

Mr. Fell has watched the habits of the Wild Horses in Lafonia closely. The strong and active horses each guard their own herd of mares. They keep the closest watch over them, and if one strays at all, drive her back into the herd by kicking her. The younger horses live in herds apart, but the more vigorous are always on the look-out to pick up a mare from the herds of the older ones, and to drive her off with them, and they sometimes gather a few mares and hold them for a short time, till they are recaptured. When they think they are strong enough, they try the strength of the old horses in battle, and eventually each old horse is beaten by some rival and displaced. The fighting is done mainly with the tusks, and front to front, not with the heels. Thus the most active and strongest males are constantly selected naturally for the continuation of the herds.

The wild horses, as well as others, are often broken in by tying them with a raw hide halter to a post, and leaving them for several days without food or water. After long ineffectual struggles to break loose, the animals become convinced of the absolute power over them of the halter, and in future become cowed and docile directly a halter or lasso is over their heads. The wild horses when broken in are very tame and quiet to ride.

I was astonished at the facility with which the Falkland Island horses obey the rein. There is no necessity, as a rule, to make them feel the bit at all in order to turn them. Merely laying the part of the reins close to the hand against that side of the neck from which they are wanted to turn is sufficient. Well-broken horses can be turned round and round in a circle by this means, by a gentle touch on the neck only. Our horses in England are certainly not half so well broken.

Our progress on our ride was mostly slow, because of the boggy ground, and it was dark by the time that we reached the end of our 60 miles' ride. Mr. Fell gave us an opportunity of seeing an assembly of the herd of tame cattle belonging to the Company in the part of Lafonia near Darwin Harbour. The Company has imported some first-class Bulls of the hornless polled breed.

The wild cattle in Lafonia will probably all be killed off in order that sheep may be substituted. At present the Company pays men to kill these wild cattle for their hides. The cattle are thrown by means of the lasso or bolas, and ham-strung, or "cut down," as the term is, and then killed and skinned at leisure. 2,000 had been thus killed in Lafonia in the year of our visit.

It seems remarkable that such very different means of hand-