

## BLACKSMITHS ATTEND!

Post up the following information in your shops, and hammer it into your heads.—

We extract it from an essay of "The Intermedler" in the *New-York Evening Post*. It is important to the farmer, the traveller, the waggoner, the huntsman, the dragoon, the carter, the drayman, the doctor, the parson, &c.

### DIRECTIONS FOR SHOEING HORSES FEET,

Extracted principally from Lawrence's celebrated "Treatise on Horses;" a work, as valuable as it is scarce in this country.

"Every one who wishes to have justice done to his horses, must insist upon the following preliminaries with his blacksmith, which are entirely within the cognizance of common sense, namely.

1. That he never weaken the foot of the horse by pairing away the sole and frog; nor destroy the bars, under pretence of opening the heels. The frog is composed of a tough and elastic substance, and destined by nature to support the foot, and serve as a cushion, rest or salient point for the tendon of the flexer muscle or back sinews. It should, therefore, always be permitted to rest on the ground, where that is practicable.

2. That he make use of none but the best, hard and well-wrought iron; that he set the horse upon a flat and even, not a convex surface, and that he never make the shoe to project beyond the heel.

3. That he never suffer a burning hot shoe to be fitted to the horse's foot.

The above directions may be made general almost without exception.

I am sorry to say that the villainous custom of fitting the shoe red hot, and of burning the crust of the foot to a level with the shoe, instead of hammering the iron to the shape of the foot, subsists in full force at this instant. The mischief done by this lazy custom to the feet of horses is incalculable.

I cannot too much recommend the practice of hammering the external surface of the shoe somewhat concave; instead of which most of our shoers adopt the contrary method, which not only must give pain to the horse whenever he travels over the pavement, but endanger the life of the rider.

Whenever it becomes absolutely necessary to cut the bars or frogs, never suffer it to be performed in the usual way of blacksmiths, that is to say, inwards or downwards, one of the most destructive of all their manoeuvres, but always let them be shaved horizontally or flat. And it is dangerous to cut too near in the frog, that in case of considerable bulk in that part, it is better even to thicken the shoe a trifle, so as to bring them and the frog upon a level and even bearing.