

**THE HANDY HORSE-BOOK, OR,  
PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS IN  
DRIVING, RIDING, AND THE GENERAL  
CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF  
HORSES; PP. 1-166**

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**MAGENTA**

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

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"Most certainly the above title is no misnomer, for the 'Handy Horse-Book' is a manual of driving, riding, and the general care and management of horses, evidently the work of no unskilled hand."—*Bell's Life*.

"As cavalry officer, hunting horseman, coach proprietor, whip, and steeplechase rider, the author has had long and various experience in the management of horses, and he now gives us the cream of his information in a little volume, which will be to horse-keepers and horse-buyers all that the 'Handy Book on Property Law,' by Lord St Leonards, has for years past been to men of business. It does not profess to teach the horse-keeper everything that concerns the beast that is one of the most delicate as well as the noblest of animals; but it supplies him with a number of valuable facts, and puts him in possession of leading principles."—*Athenæum*.

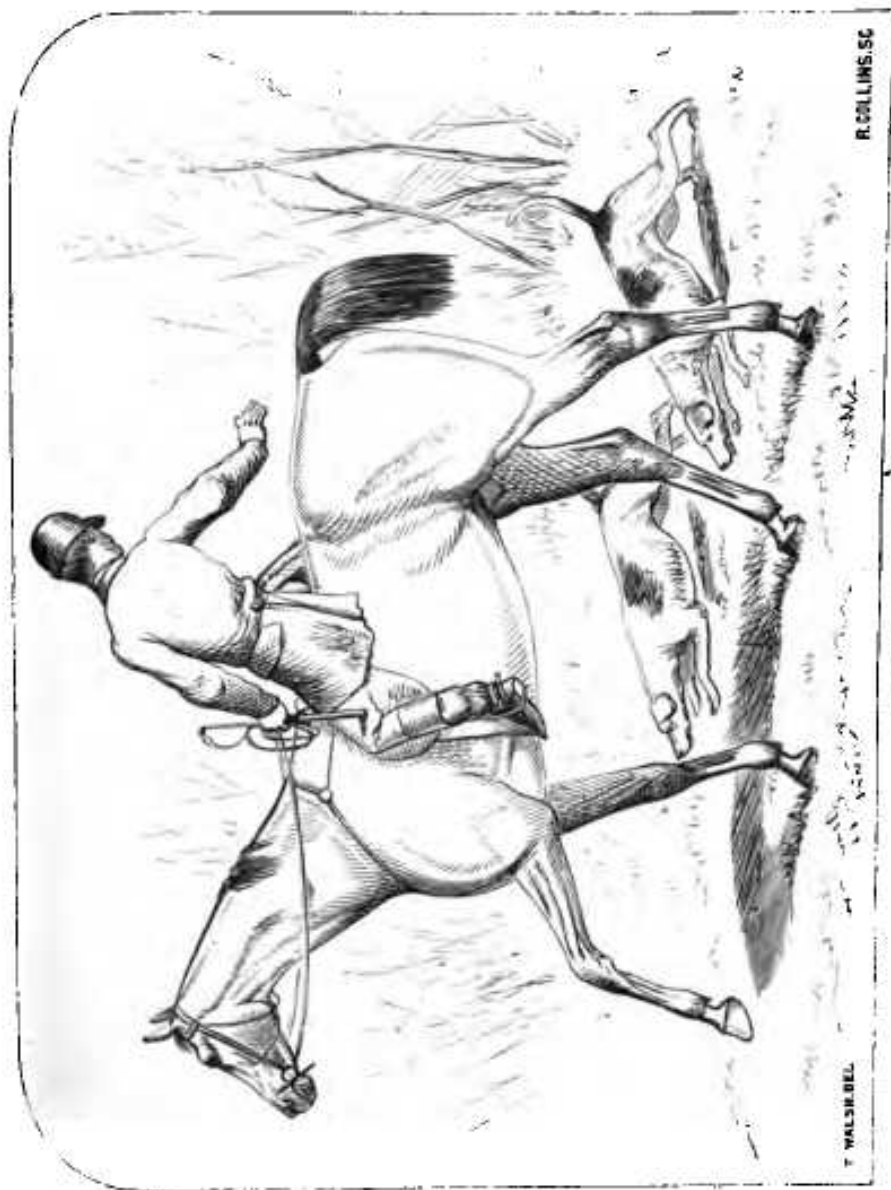
"The writer shows a thorough knowledge of his subject, and he fully carries out the object for which he professes to have undertaken his task, namely, to render horse-proprietors independent of the dictations of ignorant farriers and grooma."—*Observer*.

"We need only say that the work is essentially a *manu te porco*, and that a book more practically useful, or that was more required, could not have possibly been written."—*Irish Times*.

"He propounds no theories, but embodies in simple and untechnical language what he has learned practically; and a perusal of the volume will at once testify that he is fully qualified for the task; and so skilfully is the matter condensed that there is scarcely a single sentence which does not convey sound and valuable information."—*Sporting Gazette*.

"We can cordially recommend it as a book especially suited to the general public, and not beneath the attention of 'practical men.' Hundreds of persons have to deal with horses occasionally, who know nothing about them; and they, at least, will find that this is really a 'Handy Horse-Book.'"—*The Globe*.

"It is full of little hints, evidently derived from experience; and on several points of detail on which we have consulted it, it has given a direct and satisfactory answer."—*Standard*.



T. WALSH, DEL.

R. COLLINS, SC.

THE  
HANDY HORSE-BOOK

OR,

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS IN DRIVING, RIDING,  
AND THE GENERAL CARE AND  
MANAGEMENT OF HORSES

BY  
A CAVALRY OFFICER

*(Magenta)*

THIRD EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED

With Engravings

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS  
EDINBURGH AND LONDON  
MDCCCLXVII

TO

MAJOR-GENERAL LORD GEORGE PAGET, C.B.

*Inspector-General of Cavalry,*

SON OF THE DISTINGUISHED HORSEMAN AND HERO WHO COM-  
MANDED THE CAVALRY AT WATERLOO, AND HIMSELF A LEADER  
AMONG THE "IMMORTAL SIX HUNDRED,"

THIS BOOK IS BY PERMISSION INSCRIBED,

IN TRIBUTE TO HIS SOLDIERLY QUALITIES, AND TO HIS CON-  
SIDERATION FOR THE NOBLE ANIMAL WHICH HAS CARRIED  
THE BRITISH CAVALRY THROUGH SO MANY DANGERS TO SO  
MANY TRIUMPHS,

BY HIS LORDSHIP'S OBEДИENT SERVANT,

"MAGENTA."



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## P R E F A C E.

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FINDING myself a standing reference among my friends and acquaintance on matters relating to horse-flesh, and being constantly in the habit of giving them advice verbally and by letter, I have been induced to comply with repeated suggestions to commit my knowledge to paper, in the shape of a Treatise or Manual.

When I say that my experience has been practically tested on the road, in the field, on the turf (having been formerly a steeplechase rider, as well as now a hunting horseman), with the ribbons, and in a cavalry regiment, I must consider that, with an ardent taste for everything belonging to horses thus nourished for years, I must either have sadly neglected my opportunities, or have

picked up some knowledge of the use and treatment of the animal in question.\*

Born and bred, I may say, in constant familiarity with a racing-stable, and having been always devotedly attached to horses, the wrongs of those noble animals have been prominently before my eyes, and I have felt an anxious desire to see justice done to them, which, I am sorry to say, according to my observation, is but too seldom the case; indeed, I have often marvelled at the tractability of those powerful creatures under the most perverted treatment by their riders and drivers.

\* It may be well to let my readers know how I became experienced on the road. In the days when coaching was in its perfection (and when many country gentlemen indulged in their fancy for the use of the "ribbons"), I became, during a long interval from service, deeply and actively concerned in a coaching establishment of the first order; and those who, some years since, travelling between Dublin and Killarney via Limerick (a distance of about 185 miles), may have happened to hear coachmen and helpers talking of the "Captain," will recognise in the writer the individual thus referred to, who was also in partnership with the famous Bianconi in the staging on the Killarney line. Several years spent in such a school will probably be considered a good apprenticeship to the study of one branch of the subject herein treated upon—viz., the management of horses on the road.