten years, and to Mr. John S. Rarey, to develop a system that is really practical and of universal application. Mr. Rarey is one of four brothers, and a citizen of Grovesport, Ohio. Although it is evident that he is not the original discoverer of the principle upon which he operates, still we must trace the present useful and greatly improved practice directly to him, and consequently we can only view with disgust the many attempts of innovators to deprive Mr. Rarey of his justly deserved and hard-earned laurels.

Some time since, Mr. Rarey printed, for the use of his pupils in this country, a small pamphlet, descriptive of certain educational features peculiar to his system, but only of supplementary utility to the real operation by which the horse is subjected and deprived of his ferocious properties. This pamphlet has since been reprinted in England, owing to the absence of an international copyright, and has been generally disseminated as his true and complete system of horse-taming. He has stated the truth of the matter in the *London Journals*; but yet enough of his secret was disclosed in this pirated pamphlet to render it advisable for him to re-release his pupils from their pledge of secrecy, and to continue his lessons without exacting any such pledge in the future.

All obligation of secrecy having thus been removed, we now proceed to lay before the readers of the *Journal* a complete account of the system, its principles and its methods.

The Practice of Horse-Taming.

The one principle which you must firmly establish in your mind, and which is so essential in horse-taming, that it is almost the corner-stone of the theory, is the law of kindness. Next to kindness you must have patience, next to patience indomitable perseverance. With these qualities in us, and not possessing fear or anger, we undertake to tame horses with perfect assurance of success, if we use the proper

means. The horse receives instruction in, and by the use of, four of his senses—namely, seeing, hearing, smelling and feeling. You must remember that the horse is a dumb brute, has not the faculty of reasoning on experiments that you make on him, but is governed by instinct. In a natural state he is afraid of man, and never, until you teach him that you do not intend to hurt him, will that fear cease—we mean that wild, natural fear—for you must have him fear you as well as love you, before you can absorb his attention as much as is necessary to break him to your liking. It is a principle in the nature of a horse not to offer resistance to our wishes, if made known in a way that he understands, and in accordance with the laws of his nature.

In subjugating the horse, we must make a powerful appeal to his intelligence; this can only be done by a physical operation. It is an undisputed fact that the battles of all animals (except such as are furnished with horns) are fought by seizing the other by the throat. A dog that has thus been held by his antagonist for a few minutes, on being released, is often so thoroughly cowed that no human artifice can induce him to resume the unequal contest. This is the principle upon which horse-taming is founded.

Choking a horse is the first process in taming, and is but the beginning of his education. By its operation a horse becomes docile, and will thereafter receive any instruction which he can be made to understand. Teaching the animal to lie down at our bidding, tends to keep him permanently cowed, as it is a perpetual reminder of his subdued condition.

It requires a good deal of practice to tame a horse successfully; also a nice judgment to know when he is choked sufficient. There is a bare possibility that he might get more than would be good for him. We advise persons not perfectly familiar with a horse to resort rather to the strapping and throwing down process (unless he is very vicious) described below, than in ordinary cases will prove successful. It is the fault of most people who have owned a horse to imagine that they are experts in his management; while on the contrary, many professional horsemen are the worst parties to attempt his subjugation—Unless a man have a good disposition he need not attempt horse-taming.

In practicing the method mentioned above, strapping and throwing down, repute with the animal to be operated upon, into a close stable, with plenty of litter upon the floor (tombark or sawdust is preferable). In the first place fasten up the left fore-leg with the arm strap, in such a manner that it will be permanently secured. Then take a broad strap and buckle and pass it around the neck just back of the jaw bone. Draw the strap as tight as possible, so tight as to almost arrest the horse's breathing. The strap must not be buckled, but held in this position to prevent slipping back. The animal will struggle for a few minutes, when he will become perfectly quiet, overpowered by a sense of suffocation; the veins in his head will swell; his eyes lose their fire; his knees totter and become weak; a slight vertigo will ensue, and growing gradually exhausted, by backing him around the stable, he will come down on his knees, in which position it is an easy matter to push him on his side, when his throat should be released. Now pat and rub him gently for about twenty minutes, when he will be subdued. It is only in extreme cases necessary to repeat the operation of choking. The next lesson is to teach him to lie down, which is described below in the second account of the second method of taming. No horse can effectually resist the terrible effects of being choked.

It must be constantly borne in mind that the operator must not be boisterous or violent, and that the greatest possible degree of kindness is absolutely essential. When the horse is prostrate he should be soothed until his eyes show that he has become perfectly tranquil.

Another Method.

The plan is very simple, though not as expeditious as the previous one. Buckle or draw a strap tight around the neck, lift a fore leg and fasten around it the opposite end of the strap, the shorter the better. It will be seen that in this plan that the horse is made the instrument by which the punishment is inflicted. When he attempts to put his foot down his head goes with it, and he thus chokes himself; care should be taken that he does not pitch on his head, and thus endanger his neck.

Taming a Horse without Resorting to Straps.

Secure the horse with a stout halter to the manger. If extremely unruly, muzzle him. Soothe him with the hands for a

few minutes, until he becomes somewhat pacified. Then seize him by the throat, close to the jaw bone, with the right hand, and by the mane with the left. Now forcibly compress his windpipe until he becomes so exhausted, that, by lightly kicking him on the fore legs, he will lie down, after which he should be treated as previously described. This process requires more courage in the operator, and also great muscular strength.

Another Method of Taming a Horse—also, to teach him to lie down.

The horse to be operated upon should be led into a close stable. The operator should be previously provided with a stout leather halter; a looped strap to slip over the animal's knee; a strong circle, and a long and short strap—the first to fasten around the fore foot which is at liberty, and the second to permanently secure the leg which is looped up.

In the first place, if the horse be a biter, muzzle him; then lift and bend his left fore leg, and slip a loop over it. The leg which is looped up must be secured by applying the short strap, buckling it around the pastern joint and fore-arm next put on the surcingle, and fasten the long strap around the right fore foot, and pass the end through a loop attached to the surcingle; after which fasten on a couple of thick leather knee-pads—these can be put on in the first place if convenient. The pads are necessary, as some horses in their struggles come violently on their knees, abrading them badly. Now take a short hold of the long strap with your right hand; stand on the left side of the horse, grasp the bit in your left hand, while in this position back him gently about the stable until he becomes so exhausted as to exhibit a desire to lie down, which desire should be gratified with as little violence as possible; bear your weight firmly against the shoulder of the horse, and pull steadily on the strap with your right hand; this will force him to raise his foot, which should be immediately pulled from under him. This is the critical moment; cling to the horse, and after a few struggles he will lie down. In bearing against the animal do not desist from pulling and pushing until you have him on his side. Prevent him from attempting to rise by pulling his head toward his shoulder. As soon as he is done struggling caress his face and neck, also, handle every part of his body, and render yourself as familiar as possible. After he has lain quietly for twenty minutes let him rise, and immediately repeat the operation, removing the straps as soon as he is down; and if his head is pulled toward his shoulder it is impossible for him to get up. After throwing him from two to five times the animal will become as submissive and abject as a well-trained dog, and you need not be afraid to indulge in any liberties with him. A young horse is subdued much quicker than an old one, as his habits are not confirmed. An incorrigible horse should have two lessons a day; about the fourth lesson he will be permanently conquered. If the operation is repeated several times, he can be made to lie down by simply lifting up his fore-leg and repeating the words, "Lie down, Sir," which he must be previously made familiar with.

The following rules will serve as a guide to the amateur operator, and should be strictly observed: First: The horse must not be forced down by violence, but must be tired out till he has a strong desire to lie down. Secondly: He must be kept quiet on the ground until the expression of the eye shows that he is tranquilized, which invariably takes place by patiently waiting and gently patting the horse. Thirdly: Care must be taken not to throw the horse upon his neck when bent, as it may easily be broken. Fourthly: In backing him no violence must be used, or he may be forced on his haunches and his back broken. Fifthly: The halter and off-rein are held in the left hand, so as to keep the head away from the latter, while, if the horse attempts to plunge, the latter is drawn tight, when, the off-leg being raised the animal is brought on his knees, and rendered powerless for offensive purposes.

The operations of teaching a horse to follow a man, and also to cure him of kicking and balking, should be preceded by the throwing down process, and in bad cases by the choking operation, as the animal is thus rendered gentle, tractable, and obedient to whatever he can be taught to comprehend. This subsequent educational course is necessary in order to render the reformation permanent.

How to break Colts.

The following instructions with relation to the management and breaking of colts, and the subsequent operations upon obdurate and ungovernable horses, were originally written and published by Mr. Rarey some three years ago, and are an important part of his system, although coming more particularly under the head of training, rather than taming. If a colt is properly broken in his first encounter with man, the necessity for a method of taming, other than that used for wild horses, would never have been experienced, therefore these instructions are peculiarly valuable.

How to Halter, Saddle, and Bridle, a Colt.

In breaking a colt, we should first endeavor to make him conscious of what is required of him. Fasten him with a halter for the first time, placing the saddle upon his back, fastening the girths, are all matters of paramount importance, demanding the greatest degree of patience, perseverance, and an intuitive knowledge of his idiosyncrasies.

Before putting a halter on a colt, he must be rendered familiar with it by caressing him and permitting him to examine the articles with his nose. Then place a portion of it over his head, occasionally giving it a slight pull, and in a few minutes he will be accustomed to these liberties, and then the halter may be fastened on properly. To teach him to lead is another difficulty. Stand a little on one side rub his nose and forehead, take hold of the strap and pull gently, and at the same time touch him very lightly with the end of a long whip across his hind legs. This will make him start, and advance a few steps. Repeat the operation several times and he will soon learn to follow you by simply pulling the halter. The process of saddling and bridling is similar. The mouth of the colt should be frequently handled, after which introduce a plain snaffle between his teeth and hold it there with one hand and caress him with the other. After a time he will allow the bridle to be placed upon him. The saddle can now be brought in and rubbed against his nose, his neck and legs; next hang the stirrup strap across his back, and gradually insinuate the girths into his place. The girth should not be fastened until he becomes thoroughly acquainted with the saddle. The first time the girth is buckled it should be done so loosely as not to attract his attention; subsequently it can be tightened without inspiring him with fear, which if fastened immediately it would certainly do. In this manner the wildest colt can be effectually subjugated by such imperceptible degrees that he gives tacit obedience before he is aware of his altered condition.

The proper way to bit a Colt.

Farmers often put a biting harness on a colt the first thing they do with him, buckling up the biting as tight as they can draw it, to make him carry his head high and then turn him out in a trot to run a half a day at a time. This is one of the worst punishments that they could in diet on a colt, and very injurious to a young horse that has been used to running in pasture with his head down.

A horse should be well accustomed to the bit before you put on the biting harness and when you first bit him you should only rein his head up to that point where he naturally holds it, let that be high or low he will soon learn that he cannot lower his head, and that raising it a little will loosen the bit in his mouth. This will give him the idea of raising his head to loosen the bit, and then you can draw the biting a little tighter every time you put it on, and he will still raise his head to loosen it. By this means you will gradually get his head and neck in the position you wish him to carry it, and give him a graceful carriage without hurting him, making him angry, or causing his mouth to get sore.

If you put the biting on very tight the first time, he cannot raise his head enough to loosen it, but will bear on it all the time, and paw, sweat, and throw himself. Many horses have been killed by falling backward with the biting on; their heads being drawn up, strike the ground with the whole weight of the body. Horses that have their heads drawn up tightly should not have the biting on more than fifteen or twenty minutes at a time.

How to Harness the Colt.

You should by all means have your harness made to fit your horse, especially the collar. Hundreds of horses have been spoiled by collars that do not fit as they should. A little attention to this matter beforehand will facilitate your progress very much. Take your harness into the stable; go through the same process, that you did with the saddle, letting the colt examine your harness satisfactorily; then put it on carefully; and after you have it all complete, put on your lines; use them gently, as he is rather skittish, until he is used to them a little; then lead

him back and forth in the stable until he does not seem to mind the fitting of the harness to his body; then take hold of the end of the traces and pull slightly at first, increasing your strength until he will pull you across the stable back and forth; then hitch him into whatever you wish him to pull.

TO HITCH UP A COLT.

This should be done with great caution, first letting him examine the buggy or sulky in his own way of examining objects then carefully hitch him up; having everything safe, let him start the buggy empty, and pull that at first in that way; then get in, and let him take it slow, and he will not be near so apt to scare, and by degrees you will be making a good work beast.

If you want to have a horse that will be true to pull, and think he could pull a mountain, never hitch him to anything that he cannot pull, and after he is used to pulling, he thinks that he can pull anything, because he always has, and he does not know anything about his strength beyond his experience.

The kind of bit, and how to accustom a Colt to it.

You should use a large smooth snaffle bit, so as not to hurt his mouth, with a bar on each side so as to prevent the bit from pulling through either way. This you should attach to the head stall of your bridle and put it on your colt without any reins to it, and let him run loose in a large stable or shed some time, until he becomes a little used to the bit, and will bear it without trying to get it out of his mouth. It would be well, if convenient, to repeat this several times before you do anything more with the colt; as soon as he will bear the bit attach a single rein to it, with out any martingale. You should also have a halter on your colt, or a bridle made after the fashion of a halter, with a strap it, so that you can hold or lead him about without pulling on the bit much. He is now ready for the saddle.

How to mount the Colt.

First saddle him well on both sides of the saddle, and all over, until he will stand still without holding, and is not afraid to see you anywhere about him.

As soon as you have him thus gentled, get a small block, about one foot or eighteen inches in height, and set it down by the side of him, about where you want to stand to mount him; step up on this, raising yourself very gently; horses notice every change of position very closely, and if you were to step suddenly on the block, it would be very apt to scare him; but by raising yourself gradually on it, he will see you without being frightened, in a position very near the same as when you are on his back.

As soon as he will bear this without alarm, unite the stirrup-strap next to your feet and put your left foot into the stirrup, and stand square over it, holding your knee against the horse and your toe out, so as not to touch him under the shoulder with the toe of your boot. Place your right hand on the front of the saddle, and on the opposite side of you, taking hold of a portion of the mane and reins, as they hang loosely over the neck, with your left hand; then gradually bear your weight on the stirrup, and on your right hand, until the horse feels your whole weight on the saddle. Repeat this several times, each time raising yourself a little higher from the block, until he will allow you to raise your leg over his croup and place yourself in the saddle.

There are three great advantages in having a block to mount from. First: A sudden change of position is very apt to frighten a young horse who has never been handled. He will allow you to walk up to him and stand by his side without scaring at you, because you have wanted him to that position, but if you get down on your hands and knees and crawl toward him, he will be very much frightened; and upon the same principle he would be frightened at your new position if you had the power to hold yourself over his back without touching him. Then, the first great advantage of the block is to gradually accustom him to that new position in which he will see you when you ride him.

Secondly, by the process of leaning your weight in the stirrups and on your hand, you can gradually accustom him to your weight, so as not to frighten him by having him feel it all at once. And in the third place, the block elevates you so that you will not have to make a spring in order to get on the horse's back, but from it you can gradually raise yourself into the saddle.

Subsequent Educational Lessons in Horse Taming—How to subdue a kicking horse. A kicking horse is the worst kind of a

horse to undertake to subdue, and more so he dreads by man than any other; indeed it would not be too much to say that they are more dreaded than all the other vicious horses put together. You often hear the expression, even from horse-jockeys themselves, "I don't care what he does so he don't kick." Now, a kicking horse can be broken from kicking in harness, and effectually broken too, though it will require some time to manage him safely; but perseverance and patience by this rule will do it effectually. When you go to harness a horse that you know nothing about, if you want to find out whether he is a kicking horse or not, you can ascertain that fact by stroking him in the flank where the hair lies upward, which you can discover easily on any horse; just stroke him down with the ends of your fingers, and if he does not switch his tail and shake his head, and lay back his ears or some of these, you need not fear his kicking; if he does any or all of these set him down for a kicking horse, and watch him carefully.

When you harness a kicking horse, have a strap about three feet long, with a buckle on one end; have several holes punched in the strap; wrap it once around his leg just above the hoof; lift up his foot touching his body; put the strap around the arm of his leg, and buckle it; then you can go behind him and pull back the traces; you must not fear his kicking while his foot is up, for it is impossible for him to do it. Practice him in this way awhile, and he will soon learn to walk on three legs. You should not hitch him up until you have practiced him with his legs up two or three times, pulling on the traces and walking him along. After you have practiced him a few times in this way, take up his foot as directed; hitch him to something, and cause him to pull it a short distance; then take him out, caress him every time you work with him. You will find it more convenient to fasten up his left fore leg, because that is the side you are on. After you have had him hitched up once or twice, you should get a long strap; put it around his foot as before directed (above the hoof and below the pastern-joint) put it through a ring in your harness; take hold of it in your hand; hitch him up gently, and if he makes a motion to kick, you can pull up his foot and prevent it. You should use this strap until you have him broken from kicking, which will not take very long. You should hitch a kicking horse by himself you can manage him better in this way than to hitch him by the side of another horse.

How to break a Horse from Scaring.

It is an established rule in philosophy, that there is not an effect without a cause and if so, there must be some cause for the scaring of a horse. The horse scares either from imagination or from pain—Now, it is a law of his nature, that if you will convince him that any object will do him no harm, there is no danger of his scaring at it, no matter how frightful it may be in appearance. To exemplify this, take a horse that is very easily scared at an umbrella, take that horse into a tight stable where you can have his attention, take him by the bridle, and hold the umbrella in your hand; when he first looks at it he will be afraid of it, and if he could he would soon be out of its reach, but hold it in your hand, let him look at it and feel it with his nose a few minutes, and then you can open and shut it as you please, occasionally letting him feel it with his nose, and soon he will care nothing about it.

In the same manner you can break any horse from scaring at things that may look frightful to him, logs stumps by the road side, or anything that you may wish to carry on him. If you wish to make a trial of this theory, just take a horse into the stable and let him examine the frightful object a few moments after the mode of examining things, and you will be perfectly satisfied. We have tried horses that would not suffer you to take an umbrella on them shut, and in fifteen minutes could open and shut it at pleasure, and they will pay no attention to it. There is something peculiar in the horse (though it is because he has not the faculty of reasoning). You can take an object that he is afraid of, take only on one side, let him examine it on that side only, do not let the other eye see it; he will be broken on one side and, as soon as the other eye beholds it, will be afraid until he looks at it and touches it with his nose; then he will be broken on both sides.

How to learn a Horse to follow you.

Take him into a large stable or shed, take hold of the bridle or halter with your left hand, have a long switch or whip in your right, after caressing him a little put

your right hand over his shoulder with the whip extending back so that you can touch him up with the whip applied gently around his hind legs. Start him a little give him a gentle tap with the whip, walking him around the stable, saying to him "Come along, boy;" or call him by his name, taking him around the stable a few times, holding him by the bridle. After you have taken him around in this way a few times you can let go of his bridle, saying "Come along, boy," and if he stop, tap him up with the whip gently, and in a short time he will learn that you want him to follow you; then gradually get before him, have him to follow you around the stable in this way a few minutes then he will understand what you want him to do. After you have taught him to follow in the stable, take him into the stable lot, learn him to follow you in that a few minutes; then you can take him into the public road or street, and he will follow you there and in a short time he will follow you wherever you want him to. You should often pat him, and caress him, and give him to understand you do not intend to hurt him, and he will soon like to follow. Men often get their horses afraid of them and keep them so, and it is their nature to keep out of danger when they apprehend it, after their manner of arriving at conclusions. The way horses arrive at conclusions is generally from experience.

How to Teach a Horse to stand without Hitching.

After you have taught your horse to follow you, stand him in the centre of the stable, begin at his head to gentle him, gradually working backward. If he moves give him a gentle cut with the whip and put him back in the same spot from which he started. If he stands, caress him as before, and continue gentling him in this way until you can get around him without making him move. Keep walking around him, increasing your pace, and only touch him occasionally. Every time he moves put him back in the same place; go still farther from him, if he moves give him a cut with your whip, place him back in the same place. If he stands go to him frequently and caress him. Do not let him stand too long, but make him follow you around in the stable. Then stand him in another place and proceed as before. After you have him so that he will stand in the stable, take him out in the lot and place him there, and in a short time you can place him any where without hitching. You should not practice him longer than half an hour at a time.

On Balking.

If you have balky horses, it is your fault and not the horses'; for if they do not pull true, there is some cause for it, and if you will remove the cause the effect will cease.

When your horse balks, he is excited, and does not know what you want him to do. When he gets a little excited, stop him five or ten minutes; let him become calm; go to the balky horse, pat him, and speak gently to him; and as soon as he is over his excitement, he will, nine cases out of ten, pull at the word; whipping and scolding only make the matter worse. After you have soothed him a while, and his excitement has cooled down, take him by the bits; turn him each way as far as you can; pull out the tongue; soothe him a little; unrein him; then step before the balky horse, and let the other start first; then you can take him anywhere you wish. A balky horse is always high-spirited, and starts quick; has his pull out before the other starts; by standing before him, the other starts too. By close application of this rule, you can make any balky horse pull.

Why is a fashionable lady like a rigid economist?

Because she makes a great bustle about a little waist.

A helping hand to one in trouble.

is often like a switch on a railroad track—but one inch between wreck and smooth rolling prosperity.

The census shows that there are five hundred thousand more men than women in the United States.

So if either sex has a pretext for polygamy, it is the female.

Some Throat—A wet compress, worn a few hours will often relieve it; if severe, a pepper or dog-fennel poultice worn until smart irritation is produced; will soon relieve it. From time to time swallow a pinch of the following powder: Mix well together 10 grains of ipecac 20 grains saltpeter, 40 grains of loaf sugar.

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