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*Mr. Edward Fordham Flower.*

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THE subject of this sketch was born in 1805, at Marden Hall, Hertfordshire. His father, Mr. Richard Flower, an ardent agriculturist, and a politician of the old school, shared the then not uncommon alarm with regard to the future of England at the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars, and in the year 1817, he sold his property, and emigrated to Illinois. Edward Flower was then a lad of twelve, and had already markedly developed the strong affection for dumb animals which in later years led him to make such strenuous exertions on their behalf. Accustomed to horses from his earliest childhood, his experience in the Far West gave him that complete knowledge of the animal which is not so frequently attained in civilized states. The settler in the back woods is more at home in the saddle than on his feet, and young Flower frequently passed whole days in cross country rides, with his horse for his sole companion. He returned to England at the age of nineteen, and one of the first things that struck him was the different manner of treating horses to that which he had been used to; but he had not then either the means or position to bring before the public his views on this matter. Mr. Flower, in 1827, married and settled at Stratford-on-Avon, and in 1828 he opened a brewery, which was so successful that after thirty years he was able to retire and leave the business to his sons. His popularity in the town was evidenced by his having four times held the office of Mayor, the last occasion being in 1864, the year of the famous Shakespeare Tercentenary. In this celebration Mr. Flower took the most earnest interest, and indeed to his personal exertions

and very considerable pecuniary assistance no small share of the splendid success achieved was mainly due.

It is, however, principally as the indefatigable advocate of the horse, that Mr. Flower's name will recur to the minds of our readers. His letters, pamphlets, and speeches on the senseless and cruel gag bearing-rein would fill a thick volume. He has been ridiculed, condemned, argued with; but he holds his ground with the steadiness of purpose that has always characterised him throughout his life. It has even been said that he was a novice on the subject, whereas probably no man in England understands horses better. His perseverance, and the obvious truth of his allegations against the gag-bit and bearing-rein, have enlisted on his side not only the vast majority of veterinary surgeons, and a large number of fashionable owners of carriages, but also many of the leading whips of the day. At the second turn out of the Four-in-Hand Club, last year, eleven out of thirty-two drags were driven without the aid of this barbarous instrument of torture, and since agitation was first commenced there has been a yearly diminution of horses in the park afflicted with the obnoxious gag and rein. In thus contending for his dumb friends, Mr. Flower cannot at least be charged with self-seeking, for he is working for those who cannot recompense again, and his own feeling in the matter is expressed by the remark, made both in public and private, that all he wishes for is success; and he should be not only content but proud to be remembered simply as the man who abolished the bit and gag-bearing-rein.