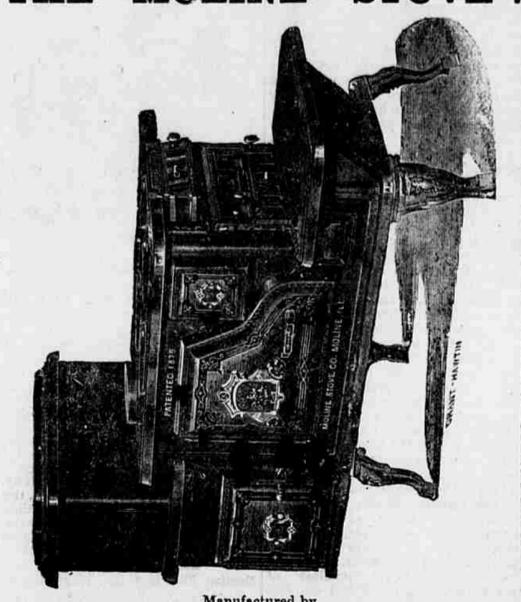


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Show Case manufacturer, 815 South 16th Street,
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In the new brick block on Douglas Street, has
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Hot Lunch from 10 to 12
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A Great Nuisance in Australia—"Yellowman's" Capture and Escape.
London Field.

It is claimed for the enormous island continent which lies at the Antipodes that ere long it will be the greatest horse-producing center in the world. The Australian colonies already possess a larger number of horses in proportion to human beings than any other country in existence; and so favorable is the climate and pasturage for raising live stock of all kinds that it will not surprise us if, following the example of the United States, Australia should send us some great race-horses to run for our best English stakes, and perhaps to win the Derby, before many years have passed. Not long since a couple of Australian 2-year-olds—each being of great promise—arrived at Alec Taylor's stables, near Marlborough, after having passed three months at sea between Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, and the Thames. They were delivered in Wiltshire without a scratch upon their skins, with legs unswollen and in blooming condition; nor is it unworthy of notice that these colts, bred by Sir Thomas Elder at his stud farm near Adelaide—which Sir Hercules Robinson pronounced to be the finest establishment of the kind that he had ever seen—have traversed some five-and-twenty thousand miles of ocean before they are stripped for the first time in public. The dams were exported in foal from this country to Adelaide, and the produce has lately returned from Adelaide to this country.

Speaking summarily, there are about 1,000,000 tame horses in the Australian colonies, to which must be added a ragged lot of about 150,000 wild horses which hang upon the skirts of civilization, and are as great a nuisance to the squatters as rabbits to the agricultural community. The wild horses, or "brumblers," as they are locally called, owe their existence to a few tame animals, which have from time to time escaped from man's control and taken shelter in the bush, where they have multiplied with uncontrollable rapidity. In his "Physical History of the Human Race," Dr. Prichard tells that the most refined, cultivated and polished of men—a Sir Charles Grandison, for instance—would lose his civilization and revert to a barbaric type if confined for a year upon an island solely inhabited by savages. Something of the same kind takes place where a thoroughbred entire horse escapes into the Australian bush. He cannot lose his fine symmetry, high courage and keen eye of fire, or his grand action, but his coat soon becomes as coarse and rough as that of the wild colts and mares by which he is surrounded, and his progeny conform to the straight-shouldered, cat-hammed and spindle-shanked type of their villainous dams. But such is the inborn partiality of the noble animal for liberty that there is no instance known in which a runaway from civilization has returned voluntarily to slavery, although it might be imagined that man's care is more than sufficient compensation to a horse for the reasonable amount of work exacted from him. Nor, to all appearances, is wild life in the bush so attractive as to justify the preference shown for it by horses which have once served man as domestic animals. The pasturage is often very scarce, and in years of drouth the rivers, brooks and water-holes dry up, so that the "brumblers" have to travel hundreds of miles to get food and drink. Man's hand is against them wherever they go, and they end by becoming as unapproachable as the mountain sheep of North America or the wild ass of Africa. In one respect they do not altogether lose their domestic instincts, for it is their habit to hover continually on the outskirts of civilization, partly from a desire to tempt tame animals to follow their runaway example and partly because they knew that where man dwells forage will not be wanting.

I a book lately published, called "Bush Life in Queensland," Mr. A. C. Grant, its author, lets much light fall upon the habits and resorts of the "mobs" of wild horses which frequent the most northerly of our Australian colonies. The hero of the book, John West, is on a visit at a station called Cambarang at a time when "the slack season is developed to murthering all the tame horses on the run, branding the foals, breaking in the colts and fillies, and making occasional attempts to get in the wild mobs on the outskirts of the station." Mr. Grant explains that in this particular herd of wild horses were included many fine animals which had escaped from servitude, for which, as being branded, a standing reward existed. These runaways had adopted all the characteristics of their wild companions, and were quite as wary and watchful and equally hard to turn in the direction of the yards—or, as the Americans would say, the "corrals"—when once they had turned their heads toward their mountain fastnesses. The herd was ruled by a stallion of unusual size and beauty and of a peculiar golden yellow color, with long black mane and tail. He was a thoroughbred horse, son of a mare of great expense from England, out of an imported mare in the English "Stud Book"; and when eighteen months old he had been carelessly allowed to wander from Bindarobiny, the station of the United Australian Pastoral Company. For several years his whereabouts had remained undiscovered, until a solitary stockman, tracking some cattle into an unfrequented spot, came across the footprints of a herd of horses. Following up the fresh tracks for about a mile the stockman came suddenly upon a mob of some thirty wild horses feeding in a pleasant valley. A loud snort from one of the mares announced that she had discovered the unwelcome presence of the human intruder, and the yellow stallion, galloping round his little harlem and arching his neck proudly, advanced with a defiant air. One by one the rest of the mob trotted toward him, shaking their heads, plunging and kicking playfully at each other. Most of the foals and young horses were of the same rich golden color as their high-born sire, but had all the family characteristics of their dams. A movement on the man's part sent them all flying through the forest glades, and they were very soon lost to sight. Many attempts had been made to run them in, but the "yellow mob," as they were called, defied pursuit. The stockmen who under-

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