

**THE HORSE; AND HOW TO RIDE HIM: A  
TREATISE ON THE ART OF RIDING AND  
LEAPING. WITH PRACTICAL LESSONS ON  
THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF  
SADDLE HORSES: INTENDED FOR YOUNG  
EQUESTRIANS OF BOTH SEXES**

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The Horse; And How to Ride Him: A Treatise on the Art of Riding and Leaping. With Practical Lessons on the Management and Control of Saddle Horses: Intended for Young Equestrians of Both Sexes by John Butler

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**JOHN BUTLER**

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THE HORSE;  
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HOW TO RIDE HIM:

A TREATISE ON

THE ART OF RIDING AND LEAPING.

CONTAINING ALSO

EXPLANATIONS AS TO THE AGES AND QUALITIES  
OF HORSES, COLT-BREAKING, &c. &c.

WITH PRACTICAL LESSONS ON THE MANAGEMENT AND  
CONTROL OF SADDLE HORSES :

INTENDED FOR YOUNG EQUESTRIANS OF BOTH SEXES.

BY

JOHN BUTLER.

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## P R E F A C E .

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A SMALL practical treatise has long been wanted on the management of saddle horses, with rudimentary instructions in the art of riding and leaping.

The Author, from his experiences in the hunting field, and the delight he takes in saddle horses, now offers to the public, in as concise a form as possible, the results of many years' attentive consideration of the subject; with a view to imparting sound practical instruction in easy and graceful riding, to inexperienced equestrians of both sexes; with directions for the control and management of the horse under all circumstances.

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# THE HORSE; AND HOW TO RIDE HIM.

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## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE art of riding may be defined as that by which a person, seated on the back of a horse, is enabled to conduct and control the horse through all his paces, leaps, and extraordinary actions, with greatest ease, safety, and least fatigue to himself and horse. Such is the art we undertake to teach in the following pages, and in the fewest possible lessons.

The recreation of riding on horseback is the delight of youth and the pleasure of manhood. And there is not a more useful or agreeable exercise: though there is considerable art in controlling, fearlessly and gracefully, the noble spirit of a well-bred horse. To sit a horse well in all his paces, and with an easy and gracefully-

balanced seat; and to control him with a firm but light hand is, indeed, the theory of the whole art.

By rules, practice, and drill we improve our gait; so by a similar routine, our riding. It may be, that uncultivated horsemen can trot, canter, and gallop in their own natural or primitive method; nevertheless, skill and science are required in order to ride with pleasure and safety to oneself and horse, in the ordinary course of equestrian exercise; and more especially so in the hunting-field.

The rider should know how to balance and accommodate himself to violent and unexpected contractions in leaping, turning, halting, rearing, shying, stumbling, &c.; and a perfect knowledge of any or either of these theories is not inherent in any man. But—

“Vainly shall perceptive rules impart  
A perfect knowledge of this manly art;  
Practice alone can certain skill produce,  
And theory confirmed by constant use.”

Nothing looks worse in the public arena than an awkward horseman, or rather, a gentleman on horseback who is ignorant of the art of sitting and controlling his horse: no one looks

more ridiculous, or is so laughed at by bystanders. And in the hunting or coursing field, such a man would not only look like a buffoon, but run the risk of breaking his neck.

There cannot be a more favorable argument as to the popularity of the art of riding, and the essential part it forms in the education of a gentleman, than the well known fact that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is one of the most skilful and graceful horsemen of the present day.

#### RUDIMENTARY LESSONS.

THE rider should first study attentively the shape and make of the horse's mouth, and the action and influence of the snaffle, bit, and crook; with the results attending the moving and pulling them when in the horse's mouth: and he will soon see that great pain may be given to the horse by any ill-fitting or improperly-adjusted bit, snaffle, or bridle.

The mouth of the horse is the key-stone to the art of controlling him: everything depends on the mouth; it is the index to all good riding, as it is also to restiveness and bad riding.