

**VELOCIPEDES, BICYCLES, AND
TRICYCLES: HOW TO MAKE AND
HOW TO USE THEM. WITH A SKETCH
OF THEIR HISTORY, INVENTION,
AND PROGRESS, PP. 1-126**

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VELOX

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H. Todd.

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A SKETCH OF THEIR HISTORY, INVENTION,
AND PROGRESS.

BY "VELOX," *penman.*

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS.

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PREFACE.

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WHETHER velocipedes are only the "toy of the hour," or are destined to become a permanent adjunct to our civilization and every-day life or not, no one can doubt their extending popularity, or that there exists a widespread desire to know how to use, and the best form of construction for, the new wheel-horse of the period.

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The desire to possess a pedo- or manumotive carriage is not new. Even the two-wheeled velocipede is half a century old, and the journals of the mechanical arts record a thousand and one ingenious contrivances of springs, sails, wheels, pedals, and cogs to annihilate space in the ante-railway era. Many of these ideas are now being reproduced as original, though long ago they were tried and found wanting in some material point. Their ingenuity is unquestioned, their utility doubtful. They could not accomplish, with their plethora of mechanical contrivances, what the new-fashioned bicycle and tricycle do by the most simple and direct means.

Time alone can tell whether the newer fashion will share the fate of the old; for, after all, more depends on the road than on the vehicle.

This little manual does not pretend to record all the vagaries enrolled in the Patent Office, but it embraces all the salient practical points of the history of velocipedes. The most remarkable inventions are pointed out, as well as the causes of failure, when they can be ascertained. The reader will find well-authenticated facts, mechanical principles, and the practical experience of myself and others, set forth clearly and precisely.

Reference has been made in the

following pages to the *Repertory of Arts, Magazine of Science, Mechanics' Magazine*, the *Patent Journals*, the *Engineer*, *English Mechanic*, the *Scientific American*, *Harper's Weekly*, *L'Univers Illustré*, and other serials. I have also to thank several gentlemen for permission to use their drawings, and for the valuable hints they have supplied to me.

VELOX.

Leamington, 17th April, 1869.

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