

THE BIG SHOW

Rufus Somerby's Latest Achievement.

HORSES ON THE STAGE.

Beautiful Animals that Can Do Everything but Talk.

A CROWDED HOUSE SEES THEM AT THE INSTITUTE.

Prof. Bristol and His Educated Equines Give a Performance Never Before Seen in the Provinces—Diamond, the Favorite, Astonishes the People, and Topsy the Mule Furnishes Lots of Fun—Horses at School, on Sea-Saws, Swings and in Other Roles Seen Once in a Lifetime.

Tuesday night at the Institute eight beautiful horses and a frisky mule pranced about in the sawdust, before a crowded house. Prof. Bristol, like the ring master of an old time circus, in evening dress and with a long whip was the only other performer, until the last part, when the trick mule, and its colored driver came on to keep the house in roars of laughter.

In years gone by, when Connell's watering cart horses did not aspire to the dignity of gaudy plumes and circus paraphernalia, the horses of the ring were the great features of the show. Nowhere else could the people see beautiful horses that sported a coat of more than one color. Of late years, however, the circus horse cannot be distinguished from any other, and equines whose only experience in the circus line has been in hauling blue sprinklers and the royal mail, are always recognized by the small boys.

So, when Rufus Somerby's great equine show came to town Tuesday it created a sensation. The beautiful horses of the old time circus pranced to the music of the band, and the crowd grew larger as the procession moved along.

In the evening the Institute was crowded. It was a great show from first to last—horses without bit or bridle, beautiful animals that knew their parts, and went through them in a way that brought storms of applause.

Diamond, the professor's favorite, the smartest horse he ever saw, stood beside his master as he told the audience all about him, then made way for Snowflake the only pure white horse in the world, a horse without a black hair, and which Prof. Bristol refused to sell to P. T. Barnum because he wanted to have something the great showman could not get. This horse is a whole show in itself, and at the museums in the big cities could support his owner at ease, and does so when he wants to take a vacation without decreasing his income.

One after another the horses were introduced and something of interest said about each, until the professor announced "the only one in the school that could not be replaced." Then, in walked Topsy, the black mule, as demure as the best of his species. He sized up the audience while the professor was speaking, kicked up his heels for the amusement of the house and took his place at the end of the row.

Then the show began. "We will open the school," said the professor, and the ears of eight horses and one mule assumed the perpendicular. "Who will be monitor?"

Topsy came to the front with four steps and a kick. Every motion set the audience laughing and he seemed to realize the responsibility resting upon him in keeping up the merriment.

After going through the preliminaries, Topsy helped the professor to put his coat on, then took it off. "Take away the hat and bring out a table," was the next order, and off went the mule, while Eagle, a

what to do and they did it without any fuss, just the same as stage hands would have done at any other performance. The audience began to get enthusiastic, but as the horses did one act after another and the improbable things were gone

Diamond went over, opened the desk and got it for him, without any fuss. But Topsy was up to her tricks as usual and brought a bad report about Diamond and Commodore, whereupon Diamond had to stand on the dunce block and Commodore

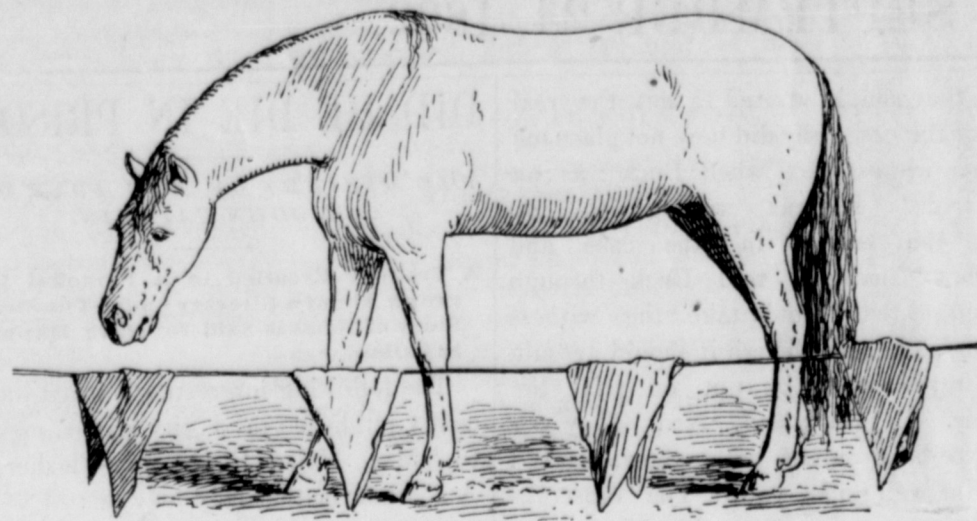
went on, doing all kinds of sums with frequent changes from large to small numbers, and making less mistakes than the average school boy. It was a great performance, and the audience grew more enthusiastic than ever.

But Diamond, the favorite, had another starter. The professor took three handkerchiefs, red, white and blue, and put them in the desk. Some one in the audience asked for the red handkerchief and Diamond was told to get it. His nose was under the lid in a moment. He lifted it up, picked out the red handkerchief and brought it to the professor. Then came the blue and white, as asked for. After a game of ball in which Diamond was the catcher, recess was announced and all the horses took advantage of it, rolling boxes and barrels around and "having a good time generally."

When the curtain went up for the second part a large swing had the centre of the stage, and on this went the beautiful bay and white Commodore. After getting into position he began to move, and gradually got the swing in motion, by his own efforts, until it went at an alarming rate. It is said that Prof. Bristol's Commodore is the only horse in the world that can swing himself, and he can do it every time. But Topsy, the mule was on hand as

inch oval iron rod; then he see-saws alone, after which Diamond winds up that part of the performance by rolling a barrel with

gramme described it in this fashion and is true to the letter: "The military drill, which is something



DISTINGUISHING COLORS

through without a hitch or misunderstanding, everybody settled down to enjoy the show and expect anything. And so it went on. Every horse had its

on his head, while Topsy ran off with evident amusement for bringing in a false report. Then Snowflake came to the front and



TRICK PONY

his foremost feet up the plank on one side and down on the other. Before the curtain goes down Eagle and

so near human intelligence that it seems hard to dispossess yourself of the idea that the horses are not reasoning beings, the discipline is so perfect. They fall in, march off in single or double file, counter-march, come into right or left, wheel left or right oblique, guide right, go through many intricate evolutions and conduct themselves like regular soldiers."

About this time something not on the programme put in an appearance. The professor had it on a string, and introduced the newcomer as a present from Mr. Clarke of the Halifax Academy of Music. It was an intelligent little goat, and Tuesday evening was its third appearance on any stage. It is destined for a tight rope walker and has already gained some distinction in this respect. Tuesday night it went through its performance like a veteran and captured the house.

The show concluded with a horse trade in which a darkey, the trick pony and Victoria, "the smallest mule on earth," and as full of mischief as its size will allow—all contributed to the fun making.

This concluded one of the greatest shows ever seen in St. John, and, without doubt, the finest of the kind ever given in the provinces. Besides the horses mentioned, there is Toney, which Prof. Bristol claims to be the smallest full grown horse in the world and Baldi, a handsome bay and white.

All are included in Mr. Rufus Somerby's Grand Equine show, the best he has brought to the provinces. It took him a long time to get it from Halifax to St. John, for his entertainments are as popular along the line as they are in St. John, and crowded houses were the rule everywhere.

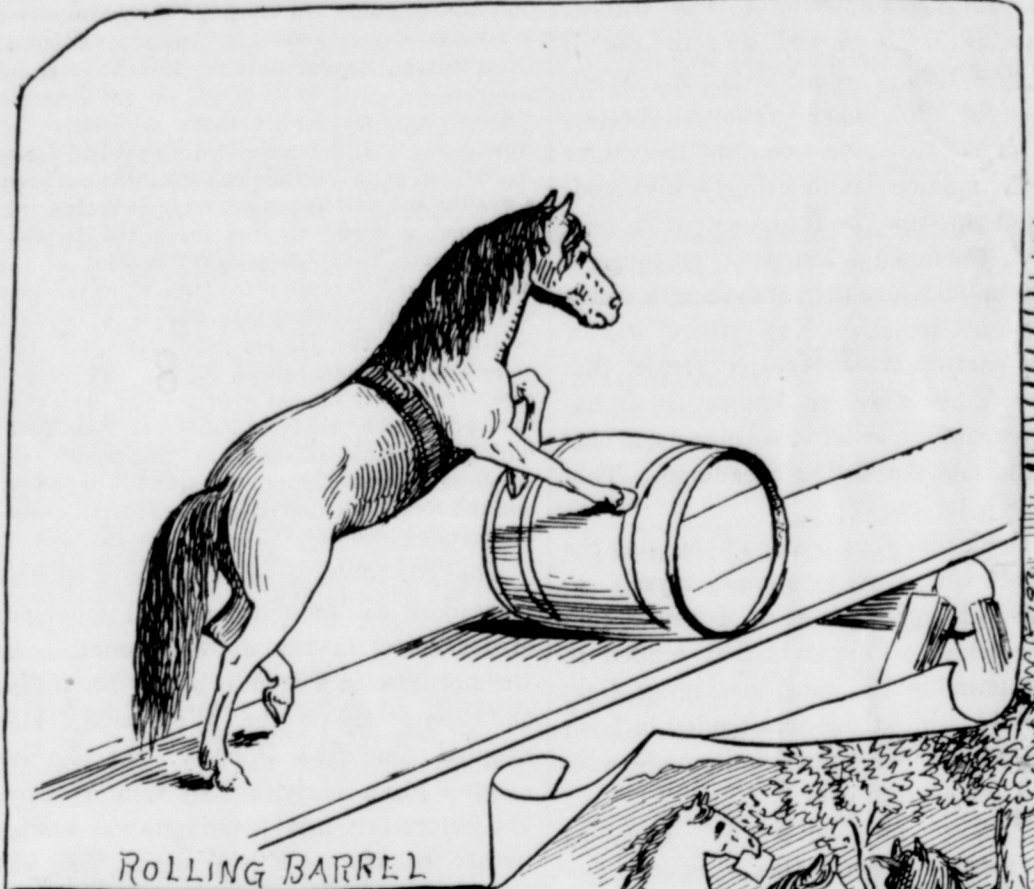
Since Mr. Somerby first included the provinces in his annual tour he has succeeded in doing what no other man in his time has ever done in this part of the world,—run an entertainment every afternoon and evening for weeks at a time with full houses. Although the admission has always been at a low figure, the exhibits and stage performances have been of such a high order as to attract the best classes. With Mr. Somerby as manager they look for something good and of a refined nature, and many St. John people have had an opportunity of seeing popular shows without running the risk of being shocked.

Unightly Objects Made Beautiful.

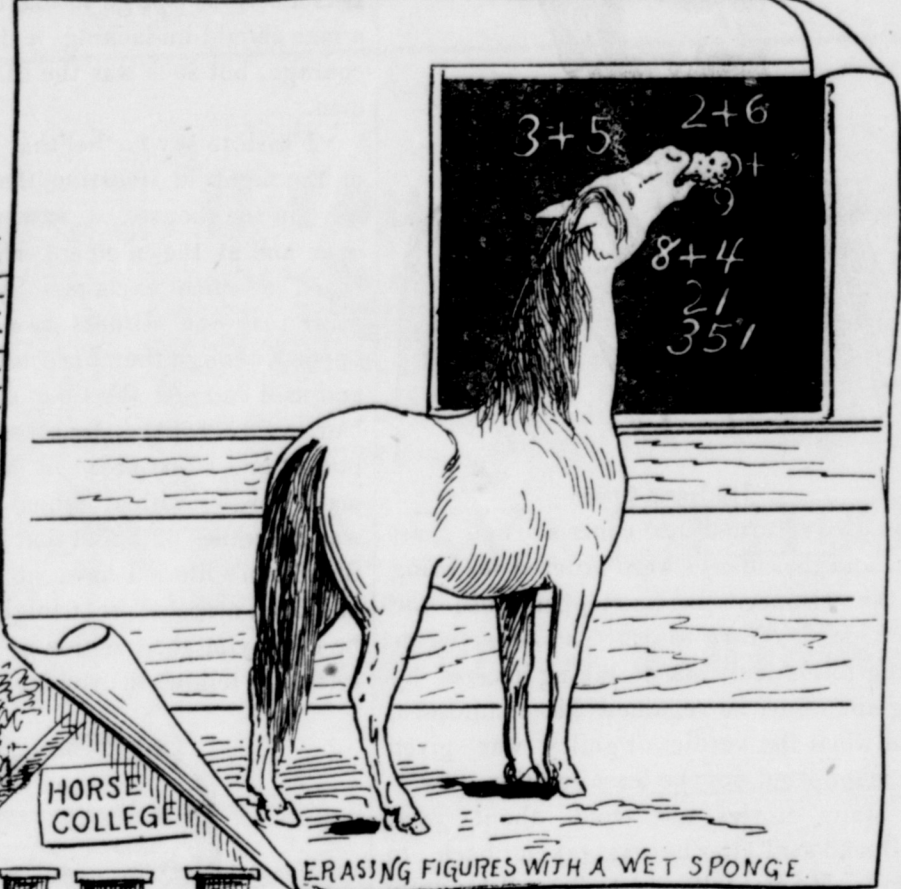
Another example of the possibilities of unsightly and apparently useless objects is a smaller coffer or casket made by one of the pupils in a well known art school. The box was an old soap box, the cover the remains of a worn-out mulberry-hued velvet gown, to which much service had given a time-honored appearance. The metal from sardine cans did duty for clasps and bands, which, after being duly embellished with reposition work, received the stamp of antiquity by submitting it to the gas flame. The lining of the quaint little casket was a bit of the heavy lead in which tea is usually packed for sale.

The Gold Room at Windsor Castle.

There is an apartment in Windsor Castle which is known as "the gold room," and in which is kept all the Queen's gold plate, which is valued at \$12,000,000. Among the articles kept here are 140 dozen gold table and tea spoons, and gold plate sufficient for a dinner for 250 persons. There is also a candelabrum of gold so



ROLLING BARREL



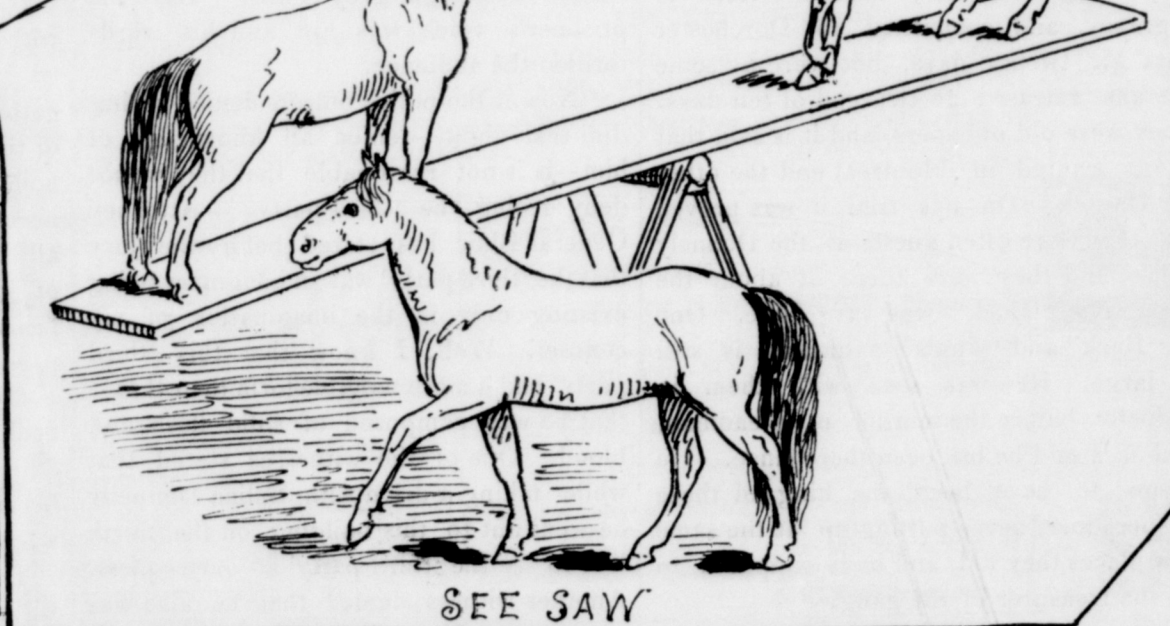
ERASING FIGURES WITH A WET SPONGE



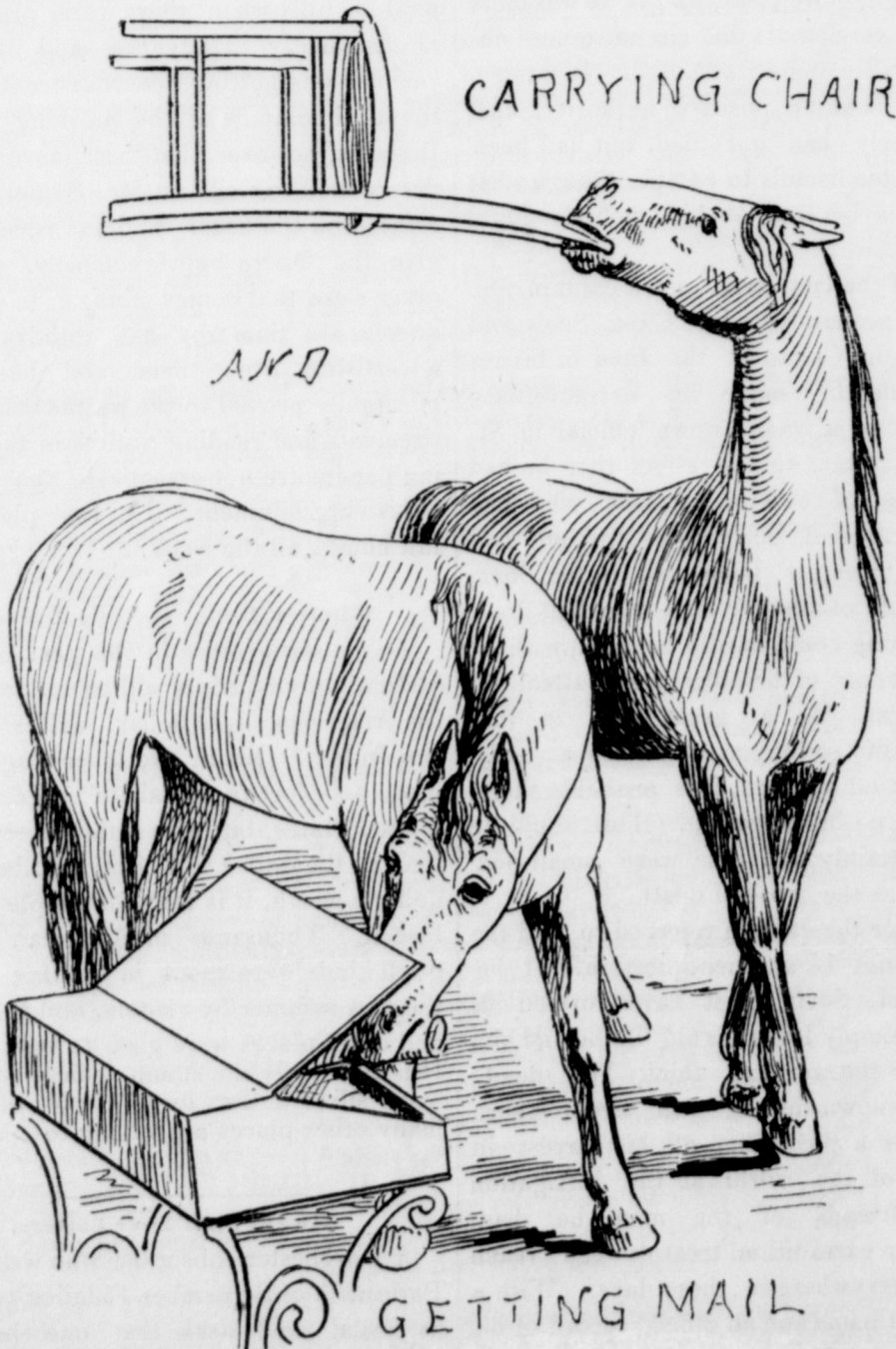
GOING TO SCHOOL



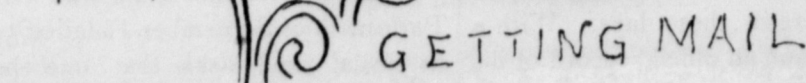
STEALING TIME



SEE SAW



CARRYING CHAIR



GETTING MAIL

beautiful white and black horse, took out the coat and brought back a chair. The professor simply told the horses

The school desk was to the left of the stage, with the cover closed. The professor sat down and asked for his paper,

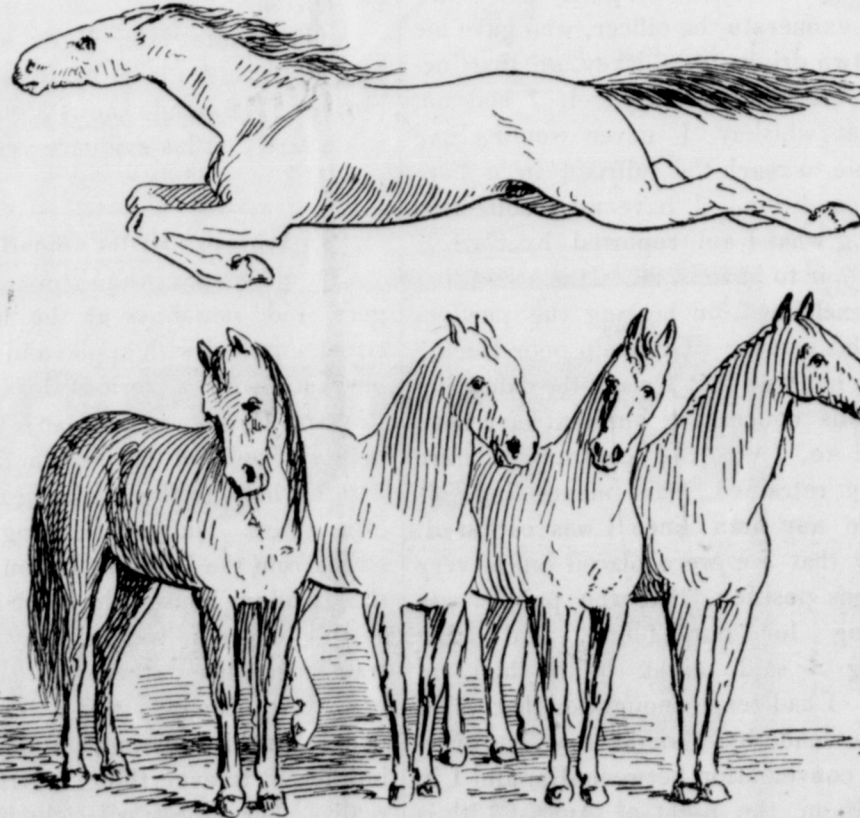
part and knew everything the professor said, while the mule was the clown at all times and kept up the merriment.

in compliance with the professor's request opened a money drawer and took a bank note out of it as easily as the late burglars would have done. The wonders never ceased, but came in rapid succession; Topsy and Ruby going for the mail; Commodore amusing himself at the expense of the professor, by knocking down tables and chairs as fast as he could pick them up; and then giving an exhibition of ladies' side saddle gait.

Then he rang the bell for mathematical exercises and Diamond came to the front,

usual, and did the clown act, first swinging the professor, and then going on herself for "the fun of the thing," and all the fun came out.

Ruby is a bay and white, and is said to enjoy the distinction of being the handsomest horse on earth. And he is as smart as he is handsome. One of the prettiest features of the performance is his trotting and pacing, breaking from one to the other at a word from the professor; then finishing his "turn" by balancing himself on his hind feet.

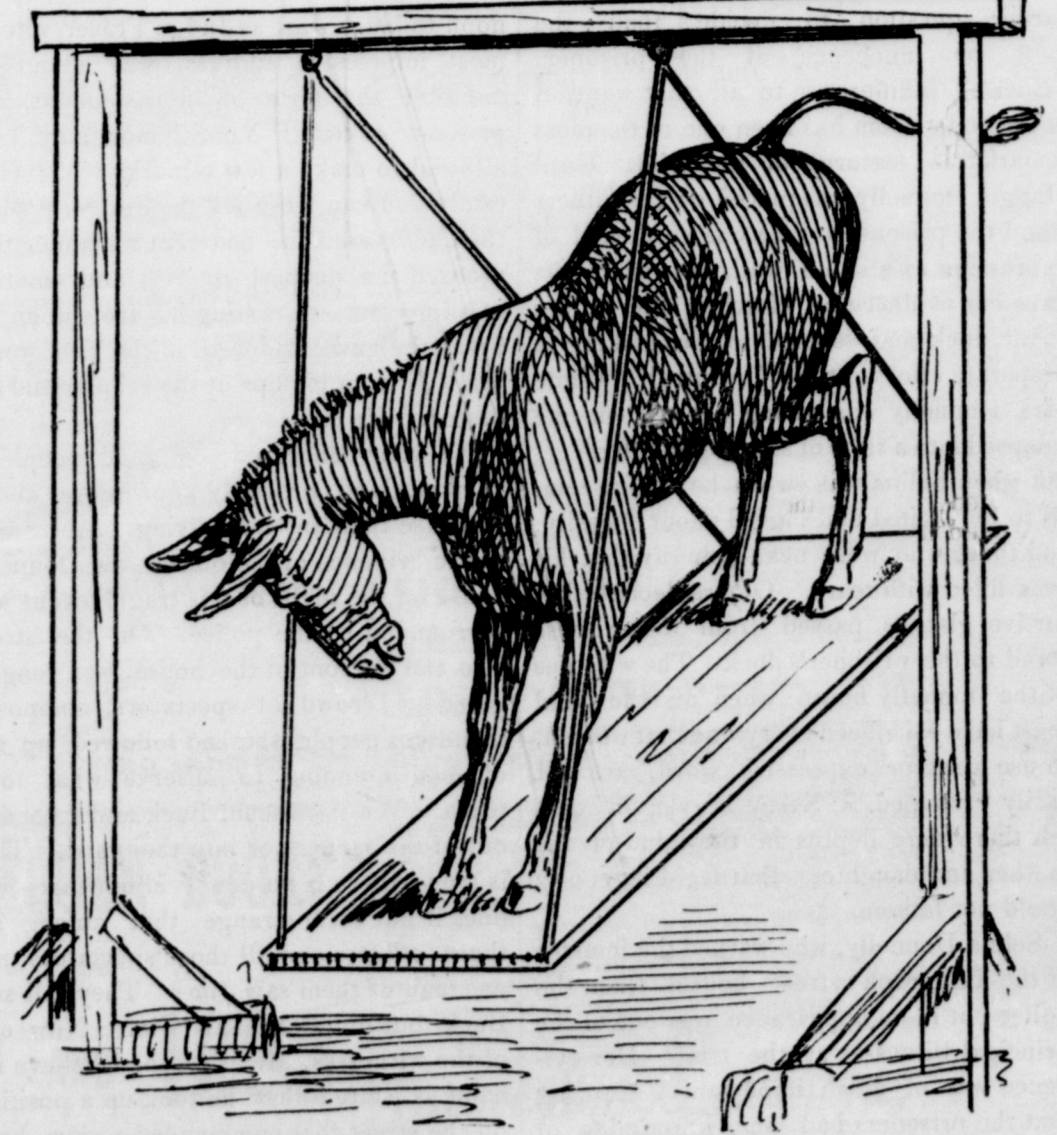


CHAMPION LEAP

and gave one of the most remarkable performances ever seen in St. John. He stood beside the professor and went through his mental arithmetic in a way that astonished the people. "Twice four," said the professor. Diamond's head went into the sawdust eight times; then he stopped. "Four times five," and the horse dug away until he came to twenty. And so he

Another good feature was Snowflake's imitation of a rocking horse; which was followed by Hornet, a bay and white, whose leaping was only limited by the size of the stage.

Three horses on a see-saw and keeping it in motion is something not seen every day, but Prof. Bristol's beauties do it at every performance; and Eagle succeeds in balancing Diamond and Ruby on a half



SWINGING MULE

the horses came on for the military drill and marched around the stage in single file, with Topsy bringing up the rear. It was the beginning of a fine performance and applause was frequent. The pro-

heavy that two men are required to carry it. One of the very many other gold articles in this room is a gold salver five feet in diameter, made out of the snuff-boxes presented to George IV.