

think I should never have undertaken to write regarding them. I will not speak lightly of the horse literature of the day in this connection; it has been of value to me, but that which has taught me most, was my mingling with and close study of the animals.

I am not a journalist, and have no interest in one. I never wrote an article in my life for pecuniary recompense. In my sketches of the various trotting stallions I have at all times declined recompense, being unwilling to be placed under any obligations to the owners—other than that which I owed to the reading public—to be fair and faithful in portraying excellences or in delineating faults. In some instances the owners of prominent stallions have tendered me the compliment of the gratuitous service of a stallion—which, as a breeder I have felt at all times at liberty to accept—but in no case at the expense of an unfair or unfaithful expression of opinion with reference to the particular animal or any other.

My readers have the assurance that the opinions herein expressed are my own—so far as they purport to be—and no one else is to be held accountable for them or accredited with them. Whether they be approved or assailed, as they have in each case, in the past, makes no difference with me. Such is the privilege of every one in this country.

That my methods of studying and describing horses have been novel to some of the writing gentlemen, is not singular. They never studied horses in that way, and it may also be said, that from their descriptions in many cases, their readers never derived much information. Superficiality has never been one of my standards in the investigation of any subject, and if my delineations of the composition, blood traits, conformation and characteristics of horses have differed from the stereotyped form long in use, it has been the result of the difference in my methods of study and investigation pursued.

Some regard it as a matter of delicacy to write or speak of the respective merits of other people's stock—and it is said that this stallion business is a sensitive spot: I have no such feeling. All breeders have a common interest in the general improvement of stock in this country, and information relative to the subject is the property of all who can fairly obtain it.

If a stallion possesses qualities unknown to the public, they look, in great part, to the stock journals to learn his value; and if a rank has been given to or claimed for an animal which is not justified by his merits, any one desiring to read, has a just right to correct infor-