

Pierre D. Van Hoesen's Dexter circular. A new method for training any horse to trot fast without the use of a track. [n. p.] [c. 1868].

Pierre D. Van Hoesen's

DEXTER CIRCULAR.

A New Method for TRAINING ANY HORSE TO TROT FAST without the use of a Track.

PRICE, \$100

While spending a few months in Massachusetts, last summer, I saw a boy with a colt, five years old, before a skeleton wagon, which, in my opinion, could trot in at least 2.50 or less, which he wanted to sell to me for four hundred dollars. I looked him over and saw that he was perfectly sound, fifteen hands high, and made up my mind he was a very cheap horse. I questioned the boy, and asked him how he made him trot so fast? He said he could hardly tell himself, for he did not have any place to train him on but that little flat there—pointing to a small piece of smooth road or flat, from thirty-five to forty rods long. On this flat he said he trotted him about half an hour twice a day, then he said occasionally he drove him off for a few miles on the road, only to the skeleton wagon, and drove him at the top of his speed on every flat he came to, then held him up and let him go slow, then put him to his work again. He said he could not trot in 4½ until he practiced him on the flat; and, said he, after a few days working him on this flat, he began to step quick and gained every day. From this I discovered that as soon as the horse began to know what the boy wanted him to do, and that was to go as fast as he could from end to end, that moment he tried to perform the required duty; and said he, as soon as he began to increase in speed, I began to like him, and then I commenced to feed well and curry and groom him. He said he used a pair of rollers also on his front feet, and then kept after him with the whip. I asked him what good the rollers done? He replied that they made the horse pick up his feet quicker and higher; and every day, while training on the flat, he put on the rollers. I HAVE TESTED THESE ROLLERS together with the flat system, with no intention of becoming a jockey, but being a great admirer of that most noble of all animals, the horse, and being of an inquiring mind, with a love for inventions, give to the public the result of my experience, and find that the rollers do give the horse gamey knee action, and they will surely trot faster with the rollers on. When on behind, they will reach further and gather quicker, so I change them from front to hind feet until I see which feet he travels best with them on, then I use them there, but only when in training on the flat, and then only about half the time. These rollers are made of pieces of wood turned round

Filed April 11 1868

as big as a hickory nut, with a gimblet hole bored through the centre of each, and about twelve of them strung on a string or narrow strap, and then tied or buckled very loose around the fetterlock

joint, next to the hoof, so they will play loose up and down when the horse is in motion; the string must be much smaller than the hole in the wood, so that as they slip up and down on the pastern, they will rattle. The Rollers can be had of me, if any one wish, on receipt of the money, those of Wood Lignumvitæ for \$2 50, and of Horn, which is the best, for \$3 50. As soon as the horse finds something on his feet he will lift them up higher as though he was going to step out of something, in other words they get the front feet up and out of the way, and he will throw them out further and handsomer—this he will soon learn permanently. The best way is to put them on his front feet first in the stable, then walk him around, then change them to his hind feet, then run him around to the halter; after that it is safe to put them on and drive him. If he hitches on the off hind foot put a roller on the opposite hind foot only, that will make him travel even. If the horse is very spirited or very young, go gently until he gets used to them, which he will in a day or so, then hold him middling strong and urge with the whip, and by pulling up on the reins, and letting him out again, chirping him as you let out, it urges or lifts him along, and he will soon drive beautifully by the bit, and you will find that every time you pull up on the reins, he will increase in the speed without breaking. Do not be so much in a hurry and drive so fast as to make him hitch, for when he is trotting square, and as fast as he can without breaking or hitching, that will do well enough, and when he does break, do not haul him down too quick, but let him run a rod or two, gently pulling him to the right, and then to the left, teaching him to run into his trot without losing any speed, but only to rest his legs, when he again resumes his trot, he will go much faster. I HAVE TESTED THIS DISCOVERY OF THE FLAT—which is indeed a great discovery—over the usual method of the track, and find that the flat, of not over forty rods, is the best, and is far superior to the track system for teaching the horse or colt to gather quickly, for he sees the end of his job, and takes courage, knowing at each end he can stop and turn around—many horses step long and handsome, but they never learn to gather quick, it is the quick rapid motion that makes the time of 2.17¼. And it was only after personally testing this principle, that I was convinced of its great importance, and now make it known to the public. I have a colt now training by this scoreing method, which has gained two hundred dollars per month. She is 4 years old, and instead of selling her for one hundred and twenty-five dollars, she will fetch me one thousand. In my opinion nearly every colt can be made to show a three-minute gate, before it is broke to harness, by scoreing it as soon as it is broke to ride, under saddle, across a thirty-five rod flat, with a light boy on its back, this done it is worth from four to six hundred dollars. You must have a very light skeleton or gig to use in training. I like a skeleton best; it must be light. In the absence of either use the saddle, and proceed as above. After coming in from work the colt should be rubbed dry with cloths or straw, and covered up in the stable. But if he is very warm, he should be walked around with his blanket on until he is sufficiently cool, then taken to his stable where there is no draft. But do not attempt to train your horse with a heavy wagon of any kind.

236/29a copy 1