

THE CRUEL CHECK.

Fashion Dictates Equine Torture.

"IT'S ENGLISH, YOU KNOW."

The Anglomaniac Fad of the Severe Checkrein is Coming in Vogue Again.

Written for THE MORNING CALL.

A dispatch from Denver tells of the public reuke administered by a young lady to the driver of a fashionable equipage whose coals were suffering from an inordinately tightened checkrein.

The good Samaritan was Miss Trella Foltz, a daughter of Clara Foltz, the well-known San Francisco attorney and champion of the cause of woman's freedom.

If Miss Foltz were to revisit this city just at present she would find ample opportunity for the practice of her philanthropic impulses, for the checkrein here as elsewhere seems to have taken fresh hold upon the fashionable world and is considered by long odds the most in de siècle method of torturing carriage horses.

True, excessive checking is not done for the express purpose of torturing the horses, but the material results to the afflicted animals are precisely the same as though it were.

That torture is a necessary incident of the high checking, there is not an intelligent horseman in all the land to gainsay. Yet the high checking goes merrily on. If there is one city in the wide world where high checking ought not to be tolerated, that city is San Francisco. Here the high grades make it essential that the horse should "have his head."

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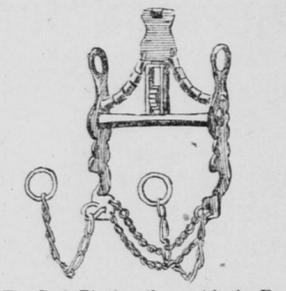
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The Curb Bit that Goes with the English Cab-check Rein.

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A Bob-tail Aristocrat in His Glory.

can get much good out of the services in- gade the church while their horses are being tortured on the outside."

"Of course, it is a cruel way of converting a slow horse into an apparently spirited animal," said Joe Redding, when THE CALL reporter asked him to express an opinion on the matter.

"But it isn't done so much in California as you might suppose," he added. "You see we have no famous parades or promenades like they have in Europe. Take the Bois de Boulogne, for example. You can see 5000 magnificent turnouts there every afternoon, parading along as close together as the crowds on Market street. It's the same way in Rotten Row and Hyde Park in London. In fact, it's a wonder here, for the French are far less severe with the checkrein than are the English."

"Take the average good carriage horse and parade him up and down the Bois de Boulogne or Rotten Row, checked right up to the highest notch, and he will get as much exercise in an hour or two of that sort of thing as though he were driven a distance of twenty miles or more."

"Put the checkrein on an ordinary horse and you transform him, for the time being, into a high-strung, nervous animal, manifesting a suppressed energy and tremendous vigor. Of course it's all wrong, but it's English, you know, and what's English is fashionable. Still, as I say, there is comparatively little of it done here, for sensible people recognize how injurious it would be to go on a high grade of this city. I suppose that out of 500 carriages to be seen at the park of an afternoon you would hardly find a full score of highly checked horses, or cobs, as they are called in London."

"Still, it's the proper paper. If you go to a fashionable harness or carriage maker and ask for a Brewster coupe or closed

calling carriage, the dealer will ask you if you want harness to match. If you answer in the affirmative you get a set of imported harness direct from London. It is heavily caparisoned, and the severe checkrein is one of its features."

And along with the cob harness and its taut checkrein comes the English curb bit. This usually goes with the Badoon check and it is quite as much an instrument of torture as the check itself. A good many of both are used in this city despite the estimate of Mr. Redding.

Among the really fashionable equipages in San Francisco are those of Theodore Marcson, E. J. Baldwin, Robert Wieland, Mrs. Callahan, Dr. Erskine, H. M. Harvey, Claus Sprickels, the Crockers, the Hobarts, Achille Roos and one or two others.

You can pick out of these equipages out from almost any kind of a crowd, for the horses hold their heads higher and prance more than most horses. They are better horses too, of course, than those driven by most people, but one and all of them are checked so severely that the animals suffer torture while in harness."

Not a few people are to be found who defend the severe checking. That is the greatest wonder of it all. They say high checking is necessary for smart and hard work. A well-known liverman who takes care of several private equipages for society men and women told THE CALL reporter it would never do to let some horses have their heads held up or down, or to let them would be sure to stumble and fall unless their heads are held up high, he said, and he really looked as though he believed every word of it.

"Why, imagine many of these carriage horses would be absolutely unmanageable if they were not checked up," said he. "And it's very hard on the driver when the checkrein is loose. How is it hard on the driver? Why, he has to hold the heads of his horses up by sheer force if they are not properly checked. I say the check ought to be used all the time. Horses need it; besides they look better that way, make a better appearance when checked right up."

Alexander McCord of the Fashion Stables takes issue with his brother liverman in this respect, though his own styling might be found fault with by those who insist upon letting the horse have his own way with his head.

"I don't believe in too severe checking," said Mr. McCord, "and never did. When I turn around the horses are checked just enough to keep their heads up a bit, not to such an extent to cause them needless suffering. It's wrong to check them up to the last notch, and I would not have it done at all if I had my way in the matter."

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is about to intervene in the matter of high checking in this city, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will wish the society success in its work.

"We ought to have a law particularly fitting this matter," said Secretary Holbrook. "However, I am of the opinion that the thing can be stopped by vigorous policy be carried out. No cases will yet come under my notice, that is, no aggravated cases, where the cruelty to the animal was so apparent as to warrant us in taking action with a hope of making a clear case against the offender. A good deal more could be done in such cases if there were a specific law forbidding severe checking. It is all wrong and should be stopped at once and forever."

The society's officers should take up stands in the driveways of Golden Gate Park some fine afternoon. They would not have long to wait if any of the ultra-fashionable equipages were on the road.

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

Items of Interest to Members of Many Denominations.

Rev. Burt Estes Howard, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles, has just received a draft for \$700 from his former church in Cleveland, Ohio, for Occidental College. Surely local pride should prompt the Presbyterians of the coast to respond with a zeal equal at least to that of strangers in the work of the deserving college.

The principal paper at the Columbian Catholic Congress, to be held at Chicago this week, is to be read by Bishop Waterston of Columbus, whose subject will be "The Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on Liberty." Dr. Waterston's deep learning and fine literary accomplishments will make this paper one that it will be well worth hearing.

At the late commencement at Yale University the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon the Rev. Hiram Bingham, the pioneer missionary to the Gilbert Islands. Dr. Bingham has earned distinction by the publication of a very scholarly version of the Holy Scriptures in the Gilbert Island tongue.

Rev. J. Diomed, S. J., the well-known Indian missionary among the Spokane and Flathead Indians in Washington, Montana and Idaho, is at present residing in the Sacred Heart College, Denver, Colo., to recuperate his eyesight, which has become weak from arduous labors of the missions.

Adolph Loucheim, who died recently in Philadelphia, was prominent in Jewish charitable work and gave largely to assist his poorer brethren. He was a member of the United Hebrew Charities, the Jewish Hospital Association, and a number of other charitable institutions.

The outcome of a brief correspondence between Germany and this country has been the purchase of the library of the late Dr. David Strauch of Berlin for the Morris Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Professor Weiner of the Columbus (Mo.) University, who is writing a dictionary and grammar of the Judeo-German dialect (Jargon) spoken by the Russo-Polish Jews, is at present in Chicago collecting material.

Monignor Satolli was so charmed with the California climate that he has promised, so at least it is said, to return to San Francisco at some future date and be the guest of Archbishop Riordan.

Rev. F. Merton Smith, assistant pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, and his wife, are spending their vacation in the Sierras, somewhere in the vicinity of Lake Tahoe.

The courts have approved the change in the name of the American Home Missionary Society. After October 1 the new name will be the Congregational Home Missionary Society.

Representatives of twenty-nine Catholic associations were present at the dedication of the new church of San Sebastian in Berlin the other day. Bishop Knopp officiated.

The Jewish Publication Society's literary department is now in charge of Miss Henrietta Szold, a Jewish essayist of no little repute in this country.

The Presbytery of South Dakota will hold its stated meeting at Marion Junction, Dak., beginning Tuesday, September 12.

The Second Presbyterian Church of Oakland has been recently enlarged and beautified. The opening will be held today.

Several bands of sisters who are engaged in educational work are among the students at the Catholic Summer School this season. The largest syndus on the roll of the Protestant Episcopal Association of the Synods of New York and Pennsylvania.

The L. O. B. B., the oldest Jewish order in this country, will shortly celebrate its golden jubilee.

Sister Carmelina of Naples, Italy, has been elected superior-general of the Sisters of Charity.

Rev. Philip Bunnell, the oldest minister in Maine, died July 22, aged 99 years.

Reading Circle of the Cathedral.

The many friends and members of the reading circle of St. Mary's Cathedral will be pleased to learn that sessions will be resumed at 8 o'clock on Tuesday evening at St. Mary's Cathedral. The circle enters upon the third year of its existence with an increased membership and added enthusiasm for the studies in art, literature and history, pursued under the able direction of Very Rev. Father Prendergast.

The Young Men's Rally.

To-day at 3 o'clock a special rally of young men will take place at the Christian Association Hall, 232 South Street. The rally will be interesting and an address by Rev. A. E. Armstrong of Leadville, Colo. Seats free to all young men.

AUGUST HINRICHS.

He Encouraged Youthful Composers.

STILL THEY ARE COMING.

The Director of the Baldwin Orchestra Speaks of Famous Conductors Under Whom He Played.

"I thought it was an important message," said August Hinrichs, with a resigned air, glancing up from a letter which a special messenger had just brought to his home from the Baldwin Theater.

"The lady seemed to think it important," replied the messenger. "She said she had just composed a polka that she wanted your orchestra to produce, and if you would meet her at the box-office at 10 o'clock to-morrow."

"Did you tell her that the box-office is not my reception-room?" interrupted the conductor of the Baldwin Theater, nervously running his fingers through his hair, which he wears in an artistic negligee style.

"You seem to be pursued by amateur composers," observed a reporter of THE CALL, who had been waiting for over half an hour to obtain an interview with Mr. Hinrichs.

One aspiring lady composer had nipped the interview in the bud, just as Mr. Hinrichs had been about to disclose the



August Hinrichs.

name of his birthplace. She had stayed twenty-five minutes and had told him all she had composed and all she intended to compose, and had cheered him with the news that he could always play her compositions free of charge.

No sooner had she gone than the messenger from the Baldwin arrived with the letter from composer number two, begging Mr. Hinrichs to give her latest polka his undivided consideration, as she felt sure to meet with an introduction to the public by his orchestra to make an instant hit.

"Did you not once offer to bring out and print, free of charge, the best musical compositions submitted to you?" observed the reporter.

"Don't remind me of it. That was the time I had to buy a new doorbell every day," exclaimed Mr. Hinrichs, while what novelists would call a "thunder" look came over his face. "The effects of that rash offer still pursue me. THE CALL at the time spoke of it as a happy thought," he continued, pensively. "I discovered to my sorrow that it was the reverse. I also discovered that San Francisco has enough musical composers to supply the world."

"Talk about composers," he added with a sort of gloomy enthusiasm, "why, all the musical chords of the future were to be found in their works. Absolutely Wagner was not in it for new and startling harmonies. Of course some of them were really excellent. I should like particularly to mention 'The Summer' by Florence Easterby, which received the first prize. The work was very fine. My idea of having musical competitions was initiated by conductors all over the country, but I don't know whether you have heard of doorbells ringing from morning till night, as I had."

"I don't think we can bring out any more compositions just now," he added to the messenger, "as it will be impossible for me to be at the box-office at 10 o'clock to-morrow, so please wait till we are through with the interview." And then Mr. Hinrichs prepared to answer the reporter's question.

"Where was I born? Well, to tell the truth it was in a royal castle—Ludwigslust, a possession of the Duke of Mecklenburg. Don't blame me for that," he hastened to add. "My father was in the cavalry and was quartered there at the time; it was in 1861; and we removed to Hamburg when I was only 2½ years old."

"I received my musical education in Hamburg. H. E. Kayer, one of the most renowned and celebrated masters of violin music of modern times, gave me violin lessons. The organ and piano I studied under Carl Amberg, and Angelo Kliesland taught me harmony."

"I cannot boast of ever having been a musical prodigy. Infant phenomena are the fashion, but when I was young I was not in it, though I seem almost to have lived in the theater during the last sixteen years. At 14 years of age I entered the Hamburg Stadt Theater, remaining there for three seasons. I had the honor of playing the first violin under the baton of Bulow, Rubinstein and Saint-Saens."

"Saint-Saens is one of the most excellent of conductors. He literally dances and writes about on the stand. When he went to Hamburg, where all the musicians were Germans, he was made more excited by the fact that he could not speak a word of German. We were forced to speak French to him, and such French!