# THE CHARIOT OF OLD

## A GRIM REMINDER OF THE COMBATS OF THE HEROIC PERIOD.

**This Vehicle Was Used In the Days of Antiquity For the Battle, the Chase, In Processions and In Games—How It Was Constructed.**

The chariot was used in antiquity for the battle, the chase, in public processions and in games. It had two wheels and was drawn by two horses, and when one or two horses were added they were attached to each side of the main pair by a side trace, fastened to the front of the chariot.

These chariots have only come down to us in fragments, with the exception of the one in the archæological museum of Florence, which is a unique example of a war chariot, the so called "Biga di Frassino," found by Rossellneo in a Thebes tomb. It is certainly as old as the fourteenth century B. C. It is probably a trophy obtained in the north by some Egyptian warrior.

There is an entire absence of metal in the construction. Immediately on the axle, without springs of any kind, rests the basket, or body, of the chariot, which consisted of a floor to stand on and a semicircular guard around the front and about half the height of the driver. It is entirely open at the back, so that the combatants might leap to the ground and up again, as became necessary by the exigencies of action. There was no seat, and generally in war chariots there was only room for the combatant and his charioteer to stand in.

The pole, as in the present instance, was usually attached to the middle of the axle, although to outward appearances it looked as though it sprang from the front of the basket. At the end of the pole was the yoke, which looked like a ram's horns. Depending from this by leather thongs was a Y shaped piece, which probably took the place of the modern horse collar. Probably broad bands were also fitted around the chest of the animals.

Besides the harness of each horse there were a bridle and a pair of reins somewhat in the same style as are in use at the present day. These were made of leather and were ornamented with studs of ivory and metal. The reins were passed through rings attached to the collar and were long enough to be tied around the waist of the charioteer in case of his having to defend himself.

The wheels and body were usually of wood, strengthened in places with bronze or iron. The wheels had from four to eight spokes, and the tires were of bronze or iron (in the present instance ash was used), and the pins which secured the fellies were of fossil bone.

This description applied to the chariots of almost any of the nations of antiquity, the difference consisting chiefly in the mountings. Thus the chariots of the Egyptians and Assyrians, with whom the bow was the principal arm of attack, were richly mounted with quivers full of arrows, while those of the Greeks, who used the spear, were plain except as regards mere decorations. The Persians and the ancient Britons used a class of chariots having the wheels mounted with sharp, sickle shaped blades, which cut to pieces whatever came in their way. This was probably the invention of the Persians.

The use of the battle chariot really belongs to the heroic period. The warrior, standing by the side of his charioteer, was driven in front of the line to invite hostile warriors to single combat. After the strategic skill of a commander superseded the demands on his personal valor the chariot was transferred from the battlefield to the hippodrome, where alone its original form was preserved. The description of the Homeric battle chariot, therefore, to a great extent also applies to the historic chariot of the race course.

The small diameter of the chariot wheel may be explained from the desire of preventing the chariot from being opposed by the impediments in the battlefield, such as debris or dead bodies. The rim was usually formed of four fellies, into which the four spokes were let. The upper rail, which was of either wood or metal, varied greatly in form and was intended to be grasped by the warrior on jumping on to the chariot, while the front part served for fastening the reins and the traces of the "wheel horses." In the Roman triumphal chariot a covering of leather served to ward off missiles, and later on the sides were composed of strong boards.

Unfortunately we know very little of the vehicles of everyday use in those days. They nearly all seem to be a variety of what we now term the "gig."—Scientific American.

### Killed Classical Quotations.

In tracing the decline of the use of classical quotations in legislative bodies the Boston Herald cites the case of Edward Everett, who once concluded a stately speech in congress with a long, sonorous and superbly modulated citation of a passage from Tacitus and then took his seat. No sooner was he through than up sprang a burly member from what was then a frontier state of the west. He had once been an Indian agent, and no sooner was he on his legs than he began to pour out a vehement harangue in Choctaw. After awhile the speaker called him to order.

"I don't see why my freedom of speech should be abridged!" he cried. "You let the gentleman from Massachusetts run on, and I didn't understand the first word of his lingo any better than he does mine."

The scene was described as very comical, but it struck the deathknell of further classical quotations in a congress that had not the ray of an idea what the unintelligible lingo of Cicero and Tacitus was driving at.

### His Story "Goes" Until He Does.

There is in Cowley county a big two fisted farmer who has the reputation of being the biggest liar in the township. But he will fight at the drop of the hat, and men are very chary of accusing him. The other day he went into Dexter and told that he had a 9-month-old calf that gave three quarts at a milking, and, after recounting this story, the local paper said, "Mr. Horrell is still in town, and we are convinced that that calf is a wonder."—Kansas City Journal.

### The Harem a Prison.

The western boast that every man's house is his castle is as nothing to the sanctity of the eastern harem. No officer of the law may enter a harem, and therefore there is no safeguard for the life and liberty of its inhabitants. One day they may be slaves, the next princesses and the next strangled or poisoned. An ill disposed man could carry off an enemy to his harem and kill him, and none would be the wiser.

### Proud of His Labels.

A distangy looking young man boarded a Fourteenth street car at Massachusetts avenue the other night. He was carrying a leather suit case. Pasted all over the suit case were labels indicating much foreign travel—steamer pasters slapped on at Dieppe, Havre, Ostend, Bremen, Cherbourg, Liverpool, Yarmouth, Naples, and railroad labels that bore the names of all lines all the way from Constantinople to St. Petersburg. The young man of distangy appearance put the suit case down between his legs, and all the people in the seats opposite began a fascinated sort of inspection of the labels. A stout man with several of the component parts of a jag who sat next to the young man seemed to regard the labels with particular interest. He stooped over and deciphered them carefully and elaborately, and then he looked up at the owner of the suit case with a leer.

"Been around right smart, hain't you, podner?" he inquired.

The young man regarded him with a smile.

"Never been farther away from Washington than New York in my life," he replied, without any hesitation whatsoever. "I got that whole bunch of labels for half a dollar at a little money exchanging joint, down near the Battery, in New York. Hot scheme, isn't it?"

The frankness of the statement so dazed several of the passengers who overheard it that they got off at the wrong theater.—Washington Post.

### The Stag Beetle.

As you walk by the hedgeside a strange noise suddenly arrests your attention. It is the buzz of an insect, but loud enough to startle you. It might be mistaken for the reeling of a night jar, but it is perhaps more like the jarring hum of a fastly driven motor car.

The reason of the noise is that the beetle has with great pains climbed up a certain height from the ground, and in order to ascertain whether he has got far enough, he erects himself on his stand, lifts his wing cases, shakes out his wings and begins to agitate them violently, turning this way and that to make sure that he has a clear space.

If he then attempts to fly—it is one of his common blunders—he instantly strikes against some branch or cluster of leaves and is thrown down. The tumble does not hurt him in the least, but so greatly astonishes him that he remains motionless a good while; then, recovering his senses, he begins to ascend again. At length, after a good many accidents and adventures by the way, he gets on to the topmost twig, and, after some buzzing to get up steam, launches himself heavily on the air and goes away in grand style.—Longman's.

### Looking Out For Alma Mater.

No doubt the casual observer has often noticed how unceasingly bequests flow into the treasuries of certain universities, but he may not know that the alumni of those institutions, particularly the lawyers, have it always on their minds to secure, or at least to suggest, bequests.

One of these men, a prominent corporation lawyer of this city, was speaking of the custom the other day. He explained that a lawyer and his client usually sit down to talk over the general subject of a will. If the client has more than enough money to meet the actual needs of his family, he commonly says something of charitable or educational institutions, generally in a vague way, which makes it quite natural for his lawyer to suggest as a definite object his own alma mater. The lawyer referred to had himself secured several bequests, one of them for the sum of $500,000. "But," said he, smiling, "a young lawyer in my office has just cut me out of $100,000, which he put in a will for his own alma mater. It was a very good stroke on his part, the more so because our respective universities have been bitter athletic rivals for years."—New York Mail and Express.

### Rather Cold Blooded.

Of the tactics of infantry there is no end, but there are some simple rules for the individual foot soldier to remember when lost in the chaos of battle. If you cannot bayonet your enemy, shoot him. If he goes away, aim at the base of his spine. But do not let your attention be distracted from business by the consideration that other people are making a mark of you. It is your duty to kill the highest possible number of those opposed to you, not to save your own skin.—"How Soldiers Fight," by F. Norreys-Connell.

### Good Cheer.

"Now tell me, doctor, candidly, is there anything really the matter with my wife?"

"Yes. Her vocal cords are sadly affected. I'm afraid she may lose her voice."

"Say, drop in on your way back from the office and chat awhile, will you? Things have been going badly with me lately and it's so comforting to hear you talk."—Chicago Times-Herald.

### The Polite Lie In Embryo.

A little child has given us a peep into the process by which the polite lie is developed. Mamma was talking to Effie about the absence of Edith from the children's party.

"You are sorry," said mamma, "that Edith could not come?"

Effie replied, having enjoyed herself, "Oh, I don't mind much."

To which mamma rejoined: "But Edith is ill. That is why she couldn't come. You must be sorry." Effie considered. "Yes; of course I'm sorry," she said, "but it doesn't hurt me—inside."—London Chronicle.

### The Ruling Passion.

Wife (who has been out shopping all day)—Oh, dear, how tired and hungry I am!

Husband—Didn't you have any luncheon in town?

Wife—A plate of soup only. I didn't feel that I could afford to have more.

Husband—Did you find the hat you wanted?

Wife—Oh, yes. It is a perfect dream, John, and it only cost $28.—Collier's Weekly.

### The Price of Admission.

Mrs. Smyth (looking up from her paper)—What does it mean in the Washington news when it speaks of "the lower house?"

Mr. Smyth—That means the house of representatives. The senate is higher.

Mrs. Smyth—How is it higher? Do you mean that it costs more to get there?—Philadelphia Record.

"Mac," the Scotch prefix, means son, so Macpherson means "son of a parson," and Macdonald is the same as Donaldson. Fairfax means "fair of face."

### After a Battle.

In the first aid that is rendered on the field after a battle nothing is attempted beyond the arrest of hemorrhage, the application of temporary splints for fractures and antiseptic dressing. There is no washing or exploration of wounds. The clothes are merely slit up with scissors, not removed, thus insuring protection to the patient's body and saving unnecessary disturbances. The sergeant in charge of the collection station has a field companion, a water bottle and a small reserve of bandages and first dressings in his care to replenish the surgical haversacks with which the bearers are supplied.

Triangular bandages are chiefly used on the battlefield, made from a 38 inch square of linen or calico, cut diagonally into halves. Almost anything that comes to hand may be used as improvised splints—sticks, telegraph wire, bark of trees, straw, rifles, bayonets, lances and so on. The splint, if necessary, is padded with straw or leaves or grass and is fastened with straps torn from the soldier's equipment or with strips of a shirt, securely bound with the triangular bandage. Bound up with the rifle splint, a wounded man is made so secure that he can hardly move a muscle. One leg is firmly bound to the rifle, and the ankles are tied together, so that the injured limb is almost as rigid as the rifle at its side.—London Standard.

### A Cheerful Liar.

"I have followed trout streams ever since I was a boy," said a Providence crank, "and have tried to solve for many years the cause of the apparent decrease in brook trout. Recently I think I discovered the cause of the extermination. I was fishing along a brook near Oakland Beach, R. I., when I saw a large snake with a half masticated trout in its mouth. The action of the snake interested me, and, standing quiet, I studied the snake closely.

"On the end of the snake's tail was a sharp bony growth shaped like a hook. After a few moments my watching was rewarded by seeing the snake glide over to some bushes growing along the bank and catch a grasshopper in its mouth. The snake then placed the grasshopper carefully on the hooklike thing on the end of its tail.

"By this time my curiosity was thoroughly aroused," continued the fisherman. "The snake crawled up on a log that extended from the bank into the brook and let its tail hang into the water. In a moment up came a trout and snapped at the grasshopper. It was short work for the snake to transfer the fish from its tail to its mouth, and I had solved the problem of the extermination of brook trout."—Cleve-Plain Dealer.

### Tempering Copper Not a Lost Art.

The allegation that ancient Egyptians tempered copper and bronze to carry a razor edge is not borne out by investigation. Thomas Harper of Bellevue, Pa., challenges any one to produce a piece of metal tempered by the ancients that cannot be more than duplicated by any metal worker today. He says that in examining hundreds of specimens alleged to have been tempered to the degree that steel is tempered he failed to find any, nor had he discovered any one who had seen such work, and the fable which has been implicitly believed for centuries is being shattered in the light of modern research.

This is not the only story believed for centuries tending to belittle the man of today, to make him the inferior of his forefathers, which failed under the searchlight of inquiry and science. The ancients were children in mechanical knowledge as compared to the people of today, and if there was a demand for any particular building or piece of work such as was produced by the ancients it could be duplicated and improved on by the skilled artisans of the nineteenth century.—American Manufacturer.

### Not Self Made.

"I am sorry to disappoint you, young man," said the great railway magnate to the reporter who had called in for the purpose of writing him up, "but I did not begin at the bottom and work my way up. I never blacked the boots of the engine wipers and never carried beer for the janitor of the roundhouse. I was kicked through college by my father, inherited a fortune, which I invested in railroad shares, and I hold this job because I have votes enough to control it. It is too bad, my young friend, but we can't all be self made men. We would become tiresome." And he bowed the caller out.—Chicago Tribune.

### A Strong Hint.

Harry wanted to give Lucy a birthday present, but could not make up his mind what it should be; so the next time he called he frankly told her the difficulty under which he was laboring.

"Want to make me a present, Harry?" exclaimed Lucy in well counterfeited astonishment. "Why, Harry, you forget yourself!"

Harry took the hint and offered himself on the spot.

### Life In a Flat.

"Where is my folding pipe?"

"I don't know, James, but the folding matches are on the folding mantelpiece."—Chicago Record.


# From a Pastor

"I am the pastor of the Baptist Church at Port Jervis, N. Y., and sometimes am called upon to take part in evangelistic work away from home. Not long ago I went to Sandy Creek, N. Y., which is swept by the damp winds from Lake Ontario. Here I contracted a bad cough, and became so hoarse that I could hardly preach to my congregation. It was not only distressing in a bodily sense, but extremely embarrassing to enter the pulpit in this condition. I had heard of Acker's English Remedy and, after service, I bought a bottle and began taking it. The next night my throat was nearly well, and I delivered my sermon without difficulty. In a few days I was thoroughly cured. I conceive it to be my duty to benefit mankind physically as well as spiritually whenever I can, and am glad to write these words in praise of this grand old medicine. Those with sensitive throats and those who catch cold easily should certainly take Acker's English Remedy."

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Ah, this was aiming high indeed! But when was true art ever known to falter?—Detroit Journal.

### Honest Confession.

"Young man," said the careful father, "if I consent to you marrying my daughter will you furnish her the luxuries to which she is accustomed?"

"Well," said the young man, "it is more than likely that I won't be buying her as many theater admissions as I have been doing for the past year."—Indianapolis Press.

Niagara power was used as long ago as 1725, when the French erected a sawmill near the site of the present factory of the Pittsburg Reduction company. It was used for the purpose of supplying sawed lumber for Fort Niagara.

When a man is hungry, he doesn't waste much time reading the bill of fare.—Chicago News.

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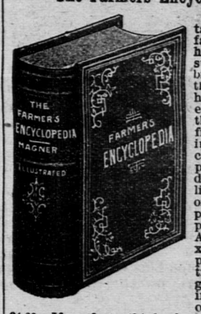


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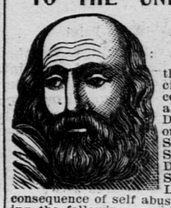

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