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Thomas Bewick
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A GENERAL HISTORY OF QUADRUPEDS.

THE HORSE.

THE various excellencies of this noble animal, the grandeur of his ſtature, the elegance and proportion of his parts, the beautiful ſmoothneſs of his ſkin, the variety and gracefulneſs of his motions, and above all, his uſefulneſs, entitle him to a precedence in the hiſtory of the brute creation.

There are few parts of the known world where the Horſe is not produced; but if we would ſee him in the enjoyment of his native freedom, (unſubdued by the reſtraints man has impoſed upon him) we muſt look for him in the wild and extenſive plains of Africa and Arabia, where he ranges without controul, in a ſtate of entire independency. In thoſe immenſe tracts the wild Horſes

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may be ſeen feeding together, in droves of four or five hundred; one of them always acting as centinel, to give notice of approaching danger: This he does by a kind of ſnorting noiſe, upon which they all fly off with aſtoniſhing rapidity. The wild Horſes of Arabia are eſteemed the moſt beautiful in the world: They are of a brown colour, their mane and tail of black tufted hair, very ſhort; they are ſmaller than the tame ones, are very active, and of great ſwiftneſs. The moſt uſual method of taking them is with traps concealed in the ſand, by which they are entangled and caught.——It is probable there were once wild Horſes in Europe, which have long ſince been brought under ſubjection. Thoſe found in America were originally of the Spaniſh breed, ſent thither upon its firſt diſcovery, which have ſince become wild, and ſpread themſelves over various parts of that vaſt continent. They are generally ſmall, not exceeding fourteen hands high; with thick heads and clumſy joints: Their ears and necks are longer than thoſe of the Engliſh Horſes. They are eaſily tamed; and if by accident they are ſet at liberty, they ſeldom become wild again; but know their maſter, and may be eaſily caught by him.

The Horſe, in his domeſtic ſtate, is generous, docile, ſpirited, and yet obedient; adapted to the various purpoſes of pleaſure and convenience, he is equally ſerviceable in the draught, the field, or the race.

There is ſcarcely an Arabian, how poor ſoever in other reſpects, but is poſſeſſed of his Horſe, which he conſiders as an invaluable treaſure. Having no other houſe but a tent to dwell in, the Arabian and his Horſe live upon the moſt equal terms: His wife and family, his mare and her foal, are often ſeen lying indiſcriminately together; whilſt the

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the little children frequently climb without fear upon the body of the inoffenſive animal, which permits them to play with and careſs it without injury. The Arabs never beat their Horſes; they ſpeak to, and ſeem to hold friendly intercourſe with them; they never whip them, and ſeldom, but in caſes of neceſſity, make uſe of the ſpur. Their agility in leaping is very great; and if the rider happen to fall, they are ſo tractable as to ſtand ſtill in the midſt of the moſt rapid career. The Arabian Horſes are of a middle ſize in general, leſs than thoſe of this country, eaſy and graceful in their motions, and rather inclined to leanneſs.—It is worthy of remark, that there, inſtead of croſſing the breed, the Arabs take every precaution to keep it pure and unmixed: They preſerve with the greateſt care, and for an amazing length of time, the races of their horſes—Thoſe of the firſt kind are called Nobles, being "of a pure and ancient race, purer than milk." They have likewiſe two other kinds, which have been degraded by common alliances, and ſell at inferior prices.

From Arabia the race of Horſes has probably extended into Barbary and other parts of Africa, thoſe being conſidered as next to the Arabian Horſes in ſwiftneſs and beauty, though they are ſtill ſmaller. The Spaniſh Genette is alſo held in great eſtimation; like the former they are ſmall, but beautiful, and extremely ſwift. The Horſes of India and many parts of China are extremely ſmall and vicious: One of theſe was ſome years ago brought into this country as a preſent to the queen, which was very little larger than ſome maſtiffs, meaſuring only nine hands in height.

In Great-Britain the breed of Horſes ſeems to be as mixed as that of its inhabitants. By great attention to the

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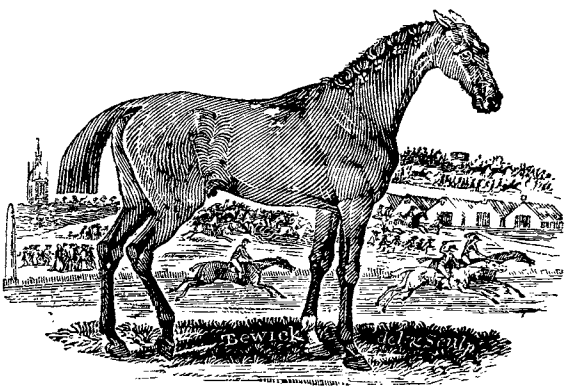
improvement of this noble animal, by a judicious mixture of ſeveral kinds, and by ſuperior ſkill in management, the Engliſh



RACE-HORSE*

is allowed to excel thoſe of the reſt of Europe, or perhaps the whole world. For ſupporting a continuance of violent exertion, (or what is called, in the language of the

* The following account of the prizes won by ſome of our capital Race-Horſes, will ſhew the importance of that breed in England, where ſuch vaſt ſums frequently depend on the iſſue of their conteſts.

BAY MALTON, (by Sampſon) the property of the late Marquis of Rockingham, in ſeven prizes won the amazing ſum of 5,900l. At York he run four miles in ſeven minutes and forty-three and an half ſeconds, which was ſeven and an half ſeconds leſs time than was ever done before over the ſame courſe.

CATO, a famous Horſe bred by George Bowes, Eſq; of Gibſide, won the firſt king's plate run for at Newcaſtle upon Tyne. Beſides which, he won five king's plates, and near 3,000l. in ſundry prizes.

CHILDERS, (well known by the name of Flying Childers) the property of the Duke of Devonſhire, was allowed by ſportſmen to be the fleeteſt Horſe that ever was bred in the world: He ſtarted at Newmarket ſeveral times againſt the beſt Horſes of his time, and was

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the turf, *bottom*) they are ſuperior to the Arabian, the Barb, or the Perſian; and for ſwiftneſs they will yield the palm to none. An ordinary Racer is known to go at the rate of a mile in leſs than two minutes; but there have been inſtances of much greater rapidity: The fa-

 mous

was never beaten: He won, in different prizes, to the amount of nearly 2,000l.; and was afterwards reſerved as a ſtallion.—The ſire of Childers was an Arabian, ſent by a gentleman as a preſent to his brother in England.

DORIMANT, a famous Horſe belonging to Lord Oſſory, won prizes to the amazing amount of 13,363l.

LITTLE DRIVER (by the famous Childers) won 1,450l. in 50l. plates; and beat, at different times, forty-four running Horſes, which had collectively won two hundred and three prizes.

ECLIPSE was allowed to be the fleeteſt Horſe that ever ran in England ſince the time of Childers. After winning king's plates and other prizes to a great amount, he now covers, by ſubſcription, forty mares, at thirty guineas each; beſides thoſe of his owner.

GIMCRACK won prizes to the amount of above 5,000l. He likewiſe ran a match in France, of twenty-two miles and an half within the hour, for a conſiderable ſum.

HIGHFLYER was accounted the beſt Horſe of his time in England. The ſums he won and received amounted to near 9,000l. though he never ſtarted after five years old. He was never beat, nor ever paid a forfeit.

MATCHEM, a Horſe belonging to the late W. Fenwick, Eſq; beſides being a capital racer, was particularly remarkable as a ſtallion; and may be truly ſaid to have earned more money than any other Horſe in the world. He was engaged, for the latter nine years of his life, to cover twenty-five mares, at fifty guineas a mare; and was uncommonly ſucceſsful in the celebrity of his progeny, having been ſire to many of our moſt famous running Horſes. He was remarkable for being the quieteſt ſtallion that ever was known; to which, perhaps, may be attributed his great age, being in the thirty-third year of his age when he died.

PYRRHUS won upwards of 12,500l.

SHARK won, beſides a cup value 120gs, and eleven hogſheads of claret, the amazing ſum of 15,507gs, in plates, matches, and forfeits.

The moſt extraordinary inſtance of fleetneſs, in a trotting pace, we remember to have ſeen recorded, was performed, on the 4th of July, 1788, for a wager of thirty guineas, by a Horſe, the property of a gentleman of Billiter-ſquare, London. He trotted thirty miles in an hour and twenty minutes, though he was allowed, by the terms of the bet, an hour and an half

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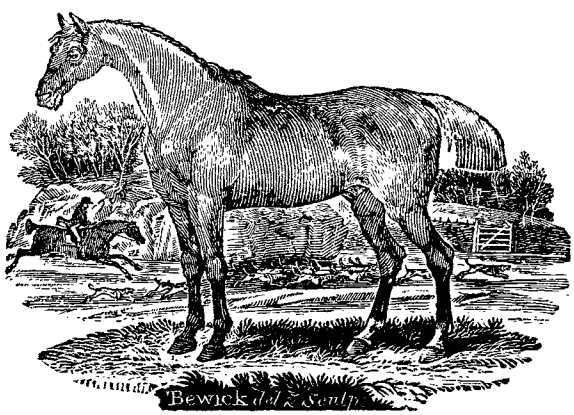
mous Horſe Childers has been known to move eighty-two feet and an half in a ſecond, or nearly a mile in a minute; he has run round the courſe at Newmarket, which is little leſs than four miles, in ſix minutes and forty ſeconds.



THE HUNTER

is a happy combination of the Race-Horſe with others of ſuperior ſtrength, but inferior in ſwiftneſs; and may be conſidered as the moſt uſeful breed of Horſes in Europe. Geldings of this kind are ſent over to the continent (where their ſuperior worth is univerſally acknowledged) in great numbers, and ſold at very high prices to foreigners of the firſt diſtinction. The mixture of this with others of inferior rank forms an endleſs variety, the different gradations becoming too minute to be diſcriminated.

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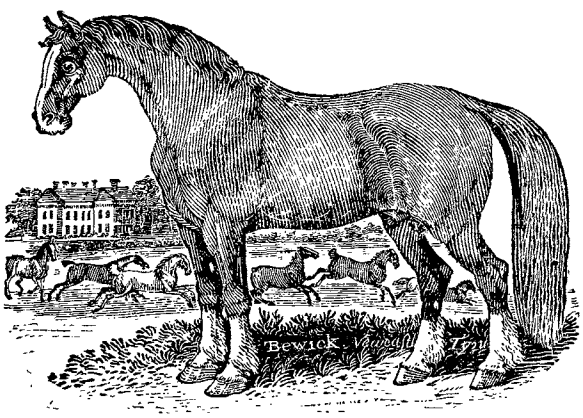

THE BLACK-HORSE.

No other country has produced a breed of Horſes equal in ſize and ſtrength to the larger kind of our draught Horſes. The cavalry of England is in general formed of this claſs of Horſes; but their inutility being experienced in ſome ſituations, others of a lighter and more active kind have been ſubſtituted in a few regiments. The fens of Lincolnſhire generally produce a larger breed than any other part of the kingdom. In London there have been inſtances where a ſingle Horſe of that kind has drawn, for a ſmall ſpace, the enormous weight of three tons, half of which is known to be their ordinary draught.

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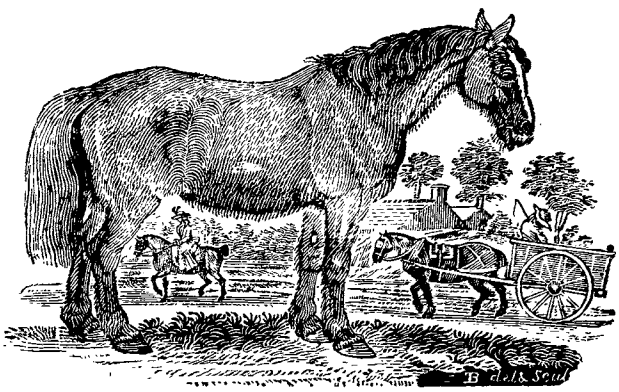

THE COMMON CART-HORSE

is inferior to the laſt in ſize and ſtrength: His form is heavy, his motions ſlow, and his aſpect without ſprightlineſs; he is nevertheleſs extremely uſeful, and is employed in the buſineſs of agriculture and other domeſtic concerns.

Till of late years *Pack-Horſes* were employed, in the northern counties of England, to carry the different manufactures and articles of traffic from one part of the kingdom to another; but the improved ſtate of our roads has cauſed that mode of conveyance to be almoſt entirely laid aſide. In their journies over trackleſs moors they ſtrictly adhere to the line of order and regularity cuſtom has taught them to obſerve: The leading Horſe, which is always choſen for his ſagacity and ſteadineſs, being furniſhed with bells, gives notice to the reſt, who follow the ſound, and generally without much deviation, though ſometimes

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ſometimes at a conſiderable diſtance. The following inſtance will ſhew with what obſtinate perſeverance they have been known to obſerve the line of their order:—Some years ago one of theſe Horſes, which had been long accuſtomed to follow his leader, by accident or fatigue was thrown into an inferior rank; the poor animal, as if ſenſible of his diſgrace, by the moſt ſtrenuous exertions at length recovered his uſual ſtation, which he maintained during the remainder of the journey; but, on his arrival in the inn-yard, he dropped down dead upon the ſpot, his life falling a ſacrifice to his ambition—A ſpecies of heroiſm we muſt admire even in the brute creation.

Although the Horſe is endowed with vaſt ſtrength and powers, he ſeldom exerts either to the prejudice of his maſter: On the contrary, he ſeems to participate in his pleaſures, and ſhares with him in his labours; generous and perſevering, he gives up his whole powers to the ſervice of his maſter; though bold and intrepid, he repreſſes the natural vivacity and fire of his temper, and not only yields to the hand, but ſeems to conſult the inclination of his rider.

But it muſt continue to be matter of regret to every feeling mind, that theſe excellent qualities ſhould be often ſhamefully abuſed in the moſt unneceſſary exertions; and the honeſt labours of this noble animal thrown away in the ungrateful taſk of accompliſhing the purpoſes of unfeeling folly, or laviſhed in gratifying the expectations of an intemperate moment.

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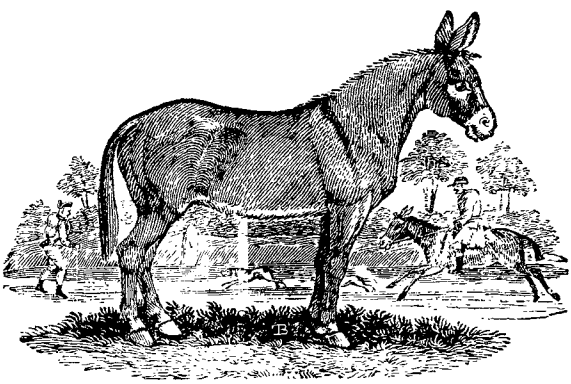

THE MULE.

THIS uſeful and hardy animal is the offspring of the Horſe and the Aſs, and being barren, furniſhes us with an indiſputable proof that the two ſpecies are perfectly diſtinct. Nature has providently ſtopped the further propagation of theſe heterogeneous productions, to preſerve, uncontaminated, the form of each animal; without which regulation the races would, in a ſhort time, be mixed with each other, and every creature loſing its original perfection, would rapidly degenerate.

The common Mule is very healthy, and will live above thirty years: It is found very ſerviceable in carrying burthens, particularly in mountainous and ſtony places where Horſes are not ſo ſure-footed. The ſize and ſtrength of our breed has lately been much improved by the importation of Spaniſh Male-Aſſes; and it were much to be wiſhed that the uſeful qualities of this animal were more attended to: For by proper care in its breaking, its natural obſtinacy would be in a great meaſure corrected; and it might

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