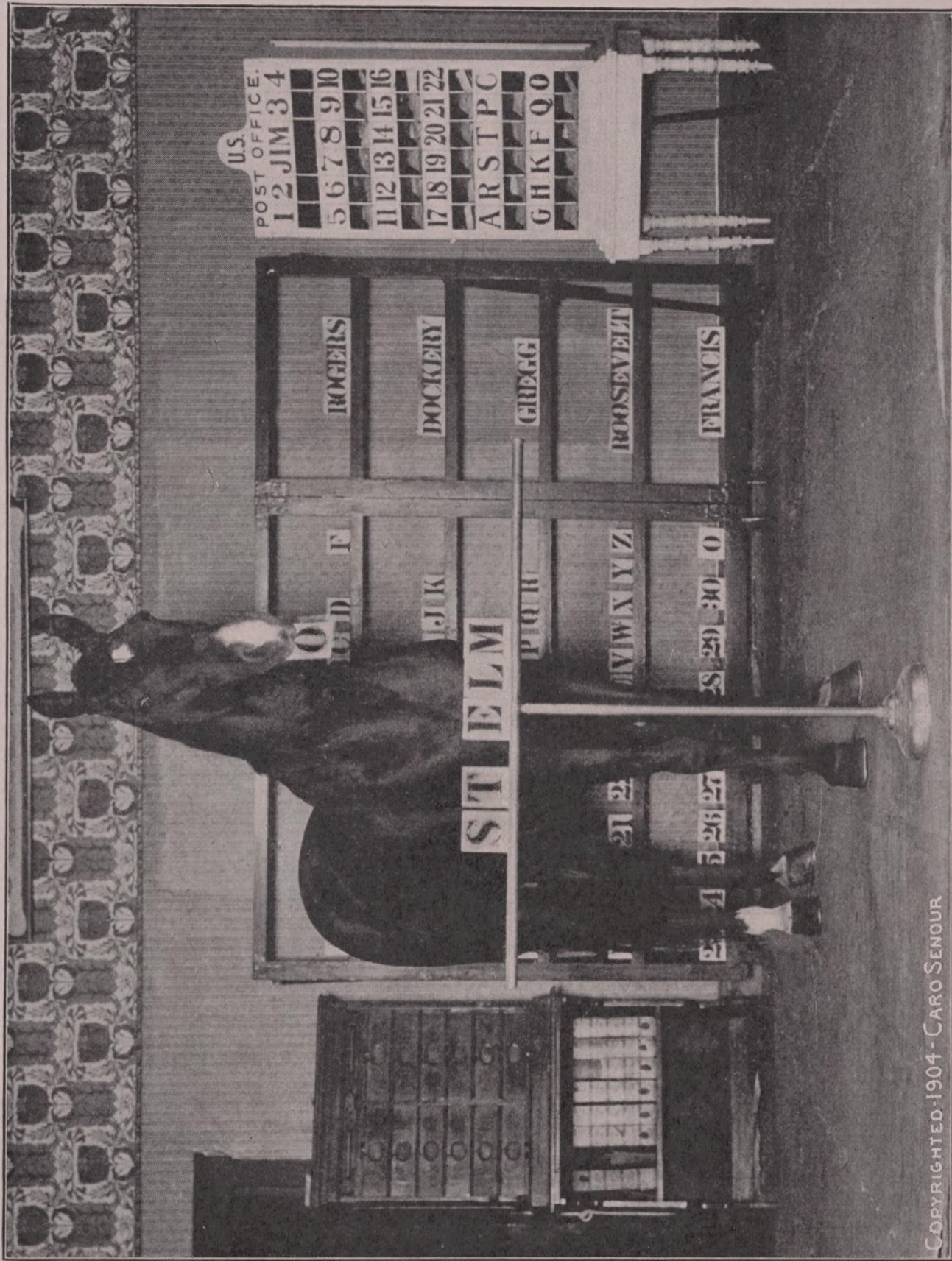


CHAPTER XXVIII

BEAUTIFUL JIM KEY

VALUED AT ONE MILLION DOLLARS

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to my little readers, particularly those who have not been so fortunate as to make his acquaintance, this remarkable horse, "Jim Key," who is counted among the wonders of these days of progress and education. I consider it a great privilege to tell the history of this famous horse, and to use his photograph, presented to me by his present owner, Mr. A. R. Rogers, of New York City. Beautiful Jim Key is now thirteen years old, and is of a handsome mahogany-bay color, of the Arabian type, with a long black tail and mane. He has a thoughtful and knowing expression in his black eyes which speaks the kindness that he expresses by his belonging to the "Jim Key Band of Mercy." This Band tries to benefit all animals, and surely "Jim Key" was sent here to help all his four-footed friends. You, little children, who read this, can each belong to this Band of Mercy if you will send your name to Mr. A. R. Rogers, 75 Maiden Lane, New York City, who is president of this band, or to Mr. George T. Angell, president of "The American Humane Education Society," No. 19 Milk Street, Boston, Mass. The pledge to this Band is, "I will try to be kind to all harmless living creatures, and try to protect them from cruel usages." If you will send your name on a slip of paper with this pledge written on it, with your address, it will be pasted on the great banner roll of "Jim Key Band of Mercy." Thousands of adults, as well as 300,000 children, belong to this band now. The humane paper called "Our Dumb Animals," is a splendid



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BEAUTIFUL JIM KEY
 SPELLING "ST. ELMO" AT THE "WORLD'S FAIR," ST. LOUIS

journal for lovers of animals, and is but twenty-five cents a year. It is certainly helping a worthy cause. We all wish to do some good in this world, and by aiding the helpless animals we are surely doing a work of charity, as they cannot tell their troubles to us. In consequence, they are obliged to stand the hardships of life unless some kind person lends a helping hand. Beautiful Jim Key was born in Ten-



BEAUTIFUL JIM KEY

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OUR PLEDGE—I PROMISE ALWAYS TO BE KIND TO ANIMALS

The

Jim Key Band of Mercy

Honorary Member

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

M St Elmo

Is an Honorary Member of the

National Jim Key Band of Mercy

W R Roger

President.

nessee, and was faithfully cared for by his old master, Dr. William Key, who, although nearly seventy years old, still exhibits him. These two have been constant companions, and it is a touching sight to see the love between this good, kind gentleman and his trusting horse. "Jim" showed unusual traits from the time that he was a colt, for he would follow his master around as a dog will do, and he was so curious to see and to know what everything was that he soon learned how to do many things. One of the first things that he learned, and he taught this to himself, was to unfasten the gate and let himself out in the road. His master began

to teach him when he was one year old. To me he is a marvel of intellect, and I shall try to tell you, as accurately as possible, about his knowledge of school.

First. Jim opens school, that is, he rings the bell for school to open. Jim goes to his little trunk and pushes up the cover with his nose, takes out two bells by the handles, and holding them tightly in his mouth, he shakes them while walking around the stage, and so he rings his class to order.

Second. Jim picks out any letter of the alphabet, playing-card, or number asked for. On a tall rack behind him are alphabetically arranged all the letters on white paste-board cards, about the size of a playing card, with each letter printed in large black type; and when any one in the audience asks him for a letter, he walks to this rack and with his mouth gently takes the one asked for, and brings it right side up to the front of the stage. He likes applause; so one must always remember that and give him plenty of hand-clapping, as he deserves more than any two hands can give him.

Third. Jim shows his proficiency in figuring, adding, multiplying, dividing, and subtracting in any numbers below thirty. This is really the most marvelous test of horse intellect that I ever have seen performed. The numbers are arranged on a rack in a similar way to the letters, beginning with No. 1, and all the numbers are in large, black type so they can be seen in the back of the room. You can give him any example you wish, using numbers that will not bring your answer above thirty, and he will surprise you by bringing to the front of the platform in his mouth the card on which is your answer, sometimes before you can ascertain it yourself. And he knows in a second that you cannot subtract a larger number from a smaller one, for he always shakes his head to signify that it cannot be done. I myself asked him to subtract four from three, and in an instant his head was shaking "No." Again, I asked him to bring this

answer, "two plus three, multiply by six," and he brought out the number for the answer, thirty; and again, I said, "two plus three plus five plus eight," and he returned to the front with eighteen. And one example, which a man gave him, had to be put down on paper before I could get the answer. Jim had it first, and it was this, and I am sure that any of you thirteen-year-old children will be obliged either to put the numbers down, or to go over them more than once. Just think of a horse's figuring out this example: "Three times ten, divided by two, plus five, divided by two, minus ten," and the fine calculator came to the front with zero card for his answer. Was he correct? I attended three different days, and no two questions were given him the same, so I feel convinced that this wonderful horse has intellect which is beyond animals.

Fourth. Jim spells any ordinary name asked him. A long spindle, having a thin nickel rail with a slit along the top, is placed in the front of the platform, and names were given him to spell, such as chair, James, Carrie, and a hard name, "Carey," which was a little boy's name. When I heard the child sing out "Carey," I myself wondered whether it was spelt with an "e" or whether it was "Cary"; but Jim knew at once, and went to the rack and brought each letter forward, one at a time, until he had the five letters. Then he stood still for the little boy to tell him whether he was correct, and he was; and you well know that it is not a common name. I was really surprised and delighted.

Fifth. He reads and writes.

Sixth. Jim goes to the postoffice, gets the mail from any box requested, and files the letter in a regular letter-file under any letter asked him. This is a wonderful piece of calculation also. A letter section is arranged with numbers on, and letters of the alphabet are on the lower edges of each pigeon-hole which contains mail. When you ask him to get your mail from "M" box, he takes the letter with his mouth

out of the place, and walks across the stage and lays the letter upon the shelf of his desk or letter-file, and waits until he is told where to file it; then he pulls out the drawer and takes up the letter, drops it in the drawer and closes it, and after he has answered as many of these requests as you wish, he pulls down the outside cover of the tier of files, which closes up his desk for that performance.

Seventh. Jim distinguishes various pieces of money, and goes to a cash register and rings up any amount asked for, bringing the correct change. Now, this is another mark of his great knowledge. If you ask him to get a dollar bill, he goes to the register, pulls open the drawer, and takes out the dollar bill, or he will bring a silver dollar, a half-dollar, quarter, or even a nickel out of his register, and when he comes to the front of the stage he holds the money between his handsome teeth, and grins so that you can see the money; and his master will say, "Grin, Jim," and Jim really grins.

Eighth. Gives quotations from the Bible, where the horse is mentioned, giving chapter and verse. This he does by choosing from his assortment of names on the racks the exact one which corresponds with the Bible.

Tenth. Uses the telephone. The telephone is on the wall, and he walks up to it, takes the handle in his mouth, and turns the handle around so that you can hear the bell ring, then he places his mouth to the mouth-piece, and his master takes the receiver and holds it to his ear. When his master says "good-by" Jim goes back to his place, always facing the audience.

Eleventh. Jim takes a silver dollar from the bottom of a glass jar filled with water, without drinking a drop. (Considered one of the greatest feats ever performed by an animal.) This glass jar holds about five gallons of water, and you can see Jim through the glass picking up the silver dollar, never sipping a drop. When he holds it up to you and grins, his face is wet and the water drips down, so he

goes to his little trunk, lifts up the lid with his nose, and takes out a fringed towel, which he gives to his master for him to wipe his face, after which he returns the towel to his trunk, and tucks in all the fringe. He has so many friends among the ladies and children that sugar and towels and apples are sent him as presents, and one lady sent him some fringed towels tied together with ribbons and embroidered with his name in one corner. Jim is very fond of sugar in the little cubes, and after each answer he receives a piece, for which he is always ready, looking sidewise for his reward. I could tell you some other lessons, but I think when dear Jim does all these that he is busy enough. I hope that after the little readers have become acquainted with this wonderful horse, they will think of him always, and help all poor animals who are in need of homes and kind treatment, and above all report all cases which they may see of abuse of horses, either by whipping them or by making them draw overloaded wagons. And try to keep water in your yards for the dogs, cats, and birds, and do what you can to have watering-places for horses in the streets. All this will help "Beautiful Jim Key" in his work of befriending animals, and please remember that this educated horse was taught by *kindness*. There is a little book of his life and how he was taught, which one can buy for fifteen cents by sending to Mr. A. R. Rogers, 75 Maiden Lane, New York City.

Long live "Beautiful Jim Key."

CARO SENOUR.