

Earlshall and Reuben Smith

John took Ginger and me to our new master and mistress at Earlshall Farm. John told Mr York, the coachman there, all about Ginger and me.

Mr York was a good man, but our new mistress was proud and unfriendly. She wanted her horses' heads up high because it was the fashion. We had to wear something called a check rein to make our heads stay up so high. I worried because it was this fashion that gave Ginger so much pain before. One afternoon, when we pulled the carriage round to the front of the house, we heard the mistress' unfriendly voice.

"Drive to the Duchess's. And get those horses' heads up!"

It was the first time I wore a check rein, and it hurt. Ginger was very angry that she had to wear one again, and she kicked at the carriage. Then she knocked me, too. The next thing I knew, York fell down and then Ginger fell. She never pulled the carriage again, but I did. I had pain from that check rein for four long months in my lady's carriage.

Now I must tell you about Reuben Smith. Reuben took care of the horses when York was away. He was good with the horses most of the time, but sometimes he had a bad temper. One night when York was in London, I pulled the carriage into town for Smith. He left it at the stable to be fixed and went into the inn for a meal. The groom fed me and I rested.

Inside, Smith met up with some friends. But one of them said something that made him angry and they had a row. When Smith came back to the stable to get me, he shouted at the groom in a very unfriendly voice. When we galloped away, he kicked me and hit me many times with his whip.

