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# A Horse Book

BY  
MARY TOURTEL

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## AT PLAY.

Three little foals you see at play.  
 They romp and sport all through the day,  
 But sometimes they are most sedate  
 And try to ape their mothers' gait.

They wheel and race and leap and prance,  
 And sometimes they are said to dance:  
 But always they will stand and stare  
 At anyone who passes there.

[4]

[5]

[6]

[7]

## SCHOOLING.

The horse, like us, must go to school  
 To learn by precept and by rule.  
 Like us, he does not love the work,  
 Like us, he's not allowed to shirk.

This little instrument you see  
 Strapped on his back, shaped like a V,  
 Is a "Dumb Jockey" meant to train  
 The horse to bear the bit and rein.



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[9]

[10]

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## CLEVERNESS.

Billy, the circus pony, can  
Distinguish letters like a man:  
He'll hold up for you in the ring  
His D for Dunce and K for King.

With P for Pony he will show  
That he his family name doth know;  
And he will find the C for clown  
And at his feet will put it down.

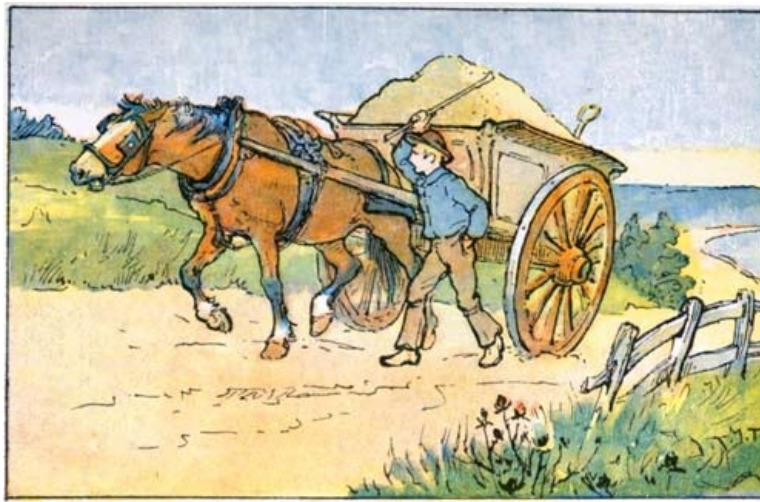
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## WILLINGNESS.

Although this horse is doing all he can to drag his heavy load up the hill, the lazy boy who is walking beside him, with one hand in his pocket, beats him cruelly with the stick which he carries. The boy is too silly or too careless to see how willingly the horse is working.



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## WILFULNESS.

A horse's great red-letter days  
 Are days of hunting, when his ways  
 Are often very wilful. Here  
 See this John Gilpin in great fear.

He came out just to see the Meet,  
 But the horse thought he would  
 compete  
 With horses, hounds and fox for place,  
 And led the man this madcap race.

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## INTELLIGENCE.

On the prairies in the Far West of America a man lost his way. He had no water to drink, although both he and his horse were parched with thirst. Not knowing where to find water, he cast the reins on the neck of his horse. By means of that wonderful intelligence which some people wrongly call instinct, the horse found his way to a spring, although it was many miles distant. Thus both man and horse were able to quench their

thirst, and in this way their lives were saved.



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## KICKING.

These two are very much dismayed  
To see the fuss their horse has made  
Because this dog in playful mood  
Barked in a manner rather rude.

It is a thing some horses do  
Until the driver makes them rue  
Their fits of temper. Then they say  
That kicking doesn't seem to pay.

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## GENTLENESS.

These big carthorses and these little children are great friends. Although the horses are so big, they are very gentle, and allow the carter's children to lead them home in the evening, or to ride on their backs.



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## BITING.

Peggy is the children's pride,  
And she allows them all to ride.  
She comes to them whene'er they call,  
And loves to have them in her stall.

With others she has wilful ways.  
She will be cross with John for days,  
Will kick and squeal, will show much spite,  
And very often try to bite.

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## TOILING.

These three horses are ploughing an upland field. They are thoroughly enjoying themselves, for they are so strong that their work is a pleasure to them. The ploughman is guiding the plough, so as to keep the furrows straight. The rooks are soaring round in search of grubs found in the earth

which is turned up by the plough.



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## HUNTING.

What sweeter sound on winter morn  
Than music of the hounds and horn?  
What prettier sight could e'er be seen  
Than hounds and horses on the green?

See winding down this country way  
An eager throng one winter day.  
Keen are the men for sport of course,  
But just as keen each hound and  
horse.

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## DUTY.

The troop-horse, like all soldiers, has to learn his drill till he becomes as efficient as his rider. In war he will take his place in his squadron should his rider have been killed or wounded. In one instance, several guns of the Royal Horse Artillery were saved by the teams galloping back to their lines after all the gunners and drivers had been shot down.





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## REARING.

Rearing is an awkward vice,  
No rider ever thinks it nice.  
When the horse prances on two feet  
It's difficult to keep one's seat.

This lady riding in the Row  
Is a good rider, you must know.  
When on two legs her horse would  
soar  
She quickly brings him down to four.

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## SAGACITY.

There is danger at this place which  
the horse can see, but which the rider  
fails to detect. They are in the midst of

a swamp where one false step would mean a horrible death in the quagmire on the verge of which the horse has pulled up. The man uses whip and spur, but the horse refuses to move. Finally the rider leaves the horse to himself to find a way round which brings them both to safety.



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## BOLTING.

See this runaway flecked with foam  
Gallop fast as he can for home,  
Caring nought for the shouting man  
Running also as fast as he can.

Flung by the bolter on the roadside  
Small is his chance of a pleasant ride.  
Two legs matched in a race with four—  
Perhaps they'll meet at the stable  
door.

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## PATIENCE.

The cab horse is a useful steed,  
Ever handy, good at need—

A patient uncomplaining jade,  
What should we do without his aid?

By day, by night he may be had,  
Be the weather good or be it bad.  
Many a knock and many a fall  
He gets, and yet survives them all.



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[66]

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## BUCKING.

When horses buck they take a bound  
With all their four feet off the ground.  
Unless they know just what to do  
And how to keep their seats all  
through.

The riders come off fast and thick  
When horses start this Yankee trick.  
But with the cowboys of the West  
The horses come off second best.

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## PERSEVERANCE.

The horse affords the best example  
amongst animals of perseverance: he  
will go on until he falls exhausted or

dead. On the Yorkshire moors, after a heavy fall of snow, the roads are quite lost, and it often happens that the mailman has to unharness his horse (the cart being blocked by the snow), and trust to the horse's courage and endurance to carry the mails from village to village. It has been known that the driver has been overcome by the intense cold, when the horse has found his way unaided to the nearest accustomed stopping place.



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## JIBBING.

Of all the tiresome steeds that are  
The jibber is the worst by far.  
He stands and contemplates the scene

—  
An act embarrassing and mean.

And nine times out of ten he chooses  
An awkward spot when he refuses  
To move. To cure him, take him out  
And turn the jibber round about.

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## SERVICE.

The Bus horse does not work all day,  
For if he did he'd waste away.

He does his work and then is able  
To take a long rest in the stable.

When summer suns beat down upon it  
His head is sheltered by a bonnet;  
And though it makes him look a duffer,  
He hasn't half the heat to suffer.



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## SHYING.

"A wicked horse," perhaps you say,  
"To shy in such a sudden way,  
And almost make his rider fall.  
It is not nice of him at all."

It was not wickedness, but fear.  
That dreadful white thing rushing near  
Appeared to his affrighted eyes  
Full seven times its proper size.

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## CURIOSITY.

All horses very curious are  
And things which they espy afar

Arouse their curiosity:  
They wonder what on earth they see.

With ears pricked up and cautious  
mien  
They come to see. When they have  
seen,  
They snort and turn and off they  
scurry  
In a contemptuous desperate hurry.

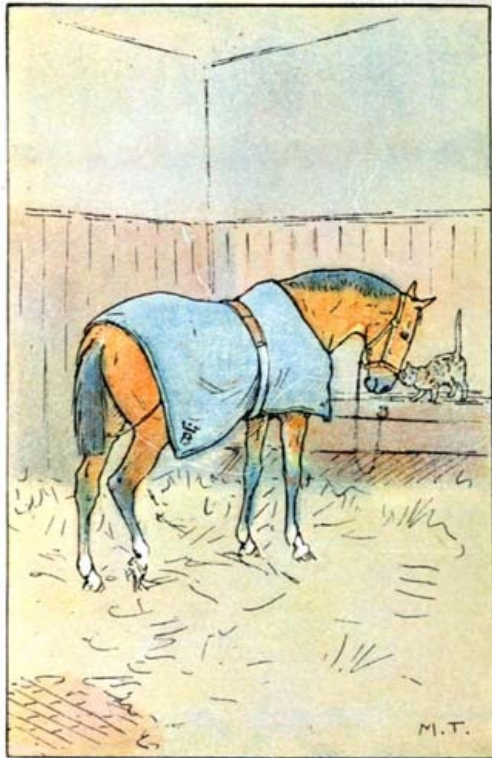


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## FRIENDSHIP.

A beautiful racehorse became very much attached to a cat. So much so that he was never happy unless the cat was near him, either sleeping curled up on his back or somewhere in his stall. They became such close companions that when the horse was taken abroad to run in some races for which he had been entered, he became so dejected at being separated from his companion that it was found necessary that the cat should always accompany him in his horse-box wherever he went.

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## OLD AGE.

This horse's working days are o'er.  
The shafts and saddle nevermore

Shall hold him. Here he waits his end  
Cared for by those who love to tend

An old companion. He may rest  
In his loose box or take the best  
Of grazing which the meadows give—  
A pensioner while he shall live.



#### Transcriber's Note

The following correction was made.

p. 67: seats all through was changed to seats all through.

\*\*\* END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A HORSE BOOK \*\*\*

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