

HARNESS: AS IT HAS BEEN, AS IT IS, AND AS IT SHOULD BE: WITH REMARKS ON TRACTION, AND THE USE OF THE CAPE CART

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Harness: As It Has Been, as It Is, and as It Should Be: With Remarks on Traction, and the Use of the Cape Cart by John Philipson & Nimshivich

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JOHN PHILIPSON & NIMSHIVICH

**HARNESS: AS IT HAS BEEN, AS IT
IS, AND AS IT SHOULD BE: WITH
REMARKS ON TRACTION, AND
THE USE OF THE CAPE CART**



ULYSSES PLOUGHING THE SEA SHORE.

HARNESSES:

AS IT HAS BEEN, AS IT IS, AND AS IT SHOULD BE,

BY

JOHN PHILIPSON,

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH CARRIAGE MANUFACTURERS;
MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS, AND INSTITUTE OF
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, &c., &c.

WITH REMARKS

On Traction, and the Use of the Cape Cart,

By NIMSHIVICH.

ILLUSTRATED BY CORRESPONDENCE IN THE "FIELD," RE-PRINTED
BY PERMISSION OF THE EDITOR.

ALSO,

AN APPENDIX BY THE SAME AUTHOR, CONTAINING SOME VERY
IMPORTANT DIRECTIONS TO GROOMS AND COACHMEN
RESPECTING THEIR DUTIES, THEIR DRESS,
HINTS ON DRIVING, &c., &c.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF TANKERVILLE, P.C., D.L., &c., &c.

MY LORD,

The permission which your Lordship has given me to dedicate this work to you confers an honour and a pleasure, and permits also the performance of a duty. It is well known that your Lordship has ever evinced a keen interest in the training and general management of "The Horse," especially with a view to the kind and gentle treatment of that noble animal.

To no one could these pages, which may tend toward this high object, be more fitly inscribed by

Your Lordship's

Obedient and Humble Servant,

JOHN PHILIPSON.



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PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH it may be a truism to assert that the comfort of the horse should be the first consideration with us, it is very necessary for the writer to insist on the fact that, up to the present time, such a truism has not had sufficient practical acceptance. It is a disgrace to our boasted civilization that Mr. Smiles should ever have been able to write: "There is no slavery in England! But look at the 'bus and cab and cart horses, and you will find that slavery exists for horses. It was said by James Howell, Clerk of the Council, as long ago as 1642, that England is called 'The hell of horses, and not without cause.' Cabs are driven by worn-out animals, and one or more of their feet are full of pain."

Again he writes, "Ask the carriage horse, galled with its detestable bearing-rein, drawing the proud beauty along the Row, its mouth covered with foam and sometimes with blood; and what would it say? That men and women were alike its merciless tyrants. And yet such ladies go to anti-vivisection meetings to protest against cruelty to animals. . . . Fashion is strong—stronger I fear than humanity—but still I have hopes. Fashion no longer orders horses to be cropped, docked, and nicked; therefore these new forms of distortion and cruelty may give way. If a few ladies of fashion would join with men and women of common sense and lovers of humanity, we should soon wipe out this blot upon our civilization."

Mr. Flower, again, has contributed much towards a more humane practice of the use of the bearing-rein, but, alas! has not yet succeeded in putting down the gag.

Therefore, the writer would beg the reader to bear in mind that humanity, before everything in the use of harness, is the guiding principle on which the following little treatise has been written; whilst he has endeavoured to keep to the practical and the useful where certain details do not absolutely interfere with the horses' comfort.

In these days of education and technical colleges apprentices and others should be instructed in the uses of different parts of harness, the structure of the horse, &c.; and should these remarks tend, in however slight a degree, to an improved method of harnessing and greater comfort to the noblest friend of man, the writer will be amply repaid. Steps in the right direction are certainly being taken in different parts of the country in the establishment of annual processions of horses, in which valuable prizes are awarded to the *drivers* for careful grooming and harnessing, and the writer can speak with certainty as to the result of the May-day horse procession held in Newcastle. It would be difficult to imagine a more enjoyable sight than that presented on the first of May, 1882, when several thousand horses in splendid condition paraded the streets of the City, nor could the fact be ignored that the horses of the North-Eastern Railway Company (numbering about 300) were the pick of the exhibition, and these horses were worked without bearing-reins, winkers, or crupper docks. In presenting the prizes the Baroness Burdett Coutts gave expression to the sincere pleasure she had derived from the sight.

I have selected, as a frontispiece, "Ulysses ploughing the sea-shore" as beautifully representing the moral which I wish to pervade this essay, viz., that by kindness and good training a dumb