

Falklands, their Spanish terms for all matters connected with cattle and horses survive, and are in full use among the Scotch shepherds. Such a maimed animal as above described is accordingly called a "Chapina" (chapina, a woman's clog). The band of horses, which is called the "Tropija," never deserts the "Chapina."

A man, after riding 30 or 40 miles and about to change horses, merely takes the saddle off, gives the animal's back a rub with his fingers to set the hair free where the saddle-cloth pressed, and lets the horse go. The horse never fails to return to its "tropija" and feeding-ground. We changed horses several times on the route, since we were the guests of the Company, and were treated most hospitably. We always simply turned our tired horses loose, to find their own way back for 20 miles or so.

An experienced guide is required, in order to traverse the Falkland Island wastes and find the Passes. To a stranger every hill and mountain appears alike, and many persons have lost their way and their lives on the moors. The most experienced "camp" men (Spanish campo) get lost sometimes, especially when a thick fog comes on, and then they trust entirely to their horses, which, when left to themselves, make their way back to their accustomed feeding-ground.

Mr. Fell, the head man of the Company at Darwin Harbour, told me that a band of horses will always stay with a mare that has a foal. Mr. Darwin has described a degeneration in the size and strength of the horses which have run wild in the Falkland Islands,\* ascribing the degeneration to the action of the climate on successive generations. Mr. Fell, and other persons brought in constant relation with the horses, hold the opinion that it is only the wild horses, occupying a particular district in the neighbourhood of Port Stanley, which are small and pony-like.

Further, they believe that the reason why these particular wild horses are small, is that they are sprung from a stock originally inferior in size when imported. The wild horses which are abundant in the large peninsula, known as Lafonia, were said to be of full size and vigour, and to show no signs of degeneration, and to be preferred for all purposes to those bred in domestication. I saw several of these horses which had been wild, and rode one. They were not at all undersized. My guide rode a sturdy pony, which he said was one of the smaller wild breed. I give these opinions merely as a suggestion for further inquiry.

\* "Journal of Researches," p. 192. "Animals and Plants under Domestication," Vol. I.