

**THREE LETTERS ON  
THE HORSE, MASTER,  
AND DONKEY**

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Three Letters on the Horse, Master, and Donkey by Blunt Spurs

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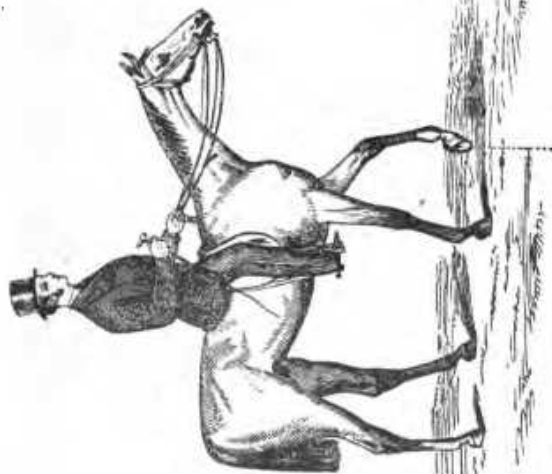
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**BLUNT SPURS**

**THREE LETTERS ON  
THE HORSE, MASTER,  
AND DONKEY**





Front.

No. 2.

What do you think of my new purchase?  
He is thorough-bred.



No. 1.

I think he is thoroughly suited to you.

THREE LETTERS  
OR  
THE HORSE,  
MASTER, AND DONKEY,

BY  
BLUNT SPURS. (pseud.)

Illustrated.

SECOND EDITION,  
WITH CONCLUSION AND APPENDIX.

London:  
WILLIAM RIDGWAY, 169, PICCADILLY, W.

1888.

The following letter not having been accepted by the Editor to whom it was forwarded, the same is now published, as also a second, and now a third. It has been conjectured that writings of this description might tend to the detriment of the Turf, but the real intention of the Author is to prevent the Turf tending farther to the detriment of Horses, and also to save the Innocents, who still roam about, from being cajoled into purchasing any deformed or irrecoverably damaged animals, whether offered by the Turf Kings, Turf Churchmen, or Turf Copers; and it is hoped the production may yet prove of benefit both to the Horse and the Rider.

## LETTER I.

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### ALL SAINTS, ATTEND.

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An upright, intelligent, humane, and pious man. A fabulous creature supposed to go blind at the sight of gold or promissory paper.

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England is a country said to possess the best riders in the world; I believe it. England is a country said to possess the best judges of horses in the world; that is men who know most of their proper form and figure; I do not believe it; for if I did, I could not help believing there must be a most extraordinary number of arrant rogues in it. I prefer believing, and taking it for granted, that all persons who have anything to do with the breeding or buying and selling of horses are the most honest and upright of any class in the United Kingdom. After all perhaps that does not say much for any body in this most religiously com-



mercial state, where every one faithfully believes it to be his duty to make money at the expense of his neighbour, still it is something to belong to a class that are a shade more honest than any other class, but if their honesty is allowed, they must stand self-convicted of ignorance of the proper form of the horse. On the horns of this dilemma, namely, that they are either honestly ignorant or knavishly wise, I intend to fix all who may dispute the principles here propounded.

The Apollo Belvidere and the Venus de Medicis are supposed to be the most perfect models of the proper forms and figures of men and women, and according as every male and female approach the nearest to each of these respective forms the better they are allowed to be made. Where am I to search for the proper model of a handsome horse? Perhaps I shall not be far wrong in recommending the statue George the Third is mounted on in Cockspur Street as one of the best for a useful blood horse, and applicable to all the combinations of Charger, Hunter, Park Hack, or Racer. This statue has been objected to by some persons as conveying the idea that the horse is a small horse, but the Venus de Medicis might be objected to for the same reason. To find a large thoroughbred

horse of upwards of sixteen hands in height of a perfect and Arabian-like form is as difficult no doubt as to find a large man upwards of six feet in height of a perfect and Adam-like form. When found of course such horses would be more valuable, but from the very great difficulty in finding them it will be as well to take a statue supposed to represent a smaller size. "Beauty consists in proportion." Well; there exists a book that I wrote a quarter of a century ago called "The Griffin's Aide-de-Camp," in which the proper form and shape of a horse are given, and the description, not the woodcuts, will be found to correspond with this statue. If any reader will be kind enough to point out any error in the form there described the author will be happy to send him half a sovereign for the information, or will bet him half a sovereign he is mistaken, so anxious is he to have a correct form acknowledged which all can refer to. In that description, a great part of the language of which was copied from some of the most celebrated professional writers, it is stated "The forelegs should stand *straight*, moderately broad at the chest, gradually approaching each other to the fetlock, and be free from all lumps or bumps, or bony excrescences whatever; and as to windgalls, that they are a most

annoying eye-sore." With regard to the feet, a good sound foot with open heels and wide frog is one of the first things that ought to be looked to. Well; go to Tattersall's every week for the year round: go to every gentleman who has a horse for sale, and to every dealer: go to every palace from the King of Diamonds down to the Knave of Spades; and at the end of the twelve months how many, which have reached the age of five years, will you have found, having good carriage both before and behind, and with straight unblemished forelegs and wide frogs? Not five per cent. certainly. Why is this, because they have been overworked? Yes, they have been worked too much for their legs no doubt; but the fact is, their legs will stand very little work before their ancles become somewhat gummy and adorned with little soufflets like marrowfat peas, *simply because the sire or dam had these unsightly defects*; and it is very little use stopping two-year-old, or three-year-old, or four-year-old, or five-year-old races, so long as horses are run till their legs are crooked, or windgalled, and their feet contracted, and are then, *and not till then*, used as stallions or brood mares. Ugly heads, drooping quarters, buck knees and crooked legs, splents, curbs, windgalls, &c. will descend as surely