

CROMWELL'S HORSES.

An Accident That Befell the Protector in Hyde Park.

"As Cromwell rose in power and rank his love of horses began to be more conspicuous," says a writer in Blackwood's. "When he started from London in 1649 to reconquer Ireland he went forth in that state and equipage as the like hath hardly been seen, himself in a coach with six gallant Flanders mares, reddish gray." In 1655, when the Spanish ambassador took his leave of the lord protector, Cromwell sent him "his own coach of six white horses" to convey him to and from Whitehall. "Certain it is," adds the narrator, "that none of the English kings had ever any such."

The protector was not much of a whip, however. In 1654 the Count of Oldenburg sent Cromwell a present of six horses, and the protector's anxiety to make trial of their quality led to his well known adventure in Hyde park. On Friday, Sept. 29, he went with Secretary Thurloe and some of his gentlemen to take air in the park, ordered the six horses to be harnessed to his coach, put Thurloe inside of it and undertook to drive himself. "His highness," said a letter from the Dutch ambassador, "drove pretty handsomely for some time, but at last, provoking those horses too much with the whip, they grew unruly, whereby his highness was flung out of the coach box upon the ground. His foot getting hold in the tackling, he was carried away a good while in that posture, but at last he got his foot clear and so came to escape. He was presently brought home and let blood and after some rest taken is now well again. The secretary, being hurt on his ankle with leaping out of the coach, hath been forced to keep his chamber hitherto and been unfit for any business."

The royalist Scroggs, afterward chief justice, writing of this incident, hoped that the next fall would be from a cart—hinting at the gallows. As to Cromwell's views on the burning question of horse racing it is difficult to arrive at a positive conclusion. His constant aim was to possess as many good horses as he could afford. Whether he entered his horses for races or had the satisfaction of owning a winner history does not say.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

The only thing some people always have ready is an excuse.

Almost any one can be induced to lie if you ask enough questions.

The better you behave the better you get along. It's old, but it's true.

A man nobody can quarrel with has the life problem reasonably well solved.

Lack of opportunity has to stand as an excuse for a lot of general shiftlessness.

The trouble with some people lies in the fact that they consider their faults their misfortunes.

Are you among those who treat their new acquaintances better than they treat their old friends?

If a man has plenty of money to back up a lot of fool notions, people call him eccentric, but if he only has the notions he is a crank.—Atchison Globe.

Tamed the Box Office Man.

A theater box office man whose seats were all sold days ahead was turning away disappointed patrons more than gruffly when a man who had watched the process with glowing ire reached the window. "Selling any more seats this season?" he began. The ticket seller answered with a stare. The question, quietly but firmly repeated, finally received an affirmative answer. "Give me two." "When?" growled the seller, recovering. "Any time," said the man. The seller was almost too crushed to ask "Where?" "Anywhere," replied the man. "How much?" whispered the seller, his voice deserting him. "Any price," said the man. The tickets were transferred in an awed silence, and the line of purchasers that had overheard smiled benevolently at the noticeably tamed man in the cage.—New York Post.

Antiquity of Proverbs.

Proverbs existed long before books. In the earliest times they served as the unwritten language of morality and have been passed down through the generations. In Africa there are numerous quaint proverbs. Among them are: "He who dives on dry land will scarify his face," "Two people cannot sit down upon the point of the same thorn at the same time." In the Transvaal the proverb, "Beware of a silent man; he has a brass band in his mouth," is often heard.

Holmes on Shelley.

Shelley vaporized everything in his glowing crucible, but there was gold at the bottom of it. When I look at him spreading the starry wings of his fancy over his chaotic philosophy he seems like a seraph hovering over the unfathomable chasm, whose blackness is the abode of demons.—"Autocrat of the Breakfast Table."

The Mean Thing!

"Who was that fool you bowed to?"

"My husband."

"Oh, I—er—I—humbly apologize. I—"

"Never mind, I'm not angry. But what a keen observer you are!"—Cleveland Leader.

Did you ever notice that the size of trouble depends on whether it is coming or going?—Mankato Free Press.

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