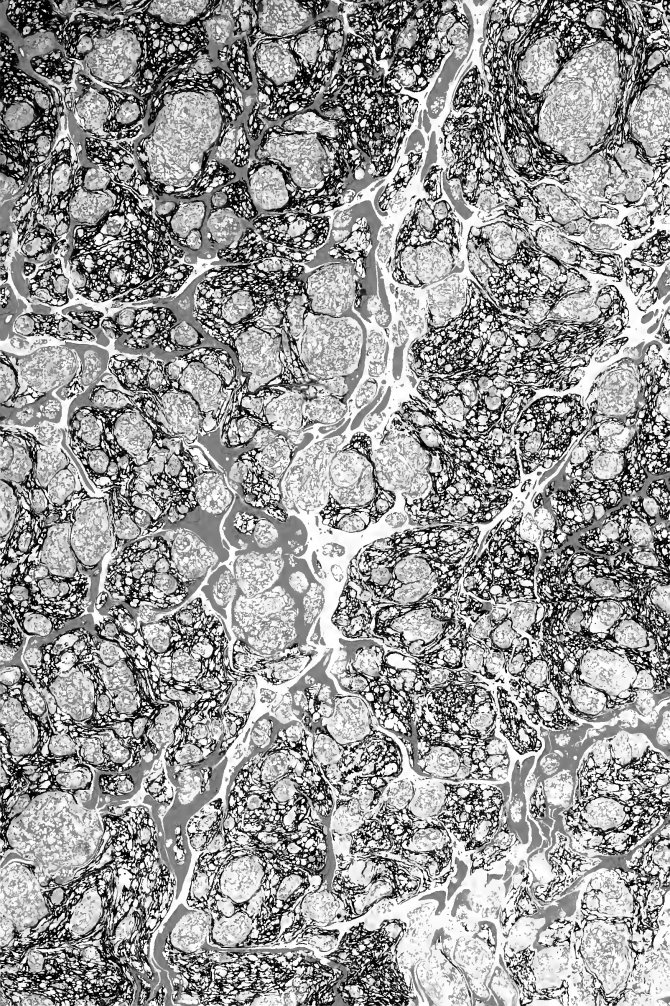


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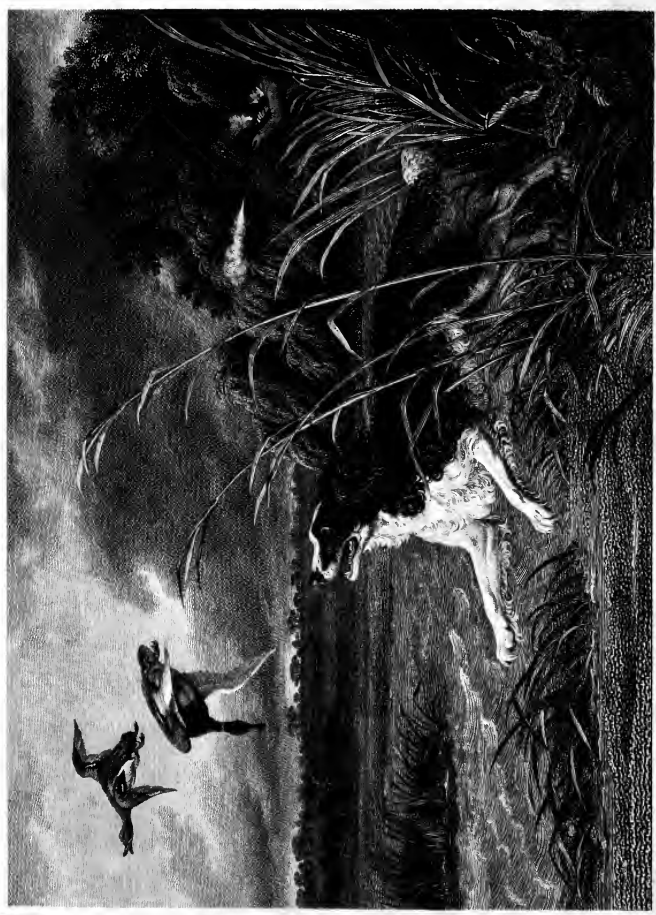




Robert Suraget



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W. H. W. & Co. Engrs.

WATER SPANIEL.

Printed and Published by the Author, at the Office of the "Illustrated London News," 15, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.

THE
Sportsman's
CABINET,
 OR A
Correct *delineation*
 of the
Game & Race



W. & A. G. & Co.
 Printed for the Proprietors

1804



THE
SPORTSMAN'S CABINET;
OR,
A CORRECT DELINEATION OF THE VARIOUS
DOGS USED IN THE SPORTS OF THE FIELD:
INCLUDING THE CANINE RACE IN GENERAL.

CONSISTING OF
A Series of Engravings
OF
EVERY DISTINCT BREED,
FROM ORIGINAL PAINTINGS, TAKEN FROM LIFE.

Interspersed with beautiful Vignettes, engraved on Wood.

ILLUSTRATED BY A COMPREHENSIVE, HISTORICAL AND SYSTEMATIC DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENT SPECIES; WITH A
REVIEW OF THE VARIOUS DISEASES TO WHICH THEY ARE SUBJECT, AND THE MOST APPROVED AND
EFFICACIOUS MODES OF TREATMENT AND CURE.

TO WHICH IS ADDED, A SCIENTIFIC DISQUISITION UPON THE
DISTEMPER, CANINE MADNESS, and the HYDROPHOBIA.

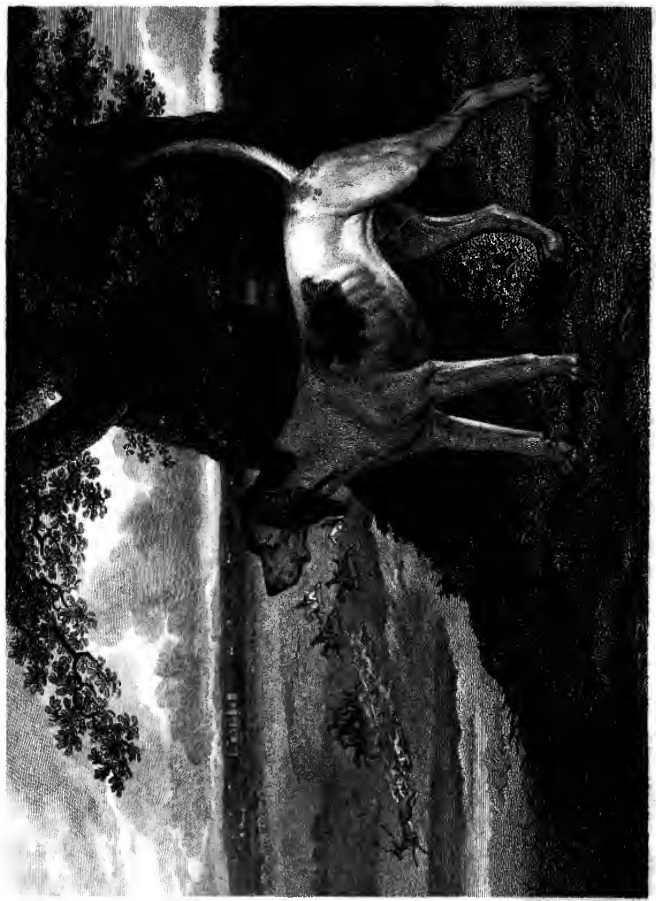
BY A VETERAN SPORTSMAN.

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS,
BY J. CUNDEE, IVY-LANE, PATERNOSTER-ROW;
SOLD BY T. HURST, PATERNOSTER-ROW; T. OSTELL, AVE-MARIA-LANE; AND CHAPPLE, PALL-MALL.

1804.







STAG AND HOUND.

Thompson & Co. N.Y.

THE

SPORTSMAN'S CABINET.

STAG - HOUND.

THE animal passing under this particular denomination, is the largest and most powerful of all the different sizes and gradations so generally known by the sporting and distinguished appellation of hounds. As he is the highest in estimation, so is he the most majestic and commanding in his aspect; having a countenance of expressive dignity, so blended with every trait of instinctive mildness, that it forcibly impresses upon the reflecting mind a strong idea of gentle and attracting solicitation. In respect to the origin of this distinct part of the species, it has been asserted, by naturalists of the first celebrity, and whose opinions are the most to be relied on, that the hound, harrier, turnspit, water-dog, and spaniel, may be considered as originally of the same race; the figure, and nearly the instinctive properties of these being mostly the same, as they differ only in the length of their legs and the size of their ears, which are, however, in all of them long, soft, and pendulous. The hound and harrier are, with a great degree of reason, conceived to have been natives of Britain, France, and Germany, as they have been perceived to degenerate when transported to warmer climates.

As most of the matter respecting the origin of the different races, sizes, and propensities of the various kinds of dogs, must ever continue to rest upon conjecture, it is by no means unfair to conclude, that the large, strong, bony hound, passing under the common acceptation of the term stag-hound, was the

primeval stock from which every collateral branch of that particular race has since descended ; with such deviations only as were occasioned by the crosses and improvements of those who, during so many centuries, were disposed to vary the breed and size, in proportion to the country in which they were to hunt, or the sort of game they were intended to pursue. Admitting this hypothesis to be the fact, no farther doubt, or contention, can arise respecting the lineage of hounds on account of a variation in size ; as it is universally known, that can be regulated by the practical judgment of the breeder, who can, by the necessary and experienced crosses, either enlarge, or diminish the stature of his pack in the course of three or four canine generations.

The stag-hounds now in use for the pursuit of that game only, at least in the establishment of the royal chase, was originally an improved cross between the old English, deep-tongued, southern, and the fleeter fox-hound ; grafted upon the basis of what was formerly called, and better known by the appellation of blood-hounds. The race passing under this denomination had, in less enlightened times, a degree of fabulous infallibility ascribed to them of pursuing, taking, and seizing murderers, robbers, or depredators of whatever description, when they could be procured, and laid on (within a given time) upon the scent, or footsteps of the particular object they were intended to pursue ; and of their possessing this peculiar property there is not the least doubt, when the experience of ages, transmitted to us by our predecessors, as well as our own observations, have afforded innumerable and incontrovertible proofs, that hounds of every kind, great or small, may be decisively taught (or in other words *broke in*) to carry on any particular scent when forcibly and feelingly convinced they are to hunt no other. Of this we have ample and demonstrative proof every year we live, for it is frequently seen, and is universally known to every sportsman of experience, that a pack, who, for years past, has hunted fallow-deer in the possession of one, shall become most complete and perfect harriers in the establishment of another.

In respect to the received opinion of what were formerly called blood-hounds, the fact is simply this ; the original stock of the breed so termed (which may be remembered within the present generation by many now living) exceeded in size, weight, substance, strength, and courage, every other kind of hound in existence, thereby acquiring and possessing a kind of sagacious, or serious solemnity admirably calculated to impress the necessitous with fear, naturally tending

to keep them in awe. These hounds destined to only one particular species of pursuit were, of course, rendered entire strangers to every other; they were never brought into the chase, or employed in the sports of the field, but supported and preserved (as a constable, or thief-taker of the present day,) for the purposes of pursuit and detection, whenever they could be laid with expedition upon the scent or footsteps of the offender it was thought necessary or expedient to pursue. At the time blood-hounds were in use, deer-stealing was so prevalent and incessant, the forest and park-keepers, in most parts of the kingdom, were perpetually engaged in a kind of eternal watching and nocturnal warfare; these hounds were then so regularly trained and accustomed to the practice, that when once laid upon the scent, they so closely and invariably adhered to it, that however long, tedious, and difficult the pursuit might be, detection was certain and inevitable: from this persevering instinct and infallibility they acquired the name so long retained, and an offending criminal, in the first half of the last century, was absolutely conceived to be certainly taken, and half convicted, the moment a hound of this description could be obtained.

As there is no clue by which can be ascertained the precise period when the sports of the field (but more particularly the chase) began to assume the first feature of their present improvement; it can only be collected from the best authorities, that the jurisprudence of the Roman empire, which was accommodated to the manners of the earliest ages, established it as a law, that as the natural right of such things as have no proprietor belongs to their first possessor, so all kinds of wild beasts, birds, and fishes were the property of those who could first obtain them. But the northern barbarians, who over-ran the Roman empire, entertaining a strong relish for this rude amusement, and being now possessed of more easy means of subsistence from the lands they had conquered, their leaders and chiefs began to claim, and appropriate the sole right of hunting to themselves, and instead of considering, or continuing it longer a right of nature, they stamped it with the privilege of royalty.

At that precise era when the Saxon kings had established themselves into an heptarchy, the chases were reserved by each sovereign for his own particular diversion; the arts of war, and the enjoyment of the chase, in those uncivilized ages, constituted the only employments of the great; their active, but uncultivated minds, were susceptible of no pleasures but such as were of a violent kind; these seeming peculiarly adapted as exercise for their bodies, and a preventative

ventative to reflection. But as the lands so appropriated to the sole use of the Saxon kings were only those laying waste, and not under cultivation, no injury to individuals was sustained. The case, however, was totally reversed when the Normans got possession of the throne; for the unrestrained and invincible passion for hunting was then carried to the utmost excess, and every civil right was individually annihilated and involved in one universal ruin. Even in that age of ignorance and superstition, the ardour for hunting was much stronger than the fervour of religion; the village communities, nay, even the most sacred edifices, were destroyed, and turned into one extensive waste, in order to make room for pleasures predominating over every humane and philanthropic consideration. Sanguinary laws were at this time introduced for the preservation of the game, and in those reigns it was considered less criminal to be guilty of an unpremeditated murder than to wilfully destroy a beast of chase. This system of tyranny was persevered in during the time the Norman line filled the throne; but when the Saxon line was restored in Henry the Second, the impolitic rigour of the Forest-laws was materially meliorated. The barons also, for a considerable time, imitated not only the rapid encroachments, but also the pleasurable amusements of their monarchs; yet, when property began to be more equally distributed (through the introduction of arts and the progress of industry), these hunting districts became more limited; and as tillage and husbandry increased, beasts of chase were obliged to give way to those which mankind, for the support of society, had found it indispensably necessary to take more immediately under their protection.

In proportion to the cultivated state and improved face of the country, beasts of chase became gradationally reduced; and the stag, by a continued reduction of its species, as well as by a reduction of its sequestered abodes, is but little seen in the state of nature in which it was formerly found; they having been for many years bred and preserved only in the forests, parks, and chases of his Majesty, and some of the most opulent and distinguished individuals in the kingdom, and that principally for the purposes of the chase. They cannot, however, though but very rarely found at large, be said to be quite extirpated; some few having been seen in those extensive moors upon the borders of Cornwall and Devonshire; more in the highlands of Scotland, and a greater plenty in the mountains of Kerry, in Ireland, where the sport they afford with the hounds and the horns add greatly to the magnificent and exhilarating scenes of the justly celebrated lake of Killarney.

Although

Although it has been transmitted to us from the best authorities, that hunting is of the first antiquity, yet it does not appear at what period of the progressive ages it began to assume the leading points to its present state of unprecedented perfection. It has been observed, by a writer of some celebrity, that the original ardour for prey has formed an union between the dog, the horse, the falcon, and man. This association so long since began, has not yet entirely ceased even with the hawk, but the others will, probably, be ever permanent, and continue in active use; but although (as before observed) hunting was originally assumed as a natural right, yet there is scarce a country that has not found it necessary to restrain, by laws, this disposition in the people, lest it should be followed with an avidity injurious to individuals, as well as to the general interests of society. The liberty of the chase has, therefore, had restrictions introduced from almost the earliest ages, and kings and princes have successively augmented their assumed rights in hunting, claiming to themselves the primitive and sole title to hunt, and restraining their nobles and dependants from that entertainment, unless the privilege was granted by themselves, and them with the mortifying appendage of submitting to the having it recalled at pleasure.

This authority has been unavoidably assented to by every nation in a state of civilization, and it is a corroborated fact, that in the very early period of the French monarchy, as well as some others, no noble, or freeman ever went abroad without a hawk upon his wrist, which constituted the distinguishing trait between him and his vassal. Nay, in our own country, under Canute, the hunting or coursing a royal stag by a freeman was punished by the loss of his liberty for a year; and if he was a bondman he was outlawed; and so severe were the Forest-laws introduced by the Conqueror, that the death of a beast of chase was deemed equally criminal with the murder of a man; and, among other punishments for offences against these laws (which were afterwards repealed by Richard the First), were castration, loss of eyes, and cutting off both hands and feet. It affords ample food for reflection, that the son should have been accidentally slain, during the pursuit of a deer, in the very district which had been previously depopulated by his father for their increase and preservation; carrying with it a striking verification of the scriptural admonition, that "the sins of the fathers shall be visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generation."

Whatever may have been the former mode of subduing and taking the stag, whether by small or large bodies of hounds, there are but very few (except those of the royal establishment) kept by any of the most opulent individuals in the kingdom solely for this amusement. Those of the greatest celebrity, are his Majesty's, kept at Ascot-Heath, in Windsor-Forest; the Earl of Derby's, at his lordship's seat of the Oaks, near Epsom, in Surry; and the pack supported by subscription (principally appertaining to the metropolis), near Enfield Chase, in Essex, about ten miles from London. As there are not known to the writer any authentic records, or official documents from which may be extracted the original formation of the royal establishment of the stag-hounds, it must suffice to observe, that Queen Elizabeth was rapturously fond of the chase, and frequently followed the hounds, as remarked in a letter from Mr. Rowland White, in a letter to Sir Robert Sidney, where he says, "her majesty is well, and excellently disposed to hunting, for every second day she is on horseback, and enjoys the sport long." The date of this letter was Sept. 12, A. D. 1600, at which period her majesty had entered her *seventy-seventh* year, and it may be considered no small proof of the salutary advantages derived from that exercise.

That a comparative statement may be made between the expences of the royal retinue at that time and the present, the following particulars may not be inapplicable introduced. The annual expenditure for the support of the hunting establishment, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was as follows:—

BUCK-HOUNDS.

Master's Fee—whereof to himself, per diem, twelve-pence, and the rest to sundry huntsmen, serving under his appointment	L.	s.	d.
Serjeants, two, fee a-piece	50	0	0
Yeomen Prickers, two, fee a-piece	20	0	0
Hounds, and meat to the grooms of the buck-hounds, and allowances	9	2	6
	13	6	8
	<hr/>		
	£.	92	9 2
	<hr/>		

HART (or STAG) HOUNDS.

	<i>£. s. d.</i>
Master's Fee	13 6 8
Serjeant's Fee	11 8 1
Officers, and others, serving the said master, wages and allowances	13 6 8
	<hr/>
	<i>£.38 1 5</i>

HUNTING HARRIERS.

Master of the Harriers Fee	11 6 0
Yeoman's Fee	6 0 0
Officers, and others serving under the same master, wages and allowances	79 1 8
	<hr/>
	<i>£.96 7 8</i>

OTTER-HOUNDS.

Master's Fee	13 6 8
	<hr/>
Making in the aggregate	<i>£.240 4 11</i>

Which, even in those days, must have been admitted a very small sum for so extensive an establishment. In proof of this, they were, in the following reign of James the First, advanced to a more liberal and princely compensation, under the head of

HUNTSMEN.

	<i>£. s. d.</i>
To Sir Patrick Howme, Master of the Privy Harriers, per ann.	120 0 0
And for keeping one footman, four horses, and twenty couple of hounds	100 0 0
To Thomas Pott, Master of the Hunt, for his fee, 4s. per diem—For three Yeomen Prickers, to each 2s. per diem.—For one Groom, 1s. per diem.—And for keeping twelve couple of dogs, 50l. per annum	250 15 0
To Robert Rayne, Serjeant of the Buck-Hounds, per ann.	50 0 0
More to him, as one of the Yeomen of the Privy Harriers, 3l. per mensem	36 0 0
To William Battle, another of the Yeomen, the like fee	36 0 0
To Richard Barnard, another of the same, the like fee	36 0 0
To Nicholas Cockeine, another of the Yeomen, the like fee	36 0 0
To Richard Lazonby, Master of the Lyam Hounds, per ann.	40 0 0
To Richard Gwyne, Groom of the Harriers to the Prince, 13d. per diem, and 20s. per annum for his livery	20 15 5
To John Waters, Yeoman of the Harriers to the King, 12d. per diem	18 5 0
To Robert Walker, Serjeant of the King's Hounds, per ann.	50 0 0
To Richard Brasse, Yeoman of the King's Hounds, ditto	50 0 0
	<hr/>
	<i>£. 843 15 5</i>

At this period, it is to be presumed, the expences of these departments were defrayed from the privy purse; but, in a subsequent reign, the stag-hounds were honoured with a new arrangement, and became a part of the regular crown establishment, having been also farther favoured by increased salaries, and other local privileges, since his present Majesty came to the throne. They are called the King's Hounds, and the kennel in which they are kept is situate upon Ascot-Heath, near the race-course, about six miles from Windsor-Castle. At about a mile distance from the kennel, is Swinley-Lodge, a most rural and delightful spot, the official residence of the master of the stag-hounds, an appointment seldom conferred but on one of high rank, and is considered an office of great honour, to which is annexed a salary of *two thousand pounds a year*.

The presence of the master of the stag-hounds at all times, in the field, is not a matter of necessity, but depending entirely on choice, unless when his Majesty hunts, and then his personal attendance is indispensable, appearing invariably with his badge of office, a pair of gold dog-couples, with leather collars, which hang suspended from a hunting-belt on his left side. The huntsman has a handsome residence at the kennel, with a salary of 125*l.* per ann. to whom there are six assistants (called yeomen-prickers), each having a salary of 10*l.* a year, with the royal livery richly ornamented, and an annual supply of saddles, bridles, horse-cloths, and every other necessary stable-appendage, except their horses, which it is the regulation of that department they find themselves. The season for stag-hunting commences on Holyrood-day (the 25th of September), and continues on every Tuesday and Saturday till the first Saturday in May; with the exception of Christmas and Easter weeks, when they hunt the three alternate days in each. Holyrood-day, and Easter-Monday, are the two grand days of the season, when, if the weather is propitious, the assemblage of the people, and the splendour of the scene, exceed description.

As the word hunting, in its general sense, and common acceptation, is known to comprize an imaginary view of the different kinds of pursuit coming under so concise a term; so such various remarks will be found under the respective descriptions of each, whether in hunting the stag, the fox, or the hare, as will evidently tend to elucidate the pleasures and perfections of the whole. Contrary opinions have ever been entertained by the advocates for each particular kind of chase as may have proved most congenial and convenient to their own disposition,

disposition, situation, occasions, residence, or time of life. That every distinct kind of hunting has its proportional attraction to its different votaries is a matter that cannot admit of a doubt; but the constant struggle for superiority in vindication of their respective sports, has ever been between those who hunt fox, and those who hunt stag; each being equally violent in defence of the cause his private, or personal reasons may prompt him to espouse.

A writer of some celebrity, when animadverting upon the stag in a recent publication, has introduced the following remarks:—"At the present day, as an object of chase to the sportsman, the stag requires but cursory mention: those, indeed, who are fond of pomp and parade in hunting, will not accede to this opinion; but the only mode in which this chase can recommend itself to the real sportsman, is, when the deer is sought for, and found in the same manner as other game which hounds pursue. At present, very few hounds, except those of the royal establishment, are kept exclusively for this amusement; and were the king once to see a fox well found, and killed handsomely, he would, in all probability, give a decided preference in favour of fox-hounds; for what a marked difference is there between conveying, in a covered cart, an animal, nearly as big as the horse who draws it, to a particular spot, where he is liberated, and cheerily riding to the covert side with all the ecstasy of hope and expectation!" After proceeding to quote a few lines of beautiful imagery from the poetic-sublime of Somerville, descriptive of throwing off, the drag, the un-kennelling, and the breaking covert with fox-hounds, he proceeds thus:—"The most impassioned stag-hunter must confess, that no part of his chase admits of such description. The only variety he can fairly expect, depends upon the wind and the temper of the deer, who, by being either sulky, or not in condition to maintain a contest with the hounds (to whom he leaves a burning scent, that gives them no trouble in the pursuit), shortens or extends his gallop; but there is none of the enthusiasm of hunting, which the sportsman feels when he is following an animal, upon whose exertions of speed and craftiness his life is staked, and where no stoppages, but the checks arising from the two sources above-mentioned, intervene."

Not wishing to indulge the most distant intent of endeavouring to degrade, or depreciate the noble, exhilarating, delightful, and universally admitted excellence of fox-hunting (of which, by the bye, no adequate description can be given), such just and applicable remarks may be made, as will display the sport

of stag-hunting in a different point of view, to that in which the writer just mentioned has been pleased to place the picture; and, probably, rescue it from any little stigma of disgrace, or inferiority, which his promulgated opinion may have stamped upon the canvass. There can be no doubt but every kind of chase has its peculiar attractions too powerful to resist, as well as some inconvenient contingences impossible to remove; these, however, either on one side or the other, must be reconcilable to the modification of those, whose motives and constitutional sensations prompt, or induce them to engage in either.

Previous to the accurate recital of a chase with the stag-hounds, a few preparatory and comparative remarks are due to the observations already extracted from the production before mentioned. That there are but "few establishments" of the kind must be admitted, and for a most self-evident reason; if such were numerous, the question naturally presenting itself would be, from whence are they to be supplied with a sufficiency of game for the continuance of their sport? The author's idea of "the king's giving the preference to fox-hunting, if he had once seen a fox well found, and killed handsomely," is a thought in itself entitled to consideration upon the score of its novelty, and the more particularly, as it affords immediate mental reference to the degradation of majestic dignity, should it ever be found exploring its dreary way through the bushy brambles of a beechen wood, two or three miles in length, following the chase by the reverberating sounds of distant "hark forwards," but without the sight, or sound of a single hound. This, every experienced sportsman will allow, is a constantly occurring trait in fox-hunting, constituting no small drawback upon its acknowledged perfection.

Impartial investigation, and rational reflection must admit, that which ever kind of chase is pursued, the ultimatum of enjoyment is nearly the same; horses, hounds, air, exercise, health, society, and exhilaration, constitute the aggregate: and time, which to the opulent and independent seems of but matter of little moment, and to which they are almost insensibly indifferent, is, to the scientific inquisitant, or professional practitioner, neither more or less than a life-estate, no part of which, with the wise or the prudent, should be wasted or squandered away. The former class, in general, are well known to be most industriously engaged in killing time; the latter, who better know and feel its worth, are as indefatigably employed in its preservation. The loss of this invaluable

luable article, time, in the enjoyment of the two separate and distinct chases, is nearly, or full half between one and the other; this is a circumstance, however, not likely to attract the serious attention of the gentleman who has thus attacked the "pomp and parade" of hunting the stag; for being a *son of the church*, he had all the loose time of the week upon his hands, and only *professionally engaged* on a Sunday! To *one of this* description, who has *most* of his time to *kill*, and very little to *employ*, a long and dreary day through the gloomy coverts of a distant and dirty country, without a single challenge, or one consolatory chop or drag, must prove a scene of the most ecstatic enjoyment; and in the very zenith of sporting exultation, it must be acknowledged, by professed and energetic juveniles, that riding thirty, or forty miles in wet and dirt (alternately replete with alternate hope, suspense, and expectation), to enjoy the supreme happiness of repeated disappointments, terminating in a *blank day*, must be equal, if not superior to, a stag-hunt of even the first description.

Independent of every collateral consideration, the greatest inducement to stag-hunting, in preference to any other, is the invariable certainty of sport (or what is termed a good run) that first object of desirable attainment not to be insured with hounds of a different description, is the great and inexpressible gratification of going away with the pack, and covering an extensive scope of country, without perpetual interruption from intervening coverts, where checks, faults, delays, and a repetition of wood-riding so often ensue. Stag-hunting, indifferent as it is spoken and thought of by many, is too severe and arduous for others to pursue; laborious as it is to the horse, it is, in a variety of cases, not less so to the rider; difficulties very frequently occur which require great exertions in one, and no small share of fortitude in the other, and none but those possessing energy, temper, and personal courage can ever expect to lay any where near the side of the hounds.

Joyously transporting, as is the moment of meeting and throwing off with fox-hounds thus pathetically described by Somerville:—

————— " Delightful scene!
 Where all around is gay, men, horses, dogs:
 ————— See how they range
 Dispers'd how busily this way and that
 They cross, examining with curious nose
 Each likely haunt. Hark! on the drag I hear

Their

Their doubtful notes, preluding to a cry
 More nobly full, and swelled with every mouth
 ----- Hark ! what loud shouts
 Re-echo thro' the groves; he breaks away,
 Shrill horns proclaim his flight. Each straggling hound
 Strains o'er the lawn to reach the distant pack.
 'Tis triumph all and joy."

No less so is the awfully impressive prelude to singling from the herd, or turning out a deer. This scene is most affectingly grand; and, being very far beyond the power of literary description, can only be seen to be perfectly understood. Unless an outlying deer is drawn for, and unharboured in some of the neighbouring woods (as is sometimes the case) a stag, hind, or heavier, is conveyed in a covered vehicle, called a deer-cart, from the paddocks of his Majesty at Swinley-Lodge before-mentioned, which is the natural lair of the breeding herd at liberty, and, in the paddocks of which, the hunting-deer are confined, and regularly corn-fed in preparation for the chase. From hence they reach the place previously appointed at a certain hour, which is generally about ten o'clock in the morning, and of this the surrounding neighbourhood are always sufficiently apprized. At the distance of one third, or half a mile from the convenience containing the deer, are the body of the hounds in waiting, headed by the huntsman, and surrounded by his assistants (officially termed yeomen-prickers), richly apparelled in short hunting-jackets of scarlet and gold; a part of these having French-horns appropriate to the chase.

His Majesty being, at all times, critically exact in respect to time, is soon seen approaching, attended by the master of the horse, and the two equerries in waiting; it being the official duty of the master of the hounds to be stationed with them, ready to receive his majesty upon his arrival. So soon as his majesty resigns his hackney, and is remounted for the chase, the huntsman receives an injunctive signal from the master of the hounds to liberate the deer; which being done, what is termed the law, amounting to five or ten minutes, is allowed for his going away: during this interval, the sonorous strains of the horns, the musical melodious echo of the hounds, the mutual gratulations of so distinguished an assemblage, and the condescending affability and kindness of the Sovereign to the loyal subjects who love and surround him, may be candidly considered a repast too rich, a treat too luxurious, for a meeting at the side of a fox-hunting covert to be brought into a successful competition with.

The anxious and inspirative moment at length arrived, and every bosom glowing with the most emulative impatience for the gradual declination of the horns; these ceasing, a single aspiration of acquiescence from the musical tone of the huntsman, and a removal of the horse who heads the hounds, affords a rapturous and exulting loose to all the pack, as well as to their numerous followers, and superlatively happy he who is the best enabled to lay by the side of them. When the deer is first liberated, and going off from the cart, two of the yeomen-prickers start likewise, in such parallel directions to the right and left, as not to lose sight of the line he takes so long as they can keep him in view; by which means they get four or five miles forward to assist in stopping the hounds at any point required, but more particularly when they have broken away, and are got too much a head of the horsemen behind them; and, if it was not for this prudent and necessary precaution, a great part of the company would never again view either the hounds or the deer in the course of the day.

The enlivening, joyous, general burst, and the no longer restrained velocity of every hound (individually energetic) followed by upwards of a hundred horsemen in emulative action at a single view; the surrounding spot embellished, and beautifully variegated with carriages of different constructions, containing ladies of the first distinction (who grace the scene not more in compliment to the presence of Majesty, than to enjoy the commencement of the sport), and the almost incredible competition of horses, men, and hounds, afford in the aggregate such a blaze of brilliancy, that it is very much beyond the power of the most fertile pen to describe. At this important crisis of rapturous exultation only, it is, that the sort of horse indispensably necessary for this particular kind of chase can be ascertained; for out of an original body, of from an hundred to a hundred and fifty horsemen, not more than ten, or a dozen, shall lay (when racing over a country) any where near, or within two hundred yards of the hounds; for it is a well-known fact, that the longer and the more severe the first burst, the more the slow-going horses tail: so that when the hounds are stopt upon the heath, or in an open country, by those who are first up, lines of horsemen may be seen behind, in a variety of directions, more than a mile in length, bearing no ill affinity to different teams of wild-ducks in their flight from one part of the country to another.

These

These cross-bred horses, to whom the common hunting stroke of a thorough bred horse is all labour, are so exceedingly distressed even with the first burst, that if the deer gallantly crosses the country, and the hounds break away with intervening, boggy, or bad ground, to prevent their being stopt, there is but little chance of their being seen at the end of the second. This well-known fact is a most palpable and incontrovertible demonstration, that although any horse (fashionably denominated a hunter) may follow, none but perfect blood-horses can go by the side of the hounds. When the great body of the company are left at a considerable distance behind, with a probable chance of being thrown out, the leading hounds are headed and stopt, by those who are the best mounted, that the slow and philosophic sportsmen may have time to get up. During this temporary suspension of the chase (which continues till the king appears) the hounds are kept at bay; and, at this transporting crisis, the exhilarating sound of the horns to restrain them, and the clamorous impatience of the whole pack to proceed, constitute a scene so luxuriously rich and ecstatic, that the tear of excessive joy, and grateful sensibility may be frequently seen in the eyes of those who are sympathetically affected by the splendid magnificence and philanthropic influence of the whole.

When a few minutes relief has thus been afforded to both horses and hounds, in which they have been enabled to collect their wind—become proportionally refreshed, and the nearest part of the distant stragglers got up; the hounds are permitted again to break away, which they do with a renovated ardour, as if it had absolutely increased from their recent restraint. A repetition of similar racing with the fleetest, and tailing with the slowest continues, during every succeeding burst, to the termination of the chase, the longer which is, the more the unfortunate field of slow horsemen become reduced: while the thorough-bred horses, who move in perfect unison, lay at their common rating stroke with the hounds; and this is the sole reason why, in long runs, so many are completely thrown out, and left to explore their way in different parts of the country through which the chase has passed. To the liberal and humane sportsman, one material and consolatory difference is known to exist between this kind of field-sport and every other; the utmost fortitude and indefatigable efforts are, in this chase, made to save the object of pursuit; in every other, the summit of temporary happiness, the sole gratification of local ambition is to kill, so that the priority of stag-hunting has to boast the plea of humanity in its favour:

in ample proof of which, the hounds are never near their game, or observed to run from chase to view, but every individual is instantly and feelingly alive to the danger of the deer who has so largely and laboriously contributed to the general happiness of the day.

Some secret inspiration at the moment operates upon every latent spring of human sensibility, and no difficulty or danger, at the energetic crisis, seems too great to attempt for the preservation of a life in which every spectator evidently feels himself concerned. This terminating burst of a stag-hunt is sometimes most dreadfully severe, more particularly if the last mile or two is run in view; when which is the case, the poor animal nearly exhausted in speed, exerts all his utmost and remaining strength and power to avail himself of a sheet of water, if within his reach; this he sometimes succeeds in with the leading hounds so close to his haunches, that it is absolutely impracticable to prevent their plunging with him into the stream. In such predicament it is frequently impossible to draw off the hounds to insure his safety, and so truly and anxiously eager is the general wish for his preservation, that the yeomen-prickers, and others (who have no interest whatever in the event), are seen up to their middles in the water (uncertain of its depth), endeavouring to preserve the life of the deer at the hazard of their own.

The writer, during five-and-thirty years enjoyment with the stag-hounds, has found the most moderate runs, upon an average, to extend from an hour and a half to two hours; but there are many instances, with seasoned and staunch-running deer, of chases from three to four hours in the course of a season. This is the time which calls upon the judgment, prudence, and precaution of the inexperienced sportsman, horses deficient in speed, too heavy in formation, too full of flesh, or too foul in condition, frequently fall martyrs to the impetuosity and indiscretion of their riders during, or in a few hours after, a chase of this description. Those who encounter the probable difficulties and unexpected obstacles in crossing a country with stag-hounds, should be patiently prepared to know (without a prompter) when his horse gradually becomes oppressed, and should, with benignant humanity, bow implicit and instantaneous obedience to the occasion; there are times when self-denial would add lustre to the brow of a monarch, and it can never be displayed in a better cause, or with a more humane and gratifying effect, than in the timely preservation of an animal, who, being deprived the privilege of free-agency, is not in possession of the

power to save himself. Under the impressive influence of which reflection, it is to be presumed there is not a sportsman of humanity and experience existing who would not much rather retire with patient mortification from the field, to save the life of a faithful, obedient, persevering companion, than to see him sink, never more to rise, a victim to inadvertency, folly, madness, or indiscretion.

To every sportsman of judgment and experience it is generally known, that a thorough-bred horse, though, in appearance, seemingly inadequate to the weight he carries, and the task he has to perform, is seen doing his work with spirit, ease, and avidity (to the comfort of his rider); while the horse so frequently extolled for his great strength, superior power and bone, is as constantly seen in the second hour of the chase, failing under the enormity of his own weight, gradationally declining from one pace to another, or, in other words, from a short and tired stroke to a stand still, the owner most reluctantly, but compulsively, relinquishing farther pursuit, with no other than the mortifying alternative of reaching the first place of accommodation, where nature may be recruited, and disgrace obscured. From this scene of perplexing despondency (of which there are various instances in the same day), we naturally advert to the happier and more fortunate leaders, enjoying, at the head of the hounds, the very essence and emulation of the chase; here may be seen the ecstatic glow of instinctive ardour, irresistible speed, and invincible courage, far beyond the power of literary description; the pen cannot, the pencil may, delineate those pleasing traits of exulting happiness and conscious superiority, that invariably takes possession of every countenance, when enjoying, with ease, a seat of safety parallel with the head of the hounds.

At this critical and rapturous moment, in the midst of the exhilarating burst, the genial glee, the inexpressible joy that pervades the whole, the scent seems imperceptibly to improve, the hounds pressing upon each other renew their vigorous efforts, and their sonorous notes re-echo with a more than double impatience. This infallibly denotes a rapid progress upon the game, and is an indication too certain to be mistaken; as was predicted, so it proves, *a view!* and happy he who can first obtain it. Every idea of fear, every alarm of danger are suppressed in the moment of formation, and there is not an individual in the field who does not consider himself bound by every tie of honour and humanity to embark in the cause of determined preservation. The pack thus perseveringly

veringly pressing upon their expectant, and expected victim, he at length stops—turns—surveys—again proceeds, exerts his utmost strength, which now begins to fail him; when with all his powers nearly exhausted, he once more turns—views his approaching foes—and faintly turns again; the blood-thirsty hope, and instinctive impulse of his inveterate pursuers, soon serve to convince him that farther attempts at flight are unavailing—the leading hounds press close upon him, and the eager horsemen are parallel with those; in this extremity he turns, and, as his last effort, boldly faces his assailants, and with the exasperated use of both head and heels fortunately possesses, in general, force sufficient to keep the head hounds at bay, and himself uninjured till the united assistance of those horsemen, who are happily up, keep off the clamorous crew with their whips, while the reprieved object of the day being secured, and protected by the huntsmen and yeomen-prickers, bows obedience to the exulting, eager, impetuous peals of the impatient pack, at the restraint they are under, in sight of that game they have so long and so laboriously pursued.

During this ceremony his Majesty gets up, and never fails to bestow the greatest encomiums on those who have so earnestly exerted themselves for the safety and preservation of the deer. The horns now repeat the musical prelude of the morning, their enlivening strains, intermixed with the vociferous predominance of the hounds at the view of their game, in the presence of our most gracious Sovereign (unattended by every guard but unsullied loyalty and unlimited affection), constitute a scene of philanthropy, and universal benevolence, far exceeding the brilliancy, personal ambition, paltry parade, and external ornaments of those fashionable, but fallacious pleasures with which the metropolis so plentifully abounds. This ceremony continuing a few minutes for the purpose of demonstrating to the hounds, that they have obtained a victory, they are then drawn off, and the deer conducted to the first farm-house, or receptacle of safety, from whence he is removed, on the following day, to the Paddocks, at Swinley-Lodge, before described. The time and place of meeting for a future day, being adjusted before the departure of his Majesty, with his attendants, he generally proceeds to the nearest town where a post conveyance can be procured, and returns instantly to Windsor; and most frequently without taking the least refreshment, whatever may be the distance, or the length of the chase, instances having occurred where his Majesty has not reached the castle till eight or nine in the evening at the dreariest season.

Thus much having been introduced, that the whole of the chase, from its commencement to the termination, may be the more clearly comprehended by those who have never had opportunity to partake of the sport; it becomes equally applicable to extract from the manuscript records of the writer, such accurate recital of the most severe, and almost incredible chases (at every one of which he was present from beginning to end) as will forcibly convey to the knowledge of every reader the wonderful strength, speed, and perseverance with which horses and hounds are endowed. Previous to which it will be directly in point to observe, that in former times, when the king lost a stag in hunting, open proclamations were made in all towns and villages near where the deer was supposed to remain, that no person should kill, hunt, or chase him, that he might safely return to the forest again, and the foresters were ordered to harbour the said hart, and, by degrees, to bring him back to the forest, and that deer was ever after "*a Hart Royal Proclaimed.*" Some years since an old record remained in Nottingham-Castle, stating, that in 1194, Richard the First hunted a hart from Sherwood-Forest to Barnes-Dale, in Yorkshire, and there lost him. He made proclamation at Tunhill, in Yorkshire, and divers other places in the neighbourhood of Barnsdale, that no person should chase, kill, or hunt the said deer, that he might return to his lair in the forest of Sherwood. This ceremony, however, has been long since discontinued, and bids fair to be buried in oblivion, as two instances have occurred, in the last few years, well worthy recital: one in the neighbourhood of High-Wycombe, in Buckinghamshire, where the stag was shot before the hounds, by a rustic, during the heat of the chase in which the King was at the time personally engaged. And another at Mapledurham, in Oxfordshire, where one of the best running deer in the King's collection was most wantonly and inhumanly shot, as he lay in a willow-bank, near the Thames, two days after he had completely beaten the hounds; yet it is publicly known, in the forest and its district, that no steps whatever were taken to prosecute or punish the offenders.

REMARKABLE CHASES

WITH

HIS MAJESTY'S STAG-HOUNDS.

“MOONSHINE,” the famous deer of that name, was so called in consequence of his almost constantly leading the chase till night, and twice had the honour of beating the hounds when thirty couple were out, tiring a field of fifty or sixty horsemen, being at the approach of night left totally at large; the chase renewed the following day, and then not subdued in less than two, three, and four hours. He has repeatedly covered such a tract of country that would hardly be credited were it to be given in recital; such only, however, shall be introduced as are truly authentic, and so confirmed upon the reputation of the writer, who pledges himself to have been present from the beginning to the end of every chase he has presumed to report. In the first week of April, 1793, Moonshine was turned out before his Majesty, and a most numerous field, at New Lodge, in the Forest, about five miles from Windsor-Castle; going away in high style over the commons of Waltham, he passed through the parish of Binfield, to the coverts of Easthampstead; here he waited for the hounds, and they eagerly pressing upon him, he topped the paling of Easthampstead-Park, which going across, he most gallantly bid them adieu! Facing the open country with a space of near twenty miles before him, with undiminished fortitude, he could depend upon his speed and bottom only for extrication from impending danger. Without being once brought to view by his pursuers, he covered the extensive barren tract to Sandhurst, and Midley-Warren, beyond Black-Water, where a stop of the hounds was made of short duration for his Majesty to get up; the hounds were then halloo'd forward; and passing through Cove, Hawley, and a large sheet of water upon the heath called Fleet-Pond (three miles in circumference), crossed the heath country to Ewshot, near Farnham, in Surrey, and to Crondall, in Hants, where he was taken unhurt, after a run of five hours, and upwards of forty miles; not more than one-sixth of the original field being present

present, the remainder having been scattered in different parts of the country, lamenting the want of condition in their horses that had prevented their longer pursuing what, from a deficiency in sporting knowledge and experience, they had presumed to satirize with the appellation of "calf-hunting," as a chase too trifling and insignificant for such high-bred and high-minded sportsmen.

Various other instances of the speed, strength, and persevering fortitude of this extraordinary animal might be introduced, but they may be readily conceived when put in competition with the ability of his cotemporary, *Young Highflyer*, who nearly equalled him in all his qualifications. This most surprising and beautiful animal has been, in different chases, repeatedly taken unhurt, at the distance of thirty miles, in a direct line from the spot in which the hounds were originally laid on; he has led the chase twenty miles from home, and suddenly making a double, has returned, with very little variation from his former track, and leaped into his paddock over paling of eight feet high. He has repeatedly beat the hounds till night has obliged them to relinquish the pursuit, but more particularly in Buckinghamshire, after having crossed the river Thames; where trying for him on the following day, and again the second without success, he was, on the third, discovered by the herdsmen at home, amidst his herd of "velvet friends," at the distance of twenty miles (with the intervening Thames) from the spot where he had previously beaten the hounds; a circumstance sufficiently demonstrative of their possessing sagacity in addition to their other properties already described.

On the Thursday of Easter week, in the year before alluded to, *Young Highflyer* was turned out before the king, and a numerous field, at King's-Beech, near Sunning-hill, when going off in his usual high style, and bidding defiance to the early speed of his pursuers, he most indifferently passed his native spot (Swinley-Lodge) with the herd in his sight, and in passing over Wick-Hill, being accidentally headed, he doubled, and in returning repassed his relatives and friends in the herd at a very small distance, without attempting to join them, or to avail himself of the least advantage; taking a deliberate survey of the hounds and cavalcade of horsemen from the high hill of Ascot, he continued his career with seeming perfect ease over the race-ground, through Sunning-Hill Park, and Cranbourne-Wood, where wantonly waiting for the hounds till they were pretty near him, he once more bid them adieu, going away at his rate through Spitte-enclosures, and Clewer-fields, he crossed the Thames above Windsor-Bridge, through

through the parishes of Dorney and Boveney, when reaching Lord Chesterfield's park, at Stoke, he once more waited for the hounds, who suddenly clapping at him got nearly close to his haunches, when finding it now too serious a business to trifle with, he was compelled to break away at increased speed through Langley and the intervening country (in which a great deal of good running was enjoyed) to within a mile of Uxbridge, where he was run up to, and well saved, after a most excellent chase of three hours, in which there were but very few checks, stops, or interruptions. Although this run was, in many respects, very severe, yet no account transpired of any horses having suffered in consequence; but much difficulty was experienced in getting many to the nearest inns, or proper receptacles for their accommodation, where "cordial-balls," warm wines, and other ingredients, were eagerly brought into use to insure their safety.

On the next day but one, being Saturday, in the same week, a famous deer called *Compton* (so named from having once led a chase of five hours, when he was taken in a farm-yard in the village of that name, in the lower part of the county of Berks,) was turned out at the same spot that the deer had been on the Thursday, before his Majesty and a most wonderful assemblage of people, sportsmen as well as spectators; where the constitutional and unalarmed vigour of the deer, the energetic eagerness of the hounds, the sympathetic ardour of the attendants, the beauty and general stillness of the morning, the brilliancy of the extensive circle, and, to crown the whole, the singular cheerfulness, condescending affability, and great spirits of his Majesty, enriched the scene beyond the limits of literary description. The deer having been indulged with the usual law of a few minutes, had only trotted on to a small willow covert near Brumwell-Hut, at Shrub's-Hill, where laying down at his ease, as if unpursued, the hounds were presently up with him, when instantly breaking covert with the whole pack close at his haunches, he crossed a small meadow, where leaping a monstrous fence into the midst of the body of horsemen (to their great alarm and confusion) he passed directly over the heath to Sunning-Hill, King's-Beech, Wickham-Bushes, and nearly to Bagshot-Bog, a complete racing burst of six miles in view (before the leading hound could be headed to make a stop), constituting such a scene of stag-hunting, that those only who have seen can believe, when it is positively affirmed by the writer, that only twelve out of an hundred and fifty horsemen were with the hounds for some minutes after they were stopt; the immense body of people originally together, being now distributed in every part

part of the heath, and the greatest mirth prevailing amongst those with the hounds, at seeing numbers in various directions endeavouring to get forward, though at two and three miles distance.

Upon his Majesty's getting within reach of the chase, the hounds were again let loose, when, in a few minutes, a repetition of the same severity of racing ensued, for the deer soon waiting again for the hounds, they ran up close to him at South-Hill Park, when scorning to avail himself of the neighbouring enclosures (where he would have had the high fences in his favour), he most gallantly faced the open country, took over the extensive tract of Cæsar's-Camp, Golden-Farmer-Hills, and Bagshot-Bog; to the left, through Swinley over two paler-fences of eight feet high), Sunning-Hill, and to the right, over the great western road to Windlesham, where repeatedly covering a very great scope of country, he once more broke away through a dreadful swampy country for the horses, and was ultimately taken unhurt in the parish of Chobham, after a most wonderful run of three hours and a half, during which (the day proving exceedingly hot) more tired horses were observed constantly falling off, than ever were remembered upon any similar occasion. At the taking of the deer were about twenty of the original field, amongst whom were his Majesty, Lords Sandwich, Cathcart, Scarborough, and Inchiquin; Messrs. Crutchley, Batson, Palmer, &c. many of these changed horses in the course of the chase.

On Tuesday, the 8th of October, in the same year, his Majesty was also present at a chase of much severity. The stag was turned out at New-Lodge, near Winkfield-Plain, when making a circle of some miles, he went off in a direct line for the Thames, which gallantly swimming, he (to the great mortification of the numerous horsemen) proceeded through much of the woodland country, where the hounds could by no means be stopt, and was, at length, run up to between Stonehouse and Marlow, after a most incredible run of four hours and a half; and although the deer was prevented receiving bodily injury from the hounds, yet he was so depressed and exhausted by the persevering rapidity of pursuit, that he dropped and expired in a few minutes after he was taken. A similar circumstance occurred on the last day of the same season, when a young deer was turned out before his Majesty at Tower-Hill, between Swinley-Lodge and Bagshot. The hounds being expeditiously brought up to the scent, the deer continued to run in good style through the parishes of Easthampstead, Warfield, Winkfield, and Binfield, and nearly to New-Lodge, before a view

was

was obtained ; when laying well at him, and pressing him closely over the open commons of Waltham, and the adjoining enclosures, the most part of the latter in view, they ran up to him in a small narrow stream near Brick-Bridge, after a very steady and fleet run of one hour and forty minutes, to which his exertions doomed him a victim, as he fell dead so soon as the belt was fastened round his leg, and every one present considered him in a state of perfect preservation. It being the termination of the season for that year, the melodious concert of horns, surrounded by the echoing woods ; the sonorous accompaniment of the hounds, and the lifeless game extended upon the verdant glade in the presence of his Majesty ; then engaged in taking the most amiable and friendly leave of the principal gentlemen in the hunt, “ wishing every individual health, and the happiness of meeting again on the first day of the following season,” constituted a scene of rapturous gratification that it is more within the power of every sporting reader to conceive, than a sportsman’s pen to describe.

In the Easter-week of 1796, the sport of the three days absolutely exceeded every expectation. The concourse of people present on the Monday, at turning out the deer on Ascot-heath, was beyond conception, and the course of the running proved the destruction of many horses either ill calculated, or not in condition for the chase. Almost as soon as the deer had been liberated, the hounds suddenly broke away from the yeomen-prickers, who surrounded them, and continued the chase in such astonishing style, that in the first burst of ten miles the slow-going gentry formed a tail-line for full four miles of the ten ; upon reaching London Blackwater, in the great western road, the deer turned to the right, through Sandhurst and Finchampstead, till nearly reaching Wokingham-town end, and suddenly turning to the left, he continued his route in a most gallant and wonderful manner through the parishes of Barkham, Arborfield, over Farley-Hill, Swallowfield, Mortimer, through the river Kennet, and to Aldermaston, near Newbury, after one of the most severe and violent chases (of four hours and a quarter) ever known in the memory of man ; during which near fifty miles of ground were rode over, and many of the company had upwards of thirty miles home. His Majesty (who by a change of horses was up before the deer was housed at a neighbouring farm) did not reach Windsor till half-past seven in the evening, where much anxiety prevailed for his safety. Many horses were broke down, and numbers crippled from the hardness of the

ground, while others were unavoidably left in different parts of the country in a state of uncertainty. The inns at Heckfield, Wokingham, and different villages, were full of invalids, and the post-chaises, where they could be obtained, were generally employed in conveying home those who had no alternative but to leave their horses behind.

On the Thursday his Majesty, attended by Lords Sandwich, Walsingham, and others of his retinue, reached the starting-post, at Ascot-Heath (the place appointed for turning out), at half-past ten, when a beautiful little deer (called Sir Henry Gotte, from having been presented to his Majesty by a Buckinghamshire knight of that name) was liberated in the bottom, and at going off, equalled in speed, any thing of the kind before seen. About ten minutes law having been given, the hounds were permitted to break away, and afforded a burst of the greatest emulation. The scent lying wonderfully well after the rain that had previously fallen, none but thorough-bred horses could lay any where near the hounds for the first hour and a half; not a check taking place, nor could the hounds be but once stopped during that time; running nearly the same ground as on Monday, till he made Wokingham; he passed through the gardens of that town, over Frog-Hall Green, through the parishes of Binfield, Warfield, the Hazes, and Shottesbrook-Coverts, Braywick, and was taken at Holyport, after a chase of four hours as fine running as ever was seen or remembered by the oldest sportsmen in the field.

On the Saturday circumstances seemed in a direct combination to terminate one of the richest sporting weeks ever witnessed within the limits of Windsor-Forest; the peculiar brightness of the morning, the immense number and brilliancy of the company, and the spirits and affability of his Majesty, could only be equalled by the luxury of the scene that ensued. An own brother to the deer of Thursday (originally presented by Sir Henry Gotte to the Prince of Wales, and by his Royal Highness to the King) was turned out in the bottom, near the race-course, precisely at eleven; when after the usual prelude of horns, re-echoed by the hounds, they were drawn up to the scent, and a burst of almost unprecedented rapidity followed too rich for recital. Without waiting to be pressed, the deer, in the uniform style of the week, boldly faced the open country, setting his pursuers at defiance with a speed and gallantry in a style beyond all precedent. After a circle of some few miles upon the heath, and by Sunning-
Hill-Park,

Hill-Park, he passed Sunning-Hill-Wells, Brummel-Hut, and through Potnalls-Warren, where he turned to the left, and reached the bridge at Virginia-Water; here he waited till the hounds came nearly up to him, when surveying the approaching cavalcade with a haughty contemptuous indifference, he broke away with a seeming easy unconcern, and took the whole of the swampy country, and over the immense fences to Thorpe-Green; and leaving Chertsey to the right, passed through the string of meadows to, and crossed the Thames, continuing his career over the common-fields to the town of Staines. Here he amused the inhabitants in their different gardens and orchards, where the deer and the hounds were repeatedly together, and his escape from destruction appeared almost inevitable; but by leaps of the most astonishing height, and exertions of strength beyond credibility, he once more broke view, crossed the western turnpike-road, and again led the chase in as high and gallant style as at first starting. Crossing the intervening enclosures to Wyradsbury, and nearly reaching Colnbrook, he then bore to the right, and was taken unhurt near the seat of Sir W. Gibbons, at Stanwell, after two hours and a half of as fine running as on either of the days already described; but the company were so exceedingly numerous, and the major part of the horses so deficient in speed and perseverance, that the first few who were up at the saving of the deer, were soon increased to a little multitude by those who had been previously thrown out, and continued to pour in from different parts of the country.

DEATH OF THE FAMOUS TAPLOW DEER.

Lord Sandwich, and his prime minister, D. Johnson (the huntsman), on the 1st of October, 1797, afforded such a specimen of the superiority of stag-hunting, as can scarcely be found in the records of sporting history. Upon his Majesty's arrival at Ascot-Heath, on the morning already mentioned, the deer of this name was liberated below the Obelisk, and going off with the most determined courage, and inexpressible speed, bid a seeming adieu to all competition. The hounds were laid on with only five minutes law, and the scent laying well, they went away, breast high, in a style that "beggars all description;" eight of the fleetest horses only, out of at least a hundred, being enabled to lay any where by the side of them, till headed in absolute racing by Johnson, the huntsman, assisted by Nottage and Gosden, two of the yomen-prickers. At this lucky stop of the pack a treat was enjoyed by those few who were happily up

with the hounds, for a few minutes had elapsed before the first of the cavalcade were seen coming over the hills at little less than two miles distance, when the hounds were gradually trotted on, and as the deer evidently waited for them, and headed several times in the enclosures near Bagshot, it afforded opportunity for many of those who had been previously thrown out to get up.

This gratification, however, proved but of short duration, for the hounds catching a view, and clapping suddenly at him, they went away close to his haunches, through the whole of the inclosures and coverts to Windlesham, and to Bagshot-Heath, and by Sir W. Abdy's, at Chobham, during which burst, great part of the original field were dispersed and lost. Here ensued a scene of the most luxurious exultation to those few who were enabled, by the speed and bottom of their horses, to enjoy it, till after a racing burst of eight miles the leading hounds were again stopped with only five horsemen at their head. When sufficient time had been given for his Majesty and retinue to get up, the hounds were again halloo'd forward, and laying close at him through the Moors and Coworth enclosures, they brought him to view at Black Nest; here he repeatedly endeavoured to leap the high paling of Windsor great Park, but without success; here the deer, hounds, and horsemen, were all intermixed in one general scene of confusion, when, by a most wonderful exertion, the deer reached the park by the Haugh! Haugh! through the shrubbery, and plunging into the immense sheet of Virginia-Water, passed entirely through it. Here his Majesty entered most energetically into the spirit of the chase, absolutely assisted in getting the hounds forward, laying them on where the deer left the water, and speaking to them in a sporting-like style. After running several bursts in view, through different parts of the park, and being closely pressed, he leaped the Park-Paling, crossed the great western road, and through the enclosures to Egham-Hill, where finding the hounds afforded him neither time or respite, visibly distressed, and his strength inadequate to longer contest, he took to the large coverts of St. Anne's-Hill; these proving no more in his favour, and dreading the nearer approach of the hounds, he once more broke away, but in vain, for the hounds ran up to, pulled him down, and killed him in the first swampy ditch, after a most admirable chase of three hours, in which it was presumed as much ground was run over as ever was known within the same space of time upon any occasion whatever.

Not to extend a recital of such chases beyond the original intent of demonstrating their severity, one more only shall be introduced, and that having proved the most singular, in respect to the destruction of horses of any yet known, has been reserved for the conclusion. The deer was liberated at the starting-post upon Ascot-Heath, and after making Bagshot-Park, proceeded without lead or double over the open country to Sandhurst, through Finchampstead-Woods, Barkham, Arborfield, Swallowfield, Mortimer, across the river Kennet, and over the intervening country to Tilehurst, below Reading, in Berkshire, where the deer was taken unhurt, after a most incredible and desperate run of four hours and twenty minutes; horsemen being thrown out in every part of the country through which they passed: one horse dropt dead in the field; another immediately after the chase, before he could reach a stable, and seven more within the week. Of such speed, and almost unprecedented severity was this run, that tired horses in great danger, and others completely leg-weary, or broken down, were unavoidably left at various inns, in different parts of the country.

From the concise and abridged specimens here introduced, a tolerable idea may be formed, even by those who do not profess themselves sportsmen, what the powers of an English hunter should be, upon this unexaggerate representation of what he has to perform; some there are who are totally incredulous to the practicability, amongst whom was Mons. Sainbel, late professor of the Veterinary-College, who could never be brought to believe, "that any horse could be found capable of continuing a chase of this description four hours in succession." That such exertions may be continued even with the best-bred horses, till nature is completely exhausted, cannot admit of a doubt; but that such accidents happen, in general, to horses too heavily formed, and by much too slow for the chase, as well as to those hunted in improper condition, is as clearly ascertained. The frequency of such losses seems, with the sporting-world, to have forcibly inculcated the indispensable necessity of selecting such horses for the chase as are peculiarly adapted for that purpose, and likewise the strict propriety of getting them into condition before they are brought into the field.

Nothing can distress cross-bred horses more than the being continued a great length of time at the top of their speed; and even the best-bred hunters should not, after such very severe chases, be too soon brought into similar exertions:

numbers

numbers are crippled, and irrecoverably ruined for want of a little prudence and precautionary patience; for, brought into the field too early, with a stiff rigidity in the limbs, and without the usual elastic pliability in the joints, the spirits as well as the frame naturally become equally affected by a consciousness of the deficiency, and the rider, upon making the discovery, moves in very little less misery than the horse, who, feeling his temporary debility, is evidently in fear of falling at every stroke. Any horse having been greatly fatigued by a rapidly severe, or tediously long chase, is best recovered from the effect by a great deal of gentle walking exercise upon the turf, and equally patient friction in the stable; for no horse perceptibly affected in this way, and by these means, should be brought again into even exercise gallops, till every degree of stiffness is gradually worn away, and obliterated in gentle motion, of which, they are themselves the first to make a discovery by their palpable renovation of spirits, strength, and action.

In respect to the chase itself, nothing can more powerfully demonstrate its attracting power, and exhilarating effect, than the ecstatic rapture with which it is enjoyed, and the constantly increasing infinity of its devotees. Cynically rigid opponents will always continue to be generated, inveterately averse to every pleasure (however sublime or select) that is not congenial to their own sensations; and will, with an avowed avidity, declare perpetual war against any pleasure, gratification, or enjoyment, in which they are not eventually interested, or personally concerned. Those constitutional admirers of the chase, who for time immemorial have been better known and distinguished by the appellation of sportsmen, are almost proverbial for their mutual offices of civility and friendship; no class enter more into the openness and glowing warmth of unsuspecting society, the genial inspiration of philanthropy, and the infinite inexpressible extent of unsullied hospitality.

To the judicious and experienced it is universally known, that the prudent sportsman is invariably the guardian of his own honour at home, and of his safety abroad; for however he may rely upon the attachment and punctuality of an old or faithful servant, he never declines the service of his own faculties, so long as he can derive advantage from their utility. He therefore seldom, if ever, however great his haste, or eager his pursuit, mounts his horse without taking a slight, but sufficient survey of his apparatus; he feels it a duty to himself to observe, and be convinced, that his saddle is not fixed in an improper

per place, but literally in the centre, equally free from the withers before, as from the hip-bones behind; that his girths are not only judiciously tightened, but that the girth-buckles extend considerably above the edge of the pad of the saddle on each side, and that the stirrup-leathers are in too firm and good a state to hazard a chance of their breaking; whenever which happens, particularly in the heat of the chace, the most dreadful accidents frequently ensue. Thus safely seated in the full persuasion of his own prudent precaution, he never permits himself, by the persuasions of the young, inconsiderate, or inexperienced, to be diverted from his original purpose of proceeding deliberately to the place of meeting, or throwing off the hounds; well knowing, not only the manly propriety, but the absolute sporting necessity of giving a horse every possible opportunity of unloading his carcase, previous to his being brought into the powerful exertions of the chase. Upon joining his friends in the field, he is never seen entering into conversation beyond the salutations of the morning, knowing by long experience, the frivolities sported upon such occasions, by the young, the confident, and the inexperienced, are only calculated to excite the indignant resentment of the huntsman, and the contemptuous indifference of the company, by ridiculously attracting the attention of the hounds.

The perfect sportsman, whether the hounds are drawing or running, is never seen in a place to incur disgrace by heading the game, or obstructing the hounds; the chase is a business in which he is a proficient, and he is never at a loss in the execution. From an innate and invincible attachment to the sport, and an implicit observance of its strictest rules, he becomes constitutionally insensible to the less attentive part of the company, but is, nevertheless, incessantly alive to every tongue of a hound. Not a promising whimper, an exhilarating challenge, or a palpable hit, but vibrates sympathetically upon his anxious ear, and his whole soul seems absorbed in the earnest and eager hope of transmitting the enlivening signal of a view, to his distant friends who surround the covert in equal expectation. The chase once commenced, his utmost judgment is exerted to lay as well in with the hounds, as the speed of his horse and the state of the country will permit; at which time, he stands upon no specious ceremony with, or servile subservience to local superiors: this alone is the happy spot, as well as the critical and exulting moment where all are equal, where personal pride can assume no consequence, dignity can claim no precedence, and where even an immensity of wealth is of no avail, but superlatively happy he who can excel his peers and take the lead.

Ever attentive to every motion of the chase, the steady sportsman, ruminates at the time, upon no other object than the object of pursuit; his mind is eternally intent upon the game, or the leading hound, the latter of which he is careful never to lose sight of, unless by an intervening covert, the pack is obscured from his view; when with the advantage of the wind (which every old sportsman is sure to avail himself of), aided by that unerring monitor the ear, he is very seldom far from the hounds, and rarely, if ever, thrown out. In all chases of rapidity there are, as has been already described, plenty of slow goers behind; these finding the impossibility of getting up, soon become subservient to the predominant passion of envy, and are never wanting in the petulant and vociferous exclamation of "*hold hard!*" to those who are before, without knowing why they do so, which is, in fact, from no other than the jealous motive of not being themselves at the head of the hounds. To the clamours of such discontents he is habitually inattentive, if having viewed the game, or the leading hound, and sees the chase going on without interruption; personally convinced, those who are the most forward, must best know the state of the scent by the checks, or the breast-high running of the hounds.

Those who have been for a series of years accustomed to the sports of the field, well know there is invariably a jaundiced discontent with some about being too forward, which is a very predominant reason why the zealous sportsman will never condescend to be left a great way behind. He knows his place, and he keeps it; he is never seen in the body and bustle of the croud, riding in a direct line with, and pressing upon the heels of the hounds, but in a true sporting-like style, parallel with the three or four last couple of the pack: in which situation, the horse (if well bred) is not only enabled to keep his place with ease, but the rider enjoys the additional advantage of most minutely observing every distinct winding of the chase; as well as the dashing efforts, and enchanting emulative struggles of the leading hounds. Keeping his ground in this situation, he rapturously enjoys every alternate change and variety of the scene, by laying close to the hounds, and making the necessary observations, he is sure of seeing where and when they throw up, and of course knows to a certainty how far they have carried the scent; consequently, those only who are forward, and know the state of the chase, are the best qualified to give the signal of "*hold hard*" to those behind, and not, as is too frequently the case, for those behind to transmit inconsistently the petulant exclamation to those before.

The moment leading hounds are at fault, every judicious horseman invariably moves to a proper distance, that the body of the hounds may not be interrupted in making their casts, or get interspersed amidst the legs of the horses. Whenever a lucky hit is made, he instantly attends to the hound who made it, and upon a general recovery of the scent, goes immediately on with the chase; for the loss of ground, at so critical a moment, it may be sometimes difficult to regain. In the midst of his enthusiastic attachment to the sport before him, the safety, ease, and preservation of his horse preponderates over every other consideration; and this inflexible determination is supported by such a chain of invariable rules, that they are never permitted to be broken in upon under any plea, persuasion, or perversion whatever. No temptation can induce him to deviate from a plan previously adopted and prudently persevered in. The sportsman of this description is never seen embarking in any scheme of imprudence, or unnecessary danger; equally a stranger to the furor of folly, and juvenile indiscretion, he never enters into the spirit of racing competition during the chase, thereby distressing his horse, and wantonly wasting the strength that may be so much wanting (and cannot be restored) at the conclusion of a long and severe day.

Superior to every species of false ambition, and imaginary consequence, he scorns the idea of taking high, or large leaps unnecessarily, merely to attract attention, or to display his valour, well knowing discretion is the most striking proof of humanity; in which confirmed persuasion, he invariably regulates the pace of his horse by the nature of the country he has to go over, and is observed never to ride hardest in the deepest ground, for experience has long since demonstrated (even to the least attentive), that whatever distance may have been unavoidably lost under temporary obstacles, may with the less difficulty, be recovered, when the horse's strength and wind are carefully attended to, till he can go above the surface, and consequently more at his ease. Let what will have been the fate of the day, however sooner, or later the chase may have been concluded, the same steady and cool deliberation with which he started in the morning accompanies him on his return; he is induced by no rash juvenile, or inconsiderate examples, to reduce the estimation of a valuable hunter to the standard of a post-horse, for being reflectingly superior to the instability and impetuous impatience of those who surround him, he neither trots with one, or gallops with the other; but, without respect to distance, gently

brings his faithful friend and sporting companion to the place of his destination (or his home), where he may receive all the attention, and enjoy all the comforts to which he becomes so largely entitled.

Having considered it a matter indispensably necessary, and directly applicable, to introduce the characteristic traits and systematic proceedings of an experienced sportsman, as an useful and entertaining appendage to the chase; it can prove no less so, to bring into a similar point of view, a contrast of very different description. The juvenile fashionable sportsman, or rather the sportsman of fashion, seems (as it were by instinctive impulse) to regulate his conduct, by rules exactly opposite to the comfort of the company, and the general happiness of the chase. Exultingly emulous in a consciousness of his own self-sufficiency, he affects to believe, that all the world should, like himself, consider the sports of the field the only ecstatic enjoyment that a man of sense, and a man of pleasure can engage in. Confirmed in which emphatic furor, he holds it forth as a matter of the utmost magnitude to his domestics, and renders it, if possible, of still higher importance, by a communication of strict orders in the evening to every individual, that the house may be in early confusion (or rather regular preparation) the following morning. If he is luckily in possession of a horse, the least entitled by merit or appearance to the appellation of a hunter, he is ordered off at day-break, under the care of the hunting-groom, to be ready at the place of meeting; whilst the master, so soon as he is liberated from the hands of his valet, or hair-dresser, follows upon his seasoned hack.

Arrived at the happy spot of expectant destination, it is no uncommon thing for him to assume (if he does not possess) a superlative degree of the most unbounded effrontery, surveying the whole of the field with a leer of ineffable contempt. In exchanging his horse, no airs are wanting in adjusting his apparatus, and asking his servant a thousand frivolous questions, of no other import whatever, than to render himself conspicuous, and of some imaginary consequence. When the hounds are thrown into covert, and every old and experienced sportsman is in silent, but eager expectation for the first challenge, it is generally his peculiar care to become the only subject of vociferation, by noisy and extraneous remarks, or weak and puerile observations. It is no uncommon thing for these "poppinjay" kind of gentry, to gallop from one extremity of the co-

vert to the other, when the hounds are harking to each other, and every moment expected to find; by which indiscretion they not only prevent the game from breaking away, but frequently occasion its death without a view. Newly initiated sportsmen of this description, are never deficient in their strenuous endeavours to inculcate the idea, that riding hard, and riding bold, are the only things on earth to excite universal admiration; and so pre-possessed are they with this favourite opinion, that not to be at the head of the hounds is a mortification too great to be described.

When reduced to this distressing predicament, one alternative only presents itself, and proves of a most infatuating infection; for "*Hold hard!*" "*Hold hard!*" is instantly vociferated from many mouths with more than even a Stentorian dictation. This they conceive a striking proof of their consequence, and, if it luckily intimidates the inexperienced, or pusillanimous, the political stroke succeeds, and they get before them; succeeding occasionally in which, they become, in their own opinions, leading sportsmen of the highest estimation. To support the brilliancy of which character, they, with an affectation of the most earnest avidity, frequently take a number of severe and unnecessary leaps; not, more probably, to prove their courage, than their humanity also, by a display of attentive tenderness to a favourite horse. When any of this fraternity are accidentally behind, they make a gratifying point of getting up in the midst of a dirty country, or at the entrance of a watery lane, where by passing at full speed, and almost smothering every more patient competitor with dirt, or water, they succeed in their most ambitious and predominant wish of becoming objects of general attraction, equally indifferent whether it is productive of admiration, approbation, or contempt. Wherever they may have been at the termination of the chase, their own report, "trumpet-tongued," always proclaims their presence to have been at the death.

After this cursory review of the different devotees, who can never summon resolution to withstand the temptation of the chase, such remarks as are applicable to personal perfection in the art, ease, and grace of riding, become indispensably necessary to a completion of the subject now before us. Horsemanship, as it is most frequently termed, may be considered in two distinct points of view; first, whether it is self-acquired by natural attachment, and patient perseverance, or by instruction at some one of the many schools of celebrity; for there are not wanting those who aver (and with very great show of

reason and truth), that the sportsman who has imbibed the art from nature, habit, and practice, is, in general observation, a more easy, graceful, expert, and courageous horseman under every difficulty of field, or road, than the major part of those who have been in the trammels, and under the tuition of the most able and eminent professors. As there are, however, but very few of these schools to be found in any part of the kingdom, except in the metropolis, and its environs, and excellent horsemen are to be seen even in the remotest parts of the world, it may be impartially presumed, there is much more of nature than of art in the acquisition. Notwithstanding which, it must be candidly admitted, that however unnecessary the inculcations of a riding-master may be found in forming the graces and qualifications of a sportsman, they become palpably requisite to the completion of a military education, in which both personal dignity, and adequate authority, must be systematically maintained.

The character of a sportsman is universally known to be, in a great degree, self-formed, and there must be much more than a mediocratic proportion of general knowledge, and personal experience, before an appellation held so high in estimation can be attained. He is not only looked up to as an adept in the principles of horsemanship, but a perfect master of the most minute circumstance in the regular routine of stable-discipline; no stranger to the name and use of every utensil, any more than to the application of every distinct part of the apparatus with which his horse is customarily accoutered, he can never become the dupe of his groom. He not only knows the things most proper for his horse, but he appropriates them to the particular purpose for which they are designed; understanding practically the property and power of each kind of bridle, he brings them judiciously into use with the different kinds of mouthed horses to insure the effect of each bit individually, as it was originally intended to produce. These trifles, when considered conjunctively, are of such material import to safety, and are such solid and substantial proofs of mental stability, and persevering punctuality, that they may, in the aggregate, be unerringly deemed the very foundation, or ground-work, upon which the reputation of either sportsman, or horseman, can possibly be formed.

These terms may, in fact, be considered as synonymous, there being very seldom one of these, but what is in great part the other also; these (as before observed) without exception, preparatory to mounting for either chase or journey

ney, prudently condescend to cast an eye of circumspection upon the horse as well as the necessary appendages, that it may be ascertained to a certainty how far they are adequate to the purpose in which they are going to be engaged. This being done, those who are practical proficient in horsemanship, come gently up to the horse, opposite the shoulder on the near (that is the left) side; where facing the wither, the reins of the bridle, with a tuft, or small part of the mane, is to be taken firmly in the left hand, and held at about the same distance and length as they generally are when mounted. The horse at this moment standing perfectly still (which he should have been previously taught and accustomed to do), then, and not before, the right-hand is immediately employed in supporting the stirrup for the reception of the left foot on that side; which, when safely inserted, the right-hand is instantly removed from the stirrup-iron to the hinder prominence of the saddle, which grasping firmly, it constitutes an assisting support in raising the right leg from the ground, and to pass it gradually and steadily over the body of the horse, where it falls readily into contact with the stirrup on that side. Thus seated, the state of the bridle-reins is the first means of consideration, due observation being made of the medium they are to be held in; that is, not too tight, to make the horse uneasy and to run back, or slack enough to afford him opportunity to set off before his rider is firmly seated, and sufficiently prepared.

The rider thus mounted, should in his body be gracefully and pliantly erect, inclining rather backward than forward, the weight of the frame resting entirely upon the posteriors, proportionally relieved by the continued adhesion of the thighs, and an equal moderate pressure of the knees and legs upon the sides of the horse. To preserve which position pleasingly free from constraint and stiffness, the proper length of the stirrup-leathers is a matter most material to be attended to; for unless they are in length, minutely adapted to the stature of the rider, it is impossible for him to support a firm, safe, and graceful seat, more particularly with high-spirited, violent, vicious, or restive horses. The prevalent error with young and inexperienced horsemen, is their having their stirrups inconsistently and ridiculously short, by which they are erroneously induced to believe they insure their own safety; though the opposite is the palpable fact, and, with a horse of brisk action, they are always in great danger; for, by this awkward and ungentleman-like position, the knees are lifted above the skirts of the saddle, the adhesive pressure of the thighs are prevented, the legs
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are deprived of the assistance they are naturally intended to afford, and the rider is left without the means of sustaining his proper position, when swinging first on one side, and rocking on the other, he seems left entirely to the temper of his horse.

That this state of uncertainty may be rendered clear to every comprehension, it becomes directly applicable to observe, that for ease and safety, the stirrups and leathers should be precisely in this state; that the rider, when sitting upon his horse, either still, or in action, should be enabled to disengage either foot from the stirrup at a single motion, and by keeping the foot, or feet so disengaged, in a direct horizontal position, have the power of recovering, or catching the stirrup instantaneously with the slightest effort made for that purpose. These leading principles to the perfection of horsemanship being properly attended to, the body will be found easy, and the seat firm and commanding, divested entirely of all those rockings, jerkings, and twistings (at one time over the horse's head, and at another over his tail) so very common in the fashionable equestrian display of Hyde-Park, and the environs of the metropolis. In sporting language, the left is termed the bridle-hand, and when mounted, the left elbow should come nearly in contact with the body, which it has, of course, always ready for its support in any sudden jump, start, or stumble that may happen to occur; in want of which regular bearing to resort to, the hand could never be always equally steady, but would sometimes prove an unintentional check to the horse. No fixed and invariable rules can be laid down for the exact distance of the left-hand from the breast, or its height from the saddle; as horses vary so much in their mouths, that the bridle-hand must be consequently used higher, or lower, and the reins be held longer, or shorter, in proportion.

The right-hand (in racing technically termed the whip-hand) should be brought into a corresponding uniformity with the left; acting occasionally in an equal use of the reins, and the judicious management of the mouth, and this is so much a matter to be acquired by practice, that every perfect horseman can as dexterously manage the reins with one hand, as with the other. The hand employed should always be firm, but delicately pliable, and feelingly alive to every motion of the mouth; for by this tender action of the hand, and the nice discrimination of the rider, the horse has better opportunity to display his spirit,
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and demonstrate the pleasure he receives, in being permitted to champ upon the bit. Notwithstanding the introduction of these inculcations, for the instruction and entertainment of juveniles in their earliest initiation, it must be held in remembrance, that the predominant traits and qualifications which constitute the excellence of horsemanship can never be derived alone from theory, but must acquire the polish of proficiency from a persevering practice; they are, therefore, only intended as a deposit in the memory of those, who not feeling themselves too confident in their own ability, may be content to avail themselves of information resulting from a long and attentive experience of which they are not yet in possession.

Those gentlemen, or sportsmen, who have, from an attachment to breeding as amateurs, encountered infinite trouble and great expence in breaking their horses, by the most expert professors in that way, yet many colts possess by nature, and retain by habit, various faults and vices, which are not only unpleasant and inconvenient, but absolutely unsafe and dangerous to those who ride them. There are, it must be admitted, no small proportion of impetuous, petulant riders, who, from a want of knowledge, experience, or reflection, expect their horses to do more than nature ever intended, and, by their own passionate, and inhuman conduct in the use of them, soon render animals of this description as restive and refractory as they are themselves. There are but few instances to be found where irascible or passionate riders make good, or humane horsemen; great patience, serenity, equanimity, and some natural philosophy, is requisite to encounter the numerous and variegated vicissitudes so frequently presenting themselves in either the field, or road; a fiery, petulant rider, and a hot, high-spirited horse, are frequently observed to constitute an unlucky, and ill-formed connection of the most heterogeneous complexion; for, as they support an obstinate and perpetual war, in which neither feels disposed to submit, so they continue to oppose and irritate each other till both are more excited to the spirit of opposition than they were before.

Horses, from the sagacity with which they are providentially gifted, are not long in discovering the mildness and pliability, or opposite disposition of their riders, and proportioning their docility and obedience thereto; of which no greater demonstration need be required, than the numerous instances of their voluntarily following those (either master or servant) by whom they are protected

tected, and accustomed to kindness; as well as their waiting, unattended and unconfined, at any particular door, even in the midst of the most populous streets thronged with carriages, from which spot they will never attempt to stir, till they receive a signal of hand, or voice, from those to whom they belong. Those possessed of tenderness and humane reflection are never deficient in kind and proper attention to an animal who contributes so much, and so essentially to the health, happiness, pleasures, and emoluments of mankind; but, on the contrary, omit no one opportunity of promoting their requisite ease and bodily comfort in return. Many horses, particularly young ones, from natural shyness and constitutional timidity; or, probably, from harsh and severe treatment in the service of a former master, are alarmed and terrified at the slightest accidental motion of stick, or whip, in the hand of the rider; who, if he possesses the traits of tenderness just described, instantly quiets his fears, and allays his irritability by letting the instrument of alarm gradually decline behind his right thigh to the flank of his horse, whilst those of a different temper and description would exult in brandishing either whip or stick over the head and eyes of his horse in a confident and most unbecoming confirmation of his own ignorance, or insanity.

Various and contradictory opinions are supported, upon the subject of horses addicted to starting at objects of sudden surprize, after the most minute attention to, and investigation of which, it is truly natural to conclude the transition originates much more in the sensation of fear, than in the least spirit of opposition, or disobedience; and the recollection of this probability should, consequently, excite an adequate degree of lenity in the rider, but it is seriously to be regretted, that (in the present state of human depravity amongst the lower orders) nine times out of ten, this alarm and subsequent start, the palpable effect of constitutional timidity, is destined to receive the most severe and unmerited punishment. To every rational and thinking observer, it is no uncommon thing, in the casual occurrences of the day, to see a much greater brute than the animal he bestrides most inhumanly and unmercifully beating and bruising, whipping and spurring, a poor creature for possessing a sensation to which every individual of even the human species is equally subject. It may be naturally concluded, by the least considerate observer, that if every individual of society was to be beat and bruised for being justly agitated and alarmed at the sudden appearance of danger, or the sight of unnatural objects of surprize,
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and apprehension, our receptacles for invalids could never prove of sufficient magnitude to contain half the unfortunate who would present themselves for admission.

If then, caution, and the predominant sensation of fear, is instinctively and constitutionally interwoven with the frame of man; is it not equally natural, that the horse, who inherits the same powers of seeing, hearing, and feeling, may be proportionally alarmed at, and terrified with the probability of impending destruction. In fact, it must be candidly admitted, that none but the most incredulous, and self-sufficient cynic, will presume to argue, or doubt, that the horse has not the same susceptibility of pain, and the same dread of dissolution (in respect to accident) as ourselves. Does he not afford ample proof of similar precaution and circumspection in avoiding every threatened danger, or dreaded calamity, when it is dependent upon his own exertions, untrammelled with the fetters of harness? Has he not the same fear of being crushed to death by the weight of any massy substance, or stupendous body suspended above himself? Has he not the same fear of being drowned? Is he not perceptibly conscious of danger if led to the brink of an awful precipice, and does he not retreat with the most violent demonstrations of apprehension and horror? Is he not terrified even to the deprivation of motion at the sight of fire? How then can it create wonder, or surprize, (with even the most unthinking and illiterate) that he should be alarmed at, and afraid of a windmill, a whirligig, a mail-coach, or the ponderous summit of a broad-wheeled tilted-waggon, upon a narrow road, whose sudden jerks, and alternate motions, seem to threaten speedy annihilation.

Admitting then, upon the ground of this reasoning, that the principal, or true cause of a horse's starting may be justly attributed to fear, what wonderful effect can reasonably be produced from the sudden violence and passion of the rider? Yet it is certain, nothing more frequently and palpably proves the folly, ignorance, and inhumanity of the lower classes concerned in the management of horses, than the prevalence of this practice. That horses shy, and accustomed to starting, may be compelled, by persevering severity, to pass objects of dread and dislike cannot be denied; but it is to be presumed, that lenity, patience, and mild persuasion, are not only entitled to the preference, but are certainly the most gentleman-like of the two; and, although it is sufficiently

known, that it is the indispensable business, and principal point of honour with the rider, to subdue any refractory, or disobedient spirit in his horse; yet it is to be fairly presumed, that no coercive measures, or exertions of cruelty need be resorted to, till the more lenient and persuasive endeavours fail in effect. Notwithstanding the reasoning here advanced to abolish the ridiculous idea and frequent practice of forcibly, suddenly, and violently pressing a horse in the midst of his terror, up to a carriage, waggon, windmill, or to whatever object by which he may have been alarmed, it is necessarily admitted he should be made to know he must pass it, which time and experience has, in a thousand instances, sufficiently proved he may be made to do, by a modulated tone of the voice, a moderate and judicious use of the rein, and a proper injunctive pressure of the legs, as well, or better, than by any forcible means of severity whatever.

In all cases of starting, restiveness, or vice in horses, the use of the legs is a very important consideration; when a horse in starting begins to fly on one side, for the purpose of turning from the object he wishes to avoid, the strong and instantaneous pressure of the leg on the side to which he leans, suddenly counteracts his spring, and with the joint exertion of the rein and wrist immediately brings him straight; at which critical moment, the same resolute and energetic firmness of both legs as has been previously used with one, he then faces the object of dislike, and generally with gentle usage, blended with moderate correction, will soon submit to the alternative, and proceed in the way he is required. Thus it evidently appears, that as the legs properly exerted in the act of horsemanship are of the greatest utility, so are they the very reverse if improperly brought into action. Nothing more clearly demonstrates the inexperience and inability of a horseman, than to see the legs in a state of instability, eternally swinging backwards and forwards, by no means unlike the pendulum of a clock, with the additional sensation of alternately beating against each side of the horse, as if the aggregate of motion was intended to act as a stimulus to the increase of action: for, by such unnatural gestures, if the horse so ridden is of high spirit and good discipline, he will readily conceive, all that bustle of his rider is intended to promote his own speed, and he proceeds accordingly; on the contrary, if such a mode of riding is practised upon the back of a slow-goer, it is admirably calculated for the indulgence of his habitual callosity.

Attentive

Attentive observation affords innumerable proofs, that the tempers of horses are as much diversified as the petulance and capricious humours of those who ride, or drive them; and it cannot, by any means, be inapplicable for the young to be informed, or the aged to recollect, that an infinity of horses are most inhumanly made restive, or vicious, by a repetition of severe and unmerited ill-usage, and are then as unmercifully whipped, spurred, beaten, and bruised, for being so; of which no greater proof, or substantial evidence need be adduced, than the public and well-known fact, that there are constantly disposed of, at the different repositories, numbers of horses, as invincibly restive, who, by gentle use, and tender treatment, prove, in a very short time, to possess the best tempers, and the most pliable dispositions. Those who are the best experienced, and the most perfect in practical knowledge, know that personal and unrelenting severity to horses addicted to restiveness, or starting, very frequently makes them worse, and more incorrigible, but seldom seen to make them better; it is therefore certainly more rational, humane, and evidently more gratifying, to effect subservience by mildness and manly perseverance (necessarily divested of fear and pusillanimity), than by means of unnatural severity, so often tending to promote and increase the evil it is intended to prevent.

Having laid down the rules, and endeavoured to inculcate the principles by which the true art of horsemanship may be attained, it becomes equally applicable to the original purport of intentional instruction and entertainment, to conclude this divisional part of the subject with an experimental definition of the appellation of sportsman, or a correct delineation of those whose distinguishing traits are the most devoted to the chase. The name of sportsman has, for time immemorial, been considered nationally characteristic of strict honour, true courage, unbounded hospitality, and unsullied integrity; but, in the present day, we are so over-run with the prevalence of fashion, and what may be termed an assumption of character, that those only who have analyzed human nature by its most unerring criterion, can distinguish between the genuine old English stock, and its spurious, or illegitimate offspring. In former times, the character of the sportsman, like the constitution (by which his person, his property, and his pleasures were protected), was equally unsullied, equally comprehended, and equally respected; but the capricious changes of fashionable frivolity, and the ravages of time, have been evidently as productive of mutilation to one, as of depreddation upon the others.

The constitution of this country (notwithstanding its still universally admitted superiority over every other), it cannot be denied, has, within half a century, undergone such variety of trimming from the different pruning-knives of successive administrations, as may best have suited the prospects, indulged the pique, gratified the pride, or supplied the wants of those personally concerned in the eventual termination of so hazardous a speculation. Great and unexpected as those political changes have been, they have not, in the eye of the aged and experienced observer, contributed more to the face of novelty, or constituted a greater contrast, than has been produced by whim, fashion, caprice, and luxury, between the sportsman of an earlier period and the present day. It is but a very few years since the idea of sportsman was truly idiomatic, and generally understood to imply a man of the most open liberality; what it is, in the present refined, and complicated idea of sporting, intended to convey a perfect conception of, it is difficult to ascertain, the original stock having, by various crosses, and gradational shades of contamination, become nearly obscured in the collateral ramifications of consanguinity. In fact, those of different pursuits, and different dispositions, whose ambition prompts them to assume the appearance, and obtain the reputation of sportsmen, are so numerous, and their motives so diversified, that it is found impracticable to delineate their characters but under the following distinct, and separate heads:—

THE RUSTIC SPORTSMAN.

TO the devotee of this description, the name and character is the utmost summit of personal ambition in this life; and to demonstrate himself every way entitled to it, is the sole object and employment of his existence; having but this distinct prospect in view for the completion of every sublunary happiness, and looking up to it as the gratification of every wish, he is as truly energetic and eccentric in the pursuit of his favourite sport, as are the more enlightened and more embellished *bon vivants* in their enjoyment of the midnight pleasures of the metropolis. Although, at the first view, appearances may not predominate in his favour, and he may seem much inferior to the polish of the times, by the unattracting mode of his address, and the *mauvaise honte* of his manner; yet, upon a more frequent and intimate association, he is frequently found to possess a much higher sense of honour, a warmer and more liberal heart, with a greater disposition to hospitality than many of his sporting cotermporaries,

cotemporaries, the value of which is considerably enhanced by a blunt, but most unsullied integrity.

As the chase and its exhilarating concomitants may be truly said to constitute "the God of his idolatry," so he is not only enthusiastic in every thing appertaining to it, but all his thoughts, actions, conversation, and diurnal routine of conduct tend only to the great gratification of this predominant passion, which, in fact, evidently engrosses every attention of his existence. So incredibly enthusiastic is his attachment to the sports of the field, that he is never seen at any season of the year without a horse in his hand, and a brace of pointers, spaniels, or terriers at his heels, and the tenor of his behaviour is in the exact line of mediocrity between the gentleman and the clown, in justification of which pretended apathy, he is always prepared to advance this plea, "that where there is too profuse a display of politeness, or good manners, there can be but little, or no expectation of sincerity." Upon this principle of presumption, which is too innate, and too much practically confirmed to be shaken, or relinquished, he rather shuns, than solicits any association with his superiors in private life.

Roughly hewn, and literally unpolished himself, he is a professed foe to even the appearance of extra civility in others, and rudely repulses any offer to render him service, upon a presumption it is only an oblique prelude to the solicitation of a favour, or of borrowing money out of his pocket. Confirmed in his original opinion, that to be a sportsman, he must in every degree be less than a gentleman, he sets at defiance all the tender offices of reciprocity, and indulges in a seeming wish of living for himself alone. Having almost from his boyhood imbibed the idea, that it is a most manly trait of the sportsman to hold the feminines in a contemptuous indifference, he indulges himself with letting every virtuous woman believe so in all unavoidable conversations, but gives paradoxical proof of the inconsistency of his suggestions, by forming a casual and temporary connection with every easy female who may happen to fall in his way. As it is his common remark, that none but those of hale constitutions can stand all weathers, so he encounters the worst at all times to prove the strength of his body, and the superiority of his mind; and, as he never condescends to take a seat at the breakfast-table with the females himself, he honours with the name of "Milkshops" those who do, and, in his own opinion, affects to consider them too weak in both body and mind to follow the hounds. His own custom is to
 derive

derive constitutional stamen from a breakfast of beef-steaks, and a jug of strong beer, taking the necessary precaution to prevent any chance of regurgitation by the friendly interposition of a bumper of brandy previous to mounting for the chase; as well as to remember the necessary supply in the hunting-bottle (or pocket-pistol), that he may be the better enabled to encounter any unexpected lassitude or debility that may arise from the severities of the day. After which, on his return from the field, it is his indispensable rule to take a little drop of comfort at every house where a sign is held out as a distinguishing external proof of its internal hospitality, and those of his sporting-associates who do not feel disposed to fall into such occasional propositions, are accused, in the language of the immortal bard, of having "no more good fellowship than a malt-horse."

The sportsman of this description is by no means so much circumscribed in his pleasurable pursuits as many others, having a variety of substitutes during the summer months, when the more polished and brilliant devotees are labouring under an undescribable ennui from the temporary and unavoidable suspension of the chase. Like a dashing and successful adventurer at the game of hazard, who is constantly throwing a main of seven, and "nicks it for all in the ring;" so the sporting subject of present delineation pursues the routine of racing, cocking, and cricket, with a long list of rural *et ceteras*: never hesitating, in a sterility of sport, to assist in forming a subscription for an ass-race, or even to lend a warm and ready hand in promoting a display of female charms and agility for the emulative possession of a Holland-smock. Upon a self-interested and persuasive principle, that "he lives only to enjoy life," he never condescends to practice the least degree of self-denial, nor does he ever sacrifice at the shrine of Friendship to his own inconvenience; for, in the true style of Tony Lumpkin's creed, he cares not how many he disappoints, but cannot indulge for a moment the idea of disappointing himself. Though no professed friend to politeness, he is an inveterate enemy to the offices of civility and mutual attention, declaring it a superfluous ceremony, particularly at the table of hospitality, where he always takes care to give ample proof of the privilege of free-agency, by most expeditiously helping himself to no inconsiderable portion of the best dish, and thinks he affords sufficient demonstration of liberality and good manners in leaving the rest of the company at full and unrestrained liberty to do the same. With him the bottle, the bowl, or the jug, is never permitted

mitted to move tardily by rule, it being his invariable practice to prevent their ever standing long in one place. To conclude the whole of his character, he avoids taking his meals at any particular hour, because he considers it truly mechanical, and dictatorially exclaims, "that no sensible man should eat till he's hungry, or go to bed till he's ready to fall asleep."

By way of contrast to a character so truly original and so unexaggerate,

THE EFFEMINATE SPORTSMAN

stands equally entitled to a fair and candid representation. This subject, though apparently of the masculine gender, is rather (in the eye of the old and experienced sportsman) a non-descript, than of any distinguished construction; and may be not improperly considered, one of those flimsy and superficial shades in the picture of life, which seem calculated only to give force by contrast, to such brilliant lights, as tend to constitute striking objects of magnificence, splendor, and admiration. He seems, in person, one of those animated frivolities destined unfortunately to bear but little or no weight in the scale of society; his intellectual powers, and the attracting *suaviter in modo* of his exterior, being evidently calculated to enhance the original deficiency in human estimation. Parot-like, "speaking an infinite deal of nothing," it is not without much difficulty that hearers are to be obtained; and when so, "one to another still succeeds, and the last fool is as welcome as the former." Without the least knowledge of a horse, or the least ear for a hound, he unluckily commences sportsman, not from the least discoverable taste, or the most distant attachment to the sport, or to the hospitality every hearty fellow of that description is known to possess; but that the aggregate of qualifications constitute a something superior to the narrowness of his own soul. There is, his predominant passion prompts him to believe, about the sportsman, an indescribable ease, an openness of heart, an attracting *tout-en-semble*, to which all hearts are open, to which all minds are subdued, but which (surprising only to himself) he can never attain.

In this eternal and fruitless pursuit, aspiring to a character to which it is impossible he can ever attain, he ranks in no dissimilar situation to poor Scrub in the *Beaux Stratagem*, when, in his description of Archer to the ladies, he tells them

them, with both concern and regret, (not knowing how to describe him more correctly for their comprehension) that "the gentleman's gentleman is quite another sort of a thing to what he is." So is it with the effeminate sportsman; no habiliments he can procure, no ornaments he can obtain, ever give him the look, the weight, the substance of the natural and unadorned sportsman, whom it is his utmost pride, his eternal desire to imitate. *Outré* and ridiculous in one attempt, the unnatural effort is so truly infectious, that it renders him equally so in the whole; impressed beyond every other idea with the sporting miasma, he is totally lost to the bewitching charms, and abortive influence of the feminine family branches by whom he is surrounded, his every moment being dedicated to the rhapsodical anticipation of external brilliancy by individual eccentricity: the curricule, the gig, the sulky, the tandem, the tridem, or the *indefinitum* during the summer, and the horse and the hounds in the winter, constitute the aggregate of his knowledge, and the utmost extent of his experience. These qualifications are, however, not the genuine and instinctive produce of the soil, but the fancied effusions, or deceptive traits of attraction, produced by the vitiated effect of fashion, and may not be inapplicable compared to the bark of the native hardy oak, engrafted upon its own polypus.

Here then in every part of his conduct it appears, that his seeming attachment to the sports of the field is merely superficial, not a predominant ray of his heart, pointing to a particle of the pleasure it universally disseminates; but that the character he so strenuously assumes, may become a political passport to the presence of the ladies, by the greater part of whom he feels himself considered a kind of *lusus nature*, too cold in constitution for the general warmth of their embraces, so condescendingly, so cheerfully, and so congenially bestowed upon the real and unsophisticated sportsman, who "unadorned is then adorned the most." Confidently considering this assumption of character necessary to the completion of his most predominant design, he talks of little else than his eternal preparation for the chase, where, in his opinion, external appearance, and a brilliant display of imaginary superiority is to constitute a gratification of every expectant happiness in this life. At the commencement of the hunting-season, a renewal of the chase is the only purport of his incessant enquiries, during which, he is perpetually boring all his friends with the expectation of a day's sport for a week before it arrives, and sadly sickens them with a repetition of recitals for a fortnight after it is over.

As a field so numerous and respectable must naturally be conceived to include characters of the most variegated and diversified description, it becomes an indispensable duty to introduce, for the accommodation and information of our unpractised readers, an unexaggerate representation of such prominent individuals as are the most earnest in their endeavours (by certain degrees of personal singularity) to render themselves objects of general attraction; and who will, beyond a doubt, be highly gratified at finding so true a representation placed before the public, of which

THE SPORTSMAN OF FASHION

seems destined, by the rule of consistency, to take the lead. This kind of amphibious character of assumption, is well known to be more frequently seen in the most public streets and busy bustle of the *beau-monde* in the metropolis, than in the rural recesses of the country, being infinitely greater adepts in the arts of the town than the sports of the field. Sportsmen of this description are principally the constant inhabitants of the almost innumerable hotels, taverns, coffee-houses, and brothels, very few, if any, being encumbered with a residence of their own; and it is not unworthy of remark, that many of this class pique themselves upon the antiquity of their families, and, indeed, with no inferior shew of reason, for their pedigrees are so truly abstruse, that it is not without the greatest difficulty they are enabled to unravel the clue of their own origin. Sportsmen of fashion, are generally gentlemen of the most undaunted spirit and incredible enterprize; they dare danger in almost every form, and dread no object in existence so much as a sheriff's substitute, or a Bow-street officer. So true is the ancient axiom, "birds of a feather flock together," that they are constantly to be seen "in herds" at the western extremity of the town, that emporium of fashion, where arm-in-arm, three or four a-breast, with the most unblushing effrontery, they insult every modest woman they meet, and elbow every diffident man into the kennel.

These subjects of general observation are tenaciously exact in the uniformity of their external sporting appearance, invariably bearing about them every minute part of the apparatus necessary to constitute the exterior of the sportsman—horses and hounds excepted. Immersed nearly up to the chin in the immense and unprecedented magnitude of their leathern conveniencies, their

new-topped boots, and crane-necked spurs, they feel exultingly armed "for either field," and of course qualified to attack the frail feminines of every description with the most unbounded confidence. Engendered in the lap of licentiousness, and nurtured in the school of dissipation, they hold in perfect contempt every rigid rule of respect and propriety; setting at defiance the advantage of a good name, they prefer the fashionable appellation of "Captain," (with the collateral alternative of an *alias*) to any they could derive from family right, or public privilege. Having a profusion of time hanging heavy upon hand, these gentlemen are a perpetual bore at various public exhibitions, not only at Tattersal's on Saturdays and Sundays (where they may be seen in swarms), but prove perpetual pests to other eminent dealers every day in the week; to whom, however, they are almost all universally known and estimated accordingly. They adopt a pretence of being eternally "in want of horses," but, unfortunately, never discover any precisely applicable to their purpose.

Grooms too, they are perpetually in pursuit of, "not that they have any immediate occasion for them, but that they may be ready when the horses are taken up from grass." To the most fashionable confectioners, and fruiterers, the fraternity are become a perfect nuisance, where, under the plausible plea of a custard, an ice, or a jelly, they engross both the room and conversation (to the exclusion of others of a different description) the greater part of the day. In the boxes and lobbies of the theatres they are the least welcome, and most dreaded of all visitors; these being the spots peculiarly adapted to a gratification of their utmost ambition, as it is here they can practice the most consummate impudence with impunity, and in various ways offer oblique insult to the polite and unprotected, without the fear of punishment. Certain individuals of this class are intimately connected with, and related to, a certain family, and are exceedingly expert at games of chance; the casual entertainment of an evening can, therefore, never be prevented by any want of knowledge or experience on their parts, for possessing a kind of intuitive universality, no proposition can come amiss: a rubber at whist, the odd game in eleven at cribbage, a lounge at billiards, or even a box-hand at hazard, are all matters of business, and, of course, readily acceded to. Dependent largely upon the favours of Fortune, they "watch her with a wary eye," and let no moment escape in which they can attract her smiles to a promotion of their own interest; but subject, as they must become, to her occasional caprice, it can create no surprise that

that they experience her vicissitudes, for her favours fluctuating mostly in the night, many there are who have basked in her golden showers on one day, who knew not where to procure a dinner the next.

In nearly a direct contrast to the description of a Sportsman of Fashion, may be applicably introduced a chaste and accurate delineation of

THE FASHIONABLE SPORTSMAN,

where it will be seen, that although the likeness be found correct, the writer will

“ nothing extenuate,
Nor set down aught in malice.”

Adverting to the idiom of this, and the preceding appellation, it may, probably, to some readers, seem to convey an idea of synonymous celebrity; yet, upon deliberate inspection, they will appear as characters not bearing the least similitude to each other in either family, fame, or fortune; and yet they are equally prominent to the public eye, and equally emulous of becoming conspicuous objects of critical notoriety. Previous perusal will have demonstrated, that the “Sportsman of Fashion” is merely so in habit and external appearance, being, in fact, neither more or less, than a booted-pedestrian, or sporting “king of shreds and patches,” having no such thing as horse or hound in his retinue, unless in the fertile rays of his imagination. The Fashionable Sportsman is a being of far superior order, having horses, hounds, and females of every description, sufficiently distinguishing himself as the very *hic ubique* of the field and turf. Of an ancient family, and ennobled blood, he has been fashioned in the frame of luxury, and encouraged to imbibe the essence of aristocratic hauteur from the downy pillow of his cradle. A favourite of his mother from the earliest rays of reason, he may naturally be supposed to possess no trifling share of feminine frivolity, and can be but little suspected of contributing much sagacity towards the support of either church, state, king, or constitution.

Having been early initiated in, and passed through the scholastic trammels of a college-education, and acquired the effrontery necessary for a mere public appearance,

appearance, he was entered at one of the universities, where he soon attained a degree of pre-eminence in every perfection, that could animate the mind and expand the soul; not in the dull and dreary pages of literary refinement (the common bore of book-worms and plodding philosophers), but in all the blaze of nocturnal brilliancy; the sparkling wine, the enlivening glass, the sprightly catch, the mirthful glee, with every corresponding attribute of the jolly god; and though "last, not least," the life-inspiring confidence of those illumined feminines, who condescendingly contribute their utmost personal exertions for the more perfect completion of a polished education. In addition to these important acquisitions, it is natural to conclude, some proficiency in the art of logical disquisition is indispensibly necessary to his future destination; the better enabling him to reconcile those points of honour and paradoxical pursuits in which he is about to engage. Considered, by his infatuated relations, ripe in reason, and rich in mental endowments, he is permitted to emerge from the confines of a college, to appear, in the hemisphere of fashion, a constellation of the utmost magnitude.

The Fashionable Sportsman, at this, his first *entré* upon the town, is a direct contrast, in many respects, to the character whose delineation has just preceded him; and whose very existence, it is observed, depended mostly upon the diurnal (or rather nocturnal) caprice of that fickle goddess, Fortune. Not so with the subject before us, whose property, in real estates, is large and hereditary, but, with a certain degree of fatality, so unfortunately perverted to the worst of purposes, that he is seldom the possessor of twenty pounds for ten days together. An assertion so truly paradoxical, can only be reconciled to the comprehension of the inquisitive or impartial reader, by a concise and candid explanation; which consists in neither more or less, than his very far exceeding, by his indiscreet and inconsistent expenditure, the annual receipt of his income. This is, at present, the fashionable furor, or infectious influenza, which bears down all before it, and so constantly reduces its victims to a state of the most degraded and repentant mortification; and thus accustomed to an unrestrained gratification of every wish, an indulgence in every passion that the mind can suggest, or the heart approve, and equally a stranger to prudence and œconomy as to the consolatory rays of reflection, it is no matter of surprize to the ruminative observer, that the character of this description is constantly contributing to the causes of his accumulating troubles and progressive vexation.

For the more consistent support of the sporting eminence he has assumed, he finds it necessary (without meanly adverting to number or the expence) to have both hounds and hunters in different counties, and horses upon the turf in various parts of the kingdom at the same time; and this is occasionally carried to such an almost incredible extent, that there are, by no means, instances wanting, where the memory has proved so tenacious (or more properly deceptive), that sportsmen of this class have been at a loss to recollect, whether horses then running were *bona fide* their own, or the property of other people; as has been recently demonstrated by the oath of a groom against the honor of a peer in one of the courts of law, after those busy, officious, hypocritical scoundrels, John Doe and Richard Roe, had seized upon running-horses, and their splendid paraphernalia, as the property of one man, when a most palpable attempt was made to evade the effect of the law by a nominal and temporary transfer to another. Occurrences of this complexion furnish ample proof, that nothing can be more derogatory to the reputation of a Sportsman of Fashion, than descending to the clerk-like drudgery of arithmetical calculations; he, therefore, never encounters the mortification of entering into any minute investigation of his pecuniary concerns, and is frequently, without the misery of knowing it, many thousands worse than nothing. Having been, from the earliest stages of his existence, a total stranger to the virtue of self-denial, and never compelled to labour under even momentary restraint, he never finds it necessary to bestow a condescending reflexion upon the true state of his affairs till a melancholy memento from his steward, banker, or a lawyer, denotes the game to be up, and publicly pronounces the pecuniary annihilation so long expected, and so fully confirmed.

In addition to these unembellished qualifications, it must not be omitted to observe, that it is his rule, almost invariably, never to let his rents revert to the just and proper channel of strict honour and unsullied integrity. Money must never be wanting for the regular routine of the turf, the dulcinea, and the gaming-table, though the unhappy dependent, imploring tradesman, is upon the very verge of bankruptcy, and his hitherto unsullied credit, most probably, irretrievably ruined, after years of industry, for want of a few pounds, so justly his due, out of the many thousands so shamefully dissipated amongst the most unprincipled and abandoned classes of society. These, it is publicly known, are the practices of those high-born, well-bred men of honour, to whom we are encouraged to look to as objects of perfection worthy imitation. These are the

the immaculate types of our old English ancestry, who have so laudably and attentively studied the manners, the frugality, the honour, and the patriotic principles of the ancients, the better to render themselves laudable and praiseworthy examples to the moderns. In fact, the more their principles and their practices are analyzed, the more they demonstrate themselves the fashionable offspring of degenerate luxury, who look upon the pride, the glory, and true strength of Britain (the middle orders of the people) with the most contemptuous indifference; without the sinews of whose arms, without the invincible loyalty of whose hearts, the landed interest, so largely boasted of, would bear no inapplicable affinity to the organist and the bellows-blower, or the body without a head.

Having introduced these sketches of various individuals of which the sporting world is composed, as a specimen of novelty and variety, for the entertainment of the juvenile and inexperienced reader; it becomes directly in point to conclude the scene with a concise and superficial survey of

THE GENTLEMAN SPORTSMAN,

whose consistency of conduct renders him an object of veneration to his friends, an ornament to society, and an honour to his country. He is the very man upon whom "Nature seems to have lavished her choicest gifts" without the need of embellishment from the interposition of art. Heir to the possession of his paternal property, he not only properly appreciates its intrinsic value, but holds it too high in estimation to let it become the instrument of either bodily debility, or mental prostitution. Generated in the prime and health of his predecessors, his manly form and open countenance display no trait of a fashionable and distorted imbecility, but presents the aspect of a constitutional stamen unsullied by any mercurial particles of a more refined communication. Content with the advantages of a plain classical education, it was not thought necessary by his prudent, but unfashionable parents, that he should pass the fiery ordeal of either university, where it was feared (from the examples which would have been constantly before him) he might have imbibed notions of dishonour, much more than a counter-balance to any degree of personal dignity, that could be acquired at even seminaries of so much celebrity. Without farther introductory matter, the character now under delineation is the true old English country

country esquire, who, uncontaminated by the curse of insatiate ambition, and totally invincible to every effort of fashion, is only happy himself in the happiness of his domestic dependants, the corresponding smiles of his tenants, and an hospitable association with his neighbouring friends.

His hounds are kept from an instinctive attachment to the sport itself, as well as to continue the respectable and enlivening establishment of his ancestors, and not from the paltry, but very common idea and desire of having his name blazoned forth in every part of the county, for keeping what he has neither property to support, or spirit to enjoy. Personally frugal, though in the practice of a most liberal hospitality, his mind is never disquieted by the pecuniary solicitations of his tradespeople, who are invariably prevented by his own punctuality and integrity from being a single quarterly-payment in arrear. The entire guardian of his own honour, he never permits it to become degraded by the unprincipled pride of a subordinate under the appellation of steward, or to be prostituted by the unqualified denial of a menial servant bedaubed with lace under the denomination of a footman. Innately philanthropic, he is easy of access to every decent enquirer, and never, amongst his servants, countenances false consequence in one department, or extravagance in another; by a perseverance in which system his rustic mansion is a scene of the most perfect tranquillity, not a tradesman but esteems him as a benefactor, not a servant but looks up to him as his best friend.

The rational pleasures of the field he moderately and judiciously engages in with all the fervency of a well-informed and experienced sportsman, but not with all the ecstatic enthusiasm and prevalent indiscretion of a determined devotee; capable of distinguishing between the use, and abuse, of what is so evidently and benignly placed before him as an excitement to exhilarating action, and so indispensably necessary to the promotion and enjoyment of health, he enters into all its spirit, avails himself of all its import, not more as a personal gratification (in respect to sport) than a mental perusal of one of Nature's many volumes, calculated to display, to the ruminative mind and expansive comprehension, the applicable and coinciding speed of the horse; the instinctive impulse, invincible ardour, and corresponding perseverance of the hound; the various inventions, shifts, and evasions of the game; and, lastly, the firm and manly fortitude of those who cheerfully join and happily surround him in the chase. For it cannot but be known, and will be, by every class of the
sporting

sporting-world, universally admitted, that so congenial are the feelings, and so sympathetic the liberality and pursuits of sportsmen in general, that few friendships are better founded, none more disinterested, few, if any, more permanent, none more sincere.

Having gone through such characteristic and distinguishing traits as principally appertain to this particular kind of chase, as well as taken such cursory survey of its component parts as may have been expected by the greater part of our readers ; it now becomes no less necessary to introduce the natural history of animals from whom sport of so much celebrity and magnificence is derived.



THE STAG, or RED DEER.

THE male and female of this species pass under the denomination of stag and hind; as the buck and doe are known to constitute the difference of genders in the fallow-deer. The latter are principally the natives of parks, and bred for the domestic purposes of furnishing venison for the table, as well as for the supply of the markets in the metropolis. The former are the stately inhabitants of those extensive and sequestered tracts called chases and forests, where they are preserved under laws and regulations (hereafter to be explained), as more peculiarly appropriated to the pleasures in which his Majesty, as already described, so constantly condescends to engage.

The stag, individually surveyed, is one of the most commanding and majestic figures in the animal creation, his lofty and elegant aspect instantly exciting attention and admiration. Naturally disposed to solitude, he never obtrudes upon the haunt of man, but delights to revel in the remote and unfrequented shades of obscurity. When caught sight of by any of the human species, amidst the umbrageous, stillness of his sequestered situation, the grandeur of his deportment, the exulting erection of his crest, and his complicated suspense of doubt and fear, cannot be encountered without the most awful and impressive sensations; the only struggle of each seeming to be, which shall first begin to run, the surveyor, or the surveyed. With ample power to alarm, oppose and subdue, he has, in most instances, pliability to submit, and after a few minutes of reciprocal surprize at the interview, he generally withdraws deliberately to the inner recesses of his protecting covert; seeming more disconcerted than alarmed at the approach of human intruders. In the extreme dignity of his deportment he stands in every respect unrivalled, and may, with true allegorical propriety, be termed the hereditary monarch of the woods; more particularly as every other animal is observed to retire at his approach. This, however, does not appear to proceed from a dread of hostility, as, in his peaceable and

undisturbed retirement, he is perfectly tranquil and inoffensive, displaying no antipathy or opposition even to those who come with intentional hostility to him. His form, when surprized by any unexpected object coming suddenly upon him, is the most striking and beautiful that can possibly be conceived; the elegance of his figure, the truly commanding effect of his stature, the flexibility of his frame, the muscular elasticity of his limbs, the velocity of his motion, and the proportional immensity of his strength, in addition to the impression made upon the mind by the magnificent grandeur of the antlers branching from his brow, all combine to render him an object of the most pleasing and serious attraction.

These animals, formerly so plentifully to be found in different remote parts of the kingdom, as well as in the highlands of Scotland, and near the lake of Killarney, in Ireland, are so greatly reduced, that they are but rarely to be seen in a wild and unpreserved state in either; this, perhaps, in the gradational vicissitudes of time, may be more properly attributed to the advantageous distribution and judicious improvement of land, than to any other cause whatever. Stags, or hinds, were then found singly, and hunted, or pursued indiscriminately, by those sportsmen who having hounds, considered themselves lucky in finding them; but now, where they are bred for the use of the royal chase (as in Windsor-Forest, and the New Forest of Hampshire), they assemble together; and upon Ascot-Heath, in the middle of the former, near Swinley-Lodge, the official residence of the master of the stag-hounds, may be constantly seen the largest and most formidable herd in the imperial dominions. The colour of both stag and hind is a dingy, or dark sandy red, with tints of a darker hue about the eyes and mouth; down the upper part of the neck, and over the points of the shoulders, is a shade of dark brown, bordering upon black; the countenance is superlatively expressive, the eye beautifully brilliant even to poetic celebrity, and his distinct senses of smelling and hearing are equal to any animal of this country.

When unexpectedly disturbed, his position is the most powerful and majestic, his head being raised to its highest pitch, he erects his ears, swells his neck, extends his nostrils, and snuffs the air, as if in curious and impatient investigation of the cause, or circumstance, by which it was occasioned; and let this be what it may, he seldom or ever takes to sudden flight without first measuring, by the extent of his eye, and the accuracy of his ear, the magnitude of the danger

danger with which he may happen to be threatened, and proceeds accordingly. If, in his minute survey, he can perceive no dogs of the party, he seems perfectly secure, men, cattle, or carriages giving him but little, or no concern; for after turning twice or thrice, and taking a repeated survey with a kind of confused admiration, he deliberately moves off without the least alarming sensation. The rutting-time (as it is called), or season for copulation, begins at the latter end of August, or beginning of September, and terminates about the second or third week in October, depending a little, in that respect, upon the state of the season, and the ages of the different deer; those of two, or three years old, being backwarder than those of five or six, of course extends the season somewhat beyond those who are older; during all which the stag assumes a degree of courageous confidence and invincible boldness in approaching the human species, than they have ever been known to display at any other season of the year. During this period their necks swell, they look wild, and appear in search of something to pursue, are eternally ranging from place to place, as if impatient for some object to attack; in the progress of which perambulation, his voice is frequently exerted in a way both loud and alarming to those who have not been accustomed to hear it.

When opposed, or attempted to be counteracted during this season of constitutional violence, they are so exceedingly powerful, ferocious, and determined, that no common force can stand against them; well knowing this, they attack every individual who comes in their way, with an utmost certainty of success, of which the two following instances have occurred within the perfect knowledge, and memory of the writer. At the time when the late Duke of Cumberland, uncle of his present Majesty, resided at the Lodge in Windsor Great Park, the locksmith (one Thomas Bull) who inspected the locks of all the park-gates weekly, was, in his crossing the park from one gate to another, pursued by a stag, who was got within a very few yards of him, when in the extremity of fear, and with compulsive agility, he luckily escaped his fury, by climbing a hawthorn-tree, where he remained in jeopardy till the following morning, when the stag made a retreat upon the accidental approach of the keepers. A similar, but much more serious circumstance occurred not many years since in Hackwood-Park, the seat of the then Duke of Bolton, near Basingstoke, in Hampshire, where a girl, about fourteen years of age, having on a red cloak, was attacked by the oldest stag of the district with so much fury, that he not only perforated her body, in different parts, with his antlers,

but extended his malicious inveteracy to her apparel, so that the melancholy spot was literally covered with rags, and the corps so dreadfully maimed and disfigured, that it retained but little of the appearance of a human frame.

With respect to procreation, the time of gestation with the hind is, from the moment of conception, to the hour of parturition, nine lunar months, as nearly as it can be ascertained; they invariably producing their young in the latter end of May, or two first weeks in June. Immediately after impregnation, the stag and hind spontaneously separate from each other; no intercourse whatever takes place; even common association ceases, and nothing, during the period of gestation, ensues, but mutual and marked indifference. The hind is known very seldom, if ever, to produce more than one, and this (which is during the year called a calf) she deposits in the most remote, sequestered, dreary, and best sheltered spot to be obtained, for the purpose of being secreted from its numerous enemies, amongst whom there are none more determined, or malicious, than its sire, the very author of its existence. Mysterious as this may appear to the inexperienced naturalist, it is an absolute fact, and the dam is so perfectly conscious of the stag's unnatural propensity to a destruction of his own offspring, that she is more anxiously industrious to conceal the retreat of the unoffending animal from him, than from the aggregate of all its other enemies.

The calf, when once of strength sufficient to accompany its dam, never leaves her side during the first summer; and the ensuing winter, none but the hinds, and the males under a year old, remain together; the annual separation of the stags and hinds invariably taking place as already described. During the infancy of the young, the courage of the dam, in defence of her offspring, is equal to any maternal affection of even our own species; for she encounters every enemy, opposes every force, exposes herself to every danger, and boldly hazards her own life for the preservation of theirs. All this, however, is the effect of instinctive and hereditary fortitude, having no reliance whatever but upon bodily strength and exertion; nature having left her without horns, those useful and ornamental weapons with which her consort is so powerfully armed. The first year, the male has no horns; the second, they are straight and single; the third, they shew two branches; the fourth, three; the fifth, four; and the sixth, five, when the stag is reckoned at his full growth, and complete: notwithstanding which, the branches continue to increase till there are six or seven

on each side ; and, though the age of the deer is mostly ascertained by the number, yet it is not always certain, but is more nicely to be depended upon by the size and thickness of the principal trunk by which they are sustained.

These horns, wonderfully ponderous as they are, and enormous as they appear, are shed annually, and this astonishing process of nature is perfected about the latter end of the month of February, or during the first weeks in March ; between which, and the commencement of the rutting-time, there is a complete regeneration, when they fight for the possession of the hind with the most determined and incredible ferocity. After the season for copulation is over, the males have been found so much debilitated as not to be able to afford much permanent sport before the hounds ; to obviate which difficulty, or inconvenience, the operation of castration is sometimes adopted, and the deer, thus deprived the means of propagation by the loss of the testes, and feeling no stimulative propensity to copulate, is never reduced in figure or strength, but ready, at every part of the season, for the field, and often afford chases of great duration. So soon as this operation is performed, he no longer ranks a stag, but is sportingly denominated a heavier ; and, what is well worthy the attention of the curious in natural investigation, are the following authenticated and incontrovertible facts : that, if a stag undergoes this operation at the season of the year when his horns are shed, they will never regenerate, or grow again ; and, on the contrary, if it is performed when the head is full, and the antlers in perfection, they will never again shed, or exfoliate during his existence : but what is still more extraordinary, and will by many be thought incredible, is, that being deprived of only one testicle, the horn will never regenerate on that side, but continue to grow, and annually shed on the other where the remaining testicle has not been taken away. Heaviers are experimentally proved to be of great strength, and to stand a long time before hounds ; for which reason the hunting establishment of his Majesty is never without a regular succession.

When the old horns are shed, the new ones do not immediately begin to appear ; but the bones of the skull are then invested only with a transparent periostium, which, in fact, is a kind of membranous covering to the bones of every animal without exception. This skin, however, soon becomes tumid, and forms an excrescence containing a considerable quantity of blood, and which gradually becomes a downy substance, and nearly resembling velvet,
and

and of the same colour with the rest of the hair. This tumour daily protrudes like the point of a tree, and rising by degrees from the head, throws out the antlers on each side; so that, in a few days, (depending in some degree upon the condition of the animal) the whole head is complete. Stags no sooner shed their horns, than they separate from each other, and seek the most retired and remote parts of their district, distinct from the frequented lair of animals, whose attacks their defenceless situation, at such time, would render them unable to oppose. In this state of imbecility they continue nearly, or full three months before their horns attain full growth and maturity; at which time, by rubbing them against the pliable branches of the underwood, and the trunks of the smallest trees, they, at length, totally clear them of that skin (or covering) which had previously contributed to their growth and nourishment. In a few weeks after they are furnished with their new horns, they begin to find the approach of the rutting-season, and the naturally impressive desire of propagating their kind. At this time their necks become remarkably turgid, and they appear additionally bold, furious, and discontented, perpetually rambling from one place to another, striking with their horns against trees, and any other opposing object; continuing equally fierce and restless 'till they have found the females, who, at first, endeavour to avoid them, but, by perseverance, are compelled to comply.

In this state the stag continues to range, from mate to mate, for about three weeks, which is nearly the extent of this season; during all which, he neither eats, sleeps, or rests but little; so, that ultimately finding himself emaciated, feeble, and debilitated, he withdraws himself from his associates, and retires to the most sequestered and nutritive pasture, in search of repose and renovation. The voice of this animal is more loud and tremulous in proportion as he advances in age, but more tremendous and alarming during rutting-time than at any other season of the year. The cry of the hind, or female, is not so loud as that of the male, nor is it ever excited clamorously, but through apprehensions of immediate danger to herself, or her young; a circumstance arising, probably, from a remark already made, that, being destitute of horns, she is not in possession of any other means to repel an attack if made, or to use in her own defence. Dependent, therefore, in a great degree, upon speed, if accidentally hunted, or pursued, during the time she has her offspring to protect, she instantly flies in a direct line from the spot where it is deposited, exposing herself

herself to the imminent danger of being individually destroyed, for the more effectual preservation of the object of her most tender affection; and, if so fortunate as to elude the vigilance of her pursuers, and escape with her life, she returns to her young, whatever may have been the distance, or the difficulties she may have encountered.

The rapid reduction of the species of red deer in this country, is clearly accounted for, by Mr. White, in his history of Selbourne; where he says, "that at the beginning of the last century, the forest of Wolmer contained five hundred head, which made, when together, a most stately appearance; and, that no longer since than 1789, an old keeper was living of the name of Adams (whose ancestors and himself had enjoyed the head-keepership of Wolmer-Forest for more than a hundred years), who assured him, that his father had often mentioned, that Queen Anne, as she was journeying to Portsmouth, came out of the great road at Lippock, and reposing herself on a bank prepared for the purpose (which still retains the name of Queen's-Bank, and is about half a mile from Wolmer-Pond), there saw, with great complacency and satisfaction, the whole herd of red deer, brought by the keepers along the vale before her, consisting then of about five hundred head; a sight not unworthy the attention of the greatest sovereign. The keeper added, that by means of the Waltham-Blacks, or (to use his own expression) so soon as they began blacking, they were reduced to fifty head, and continued decreasing until the time of the old Duke of Cumberland, who sent down the stag-hounds and their attendants, who, in one summer, took every stag, and conveyed them in carts to the Park and Forest of Windsor; the hinds being, in the following winter (after affording chases which are still talked of as most extraordinary), every one caught and carried off in the same manner.

Mr. White proceeds to observe, that although large herds of deer do much harm to a neighbourhood, yet the injury to the morals of the people is of more moment than the loss of their crops. The temptation is irresistible; for there is such an inherent spirit for hunting in human nature, as scarcely any inhibition can restrain. Hence, he observes, towards the beginning of the last century, all the lower classes of rustics were infected with the idea of deer-stealing; for, unless they were "hunters," as they affected to call themselves, not one was allowed to be possessed of either manhood or gallantry. The old race of deer-stealers,

says he, are yet hardly extinct, for they recount over their ale the exploits of their youth; such as watching the pregnant hind to her lair, and, when the calf was dropped, paring its feet with a penknife to the quick, to prevent its escape, until it was large and fat enough to be killed; the shooting at one of their neighbours with a bullet, in a turnip-field, by moonshine, mistaking him for a deer; and the losing of a dog in the following extraordinary manner:—Some fellows, suspecting that a calf new-fallen was deposited in a certain spot of thick fern, went with a lurcher to surprize it, when the parent hind instantly rushed out of the brake, and taking a spring, with her feet all close together, she pitched upon the neck of the dog, and broke it, causing instant death.

The red deer, though precisely the same in form and colour, differ somewhat in size in different countries; one killed in the county of Aberdeen, in North-Britain, weighed three hundred and eighteen pounds, exclusive of the skin, head, and entrails. In Bavaria they are said to exceed this bulk very considerably; Hondius, a German geographer, relates, that on the 22d of Aug. 1560, a hart was hunted, and taken, which weighed six hundred and twenty-five pounds. Dr. Johnson (who, by the bye, it must be acknowledged, was no great sportsman,) describes them a little erroneously, as not exceeding the common (or fallow) deer in size, and that their flesh is of equal flavour, and this he advanced upon the following circumstance: that a stag, who had been committing depredations upon the farmers' corn during the whole summer, which was afterwards accidentally hunted and killed, a haunch of it weighing forty-six pounds, was allowed, by very competent judges, to be the highest-flavoured, and fattest venison they had ever tasted.

Of the bodily strength, and instinctive courage of this animal, a few well-authenticated proofs may be adduced well worthy the attention of those earnestly zealous in the researches of natural investigation. In September, 1686, (during the rutting-season) as Frederic-William, Elector of Brandenburg, and his Electress, Dorothea, were hunting after dinner, in an open chair, at Gotze, about half a mile from Custrin, on the Oder, they saw, about a hundred paces off, a very stately stag, standing with his head pointing from them, but his left side presented toward the left-side of the chair. Her most serene highness taking aim, shot him with a leaden-bullet, whereupon he moved off slowly, to the distance of three or four hundred paces, losing a great quantity of blood in his way,

way, and tottering with weakness, took refuge in a ditch; where M. Consart (the elector's gunsmith), by the help of his spaniel, found him in a standing position, and at thirty paces distant, by the elector's order, lodged another ball in the back part of his head, and finding him still to keep his legs, advanced six paces nearer, and lodged a third under his left ear, when the deer instantly dropt, laying without motion. In this condition, Conrad, a forester, and Frobenius, the elector's master of the horse, hauled him out of the ditch, and brought him near the chair, which was now come up. The elector commanded Frobenius and Conrad to look for the wound the electress had first given him, which they found had entered close by the upper end of the bone of the left fore-leg, just under the shoulder-blade, and traced it with their fingers into the cavity of the breast, on towards the right-side.

The forester, at this time, was sent to obtain a cart of some rustics in the neighbourhood, but it did not arrive in less than three quarters of an hour, during all which the stag continued lying on the ground, and, to every appearance, lifeless. The country-fellows who came with the cart, turned him from one side upon his belly, and laying hold of his horns, lifted his head into the cart, when, just as they were upon the point of raising the body, the stag jumped upon his feet, sprang away from them, and, to the amazement and consternation of every one present, traversed the country with incredible swiftness. They then pursued him near two miles towards the Oder with hounds, which then surrounded him, and stopped his progress, when the forester coming up, shot him in the hinder part of the back; notwithstanding which, he made an effort towards a further escape, but was at last pulled down and killed by the dogs, and brought to the Elector's lodge, at Gobze, where the hunters opened the carcase, and, to their great astonishment, found the heart entirely perforated (the ball having passed quite through), which, as a most surprizing circumstance, they represented to their most serene electoral highnesses, who gave directions that it should be carefully examined by their physicians, Doctor Willick, and Doctor March. These gentlemen reported, that the ball had penetrated the posterior part of the heart, and passed through the middle of the right, a portion of the left ventricle, and made its exit through the anterior part of the heart, under the right auricle; the wound being large enough to admit a finger, and that the fleshy fibres of the surrounding parts were considerably lacerated and contused.

The old Duke of Cumberland (of Culloden memory) was much attached to the chase; and, for the fuller gratification of that pleasure, made the lodge in Windsor Great-Park, his principal residence, to the happiness of many hundreds of labourers, who, by having incessant employment, partook of his munificence, which was so universal, that it almost exceeded belief. Amidst the alternate changes between the king's stag-hounds, and the buck-hounds kept by his Royal Highness at Ramslade, near Swinley-Lodge, there was hardly a day, during the winter season (when the weather permitted), that hunting might not be enjoyed. It is now not more than fifty years since, in the midst of this period, and perfectly within the memory of the writer who is a native of Windsor, and was then upon the spot), that the following experiment was made by order, and under the immediate superintendance of his Royal Highness, to ascertain the true and natural instinctive courage of the stag when opposed to an enemy of the most formidable and terrific description:—

To effect this, one of the oldest stags in the forest was enclosed in an area formed upon a selected spot of the park, near the Lodge, and surrounded with a remarkably strong net-toiling, prepared for the purpose, full fifteen feet high; and this ceremony took place in sight of the principal road through the park, and at the time of Ascot-Heath races, so that thousands were present upon the occasion. When every thing was prepared, and the stag parading in majestic consternation at the astonishing assemblage of people around the net-work; at the awful moment, when it may be naturally conceived every heart beat high with wonder, fear, and expectation, the hunting-tiger was led in, hood-winked, by the two blacks that had the care of him, and who, upon signal, set him and his eyes at liberty. Perhaps so general a silence never prevailed amongst so many thousands of spectators as at that moment, when the slightest aspiration of a breeze might have been distinctly heard. Taking one general survey, he instantly caught sight of the deer, and crouching down on his belly, continued to creep exactly in the manner of a cat drawing up to a mouse, watching the opportunity to dart upon his prey with safety.

The stag, however, most warily, steadily, and sagaciously turned as he turned, and this strange and desperate antagonist found himself dangerously
opposed

opposed by the tremendous threatenings of his formidable brow-antlers. In vain did the tiger attempt every manœuvre to turn his flanks, the stag possessed too much generalship to be foiled upon the *terra firma* of his native country by a foreign invader; and this cautious warfare continuing so long as to render it tedious, and, probably, to protract the time of starting the horses upon the race-ground; his Royal Highness enquired, if, by irritating the tiger, the catastrophe of the combat might not be hastened? He was answered it might, probably, prove dangerous, or be attended with disagreeable consequences, but it was ordered to be done; upon which the keepers (but not without palpable reluctance) proceeded very near the tiger, and did as they were directed, when immediately, without attacking the deer, with a most furious and elastic bound, he sprang at, and cleared the toiling that enclosed them, landing amidst the clamours, shouts, and affrighted screams of the multitude, who fled in every direction, each male and female individually thinking themselves the destined victim of the monster's rage, who, nevertheless, regardless of their fears, or their persons, crossed the road, and rushed into the opposite wood, where a herd of fallow deer were feeding not far from the scene of action, upon the haunch of one of which he instantly fastened, and brought him to the ground. His keepers, to whom he was perfectly familiarized, hesitated for some time to go near him; but, at length, they summoned resolution to approach, and cutting the deer's throat, separated the haunch he had seized (which he had never let go for a moment), hood-winked, and led him away with it in his mouth.

Of bodily strength, and instinctive perseverance, one more instance may be applicably introduced, particularly as it stands upon respectable record. Some years since, a stag was turned out of Whinfield-Park, in the county of Westmoreland, and hunted by the hounds of the Earl of Thanet, till, by fatigue arising from the severities of the chase, or difficulties occurring in the way, the whole pack were thrown out, except two stanch and favourite hounds, who continued the chase through the greatest part of the day. The stag returned to the park from whence he set out, and, as his last effort, leaped the wall, and instantly expired so soon as he had accomplished it; one of the hounds brought the scent up to the wall, but so exhausted, that he died upon the spot, and the persevering companion of his pursuit was found dead at no great distance. The length of the chase was uncertain, but as they were seen at Red-Kirks, near Annan, in Scotland, distant by the post-road about forty-six miles, it is con-

jectured, that the circuitous and uneven course they might be supposed to take could be little less, if any, than from seventy to eighty miles. In commemoration of this fact, the horns of the stag, which were the largest ever seen in that part of the country, were placed on a tree of a most enormous size in the park, and afterwards called the *Hart-horn Tree*. The horns have since been removed from thence, and are now at Julian's-Bower, in the same county.

The chimerical suggestions, and fabulous recitals of longevity in the stag, are now pretty well buried in a permanent oblivion; for having originated in a popular prejudice that prevailed during the days of Aristotle, he philosophically demonstrated the improbability, because neither the time of the dam's gestation, or the gradational growth of the offspring indicated long life. This reasoning, and from such powerful authority, would, probably, have abolished the former presumptive opinion, but for the ignorance of the fictitious fabrication of a stag's having been taken by Charles the Sixth, in the Forest of Senlis, with a collar having this inscription, "CÆSAR HOC ME DONAVIT." The great and predominant love of novelty inclined men to believe (or affect so to do), that this animal had lived a thousand years, and had his collar from a Roman emperor; rather than rationally to suppose he might have come from Germany, where all the emperors were wont to take the name of Cæsar. The truest criterion, however, that can be adopted, is, probably, upon the generally received maxim, that animals live about seven times the number of years that bring them to perfection; and, this requiring six to arrive at maturity, it is fair to infer, that the life of a stag most likely terminates at about forty years.

FALLOW - DEER

ARE also occasionally objects of the chase, and the hounds used in this sport are denominated buck-hounds, and correspond in size and uniformity with those passing under the appellation of dwarf-fox. Fallow-deer are the particular species of deer bred in parks (and in the chases of his Majesty) for the production of venison, as well for the private use of the great and opulent, as for public sale. The male of fallow-deer is called a buck; the female a doe; the offspring a fawn, and they vary some degrees in colour, but consist chiefly of a dark dingy brown, inclining to black, or a mottled sandy dun. The fallow-deer and the stag strongly resemble each other; they are similar in form, alike in disposition, the same in the superb and majestic furniture of their heads, as well as their speed and deportment, but one is not more than half the size, or weight of the other; yet, notwithstanding this similitude, and that they are likewise natives of the same forest, park, or chase, they never associate, or herd together, but constitute distinct families, which, though apparently near, are greatly remote from each other. The fallow-deer is easily rendered tame and familiar if taken to when young, and feeds upon various articles refused by the stag: this, it is presumed, gives fallow venison the higher flavour. The fallow-deer browses much closer than the red deer, and are, therefore, injurious amongst young trees, which they often strip too close for recovery. The buck seeks the female in its second year, and, like the stag, indulges in variety; the doe goes about eight months with young, and, like the hind, produces but one at a birth. The buck and the stag differ materially in some particulars; the former arrives at maturity in the third and fourth years, and lives about sixteen; the latter does not arrive at perfection in less than seven years, and, as before mentioned, is not supposed to live more than forty.

The strength, cunning, and courage of the buck are greatly inferior to those of the stag, which renders them less appropriate to the purpose of the chase; more particularly as their less powerful scent and lighter foot occasion more difficulty to the hounds. In opposition to the fallow-deer, whose colours have been before described, there are in many parks, and other receptacles, a beautiful mottled and variegated kind, said to be of foreign origin, and to have been brought

brought from Bengal; the deep brown, inclining to black, already mentioned, which are now so common in every part of the kingdom, were introduced by King James the First from Norway, where he passed some time when he visited his intended bride, Mary of Denmark; during his residence there, he observed their hardiness, and that they could endure the winter without fodder, even in that severe climate. He first brought them into Scotland, and from thence transported them into his chases of Enfield and Epping, to be near his palace of Theobald's, it being upon record that monarch was fond of hunting to excess. Since that time they have so amazingly multiplied in many parts of the island, and are so well preserved, that England is now become more famous for the excellence of its venison than any other country in the world.

The buck sheds his horns annually, and this exfoliation takes place from the middle of April, through the first weeks in May, and these are, in great part, regenerated by the end of September, or the middle of October. The doe generally produces her young in the last week of May, or during one of the two first in June, depositing them in the most dreary and sequestered places it is possible to discover. The flesh of both buck and doe are held in high and proportional estimation, according to the particular times of the year at which they are said to be in perfection. The season for prime buck-venison commences in July, and terminates with the summer; soon after which doe-venison is brought to table, and is considered in season till towards the approach of spring. The time of rutting is nearly the same as with the red deer; and the remains of both kinds, after death, are mostly converted to similar uses. The skins of both buck and doe are manufactured into the article of leather for breeches (newly y'cleped small-cloaths), so superior to every other kind for the purpose of riding, that the produce of the whole kingdom is not equal to the demand of the sportsmen only, many thousand skins being annually imported from different parts of the world. The horns of both are of great, and well known utility in mechanics, being compact, hard, and weighty; they make excellent handles for couteaus, knives, and various other implements, and abound in the salt, which is the basis of a chemical preparation; when the stimulative property is extracted, the remains undergoing calcination become a restraining article of the materia medica, and is used in decoctions for diarrhæas and fluxes, under the denomination of calcined hartshorn.

FOREST, AND FOREST-LAWS,

FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE DEER.

A FOREST is a certain circuitous scope of country, consisting of wood-land, ground, and pasture, privileged by royal authority (differing from park, warren, or chase), “for the peaceable being and abiding of wild-beasts and fowls of forest to be under the king’s protection for his princely delight.” For the more correct and accurate preservation of which, there are certain laws, officers, and orders, the most material of these appear in the great charter of the forest, and are as follow :—

First. A forest, strictly and truly taken, cannot be in the hands of any but the king, because none else has power to grant a commission to be a Justice in Eyre.

Secondly. The next property is the courts, as for instance, the Justice-Seat, the Swainmote, and the Court of Attachment.

Lastly. The property of it is fully vested in the officers belonging to it, appointed for the preservation of the vert and venison. These consist of the justices in eyre, chief wardens, verderers, regarders, foresters, woodwards, agistors, rangers, beadles, and keepers.

A forest can only have its foundation under a commission bearing the great seal of England, and when proclaimed through the county in which the land so appropriated lies, “that it is a forest, and to be governed by the laws of a forest,” it then becomes a forest on record, and the officers above mentioned are appointed. A forest has its boundaries, its purlieus, its properties, its courts,
with

with a variety of regulations equally uninteresting and unentertaining, except to those who are resident within its precincts, and subject to its laws and prohibitions. What are called forest-courts, are such as are occasionally held for carrying into execution the forest-laws. The principal of these is the court of the chief-justice in eyre; this is a court of record, and held but once in three years. The court of Swainmote consists of the verderers, who, in a certain degree, are the judges, as they receive presentments, and hear evidence, as well as enquire of offences to convict; but they cannot pass judgment, that power being reserved to the court of the chief-justice (called "justice-seat") alone. This court can only be held thrice a year. The court of attachment is a meeting of the verderers, commonly distinguished by the name of the "forty days court," and is held (in some appointed part of the forest) every six weeks.

Forests are of such antiquity in this kingdom, that, except the New-Forest, in Hampshire (erected by William the Conqueror), and Hampton-Court (erected by Henry the Eighth), it is affirmed, there is no history, or record, which makes any positive mention of their erection, though they are alluded to by different writers, and in many of our laws and statutes. Notwithstanding this uncertainty in respect to their original institution, it is upon record, that there have been sixty-nine forests in England (of which the New-Forest, Windsor-Forest, Sherwood-Forest, and the Forest of Dean, have always been considered the principal), thirteen chases, and eight hundred parks. The beasts of forest, in all ancient records, were denominated "beasts of venery," and consisted of the hart, hind, hare, boar, and wolf; the complete annihilation of the two latter in this country has, however, long since rendered a continuance of those terms unnecessary, if not entirely obsolete, and the whole are now generally comprehended in the more concise acceptation of deer and game; for the preservation of which, the laws have been since formed individually appropriate.

The New-Forest was so called from its being newly added to the several forests previously possessed by the crown, and was afforested by William the Conqueror; of which transaction Mapes, an historian of the very next age, makes the following mention:—"The Conqueror took away much land from God and men, converted its use to wild-beasts, and the sport of dogs, demolishing

lishing thirty-six mother-churches, and driving away the inhabitants of many villages and towns, measuring together fifty miles in circumference." In observation upon this, Mr. Daniel in his "Rural Sports" has not inaptly remarked, that "this act of tyranny and depopulation must have been sufficiently displeasing when it took place; but (says he) we may, perhaps, be allowed to indulge our scepticism as to the correctness of this information. It may, however, be true to a sufficient extent to convince us of the imperious administration of power which oppressed and disturbed the community at this period of our government, and to strengthen our regard for that constitution, which, by its prudent and well applied arrangements, has so wisely controlled the mandates of regal authority in our own times."

The government of one forest varies little or none from the laws or rules of another, particularly since the abolition of former forest-laws has restricted within proper limits the power of its officers. The chief officer of the New Forest is the Lord Warden, and that distinguished appointment now rests with his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester; under him are two distinct appointments of officers, the one to preserve the venison of the Forest, and the other to protect its *vert*; the former term, in the language of the forest-law, comprehends every species of game; the latter signifies every thing that bears a green leaf within a forest that may cover a deer, but more particularly large and lofty coverts. The principal officers superintending are called rangers, but this appointment being merely nominal and honorary, the executive part of the trust devolves upon the keepers, whose duty it is to feed the deer in winter, browse them in summer, execute the king's warrant for venison, present offences in the forest-court, and by every possible means to prevent poaching and the destruction of game. There are also under-keepers, whose province it is annually to drive the Forest, and impound all the cattle, not more for the purpose of discovering marauders and estrays, than to examine, and properly mark all such cattle as are privileged to pasture within the boundaries of the Forest.

With respect to the various officers already enumerated, the first under the Lord Warden is the *Woodward*, under whom are twelve *Regarders*, and to these chiefly is deputed the executive part of his office; besides these officers, who are, in effect, the officers of the crown (as they are appointed by the Lord Warden), there are four others, called *Verderers*, who are commonly gentle-

men of landed property and interest in the neighbourhood, and are elected in the same manner as knights of the shire, by the freeholders of the county. These officers, since the Justiciary in Eyre has been a sinecure, are the only judges of the Forest-courts; after being elected, they are sworn before the sheriff of the county in which the Forest lies, to maintain and keep the assizes and laws of the Forest, and also to review, receive, and enrol all the attachments, and presentments of all manner of trespasses of the forest relative to vert and venison. The office of verderer bears no ill affinity to that of a coroner, particularly in this respect; that as a coroner upon notice of a person slain, is to go and view the dead body, and to make enquiry, by the oath of twelve men, how, and by what means the person came by his death, and who, and what was the occasion thereof; so it is the duty of the verderer, by his office, to look after, and view the wild-beasts of the forest; for if any of them be found slain, wounded, or hurt, upon notice being given to the verderer, he is to go and view the same, and to cause an inquisition to be made by a jury of twelve men out of four of the next towns, to know how, and by whom, the said beast was killed, wounded, or hurt. Also, if an oak, being an overt-vert within the Forest, be felled or cut down out of the king's demesne woods, the same is to be appraised by view of the verderer.

The regarders, whose responsibility is ministerial, are sworn to make regard there as usual; to view and enquire of all the officers within the Forest of the safety and preservation of vert, or venison, and of concealments, or defaults of the foresters, or other subordinate officers of the Forest. The foresters are sworn to preserve the vert and venison in the different walks and districts to which they are appointed, and personally to guard and protect all the vert and venison therein; not to conceal, but to attack all offenders, and to present the offences and attachments in the next court of attachments, or the court of Swainmote next ensuing. The agistor's office is to attend upon the king's woods and lands in a Forest, receive and register cattle, &c. by agistment, that is to depasture within the Forest, or to feed upon the pannage, &c. and this officer is constituted by letters-patent. The ranger is one whose business is to re-chase the wild beasts from the purlicus of the Forest, and to present offences within the Forest; and, though he is not properly an officer in the Forest, yet he is a considerable officer of, and belonging to it. The beadle is a forest-officer, who warns all the courts of the Forest, and executes process, makes all proclamations, &c. And the keepers, or bailiffs of walks, are those who are subordinate

nate to the verderers, and are exonerated from any attendance upon juries, or inquests out of the Forest.

Having gone through such predominant traits as became unavoidably necessary to the clear comprehension of a Forest, its privileges, and the properties appertaining thereto; it is equally applicable to concisely explain the precise distinction between a Forest, a Park, and a Chase.

A PARK.

Of whatever dimensions, or extent it may be, has a privilege for beasts of chase by prescription, or by a grant from the crown. By the first writers upon these subjects, a Park is defined to be a privileged place for beasts of venery, as hart, hind, hare, boar, wolf, and other wild-beasts of the forest and chase, and differing from a chase or warren in this particular, that a Park must be inclosed; for if it lies open, it is a good cause of seizure into the king's hands as a forfeiture; exclusive of which, the owner cannot have an action against such as offend by trespassing on, or hunting in his Park if it lie open. Three distinct things are indispensibly required to constitute a Park. First, a grant thereof. Secondly, an inclosure by a wall, paling, or hedge. And, lastly, a stock of beasts of Park, as buck, doe, &c. for these being destroyed, or containing no such stock, it is no longer accounted a Park; for a Park, in its original formation, is to consist of vert, venison, and inclosure; but, being deficient in either, it is considered a total dis-parking. The first Park in England, to be so proved upon record, was that of Woodstock, in Oxfordshire, made by Henry the First, which was walled completely round with stone, and seven miles in circumference. This royal example was soon followed by Henry, Earl of Warwick, for the preservation of his deer and game, being passionately fond of field-sports, more particularly of the chase; and from this time the practice of park-making became gradually general amongst those whose opulence and landed property were equal to such establishment.

A CHASE

Is a sporting district, perfectly distinct in its properties from either forest or park; for though it is equally appropriate to the beasts of venery before mentioned, yet it has this difference, that a chase may be in the possession of a

subject, which a forest in its institution and true construction cannot; neither is it so large, or endowed with so many liberties, laws, courts, or offices; on the contrary, it stands in estimation superior to a park, not only because it is invariably of much larger compass, but richer in its variety of game, extent of country, and number of keepers. A Chase having no courts as a forest has, offenders therein are not punishable by what are termed the laws of the forest, but by the statutes, or common law. The beasts of Chase are sportingly termed, in early records, the buck, doe, fox, martern, and roe. The male fallow-deer does not attain the appellation of buck till his sixth year, being progressively from his first a fawn, a pricket, a sorel, a sore, buck of the first head, and lastly a buck. The female is the first year a fawn, next a teg, and the third year a doe. The first year a fox is called a cub, the second a fox, and after that an old fox. The martern acquires that name in his second year, during the first he is called a martern-cub.

Without adverting to a tedious and uninteresting detail, or recital of laws and restrictions continually varied, altered, and increased, through many centuries, from the origin of their formation; it only becomes necessary to introduce, and to elucidate such modern acts of the legislature as are now principally acted upon, and which solely constitute the present existing

LAWS RELATING TO DEER,

as an accommodation to such as live within the purlieu of forests, chases, and parks, to whom such communication must be found useful, and cannot but prove truly acceptable. It stands universally admitted under every branch of both the former and the present law, that no person whatever can hunt within a forest without possessing the king's warrant, or his personal authority; and, what alone renders this circumstance extraordinary is, that he cannot so do, without the permission here stated, though it be upon his own land, or manor, situate within the forest. It appears, upon a perusal of the records of earlier and more superstitious times, that peculiar privileges were granted (or personally enjoyed) by the superior and more dignified part of the clergy, which, it may be presumed, has from shame, during the gradational refinement of so many ages, fallen into disrepute, and, by the effect of time, become entirely obsolete.

A recent writer of some celebrity has, in the course of his production, introduced some truly entertaining remarks, amongst which he observes : The propensity of the clergy to indulge in the secular pastimes, and especially those of hunting and hawking, is frequently reprobated by the poets and moralists of former times. Chaucer, in his *Canterbury Tales*, makes the monk much better skilled in riding and hunting than in divinity. The same poet, in the *Ploughman's Tale*, accuses the monks of pride, because they rode on coursers like knights, having their hawks and hounds in company ; he severely arraigns and reproaches the priests, alledging, that many of them thought much more upon hunting with their dogs, and blowing the horn, than of the service they owed to their God. The prevalence of these excesses, he affirms, occasioned the edict established in the thirteenth year of Richard the Second, which prohibits any priest, or other clerk, not possessed of a benefice to the yearly amount of ten pounds, from keeping a greyhound, or any other dog, for the purpose of hunting ; neither might they use ferrets, hayes, nets, hare-pipes, cords, or other engines, to take or destroy the deer, hares, or rabbits, under the penalty of one year's imprisonment. The dignified clergy were not affected by this statute, but were at that time accustomed to retain their ancient privileges before alluded to. By the laws of Canute, the Dane, they were permitted to hunt in the forests belonging to the crown, and these prerogatives were not abrogated during the successive reigns of the Normans ; but Henry the Second, displeased at the power and ambition of the ecclesiastics, endeavoured to render these grants of no effect : not by publicly annulling them, but by putting in force the cannon-law, which strictly prohibited the clergy from spending and prostituting their time in hunting, hawking, and the sports of the field.

The bishops, abbots, and dignified clergy of the middle ages, hunted in great state, having a numerous retinue of servants and retainers ; and many of them are recorded for their great skill and personal energy in the enjoyment of this fashionable pursuit. Walter, Bishop of Rochester, who lived in the thirteenth century, was deemed an excellent sportsman of that day, and so extravagantly fond of the sport, that at the age of four-score he made hunting almost his sole employment, to the shameful neglect of his clerical functions, and all the duties of his office. In the next century an abbot of Leicester surpassed all his cotemporaries in the feats of the field ; and even when these dignitaries were travelling from place to place, in the execution of their official concerns, they had usually

usually both hawks and hounds in their train, with the usual necessary attendants. Whitlock has assured us, that "Juxon, the Bishop of London, in 1635, was much delighted with hunting; that he also kept a pack of most excellent hounds, and had them so well ordered and hunted (chiefly by his own skill and direction), that they were supposed superior to all other hounds in the kingdom." From Fitzstephen we learn, that "Thomas Becket, being sent as ambassador from Henry the Second to the court of France, assumed the state of a secular potentate, and took with him hawks and dogs of various sorts, such as were then used by kings and princes." The clergy of superior rank in early times possessed the privilege of hunting in their own parks and inclosures; and, therefore, that they might not be prevented from following this favourite pastime, they took care to have extensive receptacles for game belonging to their priories. At the time of the reformation, the see of Norwich, only, was in the possession of no less than thirteen Parks well stocked with deer and other animals for the chase.

Thus it appears, by every trait to be found upon record, that this spirit of sporting had not only pervaded every description of the higher, but had disseminated its infectious and fascinating furor through the very lowest classes of society. To stem the torrent of which constantly increasing infatuation, and to prevent a perpetual perseverance in scenes of the most unprincipled and abandoned depredations, such plans were devised, and such laws enacted, by the different sovereigns in succession, as were most likely to stamp the privilege of private property, either in the crown, or an individual, upon such animals as being *feræ naturæ*, had been previously considered joint-stock by the mass of mankind. Upon this subject the learned Sir W. Blackstone admitted, "that by the law of nature every man, from the prince to the peasant, has an equal right of pursuing, and taking to his own use, all such creatures as are *feræ naturæ*;" but he adds, "it follows from the end and constitution of society, that this natural right, as well as many others belonging to man as an individual, may be restrained by positive laws, enacted for reasons of state, or for the supposed benefit of the community." Upon this plea, the laws respecting both deer and game were introduced amongst us, and, most probably, at a time when property was not governed by those rules of equity, and enlightened maxims of justice which are now so well known to secure it.

Every department of history is replete with incontrovertible proofs, that the higher orders of earlier ages consulted their interests, and pursued their pleasures, without any very predominant, or provident care for the comforts of the less opulent, but not the least useful branches of the community. And it is natural to conclude, as they were conscious of their own strength, they were not willing to diminish the foundation of their power by any spontaneous relaxation of their own privileges. The aristocratic pride of those times rendered them averse to sharing with their inferiors an amusement which, by a small stretch of power, they could so easily appropriate to themselves. The noble and exhilarating exercise of hunting, and the anxious pursuit of the different kinds of game (partaking, in some degree, of that spirit of enterprise with which they were inspired), were recreations most congenially adapted to their taste; it can, therefore, upon reflection, never create the least surprize that they should frame, and adopt statutes, to debar the lower orders from a participation of what they considered it most salutary and convenient to secure to themselves.

The consequence of these restrictions was such a decided and inveterate opposition on the part of the lower classes of society, that the destroying of deer, and deer-stealing, became a most prevalent devastation from one extremity of the kingdom to the other; in proportion as which iniquity increased, the following laws were successively enacted, as the only possible means of suppressing an evil which had attained an almost incredible extent. For the more general preservation of deer in forests, parks, and chases, it is enacted, by an act in the reign of Geo. II. that if any person shall unlawfully set fire to, burn, or destroy, or assist in so doing, any goss, furze, or fern, upon any forest or chase within England, he shall, on confession, or conviction, by the oath of one witness before a justice, forfeit a sum not exceeding five pounds, nor less than forty shillings; one moiety thereof to go to the informer, and the other to the poor of the parish, the same to be levied by distress; and if no distress, the offender shall be committed to the county-goal for a time not greater than three months, nor less than one.

And, by a previous act of Geo. I. (commonly called the *Black Act*, from its having been made in consequence of depredations committed in Epping-Forest by persons with their *faces blacked*), if any person being armed and disguised shall

shall appear in any forest, chase, park, paddock, or in enclosed grounds, where deer are, or have been usually kept, or shall wilfully hunt, kill, or steal any red, or fallow-deer, he shall be guilty of felony without benefit of clergy. And, by the 16 of Geo. III. if any person shall course, or hunt, or take in any slip, noose, toil, or snare, or shall kill, wound, or destroy, or attempt so to do, or shall carry away any red, or fallow-deer, in any forest, park, or chase, whether inclosed or not, or assist in such offence, he shall for the first offence forfeit twenty pounds; and shall, moreover, forfeit thirty pounds for every deer so wounded, killed, taken, or carried away; and if the said offender has been entrusted with the custody of such deer, he shall forfeit double the above penalties; and, for the second offence, be guilty of felony, and transported for seven years. And, by the same act, a justice is empowered to grant a warrant to search for deer stolen, and engines concealed; and the person discovered to be unlawfully possessing the same, shall forfeit a sum not greater than thirty, nor less than ten pounds.

And if any person shall set, lay, or use any net, wire, slip, noose, toli, or other engine, for taking or killing deer within any forest, chase, purlieu, or ancient walk, or within the ring, or outer-fence, dividing the same from the adjoining lands, or in any enclosed park, wood, or ground, where deer are accustomed to be, he shall forfeit, for the first offence, a sum not exceeding ten, nor less than five pounds, and for every subsequent offence a sum not exceeding twenty, nor less than ten pounds. And further, in respect to fences where deer are kept, if any person shall wilfully pull down, or destroy, or cause to be pulled down, or destroyed, the paling or wall of any forest or ground where any red, or fallow-deer shall be kept, he shall be subject to the like penalty as for the first offence of killing deer.

As an additional preservative against the destruction of deer, the ranger, or keeper of forests, and other places where deer are kept, is empowered to take from persons trespassing thereupon all guns, fire-arms, slips, nooses, toils, snares, engines, and dogs, in like manner, as we have before seen, that game-keepers are empowered to take dogs, nets, and other engines, from persons not duly qualified to carry or use the same, and also to detain, and take before a justice, the person having the same; and if any person shall hurt, or wound the ranger, or keeper, or his assistants, in the exercise of such authority, or attempt

attempt to rescue any offender in his custody, he shall be guilty of felony, and transported for seven years. And, if a person having a licence to hunt deer, or other animals in a forest, chase, or inclosed park, he must be careful not to exceed the liberty expressly granted him; for if he does, he will be considered as a trespasser *ab initio*, as if no licence had been granted him, and be punishable accordingly.

The better to strengthen and confirm all preceding prohibitions, it was enacted, by the 42 of Geo. III. that if any person or persons shall wilfully course, or hunt, or take in any slip, noose, toil, or snare, or kill, wound, or destroy, or shoot at, or otherwise attempt to kill, wound, or destroy; or shall carry away any red, or fallow-deer, kept, or being in the inclosed part of any forest, chase, purlieu, or ancient walk, or any inclosed park, paddock, wood, or other inclosed ground, wherein deer are, have been, or shall be usually kept, without the consent of the owner of such deer, or without being otherwise duly authorized, or shall knowingly be aiding, abetting, or assisting therein, or thereunto, every person so wilfully offending in any of the cases before mentioned, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof upon indictment, shall be transported for seven years. In continuation, it is also enacted, that if any person shall so offend as aforesaid, he shall, for every such offence, forfeit the sum of fifty pounds; and if the offender, in any of the cases aforesaid, shall be a keeper, or a person entrusted with the care of deer in a forest, &c. wherein the offence shall be committed, he shall, for every such offence, forfeit, and pay double such penalty.

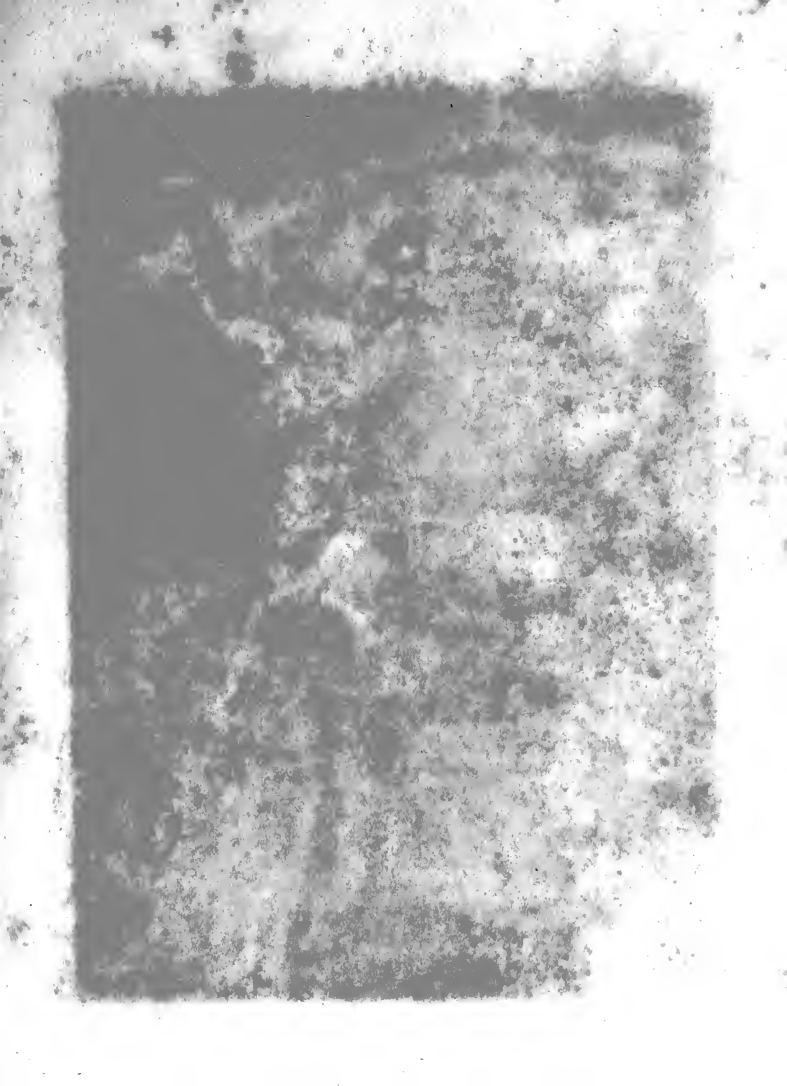
That all powers and provisions contained in the 16 Geo. III. (already recited) concerning the apprehending and conviction of persons offending against the said act, and the recovery, and disposal of the penalties therein mentioned, and the manner of appealing from convictions, and of bringing actions, or prosecutions for any thing done under the said act, and proceedings and costs in such actions, shall, so far as the same respectively are applicable, be applied for all other purposes to which such powers and provisions are applicable under this act; provided, that in case of non-payment of any such penalty, with the charges of conviction, and for want of sufficient distress, the offender shall be sent to the common goal for six months, unless the penalty and charges be sooner paid. To which it is also annexed, that persons convicted

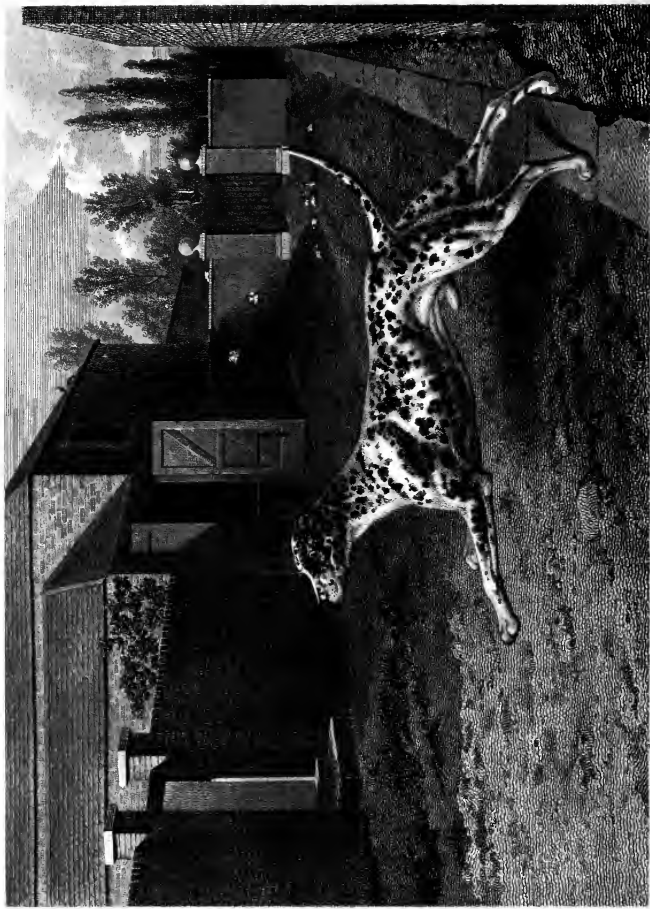
on a second offence, for which a pecuniary penalty is imposed, shall be adjudged to transportation for seven years.

In conclusion, it is enacted, that to the intent that the prosecution of persons who shall offend a second time, may be carried on with as little trouble and expense as may be; that the justice before whom any person shall be convicted, for the first time, in a pecuniary penalty, or forfeiture, shall transmit such conviction under his hand and seal to the next quarter-session, there to be filed; a true copy whereof shall be sufficient evidence to prove the conviction for such first offence. And it is to be observed, that by this act, so much of the 16 Geo. III. is repealed as inflicts penalties for committing any of the preceding offences, and that nothing contained in either shall extend to Scotland or Ireland.



DALMATIAN.





DALMATIAN.

DALMATIAN.

THIS particular race, of which so exact and beautiful a representation has been produced by the conjunctive efforts of the artists concerned, are by the earliest, and most respected writers, said to have been originally natives of Dalmatia, a district in European Turkey, bounded on the west by the gulf of Venice; and from whence, it is presumed, the breed was formerly transported to those countries, where, by their prolific increase, they are now more universally known. Numerous as they are become, and truly ornamental as they prove in the department to which they are so fashionably appropriate, less has been said upon their origin and introduction than upon any other distinct breed of the canine-race. By some remote naturalists of but little celebrity, this particular species has been distinguished by the appellation of the Dalmatian, or Harrier of Bengal; with what justice that name may have been affixed upon the breed, it may prove no easy matter to ascertain; but Buffon has given it as his opinion, that this very dog was not originally a native of Bengal, or of any other part of India, and that it is not, as has been pretended, the Indian-dog mentioned by the ancients, and said to have been produced between a dog and a tiger; for it has been known familiarized and domesticated in Italy for two centuries past, and never considered as a dog originally brought from India, but as a common harrier, native of that country.

Whatever may have been their origin, or whatever their most instinctive, or predominant propensity, they seem but little calculated for any useful, entertaining, or profitable purpose in this country, unless in contributing to the splendour of a stable-establishment; the magnitude and magnificence of which has never before reached its present state of unprecedented elegance, and emulative opposition for a display of fashionable superiority. The whole and sole destination of the Dalmatian is the individual attendance upon, and the pro-

tection of the horses and carriage to which he belongs; to these it is his business to be invariably annexed, and to both he is so fervently attached, that they are never brought into use, either by night or by day, without his appearing in an official capacity as an indispensable part of the retinue. His attendance upon the horses when in a state of inactivity, and his exulting consciousness of dignity in preceding the carriage (as if to announce its approach, with an authority to clear the way), seem to constitute the most superlative gratification of his existence. In temper, disposition, and habitual practice, they seem to possess a greater degree of equanimity than any other part of the species; are but little inclined to bark, and less to be offended; in fact, from a kind of constitutional apathy, and want of animated irritability, they feel less attentive to the caresses of friends, and the approach of strangers, than any of those known to be the natives of Britain; forming, probably, no ill epitome of their employers, who live in a state of bodily ease and mental indifference.

Dogs thus supported for no other purpose than external parade, to run before or after the equipages of their lords or ladies, and in imitation often of their betters, not disposed to be of any other use, constitute a serious contrast when brought into comparison with the canine productions of Holland, where the very dogs of every description are constrained to promote the trade of the republic with so much rigidity, that it is averred by Mr. Pratt, in his *Gleanings*, there is not an idle dog of any size to be seen in the whole of the seven provinces. You see them in harness at all parts of the Hague, as well as in other towns, tugging at barrows and little carts, with their tongues nearly sweeping the ground, and their poor palpitating hearts almost beating through their sides; frequently three, four, five, and sometimes six abreast, drawing men and merchandize with the speed of little horses. In passing from the Hague-gate to Scheveling, you perceive, at any hour of the day, an incredible number loaded with fish and men, under the burden of which they run off at a long trot, and sometimes (when driven by young men or boys) at full gallop, the whole mile and a half, which is the precise distance from gate to gate; nor, on their return, are they suffered to come empty, being filled not only with the men and boys before-mentioned (for almost every Dutchman has a fixed aversion to walking when he can ride, although only half a mile), but with such commodities as are marketable at the village. It is no uncommon thing, in the middle of summer, to see these poor, patient, persevering animals, urged and driven beyond their utmost ability, 'till they have dropped upon the road, and so remained

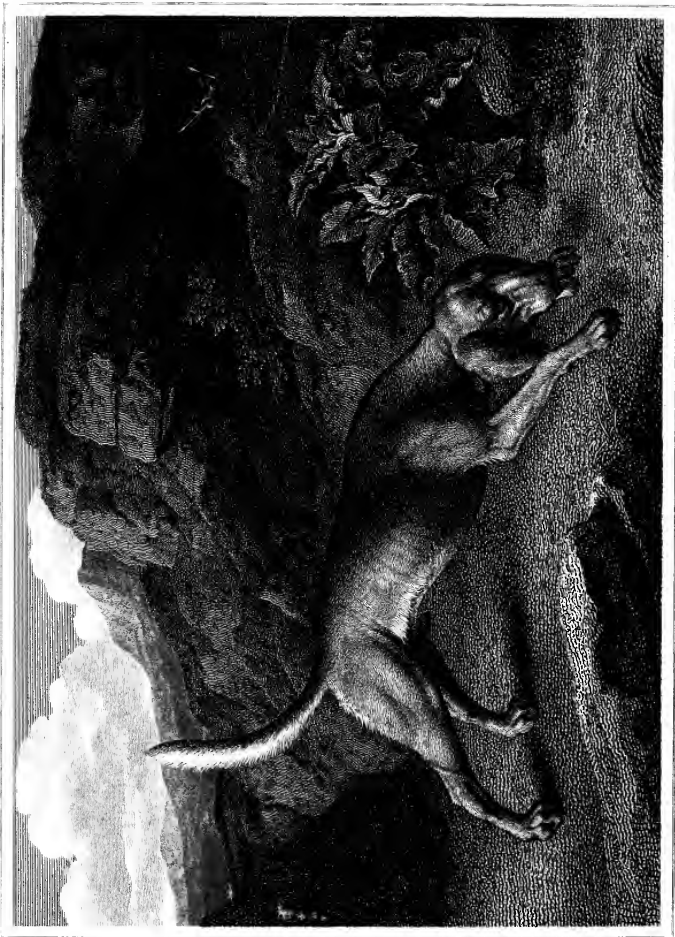
mained 'till their strength was renewed. This, however, is very seldom the case, unless they unfortunately fall under the management of cruel and inconsiderate boys; for the Dutch are the farthest from being cruel to their domestic dumb animals of any people in the world; on the contrary, a Hollander, of whatever rank, is so humane and merciful to his beast, whether horse, dog, or cow, that they are equally objects of his most marked attention, as sleek skins, happy countenances, and plump sides, sufficiently demonstrate. The cows and oxen for draught they rub down, curry, and clean, till they are as glossy as the most pampered steed in England. Nay, they are frequently seen in a light fancy-dress to protect them from the flies, and other annoying insects in the meadows (which are the finest in the world,) and with a warmer suit of clothes in the winter; even these canine slaves look hale and well as to condition, and being habituated to labour, seem to feel but little hardship in it.

Happy, however, thrice happy is the dog who has the luck to be born of humble parents, and more diminutive dimensions, for he is sacred, by his insignificance, from labour; like many a man, who having neither size, or talents for a hero, derives many a snug enjoyment from his unfitness to take an active part in the toils of ambition. But dogs of this description have yet greater privileges in Holland than will be readily conceived; like many other little things they hold precious, and in high estimation, and so fondled, patted, and caressed, that either a lap-dog, or a lover in England, where those animals are sometimes neglected (as favourites of every description sometimes are), would naturally envy them; for those who think a Dutch woman and a beautiful face are incompatible, will be mistaken, which, Mr. Pratt says, he will take occasion to shew. In his first visit (a winter one) to the Hague, he entered into the interests of these poor labouring dogs so minutely, that he was much surprised they did not go mad, or that he did not hear of the canine destruction being more prevalent in that country than his own; and, on being told there were certain times (the dog-days) when a heavy fine was to be paid upon any dog's being seen in the street, he concluded that to be the case, 'till being, the summer following, at the delightful sea-side village of Scheveling, he observed, several times in the day, these draught-dogs brought down to the beach, and bathed, a practice which, no doubt, equally prevented them from the destructive disorder already mentioned, but added to their strength, and enabled them the better to do their work.

It is truly fortunate also for these labouring canine dependents, that Holland is a country properly prone to strictness in the ceremonies of religion, by a rigid observance of which the poor dog, like his master, finds the seventh day a day of unbroken rest, for Sunday shines a Sabbath-day to one, as well as upon the other. He farther observes, the first impression having been much in favour of those industrious animals, he had his eye upon them as well in the hours of their repose, as in their toil; and felt his heart warm to see several, whom he had observed very heavily laden on the Saturday, taking a sound nap, outstretched and happy, at the doors of their masters, on the day which their leisure, ease, and rest, awfully seemed the allotment and bounty of heaven. During the morning and afternoon of these days, they have remained basking, and extending their weary limbs, while a number of unthinking whelps, and lazy puppies, who had been passing their time in idleness all the week, were playing their gambols in the street, not without a hope and vain attempt to rouse the refreshing seniors, and excite them to join in their frisky amusements; nor has he, in his sun-setting rounds, omitted to observe the honest creatures sitting at their respectful thresholds, looking quite refreshed, giving occasionally into a momentary frolic, and the next morning returning to their labours with a renewal of both strength and inclination.







BLOOD HOUND.

A. Knapp, del. & sculp.

BLOOD-HOUND.

THIS particular, and as it is supposed, by the best authorities, original breed of hound, is now so materially changed by modern refinement, collateral crosses, and experimental commixture, with the different kinds adapted to the chase, that it is considered a difficult task to discover one of the pure and uncontaminated stock from one extremity of the kingdom to the other. Of this opinion is a recent writer, who asserts this peculiar race to be nearly extinct, except in one instance, that a few only of the pure blood are in the possession of Thomas Astle, Esq. and his family; but in what county, or what country they reside does not appear. The blood-hound, in every literary transmission to be found upon record, is unanimously admitted to have been about seven, or eight and twenty inches high, of substantial, firm, strong, compact, and muscular form; the face wide upon the forehead, gradually narrowing to the nose; the countenance attractingly serene, and solicitous of attention; nostrils wide and expansive; ears large, soft, and pendulous, broad at the base, and narrowing to the tip; tail long, with an erective curve, particularly when in pursuit, with a voice awfully loud, deep, and sonorous.

One distinguishing trait of purity in the breed is said to have consisted in the colour, which was uniformly, and almost invariably a reddish tan, gradually darkening to the upper part, with a mixture of black upon the back, becoming some shades lighter in reaching the lower parts and extremities; some few, it is said, had a little white in the form of a snip, or star, in the face, but this was by no means common with a majority of the breed. Pennant, in his delineation of quadrupeds, mentions them as having a black spot over each eye, though this was by no means the case with those in the possession of Mr. Astle; yet it is universally known, by the experienced of the sporting world, that they are strong and distinguishing features in the true well-bred, heavy, deep-tongued English

English southern hound. The singularly commanding appearance, and attracting aspect of this dog when seriously surveyed, seems to convey, impressively, a conscious confidence of his own superiority, the fixed and scrutinizing eye, the massive and capacious nose, long and pendulous ears, his large, yet uniform figure so critically formed for strength and action, with a voice little inferior to the lion's roar, all seem to denote his priority in the majestic dignity of the early, rude, and uncultivated chase. Every considerate reflection, as well as the result of every corresponding research, seem to justify the most probably well-founded opinion, that this was the very description of hound originally brought into use for running the game by scent in this country; from whom the different degrees have been gradationally and progressively improved, to render them more fleet and applicable to the refined sports of the present day.

To the retrospective rumination of every sporting inquisitant it must evidently occur, that the mode and manner of hunting in former times was exceedingly different to what is now the exhilarating and universally approved practice. In earlier ages, the game of every kind was found and surrounded in its haunts; when roused, every effort was made to shoot at it with an arrow, or to wound it with a spear; in which state it had the momentary happiness to escape, its safety proved but of very short and precarious duration, for the blood-hound traced, and the mastiff, greyhound, or the hunter, killed it in a solitary and self-interested way; but, in the whole, there was nothing similar to the ecstatic sounds and convivial harmony of our modern chase. When the game was once disturbed, and a view obtained, it was, of course, pursued by some dog of innate ferocity and swift of foot; which might have probably been the original wolf-dog of Britain, or the rough Scotch greyhound. The chase, as it is now enjoyed at its very zenith of perfection in this country, was, most probably, derived from the continent by our ancestors, and regular packs of hounds first formed at no very remote period from that in which we live. In such improvements of the chase, and the means by which it was pursued, a rectification in the canine appendage became unavoidably necessary, that the hounds might be possessed of power, perseverance, and patience, to run up to their game by scent, as well as speed sufficient to keep at the head of the horses.

The great and distinguished peculiarity of the blood-hound to our sporting predecessors was his infallibility in tracing to its final resort any animal that had been

been taken on for a mile or two, the dog was drawn up to the spot from whence it had been previously drawn, and there encouraged to enjoy and carry on the scent. This prelusive ceremony, it must be observed, always took place, accompanied with a seasoned stanch old hound, from whose age and experience the newly-entered dog must have derived knowledge and assistance during the drag-chase, at the termination of which they were regaled with the venison they had hunted as a reward for their labour, and an excitement to future service. When perfect in these introductory lessons, the shoes of a man (possessing great speed, strength, and perseverance,) were rubbed with the blood of a deer, he then taking a remote circuit of a mile or two, occasionally renewing the blood to the shoes, as the effluvia (alias scent) became less effectual, or more obliterated. These inculcations were persevered in occasionally, and the circuit more enlarged, lengthened, or extended, 'till having afforded proof of perfection, his last experimental lessons were, to hunt the dry foot of any man, upon the scent of whom he had been instructively laid; and this he would soon achieve, by the assistance of an old dog, and by frequent repetition, that his acquisition was soon considered complete, and singly adequate to the successful pursuit of any animal whatever.

It has been remarked, by a writer of some recent celebrity, that, on the divisional borders of England and Scotland, while those countries were waging wars against each other, that the principle of morality was, in a great degree, extinct, and private robberies were sanctioned as mere military excursions; what in war their leaders, the feudal tenant, seized by force of arms, in peace he stole under covert of the night, and drove his prize in darkness far within his own district, or secured it in fastnesses from whence there was little or no chance of extrication. In instances of this kind, the hound under description was of the greatest and most incredible utility, in tracing, to a certain recovery, either the thief, or the articles of depredation. And while the then barbarous, inveterate, and unrelenting clans of the north, under petty chiefs, were perpetually engaged in civil broils, the vanquished, who fled from the sanguinary conflict, were often hunted from cave to cave by the dog of this description, and slaughtered in cold blood. In addition to this, it is mentioned by Bewick, in his volume upon quadrupeds, that, at the period alluded to, there existed a law in Scotland by which it was enacted, that whoever obstructed a dog of this description in pursuit of stolen goods, or the offender, would be deemed an accessory to the theft.

In addition to the remarks already made, upon what seems to have been the gradational transmissions from the earliest and most respectable authority, it may not prove inapplicable to introduce what has been said upon the subject by the author of the "Sporting Dictionary," a recent publication. Blood-hounds, he observes, have always had a kind of fabulous property ascribed to them, of pursuing, and infallibly taking, or seizing robbers, murderers, or depredators, whenever they could be laid upon the scent, or footsteps of the particular objects they were intended to pursue; and of their possessing this property there cannot be the least doubt, when the experience of ages, transmitted to us by our predecessors (as well as our own observations), have afforded the most indisputable proofs, that hounds may be taught, or broke in to carry on any particular scent when feelingly convinced they are to hunt no other. There requires "no ghost from the grave" to confirm a fact of so much notoriety; a mere sporting embryo would tell us, that "a pack, who for some years hunted fallow-deer in the possession of their last owner, are hunting hare in the highest possible style with the present;" that the principal body of the celebrated pack, who for some years past hunted fox with Lord Darlington in the north, may, perhaps, in the ensuing season, be destined to the pursuit of red deer with Lord Derby in the south; so that the whole art of changing hounds from one chase to another is no more than breaking them afresh, and keeping them rigidly steady to the game they are then to pursue.

From these established and incontrovertible facts, as well as every collateral consideration that can be fairly taken into the aggregate, it is fair to infer (particularly as no proof whatever has been adduced to the contrary), that the original stock of the blood-hounds in this country partook, in nearly an equal degree, of the large, strong, bony, fleet stag-hound, and the old English southern-hound, still maintained in the low and swampy parts of the kingdom. Those destined to one particular kind of pursuit, and used merely as blood-hounds, were never brought into the chase with any distinct pack for the promotion of sport with any species of game; but were preserved and supported (as a constable, or Bow-street runner of the present day,) for the purposes of pursuit and detection, whenever they could, with certainty, be laid on in good time upon the scent or footsteps of the object it was necessary or expedient to pursue. Deer-stealing, for instance, was so exceedingly common not a century since, to what it is at present, that the park and game-keepers, in most parts of the kingdom, were in a kind of eternal watching and nocturnal warfare;

warfare ; the hounds we are now describing were then constantly trained to the practice, and so closely adhered to the scent they were once well laid upon, that even, after a very long and tedious pursuit, detection was certain and inevitable. From this persevering instinct they originally acquired the appellation they have so long retained ; and an offending criminal, formerly, was absolutely conceived to be positively taken, and half-convicted the very moment a blood-hound could be obtained.

Having gone through every thing appertaining to this description of dogs in Britain, we naturally refer to the use made of them in other countries where the breed is still preserved and held in the highest estimation ; more particularly at, and near the Havannah, in the island of Cuba, from whence they were procured for the prosecution of the late Maroon-war, which took place some few years since in the island of Jamaica ; from Dallas's history of which, the following particulars are extracted :—Don Manuel de Sejas, the Alcade Provinciale, commanded about six and thirty chasseurs, who were in the king's pay, and who were, by treaty, engaged to embark for Jamaica, to assist in pursuing, and reducing to subjection, the rebellious negroes, and revolted Maroons, upon the following stipulated terms : That they engaged to go to Jamaica, taking each three dogs for the hunting and seizing negroes as before described ; that when arrived at the said island, and were informed of the situation of the runaway, or rebellious negroes, they pledged themselves conjunctively and individually to put in practice every means that might be necessary to pursue and apprehend, with their dogs, the said rebellious negroes ; settling before hand, the proper time and mode of their excursions with the government of Jamaica, who was to supply them with every assistance that should be found necessary, such as troops, arms, and ammunition. That their stay in the said island should not exceed three months, counting from the day of their embarking at Batabano ; and for their service, during which time they were to be allowed two hundred dollars each, one hundred of which was to be paid down in advance, and the remaining hundred at the expiration of the three months.

In addition to the two hundred dollars each, above stipulated, all their expences of maintenance in sickness, or in health, was to be borne by the government of Jamaica, from the time of their embarking at Batabano to their

return to the same place. And if at the expiration of the three months in Jamaica, that government should require their longer residence, it was to be at their own option to make a new agreement; and in case any of them might wish to return immediately, that government should then provide them with a passage to Batabano. That as the government of Jamaica had offered a reward of nine hundred and sixty dollars for apprehending any of the rebellious negroes, agreeable to proclamation in that island, they agreed to submit themselves to such re-partition as that government might make of such reward betwixt them and the auxiliary troops as might be allowed to assist them; this reward being totally independent of those already enumerated. In consequence of this arrangement, after many disappointments occasioned by the Spanish governor, and his emissaries, which were, at length, overcome by stratagem, bribery, and complicated deception, upwards of forty chasseurs, and a hundred and four dogs were shipped upon the occasion. Of these dogs, six and thirty only were thoroughly trained; the others were the best that could be procured, and would, beyond a doubt, have fully answered the purpose, if the Maroons had obstinately compelled the use of them.

The commissioner, after having been absent seven weeks, and who had, from perverse winds, and Spanish obstinacy, experienced the most vexatious and distressing procrastination in his return; although he had completely succeeded in the immediate object of his expedition to Cuba, yet he was willing to flatter himself, that a favourable progress had been made in the war, and that there would be no occasion to have recourse to the recruits he had brought with him; but his first enquiries produced an answer which convinced him their services would be required. He received a melancholy account of the state of affairs, and was informed that very little progress had been made in reducing the Maroons, that the troops had suffered great losses, that the militia, and the numbers on duty greatly lessened. No time, therefore, was lost in landing the chasseurs and their dogs; the wild and formidable appearance of both spread terror through the place; the streets were cleared, the doors of the houses were shut, and the windows crowded, not a negro ventured to stir out. The muzzled-dogs, with their heavy rattling chains, ferociously making at every object, and forcibly dragging on the chasseurs (who could hardly restrain them), presented a scene of a most tremendous nature, well calculated to give a most awful colouring to the report which would be conveyed to the Maroons.

The

The despondence that had so long prevailed now yielded to hope, renovated by the arrival of the commissioner, and joy was spread throughout the island. He was congratulated and thanked by all who met him; his exertions were extolled in all companies; no praise was thought too high, nor could a reward be named adequate to his services. If, indeed, the spirit of the enterprise is considered, the indefatigable activity with which it was pursued, the difficulties overcome, and the dispatch with which it was completed, it must be allowed, that the gratitude of the inhabitants of Jamaica was not premature; for, although the ultimate object of the Cuba expedition remained to be accomplished, the expedition itself had been conducted with uncommon energy and ability, and had been attended with complete success: and it is no wonder that the great proprietors, some of whom had declared themselves ready to lay down the half of their fortunes for the suppression of the dangerous rebellion raging in the heart of the country, should sensibly feel the obligation they were under to one who had risen from a bed of sickness, despising fatigue and danger, and restored to them the prospect of saving their property and the island from destruction.

Anxious to review the chasseurs, General Walpole left head-quarters, the morning after they were landed, before day-break, and arrived in a post-chaise at seven rivers, accompanied by Colonel Skinner, whom he appointed to conduct the intended attack. Notice of his coming having preceded him, a parade of the chasseurs were ordered; and they were taken to a distance from the house, in order to be advanced when the general alighted. On his arrival, the commissioner having paid his respects, was desired to parade them. The Spaniards soon appeared at the end of a gentle acclivity, drawn out in a line containing upwards of forty men, with their dogs in front unmuzzled, and held by the cotton ropes. According to directions previously given, on receiving the command to fire, they discharged their fusils, and advanced as upon a real attack. This was intended to ascertain what effect would be produced on the dogs if engaged under a fire of the Maroons. The volley was no sooner fired than the dogs pressed forward with the greatest fury, amidst the continued shouts of the Spaniards, who were dragged on by them with the most irresistible force. Some of the dogs maddened by the shout of attack, while held back by the ropes, seized on the stocks of the guns in the hands of their keepers, and tore pieces out of them. Their impetuosity was so great, that they were with difficulty

culty stopped before they reached the General, who found it necessary to get expeditiously into the chaise from which he had alighted; and, if the most strenuous exertions had not been made to stop them, they would, most certainly, have seized upon his horses.

The Maroons having, soon after their arrival, submitted to the rules and regulations suggested by government, the chasseurs and dogs were never put to the public use for which they were procured, but, receiving the pecuniary stipulation previously agreed on, were returned to their own country, in conformity with the original treaty upon which they were engaged. Their destructive ravages having been rendered unnecessary by the happy return of peace, we advert to a description of their qualifications, and utility, in a more individual and unconnected capacity. These dogs, when perfectly broken in, will not kill or destroy the object they pursue, unless they are resisted and attacked in turn; on coming up with a fugitive, they bark at him 'till he stops; they then couch near him, terrifying him with a ferocious growl if he stirs. In this position, they continue barking, to give notice to the chasseurs, who come up and secure their prisoner. Each chasseur, though he can hunt only with two dogs properly, is obliged to have three, which he maintains at his own expence, and it is by no means inconsiderable. These people live with their dogs, from which they are inseparable; at home they are kept chained, and when walking with their masters are never unmuzzled, or let out of ropes but for attack. They are constantly accompanied with one or two small dogs, called finders, whose scent is very keen, and always sure of hitting off a track. Dogs and bitches hunt equally well, and the chasseurs rear no more than will supply the number required; though this breed is said not to be so prolific as the common kinds, it is infinitely stronger and hardier. This breed is the size of the largest hound, with ears erect, which are usually cropped at the points; the nose more pointed, but widening very much towards the hinder part of the jaw. The skin and coat are much harder than those of most dogs, and so must, of course, be the structure of the body, as the severe correction they undergo in training would, it is conceived, almost kill any other description of dog whatever. There are some, but not many, of a more obtuse nose, and which are rather squarer set, and these, it may be presumed, have been crossed with the mastiff; but if by this the bulk has been a little increased, it has added nothing to the strength, height, beauty, or agility of the native breed.

The

The common employment of these dogs is to traverse the country for the purpose of pursuing and taking all persons guilty of murder and other offences, in which they seldom, if ever, fail of success, no activity on the part of the offenders being able to elude their pursuit, of which an extraordinary proof occurred at the Havannah during the last war. A fleet from Jamaica, under convoy to Great Britain, passing through the Gulf of Mexico, beat up on the north side of Cuba. One of the ships manned with foreigners, chiefly renegado Spaniards, being a dull sailer, and consequently lagging astern, standing in with the land at night, was run on shore, the captain, officers, and the few British hands on board murdered, and the vessel plundered by the Spanish renegadoes. The part of the coast on which the ship was stranded being wild and unfrequented, the assassins retired with their booty to the mountains, intending to penetrate through the woods to some remote settlements on the south-side, where they hoped to secure themselves, and elude all pursuit. Early intelligence of the crime, however, had been conveyed to the Havannah, and the assassins were pursued by a detachment of twelve of the chasseurs de roy, with their dogs; in a few days they were all brought in, and executed, not one of them being the least hurt by the dogs when captured. The head and right-arm of each of these criminals were lately suspended in frames, not unlike parrot-cages, which were hung on various gibbets at the port, and other conspicuous places on the coast, near the entrancé of the harbour.

In a trifling and superficial account of some proceedings at St. Domingo, which appeared in a morning-print, was the following unconnected, and almost incoherent recital: "Blood-hounds were brought from the island of Cuba, or the continent of America, and these dogs which seemed to be reserved for war, for the purpose of ambuscades, or for self-preservation, were destined through a refinement of cruelty, under the authority and approbation of the principal chiefs, to devour the blacks alive; and, that they might be the more truly trained, and rendered more ferocious, they were occasionally fed on the flesh of the negroes. To try them (this writer observes), a black was taken from the prison, and being carried into the court-yard, or garden, behind the government-house, the dogs were let loose upon him, and by every encouragement made to devour him. Another was carried to a place called le Haut du Cap, at the distance of a league, where the dogs were let loose, and the black exposed to be devoured by them. The dogs at first made a faint attack, and the unfortunate wretch only received a few bites and lacerations: this, however, not being
enough

enough, nothing short of death would satisfy his tormentors. The victim was, therefore, raised up, and ordered to run, as it was hoped that the dogs would then double their fury, and perform the office so earnestly expected of them; they were then again let loose, but not being sufficiently cruel and voracious, they only repeated their former lacerations, and would not devour the unfortunate victim, so that it was found necessary to put an end to his tortures by shooting him upon the spot, and, it is said, that both men and women were present at so shocking a spectacle."

This account is concluded with the following, for the authenticity of which the writer pledges his veracity:—"That on the 27th or 28th Ventose (18th or 19th March), General Boyer, chief of the staff, a very young man, which excites astonishment, and is a disgrace to humanity, having some cause of complaint against his cook, who had robbed him of a few sous (perhaps when he went to market), caused him to be carried out into the court, or garden, behind the government-house, where he delivered him over to the fury of the blood-hounds. It is added, also, (but the writer will not venture to affirm it) that General Rochambeau was present, that the black went and threw himself at his feet to implore his mercy and pardon, but that he pushed him rudely from him, and was devoured by the dogs. All this, he says, takes place in the town, with the knowledge, and before the eyes of the blacks, who are employed in domestic service, or in different trades and callings. All this, however, is now at an end, and the French extirpated from the island. After a review of their uses and appropriation in different countries, it does not appear that either the breed or their utility is more than temporarily dormant in our own; as a very few weeks since the following appeared in a daily print of much repute:—"The Thrapston association for the prosecution of felons, in Northamptonshire, have provided and trained a blood-hound for the detection of sheep-stealers. To demonstrate the unerring infallibility of this animal, a day was appointed for public trial; the person he was intended to hunt started, in the presence of a great concourse of people, about ten o'clock in the forenoon, and at eleven the hound was laid on: after a chase of an hour and a half, notwithstanding a very indifferent scent, the hound ran up to the tree in which he was secreted, at the distance of fifteen miles from the place of starting, to the admiration and perfect satisfaction of the very great number assembled upon the occasion.'

So truly sensible was Somerville of this peculiar property in the blood-hound, that we find it thus beautifully depicted in his celebrated production of the "Chase :"

" Soon the sagacious brute, his curling tail
 Flourish'd in air, low bending, plies around
 His busy nose, the steaming vapour snuffs
 Inquisitive, nor leaves one turf untried,
 'Till, conscious of the recent stains, his heart
 Beats quick; his snuffing nose, his active tail,
 Attest his joy: then with deep-op'ning mouth,
 That makes the welkin tremble, he proclaims
 Th' audacious felon: foot by foot he marks
 His winding way, while all the list'ning crowd
 Applaud his reasonings: o'er the wat'ry ford,
 Dry sandy heaths, and stony barren hills;
 O'er beaten paths, with men and beasts distain'd
 Unerring he pursues; 'till at the cot
 Arriv'd, and seizing by his guilty throat
 The caitiff vile, redeems the captive prey:
 So exquisitely delicate his sense."

IRISH GREYHOUND.

THE dog originally distinguished by this appellation is, in the present age, so rarely to be seen, that it is a matter of doubt whether one of the pure and unmixed breed is to be found even in the most remote part of the country from whence, in the first instance, they are supposed to have derived their name. It is affirmed, by the best and most respected authorities, that the Danish-dog, the Irish greyhound, and the common greyhound of this country, though they appear so different, are but one and the same race of dog. The Danish-dog is said, by Buffon, to be but a more corpulent Irish greyhound; and that the common greyhound is the Irish greyhound rendered thinner and more fleet by experimental crosses, and more delicate by speculative culture; for these three different kinds of dogs, though perfectly distinguishable at first sight, differ no more, comparatively, from each other than three human natives of Holland, Italy, and France; and, by the same mode of argument, he justifies the supposition, that had the Irish greyhound been a native of France, he would have produced the Danish-dog in a colder climate, and the common greyhound in a warmer one; and this conjecture, he observes, is absolutely verified by experience, as the Danish-dogs are brought to us from the north, and the greyhounds from the Levant.

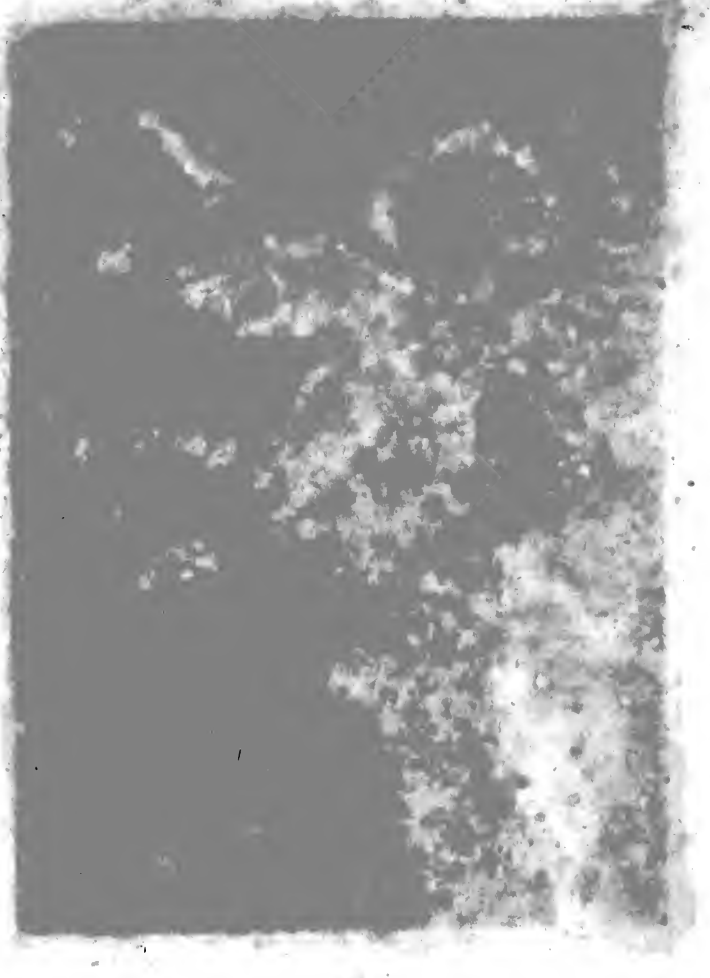
In whatever state of ambiguity the origin of the Irish greyhound may remain, certain it is, that the similitude between the dog of this description and the Danish-dog is so exceedingly correct, that little doubt can be entertained of their being of the same race, with such trifling variation as may have been occasioned only by the difference of climates in which they have been produced. The name, however, from a long series of disuse, is nearly buried in oblivion; and the few to be seen, either in this country, or our sister kingdom, are denominated



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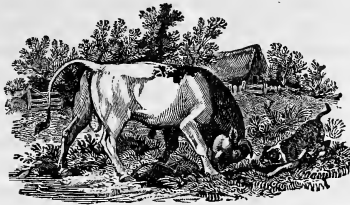
minated Danes, although every concurring circumstance and collateral consideration palpably tend to prove they are from one and the same stock. The great strength, speed, and ferocity of these dogs formerly rendered them perfectly appropriate to the purposes of the chase, before it had acquired its present improved and systematic uniformity; and to this breed may be attributed the entire extirpation, and final destruction of the wolves with which the woody districts of England and Wales were, in earlier times, so seriously infested. Since which, having been found but ill-adapted to the more modern sports of the field and refinements of the chase, that they have been permitted, by various accidental crosses, and casual commixtures, to dwindle into a gradational oblivion; the few now to be accidentally seen appearing in a very different, though a very respectable capacity.

The dog now under description is, in appearance, a produce between the greyhound and the mastiff, and, in his general stature, from eight and twenty to thirty inches high; his head is rather straight, muzzle long, and nearly pointed; ears naturally short, and half pendulous (but these, in conformity with fashion, are generally cropped when young); eyes mostly grey, or white; in others, of equal white and yellow; chest deep, flank long, belly small, legs straight and long, tail thin, wirey, and with a curve in its erective termination; colour sandy red, or pale yellow, with frequently a snip, or blaze in the face. There is also another description which varies, in a small and inconsiderable degree, from the same race, and that more in the colour than in any other respect, which has, with some, given rise to the appellation of Harlequin Dane; these have a fine marble-coat, beautifully variegated with large and small spots of black, grey, liver-colour, or sandy-red upon a white ground; some of the former also have sometimes tan-coloured spots about the face and legs. The majestic and commanding aspect, bold muscular action, and elegant carriage of this dog, would recommend him to notice, had he no other useful properties or points of attraction; but from those he has already in possession, we observe honoured in adding to the splendid pomp and magnificent retinues of the noble, wealthy, and independent; before whose emblazoned vehicles he trots or gallops with a degree of dignity denoting no small consciousness of the patronage he is under, and the state of grandeur he is selected to precede and support.

In the rigid and attentive execution of the trust so confidently reposed in him, he displays no trait whatever of fear or pusillanimity, amidst various obstructions, but supports the intrepidity of his character, and the eminence of his appointment, by a firm and stately dignity, undebased by any clamorous, or barking disquietude. Though it is to be remarked, in all public parades near town, as well as in the streets of the metropolis, that they are never permitted to appear without a muzzle, the better to prevent the possibility of an attack upon any of their own species, or animals of any other description. The Dalmatian, or common coach-dog, already described, is considered a much more humble and subordinate attendant upon the horses, the carriage, and the servants, than the individual now depicted, who, from a certain consciousness of his own magnitude, seems to appear both the harbinger and escort of his lord, being bold and eager in his approach, and ready in his defence. It does not appear, by any regular transmissions upon record, that these dogs have ever been appropriated to any particular department of the chase, either ancient or modern, but were, most probably, destined to many pursuits, according to the customs and fashions of the times in which they lived. Indeed, from their aggregate of distinguishing properties of strength, speed, instinctive courage, and indefatigable perseverance, there cannot be a doubt, but with the hunters of centuries past, who traversed the trackless deserts in pursuit of game of every kind, as well as wild animals of the most ferocious description, these dogs must have been held in high estimation; were as fearless as those who then boldly exposed their persons to the imminent dangers of the most perilous chase; as they would attack much larger, and much more fierce and powerful animals than are now to be found in this country in its present refined state of sporting and agricultural cultivation.

This is the precise kind of dog, and, most probably, the very exact and same breed that the amateurs of fine painting may have observed transmitted to us in pictures from the eminent artists of former times. They are frequently introduced, and expressively depicted in the finest productions of Rubens, Snyders, and others, as well as in the popular and well-known prints of Ridenger, where he is represented fierce, swift, and powerful, rushing on to combat with the most determined and impetuous ferocity, instantly seizing, and closing with the wolf, boar, or stag, equally undismayed at either, without having been once depicted at bay. But when the dark, woody forest retired before the constantly increasing

increasing advantages of cultivated inclosures, and the sanguinary, ferocious, and solitary tribes fled the populous haunts of men, this dog then became a subject of peace, and a servant of shew; yet even now it is natural to conclude, he might be brought into use in some department of field-sports, if the breed could be preserved under proper subjection, as the whole race invariably attack sheep with the most inveterate fury and aversion.

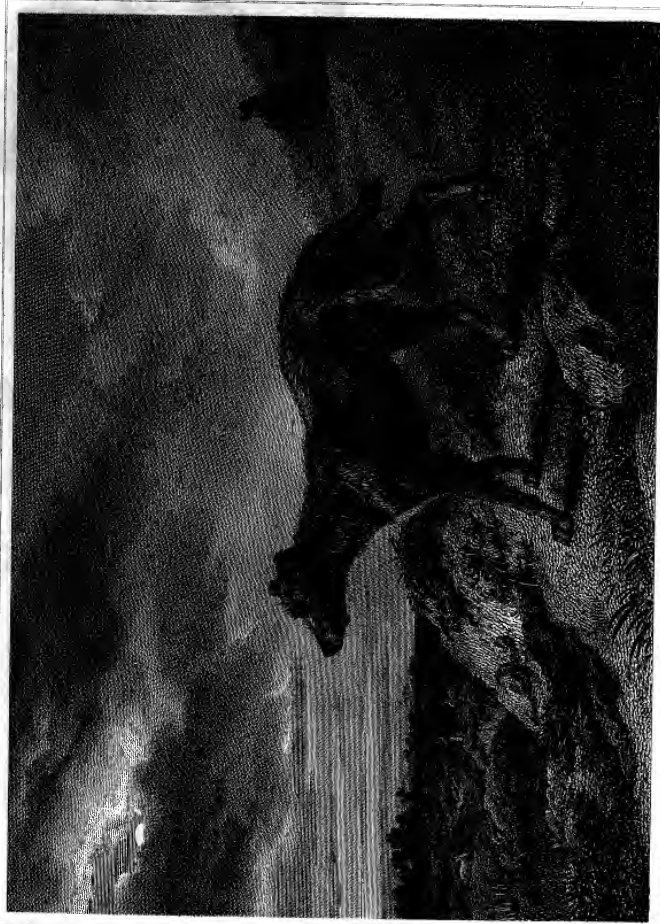


LURCHER.

LURCHER.

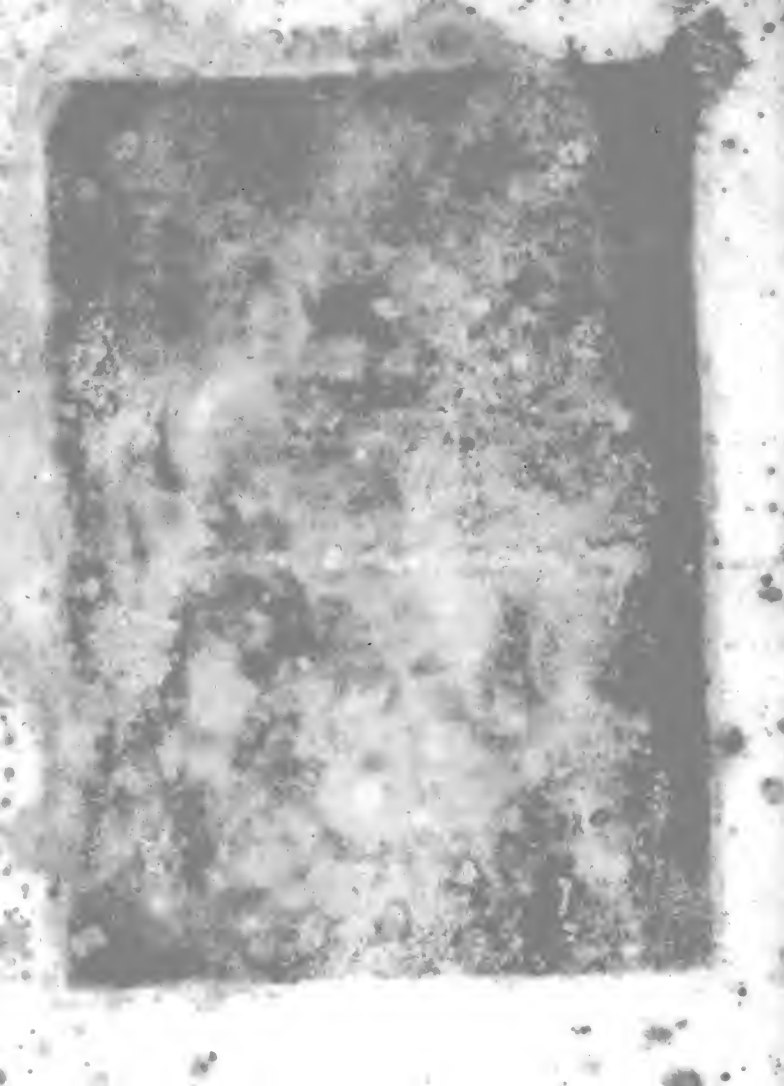
THE dog passing under this denomination is supposed to have been originally produced from a cross between the shepherd's dog and the greyhound, which from breeding *in and in* with the latter, has so refined upon the first change, that very little of the shepherd's-dog seems now to be retained in the stock, its patience, docility, and fidelity excepted. The lurcher, if thus bred, without any farther collateral crosses, is about three-fourths the height and size of a full-grown greyhound, and of a yellowish, or sandy-red colour, rough and wirey-haired, with ears naturally erect, but dropping a little at the point; of great speed, courage, sagacity, and fidelity: by which pedigree and appearance they are, neither more or less, than a bastard-greyhound, with some additional qualifications, but without their beauty. These dogs, little calculated for the sports of the great, and but ill-adapted to external show, or individual attraction, are seldom seen or known in the metropolis, or its environs; but, on the contrary, are the established favourites of the holders of small farms, with many of whom they officiate in the capacity of the shepherd's-dog, though they have speed and cunning sufficient to turn up a rabbit, or occasionally (when opportunity offers) to trip up a leveret half, or three parts grown, without the owners possessing either licence or certificate.

Though doomed to obscurity by the rusticity and unattracting singularity of his appearance, the lurcher is not without many of those innate merits by which the majority of his cotemporaries are more luckily and materially distinguished. Prevented by nature from every chance of dependent society with the great, he calmly resigns himself to the fate so evidently prepared for him, and so truly consonant to the predominant propensities of his disposition. Hence we find him almost invariably in the possession of, and in constant association with,
poachers



LURCHER.

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poachers of the most unprincipled and abandoned description; for whose services of nocturnal depredation of various kinds, they seem every way inherently qualified. Replete with the most placid and serene sagacity, he seems entitled to the utmost confidence that can be reposed in an animal of this description; conscious of the perfect state of his intellect, and convinced, to a certain degree, of the powers of comprehension, he absolutely appears to claim, and by his incessant attention to solicit some share of society with mankind, to whose injunctions and dictates he is implicitly subservient. That he may become the more clearly entitled to the privilege he implores, he is indefatigably attentive to every look and every gesture of his master, and avails himself of every watchful and anxious moment to aid him in the execution of his designs, to recline near him for his security, to assist him with his powers in whatever way they may be required, and to defend, as well as to adulate him: discovering experimentally, by these assiduous attentions, and repeated services, how much he continues to conciliate and accumulate the affections of his master, the better to captivate, and render him his firm friend and permanent protector.

Not favoured by nature with any of those fascinating externals which so evidently and fortunately attract attention, and command respect, he, nevertheless, possesses many interior qualities eminently adapted to insure the affection of those with whom he is destined to abide, and sedulously seeks to please the individuals to whom he visibly attaches himself with so much pleasure and sincerity. To the reflecting mind, and soul of sensibility, it is not the least gratifying sensation to observe and ruminate upon the crouching, humble, and obedient attitude with which he approaches to lay at the feet of his master his courage, his strength, and his talents, and there waits his commands to bring the whole, or either into action; for these he consults, interrogates, and supplicates him; a single glance of the eye is sufficient; and by that alone he frequently understands the signal of his will, and proves himself all zeal, all ardour, and all obedience. More sensible of kindness than of injury, he is neither repulsed or discouraged by the worst of treatment; on the contrary, patiently submits to it, seems to forget it; at least, if he does remember it, it appears only to increase his attachment. Instead of sullenly resenting correction, he willingly exposes himself to new trials of severity, and licks the hand that strikes him, making no other opposition than a mournful resignation,

resignation, and ultimately disarms his master's rage by patience and submission.

Rough and unruly, as the lurcher is by nature, he soon becomes tractable, and imbibes instruction in a shorter space of time than would readily be believed, and soon conforms himself to the various motions, manners, and pursuits of the person who commands him. Possessing these qualifications, it can create no surprize that this is the very race of dogs applicable to the aggregate wants of the poacher; in fact, they are so admirably adapted to the universality of the system and the services required, that no other breed of the whole species seem so peculiarly calculated for the purpose: they equal, if not exceed any other dog in sagacity, and are easily taught any thing that it is possible for an animal of this description to acquire by instruction. Some of the best-bred lurchers are but little inferior in speed to many well-formed greyhounds; rabbits they kill to a certainty, if they are any distance from home: and when a rabbit is started not far from a warren, the dog invariably runs for the burrow; in doing which, he seldom fails in his attempt, but generally secures his prey.

His qualifications, natural and acquired, go still somewhat farther; in nocturnal excursions he progressively becomes a proficient, and will easily and readily pull down a fallow-deer so soon as the signal is given for pursuit; which done, he will explore the way to his master, and conduct him to the game subdued, wherever he may have left it. To the success of poaching they are every way instrumental, and more particularly in the almost incredible destruction of hares; for when the nets are fixed at the gates, and the wires at the meuses, they are dispatched, by a single word of command, to scour the field, paddock, or plantation, which, by their running mute, is effected so silently, that a harvest is soon obtained, in a plentiful country, with very little fear of detection.

Having expatiated pretty largely upon the practices of poachers under the head of "Game-Laws," page 260, of volume the first, little more becomes necessary upon a subject so universally known, and, amongst the sporting-world, so generally understood. Upon the most mature and patient contemplation it appears, that, amongst the lower classes, the act of poaching is
considered

considered a crime of very little consequence, merely because it is in opposition to laws against which they have the most unprincipled and unqualified aversion; and fearless of informations, persecutions, prosecutions, pains, and penalties, are invincibly determined to disobey. The lower order of rustics, consisting of farmers labourers, whose cottages stand in remote and rural situations, amidst such manors as are abundant in game, are generally poachers of the most notorious description; and these people who once embark in so villainous and abandoned a combination, set the laws at defiance, upon the scarcity of informers, upon a plea that such a character is an enemy to the poor, and a pest to the necessitous classes of society. Thus then the laws for the protection and preservation of the game are, in a great degree, deprived of their intended effect, by a want of the very information by which only they can be rendered effectual; and this is the true and fundamental basis upon which the practice of poaching is so largely carried on with the most exulting impunity; for the most abandoned ruffian existing indulges in his own prostituted idea of integrity, and, in the language of Shakespeare, will laughingly exclaim, "a plague on it, I say, when rogues can't be true to one another."

Hence it is, that the great difficulty arises of procuring the instrumental assistance of informers, even under magisterial influence and exertion; for as some small spark of imaginary worth is sometimes retained in even the lowest character, so the very round-frocked rustic, who follows the plough, conceives himself superior to the stigmatized office of informer, and will never be induced, by any pecuniary compensation whatever, to make his labouring neighbour liable to a penalty, or punishment, for the acquisition, or destruction of any species of game that he himself is legally and peremptorily forbidden to partake of. It is an extraordinary fact which no syllogistic reasoning can wipe away, that to all acts of the legislative body the people of every description have submitted with less signs of discontent than to those enacted for the preservation of the game, which is a palpable and incontrovertible proof why they are so wantonly and publicly evaded. It is a circumstance too notorious to be concealed, that in all laws established for the promotion of public good, where a general and proportional contribution, or submission, has been demanded on the part of parliament, they have been, in general, quietly acquiesced in by its constituents; but in the subject of game there seems an evident exception; the proscription having been deemed partial by the farmers

and labouring dependants, it has, with the major part of that fraternity, excited so general a degree of discontent, that they feel no compunction at a connivance with the nocturnal depredator, upon a plea of resentful retaliation, that as they are excluded every possible chance of participation, they care not who has the game, it is evidently intended not to do them any good, and therefore one may as well have it as another.

By these philosophical reasonings, and logical disquisitions, they mutually shield the conscience of each other, and under these premises, every professed and incorrigible poacher sets at defiance the laws of his country, with a degree of effrontery not very dissimilar to the mode by which the smuggler and his abettors deprive the revenue of its due; and for the gratification of this villainous propensity, the poacher is not without a most confident and bare-faced argument in his defence. He, as well as they who employ and protect him, are always ready to urge, "that so long as a man is called upon, for whatever may be adequate to his own possessions, equivalent to the affluence of his neighbour, and requisite for the exigencies of the state, and the support of government, so long he contributes his support without repining; but he no sooner perceives the fortuitous affluence of that neighbour put him in possession of what he himself is deprived of, than nature revolts at such a partial construction of equity, and he, in his ill-judged resentment, proceeds, by nocturnal depredations, to undermine the injunctions of the law, determined, as he declares, to have his share of the game, and do himself that justice which his superiors have prevented his enjoyment of;" and, by the same theme, do thousands of their supporters and abettors justify their conduct, and publicly avow, "that as the legislature has found it convenient and political to prevent a certain unqualified class of society from killing, so like Sharpe, in the Lying Valct, 'having all the whoreson-appetites of a gentleman about them,' that appetite, so long as pecuniary property has its weight in the scale of society, must be gratified by buying; and, so long as bribery and corruption can be considered instrumental to the completion of a seat in the national senate, so long will the same means operate to the prevention of poaching-extirpation."

That the laws for the prevention of poachers are proper, safe, and salutary, every man of rationality and common comprehension must readily admit; because, in the present improved, enlightened, and refined state of society, such li-
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tigated claims and indefinite disputes, as eternally occurred, cried aloud for more effectual and permanent regulations. These, though adopted under the profound and extended wisdom of successive reigns, and successive parliaments, it now appears could not sanction those acts with infallible effect, so true it is, that perfection is not in human nature. In conformity with an axiom of no recent formation, "that there are few conveniencies to be obtained without an inconvenience," so, probably, it is not likely that, in any country, any statute could be enacted to afford, or diffuse a more unlimited dissatisfaction; so in those affected by the laws for the protection of the game, and the abolition of poachers, the farmer, his friends and relations, most likely, feel themselves disagreeably affected by collateral circumstances, which, perhaps, it is impracticable, or impolitic to remove. These people, whose friendly assistance and personal forbearance, in the breeding-seasons, are indispensibly necessary to increase the breed, and promote the preservation of the game (whose industry in the cultivation of lands, and punctuality in the payment of rents, form the central and fundamental part of all the landed greatness in the kingdom), are, unless they possess the necessary qualifications by the laws as they now stand, restricted from enjoying one hour's relaxation in the pursuit of game, bred and fed upon the very land for which they, in some cases, pay a most enormous rent, and call it, for such consideration, their own premises; though an absolute stranger (merely said to be) possessed of one hundred a year, at two hundred miles distance, may make his appearance, pursue and destroy that very game, and break down the fences, not only with impunity, but with an exulting kind of insulting consequence, conscientiously considering himself protected by the sanction of the law; a circumstance not critically calculated to conciliate the affection of the farmer, or his adherents, who cares but little for the depredation or the detection of the poacher, knowing a hare, pheasant, or brace of birds, are always at his service whenever he pleases to command them.

If a suppression of poaching in this country can ever be hoped for, or expected, the assistance of the farmer must constitute the very ground-work of such reformation; for, within himself, he is no enemy to the laws, or envious of others in the pursuit of game, from selfish or interested motives; on the contrary, he regards it with the most simple indifference, in respect to the game itself; nor would one in twenty of the farmers be at the trouble to kill, or the

expencc of bringing it to table ; but they conceive that the dictates of nature must be obeyed, and that as they are excluded a participation of what their land produces and supports, they feel themselves conscientiously justified in declining the least personal trouble in its protection. In this supine inactivity he latently indulges his private resentment ; for although he has infinite opportunities (and knows every neighbouring poacher as well as the poacher knows him), he never prosecutes a poacher, or holds forth the most distant clue by which he may be apprehended. Let the most candid disputarian be asked, what is this but tacitly becoming a conditional accessory to the offence against the laws, wrapping himself up in the warm and consolatory transposition of Shylock's exclamation : " The cunning you teach me, I will execute ; and it shall go hard but I'll better the example."

The better to gratify such corroding passion of resentment, the subordinate labourers and rustics, in both hay-making and harvest, too frequently indulge in the sympathetic sensation, and wickedly destroy, either in the eggs, or in infancy, those very articles of game, which they well know, and publicly declare, they have no legal chance of when they come to maturity. These too serious facts are by no means the ebullitions of caprice, or the effusions of fancy, but literally the sentiments of the parties described, who never hesitate in delivering their opinions whenever the subject is matter of either public or private disquisition. It may, therefore, when all considerations are taken into the aggregate, be concluded, that the combination already alluded to, destroys more game two-fold than the whole body of fair and legal sportsmen from one extremity of the kingdom to the other. This numerous and destructive class, conjunctively considered, unchecked by law, unrestrained by power, unawed by influence, insensible to fear, and impressively supported by pecuniary compensation, from their opulent abettors already described, annually kill and dispose of, at least, treble the quantity killed and taken by every other means whatever ; and what must, by every perfect sportsman, and every humane mind, be most sincerely regretted is, that even our legislators, in the utmost extent of their wisdom, may not be enabled to adopt an alternative, and therefore conclude, after the fallibility of successive experiments, it may be better

" to bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of."

In that season of the year when the traffic of game is in a state of sterility, and during those months when, by act of parliament, several articles of game are prohibited from being publicly seen, then the poacher is left with little choice for devastation; nothing is left him but the fish-ponds of the neighbouring manors, and the rabbit-warrens, to the last of which he never fails to do ample justice. Totally excluded from the ecstatic vibration sympathetically produced by the wonderfully instinctive, inspiring attitude of the pointer; the determined irresistible speed of the greyhound, the joyous crack of the spaniel, or the more noble burst of the enlivening pack, the poacher, at all hazards, encounters the chance of pecuniary punishment, and bodily imprisonment, rather than relinquish what he affects to consider his just claim to a participation of the sports of the field; not being enabled to pursue which by day, he is left without any alternative but the lurcher, and nocturnal stratagem for his consolation. Notwithstanding the rabbit, in its wild and natural state (not part of, or appertaining to a warren), is considered but of little intrinsic value, and generally killed, or taken, as a matter of public right, by every class who happen to find them; yet, those bred in warrens are the private property of the warren-farmers, whose premises are of very great extent, and rented from two to three or four hundred a year, for the protection of which the following laws were enacted, and are still in full force with those who offend against the statutes in such case made and provided.

By the common law, if rabbits come upon a man's grounds from a warren, or elsewhere, and damage his corn, or herbage, it is lawful for him to kill them; but he is not justified in killing them for feeding upon a common to which he may be entitled to commonage; for rabbits being beasts of warren, and profitable, the owner of the soil has a right to keep them there, and the commoner has no farther interest in the common than for the feed of his cattle; and as a commoner cannot kill them, much less can a stranger. Neither may he destroy or stop up the burrows; if, therefore, they be so numerous as to leave insufficient pasture for the commoner's cattle, his remedy will be to bring an action against the lord for surcharging the common.

In respect to the statute-law relating to these animals, it is provided, that if any person shall, by night or by day, unlawfully enter into any park, or grounds, inclosed with a wall, pale, or hedge, and used for the keeping of
conies

conies, and unlawfully hunt, take, chase, or slay, any conies within such park, or grounds, against the will of the owner, and shall be therefore convicted at the suit of the king, or the party, at the assizes or sessions, he shall suffer three months imprisonment, pay treble damages and costs to the party, to be assessed by the justices before whom he shall be convicted, and shall find sureties for his good demeanour for seven years, or remain in prison till such sureties may be found.

For the better prevention of hunting in warrens not inclosed, it is enacted by the 22 and 23 C. II. that if any person shall, at any time, wrongfully enter into any warren or ground, lawfully used for breeding, or keeping of conies, though the same be not inclosed, and shall chase, take, or kill, any conies against the will of the owner, or occupier, not having lawful title so to do, and shall be thereof convicted within one month after such offence, by confession, or oath of one witness, before one justice, he shall yield to the party grieved treble damages and costs, and suffer three months imprisonment, and so long after till he find sureties for his future good behaviour.

And by the 9 George I. it is provided, that if any person, being armed and disguised, shall appear in any warren or place where hares or conies are usually kept, or unlawfully rob any such warren, or shall (though not armed and disguised) rescue any person in custody for such offence, or procure any person to join him therein, he shall be guilty of felony without benefit of clergy. And by the 5 Geo. III. it is enacted, that if any person shall so enter into such warren or grounds in the night-time, and take, or kill any coney against the will of the owner, or occupier of the said ground, or shall be aiding or assisting therein, and be convicted thereof at the assizes, he shall be transported for seven years, or suffer such other lesser punishment by whipping, fine, or imprisonment, as the court shall award.

By the 22 and 23 of C. II. it is provided, that no person shall kill, or take in the night, any conies upon the borders of warrens, or other grounds, lawfully used for the breeding, or keeping of conies, except such person be owner of the soil, or lawful possessor of the ground whereupon such conies shall be killed, or be by him employed, upon pain of such satisfaction as the justices aforesaid shall award, and also pay to the overseers of the poor a sum not exceeding

ceeding ten shillings, or, in default thereof, be committed to the house of correction for a term not exceeding one month. And, by the same act, if any person shall be found setting, or using any snares, or other like engines for the taking of conies, and shall be thereof convicted, he shall be liable to the same penalties as in the last-mentioned section.

And by a previous act of James I. still in force it is enacted, that if any person not having hereditaments of the yearly value of 40l. or not worth in goods the sum of 200l. shall use any gun, or cross-bow, to kill conies, or shall keep any engine, hays, nets, ferrets, lurchers, or coney-dogs (except he have inclosed rabbit-grounds, the produce of which is worth forty shillings a year to be let); any other person having hereditaments in fee, in tail, or for life, of the yearly value of 100l. in his own right, or in right of his wife, may lawfully take from such offender all such engines or dogs, and keep the same to his own use.



WATER - SPANIEL.

THE dog passing under this denomination is held in high estimation in those counties replete with swamps, fens, moors, and rushy-bedded rivers; by the neighbouring inhabitants of which they are principally bred, for the enjoyment of sport with the wild-fowl, in those districts where they so plentifully abound. The best founded conjecture respecting this particular race is, that it originated in a cross between the large water-dog and the springing-spaniel, both of whom are already described; and this opinion is the more entitled to respect, as it seems to have received the stamp of confirmation in the almost indefinite variegations in both colour and size: in fact, the water-spaniel is so universally known in most parts of the kingdom, as well as the metropolis, that (beyond the exact representation of him by the conjunctive efforts of the artists in the plate annexed) they require but little minute description. Amidst the different degrees of size and colour, those rather below the pitch of mediocrity in stature and strength are entitled to the preference, as in willow-banks, and bushy, watery coverts, they find less difficulty in finding their game. With connoisseurs (or fresh-water sportsmen) some show, or affectation of superior intelligence is attempted; as they presume to predict certain shades of perfection are dependent upon the different colours of the different individuals; that the black is the best and the hardest; the spotted, or pied, the quickest of scent; and the liver-coloured the most rapid in swimming, and the most eager in pursuit; these, however, seem to be more the effect of fantastic fabrication, than the result of judicious investigation.

Notwithstanding this refined attempt at nice discrimination, candid consideration will prompt the more curious and inquisitive naturalist to believe the colour is by no means so material; but that good, or even bad, of all colours are

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to be found, so far as their qualifications in the field are concerned. Yet, if a uniform excellence of figure can be obtained, with an accumulation of necessary requisites for sport, the object, of course, becomes a subject of the more attracting perfection. Colour may be thought a mere matter of individual taste or fancy, exclusive of which, the body should not be too large, or the frame too heavy; the head should be round, ears long, broad, soft and pendulous, his eyes prominent and lively, neck short and thick, shoulders broad, legs straight, chine square, buttocks round and firm, thighs muscular, pastern-joints strong and dew-clawed, his fore-feet long and round, with his hair long, and naturally curled, not loose and shaggy; for the first indicates constitutional hardness and strength to bear the water, the latter a bodily tenderness of an opposite description.

As the attainment of superior excellence in the water-spaniel must be derived from the advantages of early education, so he cannot be too soon reduced to the trammels of obedience; at three or four months old, or, in fact, so soon as he is capable of obeying verbal injunctions, and of distinguishing between right and wrong, it will be necessary and proper to accustom him to the word of command in every little walk, or excursion, whenever it can be adopted; for, so soon as the principles of subordination are patiently inculcated, and clearly comprehended, he then becomes progressively adequate to the execution of the orders he receives. To couch, and lie close, not daring to stir from such posture but by command, are the leading steps to every subsequent instruction; the better to expedite and confirm this disposition to an implicit obedience, is to encourage him with great kindness when he does right, and not to be sparing in resentful reproaches when he does ill. Personal caresses, followed by gratifications of food occasionally, may be considered salutary rewards for unconditional submission, and, therefore, during his first lessons, it is proper not to let him eat but when he has given proof of progress to deserve it; by these means he will soon be able to discover that his bodily support in food is not derived from chance, but the palpable effect of his own well-doing. A perfect conviction of this will not only render him the more susceptible of instruction, and the more readily inclined to learn, but he will be the more likely to remember what he is taught without blows, to which end he should have but one teacher; for having more, that variety creates confusion, and, between different masters in teaching, he might, probably, learn no way well.

The next thing for consideration is the absolute necessity for using always the same words to denote the same thing, selecting, upon every occasion, those most applicable to the purpose; and, such words once adopted, should never be altered; for the auricular sensation of the canine being more acute than the human species, they advert more to the tone and sound than the English, so that a change from one word to another (to express the same meaning) frequently reduces the poor animal to an unintentional fault. The exclamations necessary in breaking and hunting the water-spaniel are very concise and expressive, "down!"—"lie on!"—"back!" and "lie lost!" are all that is required in wild-fowl shooting; and the introduction of more is superfluous, as the sport itself, to prove successful, should be proceeded upon with the greatest silence. These terms he soon becomes perfectly accustomed to, and readily obeys: the first implying to couch, or lie close; the second to try on for the game; the third to come behind; and the last to try hard for the recovery of the bird when killed or wounded, and sometimes lost in the sedges, rushes, or covert. The ceremony of instruction is therefore exceedingly short and conclusive; with very little trouble previous to being brought into the field, he is by caressing, correction, and advice, theoretically taught, what by practice and experience will soon be brought to habitual perfection.

To establish which, one qualification becomes indispensibly necessary; this is to fetch and carry with the greatest alacrity, and to execute both by the word of command; this is so easily taught with a glove, or any other little light article, that no kind of information can be necessary upon the subject; but if a dog of this description was not rendered perfectly obedient in bringing the birds when killed, the sportsman would, in water-shooting, be frequently prevented from recovering half the game he might happen to kill. In the attainment of this acquisition, care should be taken, in the commencement, to make him use a tender mouth, in want of which, the birds would be wantonly mangled and torn, so as to be rendered unfit for the table. When once completely broke, and expert in their business, they are indefatigably energetic in the pursuit and discovery of every kind of fowl whose place of nativity and residence is in or near an aqueous situation; and by the effect of minute observation, and the most ecstatic anxiety, they arrive at such a degree of emulative excellence as almost exceeds credibility; for upon flushing the bird, whatever it may be, the eye is fixed so invariably upon the flight, that instantaneously, upon the discharge of the gun, if the game is palpably stricken, he sets off with the most determined

determined speed to bring it to his master, and to obtain possession of it if possible, even before it reaches the ground.

Exclusive of the services rendered by this dog to the sporting-world in the field, there are other uses to which he becomes applicably appropriate, and where, in fact, his assistance can scarcely be done without. In the formation of a decoy for the taking of wild-fowl, there are several flues, or pipes of network, which lead up a narrow ditch that terminates with what is called a funnel-net. Over these pipes (which become gradually contracted from their first entrance) is a continued arch of netting suspended on hoops, it being necessary to have a pipe, or ditch, for almost every wind that can blow; as, upon this circumstance, it principally depends which pipe the fowl will take to, as the decoy-man is always under the necessity of keeping on the leeward side, to prevent his effluvia reaching the olfactory sensations of the ducks, of which, strange as it may appear, they are exceedingly irritable. During the whole length of each pipe, at different spaces, are placed skreens made of reeds, which are so situated, that it is impossible the wild-fowl should see the decoy-man before they have passed on towards the end of the pipe, where the purse-net is placed. The inducement to the wild-fowl to go up one of these pipes is, because the decoy-ducks trained to lead this way, after hearing the whistle of the decoy-man, or enticed by the hemp-seed, the latter will dive under water whilst the wild-fowl fly on, and are taken in the purse.

Sometimes, however, it happens, that the fowl are in such a state of sleeping and dozing, that they will not follow the decoy-ducks; there is then no alternative but to resort to the assistance of the dog, who, having been previously and properly taught his lesson, passes backwards and forwards between the reed-skreens (in which there are small holes both for the decoy-man to see, and larger at bottom for the dog to pass through); this attracts the attention of the fowl, who, not choosing to be interrupted, advance towards the busily employed animal, in a hope they may be able to drive him away. The dog all the time, by the direction of the decoy-man, plays among the skreens of reeds, and the wild-fowl not daring to pass by him in return, nor being able to escape upwards (on account of the net-covering), rush on into the purse-net, yet, notwithstanding their general alertness upon the watch, they are sometimes so insensible to the approach of danger, that even the appearance of the dog

will not attract their attention, if a red handkerchief, or something singular, is not put about him.

Decoys, so admirably calculated to supply the public with so delicious and useful an article, cannot be formed, nor need they be attempted, but where nature has been a little diffuse in her favors for the formation; marshy low-lands, plenty of water, and sequestered situations, are indispensibly necessary to a successful embarkation. Decoys are to be seen in different remote parts of the kingdom, but more plentiful in the northern and eastern counties than in any other; Lincolnshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire, and some parts of Warwickshire, are remarkable for some of considerable extent, from the principal of which, the markets of the metropolis are so plentifully and reasonably supplied. Lincolnshire seems to take the lead in its production, where the most astonishing number of ducks, wigeons, and teal, are constantly taken; for it appears, in a page of Pennant's British Zoology, that there were taken in one season a few years since, in only ten decoys, in the neighbourhood of Wainfleet, no less than 31,200 head, which were sent to the capital, exclusive of those sold and consumed in the neighbourhood. This immense produce renders them so cheap on the spot, that it is asserted by many, that several of the decoy-men would be content with a contract for years to deliver their ducks at Boston for tenpence a couple. So infatuated were the people of that country with the sport formerly, that it was customary in the fens to have an annual driving of young ducks before they took wing; numbers of people never failed to attend, and when assembled a vast tract was beat, and the young birds driven into a net placed at the spot where the sport was to terminate; by which so great a destruction took place, that an hundred and fifty dozen have been taken at one time, to which wanton and inhuman practice an end has been made some years since by the interposing power of parliament.

For the protection of decoys in general, and the preservation of those whose interest is concerned, it is enacted, by an act of Anne, that, if any person whatsoever shall, by hays, tunnels, or other nets, drive and take away any wild-duck, teal, wigeon, or other water-fowl, in the moulting-season (which, in the 10 Geo. II. is expressly specified between the first of June, and the first of October), such person being thereof convicted before a justice, shall forfeit five shillings, and the hays, nets, or tunnels used in driving, or taking such fowl,

fowl, shall be destroyed. In addition to this, it cannot be inapplicable to young or inexperienced sportsmen to be informed, that an action will lie against the disturber of a decoy, by firing a gun within a certain distance, or any other act of wilful injury whatever.

As the rough and awkward appearance, as well as the strong and unpleasant effluvia issuing from the shaggy coat of the water-spaniel, render him but of little domestic attraction; his offices of tenderness, fidelity, sagacity, and solicitous attention do not appear so individually predominant as in many other branches of the species, whose fortunate exterior luckily insures them a more favourable parlour reception: in which situation every merit is in hourly observation, and, of course, being in the daily eye of the family, every distinguishing trait is in constant memory, without a possibility of being doomed to oblivion. Although the dog under description is precluded every possibility of displaying ample proof of his possessing the same natural virtues as his cotemporaries, in consequence of his compulsive sequestration from the more polished scenes of society, yet proofs are not wanting of his being in equal possession of the attributes so universally applicable to spaniels of every description; in confirmation of which, one striking instance need only be adduced, and that extracted from a work replete with distinguishing marks of respectability, and thus introduced by the writer.

Will it be unworthy history—will it be a departure from the respect I owe my readers, to preserve the memory of a dog, who poured out his life with grief upon the ashes of the man who had been his own protector from the origin of his existence? A few days before the 9th Thermidor (the day on which Robespierre was overthrown), a revolutionary tribunal, in one of the departments in the north of France, condemned to death M. des R——, an ancient magistrate, and a most estimable man, *guilty*, at fifty leagues from Paris, of a conspiracy, which had not existed at St. Lazare. M. des R—— had a water-spaniel, of ten or eleven years old, which had been brought up by him from a puppy, and had never quitted him. Des R——, during his imprisonment, heard that his family were all dispersed by the system of terror—some had escaped by flight; others were arrested, and confined in distant goals; his domestics were dismissed; his house was buried in the solitude of the seals; his friends either abandoned him, or secreted themselves; every thing on earth was silent to him except *his dog*. This faithful animal had been repeatedly refused admittance into the
 prison;

prison; he had as repeatedly returned to his fond master's house, and as repeatedly found it shut. Overwhelmed and depressed with his mortifying and distressing situation, he took refuge under the roof of a neighbour, who knowing the dog, and commiserating his misery, received and caressed him; but, that posterity may judge soundly and truly of the times in which we have existed, it cannot be omitted to observe, that this humane man received him in secret, and with trembling, dreading lest his humanity for the poor, harmless, inoffensive animal, should lay a foundation for being himself conducted to the scaffold.

Once domesticated with so good a friend, he every day, and invariably at the same hour, constantly left the house, and went to the door of the prison; here being as usual denied admittance, he regularly passed an hour before it, and then returned. His invincible fidelity, and unalterable attachment, at length, operated so powerfully upon the hitherto unaffected feelings of the porter, that, in the moments of his relaxed rigidity, he permitted the poor suffering solicitant to enter; the dog saw his master, and the meeting may be conceived better—much better than it can be described, even by a pen of the most animating description. From the mutual and happy gratification of this temporary union it was difficult to separate them, but the goaler was peremptory in taking him away, and the discarded visitant returned to his retreat. He came back the next morning, and in future every day; each time he was admitted, and exchanged caresses with his master; in these complicated scenes of sorrow, and excess of despondency, he licked the hand of his dearest friend—wistfully examined in his face every sensation of his soul—licked his hand again—and again—then gratefully retired, without a prompter for his departure.

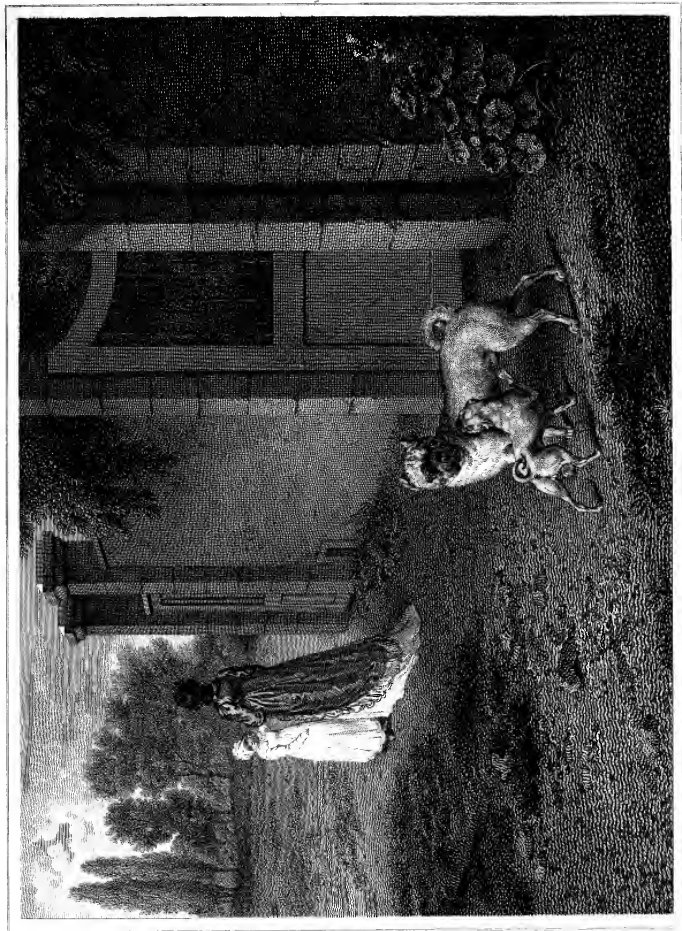
When the day of sentence arrived, notwithstanding the crowd—notwithstanding the guard, setting every obstacle at defiance, he made his way into the hall, and couched himself between the legs of the unhappy man, whom he was now about to lose *for ever*. The judges condemned this man; and—may my tears be pardoned for the expression which issues from them—they condemned him in the presence of his dog. They re-conducted him to prison with the most awful solemnity; but the dog, no more admitted, no more quitted the door. The fatal hour, at length, arrived—the prison-door is slowly seen to move—the unfortunate victim is seen to approach, and upon the very threshold his faithful

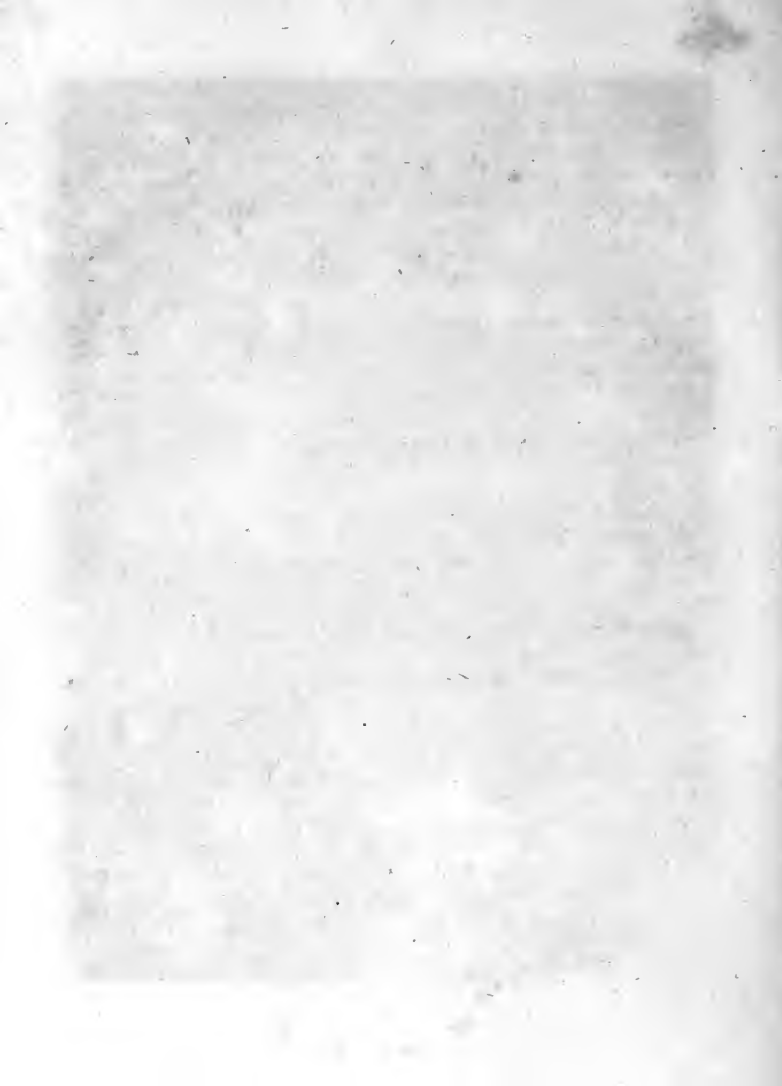
faithful dog is ready to receive him—He clings to his hand!—that very hand which, in a few moments more, can never be spread upon thy faithful and caressing head. He follows him in silent sorrow, and at the place of execution, may be said, to have “stared and looked aghast” at the “dreadful note of preparation.”—The axe falls—the master dies—but the affectionate tenderness and grief of the dog is far—very far beyond obliteration. The lifeless trunk is borne away—he walks by its side—the earth receives it—the tear of inexplicable sensibility exudes from the eye, and, as the last tribute to eternal affection, he makes his seat of sorrow on the grave.

Here, to the mind of ruminative reflection let it be known, he passed the first night—the next day—the second night; when the benevolent neighbour, unhappy at not seeing him, once more determines to risk his safety, and searches for the dog, and guessing, from the extent of his fidelity, the asylum he had chosen, finds him—caresses him—brings him back—and, by patient perseverance, makes him eat. In less than an hour the dog escaped, and regained his favourite place. Three months passed away, every morning of which he came to receive his sustenance, and then returned to the ashes of his master; but every succeeding day grew more sad, more emaciated, more depressed, and it was evident he was gradually approaching the latter end of this life. They endeavoured, by chaining him up, to wean him from this fruitless affection—but in vain—it was impossible to triumph over the predominant propensities of nature. He broke, or bit, through the bonds intended to restrain him—escaped—returned to the grave, and never quitted it more; it was in vain that they endeavoured to bring him back—they carried him food, but he would eat no longer. For four and twenty hours he was seen employing his weakened limbs in digging up the earth that separated him from the remains of the master he had so much loved. Energy contributed to prolong his strength, and he gradually approached the body; his labours of affection then vehemently increased; his efforts became convulsive; he shrieked in his struggles; his faithful heart gave way, and he breathed out his last gasp, as if exultingly conscious he had found his master.

PUG - DOG.

NOTWITHSTANDING every indefatigable investigation that has been made by the most celebrated and industrious naturalists, to discover the origin of every particular and distinct race of the canine-species, little more can be ascertained to an indisputable certainty, than that the whole of the present varieties, from the stately mastiff to the diminutive pug, centered in one and the same dog at the first creation. That every virtue, faculty, size, and shape, which we find, or improve in every dog upon earth, were originally comprehended and included in the first parents of the species; and that the great variety we observe in them is the natural product of the climate, or the accidental effect of soil, food, or situation, and, beyond a doubt, have frequently been the issue of human care, curiosity, or caprice: yet there is a limitation, a fixed bar to the utmost efforts of human exertion, a kind of *ne plus*, or termination of our endeavours, to which we are stinted; nor can any conjunctive device, or invention, add one new species to the works of the creation. The wise dispensations of Nature are uniform in all her operations, and not to be corrected, or counteracted by the presumptuous interference of confident and shallow-sighted mortals. In spite of every art our mules will be barren, nor can the most curious, or cunning projector produce one amphigeneous animal on earth that can be made to increase and multiply. Even to the most reflecting mind there must appear a distinct specific difference in living creatures of every description; the horse, the dog, the bear, the goat, and many other animals, however diversified by art, or accident, in size and figure, will ever discover some distinguishing or predominant traits peculiarly appertaining to those names or characters: and, above all, their individual appetites and powers of generation will evidently prompt them to display their natural relation to each other.





This is conceived, by all who have written upon the subject, the most incontrovertible argument why every race of dogs are of one original species; for every close and attentive observer must know, that no deformity, disproportion, or dissimilitude, can hinder any one of that name from courting, following, or receiving the other; nor their mongrel offspring from enjoying the common nature and faculties of the species. Without adverting to the conjectural theses of Buffon, which, in fact, afford no matter of information or elucidation in respect to the subject before us, it is clear that the pug-dog, from its singularity, affords more doubt in the certainty of its origin than almost any one of the species. It is asserted by some, that the genuine breed was introduced to this island from Muscovy, and that they were, originally, the undoubted natives of that country; others assert the pug to have been produced by a commixture between the English bull-dog and the little Dane, calling such races simple mongrels, as coming from the mixture of two pure races; but there are other dogs which may, with propriety, be called double mongrels, because they come from a mixture of a pure race, and of one already mixed. The shock-dog, for instance, is a double mongrel, as being produced by the pug and the small Dane. The dog of Alicant is also a double mongrel, as coming from the whelp and small spaniel; and the Maltese, or lap-dog, is a double mongrel produced by the small spaniel with the barbet; the spaniel and the little Dane produce the lion-dog, which is very scarce.

Of all domestic animals, the dog may be truly said to be almost the only one whose fidelity may be put to the proof; the only one which invariably knows his master and his friends; the only one which, as soon as an unknown person arrives, perceives it; the only one which perfectly understands his own name, and obeys the injunction when called upon; the only one which, when he has lost his master, and cannot recover him, regrets his loss by the most expressive lamentations; the only one which, in a long journey, a journey which, perhaps, he has never gone before, can remember the intricacies of the road, and effect his return; the only one, in fact, whose talents are generally good, and whose education is seldom ineffectual. To this aggregate of qualifications it may likewise be added, that the dog, in the general acceptance of the different species of animals, is the one whose understanding is most susceptible of impressions, and most easily taught by moral causes; he is also, above all other creatures, most subject to the variety and other alterations caused by physical influences. The temperament, the faculties, and habits of the body vary prodigiously, and

the form is not invariably uniform ; in the same country one dog is very different from another, and the species is quite different in itself in different climates ; of which versatility and contrariety there cannot be a more palpable proof than in the subject before us ; for, perhaps, in the whole catalogue of the canine-species, there is not one of less utility, or possessing less the powers of attraction than the pug-dog, whose representation is so accurately depicted in the plate annexed ; applicable to no sport, appropriated to no useful purpose, susceptible of no predominant passion, and in no way whatever remarkable for any extra eminence, he is continued from era to era for what alone he might have been originally intended, the patient follower of a ruminating philosopher, or the adulating and consolatory companion of an old maid.



DROVER'S-DOG; OR, CUR.

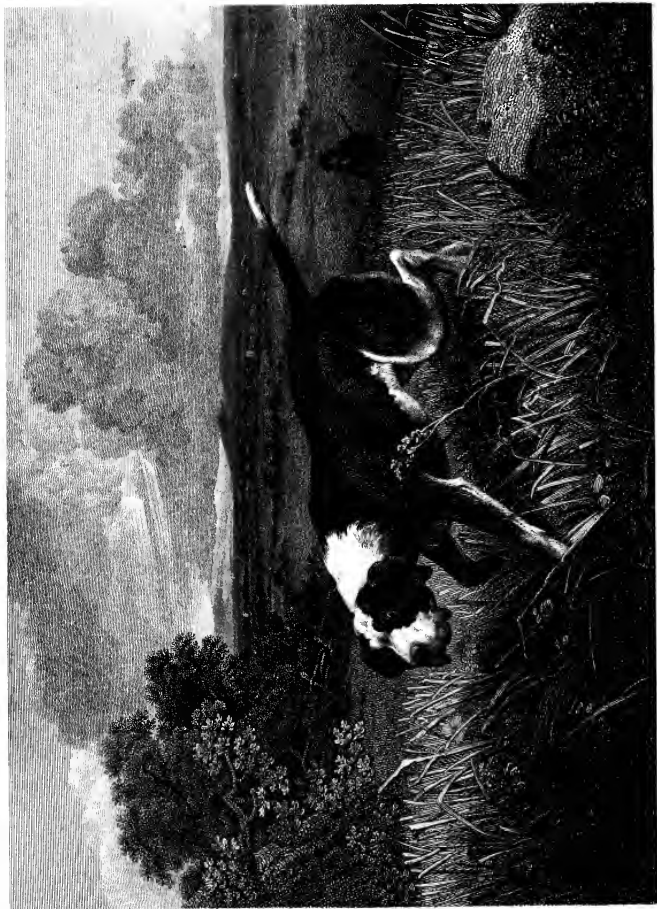
THIS dog, though with some points of similitude, is both larger and more ferocious than the shepherd's-dog, to whom, in appearance, he evidently seems a kin, but stands considerably higher upon his legs, with a much more commanding aspect. In colour, the cur is of a black, brindled, or of a dingey-grizzled brown, having generally a white neck, and some white about the belly, face, and legs; sharp nose; ears half pricked, and the points pendulous; coat mostly long, rough, and matted, particularly about the haunches, giving him a ragged appearance, to which his posterior nakedness greatly contributes, the most of this breed being whelped with a stump-tail. The simplicity of his exterior seems admirably adapted to the easy insignificance of his destination, as it would be neither more or less than a prostitution of ability, to employ a dog of superior powers and penetration in the trifling office of urging tame cattle forward, in a beaten-path, where both speed and energetic action are so little required.

This dog, from his formation and complicated appearance, was, in its origin, most probably engendered between the shepherd's-dog and the lurcher, with an intermediate cross of the mastiff, or Dane; his restless habit, shuffling gait, vociferating clamour, beggarly approach, and his perpetual return to the voice and action of his master, seem to bespeak him incapable of any great design, or regular chain of action. Held in no great degree of estimation, as possessing no distinguishing traits of utility, he is seldom seen but in the hands of drovers, carriers, and travelling adventurers; for his use being solely appropriate to a single purpose, the breed is cultivated merely by the farmer, or grazier, to whom alone he's useful in watching and driving their cattle; as well as to their delegate, the drover, in driving their cattle to market, or sheep to the slaughter. In every other respect, this dog is harmless and inoffensive; sagacious, active, and fond of the employment for which he has been selected.

In travelling with cattle, if a drove become huddled together, so as to retard their progress, he resentfully dashes amongst, and separates them 'till they form a line, and travel more commodiously to each other. If a sheep is wild, or refractory, he soon overtakes him, and seizing him by the ear, or fore-leg, speedily brings him to the ground.

The bull, or ox, he forces to obedience by baying and baiting, most dexterously avoiding their heels and their horns. Knowing, by strict and attentive observation, the extent of his master's premises, he becomes a rigid centinel in the execution of the trust reposed in him; never suffering their own cattle to break the bounds allotted them, or permitting the cattle of others to intrude. The officious and depredating hog he indignantly shakes by the ear, and obliges him to retreat with the most vociferating proofs of repentance. This dog, in uniformity with the subordinate rustic with whom he acts, ranks but low in the estimation of society, submitting to degrading rebuffs, blows, and kicks innumerable, with the most humiliating and philosophic patience; notwithstanding which severities, he is a serene and faithful follower of fortune with his employer, and is seldom without the power and ability to render assistance in any little poaching excursion that may be occasionally entered into at certain seasons of the year.





SPANISH POINTER.

SPANISH - POINTER.

THE dog originally passing under this denomination, formerly so frequently seen, and so well remembered by the elder branches of the present generation, is so completely changed by the various speculative and experimental crosses with the breed of our own country (including pointers, setters, fox-hounds, and spaniels), that one of the race, in its pure and uncontaminated state, is very rarely to be found. Every trait upon record respecting their appearance in England is, that they were, in very early ages, introduced from Spain; and that they were the natives of that country from whence their name was derived. The Spanish-pointer in shape, make, strength, seeming stupidity, and bodily tardiness, is a perfect specimen of the most consistent uniformity; well adapted in all those qualifications to the haughty, somniferous, majestic parade and dignity of the lofty Spaniard, but very inadequate to the life, spirit, agility, and impatient energy of the English sportsman. This race of dog, in his natural and unimproved state, is a mass of inactivity, as is evidently perceptible by his shape and make; in every point of which is displayed, the very reverse of speed and action, objects so truly necessary in almost every sport of the field. The pointer of this description is short in the head, broad in the forehead, wide in the nose, expansive in the nostrils, simply solicitous in aspect, heavy in the shoulders, short in the legs, almost circular in the form of the carcass, square upon the back, strong across the loins, and remarkably so in the hind-quarters. Although this breed, like the English-pointer (by the many collateral aids so much improved), are produced of various colours, yet the bold brown liver-colour and white are the most predominant. These dogs, slow as they are, and accustomed to tire with quick work before the intended sport of the day is half over (with those who are in the prime of life, and adequate to the customary fatigue), are yet truly applicable to the purposes of those who are advanced in years, or labouring under infirmities, feel themselves unable to get across a country in the way they could in their earlier years.

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POMERANIAN; OR, WOLF-DOG.

THE dog so called in this country is but little more than eighteen or twenty inches in height, and is distinguished by his long, thick, and rather upright coat, forming a most tremendous ruff about the neck, but short and smooth on the head and ears; they are mostly of a pale yellow, or cream-colour, and lightest on the lower parts. Some are white, some few black, and others but very rarely spotted; the head broad towards the neck, and narrowing to the muzzle; ears short, pointed, and erect; nose and eyes mostly black; the tail large and bushy, invariably curled in a ring upon the back. Instances of smooth, or short-coated ones are very rarely seen; in England he is much more familiarly known by the name of *fox-dog*, and this may originally have proceeded from his bearing much affinity to that animal about the head; but, by those who in their writings describe him as a native of Pomerania, he passes under the appellation of the Pomeranian-dog.

In general opinion, as a house-dog, he is held but in slender estimation, being by nature frivolous, artful, noisy, quarrelsome, cowardly, petulant, and deceitful, snappish and dangerous to children, without one predominant property of perfection to recommend him. This breed of dogs are common in Holland, and have been occasionally introduced as a hieroglyphic by the caricaturist partizans of the House of Orange (in opposition to the pug) to ridicule the patriots in their political disputes. There is this peculiarity in the coat of this dog, his hair, particularly the ruff about his neck, is not formed of hairs calculated to form the surpentine, or line of beauty, but is simply a semi-circle, which, by inclining the same way in large masses, give him a respectable and attracting appearance; and, although they do not betray so great a degree of fondness and affection for their owners as some others of the species, yet they are not to be readily, or easily seduced. The largest of these dogs are
used

used for draught in different countries, and it may, with well-founded reason, be presumed, that to these, or a race somewhat similar, be attributed Tooke's account of dogs in his View of the Russian empire.

He says, it is the dog of whom numerous packs are found with almost all the nomadic nations, and are used for draught, particularly by the Kamtshadales, and the Ostiaks, by the Eastern Samoyedes, the Tunguses, and by some stems of the Mandshuses: an employment to which they are destined even among the Russians in the government of Irkutsk, where, in some places, they supply the place of post-horses. But no where is the breed of this animal of such importance and necessity as in Kamtshatka, where they constitute the only species of tame domestic animals, and where it is impossible to dispense with them, as in other countries with horned-cattle, or the horse. The Kamtshadale-dogs are, in size and shape, little different from the large Russian boor-dog, but their manners are almost totally changed by their course of diet, training, and treatment. They are held to be the best, and most long-winded runners of all the Siberian dogs; and their spirit is so great, that they frequently dislocate their joints in drawing, and their hair is often tinged with red from the extravasation of blood occasioned by violent exertions. They possess so much strength, that four of them (which are commonly harnessed to a sledge) will draw, with ease, three full grown persons, with a pood and a half of luggage. The ordinary loading of four dogs amounts to five or six poods, and a single man can in this manner, in bad roads, go thirty or forty, but in good roads from eighty to a hundred and forty versts in a day.

The deep snow which the dogs run over without breaking in; the steep mountains, and narrow passes in the vallies; the thick impassable forests; the numerous streams and brooks that are either not all, or but slightly frozen over; the storms which drift the snow, and efface every vestige of a track;—all these circumstances together would prevent the travelling with horses, had they ever so many of them, in winter at least; and it is therefore very probable that the dog, even under the highest pitch of cultivation to which Kamtshatka can attain, would be always the principal and most serviceable animal for draught. Accordingly, the taste for dogs here is as great as for horses elsewhere; and considerable sums are not unfrequently expended in the purchase of them, and on the elegance of their trappings. The manner in which these animals are

trained to their singular employment has so powerful an influence on the individual properties of the whole species, that the description of it will not prove uninteresting even to the philosophic reader. For proper draught-dogs, the choice is principally made of such as have high legs, long ears, a sharp muzzle, a broad crupper, a thick head, and who discover great vivacity. As soon as the puppies are able to see, they are thrown into a dark pit, where they remain shut up till they are thought able to undergo a trial. They are then harnessed with other seasoned dogs to a sledge, with which they scamper away with all their might, being frightened by the light, and by so many strange objects. After this short trial, they are again confined to their gloomy dungeon, and this practice is repeated till they are inured to the business of drawing, and are obedient to their driver.

From this moment begins their hard and miserable course, only alleviated by the short recreation the summer affords them. As in this season they are of no service, nobody cares about them, but they enjoy a perfect liberty, which they principally employ in assuaging their hunger. Their sole nutriment consists of fish, which they watch for all this time by the brinks of rivers, and which they catch with the greatest cunning and dexterity; and when they have plenty of this food, like the bears, they devour only the heads, and leave the rest behind. This respite, however, continues no longer than October, when every proprietor assembles his dogs, and ties them up in a place adjoining his dwelling, where they are kept upon spare regimen, to bring down their superfluous fat, that they may be the more adequate to the task of labour so soon to begin. With the first fall of snow commences their time of torment; and then day and night is heard their dreadful howling, in which they seem to bewail their miserable fate. During the hard lot these animals have to bear the winter through, their food consists only of soured, or dried-fish, in a state of corruption, and even this they are only allowed as the better diet to refresh and invigorate them; as it is observed that they become nice, and more easily tired on receiving this delicacy shortly before they set out on a journey.

Their ordinary sustenance is mouldy dried-fish, a treat at which they can seldom satisfy their appetite without bleeding-jaws, as the greater part of it consists in bones and teeth only. This hard usage they, however, generally revenge, by the amazing voracity which spares no object on which they can lay hold.

hold. With the most depredating cunning they wait the lucky unwatched moment for an opportunity to mount the ladder, by which alone access can be obtained to the aerial cupboard of their tyrannical master, and with unnatural rapacity prey upon his thongs, straps, leathers, and other objects of attraction wherever they are to be found: and the depravity of their taste is such, that rarely can a Kamtshadale incline in obedience to the ignobler calls of nature, without first arming himself with a whip, as at all times a ravenous pack is ready to contend (even to blood) for his loathsome leavings. Not only in their voracity, however, but in the whole individuality of their brutal behaviour, this depravity is ever conspicuous. Instead of the vigilance, fidelity, and attachment which the dog every where shews for his feeder, and therefore has, in all nations, and in all ages, been made the symbol of these virtues, the Kamtshadale-dog has assumed the spirit and character of a crafty knave.

Timid and sullen he sneaks, prowling alone; still leering in every direction, consciously suspicious of some intentional severity, or injury, which he seems to anticipate. It is only by artifice, stratagem, and deception, that they can be harnessed to the sledge; while which is doing, they all stretch their heads upwards, and set up a melancholy yell; but as soon as the sledge is in motion, they are suddenly mute, and then, by a thousand artful tricks, seem to vie with each other to weary the patience of the driver, or resolved to bring his life into jeopardy. On coming to a scene of danger, they most cunningly and incredibly redouble their speed, where, to avoid being precipitated down a steep mountain, or plunged into a deep river, he is commonly forced to abandon the sledge, which seldom fails of being broken to pieces, and he only finds it again at the next village, if the dogs have not been so lucky as to set themselves entirely at liberty. Although the dog now under description is so degenerate from the rest of his kind, yet he is not by any means deficient in qualities by which he may render himself equally serviceable to man when he is so disposed. Besides the advantage of being able, with these light creatures, to travel the trackless mountains, and proceed along the surface of deep ridges of snow; they are also excellent guides on the dreary way, as in the most pitchy-darkness, and in the most tremendous storms of snow, they readily find the place to which their master is bound, or intends to go.

If the storm is so violent, that unable to proceed, they have no alternative but to remain on the spot, which sometimes happens, the dogs will lay upon
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and round the body of the master, to assist by their warmth in the preservation of his life. They possess, likewise, an instinctive sagacity of giving infallible notice when storms are approaching, by scratching holes in the snow, and endeavouring to shelter themselves beneath it. By these, and many other good qualities, the Kamtshadale-dogs by far overbalance the casual mischiefs they do in their occasional petulance and perverseness; and, in fact, to what other cause than the tyrannical treatment they receive from hard-hearted man is the blame of this perversity to be ascribed? Great as their deceptions and transgressions may be, they exult in the comparison between the cold and selfish ingratitude, which animals so degraded, changed to perpetual bondage and stripes, endure from mankind. Scarcely has the Kamtshadale-dog, worn out by the weight of his bodily sufferings, arrived at a premature old age, in which he is no longer adequate to the task of labour in a sledge, than his inexorable master exacts of him the last surrender he is able to make—his *skin*: and the poor unfortunate, cruelly-treated slave, who, during his short, laborious, and painful life, has so often imparted his animal-warmth to his merciless tyrant, affords him similar service, and in the same manner even after his death.

As various speculations have been formed, and different opinions promulgated by successive naturalists in respect to the doubtful commixture between the canine-species and the wolf, it cannot prove inapplicable to observe, that the majority of those who have written upon the subject, perfectly agree in placing the wolf and the dog in the same class; and, from the slightest inspection of only its external form it is apparent, that a wolf is, in every respect, a dog in its state of natural freedom. The shape of its head, indeed, is somewhat different; and its eyes being fixed in a more oblique position, give it a look of more savage ferocity; its ears are sharp and erect; its tail long, bushy, and bending upwards between its hind-legs; its body is stronger than that of almost any dog in existence; its jaws and teeth larger, and its hair thicker and coarser. The internal structure of these animals is perfectly similar; they copulate in the same manner as the dog, and its immediate separation is prevented by the same cause: the time of gestation is also nearly the same, and, from a variety of successful experiments related by Dr. Hunter, there is no longer any reason to doubt that the wolf and the dog will copulate together, and produce an intermediate species capable of subsequent propagation. For every kind of animal-food, the appetite of the wolf is excessively voracious; and though nature has furnished it with every requisite for pursuing and subduing its prey,

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it is often reduced to the last extremity, and sometimes even perishes for want of food. So great is the general detestation of this destructive creature, that all wild-animals endeavour to avoid it, and generally escape it by their superior swiftness.

When pressed with hunger, however, he braves danger, and attacks those animals which are, in a certain degree, domesticated, and under the protection of man, particularly such as he can carry away, lambs, sheep, or even dogs themselves; for all animal-food, at such times, becomes equally acceptable. If success attends his excursion, he often returns to the charge, unless having been wounded, or closely pursued by the shepherds, or dogs, he secretes himself by day in the thickest coverts, and only ventures out at night; but, at last, when his necessities are urgent, he confidently opposes the chance of almost certain destruction; in such dilemma, he attacks women and children, and sometimes ventures to fall upon men, becomes furious by his continual agitations, and ends his life in misery and madness. Possessed of great muscular strength, particularly in the neck and jaws, he carries off a sheep in his mouth without letting it touch the ground, and runs much faster with it than the shepherds who pursue him; so that nothing but the dogs can overtake, or compel him to quit his prey. He bites most severely, and always with greater vehemence in proportion as he is less resisted; for he most sagaciously uses precautions with such animals as attempt to stand upon the defensive; and is admitted to be instinctively a coward, as he never fights but when under the necessity of satisfying his hunger, or making good his retreat. When wounded by a bullet, he is said to cry out; yet, when surrounded by pursuers, and attacked with clubs, or other weapons, he never howls, but defends himself in silence, and generally dies as hard as he lived.

Buffon, in opposition to the opinion advanced by other writers, respecting the affinity between the wolf and the dog, has these remarks—that the wolf, as well externally as internally, so nearly resembles the dog, that he seems modelled upon the same plan; and yet he only offers the reverse of the image. If his form be similar, his nature is, however, different; and, indeed, they are so unlike in their dispositions, that no two animals can have a more perfect antipathy to each other. A young dog shudders at the sight of a wolf; a dog who is stronger, and knows his strength, bristles up at his approach, testifies his animosity,

mosity, attacks him with courage, endeavours to conquer, or put him to flight, doing all in his power to rid himself of an object that is so perceptibly hateful to him. They never meet without flying from, or fighting with each other; if the wolf proves the strongest, he tears and devours his prey: the dog, on the contrary, is more generous, and contents himself with the victory. The horse seems the only tame animal that can defend itself against their fury and voracity, all those of a weaker kind become their prey; even man, as before observed, often falls a victim to their rapacity, and it is said, and with a very great degree of probability, that when they have once tasted of human blood, they prefer it to that of any other creature. Hence many superstitious stories have originated respecting the wolf; and hence the Saxons supposed that it was possessed by some evil spirit, and called it the *ware-wolf*, as an animal of which it was necessary to be *aware*; and the French peasants, for the same reason, call it the *loup-garo*. In confirmation of which abhorrence, the poet has thus beautifully depicted the fury of this insatiate animal:—

“ By wint’ry famine rous’d, from all the tract
 “ Of horrid mountains, which the shining Alps,
 “ And wavy Alpine, and Pyrenees,
 “ Branch out, stupendous, into distant lands,
 “ Cruel as death! and hungry as the grave!
 “ Burning for blood! bony, and ghaunt, and grim!
 “ Assembling wolves, in raging troops descend;
 “ And, pouring o’er the country, bear along
 “ Keen as the north-wind sweeps the glossy snow:
 “ All is their prize.”————

When in whole droves they join in the cruel work of general devastation, roaming through the village, and attacking the sheep-folds; as well as digging the earth from under doors, where entering with the greatest ferocity, they destroy every living thing before their departure. If a comparison may be drawn between the wolf and the dog (which the wolf is admitted so much to resemble), it must be remembered that the dog, even in his savage state, is not known to be cruel, or even unmerciful to an opponent when subdued; he is at all times easily tamed, reduced to mildness and obedience, and continues unalterably firmly attached to his master. The wolf, on the contrary, if taken young, becomes readily tamed, but is seldom or ever known to have been rendered susceptible

ceptible of any friendly attachment. Nature is stronger in him than education; he resumes, with age, his natural dispositions, and returns, so soon as he can, to the woods from whence he was originally taken. Dogs, even of the dullest kinds, seek the company of other animals; they feel a propensity to follow, and associate with other creatures; the wolf, on the contrary, is the enemy of all society, he shuns company as he would a pestilence, and affords no proof of desire to mix, for any length of time, with his own kind. When seen in packs together, it is not so upon the score of peaceful society, but a combination for war, or depredation; they testify their hostile intentions by their loud and incessant howlings; and, by their fierceness, denote a project already planned for some conjunctive exploit, as the attack upon a bull, a stag, a formidable dog, or some expedition extraordinary to be achieved. The instant which is accomplished, the temporary convention is at an end; they part, and every individual returns in silence to his solitary retreat. In corroboration of which, there is not any strong attachment even between the male and female; they seek each other but once a year, and then their meeting is but of short duration.

Buffon has promulgated a different opinion to those who aver, "that the weeks of gestation between the wolf and the canine-bitch are nearly the same;" the former asserting, that the difference, in the duration of the pregnancy of the she-wolf, who goes with young above an hundred days, and the bitch, who goes but a few more than sixty, proves that the wolf and the dog, so different in disposition, are still more so in one of the principal functions of the animal œconomy. The wolf generally brings forth five or six, and, when older, even eight or nine at a litter. The cubs are brought forth, like those of the bitch, with the eyes closed; the dam suckles them for some weeks, and teaches them betimes to eat flesh, which she prepares for them by chewing it first herself. They do not leave the den where they have been nurtured 'till seven or eight weeks old; and it is not 'till they are about ten or twelve months old, and 'till they have shed their first teeth, and completed the new, that the dam thinks them enabled to shift for themselves. Then, when they have acquired arms from nature, and have learned industry and courage from her example, she withdraws her maternal attention, and declines all future care of them, being again engaged in bringing up a new progeny; and from every possible investigation it appears, that from two to three years is required for the attainment of full-growth, and that they generally live to the age of twenty. Like many of the

the canine-species, as he grows old he grows grey, and his teeth wear like those of most other animals in proportion to the time of using. The wolf sleeps most when his frame is filled, or when he is fatigued, rather by day than night, and is always, like the dog-tribe, easily awaked. He seems habitually thirsty, and drinks frequently; in times of drouht, when there is no water to be found in the trunks of trees, or in pools about the forest, he comes often in the day down to the brooks, or streams in the plain, to allay his thirst. Although very voracious, he retains the power of supporting hunger for a long time, and can, without much disquietude, live four or five days in succession without food, provided he is plentifully supplied with water.

If caught in a pit-fall, or subdued and taken by any other device, he is for some time so frightened, so ashamed, and so astonished, that he may be instantly killed without offering to resist, or taken alive with very little apprehension of danger. In that moment of victory, it is no difficult business to clap a collar round his neck, muzzle him, and drag him along, without his displaying the least signs of anger or resentment. At all other times he has his senses in great perfection, and will scent a carcass at more than a league distance; he can also perceive living animals a great way off, and can follow them a long time upon scent. Whenever he leaves his den, he takes care to go out against the wind; and when he reaches the extremity of the wood, he remains there some time, exerting every precaution in endeavouring to discover, by his smell on all sides, the emanations that may come from either his enemy or his prey, which he very nicely distinguishes to the greatest certainty. He prefers those animals he kills himself to those he may, at any time, happen to find dead; and yet he does not disdain the latter, though ever so much infected or putrefied, when no better is to be had. And it is asserted, upon the best authority extant, that they have been known to follow armies, and after the contending parties have retired, to assemble upon the field of battle, tearing up such bodies as have been carelessly interred, and devouring them with the most insatiable avidity.

The wolf has, in all ages, been considered the most savage enemy of mankind, and rewards have always been offered for his destruction. Various methods have been formerly adopted to rid the world of this rapacious invader; pit-falls, traps, and poison, have all been employed against him, and, happily
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for these islands, the whole race here has been long extirpated. The better and more expeditiously to effect which purpose in England, King Edgar remitted the punishment of certain crimes, on producing a certain number of wolves-tongues; and in Wales, the tax of gold and silver was commuted for an annual tribute of wolves-heads. Some centuries after, they increased to such an alarming degree as to become a particular object of royal attention, and considerable rewards were offered for their destruction. Camden relates, that certain persons held their lands on condition of hunting and destroying the wolves which infested the country; whence they were called the *wolf-hunt*. In the reign of Athelstan, wolves abounded so much in Yorkshire, that a retreat was built at Flixton to defend passengers from their attacks. As the ravages of these animals were greatest during the winter, particularly in January, when the cold was severest, our Saxon ancestors distinguished that month by the term of *wolf-month*. A variety of well-authenticated cases, in which men, women, and children have been attacked (and in some instances destroyed) in different parts of France and Germany, might be introduced from recitals upon record; yet, as the wolf has been so long extirpated in this country, and such occurrences have generally appeared in the public diurnal and periodical-prints, they lay the less claim to repetition upon the present occasion.

Anxious, as the major part of the sporting world have ever been, to acquire some minute and authentic particulars respecting the mode of hunting wolves in this country, previous to their extirpation, but without any information to be implicitly relied on; will gladly accept, as a substitute, the following anecdote from the recent production of the Rev. Mr. Daniel, who says:—In point of numbers, the exportation of fox-hounds from this country to France was, at one period, very considerable. The compiler requested a friend, who had his regular establishment of fox-hounds in France, to inform him how far the chase of the wolf was successful, or likely to be so, when prosecuted by the vigour and emulous speed of the English fox-hound, and his reply was to the following purport: “You wish me to communicate my observations on wolf-hunting, which I shall most readily do, but must first apprise you, that neither with my own hounds, which I took with me to France in 1774, nor with the hounds of Count de Serrent, which were under my direction some years before, did I hunt the wolf by choice. The Count de Serrent’s pack consisted of about thirty couple of French-hounds, larger than the English stag-hound, fifteen couple

couple of them were kept for stag-hunting only, and with the remainder they hunted the wild-boar and the wolf.

The first time I ever met the Serrent hounds was at a wolf-hunt, where a bitch-wolf had littered in some woods of the Count's, far distant from the Forest; the woods were nearly surrounded by the officers of the Carabiniers, each person with a double-barrelled gun, some with small bayonets fixed, and all were loaded with ball. As soon as each sportsman had taken his station, the huntsman and hounds entered the wood; they found instantly, the hounds divided, and I (who was unarmed) tally'd the old bitch-wolf, who went off for the Forest in the most gallant style imaginable. My English halloo amused some of the French, but enraged others, who declared, that if the huntsman had not fortunately stopt the hounds, they would have gone off with the old wolf, and this indeed was my intention. The stopped hounds were immediately clapped back to those running the cubs in the covert, and which were supposed to be about three or four months old; they were higher in size than a full-grown fox, and shewed, by the looseness of their make, and the vast size of their bone in their then infantine state, what they must be when arrived at maturity; that, however, fate forbade, for all but one were shot on that day, and the remaining one was killed the day following, by one of the Count's keepers. These cubs, whilst hunted, never quitted the coverts, nor was it supposed they had ever been out of them; for the forest to which the old wolf pointed was between four and five leagues distance from the woods where she had littered. I often hunted wolf afterwards, and the result was, that the wolf was either shot when quitting the covert in which she was found, or by some keeper, or person, who accidentally saw him in his route, or he escaped by going off, at one steady pace, until he left hounds, horses, and men totally beat, and who were generally relieved by the hospitality of some *curé*, and enabled to return home the next day.

It is asserted, that the wolf, whose pace seems, for the most part, to be regulated by that of his pursuers, will stop when no longer pursued, and the hounds may attack him again the next morning: perhaps so; but will not the wolf be equally refreshed by his night's repose as the hounds? Admitting that the wolf does stop, he gives his enemies a fresh chance, because formerly there was scarce a parish in France that had not one or more game-keepers. The
huntsman

hunter who hunted the wolf reported where he gave him up, how much he appeared fatigued, and which way he pointed, to the keepers of the adjoining district when his chase ended; they, most probably, nearly calculated where the wolf rested that night, and by properly placing all the assistance they could collect, got a shot at him when he broke covert, in the same manner as he had been fired at on the preceding day. Upon remarking this risk of being shot, which the wolf had to escape, to a French gentleman, he assured me that a friend of his, who kept hounds for the wolf only, never fired on the wolf until (unable to run any farther) he turned upon the dogs, and this generally took place about the fourth or fifth day." This certainly sounds like strange hunting to us English fox-hunters, and we must presume it may be so, because we are not prepared to deny the fact.



SOUTHERN - HOUND.

THE dog passing under this denomination is, beyond a doubt, the old English hound so beautifully depicted by Shakespeare in his allusion to the chase; in which it is said,

“ My hounds are bred out of the Spartan kind,
So flew'd, so sanded; and their heads are hung
With ears that sweep away the morning dew;
Crook-knee'd and dew-lap'd, like Thessalian bulls;
Slow in pursuit; but match'd in mouth-like bells,
Each under each.”

It is also the precise race described by Whitaker, in his history of Manchester, as the original breed of this island, used by the ancient Britons in the chase of the larger kinds of game, with which this country then so plentifully abounded. This hound, formerly so very highly estimated, is readily distinguished by his superior size, great strength, and majestic solemnity of appearance; in the body he is long, in the carcase round, chest deep, ears long and sweeping, with a tone in the cry, peculiarly deep, mellow, and attracting. From the particular formation of the olfactory organs, or from the extra secretion of glandular moisture, which always adheres to the nose and lips, or to some other latent cause, it is endued with the most exquisite sense of smelling, and often distinguish the scent an hour after the lighter beagles have given it up: their slowness affords them opportunity to receive the assistance and instructions of the huntsman, in a much greater degree than those of a fleeter description; but as they are so well enabled to hunt a cold scent, they are too apt to make it so, by their tardiness in action, and too minute exactness.

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SOUTHERN POINTER.



These hounds were once universally known, and equally common in every part of the kingdom, and the breed were then cultivated much larger than those now to be found in the low and marshy parts of the country, where they are still in use for the purposes of the chase; although it has been said, "that the breed which has been gradually declining, and its size studiously diminished by a mixture of other kinds, in order to increase its speed, is now almost extinct." The assertion of this author, however, savours much more of speculative conjecture than of experimental practice; for the present writer hunted the winter of 1775, in the neighbourhood of Manchester, with each of the two packs supported by subscription in that town: one of which was denominated the southern-hounds (uniform of the subscribers, blue, with white cuffs and capes), the other called the beagles; the uniform, scarlet, with silver-buttons and green velvet capes. The southern (or old English-hound) is, most undoubtedly, the original real-bred harrier of this country, and more particularly in those swampy parts where the chase is wished to be protracted, without prolonging the distance. The reverend editor of "Rural Sports" corroborates the above remark of the southern-hounds being adapted to the low, marshy, and moory countries by saying, he once saw, at Mr. Wild's, in Lancashire, a numerous pack of hounds kept to hunt hare, the least of which stood *twenty-two inches*, and the huntsman went with *a pole on foot*; and true this is, for in some of the peat-moors and coal-pits in the environs of Manchester, and its surrounding neighbourhood, no horseman whatever, however well-mounted, would be able to go with the hounds.

Every huntsman, and every experienced sportsman, well knows what a vast alteration may be made in the breed of hounds, by a few judicious crosses, in only two or three generations; not only in size, in tongue, speed, and colour, but in other necessary and distinguishing qualifications; what nature can do, and may be assisted in to perfect her efforts is clearly demonstrated by this: that a couple of real well-bred southern-hounds, removed to the north, and permitted to propagate (without any contaminating cross or commixture) in a hilly, or mountainous country, where the air is light and thin, will, by sensible degrees, decline into lighter bodies, and shriller tones in their cry, if not into rougher coats. Hence, by gradational shades of variation, and crosses oblique, collateral, and direct, the great variety of hounds with which every part of the united kingdoms are so plentifully stocked, have been multiplied and improved
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from one distinct head. It has been repeatedly observed, in other parts of the work, that every dog whatever, from the enormous mastiff, to the diminutive lap-dog, must have originated from a certain stock of one pair only; and that every virtue, property, propensity, size, or shape, which we find in every dog upon earth, were originally comprehended in the first parents of the species; and, that all the infinite variety we now behold in them, is the natural product of the different climates, or the accidental and inexplicable effect of soil, food, or situation, blended with the very essence of human care, curiosity, or caprice.

Amidst the warring opinions of professed hare-hunters, that the harriers of the present day verge too close upon the dwarf-fox, and are unmercifully fleet for the hare; and those who urge the slowness of the southern-hound, as a most tedious procrastination of sport, it may not be inapplicable to observe, that for those who have both time and patience to breed for a new establishment, nothing can be more prudent than to adapt the kind of hound to the nature of the country in which he is intended to hunt; but, if a hound is to be calculated for any country he may happen to fall into, perhaps no better plan can be adopted, with consistency, than to begin by endeavouring to produce a breed of mediocrity in size between the southern-hound and the northern-beagle. The slow steadiness, and accurate certainty of the former, in addition to their close and invariable adhesion to scent, constitute, in the chase, the most pleasing traits of attraction to men of a ruminative disposition; such hounds, and such hunting, seem best adapted to sportsmen of the same gloomy and somniferous sensations; for, as they so much delight in hunting and *bow-wow-ing* over a cold scent, they seem inclined to make it more so, by their want of speed and vigour to carry it along, and make it warm. By this means the chase may be spun to a finer thread in its duration, yet the game (which by some is thought the best of the sport) very often escapes, the length of the chase not only engrosses an immoderate length of time, but exposes them to innumerable chances of losing. The north-country beagle, or harrier, as it is now almost universally called, is incredibly nimble, alert, and vigorous, pursuing his business with the most wonderful avidity in every endeavour to find; when the game is a-foot, he carries on the scent with the most impetuous eagerness, and gives the hare little or no time to breathe, double, or squat; and if hares are plenty, and the scent lies high, a pack of this description will frequently pick up a leash, or two
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brace before dinner : but this is altogether unreasonable, the sport is by much too short and violent—nor, in fact, should such success (or rather destruction) be often expected.

These fast-running hounds are all the fashion, in the present eccentric age, when both sexes, and all classes, are aiming at a universality of celebrity by “out Heroding Herod;” particularly with those young and inexperienced heroes on horseback, who take out-running, and out-riding their neighbours and friends to be the most certain and excellent criterion of the chase ; yet it is not the most entertaining, or enlivening thing, to be out with such hounds on a bad scenting morning, when an eternal “hark back !” constitutes a continual scene of mortifying bad sport for the day. To avoid which chance of perpetual disappointment, it must be matter of prudence in the propagation of the pack, to let a proper proportion of southern blood be retained in their veins : this has, in fact, been so much attended to in the course of emulative experience, that there are now to be found, in the possession of sporting amateurs of taste and fortune, various packs possessing a substantial share of the broad nose and steady scent of the southern, the vigour and activity of the harrier, the indefatigable energy of the little, busy, bustling beagle, and a tuneful unison in the chase, which may be said to constitute a compound of the whole. Of this necessary judgment and precaution, in either breeding or collecting, Somerville was so fully possessed, that, in his celebrated poem of “The Chase,” he has inculcated the following rule for selection :—

“ A different hound for every different chase
 Select with judgment, nor the timorous hare
 O'er matched destroy, but leave that vile offence
 To the mean, murderous, coursing crew, intent
 On blood and spoil.”

After the most minute observation, and accurate investigation, it must be candidly admitted, that every sort of hounds have their excellencies, nor can one with propriety be commended before the other ; at least, so as to be applicable to every taste, every wish, and every expectation. Those who are partial to a long chase, fond of perpetual tongue, and who wish to be invariably up with the hounds, will certainly prefer a breed from the southern-hound first mentioned ; or the slow, heavy sort, which are used in the weald of Sussex ; their cry is a good musical bass, and considering how deep and dirty the country

country is, the amusement they afford to the aged, the invalid, and the valetudinarian, render them high in estimation; these hounds generally pack well from their equality of speed; and when with all their zeal they come to a fault, every nose is upon the ground in an instant for a recovery of the scent. To young, spirited, dashing sportsmen, and in an open country where the hounds can go along, the north-country beagle (or improved harrier) must, of course, be preferred; their tongues are lightly harmonious, and, at the same time, they go so fast as to occasion a constant scene of racing emulation with both the horses and the riders, exclusive of the additional advantage, that their speed prevents a hare from playing tricks, and making much work before them; they seldom allow her time to loiter, head, or double; she must continue her rate, and adhere to her foil, or change her ground, if which happens to be turf, or pasture-land, and the scent lays well, she is inevitably brought to a fatal view.

“ See, see, she flies! each eager hound exerts
 His utmost speed, and stretches ev'ry nerve.
 How quick she turns! their gaping jaws eludes,
 And yet a moment lives; 'till round inclosed
 By all the greedy pack, with infant screams
 She yields her breath, and there reluctant dies.”

SOMERVILLE.

It is somewhat remarkable, that after the utmost care, trouble, and attention, it is difficult to procure, or select a pack of fast hounds that run evenly together; many are usually found to tail, and their clamorous exertions to get up to the head of the pack make them of little use, farther than to enlarge the cry; unless when the scent is over-ran, then hounds thrown out, or tailed, often come up and hit off the fault. There are few packs but what have a fleet (or crack) hound, which is always the greatest favourite; but let a hound be ever so excellent in his nature, that excellence is totally obscured if unfortunately fixed in a pack who go too fast for him. There is at all times work enough in the field for every hound to do, and each ought to bear a part; but this it is impossible for the slowest hounds to execute, if run out of wind by the disproportionate speed of hounds fleetier than themselves. It is not sufficient that a hound is enabled to run up (which a good hound will labour hard for), but they should all be able to lay easily together, with a retention of wind and spirits, having their tongues at command: as it can never be expected that any scent can be well followed by hounds that do not carry a good head. With modern

modern sportsmen of opulence and fashion it is too frequent a practice to have their kennels overburthened; some are kept for their music, others retained for their beauty, many of whom are trifling favourites without either steadiness, nose, or sagacity; such a plan is nugatory and expensive; for it is a certain and well-founded maxim, that every dog who renders no service, serves only to foil the ground, and confound the scent by scampering every where, but where they should be, perpetually interrupting their betters at all points, and in the most critical scene of action. Ten couple of trusty hounds will prove more effective in the chase, than thirty couple of an opposite description.

In some counties, beagles both rough and smooth have their admirers also, if properly selected, and well matched; their tongues are musical, and their indefatigable and unremitting bustle truly entertaining; they are somewhat faster than the southern-hound, but if they have too much of the southern blood in their composition, they hang back and tail considerably: though they have one advantage, which is, that in running so close to the ground, they imbibe and enjoy the scent sooner and better than taller dogs, especially when the air is dense, and the atmosphere compressed. In an enclosed country beagles show most to their own credit, as they are patient in trailing, alert at a fault, and persevering in shaws and hedge-rows; but they require a very steady philosophic subject to hunt them, as sometimes five-and-twenty couple may be classed together, with not ten of them to be depended upon. The properties necessary to be considered in the choice of hounds, are too numerous to expect an aggregate of the whole; probably it may be with the canine, as we are taught to believe of our own species, that "perfection is not in human nature." All, therefore, that can be done by the most judicious and industrious sportsman who may wish to obtain a pre-eminent pack, of which ever sort they may be, is to prefer the dog of mediocrity in size, with his back rather broad than round, nose wide and flat, with open well-distended nostrils, chest deep and capacious, fillets firm and prominent, haunches large and muscular, hams straight, feet round, the sole hard and dry; claws large, ears wide, silkily pendulous, thin, and more round than pointed at the extremities; eyes full, forehead broad, and upper-lips thick, and deeper than the under-jaw. In the breeding of hounds for the unison of tongue, symmetry in size, and uniformity of figure and speed, too much care and inspection cannot be bestowed upon the choice of sires and dams from whom the propagation is to proceed; a single

degree of carelessness and inattention in respect to a cross from which much is expected often spoils the litter, the whole of these, probably, degenerate in consequence, although from as high a bred dog and bitch as can be brought together, and even where every chance of a spurious contamination is thought to have been completely guarded against.

Amidst the various sorts of hounds, and the different modes of keeping, as well as of hunting them, it may not prove inapplicable to introduce, from a periodical publication, a well-authenticated proof, that, in the hands of an œconomist, so great a field of luxury as the chase may be enjoyed without a liability to the accusation of extravagance. With half-a-dozen children, as many couple of hounds, and two hunters, did Mr. Osbaldeston (clerk to an attorney) keep himself, family, and these dogs and horses, upon *sixty pounds* a year. This also was effected in London, without running in debt, and with always a good coat upon his back. To explain this paradoxical concern, it must be observed, that after the expiration of office-hours, Mr. O. acted as an accountant for the butchers in Clare-Market, who paid him in offal; the choicest morsels of this he selected for himself and family, and with the rest he fed his hounds, which were kept in the garret. His horses were lodged in the cellar, and fed on grains from a neighbouring brewhouse, and on damaged corn, with which he was supplied by a corn-chandler whose books he kept in order. Once or twice a week in the season he hunted, and by giving a hare now and then, to the farmer over whose grounds he sported, he secured their good-will and permission, and several gentlemen (struck with the extraordinary œconomical mode of his hunting arrangements which were so well known and much talked of) winked at his going over their manors. Mr. O. was the younger son of a gentleman of good family, but small fortune, in the north of England; and having imprudently married one of his father's servants, was turned out of doors, with no other fortune than a southern-hound, big with pup, and whose offspring from that time became a source of amusement to him.

Having deviated a little from the exact line of canine delineation, for the introduction of a sportsman of some singularity, as a remarkable instance of an invincible attachment to the chase, and of parsimony in a hunting establishment to pursue it; it becomes no less in point, to take a retrospective survey of a sportsman of the preceding age, as it will evidently demonstrate, that however we may have excelled

excelled in our fashionable polish, in an imaginary approach to perfection, it has not been without the total abolition of a most worthy set of men, who proved for centuries, the very cement of society, and constituted the chain of friendship and hospitality from one extremity of the kingdom to the other. This character, under so many degrees of infatuating refinement, seems, like the southern-hound (upon which we treat), to be worn down, and nearly obliterated; it was the truly independent country'squire of three or four hundred a year (the very basis of the king and constitution), who plainly appeared in his drab, or plush-coat, with large silver-buttons, and seldom without boots. His hours of leisure and relaxation were dedicated principally to the sports of the field, and his travels never exceeded the distance of the county-town, and that only at assizes and sessions, or to attend at an election. A journey to London from a remote part of the kingdom was then considered almost as great an undertaking as is at the present time a voyage to the East-Indies, and undertaken with little less precaution and preparation. In the duties of life he was every way an example to his neighbours, and every description of people who surrounded him; acting conscientiously, he conceived his presence at church could not be dispensed with, and therefore he never failed to appear; cards he never played at, or permitted, Christmas excepted; at which season he also exchanged his usual beverage of ale, for a bowl of potent brandy-punch, garnished with toast and nutmeg.

Thus much is introduced, by way of outline, to convey some idea of the old English sportsman, but that a more minute description may convey the character to every comprehension, a correct representation of the Honourable William Hastings, from the pen of Lord Chancellor Shaftesbury, cannot prove unacceptable.

“ In the year 1638 (says the noble Earl) lived Mr. Hastings, at Woodlands, in the county of Southampton; by his quality, son, brother, and uncle to the Earls of Huntingdon. He was, peradventure, an original in our age, or rather the copy of our ancient nobility in hunting, not in warlike times. He was very low, strong, and active, with reddish flaxen-hair. His clothes, which when new, were never worth five pounds, were of green cloth. His house was perfectly old-fashioned, in the midst of a large park, well stocked with deer and rabbits; many fish-ponds, a great store of wood and timber, a bowling-

green in it, long, but narrow, full of high ridges, never having been levelled since it was ploughed ; round sand-bowls were used, and it had a banquetting-house like a stand, built in a tree.

Mr. Hastings kept all manner of hounds that run buck, fox, hare, otter, and badger ; hawks both long and short-winged. He had all sorts of nets for fish ; a walk in the New-Forest, and the manor of Christchurch : this last supplied him with red deer, sea, and river-fish ; and, indeed, all his neighbours' grounds and royalties were free to him, who bestowed all his time on these sports, but what he borrowed to caress his neighbours' wives and daughters, there not being a woman in all his walks, of the degree of a yeoman's wife (and under the age of *forty*), but it was extremely her own fault, if he was not intimately acquainted with her. This made him popular, always speaking kindly to the husband, brother, or father, and making them welcome at his mansion, where they found beef, pudding, and beer, and a house not so neatly kept as to shame him, or his dirty shoes ; the great hall strewed with marrow-bones, full of hawks, perches, hounds, spaniels, and terriers ; the upper side of the hall hung with the fox-skins of this and the last year's killing, here and there a martin-cat intermixed, with game-keepers and hunters poles in abundance. The parlour was a large room as properly furnished. On a hearth, paved with brick, lay some terriers, and the choicest hounds and spaniels. Seldom less than two of the great chairs had litters of kittens on them which were not to be disturbed, he always having three or four cats attending him at dinner ; and, to defend such meat as he had no mind to part with, he always kept order with a short white stick that he kept laying by him for that purpose.

The windows, which were very large, served for places to lay his arrows, cross-bows, and other such accoutrements. The corners of the room were full of the best-chosen hunting and hawking-poles ; an oyster-table at the lower end, which was in constant use twice a day all the year round, for he never failed to eat oysters, before dinner and supper, through all seasons. In the upper part of the room were two small tables and a desk ; on the one side of the desk was a church-bible, and, on the other, the Book of Martyrs. Upon the tables were hawks-hoods, bells, &c. two or three old green hats, with their crowns thrust in, so as to hold ten, or a dozen eggs, which were of the
pheasant

pheasant kind of poultry; these he took much care of, and fed himself. Tables, boxes, dice, and cards, were not wanting; and in the holes of the desk was store of old used tobacco-pipes. On one side of this end of the room, was the door of a closet, wherein stood the strong-beer and the wine, which never came thence but in single glasses, that being the rule of the house exactly observed; for he never exceeded in drinking, nor ever permitted it.

On the other side was the door into an old chapel, not used for devotion. The pulpit, as the safest place, never wanted a cold chine of beef, venison pasty, gammon of bacon, or a great apple-pie, with a thick crust extremely baked. His table cost him but little, although it was well supplied. His sports furnished all but beef and mutton, except on Fridays, when he had the best of salt, as well as every other fish he could get, and this was the day on which his neighbours of the first quality visited him. He never wanted a London-pudding, and always sung it in with, "my pert eyes therein a." He drank a glass or two at meals, very often syrup of gilliflower in his sack, and always a tun-glass stood by him, holding a pint of small-beer, and this he often stirred with rosemary. He was affable, but soon angry, calling his servants bastards, and cuckoldy knaves, in *one* of which he often spoke truth to *his own* knowledge, and sometimes *both* of the same person. He lived to be an hundred years of age, never lost his eye-sight, but always read and wrote without spectacles, and got on horseback without help; until past four-score years old, he rode up to the death of a stag as well as any man in existence. A portrait of this gentleman is now at Winbourn St. Giles, Dorsetshire, the seat of the Earl of Shaftesbury.

Although it is universally known that hunting has, for some centuries past, been a pleasure of the most general attraction, yet there have not been wanting individuals of cynical rigidity who have industriously laboured, but in vain, at its obliteration, to which, however, the beautiful poem of Somerville's "Chase," and Beckford's justly celebrated "Thoughts on Hunting," have proved a most powerful counteraction. In the month of September, 1781, hunting underwent a severe censure in the Monthly Review, nor would any thing satisfy the acrimony of the critic less than its total abolition. He recommends feats of agility to be practised and exhibited instead of it. Whether the amendment proposed by the learned gentleman be desirable or not, Mr.
Beckford

Beckford observed, he should forbear to determine; he, however, took the liberty to remind him, that as hunting had stood its ground from the earliest times, been encouraged and approved by the best authorities, and practised by the greatest men, it can no longer be supposed to dread criticism, or to need support. Hunting originates in nature itself, and it is in perfect correspondence with this law of nature, that the several animals are provided with the necessary means of attack and defence. Of this Somerville is so firmly persuaded, that, in his prelude remarks, he adverts to it most sublimely :

“ Nature, in her productions slow, aspires
By just degrees to reach perfection’s height :
So mimic art works leisurely, ’till time
Improve the piece, or wise experience give
The proper finishing.”

And as emphatically describes the pre-eminence we possess in our enjoyment of field-sports in preference to those of any other country :

“ Hail, happy Britain ! highly favour’d isle,
And Heav’n’s peculiar care ! To thee ’tis given
To train the sprightly steed, more fleet than those
Begot by winds, or the celestial breed
That bore the great Pelides thro’ the press
Of heroes arm’d, and broke their crowded ranks ;
Which proudly neighing, with the sun begins
Cheerful his course ; and, ere his beams decline,
Has measur’d half thy surface unfatigued.
In thee alone, fair land of liberty !
Is bred the perfect hound, in scent and speed.
As yet unrivall’d, while in other climes
Their virtue fails, a weak degenerate race.”

Most of those writers of learning and celebrity who have condescended to promulgate their opinions upon this subject, have uniformly adverted to the antiquity of the chase. The reverend compiler of “ Rural Sports” says, it can be traced back upwards of two thousand six hundred years before the Christian æra ; observing likewise, that sacred history describes the first warriors under the name of hunters. Nimrod is represented “ as a mighty hunter before

fore the Lord." In the sequel, he made soldiers of his companions, who had assisted him in hunting the savage beasts that laid waste the country about Babylon and employed them in extending and establishing his conquests. Mr. Beckford, in his introductory matter observes, it would be needless to enumerate the horses of antiquity who were taught the art of hunting; or the many great men (among whom was the famous Galen) who have united in recommending it. That celebrated hero, Henry the Fourth of France, made it his chief amusement, and his very *love-letters*, strange as it may appear, are full of little else; and that one of the greatest ministers which our country ever produced, was so fond of this diversion, that the first letter he ever opened was generally that of his huntsman.

From the earliest times, hunting has, in most countries, been a principal occupation of the people, either for use, or amusement, and many princes have made it their chief delight; a circumstance which occasioned the following *bon-mot*: Louis the Fifteenth was so passionately fond of this diversion, that it occupied him entirely; the King of Prussia, who never hunted, gave up a great deal of his time to music, and played himself upon the flute: a German, during a former war, meeting a Frenchman, asked him very impertinently, "*Si non maitre chassoit toujours?*"—"Oui, Oui," replied the other, "*il ne joue jamais de la flute.*" The reply was excellent, but it might, probably, have been as well for mankind, if that great man had never been otherways employed. Hunting is almost universally admitted the very spirit and soul of a country-life; it gives health to the body, invigoration to the system, and contentment to the mind: and is one of the few pleasures we can enjoy in society, without prejudice to either ourselves, or friends.

In his "Thoughts" upon this subject, Mr. Beckford has introduced some very forcible reasoning; from which much entertaining reflection may be deduced. Amidst his remarks, he says, that the Spectator has drawn, with an infinite deal of humour, the character of a man who passes his whole life in pursuit of trifles; and he doubts not but other Will Wimbles might still be found. Triflers there undoubtedly are of every denomination, and the question may be asked—are we not all triflers? and, are we not daily told, by the clerical emissaries of a supreme power, that *all is vanity*? The Spectator felt, no doubt, in his lucubrations, great compassion for Mr. Wimble; yet he
might

might not have been a proper and much distinguished object of it; since it is more than probable he was a truly happy man, if the employment of his time in obliging others, and pleasing himself, can be thought to have made him so. He farther observes, that whether vanity misleads us or not in the choice of our pursuits, the pleasures or advantages which result from them will best determine. He fears the occupation of few gentlemen will admit of nice scrutiny; occupations, therefore, that amuse, and are, at the same time, innocent; that promote exercise, and are conducive to health; although they may appear trifles to the jaundiced eye of cynical rigidity, they are certainly not so to those who have the happiness to enjoy them. Amongst these, hunting seems to lay universal claim to priority, and of this opinion is the Spectator, already mentioned, from whose elegant and sublime pages the following lines are extracted in confirmation, where he says, "for my own part, I intend to hunt twice a week during my stay with Sir Roger; and shall prescribe the moderate use of this exercise to all my country-friends, as the best physic for mending a bad constitution, and preserving a good one."

The inimitable Cervantes also descants most favourably upon the chase, and affords Sancho an opportunity to say—"Mercy on me, what pleasure can you find, any of ye all, in killing a poor beast that never meant any harm!" that the Duke may reply—"You are mistaken, Sancho; hunting wild-beasts is the most proper exercise for knights and princes; for in the chase of a stout noble beast, may be presented the whole art of war, stratagems, policy, and ambuscades, with all other devices usually practised to overcome an enemy with safety. Here we are exposed to the extremities of heat and cold, ease and laziness can have no room in this diversion; by this we are inured to toil and hardships, our limbs are strengthened, our joints rendered supple, and our whole body hale and active: in short, it is an exercise that may be beneficial to many, and can be prejudicial to none." Notwithstanding such solid and unshaken arguments in favour of what Providence has so benignly, and attractingly placed before us, there never was, or ever will be wanting, pedantic poppinjays, and snarling critics, who confidently oppose and condemn every sport, pleasure, and gratification in which their retrograde dispositions will not permit them to engage. Pride induces some men never to associate but where they can enjoy the power of uncontrolled dictation, to the total annihilation of every opinion but their own; and these are a set of imaginary and self-confident monitors, who

who place at defiance the thoughts of every other individual, and impudently affect to know what others wish to pursue, better than they know themselves.

Although there are not many well-authenticated instances of singular sagacity, or peculiar penetration in the hound part of the species, yet there can be no doubt, that if they were domesticated, and individually caressed, in the same manner as most other kinds of dogs are, but they would acquire similar habits, and the same modes of displaying fidelity, tenderness, and attachment to their masters and employers, as dogs of another description. In corroboration of so fair and candid a suggestion, the following transaction (seemingly well attested) may be applicably introduced from the sporting anecdotes of M. de St. Foix's history of Paris. Aubri de Mondidier, hunting in the forest of Bondi, was murdered, and buried under a tree. He was always attended by a favourite hound, attached to him in a most extraordinary degree. This dog would not quit the grave of his master for several days, 'till at length compelled by hunger, he went to the house of an intimate friend of the unfortunate Aubri's at Paris, and by his melancholy howling, seemed desirous of expressing the loss they had both sustained. He repeated his cries, ran to the door, then looked back to see if any person followed him; returned to his master's friend, pulled him by the sleeve, and with dumb eloquence entreated him to go with him. The singularity of all the actions of the dog; his coming there without his master, whose faithful companion he had always been; the sudden disappearance of his master, blended with other circumstances, induced the company to follow the dog, who conducted them to the fatal tree; where he renewed his howl, at the same time scratching the earth with his feet, pointing out as well as he could, the spot they should search: and where upon digging, the body of the unfortunate Aubri was found.

Sometime after, the dog accidentally met the assassin, the Chevalier Macaire, when instantly seizing him by the throat, it was with great difficulty that he was compelled to quit his prey. Whenever he saw him afterwards he pursued and attacked him with equal fury. Such obstinate virulence in the dog exhibited only against Macaire, appeared most extraordinary to those who recollected the dog's attachment to his master; and, at the same time, several instances wherein Macaire had manifested his envy and hatred to Aubri de Mondidier, with other additional circumstances, increased suspicion, which was, at length, communicated to the royal ear. The king ordered the dog to be brought before him, that he might have opportunity to make his own observations; but nothing

singular or uncommon appeared, 'till perceiving Macaire in the midst of twenty nobles, he ran instantly at him growling, and attacked him as usual. In those times, when no positive proof of a crime could be procured, an order was issued for a combat between the accuser and the accused. This was denominated *The Judgment of God*, from a persuasion that Heaven would sooner work a miracle, than suffer innocence to perish with infamy. The king, struck with such a collection of circumstantial evidence against Macaire, resolved to refer the decision to the chance of war, and commanded a combat between the Chevalier and the dog. The lists were appointed in the *Isle of Notre Dame*, then an uninclosed place. Macaire's weapon was a large cudgel; the dog had an empty cask allowed for his retreat, in order to recover breath if necessary. The combatants being ready, the dog no sooner found himself at liberty than he ran round his adversary, avoiding his blows, and menacing him on every side 'till his strength was exhausted; then springing forward, he seized Macaire by the throat, and brought him to the ground, where he confessed his crime before the king, and afterwards suffered death for the murder of the dog's master. This circumstance, on account of its singularity, is recorded by the pencil of a celebrated artist in the castle of Montarsis, and has the confirmation of Scaliger and Father Montfaucon. Oliver de la Marche says, this truly faithful animal lived in the reign of Louis the Eighth.

Having had occasion in various parts of the work, and under the heads of different dogs, to advert to the caprice and variegated fancies of those who are incessantly engaged in crossing, and endeavouring to improve their breed (either in conformity with the furor of fashion, or the country in which they live), it becomes the more in point to enlarge a little upon the contrariety of opinions in respect to the chase itself; upon which, the most energetic sportsmen do not invariably agree. In those who have written largely upon the subject, we find a diversity so great, that when animadverting upon hare-hunting and fox-hunting, they do it in very different—nay, in almost opposite terms. Mr. Beckford, in communicating his "thoughts" to his friend, has these words: "By inclination, I never was a hare-hunter; I followed this diversion more for air and exercise, than for amusement; and if I could have persuaded myself to ride on the turnpike-road to the three mile-stone, and back again, I should have thought that I had no need of a pack of harriers." Some kind of melioration, however, appears in the following words: "Excuse me, brother hare-hunters! I mean not to offend; I speak but relatively to my own particular situation in the country, where hare-hunting is so bad, that it is more extraordinary I should have

have persevered in it so long, than that I should forsake it now. I respect hunting in whatever shape it appears; it is a manly, and a wholesome exercise, and seems, by nature, designed to be the amusement of a Briton."

From the "Essays on Sporting," a work of some former celebrity, the following is extracted; the writer of which seems to be of a contrary opinion in saying, "Every man is, or would be thought a lover of hunting; but twenty in the field, when pursuing a hare, find more delight and sincere enjoyment, than one in twenty in a fox-chase; the former consists of an endless variety of accidental delights, the latter little more than hard riding; the pleasure of clearing some dangerous leap, the pride of striding the best steed, and displaying some of the best *dash* of the bold horseman, and (equal to any thing) of being in at *the death*; after a chase very frequently from one county to another, and, most probably, half the time not within sight or hearing of the hounds. So that but for the name of fox-hunting, a man might as well mount at his stable-door, and determine to gallop twenty miles an end into another country, and it cannot be doubted, but at the conclusion of such an imaginary chase, he came to his inn safe, he would enjoy all that first and chief satisfaction several gentlemen do in their hearts after a fox-chase, from the happiness of having cleared many double ditches, five-bar gates, and dangerous sloughs, without the misfortune of one broken-rib, notwithstanding two or three confounded falls in taking flying-leaps, and some of those unnecessarily. In hare-hunting these accidents are not usually encountered; the diversion is of another sort: When puss is started, she seldom fails to run a ring; the first is generally the worst (for either horse or foot) that may happen in the whole hunt. For the fences once broken down, or the gates once opened, make a clear passage oftentimes for every turn she is likely to take afterwards. The case is well known to be otherwise in the chase with stag, buck, or fox; for when either of the two first is roused, or the latter unkenneled, it is ten to one, that after a few short turns to take a view of the country, he goes off an end, and leads the most dashing and energetic sportsmen into a progressive succession of new and unexperienced dangers: if in the midst of these, he becomes unluckily unhorsed, there lies the fallen hero of the day undistinguished—unassisted; if he is so fortunate as not to experience such ills, he has still the pleasure, at the end of the chase, of being ten, fifteen, or twenty miles from his own habitation."

Thus it is, that the philosophic reply of Sir Roger de Coverly (“much may be said on both sides,”) may be rendered applicable to almost every disputed occurrence of life; for evident it is, that even the sports of the field, in their different branches, are not equally gratifying to every expectation. Each distinct kind of chase having its individual votaries, who very reluctantly become partakers of, or converts to any other. Having already adverted to the particulars of stag, as well as hare-hunting, and having the minutiae of fox-hunting to follow of course, it may neither prove inapplicable, or unentertaining to introduce a concise description of the chase so common with our continental neighbours, in which there is some reason to believe, the very dog now under consideration is principally engaged. Although it is well known that England is not encumbered with wild-boars, yet they are so numerous in the forests of Germany and other countries, and afford so noble and lasting a chase to the hunters, that the following observations upon the manner of conducting the diversion must prove acceptable to the majority of our readers. This animal is farrowed with the whole number of teeth that nature has allotted him; they continue to increase in size, but not in number: among these they have four called tushes, or tusks, the two uppermost of which do no injury when he strikes, but serve only to whet the two lowest, with which they frequently defend themselves, and kill their opponents, as they are larger and longer than the rest.

A boar will attain the age of from twenty-five to thirty years; the male and female associate for propagation during the month of December, and do not entirely separate 'till towards the latter end of the ensuing month, when they withdraw themselves into their retired holds, and do not move much for three or four days, especially if they can fortunately fall into a lot of fern, the roots of which they consider as one of their best articles of provision; their general food being corn, fruits, acorns, chesnuts, beech-masts, and roots of almost every kind. The boar usually lies in the strongest holds and thick bushes, and will stand the bay before he will forsake his den. The hunting him is a dangerous, but common amusement of the great in all countries where he is to be found; and the slow, heavy sort of hound described to be used in the sport, greatly corresponds with the old English, or southern-hound of this country, so truly represented in the plate annexed. When the boar is fairly roused and on foot, he goes slowly forward, and seemingly not much afraid, and not very far before his pursuers. During the chase, he frequently turns round and listens,
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at length stops 'till the hounds come up, and often summonses up resolution to attack them; after keeping each other at bay for a while, the boar again moves slowly forward, and the dogs again renew the pursuit. In this way the chase is continued, 'till the boar becomes quite tired, and refuses to go any farther: the dogs then attempt to close in upon him behind; and in this attack the young ones, being generally most forward, frequently lose their lives; the old seasoned dogs keep the animal at bay 'till the hunters come up, who kill him with their spears.

Wild-boars are not gregarious; but, while young, live together in families, and frequently unite their forces against the wolves, or other beasts of prey. When likely to be attacked, they call to each other with a very loud and fierce note; the strongest face the danger, and form themselves into a ring, the weakest falling in the center. In this position, few beasts dare venture to engage them, but leave them to pursue a less dangerous course. When the wild-boar is arrived at a state of maturity, he walks the forest fearless and alone. At that time he dreads no single foe, nor will he deviate from his intended track, for even man himself; and what is rather more extraordinary, he gives no offence to any other animal, though he is admirably armed with tusks which render him a terror to the fiercest. The wild-boar, which is, by the most celebrated naturalists, considered the original of all the varieties of animals of the hog kind, is much smaller than domestic swine; and does not, like them, vary in colour, but is uniformly of a brindled or dark grey, inclining to black. Animals of this kind seem to possess a middle nature, between those that live upon grass, and such as are carnivorous; and unite in themselves most of those distinctions which are peculiar to each class. Like one they will feed upon animal substances, and do not ruminat; like the other they are cloven-hoofed, live chiefly on vegetables, and seldom seek after animal food, except when urged by necessity.

The complexion of different countries vary so much, that very few, if any, admit of sport similar to what is the basis of ecstatic enjoyment in our own country; a want of the same game, or a want of the same means to pursue it, seems to have given the laurel of sporting pre-eminence to Britain, in preference to every other part of the globe. And although the natives of every island, as well as the whole continent of Europe, are destitute of the exhilarating advantages with which our distinct chases are pursued; yet the principal object of
 hunting,

hunting, in its most extended sense, is enjoyed and persevered in, with as much energetic alacrity in one, as in another. Amidst others, the mode of bear-hunting in Russia seems entitled to description. To encourage the peasants not to destroy these animals clandestinely among themselves, for the skin, hams, grease, &c. (all articles of considerable profit), at least not to destroy them in a certain district round Petersburg, within the range of the imperial hunt, an edict offers, for every bear pointed out by a peasant, a sack or cool of corn for seed, with ten rubles in money, which he receives at the grand huntsman's office in St. Petersburg; and when it is considered what they lose by not killing it themselves, the destruction of their corn, and by the time employed in coming to town, and attending the chase, the reward cannot be considered extravagant.

Some few winters since, a peasant having given information at the grand Veneur's office, of a bear's having been found in a wood about twenty versts beyond her Majesty's country-palace, the Veneur Potemkin, the second in the department of the imperial hunt, set out in pursuit of it, with a number of huntsmen, armed as usual on these occasions, with guns, spears, and cutlasses, or *couteux de chase*. The Veneur was accompanied officially by the two senators, Count Alexy Rosomosky, and Mr. de Sadouoffsky, with the master of the horse, General Ribender, and Mr. John Farquharson, a North Briton, and a keen sportsman. On the arrival of the party at the wood, the peasant pointed out the winter habitation of the bear, which at that season is remarkably lazy; the hunters immediately took two pieces of thread-net, such as is used to catch partridges, and after cutting a little avenue through the brush-wood with their cutlasses, for some distance behind and before the bear, lined the walk they had thus cut out for the animal with one of the pieces of net at each end of the avenue; a fence, weak as it may appear, which that strong and furious animal never ventures to break; so that they are sure he will endeavour to escape in the direction of the avenue, at each end of which certain death awaits him, either from the gentlemen hunters at one end, or the official huntsmen at the other. This preliminary arrangement being made, the huntsmen begin to make as much noise behind him as possible, to drive him in the opposite direction, where the gentlemen were silently waiting to shoot him on his approach; supported by a rank of spearmen, who advance if the hunters miss their aim, and are assailed by the furious animal, always rendered so by the discharge of a gun, especially if he should be wounded with the contents. Nothing happened in this first chase, except that the bear, instead of running to
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the expected direction, from the noise, and towards the noble sportsmen, turned short and suddenly upon the hallowing huntsmen, and overturned one of them (though without injury) before he was dispatched by the others.

It is curious however to observe, in the above simple arrangement, the wonderful effect of the thread-net, which as effectually sets bounds to the liberty and course of such a vigorous animal, as if it had been made with bars of iron; such is his instinctive aversion to what has the appearance of a toil! Indeed, it is rather singular that Russians should have discovered this trait in bruin's character. About an hour after, a monstrous bear was met by a single huntsman, when he was at a distance from his companions, beating about for game. The noise made by the huntsman and the newly-discovered animal, drew the party of gentlemen to the spot, and they beheld with astonishment a large bear on his hind-legs, fighting with a man, who happened to be without his *couteau de chase*, the usual and useful weapon upon such occasions. The fellow held the bear, though taller than himself, by the ear, at arm's length, with his right-hand, and with the left was striking him on the opposite side of the head, every time he offered to bite, or claw the extended arm, which prevented his being hugged. Count Alexy Rossomofsky, much alarmed for the safety of the huntsman, desired he would let go the animal, that some of the party might shoot him, or the man would himself be destroyed; but the hardy Russian said, the *bear was only in joke*, though he had then clawed his face in such a manner, that none of them knew which of the men it was who was thus engaged in single combat. At this moment a number of his companions came running up, and instead of attempting to kill the bear, instantly took off their belts, and coming behind him, still struggling with their comrade, and growling as they always do when attacked, slipped one belt into his mouth, and a couple more about his body, completely conquered, and took him off alive.

Since the above, an old superannuated huntsman, who had retired upon a pension and lived in a hut not far from Pauloffsky, the summer palace of the Great Duke, killed another large bear, when quite alone, with his *couteau de chase*. The old sportsman had fallen unexpectedly on a bear, whilst he was sauntering in the woods in search of other game. The noise of his gun, probably, fired close to the animal without knowing it, brought him upon the old man, unable to save himself by flight; he therefore, drew his side-arm, and as the bear rose to hug him, plunged it so fortunately into his belly as to lay it dead

dead at his feet. He then returned home, and having procured a boor's cart, conveyed his prey to his imperial highness, who was so charmed with the veteran, that he gave him a hundred rubles for his aged prowess, and ordered him to keep the skin as a trophy of it, which he did, and, as it may be truly imagined, is not a little proud of showing, and reciting the adventure. When no more than three take the field in pursuit of a bear, the following mode is adopted: as soon as the bear is found, these three take their stations at a certain distance and direction from each other; one of them fires at the animal, on which he immediately makes towards him; the second then fires to draw him to the other side; and the third does the same to give him a third direction. By the time these manœuvres are executed, the first sportsman has time to load again; and in this manner they fire and load alternately 'till they have dispatched their game.

There is still another curious circumstance attending the Russian bear-hunt, which is the manner in which the peasants trace them out in summer, by what may be called, in sporting language, *their form*; with the method they have of judging of his size by it, though, properly speaking, it is only the form of his hinder parts, and not of his whole body. The bear is remarkably fond of corn, and makes great havoc among it by the quantity he consumes, as well as the still greater quantity he treads under foot: but his manner of feeding on it is remarkable, as in that act he leaves what the peasants call his *form* in the earth, and by which they trace him from one part to another during his feeding season. When this animal finds a field of corn to his taste, either in the milky or ripe state of the grain, he chooses a soft spot amongst it free from stones, where he sits down on his buttocks, and eats all around him as far as he can reach, turning on his seat as a center, so as to make a hole or print in the ground, round and smooth like a large bason. This ascertains to the peasant the size of his hind-quarters; and measuring from that to the cropped circle in the corn all around, they judge of his length; as the lazy animal never quits his seat to eat further than the utmost reach of his muzzle and paws, but removes to a fresh spot when all is consumed near him, and begins the same business over again. These prints, or forms, by the comparative freshness of their appearance, apprise the peasants of their approach to the enemy they are tracing. So that the discovery of the bear in summer depends upon this second remarkable trait in bruin's character, which is absolutely new to the writer, and may, most probably, be so to many of his readers.

The Finnish peasants, a very different race from the Russians, mark the difference of their character by the less dangerous and active mode of their hunting bear; and though it is believed their stratagems are better known in Europe than those already mentioned, yet it may not be a deviation to report them as practised in Russia. The Fin erects, about the middle of a tree, in the bear's favourite haunts, a species of small round scaffold, much in the style, with respect to form and position, of one of the tops of a ship: on this he sits secure, and waits with patience the arrival of the animal at the foot of the tree; attracted by honey, or some other favourite food, placed there as a bait, and shoots at him through holes made for that purpose in his stage. But should he only wound, instead of kill the bear, the animal is stopped in its furious course up the tree (which he climbs like a cat) by the round-top, which obstructs him in his pursuit, and gives the secure hunter a still more favourable opportunity of dispatching him. He is likewise always armed with an axe to chop off his paws, should they appear above the stage in attempting to mount it; so that this species of hunting, practised among the Fins subject to Russia (much inferior to their Swedish brethren), may be almost said to be unattended with danger. Campbell, in the account of his travels in North America, says, that in his occasional excursions many stories were told him of the bears in that country, of all which, the following he thought most entitled to recollection and recital.

On an island, called *Spoon Island*, which he had passed a day or two before, there were seven bears killed in one day. A gentleman and his son, near a house in which the author then lodged, had been out at hay-making, and were luckily armed with pitch-forks and rakes; and seeing a monstrous bear quite close to the river, they pressed so hard upon him, as to drive him into the water. They then thought they had him secure, as there was a boat near them, to which they immediately ran; and having pursued, and come up with him, they struck and pelted him with the pitch-forks and shafts 'till they were broken to pieces. The exasperated monster now, as they had no weapon to annoy him, turned the chase on his adversaries, and fixing his paws on the gunnel of the boat, attempted to get in. They did all they could to keep him out; but their efforts were in vain. He got in: thus circumstanced, they had their choice, either to jump into the water, or continue in the boat to be torn to pieces; they chose the former, and swam ashore. The bear now master of the boat, whence the enemy battered him, was so severely galled with the strokes and wounds he had received, that he made no attempt to follow, but continued in the boat; otherwise he might easily have over-

taken them, and had ample revenge, as he could swim three times faster than they. Seeing him so calm, they ran immediately to the house for guns, and upon their return found him sitting in the boat, dipping one of his paws now and then in the water, and washing his wounds; on which, levelling their pieces, they shot him dead. The landlord of the house where this recital was given, shewed one of the paws of this bear, which, on account of its great size, he kept as a curiosity; and added, that the bear, when alive, was as big as a yearling calf. So it is easy to conceive the havoc and destruction committed in a country so much infested with such monstrous and ravenous animals, especially on sheep, the simplest and silliest of all creatures, who fall an easy prey to beasts of far less strength and magnitude. Numbers of these harmless, yet useful animals, were destroyed by bears in this very neighbourhood, where one man sustained the loss of thirty of his sheep within a very short space of time; and even young cattle were often devoured and carried off by them; though they prefer swine when they can get them, to any other animal whatever.

That a consistent uniformity may be preserved, and every possible information communicated that can possibly be collected upon the subject before us, an accurate description of the magnificent and splendid manner of hunting in India cannot prove unacceptable; more particularly when put into comparative retrospection with the chase of our own country. Hunting (we are told by the best writers upon the affairs of India) was a favourite diversion of the great and bloody conqueror Jenghiz Khan, if, indeed, we can apply the word *diversion* to a monster whose mind was set upon the destruction of his own species, and who only endeavoured to make the murder of brutes subservient to that of men, by keeping his soldiers in a kind of warfare with the beasts when they had no human enemies to contend with. His expeditions were conducted on a plan similar to that of the Mexicans; and were, no doubt, attended with still greater success, as his numerous army could inclose a much greater space than all the Indians whom the Spanish viceroy could muster. The East-Indian princes still show the same inclination to the chase; and Mr. Blanc, who attended the hunting excursions of Asoph ul Dowlah, vizir of the Mogul empire, and nabob of Oude, in 1785, and 1786, gives the following account of the particulars upon this occasion:—

The commencement of the hunting season for the party is about the beginning of December, and the diversion is enjoyed 'till the excessive heats in the first weeks of March occasion its termination. During this time a circuit of between

400 and 600 miles is generally made; the hunters bending their course towards the skirts of the northern mountains, where the country is wild and uncultivated. The Visir takes along with him not only his court and seraglio, but a great part of the inhabitants of his capital also. His immediate attendants amount to about two thousand; but besides these he is followed by five or six hundred horse, and several battalions of regular sepoys, with their field-pieces. Four or five hundred elephants are likewise included in his retinue, some of which are used for riding, others for fighting, and some for clearing the jungles and forests of the game. About as many sumpter horses of the beautiful Persian and Arabian breeds are taken also. A great many wheel-carriages drawn by bullocks likewise attend, which are chiefly used for the convenience of the women; sometimes, also, he has an English chaise or two, with the addition of a chariot; but all these, as well as the horses, are merely for show, the Visir himself never using any other conveyance than an elephant, or occasionally, when fatigued or indisposed, a palanquin. The animals used in the sport are principally greyhounds, of which there may be about three hundred; he has also about two hundred hawks, and a few trained leopards for hunting deer; with many fowlers who provide game, as none of the natives of India know how to shoot game with small shot, or to hunt with slow hounds. A vast number of matchlocks are carried along with the company, with many English pieces of various kinds; forty or fifty pair of pistols, bows and arrows, besides swords, daggers, and sabres without number.

There are also nets of various kinds, some for quail, and others very large for fishing, which are carried upon elephants, attended by fishermen, so as to be always ready for throwing it into any river or lake the cavalcade may happen to fall in with. Every article that can at all contribute to luxury or pleasure is likewise taken under protection of the army. A great many carts are laden with water of the river Ganges, and even ice is transported for cooling the drink. The fruits of the season, and fresh vegetables are daily sent to him from his gardens by bearers stationed at the distance of every ten miles; by which means each article is conveyed, day or night, at the rate of four miles an hour. Besides the animals already mentioned, there are also fighting antelopes, buffaloes, and rams in great numbers; also several hundred pigeons, some fighting-cocks, with a vast variety of parrots, nightingales, &c. To complete the magnificence or extravagance of this expedition, there is always a large bazar, or moving town, which attends the camp; consisting of shop-keepers and artificers of all kinds, money-changers, and dancing-women: so that, upon the most moderate calculation, the whole

number of people in, and dependant upon his camp, cannot be computed at less than twenty thousand. The nabob himself, and all the gentlemen of his camp, are provided with double sets of tents and equipage, which are always sent on the day before, to the place to which he intends to go; so that by the time he has finished his sporting in the morning, he finds his whole camp ready pitched for his reception.

The nabob, with the attending gentlemen, proceed in a regular moving court, or durbar, and thus they keep conversing together and looking for game. A great many hares, foxes, jackals, and sometimes deer, are picked up by the dogs as they pass along; the hawks are carried just before the elephants, and let fly at whatever game is sprung for them, which is generally partridges, bustards, quails, and different kinds of herons; these last affording excellent sport with the falcons or sharp-winged hawks. Wild-boars are sometimes started, and either shot or run down by the dogs and horsemen. Hunting the tiger is, however, looked upon as the principal diversion, and the discovery of one of these animals is accounted a matter of great exultation. The covert in which the tiger is found is commonly long grass, or reeds of such an height as frequently to reach above the elephants; and it is difficult to find him in such a place, as he commonly endeavours to steal off, or lies so close to the ground, that he cannot be roused 'till the elephants are almost upon him. He then roars and skulks away, but is shot at as soon as he can be seen; it being generally understood, and universally contrived that the nabob shall have the first shot. If the tiger be not disabled, he continues to skulk along, followed by the line of elephants; the nabob and others shooting at him as often as he can be seen, 'till he falls. The elephants themselves are very much alarmed at this terrible animal, and discover their apprehensions by shrieking and roaring as soon as they begin to smell him, or hear him growl, generally attempting to turn away from the place where he is. When the tiger can be traced to any particular spot, the elephants are disposed of in a circle round him; in which case he will at last make a desperate attack, springing upon the elephant that is nearest, and attempting to tear him with his teeth and claws. Some, but very few, of the elephants can be brought to attack the tiger; and this they do by curling up their trunks under their mouths, and then attempting to toss, or otherwise destroy him with their tusks, or to crush him with their feet, or knees. It is considered fair and good sport to kill one tiger in a day; but it sometimes so happens that a female is found with her young, when two or three share the same fate.

The other objects of pursuit in these excursions are wild-elephants, buffaloes, and rhinoceroses; our author having been present at the hunting of a wild elephant of vast size and strength. An attempt was first made to take him alive, by surrounding him with tame elephants, while he was kept at bay by crackers and other fireworks; but he most sagaciously and courageously avoided every stratagem of this kind. Sometimes the drivers of the tame elephants got so near him, that they threw strong ropes over his head, and endeavoured to detain him by fastening them around trees; but he constantly snapped the ropes like pack-threads, and made his way for the forest. Some of the strongest and most furious of the fighting elephants were then brought up to engage him; but he attacked them with such fury that they were all obliged to desist. In his struggle with one of them, he broke one of his tusks, and the broken piece, which was upwards of two inches in diameter of solid ivory, flew up into the air several yards above their heads. Orders were now given to kill him, as it seemed impossible to take him alive; but even this was not accomplished without the greatest difficulty. He twice turned and attacked the party who pursued him; and in one of these attacks struck the elephant obliquely on which the prince rode, threw him upon his side, but then passed on without offering any farther injury: at last he fell dead, after having received, as was supposed, little less than a thousand balls within his body.

Returning again to the chase, and the predominant passion for pursuing it in our own country; it is natural to advert to the "topographical remarks, and hunting anecdotes of the Rev. Richard Warner," who has gone most deeply and industriously into the subject, from the time of the Anglo-Saxons nearly to the present day. After his description of a Saxon hunt, he observes, that the rural amusements of our ancestors were of a far more noble and manly nature than the puny chases of modern times. The species of hunting in which they delighted, was a sport that gave vigour to the frame, strength to the constitution, and nourished that martial ardour, and fearless intrepidity, which, when exerted in the field of battle, generally carried off the palm of victory. A great variety of laws were promulgated by the Anglo-Saxon monarchs, to prevent any of the inferior ranks of people from trespassing on the amusements of the king and nobility, by pursuing or destroying the game. Sacred as they considered this exclusive privilege of hunting, and exquisite as their enjoyment of it was, a story, told by William of Malmesbury, does no little credit to the patient philosophy of Edward the Confessor, who is said to have entertained a strong passion for it. This prince being engaged in the chase, his party had driven a large herd of stags into
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several narrow stalls, erected for the purpose, in which, by means of nets, they inclosed the deer, and then selecting such as they chose to take, gave the others their liberty. These receptacles a certain countryman had broke down, so that the game escaped. The king was sorely hurt at this disappointment; but, at the same time, possessing magnanimity sufficient to govern his rage, only exclaimed to the terrified rustic, "By G—d and his mother! I would punish thee severely if I could trust myself to do it." An example of forbearance, which many of the mighty hunters of the present day, would do well to imitate.

If it were possible that the Anglo-Saxons could be exceeded by any other nation in their fondness for field-sports, it is fair to conclude it was by the Normans alone, who seem, by every transmission upon record, to have laboured under a sort of *furor venaticus*. The inordinate passion, indeed, which the Anglo-Norman kings entertained for this amusement, was the source of lamentable ills to their subjects; ills which survived their cause for centuries, and exist, in some degree, to the present day. Setting aside the very disputable account of that devastation which William is said to have committed in the southern part of Hampshire, the forest laws remain an unhappy proof of the cruel effects this blind infatuation produced: laws, which though deprived by the policy of succeeding monarchs of their original sanguinary hue, still continue to be, even in their present softened state, a reproach to a country that boasts itself to be free. Some adequate idea of the Conqueror's high enjoyment of rural sports may be formed, not more from the rigorous measures he adopted to secure the game from violation, than the princely donations he bestowed on those who assisted in promoting these delights. Domesday-book evinces, that Waleran, the huntsman, possessed no less than fifteen manors in Wiltshire, eight in Dorsetshire, together with several in Hampshire; and his name occurs in the list of tenants *in capite* in other counties. The same venerable remain of antiquity records the extensive possessions of other huntsmen, who bore the names of Croc, Godwin, Willielmus, &c. &c. The ardor of the great Norman lords for this exercise kept pace with that of their monarchs; and the same tyrannic severity against the unfortunate violator of the game was exercised by these mighty hunters on their own estates, which the king practised against the trespassers on his demesnes.

"In these days," says an ancient writer, "our nobility esteem the sports of hunting and hawking as the most honourable employments, the most exalted virtues; and to be continually engaged in these amusements is, in their opinion, the

the summit of human happiness. They prepare for a hunt with more trouble, anxiety, and cost, than they would for a battle, and follow the beasts of the forest with greater fury than they do their enemies; by being constantly engaged in this savage sport, they contract habits of barbarity; lose, in a great measure, their feeling and humanity, and become nearly as ferocious as the beasts which they pursue. The husbandman is driven, together with his innocent flocks and herds, from his fertile fields, his meadows and his pastures, that beasts may roam there in his stead. Should one of these potent, and merciless sportsmen pass your door, place before him, in a moment, all the refreshment your habitation affords, or that can be purchased, or borrowed in your neighbourhood, that you may not be utterly ruined, or perchance accused of treason." The same writer tells us, the fair sex also caught the prevailing passion; while, as we learn from other authors, the *mitre* deserted its functions, and the *cowl* quitted the quiet retirement of the monastery, to join in the infatuating transports of the chase. It is no small matter of surprise to find the clerical character make so conspicuous a figure as it does in all rural sports during the middle ages. But it must be recollected, that at this period, a cloud of ignorance and barbarism having overspread the greatest part of Europe, such ranks of society as were removed by their riches or profession from the necessity of labour, could only amuse themselves by hunting, hawking, and other exercises, that required but little or no mental exertion. Ecclesiastics, in particular, separated as they were from secular cares, had more time on their hands than any other description of people; a leisure they seem chiefly to have employed in the joys of the chase. Numerous instances might be adduced in confirmation of this fact, but the most respectable ones shall suffice.

Walterus, Archdeacon of Canterbury, who was promoted to the see of Rochester in 1147, spent the whole of his time in hunting, utterly neglecting the high duties of his office. He lived to a very advanced age, and was, when eighty years of age, as keen a sportsman as ever. Reginaldus Brian, translated to the bishopric of Worcester in 1352, was another episcopal Nimrod. In a manuscript epistle of his now extant, written to the Bishop of St. David's, Reginald reminds the father of a promise he had made, to send him six couple of excellent hunting-dogs; the best (the sportsman confesses) he had ever seen. These, he tells him, he had been in anxious expectation of every day; and he declares his heart languished for their arrival. "Let them come then," says he,
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“oh reverend father! without delay; let my woods re-echo with the music of their cry, and the chearful notes of the horn; and let the walls of my palace be decorated with the trophies of the chase,” Nor were these clerical sportsmen content with consuming their leisure time in amusements of this nature; they even contrived to blend them with the functions of their office; and in the visitations and progresses which they made at particular periods through their dioceses, such numbers of hounds, horses, huntsmen, and falconers swelled their retinue, that the religious houses in which they were pleased to quarter themselves, were frequently much distressed to provide for so large a company. About the year 1200, the prior and canons of Bridlington, in Yorkshire, presented a formal complaint to Pope Innocent the Third, against the Archdeacon of Richmond, who, when he made his visitations, brought so many horses, hawks, and attendants with him, that the complainants declared, his motley suite destroyed more provision in one hour, than the whole community consumed in a long time. The pope, in answer to their petition, dispatched a bull, directed to the archbishops, bishops, archdeacons, deans, and officials of York, forbidding such shameful and oppressive visits in future.

The monasteries also afforded no less notable hunters than the episcopal chair. William de Clowne, whom his biographer celebrates as the most amiable prelate that ever filled the abbacy of St. Mary's, in Leicestershire, numbered amongst his excellent qualities, a profound skill in the science of hunting. That his kennel might be always well supplied, he requested the king (Richard the Second) to grant him a market or fair, for the sole purpose of buying and selling hare-hounds, and other sorts of dogs; which request the king, seeing he passionately desired it, complied with. This abbot (observes his eulogist) was esteemed the most famous and knowing sportsman in the pursuit of the hare, throughout the whole kingdom; insomuch that the king himself, prince Edward his son, and most of the grandees in the realm, allowed him annual pensions, as a return for the instructions he gave them in this species of ventry. The Norman mode of hunting must have been rather insipid and spiritless, in comparison with the manly and animating chase of the wild-boar and wolf, which our Saxon ancestors pursued on foot. Instead of this practice, the more polished Normans refined upon the Anglo-Saxon method, and introduced the luxury of horses in hunting; confining their sport, in a great measure, to the destruction of the less offensive and dangerous animals, such as harts, roe-bucks, foxes, hares,

hares, &c. Not that they altogether forsook the pursuit of the wolf and boar, though from the few casual hints on this subject, which may be found in our early writers, it appears their chief amusement consisted in hunting beasts of a different description.

They had two modes of following this diversion: one of which (that most usually pursued) a modern sportsman would by no means dignify with the appellation of hunting. The king, or baron, attended by a numerous retinue, mounted his palfry, and rode to the spot which had been previously marked out for the sport of the day. Here the great man and his favourites took their station, in places by which they thought the game might pass; the attendants separating, dispersed themselves through the forest, and rousing the deer, endeavoured to drive them to these fatal spots. As the animals glided by, the sportsmen discharged their arrows at them; and being in the constant habit of using these weapons, they were so excellently skilled in archery, that their bows seldom twanged in vain. It was in the pursuit of this pleasure, that William Rufus, according to the testimony of ancient historians, lost his life. Little different from the sport just described, but attended with more ceremony, was the diversion named the *Traist*, or *Trista*, which is thus described:

A wide and extensive plain was sought out, surrounded entirely by a wood, which was barricadoed on all sides, except certain openings in particular spots to permit the ingress and egress of the game. A mound or eminence was raised, if there was no natural knoll in this area, in such a situation as to command a view of the game, and give the person an opportunity of discharging his arrows at it. Here the king stood: the beasts were then driven into the area, and the dogs sent after them; and such as passed by the ambushed monarch could not escape the chance of being destroyed by him. Those which attempted to escape through the openings before mentioned, were torn down by the dogs, or intercepted by the attendants stationed there for that purpose. Though the old English ladies seem to have been somewhat partial to a sport which so deeply engaged the attention of their beaus, yet they practised it in a style much more suitable to the delicacy of their sex, than our modern huntresses do. We deride the barbarous roughness, as we are pleased to term it, of ancient manners, without adverting to numerous customs of our own, which favour more of the earliest ages of Gothic simplicity, than the polished and refined æra in which we live. Uncouth as

we may esteem the dames of the Anglo-Norman, and old English times to have been—yet their notions of propriety, in many cases, were such as we must allow had their foundation in reason and truth. With respect to hunting, indeed, few will assert them to have been otherwise. They did not affect the uncomely courage, unbeseeing skill, which our present huntresses display in the field.

“ The cap, the whip, the masculine attire,

“ In which they roughen to the sense, and all

“ The winning softness of their sex is lost.”

They then rode in a litter, or chair, either borne by men, or carried on a horse, and were content to see the game destroyed, without being themselves the destroyers of it. But though the methods above described, might be the most fashionable modes of hunting among the Normans, it is certain, notwithstanding, they often followed their game on horseback; since the monkish writers inform us, that Richard, one of the conqueror's sons, perished in the New-Forest, smitten by the branch of a tree, when riding inattentively after his game. In Chaucer's time, riding was become pretty general on these occasions; as all the Anglo-Normans, and early English monarchs, were extremely partial to a diversion which was so intimately connected with their state of life and manners. Rufus, it has been seen, lost his life in the pursuit; and John, amidst all the bustle of a distracted and inglorious reign, found frequent opportunities of indulging an extreme passion for the chase. The *fine rolls* of his reign sufficiently prove his predilection for hunting and hawking; since by these documents, he appears to have generally taken, in lieu of those fines which accrued to him in return for grants and seisin of estates, a variety of dogs, hawks, and horses, animals evidently calculated to indulge and gratify his ruling passion. Edward the First also may be justly enumerated among the old royal hunters of England; as appears from the several items in his wardrobe-book (for the 28th year of his reign), of the expences incurred on this account. He seems to have been one of the original fox-hunters too; but his pack would have made but an insignificant figure in the kennels of modern sportsmen, as twelve hounds were the amount of it, and twenty-one pounds six shillings the annual expence of keeping them.

So partial, indeed, were the old English to the amusement of which we are speaking, that they considered it as one of the greatest, and most serious employments of their lives, and reduced the sport of hunting to a regular science. Several

veral treatises were written on this subject for the instruction of juvenile Nimrods; and numerous rules were laid down for the observations of those who filled the various offices in the forest, the kennel, and the stable. One of the most curious performances extant on the subject of hunting, is a manuscript written in the beginning of the fourteenth century, in Norman French, by William Twice, grand huntsman to Edward the Second; an ancient translation of it into English occurs among the Cottonian MSS. But perhaps, after all, nothing can prove so clearly the partiality of the old English to the sport of hunting, and the eagerness with which it was pursued by every rank of people, from the highest to the lowest, as the number of popular ballads, and traditionary stories on this subject which have reached our times. By these we find, that the tyrannical severity of the forest-laws was insufficient to keep the yeomanry of the kingdom from the pursuit of a sport which seemed to have a connection with their very existence. Many of them taking advantage of that weakness of the government, and relaxed state of the laws which the feudal system naturally produced, retired into the recesses of the large forests, which, at this period, covered a considerable part of the kingdom, formed themselves into a banditti, and pursued their favourite sport without restraint; levying occasional contributions on such as wandered near their haunts. Of these sylvan plunderers, none make so brilliant a figure in tradition, as the famed Robin Hood, and the faithful *Little John*. Their deeds are related in the simple measures of numberless old songs, which still continue to be the favourite ditties of the vulgar; a proof that hunting, the burthen of them all, is a subject deeply interesting to the human heart.

In these old compositions, though generally they are rather prosaic, yet now and then a few stanzas occur, highly descriptive, and painting in lively colours the manners of past times. Among the dogs which attended the old English to the chase, none seem to have been so highly prized as the original race of greyhounds, and so they continued the favourites of the middle ages. Whenever a nobleman travelled, he never went without these dogs; the hawk he bore upon his wrist, and the greyhounds who ran before him were certain testimonials of his rank; and in the ancient pipe-rolls, payments appear to have been often made in these valuable animals, who were chiefly useful in the pursuit of the hart, stag, and roe-buck. But the descriptive lines quoted from Shakespeare almost immediately under the commencement of this head, leave no doubt that the dog most highly estimated in this country during the sixteenth century, was the old

English, or southern hound (upon which we now treat), obliquely descended from the blood-hound which was for ages so carefully cultivated in most parts of the kingdom; a breed, which though it still subsists, has lost, by intermixture with inferior blood, those strongly depicted characteristic traits which the immortal writer has so beautifully defined. Notwithstanding, towards the latter end of the last century, it was mentioned as an admirable hound by the Chevalier de Fresne. And, by way of conclusion to this account of ancient hunting, it may not be thought inapplicable to make a few observations on the animals which afforded amusement to our forefathers in the chase.

That the wild-boar was a constant object of sport with the Saxons, and occasionally with the Anglo-Normans, and old English, is not denied by any one; but it seems to be matter of doubt with some, whether the wolf continued to be hunted in this country after the reign of Edgar, the Anglo-Saxon. Hume, citing William of Malmsbury as his authority, asserts, that this æra was marked by the extirpation of wolves from England. Our ingenious historian, however, seems to have considered the passage in Malmsbury rather hastily. The monk does not say that Edgar actually destroyed the breed of wolves throughout his kingdom—but that he intended, or thought to have done it: and in pursuance of this determination, he imposed a tribute on Llodwalls, king of Wales, of three hundred heads of wolves, to be paid to him yearly; which tribute having been sent for three years, was dropped on the fourth; Llodwalls declaring he could not find any more wolves within his realm. But surely it is not to be inferred from thence, that the breed was then completely extinguished as well in England as in Wales; for there are, indeed, documents remaining to the present day, which entirely contradict a supposition of this nature, and convince us, that the wolf was hunted in this country so lately as the fourteenth century. They are expressly mentioned as beasts of venery in the laws of king Henry the First; and, among those who formerly held by that mode of tenure called *petit serjeanty*, it was very customary to perform the service of hunting and destroying the wolves in different parts of the kingdom. The particular periods, therefore, when the wolf and wild-boar became extinct in this country, cannot with precision, probably, be accurately ascertained; but the history and fall of the roe-buck are better known. He continued to be an inhabitant of England, 'till within the last century, and was not unfrequently met with on the wastes, a small distance from Hexham, in Northumberland. As the breed, however, became gradually more scarce, it was sought for with greater eagerness

eagerness; so that after enduring the united attacks of the dog and gun for a few seasons, it at length dwindled away into one solitary animal, which, about forty years since, is said to have been destroyed by —— Whitfield, Esq. of Whitfield, in Northumberland. Notwithstanding their admitted obliteration from this country, they are still to be found in the woody and mountainous part of Scotland; several having been lately seen by Col. Thornton and his friends (particularly upon the estates of the Duke of Gordon), as described in his recent publication of “A Sporting Tour through the Northern Parts of England, and great Part of the Highlands of Scotland.”



GREENLAND DOG.

THE animal passing under this denomination is but little known in this country, and the only authentic particulars respecting their origin and ability, seem to center in the productions of Captains Cooke and King, collaterally corroborated by various writers of somewhat less celebrity. This, and the Kamschadale dog are said to vary but lightly in figure, strength, and appearance, though they differ a little upon the score of pliability and education. The Greenland dog has greatly the predominance of a wolfish aspect, and, at the first view, seems admirably calculated to excite the emotions of alarm. They are mostly much beyond the line of mediocrity in size, are usually white, with a black face, not unfrequently pycbald, rarely all brown, or black, but sometimes entirely white; they have sharp noses, hair thick and wavy, inclining to a twisty curl, short ears, and an oblique curvature in the tail; a discordant hoarseness in vociferation, which is more of a disquieted howl, than an attempt to bark. These dogs sleep abroad, forming an excavated bed in the snow, from whence but merely the nose appears above it. They swim most admirably, and will hunt individually, or in a body, the Arctic-fox, seals on the ice, and the Polar-bear; in the latter of which they are used by the natives: they are universally admitted to be excessively fierce, and, in the manner of wolves, fly upon any of the few domestic animals which have been carried into that country. They are so instinctively courageous, and so invincibly persevering, that they will fight even to death among themselves; and it may be seriously considered a most fortunate circumstance for the inhabitants that canine madness, or hydrophobia, are neither of them ever known in regions of so much frigidity. Yet it is somewhat remarkable, that in Sweden madness sometimes seizes the wolf, and the consequences are frequently dreadful; the symptoms are the same with those attendant upon the madness of a dog; fury sparkles in their eyes; a viscid, ropy, saliva drivels from the mouth, the tail is carried low, and they are always equally disposed to bite either man or beast: but as this

disease



Greenland Dog

Greenland Dog

GREENLAND DOG.

THE GREENLAND DOG, BY HENRY J. WOOD, ENGRAVER.



disease happens mostly in the depth of winter, it cannot, of course, be attributed to the raging heat of the dog-days.

It is, by different writers, considered singular, that the race of European dogs shew an antipathy as strong to the Kamtschatkan and American species, as to the wolf itself. They never meet but the European dogs shew all signs of dislike; will fall on and worry them, whilst the wolfish breed, with every mark of timidity, endeavours to avoid the other's rage. This aversion to the wolf is natural to the whole canine species; and it is a matter generally known, that a whelp who has never seen a wolf will, at first sight, tremble, and make to its master for protection: but an old dog will instantly attack it. It is well authenticated that the dogs of Kamtschatka are of wolfish descent, for wolves abound in that country, in all parts of Siberia, and even under the Arctic circle; their colour is black and white, they are strong and active, and are used for drawing sledges over the frozen snow. They are, in size and shape, little different from the large Russian boor-dog, and are held to be the best and most long-winded runners of all the dogs in Siberia. So incredibly great is their spirit, that they frequently dislocate their joints in drawing; and their hair is often tinged with red, from the extravasation of blood, occasioned by violent exertions. The ordinary loading of four dogs amounts to five or six poods, and a single man can in this manner, in bad roads, go thirty or forty—but, in good roads, eighty to a hundred and forty versts in a day. The taste for dogs is as great here as it is for horses elsewhere, and considerable sums are not unfrequently expended in the purchase of them, and the elegance of their trappings.

The natives of this peninsula always travel in sledges. The length of the body of the sledge is about four feet and a half, and the breadth one foot; it is made in the form of a crescent, of light tough wood, fastened together with wicker-work, and those of the principal people are elegantly stained with red and blue, the seat being covered with furs, or bear-skins. It has four legs, about two feet in height, resting on two flat long pieces of wood, of the breadth of five or six inches, which extend a foot beyond the body of the sledge at each end. These turn up before, something like a skait, and are shod with the bone of some sea animal. The carriage is ornamented at the fore-part with tassels of coloured cloth, and leather thongs. It has a cross-bar, to which the harness is joined; and links of iron, or small bells are hanging to it, which, by the jingling, is supposed

posed to encourage the dogs. They seldom carry more than one person at a time, who sits aside, with his feet on the sledge, having his baggage and provisions in a bundle behind him. The usual number of dogs employed in drawing this carriage is four, though they very lately have begun to use five. The reins being fastened to the collar, instead of the head, have no great command, and are, therefore, usually hung upon the sledge, the driver depending principally upon their obedience to his voice. Great care and attention are consequently used in training up the leader, which frequently becomes very valuable on account of his steadiness and docility; the sum of forty roubles (or ten pounds) being no unusual price for one of them. The driver has also a crooked stick, answering the purpose of both whip and reins, with which, by striking in the snow, he can regulate the speed of the dogs, or even stop them at pleasure. When they are inattentive to their duty, he often chastises them by throwing it at them. The dexterity of the drivers in picking this stick up again, is very remarkable, and is the most difficult manœuvre in the exercise of their profession.

Nor is it, indeed, surprising that they should be successful in a practice in which they are so materially interested; for they assure visiting enquirers, that if a driver should happen to lose his stick, the dogs immediately discover it; and, unless their leader is both steady and resolute, they will instantly set off full speed, and never stop till their strength is exhausted, or 'till the carriage is overturned and dashed to pieces, or hurried down a precipice, when all are buried in the snow. The accounts of the speed of these animals, and of the hardships and fatigues they suffer, would have appeared incredible, had they not been supported by the greatest authority. Some of the English were witnesses of the extraordinary expedition with which the messenger returned, who had been dispatched to Bolcho-retsk with the news of their arrival at St. Peter and St. Paul's, though the snow was exceedingly soft. The Governor of Kamtschatka assured them, that this journey was usually performed in two days and a half, and that he had once received an express from that harbour in twenty-three hours. The principal town of Kamtschatka is Bolcheretsk, the residence of the Russian Governor, and is situated in a low swampy plain, extending to the sea of Okotsk. It lies north of the river Bolchoireka, and in a peninsula which has been separated from the continent by a large canal; and in this peninsula is choice of timber adapted to various purposes; shrubs of divers kinds, and several excellent plants of medicinal qualities. The country abounds with foxes, which are of different colours, and the most general

neral objects of pursuit; their fur being far superior in quality to those in any other part of Siberia, or, in fact, of all America. The dark chesnut and blue-breasted foxes are, in general, so crafty as to elude the artifices of the hunters, their sagacity exceeding that of the other species. But the grand source of wealth here may be said to be derived from the *zibiline*, or sable. Those found near the rivers Tigil and Ouka are deemed the best; they are sold at a high price, and exceed those of any other part of the globe; the flesh is esteemed very delicate food by the natives.

In hunting for these animals a rifle-barrel gun is used to shoot them on the trees; a net also, to surround the hollow trees in which they take refuge; and a number of bricks put heated into the cavities, to smook them out. The fur of the *gulo*, or glutton, is here held in the highest estimation, and considered by the natives as the principal ornament of their attire. There are both black and white bears; the first are very common, and it has been observed by travellers, that those animals never attack a man unless they find him asleep, when they tear the scalp off the back part of the head, and sometimes destroy him. Their skins are converted to different purposes of dress and furniture; and their flesh considered a delicious repast. In the forests are wolves, as well as lynxes, boars, elks, and a kind of stag resembling the fallow-deer. There is also the rein-deer, both wild and tame, in several parts of the peninsula; and it has been deemed matter of wonder, that the inhabitants have never, after the example of their neighbours to the north and eastward, availed themselves of these animals for the convenience of carriage. The only specious cause that can be assigned is, that their dogs are of great utility in drawing their sledges over the snow; nor do they scarcely ever lose their way in the most severe and gloomy season. Towards the end of May they are released from their labour, and left to provide for themselves during the summer; and what appears extraordinary is, that as soon as the snow begins to fall, they return to their respective owners.

The principal diversion of the natives is that of hunting the bear, which is followed about the setting of the sun; having found out the track of the animals, and fixed upon a convenient spot for concealment, the huntsmen patiently wait with their guns pointed in a proper direction. They accustom themselves to kennel, or lie down, as circumstances may require, and having their bear-spears in readiness, wait the arrival of their game. On the discharge of their piece, the enraged animal makes immediately towards the place from whence the sound and smoke issue, and furiously attacks his adversaries; if he should not happen to fall, and they have

not sufficient time to re-load their pieces, they immediately prepare to receive him upon their spears; their own safety depending, in a great measure, on their giving him a mortal stab as he advances upon them. Should he parry the thrust, and break in upon his opponents, the conflict becomes dreadful, and it is seldom that a single life will satisfy the beast's revenge. There are two seasons of the year in which this diversion is particularly dangerous; in the spring, when they first issue from their caves, after having subsisted the whole winter (as the natives positively assert) solely on sucking their paws, they become exceedingly famished, and growing fierce and savage in proportion, pursue the inhabitants by the scent, and prowling about at a distance from their usual tracks, dart upon them unawares; so that the natives, having no idea of shooting flying, or even running, fall a certain sacrifice to their rapacity. The time of their copulation, which is towards the close of the year, is another dangerous season. The hunters never presume to fire at a young bear if the dam is known to be upon, or near the spot; as if the cub happens to be killed, she becomes enraged to an immoderate degree, and is sure to be revenged on the offender, or to die in the attempt. If the dam should fall, the cub continues by her side, exhibiting, by the most affecting gestures and motions, the most poignant affliction; in which the hunters, instead of commiserating their distress, embrace the opportunity to destroy them.

The Greenlanders, though they derive such manifest advantages from the strength and activity of their dogs, are by no means kinder masters than the Kamtschatkans; they leave their dogs to provide for themselves upon muscles, berries, and whatever food they can pick up, unless, after a large capture of seals, when they treat them with blood and garbage. These people sometimes eat their dogs, and feed them for that purpose; they have their skins also for coverlets and for clothing, as well as to border and seam their habits; and from the intestines of the animals their finest thread is made. The Greenlanders fasten to their sledges from four to ten dogs, and they will travel with this carriage over the ice, laden with their masters and five or six heavy seals, fifteen German, or sixty English miles in a day. Five of these dogs, that had escaped with their trappings, were found in Greenland, and brought to this country a few years since, by one of our ships employed in the fishery. Of their expedition Capt. King relates, that a courier with dispatches drawn by them, performed a journey of 270 miles in four days; their fidelity, however, is not highly praised, and not seldom do they plague their masters with their malignant stratagems. The sledges are usually drawn by five dogs (though more are occasionally added when circumstances require it), and will readily carry three persons, with their baggage, fifty, or even sixty English miles

miles a day. When the vehicle is drawn by five dogs, four of them are yoked two and two abreast; the odd one who is placed before, acts as a leader, the reins being fastened to a collar round his neck, but which is of trifling service in their direction, as (before observed) the driver depending chiefly upon their obedience to his voice, by which alone, with the assisting flourish of his stick, he animates them to proceed. We are informed, by different writers upon this subject, that some nations remote from the more polished and enlightened parts of the world, approve the canine species as food, and esteem a fat dog a proportional delicacy.

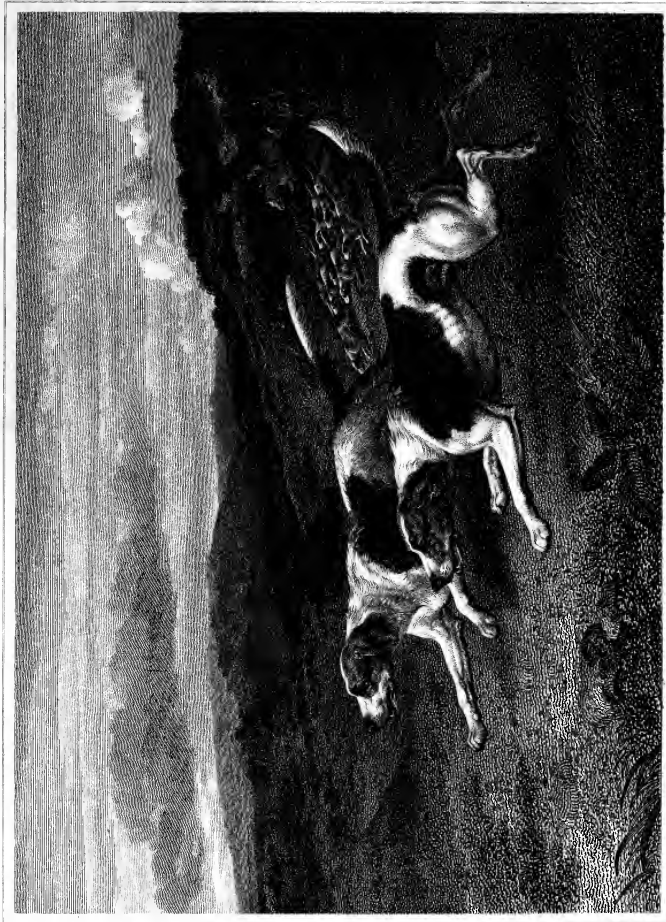
In the Society Islands they are fattened with vegetables, which the natives cram down their throats when they will not voluntarily eat any more; the method is much the same as Turkeys are served in England, which, by the way, appears to be more of a savage than a Christian custom. They thrive amazingly, and grow extremely fat, and are allowed, even by Europeans, who have got over their prejudices, to be very palatable. They are killed by strangling, and the extravasated blood is preserved in cocoa-nut shells, and baked for the table; but the islanders of the Pacific Ocean and others, who at this period relish dog's-flesh, are not so singular in their taste as might be apprehended; the ancients reckoning a young dog excellent eating. Hippocrates placed it on a footing with mutton or pork, stating, that the flesh of a grown dog was wholesome and strengthening; that of puppies relaxing. The Romans admired sucking whelps; they sacrificed them to their divinities; a practice still observed by the Asiatic and American savages, to bespeak favour, or avert evil; and the Romans thought them also a supper in which the gods themselves delighted. Not to attract the attention, or engage the mind more upon subjects so remote from personal inspection, it may not now be thought inapplicable that we return to the exhilarating sport and entertaining descriptive of our own country.



FOX - HOUND.

THE hound passing under this denomination seems, after a long succession of experiments, in crossing and re-crossing the different breeds, to have attained the criterion of perfection. In the rural world it is universally admitted, that hounds, in the aggregate of general acceptation, are the well-known and fashionable objects of sporting attraction from one extremity of the kingdom to the other; possessing within themselves a fascinating power, or exhilarating property, to which all liberal minds of congenial sensibility become imperceptibly and irresistibly subdued: forming that kind of inexplicable temptation, that indescribable vibration of pleasure upon human irritability, that none but those of the most stoical apathy, the greatest mental fortitude, or personal self-denial, can summon sufficient resolution to avoid. The wonderful variety of hounds with which the country formerly abounded seems, by the judicious and experimental crosses of succeeding generations, to have been rationally reduced to a more consistent point of view, and now center in the four distinct kinds, individually appropriated to the pursuit of stag, fox, and hare; by the different appellation of stag-hounds, fox-hounds, harriers, and beagles, three of which have been already described, and the fourth now comes under consideration. Of the four sorts just mentioned, each becomes a degree less in size than the other, with such variations in strength, speed, colour, and tongue, as may have been adopted by the judgment or fancy of every breeder who has been anxious for improvement.

It is an axiom of notoriety, that "there is no rule without an exception;" notwithstanding which, an author of much sporting celebrity, in animadverting upon the breeding of hounds, pays implicit respect to rule, but without any collateral allusion to exception. It is his opinion, "that there are necessary points in the shape of a hound, which ought always to be attended to; for if he be not of perfect symmetry, he will neither run fast, or do much work: he has much to undergo,



FOX HOUNDS.

and any other, by mutual consent, after the 1st day of the month...



dergo, and should have strength proportioned to it. His legs should be straight as arrows; his feet round, and not too large; his shoulders back; his breast rather wide than narrow; his chest deep, his back broad; his head small; his neck thin; his tail thick and brushy; and, if he carries it well so much the better." The great intention during the last fifty years in the breed of hounds has been to adapt the size and qualifications of the pack to the game they have to pursue; and hence it is, that the best, fleetest, and most fashionable fox-hound of the present day, is fixed at about two degrees above the standard of mediocrity in size, with such proportion of persevering speed as enables them to kill their fox in half the time the old packs were enabled to do, previous to the many emulative exertions made to effect the present improvement. That some ideal scale may be formed for the comprehension of those who are little accustomed to sporting calculations or comparisons, it will, upon a general aggregate, be fair to rate a beagle from twelve to fourteen inches high; a harrier from sixteen to eighteen; a fox-hound from twenty to two or three and twenty inches; and a stag-hound to two feet four: at these sizes with shape, make, steadiness, and speed in proportion, they may be considered equal to any of their distinct species of game they are brought up to in the field.

However fertile the most anxious sportsman may be in his imagination, or however experienced he may be in his practice, it will be found impracticable for him to go into a delineation of the pack, or a description of the chase, without occasionally treading, in some degree, upon the ground of those who have gone before him. In fact, it is regretted by Mr. Beckford, in his "Thoughts upon Hunting" (which have long since reached the summit of celebrity), that so few have condescended to communicate their opinions, observations, or reflections upon so copious and fashionable a subject. He says, it is not to be wondered at, that an Englishman should be thought to understand the art of hunting, as the hounds which this country produces are universally admitted to be the best in the world: from whence he thinks this inference may be drawn, that although every man who follows this diversion may not understand it, yet it is extraordinary of the many who do, that only one* of any note should have written upon the subject. Is it not strange (he observes), in a country where the press is in one continued labour with opinions of almost every kind, from the most serious and instructive to the most trifling and ridiculous; a country, besides, so famous for the best hounds,

* Somerville.

and the best horses to follow them, whose authors sometimes hunt, and whose sportsmen sometimes write, that only the practical part of hunting should be known? There is, however, no doubt that the practical part of it would be improved were it to be applicably accompanied by theory.

“ France, Germany, and Italy are also silent, it is believed, upon this subject, though each of these countries have had their sportsmen. Foxes, it is true, they never hunt, and hares but seldom; yet the stag and wild-boar, both in France and in Germany, are still pursued with the utmost splendour and magnificence. In Italy there has been no hunting since the death of the Duke of Parma; he was exceedingly fond of it, but it is concluded to have ceased with him. Yet it has not been so with horsemanship, that has been treated scientifically by all—in Italy by Pignatelli—in Germany by Isenburgh—and in France by La Gueriniere: nor are the useful lessons of the Duke of Newcastle confined to this country only; they are both read and practised every where: nor is he the only *noble* who has written upon the subject; while upon hunting all are silent, and, were it not for the muse of Somerville, who has so judiciously and so sweetly sung the dog, that useful, honest, faithful, disinterested, entertaining animal would have been suffered to pass unnoticed and undistinguished. There is hardly any one branch of knowledge, commonly dignified with the title of art, which has not such rudiments, or principles, as may lead to a competent degree of skill, if not to perfection in it: whilst hunting, the sole business of some, and the amusement of most of the youth in this kingdom, seems left entirely to chance. Its pursuit (says Mr. Beckford) puts us both to greater expence, and also to greater inconvenience than any other; yet, notwithstanding this, we trust our diversion in it to the sole guidance of a huntsman: we follow just as he shall chuse to conduct us; and we suffer the success, or disappointment of the chase to depend entirely on the judgment of a fellow, who is frequently a greater brute than the creature on which he rides. It is not to be expected that a huntsman should be a scholar, or that every gentleman should hunt his own hounds; neither is it necessary for a huntsman to be a man of letters, but it is absolutely indispensable, that he should possess a tolerable understanding, as he would have frequent opportunities of putting it to the test.”

Since the promulgation of the above remarks by Mr. Beckford, the variety of opinions and publications which have issued from the press, upon the general subject of field enjoyment, certainly exculpate the sportsmen of the present day from
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the accusation of literary indolence, or mental sterility; and evidently demonstrate the constantly increasing attachment to the most predominant pleasure of the times. It is not only admitted by Mr. Beckford, but re-echoed by others, that however lively and fascinating fox-hunting may be in the field, it is but a dull, dry subject to write upon; and that it is, probably, much less difficult to follow a fox-chase than to describe one. This sport, it is added, is not now conducted as it was in the time of Sir John Vanburgh; the intemperance, clownishness, and illiteracy of the old fox-hunter is now worn out, and, beyond a doubt, a much more accurate definition of one might be made than what he has left behind. Certain it is, from the evidence of both reason and fashion, that upon the principle of spirit and liberality with which it is now so enthusiastically enjoyed, it is indubitably considered the amusement of a gentleman, nor need any gentleman be at all ashamed of it. Of this opinion Somerville was so firmly possessed, that, in his preludatory introduction to his poem of the Chase, he has strongly inculcated the following sublime and beautiful passage, as an emulative stimulus to a sport which reflects so much honour and happiness on the country in which we live:—

“Ye vig'rous youths, by smiling Fortune blest
 With large demesnes, hereditary wealth,
 Heap'd copious by your wise forefathers' care,
 Hear and attend! while I the means reveal
 T' enjoy those pleasures, for the weak too strong,
 Too costly for the poor: to rein the steed
 Swift-stretching o'er the plain, to cheer the pack
 Op'ning in concerts of harmonious joy,
 But breathing death. What tho' the gripe severe
 Of brazen-fisted Time, and slow disease
 Creeping thro' ev'ry vein, and nerve unstrung,
 Afflict my shatter'd frame, undaunted still
 Fix'd as the mountain-ash, that braves the bolts
 Of angry Jove! tho' blasted, yet unfallen;
 Still can my soul in Fancy's mirror view
 Deeds glorious once, recall the joyous scene
 In all its splendours deck'd, o'er the full bowl
 Recount my triumphs past, urge others on
 With hand and voice, and point the winding way:
 Pleas'd with that social sweet garrulity,
 The poor disbanded vet'ran's sole delight.”

By this energetic specimen it may be readily conceived how very zealously the writer had the promotion of his favourite sport at heart. In strict conformity with
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the plan laid down at the commencement, he continues to inculcate, through the whole of his work, progressive instructions for the due attainment of every knowledge necessarily adequate to a perfect comprehension of the subjects upon which he wrote. Mr. Beckford too, seemingly conscious of similar uniformity, has rigidly adhered to the same system through the whole of his literary effusions, from which so much information and entertainment has been derived; to corroborate the intent of both will be the earnest endeavour of the present writer, who, by blending the anecdotes and opinions of others with a long and attentive experience of his own, is not without a hope of rendering the subject a matter of sporting gratification. Fox-hunting has been, for time immemorial, a favourite sport with the natives of this country, particularly during the prime of life; the exhilarating exercise of both body and mind contributing greatly to the enjoyment and preservation of health: though it must be as candidly admitted, that the certain fatigue and occasional danger render it but ill-adapted to the valetudinarian, the aged, and the infirm. The persevering speed and fortitude of the game, the constantly improving high-mettled excellence of the hounds, the invincible spirit of the horses, and the unrestrained ardour of their riders, have given it a decided superiority over every other sport or amusement ever yet known to the people of this kingdom. Its salutary and permanent effect upon the human frame has been so long self-evident, that it appears to be too firmly established ever to be shaken even by time itself; the superlative pleasure of every variegated scene, the diversities of the country, the rapturous enjoyment of the aggregate, and the ecstasy with which it is embraced by its infinity of devotees, have exalted the estimation and excellence of this sport to a system of perfection never before known: in fact, so very much so, that some of the most opulent, the most eminent, and the most learned characters are principally and personally engaged in it, in almost every county from one extremity of the kingdom to the other.

Fox-hunting, it cannot be denied, seems possessed of a charm, or magical inspiration within itself, by which "all hearts are subdued;" and to which even the most singular, serious, or cynical, cannot, with all the fluctuating firmness of their resolves, summon resolution to withstand. It is that very kind of sublime gratification, to which every effort of the pen is too feeble to do ample justice; unequivocally, it must be seen to be understood, and it must be personally engaged in, to be enjoyed. It may be naturally concluded, from the state of perfection in which we at present stand, that there is no country in Europe can boast of fox-hounds equal in swiftness, strength, or agility, to those of Great Britain; where

where the utmost attention is bestowed upon their breeding, maintenance, and education. The climate itself is also evidently congenial to their nature, for it is not only universally known, but is beyond every quirk and quibble of controversy, that when hounds, the produce of England, are transported to France, or sent into other countries, they gradationally degenerate, and are soon perceptibly divested of all the predominant faculties for which they were before held in such high estimation. Upon this transient survey of the chase, and the component parts of which its acknowledged excellence is derived, it can create no surprize, even to the sceptical, that in this country the attachment of the people to the chase should be considered almost a distinguishing trait in the national character, where both the horses and hounds are so proverbially remarkable for excelling the breed and ability of every other. And, indeed, the rage for improvement is by no means abated; for it is but a few years since the celebrated pack of Mr. Noel's was purchased by Sir William Lowther for a thousand guineas: and there is not the least doubt, but there are now some few packs, whose excellencies are particularly known, and proportionally estimated, that would produce much larger sums if offered for public sale.

This high scale of estimation can constitute no matter of surprize, when once the enormous expence of a fox-hunting establishment is taken into consideration; and even conducted upon a fair and economical plan, without any of those well-known profusions and extravagancies, which have reduced so many to the abyss of adversity, confined within the dreary walls of a prison, without the least promising ray of extrication. In short, the woeful experience of many has sufficiently proved, that nothing less than a very handsome property can support a retinue of so much extent, and (when once embarked in) unavoidable expenditure; a reflection that, properly attended to, may prevent many juvenile adventurers from venturing upon a precipice, where every part of the prospect teems with impending ruin. Of this, little confirmation is required, when it is considered, that in the most moderate establishments of this kind, at least with those packs calculated to bespeak the opulence, and celebrate the eminence of their owners, any part of the following aggregate can in no way whatever be done without. A principal, and a second huntsman; a first and second whipper-in; three horses kept for each of the two first; and two each for both the last; from twenty-five to thirty-five couple of hunting hounds (exclusive of whelps growing up for the support of stock), terriers, helpers, dog-feeders, earth-stoppers, and a long list of

indispensible *et ceteras* too numerous for minute description, but equally calculated to increase the enormity of the annual expence.

To those whose permanent possessions are adequate to such an undertaking, and whose preliminary arrangements are prudently laid down, certain rules must be judiciously adopted, and as regularly persevered in, for the credit and respectability of the establishment when once it is formed. Country-seat and situation are the leading and most predominant points, to the weight of which consideration every other must implicitly submit; for without a proper proportion of game, and an undisputed scope of country to ride over in pursuit of it, neighbouring litigations frequently occur, and repentant disappointments ensue. Admitting, however, that a situation is secured, replete with every concomitant convenience for luxurious enjoyment of sport; it is the opinion of Somerville and Beckford in succession, that a proper and salutary scite for the erection of the kennel (so as to become contributory to the health and comfort of the hounds) should precede every other consideration; in a candid confirmation of the justice of which remark, the last of the two advances the following reason: "The proprietor of a pack may, as often as he changes his mind, as easily change from one kind of hound to another, but the kennel will still remain the same; will still keep its original imperfections, unless altered, and that, most probably, at a great expence; and be less perfect at last than it might have been made at first, had a proper plan been pursued. It is true (he continues), hounds may be kept in barns and stables; but those who keep them in such places can best inform us, whether their hounds are capable of answering the purposes for which they were designed."

So satisfactorily convinced was Somerville of the great advantage to be derived by the hounds from such accumulated conveniencies, that he enters most energetically upon the subject, in almost the earliest pages of his initiation:

" First let the kennel be the huntsman's care,
Upon some little eminence erect,
And fronting to the ruddy dawn; its courts
On either hand wide op'ning to receive
The sun's all-cheering beams, when mild he shines,
And gilds the mountain tops. For much the pack
(Rous'd from their dark alcoves) delight to stretch,
And bask in his invigorating ray:

Warri'd

Warn'd by the streaming light, and merry lark,
 Forth rush the jolly clan ; with tuneful throats
 They carol loud, and in grand chorus join'd,
 Salute the new-born day."

And in strict conformity with the opinion previously promulgated, Beckford falls into direct unison, saying, let such as Somerville directs be the situation, the size being suited to the number of its inhabitants ; the architecture may be rendered conformable to any taste, but unnecessary expence, at all events, had better be avoided. As it is natural to conclude the owner will often pay it a visit (particularly during the hunting season), a degree of neatness without, as well as cleanliness within, will tend to give it additional attraction. There are many well-founded objections to having a kennel too near the dwelling-house ; though there are rather more, and those more forcible, to its being at too great a distance : it is a maxim never stale in the "mind's eye" of an experienced sportsman, that "the eye of the master makes the horse fat," so is it no less necessary in the dog-kennel, where cleanliness is as fully essential as food. The surest way to have a kennel of superior construction, is to take every possible survey of the buildings of others, before we proceed to erect our own ; by which, perhaps, alterations may be avoided, and repentance prevented. Upon this part of the subject a considerable portion of matter has been introduced in an earlier stage of the work ; to enlarge unnecessarily upon which, would be a palpable proof of supererogation.

The necessary appendages to the kennel being regularly adjusted, two modes present themselves by which the receptacle thus prepared may be judiciously filled ; the one by purchase, where a complete and perfect pack is to be obtained, or by the more tedious and uncertain process of breeding, from as many couple of stanch, well-bred old hounds as may be thought necessary for the purpose. After all the experiments that have been made, and the collateral crosses that have taken place during the half century past, the criterion of general excellence is admitted to center more in the line of mediocrity than in any other size whatever. Attentive observation on the part of the most minute and scrutinizing sportsmen, seems to have decided, that hounds of middle size are proportionally the strongest, and the best calculated to endure severe chases and long days. Fancy is frequently predominant with various individuals in both the height and the colour of their hounds, but, upon the points of shape and make, there can be but one opinion, and

and that is sufficiently explained in the admirable execution of the print annexed. Mr. Beckford, whose judicious remarks are always blended with the most applicable effusions of mirth, says, "he considers the colour but of little moment; being entirely of the opinion of our late modern Aristophanes respecting his *Negro Friend*, that a good dog, like a good candidate, cannot be of a bad colour."

Some energetic sportsmen, it is frequently seen, are, from an affected singularity, or an imaginary superiority, too apt to be prepossessed in favour of the sort of hound they have been most accustomed to; those who have been used to the sharp-nosed fox-hound, will seldom allow a large-headed dog to be a fox-hound; yet they both equally are. Speed and beauty are the chief excellencies of the one; whilst stoutness and tenderness of nose in hunting are truly characteristic of the other. Much good running is sometimes seen with very unhandsome and disproportioned packs in respect to size; differing from each other as much in look and shape as in their colour; nor can there be traced the least sign of consanguinity amongst them; and although such hounds are individually good, they cannot, to a sportsman of taste and feeling, be as a pack consistently commended. Nothing can more essentially add to the excellence of sport than that hounds should run well together; nor can this desirable end be more readily attained, than by drafting, or breeding 'till they are brought to an equal degree of perfection in sort, shape, and size. The great merit in fox-hounds is the great head they carry; and that pack may be said to go the fastest, who can run ten miles the soonest; notwithstanding the hounds, separately, may not run so fast as many others: but a pack of hounds, when considered collectively, go fast in proportion to the excellence of their noses, and the head they carry; as that traveller generally gets soonest to his journey's end who stops the least upon the road. A friend of Mr. Beckford's killed *thirty-seven brace* of foxes in one season, and twenty-nine of those were killed in succession; but what rendered the circumstance of greater singularity is, that they were killed by hounds bred from a pack of harriers, nor had they a single skirter among them.

He also mentions, a pack then in his neighbourhood of all sorts and sizes, which seldom missed a fox; when they ran, there was a long string of them, and every fault was hit off by an old southern hound; out of the last eighteen foxes they hunted, they killed seventeen, and he had no doubt, that as they became more complete, more foxes would escape them. It is a generally received opinion, that packs composed of hounds of various kinds seldom run well together, nor do
their

their tongues harmonize, yet it is thought they kill most foxes ; but not being killed in true sporting style, to the experienced sportsman they fall short in satisfaction. Mr. Beckford observes, he once asked the famous *Will Crane* how his hounds behaved—" *Very well, Sir,*" he replied ; *they never come to a fault but they spread like a sky-rocket.*" Thus should it always be. This is not unworthy comparison with an old fox-hunter, who asked a gentleman in the field what he thought of his hounds ? " Your pack is composed, Sir," said he, " of dogs which any other man would *hang* ; they are all *skirters.*" This was taken as a compliment, although every sportsman considers a skirter a disgrace to the pack, as they are always changing where game is plenty, and lose more foxes than they contribute to kill. Opinions vary much respecting the number of hounds it is necessary, or prudent to keep ; the propriety of which must depend upon the strength of the pack, and the magnitude of the country they are intended to hunt ; as well as the nature of that country, as some countries lame hounds more than others. Taking out too many hounds, Mr. Somerville properly calls an *useless incumbrance* ; it is not so material what the number is, as it is that all the hounds should be steady, and as nearly as possible of equal speed.

When packs are unreasonably large, the hounds are seldom sufficiently hunted to be good. Few people choose to hunt every day ; and, if they were so inclined, the weather in the winter season would most certainly prevent them. Where too many hounds are kept, a double inconvenience must ensue, either to take out a very large pack, or a great number of hounds must be left behind ; in the first of which, too many hounds in the field would, most probably, spoil the sport, and, in the latter, hounds that remain long without work, always get out of wind, and become disposed to be riotous of course. From thirty-five to forty couple of hunting-hounds are plenty ; with these the field may be taken three, or even four times a week, and, probably, more foxes killed than with a greater number. Hounds, to be good, must be kept constantly hunted : and young hounds should never be left at home, as long as they are able to hunt : the old, the lame, and such as are low in flesh, are entitled to rest, as well as others occasionally, which, it is supposed, idleness cannot spoil. It is in general considered, an error in judgment to keep too many hounds, for, if they are wished and expected to run well together, none should continue longer than five or six seasons ; in fact, there is no saying, to a certainty, what number of seasons a hound will last. In all probability, some, like individuals of the human species, may have better constitutions than others, and will consequently bear more work ; and it may be fairly concluded,

concluded, that the duration of all bodies must depend as much on the usage they may receive, as upon the materials of which they are made.

As it has been before premised, so it becomes directly in point to proceed, upon a foregoing remark, that, upon the purity of the breed, the future excellence of hounds must principally depend. There is an active emulation in the minds of men which almost invariably stimulates to farther improvement; and in every pursuit, while something remains to be attained, so long will it afford food for rational amusement: much pleasure will, therefore, be found in the breeding of hounds, in which the expectation is never completely satisfied, and it is on the judicious and critical management of this business that success must entirely depend. Strict attention should first be made to the size, shape, colour, strength, and constitution of the dog selected to be bred from; as well as his natural disposition, the fineness of his nose, his stoutness, his ardour in the chase, and his steady manner of hunting. Of all which, even Somerville was so experimentally aware, that he has descended to the following particulars for the perpetual support of the pack:

“The prudent huntsman, therefore, will supply
With annual large recruits, his broken pack,
And propagate their kind. As from the root
Fresh scions still spring forth, and daily yield
New blooming honours to the parent tree.
Far shall his pack be fam'd, far sought his breed,
And princes at their tables feast those hounds
His hand presents, an acceptable boon.”

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“Nor will sagacious huntsmen less regard
His inward habits: the vain babbler shun,
Ever loquacious, ever in the wrong.
His foolish offspring shall offend thy ears
With false alarms, and loud impertinence.
Nor less the shifting cur avoid, that breaks
Illusive from the pack; to the next hedge
Devious he strays, there ev'ry meuse he tries:
If haply then he cross the steaming scent,
Away he flies vain-glorious, and exults
As of the pack supreme, and in his speed
And strength unrivall'd.”

Due attention to the rules above laid down will insure success; as it is the judicious cross that makes the pack complete. The faults and imperfections in one breed may be obliterated by a lucky intermixture with another. If a fortunate hit takes place pursue it, but let it be an invariable rule never to put an old dog to an old bitch; accumulated infirmities may be productive of hereditary defects, which it is much better to prevent at first, than have the mortification to repent in future. Hounds should be healthy to be bred from, or there can be but a slender expectation of a healthy offspring. Should a well-bred, and favourite dog skirt a little, he had better be put to a thorough line-hunting bitch, and such a cross may chance to succeed; the only objection to breeding from such a hound is, that as skirting is what most fox-hounds acquire from practice, it is better, perhaps, not to let them imbibe it from nature. It is a duty incumbent upon the feeder to watch over the bitches with an eye of rigid circumspection, and separate such as give proofs of early copulation, before it is too late; the advances they make frequently tend to mischief, and, if not prevented in time, will not fail to set the whole kennel by the ears, but also hazard the lives of some of the best dogs in the pack. Of this disaster, Somerville had so perfect a retrospection, that he has not failed to inculcate the following precaution:—

“ Mark well the wanton females of thy pack,
That curl their taper tails, and frisking court
Their piebald mates enamour'd; their red eyes
Flash fires impure; nor rest, nor food they take,
Goaded by furious love. In sep'rate cells
Confine them now, lest bloody civil wars
Annoy thy peaceful state. If left at large,
The growling rivals in dread battle join,
And rude encounter.”

For want of proper attention to the kennel in this respect, the huntsman is sometimes a stranger to the breed of his hounds, and many a good dog falls a sacrifice to the inadvertency. The earliest months of the year are the best for the whelps to be produced; late puppies seldom thrive; if there should be such, they are entitled to the best and most favourable walks. When bitches begin to get big, they should be withdrawn from the hunting-hounds, and hunt no more; it frequently proves fatal to the puppies, and sometimes to the bitch herself. If one bitch has many puppies, and the sort are required to be saved, some may be transferred to a bitch who has less, by whom they will be preserved; if a favourite

sort

sort is bred from, it will be no bad plan to have a second bitch warded about the same time, by which means the whole of the puppies, if desired, may be saved. The bitches should be amply supplied with flesh, and have plenty of milk; nor should the puppies be taken from them 'till they are able to take care of themselves: they will soon learn to lap milk, which will always relieve the mother. Upon the puppies being taken away, the bitches should have two doses of physic, about four or five days apart, to assist in the absorption of the milk. Gentle repellents, as warm vinegar, or equal parts of brandy and water, applied to the dugs with a sponge, will assist in getting rid of the milk, and of course, if in the season, the bitch will be the sooner ready to hunt. The distemper (as it is called) is well known to attack and carry off numbers of whelps in their sixth and seventh month; this is, most probably, owing to the little care taken of them at their walks, as where they are constantly well fed, and lie warm, it rarely appears.

In breeding, the best bitches should be taken to the best dogs, and no prejudice in favour of home-stock should prevent it; those who breed only a few hounds may have a good pack; whilst those who breed many (if at the same time they understand the business) reduce it to a certainty. Young hounds are mostly named when first put out to walk, and the usual mode is to name all the whelps of one litter, with the same *initial* letter as that of the dog that got, or the bitch who bred them. A list of names will be found inserted in an earlier stage of the work. They should also be marked on the side (which is termed *branding* them) with the initial letter of the owner's name; it may prevent their being stolen from the walk, and after being entered with the pack, if at any time lost in the country, during, or after a chase, it will evidently indicate to whom it belongs. When young hounds are first brought home from their walks, they should be kept separate from the pack; and as this generally happens at a time of the year when there is little, or no hunting, they should be accommodated, if possible, with a small temporary kennel and grass court adjoining. Their play sometimes ends in a battle; it is, therefore, less dangerous to have the whole equally matched; o which, Somerville was so little unmindful, that we find it beautifully depicted in the following lines:—

“ But here with watchful and observant eye,
Attend their frolics, which too often end
In bloody broils and death. High o'er thy head
Wave thy resounding whip, and with a voice

Fierce-

Fierce-menacing o'er rule the stern debate,
 And quench their kindling rage ; for oft in sport
 Begun, combat ensues, growling they snarl,
 Then on their haunches reared, rampant they seize
 Each other's throat, with teeth, and claws, in gore
 Besmear'd, they wound, they tear, 'till on the ground,
 Panting, half-dead the conquer'd champion lies :
 Then sudden all the base ignoble crowd
 Loud-clam'ring seize the helpless worried wretch,
 And thirsting for his blood, drag diff'rent ways
 His mangled carcass on th' ensanguin'd plain."

If it is found a dislike is taken to any particular hound, the safest way will be to remove him ; as from an ill-founded and increasing antipathy they may, probably, destroy him at last. It is too much the custom, when a feeder hears the hounds quarrel in the kennel, to halloo most unmercifully, in a hope of stopping them, which is immediately followed by going in amongst them, and flogging every hound he can come near. Perhaps it might be thought more equitable, certainly more efficacious, were he to see which were the combatants before he proceeded to indiscriminate castigation. Punishment would then fall as it ought, on the guilty only. In most packs there are some more irritable and quarrelsome than the rest ; and it is, in general, to those all the mischief is owing that is done. Young hounds ought to be fed twice a day, as they seldom take kindly at first to the kennel meat, and the distemper is most apt to seize them about this time, if they have not had it before. It will be advisable not to round their ears 'till hot weather, as then they might, probably, bleed too much. The better way is to round them at their walks, when about six months old ; should it be done sooner, the cartilaginous substance not having acquired the necessary firmness, would, probably, recede, and the ear tuck. If any favourite young dogs should be narrow over the loins, or others remarkably quarrelsome, both had better undergo the operation of castration ; bitches also not intended to breed from, it may be an advantage to spay, they are more useful, are stouter, and are always in better order, and one additional convenience is derived from this practice, particularly if they are in a country where they hunt late in the spring, or a considerable part of the pack must be left at home for want of it. In the latter operation, it is necessary to observe, that it does not always succeed, if not performed by an operator of much skill and experience ; for where the collateral appendages to the parts of generation are not carefully extracted and taken away, although they cannot have puppies, they may go to heat at certain seasons notwithstanding, and this must

prove exceedingly troublesome even in the kennel, but much more so in the chase. Bitches should be kept low for a week preceding the operation, and be fed with warm thin meat for some days after.

When the young hounds have been rounded, know the huntsman, are well reconciled to the kennel, and begin to know their names, they should be put into couples, and walked out amongst the sheep. Should any prove snappish and troublesome, the couples may be left loose about their necks in the kennel 'till they become more reconciled to them. If any are more stubborn than the rest, they should be coupled to the old, rather than young hounds; and two dogs should not be coupled together when it can be avoided. Young hounds are frequently very awkward at first, it is therefore most prudent to send out but a few at a time, and those with attendants on foot; they will soon become handy enough to follow a horse, but care must be taken that the couples are not let too loose, lest they should slip their necks out of the collar, and give plenty of trouble before they are caught again. When they have been often walked amongst the sheep in this manner, they may then be uncoupled a few at a time, and such chastised as offer to run after them; it will soon be found, that the cry of "*ware sheep*" will stop them sufficiently without the whip, and the less this is used the better. With proper care and persevering attention they will soon be made ashamed of it, but, if once inadvertently permitted to taste the blood, it will prove a troublesome task to reclaim them. Various are the methods used to break such dogs from the sheep, some, more fertile than others, have coupled such to a ram, which is breaking them with a vengeance;—better hang them.

Mr. Beckford, upon this subject, introduces the following:—"A late lord of my acquaintance, who had heard of this method, and whose whole pack had been often guilty of killing sheep, determined to punish them, and to that intent put the largest ram he could find into his kennel. The men with their whips and voices, and the ram with his horns, soon put the whole kennel into confusion and dismay, the hounds and the ram being then left together. Meeting a friend soon after, "come," says he, "come with me to the kennel, and see what rare sport the ram makes among the hounds; the old fellow lays about him stoutly, I assure you—egad he trims them—there is not a dog dares look him in the face." His friend, who is a compassionate man, began to pity the hounds exceedingly, and asked if he was not afraid some of them would be spoiled:—"No d—n them!" said he, "they deserve it, and let them suffer." On they went—all was quiet—they opened the

the kennel-door, but neither hound nor ram was to be seen; the latter having been entirely eaten up, and the hounds having filled their bellies, were all retired to rest." It is a prudent plan, when hounds are aired, to take them out separately, the old ones on one day, another day the young. The latter are, at all times, invariably ready for all kind of mischief; and idleness (or renovated spirits from rest) would, probably, induce the old ones to join in it; besides, should they break off from the huntsman, the whipper-in is generally too ill mounted at this season of the year to easily head, or bring them back, it is therefore better that no such risk should be run. Mr. Beckford produces an instance in which his hounds were very near spoiled by the mere accident of a horse's falling. The whipper-in was thrown from his horse; the horse ran away, and the whole pack followed: a flock of sheep which were at a little distance took fright, began to run, and the hounds pursued them, the most vicious set on the rest, and several sheep were soon pulled down and killed. This circumstance is introduced merely to prove what caution is necessary whilst hounds are idle; for though the fall of the horse was not to be attributed to any fault of the man, yet had the old hounds been taken out by themselves, or had all the young ones been in couples, it is probable so common an accident would not have produced so extraordinary an effect.

When the time is arrived that is necessary to stoop them to scent, they had better be entered at their own game, it may save much trouble afterwards. Most dogs seem to like that scent best which they were first blooded to; but, be that as it may, it is certainly most reasonable to use them to that which it is intended they are to hunt. When first they begin to hunt, it may not be amiss to put light collars on them; young hounds may easily get out of their knowledge; and shy ones, after they have been much beaten, may not chuse to return readily home, in which case collars may prevent their being lost. There are many, and different opinions about the best and most proper time for entering young hounds; the most predominant seem to say, "*as soon as you can*;" but that very time must depend upon the state of the country in which the kennel is fixed; in corn countries it may not be possible to hunt 'till after the corn is cut; in grass countries it may take place sooner; and in the woodlands the hounds may hunt as soon as the object of sport is thought sufficiently matured for the chase. If the country affords plenty of foxes, and a few can be sacrificed for the sake of making young hounds steady, they should be taken first where they can find with the least riot, taking care to throw in some of the steadiest old hounds amongst them. If in such a place a litter of foxes is luckily found, the young hounds will have so fortunate

an introduction, that very little trouble will be had with them afterwards. Some young hounds who threaten to be inexorably riotous at first, not unfrequently turn out to be the best at the end.

Hounds, at their first entering, cannot be encouraged too much; when they become attentive, love a scent, and begin to know what is right, it will be soon enough to chastise them for doing wrong; in which case, one proper correction will save, in future, a vast deal of unnecessary trouble. It should be ever predominant in the memory of a whipper-in, that when he has occasion to flog a hound, he should make use of his voice as well as his whip; and to recollect, that the smack of the whip is often of as much use as the lash to those who have felt it. If any should prove obstinately unsteady, it will not be amiss to send them out by themselves, with the men when they go out to exercise, or to water their horses. In a country where hares are so plenty as by jumping up suddenly to obstruct and retard the chase, it will be prudent to have some found sitting, and turned out before them, when it may soon be seen, that even the most riotous will not give themselves the trouble to run after them. That they may be made steady from deer, they should be often aired and exercised where deer are, and they will not long regard them; and if, after a proof of this, a cub is turned out before them, with a couple or two of old hounds to lead them on, there need be very little fear of much unsteadiness, or deviation from the chase in future. The lordly, or rather inhuman practice of most huntsmen, in flogging hounds in the kennel, ought to be held in the greatest abhorrence; as it is unreasonable, unjust, and cruel, displaying much less of justice, than an inveterate malignity. Hounds that are old offenders, that are very riotous, and, at the same time, very cunning, it may be difficult to catch; such hounds may be excepted—they deserve punishment wherever taken, and are entitled to correction when it can be laid on. Such is a particular case, and necessity may excuse it; but the peace and quiet of a kennel should never be wantonly destroyed. When hounds palpably offend, they must be punished: when caught in the fact, then let them suffer—but above all, in the midst of justice, lose not sight of mercy.

When young hounds begin to stoop at a scent, are become obedient, know a rate, and stoop easily, they may then be gradually introduced to the pack, but only a few at the time; nor should this be begun 'till the pack have been out by themselves two or three times, and are gotten well into blood. It is also advisable to take them the first day, where they are most sure to find; as long rest makes

makes all hounds riotous, and they may do that in the extreme excess of high spirits which they would not be induced to do at any other time. Hounds should always be low in flesh at the commencement of the hunting season ; the ground is then hard, and they are more likely to be shaken. If the coverts happen to be large, the strait horn will prove the most powerful, and although it may not be considered very musical, yet, in the chase, it is not very material what the noise is, as long as it is clearly understood. In respect to the management of hounds, much coolness and steady patience is required, as well in the kennel as in the field ; so much so, that, in a critical investigation, the feeder may be equitably considered the very main-spring constituting the original and permanent strength of the establishment ; he should not only prove active and humane in his department, but strictly obedient in the execution of whatever orders he may receive, and these become much more salutary and acceptable from the master (when they can be so given) with regard to the management, as well as the breeding of hounds ; it not being, for various reasons, altogether proper, or consistent, that he should be entirely under, or subservient to the sole caprice of the huntsman.

Where the proprietor of a pack of hounds is inattentive, or superior to his own concerns, it bears with it the appearance of the hounds belonging to the huntsman ; the stable of hunters to the groom, and the inferior possessions to the subordinates, who all piqueing themselves upon their imaginary consequence, the master seems no more interested in the direction than an entire stranger. In every instance of this kind, things seldom continue in a permanent state ; the supreme command should never be delegated to weaker hands : servants may be permitted to remonstrate, but never to disobey, for he who allows a huntsman to manage his hounds without controul, absolutely keeps them more for the huntsman's amusement than his own. As the excellence of sport in the field depends entirely upon that exquisite sense of smelling so peculiar to the hound, every care should be taken to preserve it : and cleanliness is evidently the surest means. The keeping the kennel neat, sweet, and clean, cannot be too much inculcated, or too forcibly impressed upon the feeder ; nor should it admit of the most trifling deviation. If a servant observes a master systematically exact, he will, in all likelihood, endeavour to be the same himself, upon the ancient and experimental axiom, that "example is better than precept." When the feeder first comes to the kennel in a morning, he should let out the hounds into the outer court ; and, in bad weather, he should open the door of the hunting-kennel, lest want of rest should incline them to go into it. The lodging-room should then be cleaned out, the doors
and

and windows of it opened, the litter shaken up, and the kennel made sweet and clean before the hounds return to it again. The boiling for the hounds; mixing of the meat; and getting it ready for them at proper hours, the huntsman in general superintends, nor is it ever likely to be forgotten. Caution must be used to prevent the dogs from eating their meat too hot; neglect in this is sometimes attended with bad consequences, it cannot, therefore, be too carefully avoided. There should always be two persons present to feed the hounds, and none so proper as the feeder and the huntsman.

An exhortation to cleanliness has never been wanting in any who have written upon the subject; even Somerville has made it, more than once, the theme of animadversion:—

“ Soon as the growling pack with eager joy
Have lapp'd their smoaking viands, morn or eve,
From the full cistern lead the ductile streams,
To wash thy court well-pav'd, nor spare thy pains,
For much to health will cleanliness avail.”

A fact so universally demonstrated by experience, that it stands in need of no farther confirmation; other circumstances there are of not so much importance that require equal care and consideration: these are that part of the management of hounds in the kennel which require the attention of both huntsman and feeder in conjunction. The huntsman must always attend the feeding of the hounds, which should be drafted according to the condition they are in; in all packs, some hounds will feed better than others; many there are who will do with less meat; and it requires a very critical and attentive eye to keep them all in equal flesh and high condition: this is what distinguishes a good kennel-huntsman, and ought to enhance him in the estimation of his employer. It is, however, not often that huntsmen give this practice all the attention it deserves; they commonly feed their hounds in too great a hurry, and, probably, not often take the trouble to cast an eye over them before they begin: and yet, to distinguish with any nicety, the order a pack of hounds are in, and the different degrees of it, is surely no easy task, and, to be done well, requires no small degree of steady circumspection. - If any hounds are below par in appearance, and poorer than the rest, it would be an advantage to draft them off into a separate kennel; by which means, those hounds that require flesh will have an equal share of it. Such as are emaciated
should

should be fed again—such hounds cannot be fed too often; while, on the contrary, if there should be any too fat, they should be drafted off, and not permitted to fill themselves.

Mr. Beckford has made the following remarks upon the subject of feeding his own hounds, “that they are now fed at eight o’clock instead of eleven, as formerly. Their first feed is of barley-meal and oat-meal mixed, an equal quantity of each. Flesh is afterwards mixed up with the remainder for such hounds as are poor, who are then drafted off into another kennel, and let in to feed all together. When the flesh is all eaten, the pack are again let in, and are, by this means, cheated into a second appetite. At three o’clock, those that are intended to hunt the next day are drafted into the hunting-kennel; they are then let in to the feeding-yard, where a small quantity of oatmeal (about three buckets) is prepared for them, not thin, but of a moderate consistence. Such as are tender, or bad feeders, have a handful of boiled flesh given to them afterwards. When they are to hunt the next day, they are fed once only, and that at eleven o’clock. If the hounds in general are but low in flesh, and have far to go to covert, they may all have a little thin lap in the evening; but this should never be done if they are intended to hunt early the following morning. Hounds should be sharp-set before hunting; they run the better for it. If many of the hounds, after long rest, should be too fat, by feeding them for two or three days on thinner meat than is given others, it will be found to answer the purpose better than the usual method of giving them the same meat, and stinting them in the quantity of it. Hounds that are tender feeders cannot be fed too late, or with meat too good.”

If unforeseen circumstances, or a severity of the weather should prevent the hounds from being walked out, according to the custom of well-regulated establishments, they should be turned into the grass-court to empty themselves after they have been fed, it will contribute in no small degree to the cleanliness of the kennel. It is a most absurd and ridiculous practice in some kennels (of little care and less celebrity) to shut up the hounds for a couple of hours after they come in from hunting, before they are fed; and that other hounds are shut up with them to lick them clean. Nothing can more demonstrate the folly of this than the recollection, if hounds are shut up as soon as they come in from hunting, they will not leave the benches afterwards; for, if much fatigued, they will most assuredly prefer rest to food. Exclusive of which, it does not appear reasonable, but that a parcel

a parcel of idle hounds, shut up amongst such as are tired and inclined to rest, would disturb them more than all their licking would make amends for. When hounds are fed twice, they should be kept separate 'till after the second feeding; and it might be still better if they were not put together 'till the following morning. Hounds, when they come in from hunting, ought to be looked carefully over, to see whether any injuries have been sustained, and all invalids should be immediately taken care of. Such as have sore feet, should have them washed with warm gruel, brine, or pot-liquor, according to the occasion; and hounds that come home lame on one hunting-day, should not be taken out the next, since, from their eagerness to join the chase, they may possibly appear sound without being so. And such hounds as are ill, or lame, ought to be turned into another kennel, as it will be more convenient to give them *there* the attention their situation may require, as well in respect to medicine as food.

One day in the week, by way of prevention to disease, most hounds have one pound of sulphur given them with their meat; and once in the week, likewise, through the year, a good allowance of greens boiled up with it; and it seems most uniform and regular to fix on certain days, and let them be always the same, that there may be the less likelihood of their being forgotten. Mr. Beckford used to let them have the wash and pot-liquor from the kitchen, but experimentally finding it make them exceedingly thirsty, he omitted it during the hunting-season. A horse fresh killed is an excellent meal for hounds after a very hard day; but they should not hunt 'till the third day after. The bones broken very small is found good food for poor hounds, as there is much nutritious property in them. Sheeps' trotters are very sweet and healthy, when horse-flesh is not readily to be obtained. Oatmeal, it stands universally admitted, makes the best aliment for hounds; barley-meal is in general the cheapest, and, in many kennels, they give barley on that account: but it is certainly heating, does not mix up so well, nor is there so much proof in it as when mixed together. Much also depends upon the goodness of the meal, which, in fact, is but indifferently attended to; and it is no bad precaution to buy in a tolerable stock just before harvest, as there does not seem any other certainty of having the grain of the preceding year's growth, which is a much more material consideration than is generally thought of. In respect to the management of hounds for the prevention of disease, there are various opinions; some have an avowed aversion to bleeding, unless they evidently require it; others as regularly bleed twice a year, upon a professed plea that it is not only

only a preventive to morbidity, but to madness also. Some scientific reasoning may be adduced in favour of this proposition; as by unloading the vessels, and reducing the quantum of sizey, viscid blood, impending inflammation may often be prevented.

It is the practice in many kennels to physic the whole body of hounds twice a year; after they leave off hunting, and before they begin. The reasons advanced are, that it is given in hot weather, and at an idle time: it cools their bodies, and, without doubt, is of service. "If a hound be in want of physic," says Mr. Beckford, "I prefer giving it in balls; it is more easy to give in this manner the quantity he may want, and it is more certain that he takes it." The prescription for the preparation he gives in a reference, which is composed of "one pound of antimony, four ounces of sulphur, and syrup of buckthorn quantum sufficit to make a mass; of which, each ball should weigh about seven drachms; but not one word is included respecting at what time it is to be given, or how often repeated. There is an axiom of no short standing, that "the shoe-maker should never go beyond his last;" and although no man existing will presume to arraign his "Thoughts upon Hunting" yet few will fall into his practice of physic; not, at least, into the *technicality* of his terms, for what he calls "physic" (generally understood as the promoter of purgation) is no more than a medicinal alterative, calculated to alter the property, and correct the acrimony in the blood, but has no palpable effect whatever upon the contents of the intestines; nor can this, indeed, be expected, when it is considered that there is no relaxing property in either of the ingredients, except in the syrup of buckthorn: and then it is rationally to be presumed, that a mass of seven drachms (which is seven-eighths of an ounce) cannot be easily forced down the circumference of a hound's throat without repeated divisions. These remarks, however, are only introduced between physic (which are balls intended to purge in professional acceptance) and alteratives which operate only upon the property of the blood and its circulation, as will be explained more largely under the head of Disease, toward the conclusion of the work.

There is a custom with huntsmen of anointing, or what they call *dressing* their hounds, with the intent of making them fine in their coats; which ceremony takes place about twice a year, and sometimes oftener, if they find it necessary: the operation consists in rubbing over every part of the body, with patience and perseverance, a composition of train-oil, sulphur-vivum (commonly called burnt-

brimstone), tobacco-dust, and a small addition of spirits of turpentine, which, if not made too strong, by a too free addition of the latter, admirably answers the purpose, and is a never-failing preventive to that direful disease the *mange*, which is seen in kennels where too much flesh is given in the summer months, when the hounds do not hunt. Huntsmen too frequently content themselves with merely checking this disorder, when, with a little more trouble, they might effect a total extirpation; or, what is far more to be preferred, might, by extra care and attention, luckily prevent it. A regular course of whey and vegetables during the hot months must, certainly, prove a salutary diet, and a mangy hound is seldom seen in kennels where this system of circumspection is persevered in. Mr. Beckford, who never seems to have lost sight of any one circumstance at all calculated to add to the preservation of his hounds in the kennel, or their perfection in the field; and he says—"Every Monday and Friday my hounds go for whey 'till the hunting-season begins; are kept out several hours, and are often made to swim through rivers during the hot weather. After the last physic, and before they begin to hunt, they are exercised on the turnpike-road, to harden their feet, which are washed with strong brine as soon as they come in. Little straw is necessary during the summer; but, when the hunting-season comes in, they cannot have too much, or have it changed too often.

In many kennels they do not boil for the hounds in summer, but give them meal only; Mr. B. says, in his it is always boiled, but with this difference, that it is mixed up thin, instead of thick. In the winter season, hounds should always be shut up warm and comfortable at night. If any hounds be missing after hunting, the straw-house door should be left open; and, if they have had a hard day, it may be as well to leave some meat there for them. All these collateral considerations depend upon the critical exactness of the huntsman, whose abilities should be above the line of mediocrity in that class, and who should be, in no respect, deficient upon the score of emulation in any part of his business whatever. There is no small sagacity and circumspection required in feeding the hounds, some will hunt best when fed late; others, when fed early; some will stand in need of but little, while others cannot have too much. In fact, the great art of keeping the hounds nearest to the criterion of perfection for the field, is to have them as equal as can be in the state of their flesh, firmness and appearance. It was a remark made by an old sportsman, that he considered the management of hounds as a regular system of education, from the time when they are first taken into the kennel, and there does not seem the least reason to dissent from his opinion; for,

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if sagacity and superior penetration is expected from a hound when he is old, care must be taken what inculcations he receives in his youth; for, as he is the most docile, grateful, and obedient animal in the creation, so is he the most liable to bad habits, if left to chance without counteraction. A diversity of character, constitution, and disposition, are to be observed amongst them; which, to be made the most of, must be carefully attended to and differently treated.

In countries replete with woodlands, young hounds may begin to hunt early in the mornings of the latter end of August and beginning of September; the employment of the huntsman, during the preceding month, being to keep his old hounds healthy and quiet, by giving them proper exercise, and getting his young hounds forward: they are called over often in the kennel; it uses them to their names, to the huntsman, and to the whipper-in. No mode can so well tend to the improvement of young hounds as to take them out often: the huntsman should be prevailed upon to lounge about with them, nothing can make them so pliable and obedient: let him get off his horse at times, and encourage them to come to him—nothing can familiarize them so much. Walking them out, occasionally, amongst sheep, hares, and deer, is proper: this accustoms them to a rule, and teaches them how to obey it. As every scheme must be adopted to expedite perfection, so a huntsman sometimes turns down a cat in covert with the young hounds, which they hunt up to and kill; and when the time of hunting approaches, he turns out a badger, or young fox, taking out a few of the steadiest old hounds to lead them on, and this assists much in teaching them to hunt. He also draws coverts, and furze-breaks with them, to let them learn the use of the halloo! and to teach them obedience. If they find improper game and hunt it, they are stopped and brought back; and, as long as they will stop at a rate, they are not chastised. Attention and obedience is all that is required of them, 'till they have been sufficiently taught to know the game it is their business to pursue. When young hounds are taken out to air and exercise, it ought to be in that part of the country where they are to hunt, it being attended with this advantage: they acquire a perfect knowledge of the district, and, when left behind at any time, cannot fail hardly of easily finding their way home.

When an object so desirable can be conveniently accomplished, it will prove an advantage to hunt in large coverts, where there are openings, or rides, and young foxes annually turned out for that purpose. With such an advantage, they are most conveniently taught the scent they are encouraged to pursue, and are stopped

from every other ; by which means they soon become blooded to their own game. After they have been hunted a few days in this manner, they should then be sent to more distant coverts, and have more old hounds added to them ; and thus they should continue to hunt 'till they are taken into the pack, which is seldom later than the first week in October ; for, by that time, they will have acquired the necessary knowledge, and will seldom give much trouble afterwards. In most countries the season for fox-hunting rarely begins 'till the second week in October ; and, after the old hounds have killed a few foxes, the young hounds are, two or three couple at a time, incorporated with the pack 'till all have hunted ; after which, the young hounds who are regularly entered, as the supply for the year, are taken out half on one day, and the other half the next, 'till all are steady. Notwithstanding this approved method of entering young hounds, there are others occasionally brought into use, in proportion to the number of hounds required : as, for instance, if that number prove considerable, up to fifteen or sixteen couple, a large draft may be made of the steadiest hounds, which may be kept in a separate kennel with the young hounds, and hunted with them all the first part of the season. This, when the old hounds begin to hunt, makes two distinct packs, and is always attended with great trouble and inconvenience. Nothing injures the aggregate of the pack so much as to enter many young hounds, since it must be considerably weakened by being robbed of those which are the most steady ; and yet young hounds can do nothing without their assistance. Such, therefore, as enter their packs in this manner, will, sometimes at least, have two indifferent packs instead of one good one.

In the other method the young hounds are well awed from sheep, but never stoop to a scent 'till they are taken out with the pack ; they are then taken out only a few at a time ; and, if the pack be perfectly steady, and well manned, may, probably, not give much trouble. The method first mentioned is by much the best, if the hounds to be entered amount to nine or ten couple ; if the number is less, the latter plan will be most convenient. The one which makes two distinct packs is upon too extensive a plan for a moderate establishment, as it requires a greater display of horses, hounds, and hands, than many prudent sportsmen may be disposed to keep. It has been already observed, that from eight to ten couple of young hounds would be a sufficient annual lot bred for the supply of the kennel, if it is not upon a scale too extensive ; yet it must be held in recollection, that it is always better to have a reserve of an extra couple or two more than wanted, in case of unforeseen, or unexpected accidents : since, from the time of
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making the draft, to the time of hunting, is a long period, and their existence at that age and season very precarious: besides, when they are safe from that dire destruction, the *distemper*, they are not always safe from each other, and a summer seldom passes without losses of some description. At the same time it will be judicious not to enter more than are absolutely necessary to keep up the pack, as a superflux would only be productive of useless trouble and vexation. As it may be matter of doubt with a young sportsman, in the formation of his establishment, what number of old hounds it may be proper to hunt with the young ones, that must depend on the strength of the pack, and the number that can be spared; if good and steady, ten or twelve couple will be sufficient.

The young hounds, and such old hounds as are intended to hunt along with them, should be kept in a kennel by themselves, 'till the young hounds are hunted with the pack; and for this there are a variety of reasons might be adduced. Young hounds should never be taken into a forest, park, or chase, 'till they have been well blooded to fox, and then it will be the most safe to introduce no more than a couple or two at one time. The others should be walked out amongst the deer when the men take their horses to exercise; and should be severely chastised if they take any serious notice of them. They should also draw coverts with them; choosing out such where they can best see their hounds, and most easily command them, and where there is the least chance to find a fox; as there is a greater utility to be derived from rating the hounds, than from encouraging them: it requires less judgment, and, if properly done, is less dangerous in its consequences. One halloo of encouragement to a wrong scent undoes all that has been previously doing. When young hounds fully enter into the spirit of the chase, and enjoy the scent, it may be of use to encourage the propensity by occasionally turning out a badger before them, as it will then be evident what improvement they have made. A badger is mentioned upon a supposition that the country may be thin of foxes, they cannot so well be spared; besides, the badger, being a slower animal, he may easily be followed, and even driven the way it is wished he should run.

When it is intended to turn out a fox, or badger, it will be best to take them amongst hares, or deer; a little rating and flogging, before they are encouraged to vermin, is of the greatest use, as it teaches them as well what they should not, as what they should do. A badger will sometimes run several miles, if the business is judiciously managed; the better to effect which, he should be turned out in a very open country, and followed by a person who has more sense than

than to ride precisely on the line of him; if he falls in with no covert, hedge-row, or shaw, he will continue his route a few miles; but, if either presents itself, it will not be possible to get him one stroke farther. If any fox-cubs are run to ground in an indifferent country, and blood is not wanted, it will be better to bring them home, and they will be useful before the young hounds. Bag-foxes should be turned out before young hounds, but never before old ones. The day after hounds have had blood is a proper time to send them where there is a chance of riot, and a certain opportunity to chastise them if they deserve it; it is evidently the best to correct them when they cannot help knowing what they are corrected for. When hounds are sent out for this purpose, the later they go out the better, as the worse the scent is the less inclinable will they be to run to it, and, of course, give less trouble in stopping them. It is too much a practice (as before mentioned) with huntsmen to flog their hounds most unmercifully in the kennel; although it is a custom which would prove more "honoured in the breach, than the observance," yet, if many of the pack be obstinately riotous, a live hare may, with less impropriety, be put into the kennel with them, flogging them as often as they approach her: they will then have some notion, at least, for what they are beaten; previous to which uncharitable confusion, it would be proper and humane to draft off the hounds; an animal so contributory to the most ecstatic and exhilarating diversion should not be treated with unnecessary rigidity.

It is promulgated by Mr. Beckford (whether ironically, or not, every reader will be best enabled to decide for himself), that, "when a hare is put into the kennel, the huntsman and both the whippers-in should be present, and the whippers-in should flog every hound, calling him by his name, and rating him as often as he is near the hare; and, upon this occasion, they cannot cut them too hard, or rate them too much. When they think they have chastised them enough, the hare should then be taken away, the huntsman should halloo off his hounds, and the whippers-in should rate them to him. If any one should feel himself attached to hare more than the rest, a dead one may be tied round his neck, flogging and rating him at the same time; this, most probably, (it is natural to conclude most certainly) would make him ashamed of it: and, in fact, when a lot of draught fox-hounds are purchased at an auction, or by private contract, there is little doubt but some of them are so incorrigible that they are obliged to go through this severe discipline. It will be no bad plan to hunt the largest coverts with the young hounds, as it will tire them out, and prove a necessary step to making them steady; but they should be accompanied by old hounds enough to carry

on the scent—for, if there is not a sufficient number to do that, the young hounds, as soon as the ground becomes foiled, will be scattered about the covert, hunting old scents, and will not get on fast enough to tire themselves; but it should also be attentively recollected, that young hounds should not be taken into large coverts, where there is a chance of much riot, unless the whippers-in can get easily at them.

If hounds happen to be riotous, and are obliged to be stopped often from hare, it will be advisable to try on (however late it may be) 'till a fox is found; as giving them encouragement at such a time should prevail over every other consideration. Young hounds, in general, are given to riot, though, the better they are bred, the less trouble they are likely to give; well-bred pointers, it is well known, stand naturally, and high-bred fox-hounds love their own game best. Such, however, as are very riotous, should have but little rest; they should be hunted one day in large coverts where foxes are in plenty; the next day they should be walked out amongst hares and deer, and stopped from riot; and the day following be hunted again as before. Old hounds obtained from other packs (particularly those who have been originally entered at hare) are sometimes incorrigible; but there are very few young hounds so riotous but what may soon be reduced to obedience by the management here described. When hounds are rated, and do not answer the rate, they should be coupled up immediately and made to know the whipper-in; in all probability this method may save all farther trouble: these fellows sometimes punish hounds most unmercifully, and many of them seem to take pleasure in their cruelty; such conduct, in a servant, stands in need of early counteraction from the master.

It has been said, that no fox-hounds will break off to deer after once a fox is found; but this remark is too slender and precarious to be implicitly relied upon; some surer dependence had better be formed. Before fox-hounds are hunted where hares are plenty, let them be well awed and stopped from hare: before they hunt where there are deer, they should not only see, but be familiar to deer, and accustomed to draw coverts where deer are; for it will not be matter of surprize, if, after they are so far steady as not to run them in view, that they should challenge on the scent of them. Unless such proper modes of precaution are taken with young hounds before they are put to the pack, there will be a great risk run of corrupting the old ones, and a constant vexation encountered by hunting with unsteady hounds. Mr. Beckford says, he not only entered his young hounds at vermin,

vermin, but even used them, as soon as he could, to the thickest brakes, and strongest coverts, seldom finding that they ever shyed them afterwards. If in the country there are martin-cats (as all hounds are fond of their scent), it can be productive of no ill to enter young hounds in the coverts they frequent; the martin-cat being a small animal, by running the thickest brakes it can find, teaches hounds to covert, and is therefore of the greatest use. Obedience is not all the qualifications required in a hound, he should be capable of distinguishing between right and wrong, in some degree, himself, or it will admit of a doubt how the body of hounds are to be managed, when it frequently happens that the huntsman, or whipper-in, can neither of them see what they are at, and can only take their own words for it. A hound that hears a voice which has often rated him, and that hears the whip he has often felt, will stop sometimes, of course; but he will, most probably, soon commit the same fault again, if he has been accustomed to be guilty of it.

Obedience is certainly a very essential quality in a hound, for nothing can be done without it; and there can be no doubt but it is a most excellent principle for a huntsman to set out upon; yet, good as it is, it may be carried too far. It is neither pleasant or useful to enforce too much, or to torment the hounds to depression and dejection, by tyrannically exacting from them what is by no means necessary to the enhancement of the sport. No great severity, or patient and persevering philosophy are required to learn a hound to hunt, nature will most powerfully teach him that; and art will only be necessary to prevent them from hunting what *they ought not*. The prelude to obedience is comprehension, and it cannot be expected that they should execute commands before they understand them; it follows, of course, that the meaning should always be conveyed to them in the same terms; and the language never be varied to express the same thing. Would it not be absurd to encourage when we mean to rate? and, if we did, could we expect to be obeyed? There is both use and pleasure in hunting young hounds where you can easily command them; but even this may be paid for too dearly. Young hounds should be originally entered in small coverts, or in such large ones as have ridings cut in them; whippers-in can then get at them, can always see what they are at; and, hounds thus taught what game they are to hunt, and what they are not, will stop at a word, for the best of all reasons—because they will understand you; and, after they have been treated in this manner, a smack only of the whip will render unnecessary the inhumanity of cutting hounds to pieces for a fault which their own protectors and employers have encouraged them to commit.

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The personal qualifications of the huntsman and whipper-in having been taken into consideration in a former part of the work, it now only becomes necessary to enlarge upon such traits (in respect to the trusts reposed in them) as have not yet been made the subject of animadversion. It is admitted, that a huntsman, at the head of a fox-hunting establishment, should be young, or of middle age, strong, active, bold, and energetic, in the department he has undertaken; fond of the sport, and indefatigable in the pursuit of it: he should be sensible, calm, and occasionally patient and persevering; punctual, civil, and cleanly; a good horseman, as well as a complete groom; his voice should be strong, clear, and sonorous, with an eye quick enough, to perceive almost in a glance, which of his hounds carries the scent when all are running; and should have so excellent an ear, as always to distinguish which hounds are at the head, although he does not see them. These are some of the excellencies which should constitute a good huntsman, though he need not be too fond of displaying them 'till necessity calls them forth. With regard to the whipper-in (as two in general are kept, the establishment being always thought incomplete without), the first may be considered as a second huntsman, and should, of course, be proportionally possessed of the same good qualities. It is also indispensibly necessary he should be attentive and obedient to the huntsman; and, as his horse will, undoubtedly, have the most to do, the lighter he rides the better: though, if he is a steady and good horseman, a little difference in weight will be, in a great degree, over-balanced.

A writer of celebrity says, he once had a whipper-in, who, instead of stopping hounds as he ought, would try to kill a fox by himself, and this, he adds, is unpardonable; for he should always attend to the huntsman's halloo, and stop such hounds as divide from it; and, when stopped, he should get forward with them after the huntsman. He must be always ready and contented to act in a subordinate situation, except when unexpected circumstances occur, which require that he should act otherwise; and the moment such cease, he must not fail to resume his former situation. For instance, when the huntsman, from unforeseen difficulties, or obstructions, cannot be up with the hounds, the whipper-in should; in which case it becomes the business of the huntsman to bring on the tail-hounds with him. The same gentleman observes, that, where there is much riot, he would prefer an excellent whipper-in to an excellent huntsman, and, as the opinion he believes is new, he takes upon him an endeavour to explain it in the following way: That he thinks he should have better sport, and kill more foxes with a moderate huntsman, and an excellent whipper-in, than with the best of

huntsmen without such assistance ; it may be said, perhaps, that a good huntsman will make a good whipper-in ; not such a one, however, as he means, who must have had his talent born with him. His reasons are, that good hounds (and he would not keep any other) oftener need the one than the other ; and genius, which in a whipper-in, if attended by obedience, his first requisite, can do no harm ; in a huntsman, is a dangerous, though a desirable quality ; and, if not accompanied with a large share of prudence (and sometimes a little humility), will frequently spoil the sport, and hurt the hounds. A story is told of the famous Will. Dean, when his hounds were running hard in a line with Daventry, from whence, at that time, they were many miles distant, swearing exceedingly at his whipper-in, saying, at the same time, "*What business have you here?*" The man was in such consternation at the question, that he had no power to reply, when Dean continued, "*why don't you know, and be d—d to you, that the great earth at Daventry is open?*" The man got forward, and reached the earth just time enough to see the fox go in. If, therefore, whippers-in be left at liberty to act as they shall think right, they are much less confined than the huntsman himself, who must follow his hounds, and consequently they have a greater scope to exert their genius,

An old sportsman once argued, that the whipper-in should always attend the huntsman to receive and obey his orders (a stable-boy, then, said his opponent, would make as good a whipper-in as the best) ; but this is so far from being the case, that he should be always on the opposite side of the covert to him ; if he is within hearing of his halloo, he is near enough ; for that is the hunting-signal he is to obey. The station of the second whipper-in may be near the huntsman, for which reason any boy that can halloo, and smack a whip, may, probably, answer the purpose. There is another convenience, in the first whipper-in being able to hunt the hounds occasionally, it may keep the huntsman within the bounds of decency ; as it is a matter almost universally understood, that they are not a little inclined to false consequence, bordering upon impertinence, when they have imbibed a notion that there is no doing without them. When the hounds leave the kennel to take the field, the place of the first whipper-in is before the hounds ; that of the second whipper-in should be at some distance behind them, ; if not, it is doubtful whether they would be permitted even to empty themselves, however great might be their necessities : for, as soon as a boy is elevated to the rank of whipper-in, he indulges an idea that it is a most distinguishing trait of ability for the office, to whip the hounds every time he can get near them, whether they de-
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serve it or not. It is natural to conclude the department of the huntsman (if he enjoys a state of health) is one of the happiest in human existence; his office is respectable, and highly flattering, and he is constantly rewarded for the enjoyment of his own pleasure; nor is the greatest general, after a complete victory, more gratified by the acquisition, than is a huntsman returning with his fox's head.

With some, particularly subscription-packs, *field-money* is allowed; this is a contribution from the liberal hand of every sportsman who is luckily in at the death of the fox; and a story is extant of a certain noble, who, allowing no vails to his servants, asked his huntsman what he generally made of his field-money, and readily gave him what he asked, in lieu of it: this went on very satisfactorily for some time, 'till, at last, the huntsman requiring an audience, thus addressed his liberal employer:—"Your Grace," said he, "is very generous, and gives me more than ever I got from field-money in my life—yet I come to beg a favour of your Grace, that your Grace will be so kind as let me take my field-money again, as I have not half the pleasure in killing a fox that I had before."

The magnitude of the establishment, the arrangement of the hounds, the number to be kept, and the business of the kennel, being completely determined upon, and all in proper preparation for the field, a description of the chase is, of course, the next thing expected to ensue. That expectation, however, must not be permitted to rise too high, as it is much easier to ride a severe chase, than to describe one. In some degree of confirmation, that the hour most favourable to the diversion is certainly an early one, Somerville's opinion may be adduced:

" For these nocturnal thieves, huntsmen, prepare
Thy sharpest vengeance. Oh! how glorious 'tis
To right th' oppress'd, and bring the felon vile
To just disgrace! Ere yet the morning peep,
Or stars retire from the first blush of day,
With thy far-echoing voice alarm thy pack,
And rouse thy bold compeers. Then to the copse,
Thick with entangling grass, or prickly furze,
With silence lead thy many-colour'd hounds,
In all their beauty's pride."

Once arrived at the covert side, and every heart elate with earnest and anxious emulation, let the huntsman throw in his hounds with as little noise and confusion as possible; at which instant the whippers-in should divide to right and left, keeping so wide on either side, that not a single hound may escape them: these should be equally attentive to the huntsman's halloo! and always ready to encourage, or to rate, as that directs; he will, of course, draw up the wind, for reasons well known to every experienced sportsman in the field. Now is the time to keep the young and enthusiastic within the bounds of reason, as their indiscretion frequently does more harm than good; every anxious expectant should be personally assiduous to keep every one in his proper place, to prevent the anarchy and confusion that generally ensue,

“ When on the drag we hear
Their doubtful notes, prelude to a cry
More nobly full, and swell'd with every mouth;”

Is a lucky moment in which the utmost individual stillness is necessary, and upon which, in a great measure, may depend the success or disappointment of the day. If it is possible to suppress the clamour of the too-impatient, they should be prevented from altering their situation 'till the fox is completely gone away; nothing is more prejudicial to the impending sport, than hallowing off the fox too soon; when this is done, he never fails to return to the covert, and sometimes can never be prevailed upon to leave it, but falls a victim to the persevering power of the pack: and to the repentant mortification of none more than those who have been the principal cause of the disappointment. This is the critical instant of the most inexplicable sensibility, when every breast is vibrating to vociferation, and self-denial, in silence, proclaims itself a virtue; where every emulous, swelling bosom, and expanded mind, sympathetically exclaim with Beckford, upon the improving drag:—“ How musical their tongues! And, as they get nearer to him, how the chorus fills!—Hark! he is found. Now, where are all your sorrows, and your cares, ye gloomy souls? Or, where your pains, and aches, ye complaining ones?—One halloo has dispelled them all. What a delightful crash they make! So much so, that Echo, seemingly, takes pleasure to repeat the sound. The fascinated traveller forsakes his road, lured by its melody; the listening ploughman now stops his plough; and every distant shepherd neglects his flock, and runs to see him break. What joy!—What eagerness in every face!

face!—Mark how he runs the covert's utmost limits, yet dares not venture forth, the hounds are still too near!—That check is lucky!—Now, if our friends head him not, he will soon be off—hark!—they hallow; by G—d he's gone!"

"Begone, my cares, I give you to the winds!"

rapturously exclaims every individual in the field. At this happy, ecstatic, and exhilarating crisis, it is the business of the huntsman to get up to the head of the leading hounds; the whipper-in well knows it is in his department to bring the others after. Every eye should, as much as possible, be kept upon the hounds at head, that, should the scent be unexpectedly lost, it may, at any rate, be ascertained how far they brought it. In this glorious and enchanting burst every mind is absorbed in emulation, and every individual exerting his utmost powers to obtain pre-eminence, and take the lead. Not a sportsman in the field, of whatever description, but is exultingly enjoying the great gratification of ruminative reflection. Hark! to Gamboy!—how he leads them! They run in such a style, it is absolutely difficult to distinguish which is first; yet Gamboy is the leading hound. The excellence of his nose is no less attracting than the superiority of his speed: how he carries the scent! and, when he feels it failing, see how eagerly he flings to recover its weakened rays before the particles of continuity are lost. There—now he's at the head again!—See *Gamboy*, *Damper*, and *Danger*, all a-breast—now they top the hedge!—With what determined energy they mount the hill!—Observe what an invincible head they carry, how admirably they cover the ground, and not one shuffler or skirter to be seen amongst them.

"Now, my brave youths,

Now give a loose to the clean gen'rous steed;
 Flourish the whip, nor spare the galling spur;
 But, in the madness of delight, forget
 Your fears. Far o'er the rocky hills we range
 And dangerous our course; but in the brave
 True courage never fails. In vain the stream
 In foaming eddies whirls; in vain the ditch
 Wide gaping threatens death. The craggy steep
 Where the poor dizzy shepherd crawls with care
 And clings to ev'ry twig, gives us no pain;
 But down we sweep, as stoops the falcon bold
 To pounce his prey. Then up th' opponent hill,

By

By the swift motion slung we mount aloft :
 So ships in winter-seas now sliding sink
 Adown the steepy wave, then toss'd on high
 Ride on the billows and defy the storm."

No doubt the fox was seen as he crossed that hill; the hovering of the crows was ample indication, and the sheep ran to shun him as he passed along. The hounds are now in doubtful suspense upon the very spot, but the sheep not a moment retard their progress, for they dash beyond them. Now see with what increasing ardour they cross the plain.—Gamboy no longer keeps his place, Rampant takes the lead—see how he flings for the scent, and with what impetuosity he runs. How eagerly he battled for the lead, and how strenuously he strives to keep it. Craftsman comes up apace—he reaches him—what an excellent race it is between them, each straining every nerve for the palm of victory: and doubtful it is which may reach the covert first. How eagerly they strain!—How equally they run!—"Hoic forward boys!"—Gamboy first tops the hedge. See there!—See how they all take it in their strokes!—the very hedge cracks with their weight, so many jump at once. Here every heart palpitates with suspense upon his reaching the covert, and expectation becomes entirely dependent upon the threatened protraction of the chase. While the hounds are running in covert, the whipper-in should make the utmost speed to reach the opposite side, but great caution should be taken not to head the fox; that done, mischief sometimes ensues; a fox headed into covert, is exchanged, and, probably, the pack divided, which consequently divides the company also; when which unluckily happens, both foxes are sometimes lost, and, not unfrequently, some of the hounds also. This then (when the hounds continue running in covert, and all ears and eyes are open) is the very critical moment in which the huntsman's halloo should be more strictly attended to, that those hounds may not be stopped at the very time he is earnestly endeavouring to encourage and push along. Upon their hitting upon the hunted-fox, and his going off again,

"Heav'ns! what melodious strains! how beat our hearts
 Big with tumultuous joy! the loaded gales
 Breathe harmony; and as the tempest drives
 From wood to wood, thro' ev'ry dark recess,
 The forest thunders, and the mountains shake."

Hold hard!—An unexpected check!—Have a moment's patience!—Turn your horses to the right or left—we press too closely upon the hounds—huntman, be still and wait a little, they at present stand not in need of your assistance. How admirably they spread!—How wide they cast!—How earnestly they try!—Not a hound but is instinctively stimulated to the utmost efforts of indefatigable perseverance. See, *Boaster* is upon the scent—how gladly he feathers—yet how cautiously he doubts. His tremulous whimperings announce him right; see how the other wide-casting inquisitants fly forward to join him, and recover the ground they have lost; now, the body again collected, renews the brilliant and enlivening burst, with every heart elate, and happy he who can lay the nearest to the enchanting scene.

“ What lengths we pass ! where will the wand'ring chace
 Lead us bewilder'd ! smooth as swallows skim
 The new-shorn mead, and far more swift we fly.
 See my brave pack ; how to the head they press,
 Justling in close array, then more diffuse
 Obliquely wheel, while from their op'ning mouths
 The vollied-thunder breaks. How far behind
 The hunter-crew, wide straggling o'er the plain!
 Look back and view
 The strange confusion of the vale below,
 Where sour vexation reigns ;
 Old age laments
 His vigour spent ; the tall, plump, brawny youth
 Curses his cumbrous bulk ; and envies now
 The short pigmean race he whilom kenn'd
 With proud insulting leer. A chosen few
 Alone the sport enjoy, nor droop beneath
 Their pleasing toils.”

Unluckily, in the midst of breast-high running, another fault at last. Huntsman, how far did they bring the scent?—Have the hounds made their own cast? If they have, do you make yours. That infernal sheep-dog has, most likely, coursed the fox : get forward with your hounds, and make a wider cast. Hark ! that halloo is, indeed, a lucky one ; if we can hold him on, he is yet recoverable ; for a fox so much distressed, must stop at last. We shall now see if they will hunt as well as run ; for there is but little scent, and the impending cloud still makes that little less. How busily they enjoy the scent ! See how eager they all are, and how each in his turn prevails ! Huntsman, be patient ; whilst the scent was good,
 you

you pressed on your hounds : that was well done ; when they came to a check, you stood still, and interrupted them not : they were afterwards at fault ; you made your cast with judgment, and lost no time. You now must let them hunt ; with such a cold scent as this you can do no good—they must do it all themselves ; lift them now, and not a hound will stop again. Ha ! unfortunately a high road, at such a time as this, when the tenderest-nosed hound can hardly own the scent ! —Another fault ! that man at work, then, has headed back the fox. Huntsman, cast not your hounds now by any means, you see they have overrun the scent ; have a little patience, and let them for once try back. We must now give them a little time ; see how they bend towards yonder break—mind old Merlin how he dashes o'er the furze—now Gamesome winds him—hark ! they halloo ! —“ Tally-ho ! Tally-ho !—By G—d there he goes !—Forward ! forward ! forward !”

At this enchanting change from the dreary gloom of a temporary depression to the very zenith of happiness and exultation, little stimulus is required to give life, spirit, and speed to the scene ; every individual may be seen too much upon the alert to reach the hounds, to stand in the least need of a prompter. Get on, my boys, is the general sympathetic exclamation in which every heart and mind partake ; those excepted, a want of speed in whose horses, or the difficulties of the day, may have destined to a mortifying separation from the jovial crew, and left them most reluctantly behind. Those happily at the head of the hounds, and laying there with ease, may be supposed to enjoy, at this critical and joyous burst, the most luxurious gratification that can be derived from the rapturous and inexplicable beauties of the chase. By the manner in which the fox breaks way, it must be nearly over with him ; had the leading hounds caught view, he must have died. He will hardly reach the next covert—see how they gain upon him at every stroke !—It is a most admirable race !—Yet the covert saves him ; with such a racing burst many of the best horses fall off at every stroke. Let all be quiet, and he cannot escape us ; we have the wind of the hounds, and can't be in a better situation : he is now in the very thickest part of the covert. Hark ! how short he runs ; every hound is in, and all are running for him. That was a short turn !—Again, another !—He's at his last shifts. Old *Rancour* is close to his brush, and death is at no great distance. Ha ! they all stop at once—all silent, and yet no earth open. Listen ! now they are at him again ; did you hear that hound catch him ? They over-ran the scent, and the fox lay down behind them. Now, Reynard, look well to yourself—how quick they give their clamorous tongues !

tongues ! Little *Baneful*, how she works him ; the terriers too, are up and squeaking at him. Now, *Fatal* is close at him, and *Paragon* pursues ; the whole pack are pressing upon him, and rapidly denote his dissolution. Gods ! what a glorious crash they make ; the very heavens resound ! That turn was short and final. There !—Hark !—Aye, now they have him !—Who-hoop !—Who-hoop !—The signal of death.

It will be observed, by old and experienced sportsmen, that the preceding sketch of a fox-chase has not been enlivened by a profusion of halloos ; which may seem the more extraordinary, as hallooing too much is a general failing with those who really love this animating sport, and are eager in the pursuit of it ; and, although hallooing constitutes a certain degree of collateral happiness during the warmth of the chase, yet it excites no great sympathetic sensation in appearance upon paper. Of this Mr. Beckford was aware, as he observes, he could never halloo in his life, unless after hounds ; and the writing a halloo appeared to him almost as difficult as to pen a *whisper*. From whence may be inferred the impossibility of delineating the brilliant traits and enjoyments of a fox-chase, whose incessant rapidity admits of no delay. In conformity with the previous suggestion of Somerville, that an early hour is the most proper to take the field ; so it was always considered, and so it was held in constant practice, for time immemorial, 'till the innovation of fashion has, in the last few years, extended the hour of meeting to nearly a middle hour of the day. Reasons are numerous why the morning promises to prove the most favourable for the sport. If hounds are in want of blood, they should be at the covert-side so soon as it is light enough to ride with safety ; for then it becomes necessary to afford them every advantage ; at an early hour, they have a drag to a certainty, and are seldom long before they find. The morning is well known to be part of the day when the scent lies best ; and the animal itself, which, in such case (is wanted for blood), is the least able to run away : the want of rest, and, most probably, a full belly, give the hounds an evident advantage over him. This, in the eye of cynical rigidity, may excite the accusation of not being a fair sportsman, and that with no small degree of plausibility ; but, in the present instance, it must be confessed, he does not adhere to the principles of an equitable chase, because standing so much in need of blood for the pack, a sportsman, at such time, avails himself of all advantages to effect his purpose. In an emergency of this description, he does not lay claim to the characteristic appellation of a *fair-sportsman* because his temporary necessity obliges him to deviate a little from both principle and practice, and to

endeavour, by every stratagem (at all events), to kill. It may be thought, by some, that he contributes to the diminution of his own sport by this; it is true, he sometimes may—but then, by so doing, he *makes* his hounds: the very art and basis of fox-hunting depending solely upon keeping the hounds well in blood.

With the old and experienced fox-hunter, sport is but a secondary consideration: the first is killing the fox, and hence arises the eagerness of pursuit, in fact, the chief pleasure of the chase; for blood is so essentially necessary to the character of a pack of fox-hounds, that it is more natural to be satisfied with but an indifferent chase, provided there's death at the end of it, than with the best run possible, if loss and disgrace is annexed to its termination. What are commonly called good are long chases; and, if not attended with success, are supposed to do more harm than good to the hounds. In confirmation of the justice of this suggestion, may be adduced a singular anecdote of the late Duke of R—, who was exceedingly popular, and very much respected in the neighbourhood of his country residence. A butcher at Lyndhurst, in Hampshire, who was a great lover of the sport, as often as he heard the hounds returning from hunting, invariably came out to meet them, and never failed to ask the Duke, most respectfully, “what sport he had?”—“Very good, I thank you, honest friend.” “Has your Grace killed a fox?”—No; we have had a good run, but we have not killed.”—“*Pshaw!*” cried the butcher, looking archly, and pointing at him with his finger. This was so constantly repeated, that the Duke, when he had not killed a fox, was used to say, “*he was afraid to meet the butcher.*” It has been previously observed, that, upon the huntsman's coming up to covert, he is to throw in his hounds with a certain degree of spirit, but to draw quietly; this is to be considered a conditional instruction, and must depend upon circumstances, as they may happen to occur, as well as upon the size and situation of the covert he has before him, and also proportionally, according to the season of the year.

If coverts are small, or only of such size as a fox cannot break from without being viewed, noise can do but little, if any harm; when hounds throw off at a late hour, and no drag expected, then the more the covert is disturbed the better, and much greater is the probability of finding. When the season is far advanced, the foxes are wild, and more particularly in coverts that are often hunted. When the hounds are drawn up with too much noise and confusion, the fox, by stealing off, gets too much a-head; and, whenever there is reason to expect this, the best precaution is, to send off a whipper-in to the opposite side of the covert before

before the hounds are thrown in. Much judicious precaution is necessary in drawing up the wind, the doing of which is a matter very material, and for this palpable and incontrovertible reason. It is a sporting custom universally known, we never fail to give the advantage of the wind to a pointer or setter, and why not to the hound? The most predominant reason for which is, that the fox, if you draw up the wind, does not hear you coming; and the hounds, by this means, are never out of hearing: besides, should he turn down the wind, as, most probably, he will do, it lets them all in. If a different mode is adopted, directly contrary to this, the result will prove the consequence of an inadvertent deviation from a rule of established practice. This remark may be thought severe, or cynical, by those who are little subject to reflect, or to analyze; but those of a contrary description are experimentally convinced, that the complicated mass who follow a pack of hounds are of a very variegated and heterogeneous description.

Few of the numerous spectators will take any pains—not one in twenty will assist in stopping a hound, though he should run riot close under his nose, or stand one moment still, though it be to halloo a fox; it is true, they will not fail to halloo if he should come in their way, and they will do the same thing to as many foxes as they see. Officious obtruders will frequently speak to, and encourage hounds which they do not know: this is a most confident fault; were every gentleman who joins a pack of hounds to fancy himself a huntsman, what noise, what litigation, and what confusion would ensue. The proprietor of a pack must consider many such visitors as gentlemen casually riding out; and, it is natural to conclude, they feel themselves highly gratified when they observe them riding home again. Good sense, and a little observation, will soon prevent such people from doing amiss; and it is an almost invariable maxim in hunting, that those who do not know how to do good, are always in a state of liability to do harm. During a whole chase, there is scarcely a single moment when a sportsman ought not to be in some particular place, and, if he is not to be seen there, it is a doubt whether he had not better be in *his bed*. This ambiguous suggestion cannot be more forcibly displayed for elucidation, than by the introduction of one of Mr. Beckford's brilliant effusions, which always so readily tend to palpable explanation.

He professes to give an extraordinary instance of a gentleman's knowledge of hunting, in the following words:—"He had hired a house in a fine hunting-country, with a good kennel belonging to it, in the neighbourhood of two packs

of hounds, of which mine was one; and, that he might not offend the owner of either, intended, as he said, to hunt with both. He offered me the use of his kennel, which, for some reasons, I chose to decline; it was afterwards offered to the other gentleman, by whom it was accepted. The first day that the hounds hunted this country he did not appear. The second day, the hounds were no sooner at the covert-side, than my friend saw an odd figure, strangely accoutred, riding up, with a spaniel following him. "Sir," said he "it gave me great concern not to be able to attend you when you was here before; I hope you was not offended at it; for to shew you how well I am inclined to assist your hunt, you see, *I have brought my little dog.*" He keeps up the spirit of mirth with the following—that in returning from hunting over a very fine open country with another gentleman, it was remarked by another in company, that they had enjoyed a very pleasant ride; to which he replied, "that, in his opinion, the best of the sport was in, afterwards, riding home to dinner." Which, Mr. B. says, is of the same kidney with a fat old gentleman he one day overtook upon the road, who enquired of him, "how many foxes they usually killed in one day? And why he did not hunt hare rather than fox, as she was better to eat?" and concluded with saying, "there is but one part of hunting I likes—*it makes one very hungry.*"

There are two things necessary in hunting before the hounds can be said to have attained perfection; the first is to make them steady, the other to make them draw. Many huntsmen are, from negligence, or inattention, fond of seeing a train of them at their horses heels; but they never act so well, or are so soon got well together, as when they spread the covert; besides, it is some time seen, that when there are but a few busy finding hounds, they find their fox, go down the wind, and are no more seen during the day. It is an error in judgment to take out any old hound that is unsteady; young ones properly awed from riot, and that will stop at a rate, may be put into the pack a few at a time; but an old hound that is vicious should not escape expulsion, for a pack must be in a wretched plight that can stand in need of such assistance. There is a rapturous gratification in hearing a fox well found; in approaching his kennel with a good drag, the increasing chorus of the hounds, and the anxious expectation of those who surround them, constitute a scene of joyous felicity far beyond the limits of literary delineation: in fact, there is hardly a sportsman existing, who would not prefer being present at the finding a fox in this manner, than in riding the best hare-hunt to be seen in the kingdom. Much depends upon the way in which a fox is unkennelled, as he is sportingly considered half killed if well found. To the calm
and

and dispassionate it always appears, that there is more than a necessary hurry upon these occasions ; and it must be candidly admitted, that there is sometimes a kind of affected enthusiasm with the devotees to this diversion, which, in this very critical moment ought to be restrained ; for, as the hounds are well known to be mad enough when they find a fox, it must constitute a rich scene of lunacy if their followers become infected also. In this general burst of ecstasy it is no uncommon thing for some young and inexperienced adventurer, seeing the fox break covert, to set off after him, until restrained by some aged and prudent re-buff, of which an excellent one is upon record ; where a juvenile sprig of fashionable effrontery, upon riding after the fox who had just left the covert, was followed by the owner of the hounds, who, upon coming up by the side of him, enquired, “ whether he thought he could catch the fox ? ” To which question receiving a negative, he replied, “ why then be so good as to let my hounds try *if they can.* ”

In preference to the clamour and confusion so well known to prevail upon a fox’s first breaking covert, it might, probably, be better both for the comfort of the chase, as well as its duration, if a little more scientific system was to be pursued : the huntsman ought to be the first of the throng, and to get off with the leading-hounds, and it is his principal business to keep as close to them afterwards as he conveniently can ; much advantage, but no ill, can arise from a perseverance in that practice. No hounds can then slip down the wind unperceived, and get out of his hearing ; he will also invariably see the precise spot to which they fairly carry the scent, a most necessary acquisition ; for, without it, he never can make a cast with any great probability of certainty. In regular, consistent, and well-managed packs, it will be found no less necessary for the huntsman to be getting his hounds forward, while the scent is good, than to be prudent in not hurrying them beyond it when it is bad. It has been before mentioned, that an huntsman should be an excellent horseman, as that is of the utmost consequence to the sport ; nor is it possible for a huntsman to be of much use who is not, for the first qualification of a fox-hunter is the power of riding up to his headmost hounds. He should be always at hand, and ready to render any assistance they so frequently stand in need of ; and which is the most critical the first moment they are observed at fault. A fox-hound will, at that instant, exert himself more energetically than at another time ; he afterwards cools, becomes less zealous, and more indifferent about his game. The huntsmen who do not get forward enough to take advantage of this eagerness and impetuosity, and direct it properly, seldom know enough of the chase to render themselves agents of systematic utility.

It may be frequently observed, by a steady attendant upon the chase, that although a huntsman cannot be too fond of hunting, yet a whipper-in may; his principal department (behind) will seldom permit him to be forward enough with the hounds to see much of the sport; his great care should be to keep the hounds well together, and to contribute, by his attention and agility, to the killing of the fox. In such cases, it will be found more difficult to keep the whipper-in back, than to get the huntsman forward, at least it is generally so. It is, however, upon the test of experience found, that a whipper-in should never (nor will he if he is a good one) leave a covert while a single hound remains in it: and for a most predominant reason, because, as there are, in all eminent establishments two, one ought always to be forward enough to assist and receive orders from the huntsman. Inconceivable ills, and unexpected accidents may happen to hounds carelessly and inadvertently left behind; it may not be possible to enumerate the particular chances, but as a preventive is preferable to cure, so the best precaution is, to keep them steady together, and, of course, as clear as possible from mischief. When left to themselves (particularly if replete with the young and noisy) they are seldom averse to any blood they can get; they are by no means backwards at acquiring bad habits, and become individually conceited; they learn to tie upon the scent, a most unpardonable fault in a fox-hound: exclusive of which, they get the additional knack of hunting by themselves, a trick which becomes progressively habitual, and which they seldom get rid of. The lying out in the cold all night can do no good to their constitution, nor will the being worried by sheep-dogs, mastiffs, or yard-dogs, be of service to their bodies; all this, however, and a great deal more, they are at all times liable to, if the under whipper-in is negligent and unmindful of his duty.

It is exceedingly natural for every lover of the sport to see hounds run in high style; and those who run in a string, or creep where they may leap, are not likely to become objects of universal attraction. When the scent lays well, and hounds run breast high, they cannot be pushed on too much; screams keep the fox forward, at the same time that they keep the hounds together, or let in the tail-hounds; they also enliven the sport, and, if used with discretion, are always of service: but, in covert, they should always be given with the greatest caution. Even a pack of harriers, if they have time, may kill a fox; but certainly, to a sportsman, not in the high style a fox ought to be killed; they must hunt him down. If it is intended to tire him, the pursuers must expect to be tired also; a chase, to be good, should never be less than one hour, or to exceed two: it is
sufficiently

sufficiently long if properly followed, and it will never be much longer, unless there is a fault in the day, in the huntsman, or in the hounds; what a late celebrated character once said of a battle is not inapplicable to a fox-chase, it should be *sharp, short, and decisive*. It is believed, by the most critical amateurs, that there is but little difference in the speed of hounds of the same size; the great difference being the head they carry; and in order that they may run well together, the body should not be incumbered with too many old hounds; after five or six seasons hunting, they are, in general, concluded to do more harm than good. If they tie upon the scent, and come hunting (or rather howling) after, they are better expelled, as evil communication corrupts good manners, and more of the pack, under that adage, may become speedily infected.

Changing, during the chase, from the hunted fox to a fresh one, is as unlucky an accident as can happen to a pack of fox-hounds, and requires all the observation and all the ingenuity that man is capable of to guard against it. Could the fox-hound distinguish the scent of the fox in chase, as the stag-hound does the deer that is hunted, fox-hunting might then be thought to have nearly reached the summit of its perfection. To expedite an object so desirable, it may not prove inapplicable to introduce some certain rules to be observed by huntsmen, which, in fact, are not to be dispensed with. A huntsman should be all attention to his hounds while they are running into covert, more particularly so with those he finds to be leading, having his ear directed against a skirter; for, if there should be two scents, he is most likely to be wrong, with his sole and unseconded voice against the multitude. Generally speaking, the best scent is the least likely to be the hunted fox; and, as a fox seldom or ever permits the hounds to run up to him so long as he is able to prevent it, so, nine times out of ten, when foxes are halloo'd early in the day, are all fresh foxes. The hounds most to be depended upon, and most likely to be right, are the hard-running, line-hunting hounds, or such as the huntsman knew to have been at the head before there arose any doubt of changing. In respect to the fox, if he break over an open country, it is not to be concluded that he is hard run; for they seldom, at any time, will do that, unless they are a great way before the hounds; or, if he runs up the wind, which they are seldom accustomed to do, unless they have been a long time hunted, and their strength considerably reduced; and when they run the foil, that will, in a considerable degree, very materially direct him. All these distinct and trifling remarks constitute an aggregate of niceness and observation, without an implicit obedience to which, a huntsman will make but little progress to the zenith of celebrity.

When

When the hounds divide, and are in two parts, the whipper-in, in stopping, must attend to the huntsman, and wait for his halloo, before he attempts to stop either; because it sometimes happens, that, for want of this very precaution, the hounds are stopped at both places, and both the foxes lost by it. If they have many scents, and it is quite uncertain which is the hunted-fox, let those be stopped which are farthest down the wind, as they can hear the others, and can reach them soonest; in which case, little utility can be derived from stopping those that are up the wind. At all times, when hounds come to a check, a general stilness should prevail, not a lip should open, a horseman move, or even the aspiration of a breeze, if possible, be heard. Whippers-in are frequently, at this moment, coming on with the tail-hounds, and these should never be halloo'd to when the headmost hounds are at fault; the least thing at such a time may do mischief, but a halloo more than any other. The huntsman, at an unexpected check, had better let his hounds alone, or content himself with hallooing them forward, without taking them off their noses. Hounds that have been used to recover their own faults will, of themselves, acquire a better cast than it is in the power of the best huntsman to give; they will try more, and try better for the scent, wanting, if in good health, spirits, and high management, no great encouragement. Should they continue at fault, after they have made their own cast (which the huntsman should tacitly permit them to do), it is then his province to assist them further; but, except in some particular instances, it is neither judicious, or proper, that they should be cast as long as they are inclined to hunt.

The first cast to be made is generally a regular one; that not succeeding, the huntsman is left to pursue his own opinion, and proceed as circumstances and genius may direct; when such cast is made, it will discover, by the result, whether there was good sense and meaning in it: whether down the wind, or towards some promising covert, or strong earth. As it is, however, at best uncertain, and as the huntsman and fox may be of different opinions, it is better to see a systematic regular cast, than a speculative knowing one; which, as a last resource, should not be ventured upon 'till it be awarded. The letting hounds alone, is no more than a negative goodness in a huntsman; whereas, it is certain, this last shows real genius; and, to be perfect, it must be born with him. Nature may make a huntsman; art, cannot. There is a fault, however, which a knowing huntsman is too apt to commit; he will frequently find a fresh fox, and then claim the merit of having recovered the hunted one. Mr. Beckford says, it is always dangerous to throw hounds into a covert to retrieve a lost scent; and, unless they
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hit him in, is not to be depended upon. Driven to the last extremity, should a knowing cast not succeed, the huntsman is in no way blamable, a good chase is sometimes lost by persevering too long in a favourite cast. Mr. B. says, "this happened with his huntsman, but the man gave so many good reasons why the fox ought to have gone that way, that he returned perfectly satisfied, telling him, at the same time, that, *if the fox was a fool, he could not help it.*"

When hounds are at fault, gentlemen themselves are too apt to prolong it; the horses should always be pulled up at some distance behind the hounds, and if ever silence is necessary, this is the critical moment to enjoin it: no individual whatever should ride before the hounds, or over the scent; nor should they ever meet a hound in the face, unless with a design to stop him. Should any horseman be accidentally or inadvertently before the hounds, he should turn the head of his horse the way the hounds are going, get out of their track, and let them pass with all possible expedition. It may be held in constant recollection, that in dry weather foxes, particularly in heathy countries, will run the roads; and if gentlemen at such times, will inconsiderately and injudiciously ride close upon the hounds, they may drive them for miles without any certain scent to justify the experiment. High-mettled fox-hounds are seldom inclined to stop whilst horses are close at their heels. A sportsman of much celebrity, and of a volatile disposition, is mentioned by Mr. Beckford, who, when he sees company pressing too close upon his hounds, begins with crying out as loud as he can, "*hold hard!*" If any one should persist after that, he begins moderately at first, and says, "*I beg, Sir, you will stop your horse:—Pray, Sir, stop:—God bless you, Sir, stop:—God d—n your blood, Sir, stop your horse!*"

The very moment the hounds come to a check, and throw up their heads, is a critical one for the sport, and, as it instantly produces a scene of universal anxiety, replete with alternate hope and expectation, so it demands immediate attention from every individual in the field. Those who look cautiously forward may, probably, view the fox—the running of sheep, or even the pursuit of crows, may indicate some tidings of the course he has taken. Those who listen may, probably, receive a communicative hint from the officious chattering of a magpie; or be at a certainty from the vibrative echo of a distant halloo: nothing that can tend to afford intelligence at such a time is to be neglected. Horsemen are too much accustomed to ride all together; were they to spread more, they might sometimes be of service: particularly those who, from a knowledge of the sport,

keep down the wind, when it would be difficult for either hounds, or fox, to escape their observation. It is sometimes very precarious and uncertain to go instantly off to a halloo! The halloo itself will, in some degree, by its manner, announce its own authenticity; and though there is no certain rule to ascertain the certainty, or veracity of the halloo, yet there are concurring concomitants by which a tolerable guess may be made whether it may be depended upon or not. At the season for sowing, when the boys are keeping the birds from the corn, their halloos prove a mortifying deception; the hounds are sometimes hurried away to the spot, and encounter disappointment. It is best, when doubts arise, to send on a whipper-in to know; in conformity with an ancient adage, that "to know the worst is some degree of ease:" whereas, if the huntsman gallops away with the hounds to the halloo, and are obliged to return, it is a great chance if they try for the scent with avidity afterwards: on the other hand, if being certain that the halloo is good, then the sooner the hounds get to it the better. A huntsman must be very languid in spirit, who displays a tardiness at such a time as this; a slow, inanimate progress to a sporting-like halloo, denotes no trait of intellectual superiority.

Some of the fraternity too commit an additional fault when they get there, as for want of a little reflection and circumspection, too much eagerness is frequently observed to mislead the judgment: for instance, getting up to the halloo, the leading questions are natural enough:—Did you see the fox?—Which way did he go? The man probably points with his finger, and away ride the whole body as fast as they can, and in such a scene of hurry and confusion, that not one will stay to hear the answer to the question, which one and all were so anxious to ask. The general consequence is, that the place is mistaken, and some return to the informant for a better explanation; and there cannot be a momentary doubt, but the less hurry upon such occasions, the more time is saved: and wherever the fox was viewed for a certainty (whether near or distant), that will not only be the surer, but the best place to take the scent; and, besides the certainty of going right, they will, most likely, get on faster than they could expect by different means. That halloos are not always to be depended on, and hastily run to, Mr. Beckford has recited the following strong and applicable instances:—"My hounds," says he, "being at a long fault, a fellow hallooted to them from the top of a rick at a considerable distance. The huntsman, as may naturally be believed, stuck spurs to his horse, hallooted 'till he was almost hoarse, and got to the man as quickly as he could: the man still kept hallooting, and as the hounds got
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near him, "*Here,*" said he, "*here, here, the fox is gone.*"—"Is he far before us?" cried the huntsman.—"How long ago was it that you saw him?"—"No, master, I have not *seen him*, but I *smelt him* here this morning when I came to *serve my sheep.*"

A similar instance was this—we were trying with some deer-hounds for an outlying stag, when we saw a fellow running towards us in his shirt; we, of course, concluded that we should hear some news of the stag, and set out joyfully to meet him. Our first question was, if he had seen the stag?—"No, Sir," says he, "I have not seen him, *but my wife dreamt as how she saw him t'other night.*" Once a man hallooed us back a mile, only to tell us *that we were right before*, and we lost the fox by it. A gentleman seeing his hounds at fault, and a little mortified upon the occasion, rode up with great eagerness to a rustic at plough, and with a certain degree of hauteur asked him, if he had seen the fox?—"The fox, Sir!"—"Yes, d—n you, the fox!—Did you never see a fox?"—"Pray, Sir, if I may be so bold, what sort of a looking creature may he be—has he *short ears* and a *long tail*?"—"Yes."—"Wy then, I can assure you, sir, I have seen *no such thing.* It has been already observed, that it is not necessary that hounds ought not to be cast as long as they are able to hunt; and though the idea, that a hunted fox never stops, is a very necessary one to a fox-hunter, that he may be active and lose no time—yet tired foxes will stop, if the force can hold them on, and they have been even known to stop, even in the wheel-ruts upon the open downs, and leap up in the middle of the hounds: a tired fox should never be given up if possible, for he is sometimes killed very unexpectedly. If the hounds have ever pressed him, he is well worth the trouble of sticking to—for, if recovered, he will most probably be killed; and no doubt of death should be entertained so long as any scent remains. The business of a huntsman only becomes extra difficult when the scent most completely dies away; and it is then he may shew his judgment, when the hounds are individually and conjunctively no longer able to shew theirs. The recovering a lost scent, and getting nearer to the fox by a long cast, requires genius which every huntsman may not be in possession of; and, when hounds are no longer capable of feeling the scent, it all centers with the huntsman: either the game must be entirely given up, or can only be recovered by him, and is the effect of real genius, spirit, and observation.

When a succession of unlucky occurrences has reduced the hounds to cold hunting, and that with a bad scent, it may then be a proper time to send a whipper-in forward ; if he can happen to fall in with, or see the fox, a little mobbing, at such a time as this, may be reasonably allowed without a disgrace to the hounds. Should the pack be brought to a check on the high road, by the fox being headed back, and in such particular instance the hounds are permitted to try back, it affords them the best chance of hitting off the scent again, as they have ample scope to try on both sides the road. When hounds are running in covert, a general silence should prevail ; if the fox be running short, and the hounds continue close at him, not a word should issue from any lips in the field : it is a difficult time for hounds to hunt him, as he is continually turning, and will sometimes lay down and let them pass him. It has been before alluded to, that the greatest danger of losing a fox is soon after first finding him, and when he is sinking ; at both of which times he will run short, and the eagerness of the hounds is too apt to carry them beyond the scent. At the first finding, every horseman should keep behind, and clear of the hounds, 'till they get well settled to the scent ; and when they are close at his brush, with a chance of catching him every moment, not a word of interruption should be heard. The great gratification at the death, is to see the hounds cat him eagerly as a reward for their labour ; it is a custom in some counties to tree him, and let the hounds clamorously surround him ; the ceremony is of no other avail than to make them more eager, and let in the tail-hounds, although they recover their wind, and cat him more readily, yet there is a littleness in the hanging upon the branch of a tree, that renders it trivial, and rather below the magnitude of the event. Neither is it very pleasing to suspend him too long, as there is no great expectation of their having any appetite to eat him longer than they are angry with him.

When two packs of fox-hounds run together, and they kill the fox, the pack that found him is entitled to the head. Should both have found, or, at least, if it is not known which, the huntsman who gets in first at the death seems best entitled. Apropos ! upon huntsmen. Mr. Beckford gives us an anecdote of a late huntsman of his, who was a great slip-slop, and always called successively, *successfully*. One day, when he had been out with the young hounds, his master sent for him in, and asked him what sport he had had, and how the hounds behaved ?—“ Very great sport, sir, and no hounds could behave better.”—“ Did you run him long ? ”—“ They ran him, and please your honour, upwards of three hours *successfully*.”

successfully.—"So, then, you did kill him?"—"Oh! no, sir, *we lost him at last.*" Fox-hunting, an observer affirms, is only to be followed because its abettors can ride hard, and do less harm in that than in any other kind of sport; there may be some truth in the latitude of that observation, but, to such as admire only the riding part of hunting, a trail-scent would, probably, prove more suitable. Those who join the pack merely for the sake of a ride, who are totally indifferent about the hounds and know little of the business on hand, if they do *no harm*, absolutely fulfil as much as can be expected from them; whilst, on the contrary, those who are of an opposite description render service, and have a much higher gratification in the pleasures of the day. Such as are constant associates, and, from frequent attendance, are acquainted with the hounds, and can, occasionally, assist them, find the sport much more interesting; and have, sometimes, the satisfaction to believe that they have personally contributed to the success of the day.

This pleasure may be justly termed the very *ne plus ultra* of sublunary enjoyment, as it emits its rays without the least emanations of regret. It is doubtful what effect it may have upon those who feel no propensity to the embarkation; but to those whose sensibility renders them lovers of the sport, it is invariably productive of health and hilarity. Few, if any, sports can be brought into competition with it, which so completely engrosses the whole soul, and is so full of enthusiasm; shooting, though it admit of a companion, will not allow of many; and fishing is so dull, dreary, and solitary a diversion, that every traveller is disposed to pass his joke upon the adventurer, by an old country witticism, that the rod has a fool at one end, and a maggot at the other; so that both may be considered very sterile amusements, when compared with the more ecstatic and universal sport of the chase. The one might teach patience to a philosopher; and the other, though it occasion great fatigue to the body, seldom affords much employment for the mind. Whereas fox-hunting is an eternal succession of variegations; its doubts, fears, and uncertainties, its fatigues, its difficulties, and its dangers, rendering it incessantly interesting above all other diversions whatever. The bugle-horn seems to have made its way into general use with the hounds, and not without some points in favour of its use. Mr. Beckford mentions a friend of his, who hunts his own hounds, and says, his voice is the strangest, and his halloo the oddest he ever heard; it has, however, this advantage: no dog can possibly mistake his voice for any other's. Singularity constitutes an essential part of an huntsman's halloo; and it is for that reason why a horn should be preferred, because it is observed,

served, that hounds fly more readily and impatiently to the horn, than to the voice of the huntsman. Good voices in the field are certainly pleasing; but it might, probably, be as well, if many of those who have them, were less fond of exerting them.

When a fox is hallooed, those who understand this business, and get forward, may halloo him again; yet those should know, that if the hounds go a contrary way, or do not seem to come on upon the line of him, to halloo no more. In respect to the very fox seen, being the hunted fox, the fox which every man halloos, is the hunted fox in his own opinion, though he seldom has a better reason for it, than because *he* saw him. Such halloos as serve to keep the hounds together, and to get on the tail-hounds, are always of use: halloos of encouragement to leading hounds, if injudiciously given, may spoil the sport, for it is frequently seen, that officious view-halloos do more harm than good: they are pleasing to sportsmen, but prejudicial to hounds. If a strong and thick covert has plenty of foxes, and they are often hallooed, hounds seldom take much pains in hunting; hence arises that indifference, which is sometimes perceived in fox-hounds when in pursuit of their game. If hounds are running with a good scent, they should never be taken off to a halloo, unless in conditional cases; as for instance—when a fox is a great way before them, or persists in running his foil; for such foxes are difficult to kill, unless you can endeavour to get nearer to them by some stratagem or other. If hounds are in want of blood, and a fox run his foil, it is no bad plan to stop some of the tail-hounds and throw them in at the head; or if the covert has any ridings cut in it, and the fox be often seen, the huntsman, by keeping some hounds at the horse's heels, at the first halloo that he hears, may throw them in close at him. Should a fox be hallooed in the covert, while hounds are at fault, if they be long in coming, by getting hastily forward another view may possibly be obtained before the hounds are laid on, by which means they may be brought nearer to him.

There is so much difference in the atmosphere, as well as the scent, that on some days the hounds will do their business best if left quite alone; and there are others, when they can do nothing without assistance. They should be assisted at no other time. On a bad scenting day, or when hounds may be over-matched, they cannot be assisted too much. It is an assertion, not to be controverted, that hounds may be hallooed too much; if they have been often used to that practice, they will be prone to expect it, and may trust, perhaps, to their ears, and eyes,
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more than to their noses. If they are too frequently taken from the scent to halloo, it may in time teach them to shuffle, and become unsteady, as well as, most likely, make them slack in covert; it should be done, therefore, with great caution, not too often; and always should be well-timed. Some hurt their hounds considerably by too readily obeying a halloo; and others there are who never suffer their hounds to stop, but let them pick along the coldest scent, through flocks of sheep and other temporary obstructions; this style of fox-hunting may succeed in some countries, but it does not promise a profusion of sport in a bad scenting country, or, indeed, in any place where foxes are wild. In fact, while hounds can get on with the scent, it cannot then be wrong to give them every possible advantage that can be obtained. Hounds should not be suffered to hunt after others that are gone on with the scent, particularly in covert; for how are they to get up with them upon a staler scent; besides, it induces them to tie upon the scent, teaches them to run dog, and destroys that laudable ambition of getting forward, which is the chief, and most emulative excellence of a fox-hound.

A good huntsman, it is universally understood, will seldom or ever suffer his head-hounds to run away from him; if it should so unluckily happen, and they be still within his hearing, he will sink the wind with the rest of the pack, and get to them as fast as he can. Although it is not proper, or judicious, to let a part of the pack hunt after such as may be got on a long way before the rest; yet, when a single hound is gone on with the scent, a whipper-in should be sent on to stop him; for were the hounds to be taken off the scent to get to him, and he should no longer have any scent when they find him, the chase might frequently be at an end. This is a predominant reason, why in large coverts, and particularly such as have many roads in them, skirting-hounds should be left in kennel on windy days. Skirters, in short, are of little utility in either men or dogs. Such as skirt to save their horses, often head the fox. Old sportsmen never quit hounds unless to render them service; with men of this description, skirting becomes a necessary part of fox-hunting, and is frequently of much utility. Such as do not pretend to render much service by obtruding themselves amidst, but ride after the hounds; at the time that they do no good, are least likely to do harm: let those only as understand the business, and mean to be of service, ride wide of, and parallel with them, for the riding up close to hounds is not always a fixed criterion of the good sportsman; if it was, probably a *monkey* well mounted might prove the *best* in the field.

It is sometimes to be seen, that a good horseman is not so well in with the hounds as an indifferent one; because he will seldom condescend to get off his horse; the best way, however, to follow hounds across a country, is to keep directly upon the line of them, and to dismount at once when a leap presents itself that cannot prudently be surmounted; for, in looking about after easier places, much time is frequently lost. With those whose first wish it is to lay in a good place with the hounds, it is necessary to hold in recollection, that when in covert they run up the wind, there is no fear of being thrown out; as long as they are within hearing, they can always be come up to; while, on the contrary, when they are running down the wind, they cannot be kept too close to. When coverts are much disturbed, foxes will sometimes break as soon as they hear a hound, and where the country round the covert is open, the hunted-fox will be the least likely to face it; he will be very unwilling to quit the covert, particularly if it be a large one, unless he can do it at a great distance before the hounds. If a racing burst is wished for over such a country, the likeliest way to insure it would be, to post a quick and quiet person to halloo a fox off, and lay on the hounds with all possible expedition, as the farther he got forward, the less likely he would be to return. Nothing checks, or discourages hounds more than too frequently changing of their country; should they change from a good scenting country to a bad one, without a lucky hit in their favour, they may be some time before they kill their first fox: whereas hounds have always a great advantage in a country which they are used to, they not only know better where to find their game, but will also pursue it with greater alacrity.

Many proprietors of hounds being too supine, sublime, or neglectful, submit the whole of their hunting-establishment to the direction and dictation of the huntsman; whose self-consequence and imaginary importance continue to increase, in proportion with the magnitude of the trust committed to his charge. The dignity of these delegates, with their insolence of office, is too universally comprehended by the sporting world to require an obtrusion of literary delineation. Mr. Beckford, having this subject in contemplation, says, that a famous huntsman he was by no means ambitious to have, unless it necessarily followed that he must have famous hounds; which is a conclusion he cannot admit, as long as those so famous gentlemen will be continually attempting themselves to do, what would be much better done if left to their hounds: besides, they are seldom good servants, are invariably conceited, and often impertinent. Mr. B. confesses himself satisfied, if his huntsman be acquainted with his country and his hounds;

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rides well up to them, and if he has a proper knowledge of the nature of the animal he is in pursuit of; but so far from wishing him to be famous, that he hopes he will still continue to think his hounds know best how to hunt a fox. It is agreed, on all hands, that it is the incumbent duty of a huntsman to stick close to his hounds; if then his place be thus judiciously fixed, and that of the first whipper-in (where there are two) be not, it is natural to conclude, genius may be, at least, as useful in one as in the other: for instance, while the huntsman is riding to his headmost hounds, the whipper-in, if he has genius, may shew it in various ways; he may clap forward to any great earth that may, by chance, be open; he may sink the wind to halloo, or mob a fox when the scent fails. He may stop the tail-hounds and get them forward; and has it frequently in his power to assist the hounds without doing them any hurt, provided he should have sense to distinguish where he may be chiefly wanted. Besides, the most essential part of fox-hunting, the making and keeping the pack steady, depends entirely upon him; as a huntsman should seldom rate, and never flog a hound. In short, a first whipper-in should rank as second huntsman, and, to be perfect, he should be no less capable of hunting the hounds than the huntsman himself.

It should be strongly impressed upon the memory of the whipper-in, that it will always be proper for him to get to the head of his hounds before he attempts to stop them; the storming and rating behind is to very little purpose, and, if they should be in covert, may prevent him from knowing who the culprits are. When the hounds are running, he should then content himself with stopping such as are riotous, and should get them forward. Young hounds cannot be awed from wrong too much; yet the punishment should not exceed the offence: a line should be nicely drawn between justice and barbarity; and here it may be necessary to explain what is to be understood by the latter, which is, that punishment which is either unnecessarily inflicted; which is inflicted with severity; or from which no possible good can arise. Punishment, when properly applied, is not cruelty, is not revenge—it is justice, it is even mercy: the intent of punishment is to prevent transgression, and eventually to preclude the necessity for punishing. A whipper-in, while breaking in young hounds, will too frequently rate them before they commit a fault; this may, perhaps, prevent them for that time, but they will be just as ready to begin when opportunity offers. It would certainly be better to let them quite alone 'till it is observed what they would be at; the discipline then may be proportioned to the degree and nature of offence. Whether a young hound run little or much, is of small consequence if he be not encouraged; it is the blood

only that signifies, which in every kind of riot should be carefully prevented. When a whipper-in continues to rate a hound with judgment, and he does not obey him, it is then proper to take him up and give him an adequate correction without delay; whippers-in are too apt to persevere in rating, even when they find rating will not avail. There is only one way to stop such hounds, and that is to get at the head of them.

A whipper-in of good sound judgment, and a corresponding consistency, will never, on any account, strike a hound, unless that hound be sensible what it is for; the very reverse of a scientific conjuror of Mr. Beckford's, who struck a hound as he was going to covert, because he was likely to be noisy afterwards, exclaiming, "*you will be noisy enough by and by, I warrant you;*" so that it seems, whippers-in, when left to themselves, are rare judges of propriety! It is right they should never strike a hound that does not deserve it, and would strike those hard who do. They seldom distinguish sufficiently the degrees of offence which a dog may have committed, to proportion their punishment accordingly; and such is their stupidity in general, that when they turn a hound after the huntsman, they will rate him as severely as if he had been guilty of the greatest transgression. It is seldom necessary to flog hounds to make them obedient, since obedience is the first lesson they are taught. Yet, if any should be more impatiently riotous than the rest, they may receive a slight correction (as a preventive) in the morning before they leave the kennel. When hounds prove unsteady, every possible precaution should be used to make them otherwise. A hare, or a deer, put into the kennel amongst them, may then be necessary. Huntsmen are, by much, too fond of kennel-discipline; it never should be permitted but in cases of great emergency, and even then the master should be present to prevent excess and a prostitution of power. It would be an act of the most inhuman severity to acquiesce in a painful and unmerited punishment upon an animal from whose indefatigable exertions so much happiness is derived; and what opinion can be entertained of the tenderness and humanity of the huntsman, who inflicts it upon the very animal to whose subservience and services he stands indebted for his own support?

If any particular hounds are more riotous and unruly than the others, they ought to be taken out by themselves, on the days when the pack does not hunt, and be properly punished. It is a trial betwixt the whipper-in and the dog, which will tire first; and the whipper-in generally prevails; if this method will

not

not bring them to obedience, and make them steady, they may justly be concluded incorrigible, and had better be made away with. Such hounds as are notorious offenders should also feel the lash, and hear a rate as they go to the covert; it may serve as a useful hint to them, and prevent a severer flagellation in future. A judicious whipper-in will wait his opportunity to single out his hound; he will hit him hard, and rate him well, while a foolish fellow will often hit some hound he did not intend to strike; will ride full gallop into the midst of the hounds; riding, perhaps, over some of the best of them, putting the whole pack into confusion. "Have a care!" are words of necessary precaution that can seldom or ever do any harm; since hounds, when they are on a right and good scent, will pay no improper attention to them. On the contrary, a whipper-in should be careful how and when he encourages the hounds; that superfluously and improperly done, or ill-timed, may be injurious to the pack. It is no uncommon thing to see a whipper-in rate a hound, and then endeavour to flog him; a dog, after having been rated, will naturally avoid the whip; it is therefore necessary for the sporting executioner to recollect, that whenever a hound shall deserve the lash, the proper mode is, to whip him first and rate him afterwards. Where there are two whippers-in, one will, of course, be always forward; when only one, it is requisite he should possess the patience of a philosopher, and content himself with a certain degree of consolatory emulation of being seen *here, there, and every where*, for the promotion of a general good.

In the best and most eminent fox-hunting establishments, it is sometimes difficult to keep the dependents in their proper places; all are so anxious to be forward, that those whose business it is, can hardly be prevailed upon to stay behind. The necessity for a whipper-in bringing home all his hounds is urged by Mr. Beckford, in reciting that he lost an old hound for ten days, and sent over all the country to enquire for him; and, at last, when they thought no more of him, in drawing a large covert in the country where he had been lost, he joined the pack; was exceedingly emaciated and it was a long time before he recovered; and how he subsisted all that time, was matter of universal admiration. For this, and many other substantial reasons, it must be admitted, that whenever hounds are missing, the whipper-in should be immediately sent back to look for them; particularly as it will be no bad mode of teaching him how to keep them more together. The getting forward the tail-hounds, is the most essential part of a whipper-in's business; in which part he should never be seen remiss. He should also get forward himself, at times when the huntsman is unavoidably, or accidentally se-

parated from the hounds ; but the second whipper-in (who is frequently a young lad, totally ignorant of his business) ought, on no account whatever, to encourage or rate a hound, but when he is quite certain it is right so to do ; nor is he ever to get forward, so long as a single hound remains behind. Hallooing is certainly used in general more than necessary, and it would be of advantage to the hounds if it were not so indiscriminately adopted ; in fact, the whipper-in makes it a privilege of having “ halloo forward” eternally in his mouth : if the hounds were never to be used to that halloo 'till after the fox be found, the hounds would be seen to fly to it with a more eager and impetuous alacrity, than where it is so frequently in use.

Most huntsmen, it is natural to suspect, are a little jealous of the whipper-in ; looking at him as a probable successor, and therefore do not very congenially admit him into the kennel : yet it is absolutely necessary he should go thither, because it is palpably right he should know and be acquainted with the hounds ; who should, of course, both know and follow him, as well as the huntsman. In a word—in a concise aggregate, if a whipper-in be bold and active ; a good and careful horseman, with a quick ear and clear voice ; if he have patience and sagacity to distinguish where he can be of the most use ; and if, in addition to these, he be above the ridiculous conceit of killing a fox without the huntsman, and, on the contrary, be disposed to assist all he can, in conformity with the original intent of his department, divested of every assumption of imaginary consequence, he will then be considered a perfect whipper-in, and respected accordingly. It is a great draw-back upon the pleasure of the chase when the hounds are unsteady ; for they then get half-tired before the fox is found, and are not to be much depended upon afterwards. None but the innate and experienced sportsman can feel, or describe, the sensation excited by the challenge of the first hound, if that is known to be right ; nor the agitating shock so sensibly affecting, and so suddenly felt, if immediately followed by rating the hounds, smacking of whips, and other mortifying signals of disappointment. A few such riotous hounds do a great deal of mischief in a pack ; they never should be put amongst the rest if it can be avoided, but taken out by themselves, and properly corrected ; if incorrigible, hang them—to know the worst is better than to live in constant expectation of their transgressions. The long-standing axiom that “ evil communication corrupts good manners” holds good even with hounds, for it is well known they are easily corrupted.

The separating riotous hounds from those which are steady answers several good purposes; it not only prevents the latter from getting the blood which they should not, but it also prevents them from being over-awed by the smacking of whips, which is too apt to obstruct drawing and going too deep into covert. Under the uncertainty of what hounds are, or may prove to be, it is not very safe, or prudent, to accept of hounds drafted from another pack; sometimes a part may be good, and the rest may bring as many vices with them as may spoil, or contaminate the remainder. If old hounds are unsteady, there is no great probability of making them otherwise, for they are likely to give more trouble than all the young ones; the latter, most likely, may be induced to stop by some means, but an obstinate old hound will absolutely run mute, if he finds it impossible to run any other way; and such as were steady in one pack may not be so in another. Mr. Beckford says, he saw an extraordinary instance of this when he kept harriers; hunting one day on the downs, a well-known fox-hound of a neighbouring gentleman came and joined them, and, as he both ran faster than his hounds, and skirted more, he broke every fault and killed many hares. He saw this hound often in his own pack afterwards, where he was perfectly steady; and though he hunted in coverts where hares were in great plenty, he never remembers to have seen that hound run one step after them.

No greater defect can appertain to a pack either individually, or conjunctively, than the most abominable vice of killing sheep; this sometimes proceeds more from rest and idleness than from a natural tendency to the thing itself. The manner in which the sheep are killed will, sometimes, unfold a prediction of tolerable certainty; if the depredation is made by an old offender, the attack is made at the neck and throat, but seldom, if ever, behind. This vice, however, as with many other parts of the creation, may be frequently considered hereditary, and, in such cases, may be supposed to run in the blood; in some, particularly old hounds, it proves invincible; the most prudent step is to suspend all those which, after two or three severe punishments, cannot be cured of it. In some countries hounds are certainly more addicted to sheep-killing than they are in others; they are, probably, in some degree, steadier, and more in subservience, in countries where the coverts are fenced, and sheep are superintended in flocks and folds, either in large fields, or upon open downs; and the very same hounds may be unsteady in forests and heathy countries, where the sheep are very little less wild than the deer. As it is, in general, a growing defect where once it begins, every hound that advances a single step in pursuit of them, ought to undergo the severest discipline;

cipline; if young hounds do it from wantonness, flagellation and plenty of work may, most likely, reclaim them; but if they are old hounds, and old offenders, the halter seems to offer itself as the most infallible remedy, upon the philosophic principle, that “to know the worst is some degree of ease.”

Although all hounds should be reduced to a perfect state of obedience, none require it so much as fox-hounds; for, without a perseverance in that system, they would be beyond controul: yet all the chastisement that severity can inflict, will not render them obedient, unless they be made to understand what is required of them: when that is effected, many hounds will not need correction, if they are not permitted to become corrupted by example. Mr. Beckford, in his constant anxiety for the promotion of perfection in hounds, has observed, “that few packs are to be seen more obedient than his own—yet none, he believes, are chastised less; for, as those hounds that are guilty of an offence *are never pardoned*, so those that are innocent, being by this means less liable to be corrupted, *are never punished*.” Dogs of every description are so fully fraught with sagacity, that they soon discover what is required of them; when not thwarted by the ignorance or inadvertence of those who are their superintendents. Hounds, on the first hunting-day of the season, should be taken where there is the least likelihood of riot, and where they are the most certain to find; for notwithstanding their steadiness at the end of the last season, long rest may have made them otherwise. If any particular hounds are known to be more vicious than the rest, they should be left at home for the first two or three hunting-days, 'till the others are well in blood; and it should be cautiously remembered, at the beginning of the season, what hounds are hallooed to, for if encouraged inattentively on a wrong scent, it will ultimately prove of disservice to them.

Upon the former practice of hunting early in the morning, and the present fashionable innovation of throwing off at a late hour in the day: some few remarks may be introduced as applicable to those who adopt plans so distinctly opposite to each other. Hunting at an early hour seems to be the more necessary where foxes are scarce, and the coverts extensive; where coverts are small, and foxes plenty, it is certainly not so very material at what hour they take the field. When foxes are weak, hunting late may be productive of better chases; but when they are strong, an early hour for finding is to be preferred, if a chance of killing is expected. When hounds go out late, they should make immediately to the place where they are most likely to find, which, in general, may be considered those
coverts

coverts which have been the least drawn. If such be large, it cannot be necessary to draw more than the parts in which a fox is likely to lie, as it will be evidently useless to draw any other at a late hour of the day; and although it be always right to find as soon as circumstances will admit, yet it can never be more earnestly desirable, than when the day is far advanced, for when unnecessary delays are permitted to take place, a long, dull, and tiresome day is sometimes the consequence. In all cases where the covert is close and thick, the hounds should draw in as narrow a space as if trying for a hare, particularly if the spot is interspersed with furze or fern; for when there is no drag, a fox, at a late hour, will frequently lie 'till the hounds come close upon him. When the covert is completely drawn, it is the invariable duty of the huntsman to stay for the hounds, and to bring away the main body with him, as it sometimes happens, hounds so carelessly left, have found a fox after the huntsman had left them. This is the time when the whippers-in are neither to be sparing of their whips or voices; it being an essential trait in their department, to come boldly through the middle of the covert, and ascertain, to a certainty, that no hounds are left behind.

Huntsmen are frequently prone to complain pettishly of hounds for staying behind in covert; it is certainly a bad fault, and makes such as are addicted to it but of little value; yet this fault, bad as it is, is often occasioned by the huntsman's own mismanagement. For when one covert is supposed to be sufficiently drawn, he hurries away to another, and leaves the whipper-in to bring on what remaining hounds there are after him; but, as it is well known, that the whipper-in is seldom less desirous of getting forward than the huntsman, and if the hounds do not seem disposed to come off easily, it is not often that the whipper-in is inclined to give himself much concern about them. It sometimes happens, that young hounds left too long at their walks, acquire this trick of hunting by themselves, and are then not easily broken of it. Having taken a progressive survey of the requisites and qualifications indispensably necessary to establish the character of both huntsman and whipper-in, there are yet collateral circumstances to be adverted to before the subject can be made complete. In addition to the concise remarks already made upon the late, or early hour of the day, at which it may be most proper, or most convenient to hunt; it can be but applicable to introduce a few gradational shades of information how and in what manner the huntsman should draw, and afterwards how he should cast his hounds. Fixing, two or three days before hand, the precise covert which it is intended to hunt, is frequently a great prevention to sport; the place of hunting should never, if it can be avoided;

be publicly reported 'till a tolerable opinion of the weather may be formed, as what might promise good sport in one part of the district might be the cause of ill in another; at all events, the most probable means to have good chases, is to adapt the country to the state of the wind.

It also requires some judicious consideration to place hounds to the greatest advantage where foxes are very scarce, or in great plenty. Hounds that lie idle are always out of wind, and easily fatigued. The first hunting-day, after a long frost, cannot be expected to produce much sport, a greater number of hounds should, therefore, be taken out than upon common occasions: they should be dashingly thrown into the largest coverts, and if any foxes are in the country they will be sure to find them; when after going once or twice in this way, the hounds may be reduced to their usual number. Previous to a huntsman's going into the kennel to draft his hounds, he should have determined within himself the exact number it will be proper to take out; as well as the number of young hounds that he can venture in the country where he is going to hunt. Different countries afford scope to different hounds, and one country may require more hounds than another; under the influence of which consideration, it is perfectly clear, that some circumspection is required to draft hounds properly; nor can it be made without a cool and systematic uniformity of selection. No hound ought to be excluded and left at home, unless there be a reason for it; but certain it is, many huntsmen are totally indifferent what they take out, so as they have the number requisite for the day. Nothing is more essential to the success and celebrity of a pack, than a perfect knowledge in feeding, and judgment in drafting the hounds; if well bred, and well broke, they require in future but little extra-assistance. When the time and place of meeting are once appointed, every huntsman ought to be as exact as circumstances will permit; there is no necessity for being too much before the time, particularly when the weather is wet, cold, or unfavourable; as the frigidity of the elements unnecessarily encountered, may be prejudicial to both horses and hounds.

When the moment appointed for throwing off is arrived, the huntsman (unless there is any inconvenience, or obstacle to prevent it) should begin drawing at the farthest covert down the wind, and proceed from covert to covert up the wind, which will have many advantages attending it; in the first place, he will draw the same chain of coverts in half the time; the attendants cannot fail of being in their proper situations; there can be no difficulty in getting the hounds off if necessary; and

and as the fox, upon such occasions, is most likely to run those coverts which have been previously drawn, there is the less probability of a fox being changed. Where there is a string of small coverts, with plenty of foxes, it may be prudent not to draw and disturb them all in one day. Small coverts, in fact, should never be hunted, 'till the large ones have been well rattled first; for, until the foxes are thinned and dispersed where they are plenty, it would be an evident inadvertence to drive others there to increase the number. If a wish is entertained to thin the foxes in any particular part of a district, it will be a judicious plan to throw off at the same cover so long as a fox can be found; if the hounds come away with the first fox that breaks, they no more disturb the covert, and may, probably, find there again the next day; but where foxes are known to be scarce, the same covert should never be drawn two days following. Huntsmen who well know their business, pretty well predict where foxes like to lie, and not unfrequently (with the wind in their favour) draw up to, and unkennel without the least delay. In forests and chases, interspersed with furzes and fern, and where there is considerable tracts of covert to draw, if it was not for such observations, much time would be lost in the endeavours to find. They are generally found in such coverts as lie high, are dry and thick at bottom; such also as lie out of the wind; and such as are on the sunny side of the hills: and it is frequently to be remarked, that in a covert where one fox is found, if it is permitted to lay two or three days quiet, it will most commonly produce another.

It will be found labour in vain to draw small hazel-coverts soon after nutting-time; furze-fields, or two and three years old coppices, are then the only quiet places that a fox can kennel in: they are also disturbed when pheasant-shooting begins, and older coverts are more likely. Foxes are the most wild, and the strongest for running at or about Christmas, and a huntsman must then lose no time in drawing; as before-mentioned, he must draw up the wind, unless the covert be very large, in which case it may be better, perhaps, to cross it, giving the hounds a side wind, lest he should be obliged to turn down the wind at last: in either case, the hounds should be drawn as quietly as possible. Although it is not directly in sporting style to see the huntsman to a pack of fox-hounds ever off his horse—yet, at a late hour in the day, it is necessary he should draw a furze-brake as slowly as if he was himself on foot; as, by a contrary mode of drawing in too great a hurry, they sometimes leave foxes behind them. Mr. Beckford mentions an instance of this which happened with his own hounds; having drawn a covert, which, in his opinion, consisted of about ten acres—yet, whilst the

hunter was blowing his horn to get away his hounds, one young fox was hallooed away, and another was seen immediately after : this covert was situate on the side of a hill, and the foxes had kennelled close together at the extremity of it, where not even a single hound had been. Some huntsmen are habitually induced to draw too quick, and others, from a want of constitutional animation, get along altogether as slow ; the time of the day, the state of the hounds, and the coverts they are drawing, ought all, at times, to direct an observing huntsman which is the most advantageous way to go.

When a fox is found in a furze-brake, it betrays a great want of sporting knowledge to halloo him off before he is got quite clear of it ; when a fox is well found in such places, if the hounds are not injudiciously managed, they are sure to go off well with him : and it must be owing either to a fluctuation of scent, bad hounds, bad luck, or bad management, if they don't kill him to a certainty. In many packs it is too much a practice to rate so soon as a young hound challenges ; now although it is well known that young hounds are often wrong, yet, since it is not impossible that they may be sometimes right, would it not be equally proper to have a little patience, in order to observe whether any of the old ones will join, before any thing is said to them. "*Have a care !*" is amply sufficient 'till proof appears whether the hound is on a wrong scent. This is introduced only as an oblique and conditional hint ; as no experienced sportsman is an enemy to a rate well thrown in, upon a supposition that a fox is seldom lost, or a pack spoiled by it ; improper encouragement is more likely to do the greater mischief. When a fox slips away from his kennel, and glides a great way imperceptibly before the hounds, and they are obliged to pick him along with a stale and protracting scent ; if it happen in a country where foxes are plenty, it will be found much more entertaining to decline the pursuit and endeavour to find another. Whenever a fox is drawn for, every individual should be placed in such a situation that it is impossible for him to go off unseen ; it is not uncommon for them to lie in the most unsuspected places, as patches of bushes by the sides of hills, or remote, rushy, and sedgy bottoms, where huntsmen sometimes never think of looking for them : yet so soon as they hear a hound, they expeditiously shift their quarters, and seek a little closer covert for protection.

This is one predominant reason why gentlemen should take some useful part in the chase upon themselves, and keep their eyes about them ; foxes may steal away unperceived by the huntsman, and a whipper-in has other points of the business

to attend to. Mr. Beckford was so observant of this garrulity in the field, that when he saw two gentlemen together, he always concluded one of them at least knew nothing of the matter. Long drags, in large coverts, are by no means desirable; they give the fox a hint to make the best of his way, and, in so doing, he frequently gets greatly ahead of his pursuers. The better to prevent which, the hounds should be thrown into that part of the covert where he is the most likely to kennel; for want of this precaution, a fox sometimes gets so far before the hounds, that they are not able to do but very little with him afterwards. Foxes are universally thought to go down the wind to their kennel, but there are some reasons to believe that is not an invariable rule. Huntsmen, in general, whilst their hounds are drawing, or at fault, frequently make so much noise themselves, that they can hear nothing else; it is certain they should have an ear open to a halloo. A story is in circulation of a huntsman, who was making so much noise with his own hounds which were then at a fault, that a man gave the view-halloo a long time before he heard him; and when he did, he could only form so ill an opinion from whence the halloo came, that he rode two miles the wrong way, and absolutely lost the fox by his erroneous speculation. It cannot but have been observed, by steady and experienced sportsmen, that when hounds approach a covert which it is intended they should draw, and dash away to reach it with the utmost eagerness and avidity, the whippers-in vociferously ride after to stop them; this, upon mature consideration, seems an ill-judged proceeding, as it evidently checks them in their drawing, and it would be better to let them alone.

When hounds have found, and hunt improper game, it will be soon enough to rate; for when a huntsman has his hounds in a state of subjection, and is strictly attentive to them, they will not break off without some signal of his disapprobation. When he passes a covert that he does not intend to draw, the whippers-in should be in their places to keep them in awe and under controul; for if it should be a covert they have been used to draw, they must be wonderfully slack, indeed, if they did not make a vigorous effort to dash into it. For this very reason, it is better, not always to throw into any covert exactly at the same place; hounds, by not knowing precisely what is going forward, will be less likely to break away, and will draw more quietly. Some packs have so much dash, and are so high in blood, that it is with difficulty they are prevented from breaking away at sight of the first covert. It is, in fact, the want of proper discipline which occasions faults of this description; hounds that are under such command as never to leave their

huntsman 'till he permits them to do it, will then become so confident of their own powers, that there will be no fear of their returning to him again. If fox, like stag-hounds, were accustomed to stop by the smack of the whip, it is reasonable to conclude, they would not do their business the worse for it, and it would contribute additional advantages very essential to the sport: such, as when they have to wait under a covert-side; when they run riot; when they change scent; when a single hound is on before; and when a fox is headed back to covert. Hounds not under good command, are productive of many inconveniencies; they frequently occasion the company to deviate from the plan previously laid down, and even to draw a covert which they did not intend.

Mr. Beckford mentions a famous pack of fox-hounds kept by a nobleman of much sporting celebrity, that had no fault but what had its rise from bad management; nor, indeed, says he, is it possible to do any thing with a pack of fox-hounds unless they be obedient; they should both love and fear the huntsman; they should fear him much, and love him more, as there can be no doubt but their obedience would be in proportion to their attachment. Dogs of every description, who are constantly with their masters, acquire a wonderful degree of penetration, and much may be done through the medium of such spontaneous affection. He attributes the extraordinary sagacity of the buck-hound to the manner in which he is treated, and represents him as the constant companion of his instructor and benefactor—the man whom he was first taught to fear, and has since learned to love, it is, therefore, no matter of wonder that he should be subservient to him. Yet, who can view without surprise the hounds and the deer amusing themselves familiarly together upon the same lawn; living, as it were, in the most friendly intercourse; and know that a single word from the keeper will dissolve the amity. The obedient dog, gentle when unprovoked, flies to the well-known summons; how changed from what he was! roused from his peaceful state, and cheered by his master's voice, he is thus urged on with a relentless fury which only death can satisfy—the death of the *very deer* he is encouraged to pursue; and which the various scents that cross him in his way cannot tempt him to forsake. The business of the day concluded, see him follow, careless and contented, his master's steps, to repose him upon the same lawn, where the frightened deer again return, and are again indebted to his courtesy for their wonted pasture. Wonderful proofs of obedience, sagacity, and penetration!

Returning

Returning to the subject of the field, it should be remembered, that where young foxes have been much disturbed, they are the more disposed to lie at ground; as, for instance, where three or four brace have been found one day, none have been found the next, either in that same spot, or elsewhere; one proof that the earths should be stopped three or four hours before day, or sport cannot be expected. When a covert is hunted where foxes are plenty, and the hounds stand in need of blood, they should not be checked back into the covert (which is too much the practice), but some of the foxes permitted to get off; if they do not, what with continual changing, and sometimes running the heel, it is probable that not one may be killed. Another precaution may be necessary, which is, to stop such earths only as cannot be dug; if some foxes go to ground it may be as well; for if the hounds be in want of blood, it is no bad plan to know where to obtain it. When a huntsman is not certain whether his hounds are steady from deer, it is usual to endeavour at finding a fox in a neighbouring covert, that they may be upon the right scent when they come where deer are. Mr. Beckford has his doubts respecting the propriety of this proceeding; for, says he, if hounds have not been well awed from deer, it is not fit that they, at any rate, should come among them: but if hounds be tolerably steady, he would prefer finding a fox with them amongst deer, than bring them afterwards into coverts where deer are. By drawing amongst them, they, in some degree, will be awed from the scent, and may possibly stick to the fox when he is found; but should unsteady hounds, when high on their mettle, run into a cover where deer are in plenty, there is no doubt but that at the first check they come to, they would all fall off.

Hounds are always most inclined to riot when most upon their mettle; such as are inclined to kill sheep will then do it with a vengeance; and those that are not quite steady from deer will then be most likely to break off after them. When hounds are encouraged upon a scent, if they lose that scent, it is then the time when an unsteady hound is ready for any kind of mischief. It has been already remarked, that a huntsman should not be too officiously ready with his whip; in fact, those who are most experienced in the chase best know, that it is prudent in a huntsman never to flog a hound at all: for it is no uncommon thing, when a riotous hound, conscious of his offence, can escape from the whipper-in, and fly to the huntsman, to see the latter put his whole pack into confusion by endeavouring to chastise him himself. This is, absolutely, the very height of absurdity! Instead of punishing the hound, he ought, from a motive of humanity, to encourage

rage him, that he may have some place to fly to for protection. If the offence is of consequence, it would be better for him to dismount and couple up the dog, leaving him to be chastised by the whipper-in, after himself is gone on with the hounds; the punishment once over, he may then be again encouraged to come near him. Hounds that are riotous in covert, and will not come off readily to the huntsman's halloo, should be flogged in the covert rather than out of it; treated in this way, there will be but very little difficulty in getting them off; otherwise, they will soon find that the covert will save them; from which they will have more sense when they have committed an offence, than to come spontaneously to receive punishment. Should a staunch and favourite hound, acquire a habit of staying behind in large coverts, the only remedy is not to let him be taken into them.

Although a huntsman ought to be as silent as possible at going into a covert, he cannot be too noisy at coming out of it again; and if at any time he should have occasion to turn suddenly back again, all necessary notice ought to be vociferously communicated to the hounds, or many may be left behind him, and should he happen to turn down the wind, probably see no more of them. Upon the accidental, or occasional silence of huntsmen, Mr. Beckford introduces the two following instances:—"A huntsman that he once knew (who he believes is now a drummer in a marching-regiment) went out one morning so very drunk, that he got off his horse in the midst of a large covert, laid himself down, and fell fast asleep; he was, of course, lost, and nobody could conceive what was become of him, 'till he was luckily found in the situation described. He had, however, great good luck on his side, for, at the very moment he was discovered and roused from his slumbers, a fox was found, and hallooed off; upon which he instantly mounted his horse, and rode most desperately, killed his fox handsomely, and was forgiven. The other," he says, "was a huntsman silent from a different cause, and that was a sulky one. Things did not go on to please him; he therefore alighted from his horse in the middle, and as quietly as he could, collected his hounds about him; he then took an opportunity, when the coast was clear, to set off silently, and by himself, for another covert; however his master, who knew his tricks, sent others after him to bring him back; when they found him running a fox most merrily, and, to his great astonishment and mortification, they stopped the hounds, and made him go back with them. This curious character had been often severely beaten, but was stubborn and sulky to the last." To this he

he adds an observation, upon the little some people know of fox-hunting; for that some little time before, a gentleman asked him, "if he did not send people out *the day before* to find where the foxes lay?"

A gentleman, who once wished to be thought a sportsman of experience, was heard to say, "that a pack of fox-hounds, if left entirely to themselves, would never lose a fox;" the major part of the sporting-world are, most probably, of an opposite opinion, and much doubt whether they would ever kill one. There are, undoubtedly, times when hounds should be helped, and at all faults should be kept forward, as it is frequently seen they cannot get on without it; hounds will naturally tie on a cold scent when stopped by sheep, or other impediments; and when they are no longer able to get forward, will sometimes hunt the old scent back again, if they find they can hunt no other. It is the judicious encouraging of hounds to hunt when they cannot run, and the preventing them from losing time by hunting too much when they might run, that distinguishes a good sportsman from a bad one; in hunting a pack of fox-hounds, a proper medium should be observed, as too much help will make them slack, too little will make them tie on the scent, and hunt back the heel. Hounds that have been well taught, and regularly broken in, will cast forward to a brake, or hedge-row, of their own accord; but such excellence is seldom or ever acquired by those who are left entirely to themselves. It is an error in judgment to suffer a pack of hounds to hunt through a flock of sheep, when it is easy to make a regular cast round them; it is evidently losing time to no purpose; some venture to affirm, that hounds should, at no time, be taken off their noses; in answer to this it may be said, that a fox-hound who will not bear lifting is not worth the keeping, and therefore no doubt can arise upon the propriety of making it a part of his education.

Though it is pleasing to see fox-hounds cast wide and forward, yet it is disgusting to an experienced sportsman to see them pick a cold scent through flocks of sheep to no purpose, and equally so to observe that unaccountable hurry which huntsmen will frequently put themselves into the moment their hounds are at fault; time should always be allowed them to make their own cast, and if a huntsman be disposed to exert his judgment, he will take that opportunity to determine what part he himself has next to act: instead of which, the hounds are generally hurried away the very moment they come to a fault, a wide cast made, and the hounds at last brought back again to the very place from whence they were so abruptly taken; and where, if the huntsman would have a minute's patience, they

they would hit off the scent themselves: and it may be concluded an improper confidence in a huntsman to presume to make his cast before the hounds have made theirs. Prudence might prompt him to encourage, or even to humour his hounds in the cast they seem most inclined to make; and either to stand still himself, or trot round with them, as circumstances may require. Huntsmen are sometimes seen to make their cast on bad ground, when they might as easily have made it on good: they are also seen, at times (perhaps from inadvertence, or want of good thought), suffering their hounds to try in the midst of a flock of sheep, even when a hedge is near, where there would have been no doubt of their taking the scent, and a cast of this kind is sometimes taken with every hound at the horse's heels. When a hound tries for the scent, his nose is to the ground; when a huntsman makes a cast, his eye should be on his hounds; and when he sees them spread wide, and try as they ought, his cast may be made with greater expedition.

Should hounds come to a fault, and the huntsman too hastily halloo them off the line of the scent, and, at the same time, the whippers-in rating and smacking after them with their whips, they may, probably, be led to believe the business of the day is concluded. Hounds should never (unless in particular cases, or when they go to a halloo) be taken entirely off their noses; but, when once they are lifted, they ought constantly to be made to try as they go. Some huntsmen have a dull and desponding mode of speaking to their hounds; but, at such times, little should be obtruded, and that should have both meaning and animation. When a cast must unavoidably be made, it should be made perfectly one way, before the huntsman tries another, as much time is sometimes lost by going backwards and forwards from one place to the other; and it is by no means unfrequent to see a huntsman, when his cast forward does not succeed, come slowly back again, when he should absolutely return as fast as he can. When hounds are at fault, and it is likely the fox has headed back, the cast forward should be short and quick, for the scent is then most likely to be behind, too obstinate a perseverance forward has been the loss of many foxes. In heathy countries where there are many roads, foxes will always run them in dry weather; when hounds, therefore, over-run the scent, if brought back speedily to the first cross-road they will, probably, hit off again directly.

In large coverts, particularly where there are roads in various directions, and in bad scenting-days, when such roads are dry; or after a thaw, when they carry,
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it is necessary the huntsman should be near his hounds to help them and hold them forward. Foxes will run these roads whenever they have an opportunity, and the best and steadiest hounds cannot always own the scent. When they are at fault on a road of this description, the huntsman should never turn back too soon, the head should be first made good; nor should he decline trying forward 'till he is fully convinced the fox is not gone on; the hounds should try on both sides the road at once, or, if he tries on one side first, he should take the other on his return. In large woods and extensive coverts, there are sometimes wide ridings, which render them less exceptionable to sportsmen than they otherwise might be, yet it does not appear that they are of any great service to hounds; they acquire a habit of shuffling, and the fox being frequently headed, they are put to many faults; the roads are foiled by the horses, and the hounds often interrupted by the horsemen; such ridings only are advantageous as enable the attendants belonging to the hounds to get to them. When a fox runs up the wind, when first found, and afterwards turns once, he will seldom or ever be seen to turn again; this observation is not only worthy the attention of every huntsman in whatever cast he may have occasion to make, but to every sportsman in general, provided he may, at any time, unluckily lose the hounds.

When a fox is pursued across a country, the scent being bad, and the fox a long way before the hounds, without ever having been pressed; if his point should be for strong earths that are open, or for large coverts where game is in plenty, it may be acting wisely to take off the hounds at first fault: for the fox may, in such case, get on so much faster than the pack, that he may, probably, run them out of all scent; and if he should not, they may be likely to change at the first covert they come to; but at any rate, independent of every other consideration, if a fox has been hard pressed, he should never be given up, as death is the more likely to ensue, and this is a very important gratification when hounds stand in need of blood. In an ardent desire to recover a hunted-fox, and there is no longer a scent to hunt him by, a long cast to the first covert which he seems to point for is the only resource that is left: the hounds should be got thither with all expedition, and then try, as slowly and quietly as possible, if farther hunting be hopeless, and a long cast does not succeed, he had better be given up; it requires no preternatural sagacity to observe, that when the scent lies badly, and it is found impossible for hounds to run, they had better be taken home and decline unnecessary fatigue, as a future day may prove more favourable. It is certainly an egregious error in judgment for any huntsman to persevere when the weather is too severe for the

hounds to run, it is ultimately prejudicial to both hounds and horses. Some there are who, when they have lost one fox for want of scent to hunt it by, will endeavour, in sleet and rain, to find another; this will make hounds slack, slow, tedious, and sometimes unruly. Some packs are much more favourable in their hunting-days than others, as it is mostly customary with all hounds to hunt every other day, it is frequently matter of mortification for a length of time, that every regular hunting-day shall prove bad, and the intermediate days every one good; an indifferent pack, therefore, by having good weather in their favour, may accidentally kill their foxes without much merit, while excellent hounds, notwithstanding all their exertions, may lose foxes which they deserve to kill. Those sportsmen who have a sufficient number can always adopt an alternative, by hunting on every good day, and never on a bad one.

It is not unworthy consideration, that on windy days, or on such as are not likely to afford the necessary scent for hounds, whether it may not be better to let them be exercised on a turnpike-road (if such be near); it would, probably, do them less harm than hunting them, and more good than if they were permitted to continue in kennel; for it is certain, that nothing makes hounds so steady and obedient as taking them out often—yet nothing inclines them so much to riot and confusion as taking them out to hunt when there is little or no scent, and more particularly on windy days, when they cannot possibly hear one another. A perfect knowledge of the country is certainly a great help to a huntsman, and a great allowance should be made for one not possessed of that advantage. Trotting away with hounds to make a long and knowing cast, is a privilege which a new huntsman cannot pretend to; an old and experienced one may safely say, a fox has made for such a covert, when, perhaps, he has known nine out of ten generally run to the same spot when the wind was in the same quarter. In a country where there are large earths, a fox that knows the country, and tries any of them, seldom fails to try the rest. A huntsman may take advantage of this, they are certain casts, and may, of course, help him in getting nearer to his fox. When a fox is running into, or near a village, additional alertness becomes the more evidently necessary; if he be halloed there, all should get forward with the utmost expedition. Foxes when tired will lie down any where, and are often lost by it. It is a just remark, that a wide cast is not the best to recover a tired fox with tired hounds; they should hunt him out inch by inch, though they are ever so long about it, and for the reason already given, that they will lie down any where.

In forests and chaces, where very high fences are made to preserve both vert and venison, it is the most prudent to put only a few old hounds over, enough to carry on the scent, and the huntsman to get forward with the rest; this may be considered a proof that he knows his business. Care should be taken where foxes are plenty, lest they should run the heel; for it frequently happens, that hounds can run the wrong way of the scent better than they can the right, when one is up the wind and the other down. Fox-hunters are seldom or ever guilty of the fault of trying up the wind, before they have tried down; for they are, in general, too much inclined to lose their foxes, rather than condescend to try up the wind at all. When a huntsman hears a halloo, and has five or six couple of hounds along with him, and the pack not running, he should get forward with those which he has; for when those are on the scent, the others will soon join them. The tail-hounds should be lifted, and got forward after the rest, that can do no harm; but care must be taken in lifting any hounds to get them on before the rest, as it is always hazardous, and foxes are often repentantly lost by it. When a fox runs his foil in covert, if all the hounds are permitted to hunt on the line of him, they will foil the ground and tire themselves to little purpose. The huntsman may at such time stop the tail-hounds, and throw them in at the head; in fact, it is almost the only critical juncture at which it should be done. Whilst hounds run straight, it cannot be of any use, for they will get on faster with the scent than they will without it. When hounds are picking along a cold scent, and pointing for a covert, a whipper-in should always get away expeditiously to the opposite side of it; and should the fox break before the hounds are up to the covert, it is then justifiable to stop them and lay them on nearer to him.

When a fox perseveres in running a strong covert, lies down often behind the hounds, and they are slack in hunting him, the huntsman cannot do better than get into covert; it may make the fox break, it may keep him off his foil, or prevent the hounds from giving him up. It is not often that slow huntsmen kill many foxes; they are a check upon their hounds, which seldom kill a fox but with a high scent, when it is out of their power to prevent it. What avails it to be told which way the fox is gone, when he is so far before, that the hounds cannot hunt him? A Newmarket stable-lad, with a dash of sporting-blood, a good understanding, and sonorous voice, might, most probably, be preferable to a slack and indifferent huntsman; he would press on his hounds while the scent was good, and the foxes he did kill he would kill handsomely. Activity and quick conception are the leading requisites in a huntsman to a pack of fox-hounds; a want of these no judgment can make amends for: while the most difficult of all his undertakings is

the distinguishing between different scents, and knowing with any certainty the scent of his hunted-fox. Much penetration and sound speculation is here required; the length of time hounds remain at fault; difference of ground; change of weather; all which tend to increase the difficulty, and require a degree of distinction and nicety of precision rather beyond the intellectual ability of those generally employed in that capacity.

It is a maxim well founded in experience, that when hounds come suddenly and unexpectedly to a fault, and cannot make it out themselves, their first cast cannot be made too quick; the scent is then at its best, and the hounds are not likely to go over it; as the scent gets worse, the cast should be proportionally slower and more cautiously made: this is a very essential part of hunting, and it is to be regretted that it is so indifferently attended to. It would be of more advantage to the success of the chase, if the following concise rules were strictly adhered to: that with a good scent, their cast should be quick; with a bad scent, slow; and when the hounds continue merely to pick it along, it is better not to cast them at all. When hounds are tardily at fault, staring about with their heads up, trusting entirely to their ears and their eyes, the making a cast with them would, probably, tend to very little purpose. The likeliest place to recover the scent is where they left it; and when the fault is evidently in the dog, a forward cast is not the most likely to recover it. Hounds well know where they lose the scent, and, if let alone, will make the most energetic efforts to recover it; impatience in a huntsman, at so critical a moment, contributes in the end to spoil the hounds. When hounds are making a regular cast, trying for the scent as they go, not a word should be said by either the huntsman or those who surround him; it cannot do any good, and may stimulate them to over-run the scent; neither should the voice, or the whip of the whipper-in, be heard at so critical a moment: his customary roughness and severity would ill suit the stillness and gentleness so evidently necessary at a time like this.

Upon the instant of hounds coming to a check, when running breast-high, observation should be immediately made of the tail-hounds; because they are the least likely to over-run the scent, and it may be seen by them how far they brought it. In some steady and well-disciplined packs there are sagacious old hounds that will almost shew the point of the fox, and, if properly encouraged and attended to, will direct the huntsman's cast; when such hounds move slowly, and follow reluctantly, it may be taken for a certainty, that the forward part of
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the pack are running without a scent. When he casts his hounds, he should not cast wide without good and substantial reason, without which there is the more time lost at the very critical moment when it is most wanted. Huntsmen, in general, are always too hasty and forward in their casts; they should endeavour to hit off the scent by crossing the line of it; if they are properly attentive to which, they cannot fail to make a good cast; for if the point of the fox is observed, it is natural to conclude he may always be crossed upon. When a huntsman goes to a halloo, he should be exceedingly careful not to let his hounds run heel, as very frequently much time is lost by it. In elucidation of this circumstance, Mr. Beckford mentions a mistake he once saw made by a huntsman of no small celebrity; after leaving a covert which he had been drawing, a disturbed fox was seen to go into it: the fox was hallooed and the hounds returned. The huntsman, who never enquired where the fox was seen, or on which side the covert the fox entered, threw his hounds in at random; and as it happened too, on the contrary side, they immediately took the heel of him, broke covert, and hunted the scent back to his very kennel.

Different countries, it is presumed, require different casts; such huntsmen as have been used to a woodland, and enclosed country, too frequently lose time in an open country, where wide casts are always necessary. When it is unavoidably necessary to make a cast round a flock of sheep, it should be the business of the whipper-in to drive the sheep the other way, lest they, by running before the hounds, should retard their progress. It is a generally received opinion, that huntsmen are too often not only very conceited, but very obstinate also; they are sometimes seen, when their hounds come to a check, to turn directly back on seeing hounds at head which they had no opinion of. They supposed the fox was gone another way; in which case Mr. Bay's remark in "The Rehearsal" always occurs, "that, if he *should not*, what *then* becomes of the *suppose*?" Better it would certainly be to make a short cast forward first, when being certain the hounds were wrong, they, of course, could make their own cast with greater confidence: the advantage next to that of knowing whither the fox is gone, is that of knowing, with certainty, whither he is not. Most huntsmen are anxious to have all their hounds turned after them when they make a cast, but many are of a different opinion, and unless a huntsman should be found infallible, it is fair to conclude the more hounds spread the better; as long as they are within sight, or hearing, it may be thought sufficient. Sometimes an obstinate old hound will hit off the scent, when an obstinate huntsman, by casting the wrong way, has been doing

doing all in his power to prevent it. Mr. Beckford observed, "that he remembered to have seen two foxes killed in one day, by skirting hounds, whilst the huntsman was making his cast the contrary way."

When hounds running in covert come into a road, and horses are on before, the huntsman should hold them quickly on beyond where the horses have been, trying the opposite side as he goes along; but if casual straggling horsemen have been long enough up to have headed the fox, the hounds should then try back; but it is to be remembered, that although it is systematically judicious, and sportingly proper, to try back when a fox has been headed, it is not to be considered so at any other time. Where foxes are found in plenty, and hounds divide into parts, it is advisable to get them together if possible, and go away with the first fox that breaks; otherwise the ground will soon be tainted, and hounds are by no means fond of leaving a covert where they are open to the novelty of change. If a covert be very extensive and there are many scents, it is not always possible to get the hounds easily together, nor is it, in fact, at all times necessary; for if the pack be numerous they may be permitted to run separately, provided care is taken that none get entirely away from the rest: by which means different foxes may be equally distressed, the hounds most likely will get together at last, and one fox at least be expected for the advantage of blood, which hounds should never be too long in want of.

Heading a fox when first found, if the covert be not a large one, is oftentimes an accidental service to hounds, as he will not stop, and cannot go off unseen. When a fox has been hard run, it, however, frequently happens otherwise, and hounds, that would easily have killed him out of covert, unluckily leave him in it. If there are reasons why it is wished, or intended that a fox should not break, every means may be adopted to prevent, if possible, his coming at all out of covert; for though he might be headed and turned afterwards, it might, probably, put the hounds to a fault: for when a pack of fox-hounds once leave a covert after their game, they do not readily return to it again. If a fox has been often headed on one side the covert, and a huntsman has reason to believe there is not any body on the other side to halloo him, the first check his hounds come to he should instantly make his cast that way, lest the fox should be gone off; and although he may not have broke covert, the pack, by trying back, have still a chance to recover him. It should be an invariable rule with every huntsman never to take out a sick or lame hound; it is a common observation upon such occasions to

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say, " he will not be the worse for it when he is out." To this it may be natural to reply; " but how will it be the next day?" A hound not in condition to run, cannot be of much service to the pack; and the taking him out at such time may occasion him a long confinement in consequence. When any fall lame while they are out, it is prudent to leave them at the first house they come to,

It has been sometimes seen, that a young or inexperienced huntsman has most ridiculously hunted his young hounds in couples; what can be more truly contemptible, than the chance of seeing them hanging across a hedge, or gate, grinning at each other, and, probably, in the agonies of death? Yet it is an accident that often has happened; and it is an accident so likely to happen, that it is matter of admiration how any man possessed of common sense can be found to risk it. In fact, it would be better to have them held in couples at the covert-side 'till the fox is unkenelled, and then halloo them forward to the chase. Two things a huntsman should principally attend to, which are the keeping his hounds both healthy and steady; the first is attained by due attention, cleanliness, and proper food; the latter by putting, as little as possible, any unsteady ones amongst them. Previous to the commencement of the season, such hounds as stand in need of it should lose a small quantity of blood, and be proportionally purged; as the season advances, and foxes become stout, attention should be paid to keep them in a state of strength and vigour: it is a palpable inadvertence to have hounds too high in flesh at the beginning of a season, and too low afterwards. When a fox (in hunting) is lost, the huntsman, on his return home, has ample opportunity to ruminate upon the course of the chase, and to determine whether, in respect to his own exertions, he might not have done better; and by these means he may, probably, make the very loss of the fox become useful to him.

Old tying-hounds, and a hare-hunter turned fox-hunter, are both as contrary to the true spirit of fox-hunting as any thing can possibly be. One is continually bringing the pack back again; and the other is as constantly doing his best to prevent them from getting forward. The inspirative prepossessions of mankind are such, that any man seldom or ever alters his style of hunting, let him pursue what game he may; besides, it may be constitutional, as he is himself slow or active, dull or lively, patient or impatient; and it is for that reason that a huntsman previously accustomed to hunt hare-hounds, is but little calculated to hunt fox, as, most probably, the same ideas of hunting will stick to him as long as he lives. If a huntsman advanced in years, has been working all his life upon wrong principles, he

he will not be very likely to become the subject of reformation. It is sometimes seen that good huntsmen are much diversified in their qualifications, one may be a most excellent kennel-huntsman; another an active and judicious one in the field; some are expert and clever at finding a fox, others are better after he is found; whilst perfection in a huntsman, like perfection in any thing else, is scarcely ever to be met with: there are not only good, bad, and indifferent huntsmen, but there are, perhaps, a few others, who being, as it were, of a different species, should be classed apart: such, at any rate, as have real genius. It is this peculiar excellence which is more usefully applicable to the whipper-in than the huntsman, as he has certainly more opportunities of bringing it into action.

It has been already slightly observed, that keeping hounds clean and healthy, and bringing them into the field in their fullest vigour, is the excellence of a good kennel-huntsman; if in addition to this, he makes his hounds both love and fear him; if he be active, and press them on while the scent is good, always aiming to keep as near to the fox as he can, and when his hounds are at fault, he makes his cast with judgment (not casting the wrong way first, and only blundering upon the right at last as many do); if added to these, he be patient and persevering, never giving up a fox, while there remains a single chance of killing him, he may then be considered a perfect huntsman. To make the most of a pack of hounds, and bring them into the field in their fullest vigour, is an excellence that most huntsmen are very deficient in; to obtain a knowledge of the different constitutions of so many animals, requires more discernment than most huntsmen possess. To apply that knowledge, by making separate drafts when they feed them, would also take up more time than they choose to bestow; hence it is that they are generally fed altogether; they may be well fed, it is true, but it is a matter of doubt whether in feeding they are ever made the most of: such as require to be fed a little at a time, and often, must, probably, be compulsively content with a little only. Few huntsmen, it is remarked, seem fond of their hounds; one reason, perhaps, may be, that they are paid for looking after them.

If the huntsman to a pack of fox-hounds has previously hunted harriers, it might, perhaps, have been much better if he had never seen one, since the hunting of hare and fox differ so much in almost every particular; so much so, indeed, that it might not prove an improper negative definition of fox-hunting to say, it is of all hunting, that which resembles hare-hunting the least. One who has acquired much credit in the field with harriers, seldom succeeds to celebrity in hunt-
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fox ; like old hounds they dwell upon the scent, and cannot summon resolution to get forward ; nor are they ever seen to make a quick and bold cast, so much are they afraid of leaving the scent behind them. Hence it is, that they, drone-like, poke about, and try the same place ten times over, rather than leave it ; and when they reluctantly leave it are at a loss which way to go, for want of knowing the nature of the animal they are in pursuit of. As hare-hounds should scarcely ever be cast, hallooed, or taken off their noses, hare-hunters are too apt to hunt their fox-hounds in the same manner ; but this is not likely to please the many ; take away the inexplicable spirit of fox-hunting and it is no more like fox-hunting than stale small-beer compared to brisk Champaign. There is also in it more fatigue than pleasure. It is an axiom of long standing, that "there is a pleasure in being *mad* which none but *madmen know*;" from which it may be fairly inferred, that the energetic enthusiasm of fox-hunting is its best support ; strip it of that, and it would, probably, prove much better to leave it quite alone.

Hounds of every description differ also in their manner of hunting ; the beagle, who has always his nose to the ground, will puzzle an hour upon one spot sooner than leave the scent ; while the fox-hound, naturally full of dash, life, and spirit, is always trying forward with unrestrained ardour and expedition. A high and well-bred fox-hound ; therefore, shews himself to most advantage when foxes are at their strongest and go an end. A pack of harriers might, probably, kill a cub better than a pack of fox-hounds ; but when foxes are strong, they have not the method of getting on with the scent which fox-hounds have, and generally tire themselves before the fox. To kill foxes when they are strong, hounds must run as well as hunt ; besides, catching a fox by hard running is the only chase to gratify the wish and expectation of a real fox-hunter. Much depends upon the style in which it is done ; and an opinion might be sportingly formed without being sophistical, that a distinction may be made betwixt hunting a fox and fox-hunting. Two hackneys do not become racers by running round a course, nor does the mere hunting of a fox change the nature of the harrier. A hare has been sometimes (by way of jocular experiment) hunted by a pack of high-bred fox-hounds ; but it must, by every sportsman, be admitted, that it does not afford the least idea of what hare-hunting ought to be. Certain ideas are necessarily annexed to certain words, which is the use of language ; and when a fox-hound is mentioned, it is, of course to be expected, that not only a particular kind of hound as to make, size, and strength (by which the fox-hound is distinguished), is implied ;

but it is also to be expected that, in the mention of fox-hunting, its lively, exhilarating, animating, and eager pursuit is, in imagination, comprehensively understood.

Life, spirit, eagerness, and impetuosity, are such essential parts of this diversion, that it would be a most singular phenomenon to see a fox-hunter without them. One hold hard, check, or vociferous reproof (unnecessarily given), instantly produces a more vibrative sensation of disquietude in the breast of a sportsman, than the chilling frigidity of a sudden north-east wind in the most genial, breast-high warmth of the chase. The innate enthusiasm of a fox-hunter should never be checked in its career; for, from its original attraction in youth, to its termination with life, it is the very ultimatum, soul, and spirit of the chase. If it be the eagerness with which game is pursued which constitutes the pleasure, fox-hunting must surely afford the greatest degree of it, as there is certainly no animal pursued with so much eagerness and impatient expectation as the fox. Those who, from long attachment to the sport, as well as experience, know when hounds run in good style, never fail to observe their motions strictly when a fox is sinking in a strong cover, which is the very critical moment to discover the true and inherent spirit of a genuine and well-bred fox-hound. If they do not spread the covert, but run tamely on the line of one another, they are not like to become very attracting; a fox-hound that has not spirit and ambition to get forward at a time like this, is at no other likely to do much good. Various are opinions upon the length and excellence of a fox-chase; many affect to consider it little or no sport unless a fox can summon fortitude to stand three or four hours before the hounds, and it is to them a matter of indifference what pace the hounds go in pursuit of him. This idea, however, goes by no means hand-in-hand with the true spirit of fox-hunting, which is certainly not to *walk down* a fox, but by laying as close as circumstances will permit, kill him in as handsome and sporting-like style as possible. It is an absolute fact, that a high and well-bred fox-hound may hunt too much; if tender-nosed, he will always hunt enough; and it is often seen by the judicious and observant, that the best hounds may be made slack, and to tye upon the scent by improper management: for it is more frequently owing, either to want of patience, or want of mettle, than to want of nose, that a hound does not hunt well. Nothing can contribute more to the spirit and enjoyment of fox-hunting than youth and good spirits; slackness in the men occasions slackness in the hounds; and it is easy to see, by the manner in which hounds hunt, what kind of men they have been accustomed to. The speediest hounds

hounds may, by tardiness and inadvertence, be rendered slow; and it is not likely for the best to do their business as they ought unless rode up to with life and spirit. Men who are constitutionally slack themselves will always be afraid of hurrying their hounds too much; and by indulging this indolent foible will commit a fault which has nothing to plead in its justification.

It is universally admitted, by all old experienced sportsmen, that the best method to hunt a fox is never, upon any account, to cast the hounds; but, on the contrary, to let them tye upon the scent as long as they will, and that they will generally hit it off at last. All hounds go fast enough with a good scent; but it is the particular excellence of a fox-hound, when rightly managed, to get on faster with an indifferent scent than any other hound, and it is the business of a huntsman to encourage this; and in which, perhaps, a hare-hunter would, most probably, fail. He has, of course, been used to take his time; he has been accustomed to enjoy a cold scent with as much pleasure as a southern-hound; and has sat happily and patiently upon his horse to see his slow hounds hunt. This may all be very amusing to a cold and phlematic philosopher, and when it is recollected that the hare is all the time within a few yards, and may leap up the next minute among the hounds, those who admire this kind of hunting, are perfectly content with what they are about; but it is not so in fox-hunting, every minute is too precious to be lost, and once lost only serves to increase the difficulties, and while the hounds and huntsman are comparatively standing still, the fox is, probably, running miles before them. It always affords singular satisfaction to a hare-hunter to be told where his game has been seen, though it was a long time before; but it proves a melancholy memento to a fox-hunter who well knows his game is not likely to stop. It is by no means an uncommon thing to observe a predominant fault in some harriers from their having been let too much alone, which is their accustomed tendency to running heel; unluckily, well-bred fox-hounds sometimes do the same, and probably for the same reason.

When hounds are seen to slacken, and it is known to be from frequent changes, repeated obstructions by strong fences, and a long day, it is then the serious duty of a huntsman to animate them as much as possible; he should keep them forward and press them on, for it is not likely, in such case, that they would over-run the scent: the whole work, at these times, is generally done by a few hounds, and it is his indispensable duty to keep close to them. This is the critical moment when every good sportsman may be of great service to hounds—it is, generally

speaking, the only time they stand in need of encouragement, and it is to be regretted, that from a want of due attention, it is almost the only time they do not receive it. Those who are often too much disposed to ride too forward in the morning, are generally as proportionally far behind towards the evening, and, of course, rendered incapable of affording service, and making amends for the mischief, they were prompted by their impetuosity to do in the earlier part of the day. When hounds flag from frequent changes, and the huntsman's horse sinks under the fatigues of a tiresome day, then it is that sportsmen have opportunity to assist them; such as know the hounds are the most proper upon such an occasion; they should endeavour, by great encouragement, to keep them running, and get those forward that may be behind; for when hounds that are tired once come to hunting, they tie upon the scent, and by losing time lose every chance they had of killing the fox; great encouragement, and proper timely assistance, only can prevent it. Hounds should, after every hard day, have two clear days' rest; as it does them less hurt to hunt two days following when their work is easy, than to hunt before they may be perfectly recovered, after having been very hard run.

Fox-hounds have to encounter various obstructions and vicissitudes in the course of a chase; the frequent changing; the heading of the foxes; their being coursed by sheep-dogs; long faults; cold hunting; and the dying away of the scent, make it always necessary to keep the hounds as near the fox as possible, and this should be considered the first principle and fixed standard of fox-hunting. Mr. Beckford judiciously remarks, that "Long days do great hurt to a pack of fox-hounds," and says, "he sat out one day the previous winter from his own kennel at half past seven, and returned home a quarter before eight at night, the hounds having ran hard the greatest part of the time. The huntsman killed one horse and tired another, and the hounds did not recover for more than a week; they took off the hounds at last, when they were running with a better scent than they had the whole day. He also remembers to have heard, after it was dark, a better view-halloo from an owl, than he ever heard from a sportsman in his life, and he hoped he should never hear such another. It must, nevertheless, be admitted, that a long day once or twice in a season is of certain use to a huntsman; it shews the real goodness and stoutness of his hounds. When long days happen to hounds that are low in flesh, nothing can so much contribute to their recovery as rest; it is for this reason, hounds that are constantly hunted, ought always to be above their work. If ever hounds should be in the low condition here alluded to, too much eagerness and expedition should not be indulged to get them out of it; if they

they are too hastily and immoderately fed with flesh, the mange might, probably, be likely to follow : it is rest, and a proper portion of wholesome food, which is the most applicable and best means to effect the purpose. It is rather surprising to see how soon a dog becomes either fat or lean ; a little patience, therefore, and some attention, will always enable a huntsman to get his hounds into proper condition, and unless they are in such state there can be no great pleasure in hunting with them.

It is truly necessary to make the earliest observation when hounds have the appearance of mange coming upon them ; for even those displaying the least tendency towards it should be fed separately from the rest. They should have no flesh ; their meat should be mixed up rather thin than thick, and a profusion of vegetables should not be wanting. Hounds, upon their return from hunting sooner than expected, should be shut up in the lodging-room 'till their meat be ready ; hounds seldom or ever rest contented 'till they are fed, nor will they remain satisfied upon their benches unless they are confined, and it must be evident, that lying upon the pavement, or even standing out in the cold after violent exercise, may be, in many respects, prejudicial to them. It is a matter of much gratification, where a huntsman well knows the country where he is to hunt ; nothing in fox-hunting can be more essential than that, and it may prove ample compensation for accidental deficiencies. Foxes, it may be concluded, are not capricious, they know very well what they are about ; being exceedingly quick in determining, and equally resolute in persevering : they have generally, when unkennelled, a point to go to, and though repeatedly headed and turned directly from it, seldom fail to make it good at last ; this is, of course, a consideration well worthy of a huntsman's recollection ; who should also invariably retain in memory, that it is an injudicious plan to encourage his hounds too much forward on a bad scenting-day, particularly in large coverts where there is frequently too much riot. " Hark !" " Hark !" " Hark !" which clamorous and hasty huntsmen are so fond of upon every occasion, sometimes do mischief, and can, by no means, be productive of good : when hounds are tolerably near together, they will get sooner to the hound that challenges without that superfluous noise than with it ; if the scent be right, they will be ready enough to join it ; and if it be wrong, let them alone, and they will be ready enough to leave it. Too much and too hasty encouragement on a bad scenting-day would, undoubtedly, induce them to run some one thing or other, right or wrong.

There is certainly no one fault in a hound so bad as that of running false ; it should never be entirely forgiven. Such as are not stout, or are stiff-nosed, or have other faults, may at times do good, and at their worst may do no harm ; but such as run false are, at all times, liable to spoil the sport. A hound habitually bad, and capable of spoiling even one day's sport, is not worth keeping ; indifferent ones, however, may be kept 'till better can be obtained to supply their places. A huntsman, to be excellent, should be critically exact in mustering every hound in his pack, giving each his proper rank and precedence ; for, without this necessary knowledge, it is barely possible he should be able to make so large a draught as he ought. There are, in many well-selected packs, some hounds that assist but little in killing the fox, and it is the judicious drafting off of such hounds that is one sure and invariable sign of a good huntsman. Some are so exceedingly exact, that they carry a list of the hounds in their pockets, and when in a distant country, they look it over to see if any of the hounds are missing : these have frequently a regular diary, in which they keep a regular entry of every fox, where found, where lost, or where killed. There are various sporting-terms in use, which, to young and inexperienced sportsmen, require explanation ; it is no uncommon expression to say, " the hounds are in want of blood," which, of course, implies the not having killed a fox so long that they begin to decline in vigour ; and it is almost universally admitted, that when fox-hounds fail in killing three or four times in succession, they are evidently the worse for it.

When hounds are out of blood, there is a kind of fatality attending all they do ; and though they seem to hunt as well as ever, they do not get forward ; whilst a pack well in blood with success, like troops flushed with conquest, are not easily dismayed or beaten. What is frequently called ill-luck, day after day, when hounds kill no fox, may, without inconsistency, be sometimes attributed to another cause, which is their being out of blood ; nor can there be possibly any other substantial reason assigned, why hounds known to be good, should remain so long as they sometimes do without killing a fox. Large packs are least subject to this inconvenience ; hounds that are quite fresh, and in high spirits, least feel the want of blood. The smallest packs, therefore, should be able to leave, at least, ten or twelve couple of hounds behind them, to be fresh against the next hunting-day. Mr. Beckford recites the following fact, that a pack of hounds who had been out on their usual days for a month without killing a fox, at last ran one to ground, which they dug out and killed upon the earth ; the next seven days they hunted, they every day killed their fox. It has, of late years, been a newly-introduced

introduced innovation to throw off at a late hour : this is not without its inconveniences, for after having one good run, if it so happens, no very strenuous trial should be made to find another, for if they are long in finding, and run late without success, it may, probably, very much weary and hurt the hounds ; or if they try a long time, and do not find, that also may tend to make them slack. Perhaps it might be no bad rule to avoid, after two o'clock, drawing to find another fox ; it may, if other circumstances coincide, be better to go home, and hunt again the following day.

Although this idea is introduced, yet it is by no means common, prudent, or consistent to hunt two days following with the same hounds ; the trying so many hours in vain, and their being kept so long off their food, both contribute to make them slack, and nothing surely is more contrary to the true and inherent spirit of fox-hunting ; for fox-hounds, it is generally admitted, ought always to be above their work. This is another paradoxical difference between hare and fox-hunting ; for, in the former, harriers cannot be hunted too much, as long as they are able to hunt at all. The slower they go, the less likely they will be to overrun the scent, and the sooner, in all probability, will they kill their game ; it is mentioned, by a writer of much celebrity, that a friend of his hunted his harriers five days in succession, and assured him that he had better sport the last day than the first. When hounds are much out of blood, some proceed in a method that must necessarily keep them so, for they hunt them every day, as if tiring them out were a means of constituting a renovation of exhausted strength and spirits ; this conduct, however, proceeds more from caprice, ill-nature, and resentment, than any judicious intention of improving such hounds. Admitting hounds to be occasionally in want of blood, they should then have the advantage of going out early ; a good, clear, quiet morning should be waited for, and the hounds at first thrown off in a promising country where they are most likely to find, and least likely to change ; if it should happen in a small covert, or a furze-brake, it may be a little beyond the limits of sporting equity to do so ; but it is no bad policy, upon such an emergency, to keep the fox in ; for the closer they lay at him, and the sooner they kill him, so much the better for the hounds.

When hounds are positively degenerating from their accustomed excellence, by a series of ill-luck, and want of blood, every advantage is admissible for the completion of a purpose so necessary to be attained ; therefore, when in a small covert,

vert, it must be the fault of every one present if he is not killed before he leaves it. It is sometimes said, by those who are very superficial in their knowledge of field-sports, that it is impracticable to head a fox directly back; those who know practically what they assert, will coincide with the great many experienced sportsmen in the well-known fact, that no animal in existence is more shy, artful, cunning, and capricious, when secreted from the human eye, nor any animal more easily headed and turned, when exposed to view, by those who understand it. When it is the general intention to check a fox, that intent should be known to every individual in the field; all should be a little aloof from the covert-side, and by no means sterile in sporting vociferation: for if he cannot be kept in, but seems determined to come out, every art may be used to prevent his putting it into execution. There can be no doubt, but the little eagerness, definable under the appellation of *mobbing*, is allowable when from a long succession of frost, snow, or any unfavourable weather and rest, the hounds are in want of blood. Although every spirited and high-minded sportsman must be an advocate for blood, so far as it is necessary to the reputation of the hounds, yet there are none of that description, who sanction with their approbation, the wanton devastation which sometimes, upon such occasions, so unnecessarily ensues.

The writer has seen, in the neighbourhood of Colchester, in Essex, three young foxes all chopped in a furze-brake within ten minutes of each other, without even a shadow of sport, although the dam had just broke away in the view of half the field; this was a wanton destruction of stock very far beyond the original purpose of blood, since that blood is supposed to do hounds the most good which is most hardly earned. Such over-eager sportsmen richly deserve blank days, and, without doubt, they often meet them. Mobbing a fox, is not in sporting style, or consistency, unless the hounds are not likely to be a match for him, when his life, by circumstances, is so peremptorily demanded. It should seem, by such energy in the transaction, that blood was as absolutely necessary to the men as the hounds; since the best chase is considered but "weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable," unless the fox is killed. When a returning fox-hunter is asked, "what sport he has had?" and the answer returned is "good;" the next question that follows generally is, "Did you kill?" If the reply should prove in the negative, the conversation usually ends; but if, on the contrary, he exultingly exclaims "they did;" he is then asked a hundred questions of the variegations and vicissitudes of the day, the enquirer seldom seeming perfectly satisfied 'till he has been favoured with every

every particular of the chase. When there is snow a long time upon the ground, foxes then lie at earth; and should hounds be palpably in want of blood, it will at that time be easy to dig one ready to turn out before them when the weather breaks; but that ceremony may be dispensed with by those who are of a newly-fangled opinion, that the assistance of blood is by no means necessary to a pack of fox-hounds.

Mr. Beckford, in his remark upon what is termed ill-luck in fox-hunting, recites the following: that it has provoked him often, and in his hearing made *even a parson swear*; for, says he, "it was but the other day we experienced an extraordinary instance of it. We found, at the same instant, a brace of foxes in the same covert, and they both broke at the opposite ends of it; the hounds soon got together, and went off very well with one of them: yet, notwithstanding this, such was our ill-luck, that though the hunted-fox took a circle of several miles, he, at last, crossed the line of the other fox, the heel of which we hunted back to the covert from whence we came: it is true, we perceived that our scent worsted, and were going to stop the hounds; but the going off of a white frost also deceived us in that." Many foxes, he continues, he had known to have been lost by taking refuge in houses and stables; his own hounds lost one, when hunting in the New Forest; after having tried the country round, they had given him up, and were gotten home; when almost immediately, in rode a farmer full gallop, with news of the fox: he had found him, he said, in his stable, and had locked him in. The hounds returned, previous to which, he was set at liberty, and stood but a little time before them, having been quite run up before. Some weeks before, he says, his hounds were running a fox across an open country, in a thick fog, the fox scarcely out of view, three of the leading hounds disappeared all of a sudden, and the whipper-in, luckily, was near enough to see it happen: they fell into a dry well, near an hundred feet deep; they and the fox remained there together 'till the next day, when, with the greatest difficulty, they were all four got out: but the writer, probably, thought it unnecessary to tell his readers, whether they were dead or alive.

This he follows up with saying, that "another time, having run a fox a burst of an hour and a quarter, the severest he ever remembered, the hounds at last got up to him by the side of a river, where he had staid for them: one hound seized him as he was swimming across, and they both went down together. The hound came up again, but the fox appeared no more; by means of a boat and a long

boat-hook the fox was soon recovered, and had he not been seen to sink, he would hardly have been tried for *under water*, and, without doubt, the company would have wondered what had become of him." From this part of the subject Mr. B. adverts to what may be deemed the proper time for leaving off hunting, which he thinks depends as much on the quantity of game, as upon the country where it is hunted; he is, however, of opinion, that no good country should be hunted after February, nor should there be any hunting at all after March. Spring-hunting causes a great and sad destruction of foxes; as many might be unfortunately destroyed in a week or ten days as would afford sport for a whole season. Mr. B. mentions their having killed a bitch-fox one morning, with seven young ones, which were all alive; and he observes in addition, that they missed them very much the next season, and had many blank days in consequence, which they would not have had but by their own fault, and this literally happened on the first of April. Those who will hunt late in the spring, should, at any rate, leave their terriers behind them; it is unfair and unpleasant to kill any animal out of season. A hen-pheasant with egg is said to be most famous eating, but surely none in possession of tender and humane sensations would ever wish to taste it; and the pursuit of a bitch-fox big with young is, in a like degree, certainly cruel and unnatural.

Other remarks of his are equally excellent, particularly where he says, "are not the foxes' heads, which are so pompously exposed to view, often prejudicial to sport in fox-hunting? How many foxes are wantonly destroyed, without the least service to the hounds, or sport to the master, merely that a huntsman may exultingly say, he has killed so many brace within a week—a month—or a season? How many are dug out and killed, when blood is not wanted, for no better reason—foxes that another day, perhaps, the earths well stopped, might have ran hours, and died gallantly at last? Mr. B. remembers to have seen a pack of hounds kill three in one day; and though the last ran to ground, and the hounds had killed two before, of course could not be in want of blood, the fox was dug out and killed upon the earth: it, however, answered one purpose, then not generally known, which was, that it reminded a clergyman present, of a corpse he stood engaged to bury, which otherwise had been forgotten. The number of foxes' scalps, so commonly displayed upon stable-doors, by no means tend to ascertain with precision any superior excellence in the hounds; which may more justly be known from the few foxes they lose, than from the number they kill. It may not prove inapplicable, before this subject is dismissed, to include a few hints upon
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the adoption of hunting of bag-foxes, to which the following objections naturally arise. The scent of them is different from that of foxes found in a state of nature; the scent is too good, for it makes the hounds idle; besides, in the manner in which they are generally turned out, it makes hounds exceedingly wild. They seldom fail to know what is going about before its begun, and if often permitted to hunt bag-foxes, will soon become riotous enough to run any thing that comes in their way.

A fox long confined in a small place, and afterwards carried out into a sack, probably for some miles, with his ordure hanging about him, must inevitably stink most extravagantly; it must also be taken into consideration, that he is likely to be weakened by a want of his usual food and natural exercise: his spirit broken by despair, and his limbs stiffened by confinement. He then is turned out on open ground, to which he is a total stranger, and has no one fixed point to go to; he runs down the wind it is true, but he is so much at a loss all the while, that he loses a great deal of time in deliberating, occasionally, upon what he is to do; while the hounds, who have no occasion to hunt, pursue as closely as if they were tied to him. The writer remembers to have seen a bag-fox hunted by the hounds of the late Lord Barrymore, whose huntsman not thinking these advantages enough, absolutely besmeared him with an ounce phial of *oil of aniseed*; and though the hounds were laid on within two hundred yards of his brush, he led them through the coverts of Barkham, Finchampstead, and Sandhurst (three distinct parishes), from thence over the extensive tract called Bagshot-heath, Cæsar's-Camp, and Wickham-Bushes, completely beating his pursuers, at East-hampstead-Park, after a run of an hour and a half, equal to most seen with the best hounds in the kingdom. Is it to be supposed that the same hounds would have patience to hunt a cold scent the next day over greasy fallows, through flocks of sheep, or on stony roads? However capable they may be of doing it, it is a matter of doubt whether they would give themselves the trouble. But if circumstances render it necessary to turn a bag-fox out, it is certainly most advisable to turn him into a small covert; giving him whatever time may be judged necessary, and the hounds laid on as quietly as possible, that they may be the more induced to believe they find themselves.

If a fox is turned out for the sole purpose of blood, it would, in that case, be most prudent to deposit him in a large covert, drawing it closely first to prevent the chance of a change: the hounds should then find him, and the sooner he is

killed the better ; fifteen or twenty minutes is a chase long enough for a bag-fox that is designed for blood ; after the enjoyment of which, the hounds should be taken home, and no more tried on that day. Bag-foxes always run down the wind ; such sportsmen, therefore, as chuse to turn them out, may, at the same time, chuse what country they shall run. Foxes that are found do not follow this rule invariably. Strong earths and large coverts are great inducements, and it is no inconsiderable wind that will keep foxes from them. A gentleman, who never hunts, being on a visit to a friend of his in the country, who hunts a great deal, heard him talk frequently of bag-foxes ; as he was unwilling to betray his ignorance, his discretion and curiosity kept him for some time in suspense and silence ; 'till, at last, he could not refrain from asking, " what kind of animal a *bag-fox* was ?" and if it was not "*a species of fox peculiar to that country ?*" In respect to the digging out foxes that are run to the ground, the following rules should be adhered to ; those employed should invariably follow the hole, except when the earth is large, and the terriers have fixed the fox in an angle of it ; for they then find it a more expeditious method to sink a pit as near to them as they can. A terrier should always be kept in at the fox, if which is not done, he may not only move, but also, in loose ground, may dig himself farther in. In digging, care should be taken to keep room enough ; as well as not to throw the earth where there may be a chance of having it to move again ; in following the hole, the surest way not to lose it, is to keep below it. When the hounds are in want of blood, all the holes should be stopped, lest the fox should bolt, and steal off unperceived, and it causes no small confusion when a scene of this kind happens ; the hounds are frequently dispersed, and asleep in different places ; the horses are often at a considerable distance ; and many a fox, by taking advantage of the moment, has saved his life.

If hounds are absolutely in want of blood, and have had a long run, it is the best way to kill the fox upon the earth ; but if they have not run long, and it be easy to dig out the fox, and the covert be such a one as they are not likely to change in, it is better for the hounds to turn out upon the earth and let them work for him. It is the blood that will do them more good, and will be more serviceable to the hounds, horses, and riders ; digging a fox is cold work, and may require a burst to get them warm again. But before this be done, if there are any other earths in the same, or any neighbouring covert, they should be stopped, lest the fox should go to ground again. The huntsman should try all around, and let him be perfectly satisfied that the fox is not gone on, before an earth is tried ; for

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Mr. Beckford observes, that, for want of this precaution, he dug three hours to a terrier who lay all that time to a rabbit, and he had the great mortification to have twenty miles to ride home after the disappointment. A fox sometimes runs over an earth and does not go into it; or sometimes he goes into it, and does not stay; he may find it too hot, too shallow, and too confined, or he may not like the company he may meet there in previous possession: there is no doubt but a fox has good reason for every thing he does, though the most sagacious of his pursuers may not be acquainted with them. Huntsmen will sometimes, in their eagerness of acquisition, when they get near the fox, put a hound in to draw him; this, however, is a cruel operation, and seldom answers any other purpose than to occasion the dog a bad bite, the foxes head being generally towards him; besides, a few minutes additional digging will render it unnecessary, and if the fox is permitted to seize a whip, the hound may certainly draw him the more readily.

Mr. Beckford is of opinion, badgers should not be encouraged in woods that are constantly hunted; he says, they make strong earths, which will be very expensive and troublesome to stop, and fatal to sport if they do not. The old sporting-toast is fresh in almost every memory,

“Hounds stout, and horses healthy,
“Earths well-stopp’d, and foxes plenty.”

All certainly very desirable to a fox-hunter, but it is natural to conclude the stopping of the earths are the most necessary, for the earths without that would prove of but very little use. A few large earths in the coverts nearest home may be productive of utility, as they may occasionally draw the foxes thither, and sometimes, after a long day, luckily bring the company home. In open countries, foxes, when they are much disturbed, will lie at earth; if there is repeated difficulty in finding, stinking the earths will frequently produce them again. No pack of fox-hounds should be without good terriers; the black or white is to be preferred, some red and red-tanned are so very like a fox, that dashing juveniles, at a distance, mistake one for another. Large, strong terriers are certainly the best for the purpose; but in a small earth they can render but little service, as they cannot always get up to the fox. It is a bad plan to enter a young terrier at a badger, they have not the art of shifting like an old one; and should they be good for any thing, will, probably, go boldly up to him at once, and get themselves most terribly bitten: for this reason they should be entered at young foxes when opportunities

opportunities can be obtained. Besides, the digging of foxes, by which method many young ones are taken, and old ones are destroyed, traps and other stratagems are exceedingly fatal to them. Farmers for their lambs (which, by the bye, few foxes ever kill), gentlemen for their game, and old women for their poultry, are their most inveterate enemies. Mr. Beckford, however, admits one instance of civility he experienced from a farmer during the chase; the hounds had found, and were running hard, when the farmer came up in high spirits, and said, "I hope, sir, you will kill him; he has done me a great deal of mischief lately; he carried away all my ducks last week: I would not *gin* him though—too good a sportsman for that."

Having gone through such recital of circumstances as seem necessary to inculcate a general idea of the chase, it becomes no less applicable to introduce such few anecdotes of recent date as may serve to contribute to the uniformity and entertaining intent of the whole. The strength, spirit, and perseverance of the foxhound having, in various instances, exceeded credibility, the following instances are extracted from the most singular and authentic upon record, not standing in need of any other confirmation whatever. In January, 1738, the then Duke of Richmond's hounds found their fox at a quarter before eight in the morning, and killed at ten minutes before six, after a chase of ten hours hard running. Many gentlemen tired three horses each. Only eleven couple and a half of hounds were in at the death, and several horses died in the field during the chase. This run was of such an amazing description, that it is natural to conclude the fox was changed more than once in the day, although it might not have been known to any individual in the company. In February, 1783, a fox was unkenelled near Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire, at twenty-seven minutes past nine, and except half an hour taking up in bolting him from a rabbit-burrow, the hounds had a continued run until fourteen minutes past five in the evening, when they killed in a style that enraptured the few that were up. During this space of nearly eight hours' most severe running, several horses died in the field, and many others were so injured as never to be perfectly recovered.

A very extraordinary proof of the most patient and persevering strength and spirit was evinced in a couple and a half of young and newly-entered hounds, the property of Mr. Pearson, in the neighbourhood of Lexden, in Essex. As they had accidentally followed him in his ride, they strayed into a large covert by the road-side, and presently found something which they very eagerly hunted; after
a long

a long time trying to halloo them off, Mr. P. proceeded to Colchester, where his business detained him some hours: upon his return he heard them in the covert, and found, by some people at work by the side of it, that they had continued running during his absence, and had driven a fox over the field in which they were at work, backward and forward several times. Upon which Mr. P. got as near to them as possible, continuing to give them every encouragement, when after hunting the fox a long time in the covert, he at last broke, and was handsomely killed after a run of some miles. The time these hounds were hunting was seven hours, during the greater part of which, they had no person whatever to afford the least assistance, or to encourage them to persist. In the north of England, Mr. George Baker's *Romulus* broke away singly with a fox, and killed him after a chase of eighteen miles.

In 1793, Sir Charles Davers's hounds found a leash of foxes in one covert; the hounds divided into three parts, each had a severe run, and each killed their fox. In 1795, a pack of fox-hounds in Cambridgeshire, after running a fox an hour, found a brace of fresh foxes, the hounds divided, six couple and a half went away with one of them, and killed at Weathersfield. One couple of hounds pursued the other, and killed him at Thurlow Park-Gate. Fifteen couple and a half stuck to their hunted-fox, and killed at the bottom of Gogmagog-hills, after a run of one hour and three quarters without a check, and in which time they were calculated to have ran near thirty miles. Of the invincible eagerness of the fox-hound in pursuit of his game, the following may be considered a most remarkable instance. In the season of 1796 the hounds of his grace the Duke of Northumberland, ran a fox into a very large furze-covert called Bunker's-Hill, near Alnwick, where he was lost in an earth which no one knew of. Upon the hounds coming to the kennel, two couple and a half of the best hounds were missing, and not returning that night, it was thought they had found a fox and had gone off by themselves with him. Several men were sent in search of them to all the earths and crags for twenty miles, but not the least tidings could be obtained. The covert where the fox was lost was then searched, and the earth discovered, and in digging about two yards deep, one hound was found; several yards farther three more fast together in the ground, and two yards deeper the fifth hound was dug up—but all dead.

Of the same inherent fortitude and emulative spirit the following may be considered a most decisive proof. In drawing a strong covert, a young bitch gave tongue

tongue very freely, whilst none of the other hounds challenged; the whipper-in rated to no purpose, the huntsman insisted she was wrong, and the whip was applied with great severity, in doing which the lash most unfortunately took the orb of the eye out of its socket; notwithstanding the execruciating pain she must inevitably have laboured under, the poor suffering animal again flew to the scent, and exultingly proved herself right, for a fox having stole away, she broke covert after him unheeded, and continued the chase alone; however, after much delay and cold hunting, the pack, at length, hit off the chase; at some distance a farmer made a signal with much vehemence to the company, who, upon expeditiously coming up, were informed, that they were very far behind the fox, for that a single hound, very bloody about the head, had passed a field from him, and was running breast-high, and that there was little chance of their getting up to him. The pack, however, at her coming to a check, did at length get up, and, after some cold hunting, the bitch again hit off the scent, and the fox was killed after a severe run, and the eye of the poor bitch, which had hung pendant during the chase, was taken off by a pair of scissars after the fox was dead.

Amidst the numerous instances which might be adduced, of the wonderful sagacity inherent to animals of this description, none it seems could be more applicable than the so well-authenticated case as that before us. At the time when Mr. Taylor, and the well-known Mr. Smith kept their hounds at Whinnick, in Northamptonshire, and used to go occasionally to Lutterworth, in Leicestershire, for a fortnight's hunting, the following circumstance occurred, to the admiration of all those witnesses to the fact. A favourite hound of the pack was left in Northamptonshire, on account of not being thought sound enough for the journey. The first day's hunting from Lutterworth produced an extraordinary chase, in which the hounds and horses were so tired, that it was deemed necessary to stop that night at Leicester. Upon their arrival the next day at Lutterworth, they were told that a hound (which answered the description of that left in Northamptonshire) came there soon after their going out the preceding morning, and waited quietly until towards the evening, he had then shewn signs of uneasiness, and in the morning had disappeared. It was concluded that, disappointed in not finding his companions where he expected, the hound (whose name was *Dancer*) had returned to Whinnick: but, to the surprize and concern of his masters, upon their returning home, they were informed, that the hound had come back from Leicestershire, staid one day at the kennel, and then left it. Every possible enquiry was made, and at length it was discovered, that *Dancer*, upon not finding the pack

either at Lutterworth or Whinnick, had proceeded into Warwickshire, to a Mr. Newsome's, where the hounds had been for a week, some months before.

After the number of years that the most opulent amateurs have been so emulously engaged, in endeavouring to improve the breed of the English fox-hound, it may be naturally supposed they have, at length, reached the summit of perfection. Amongst the various experiments made to ascertain the utmost speed of fox-hounds, the following are so well authenticated, that no doubt of the facts can be at all entertained. A match was made between Mr. Meynell and Mr. Barry, to run a couple of each other's hounds a drag, from the rubbing-house, at Newmarket town-end, to the rubbing-house at the starting-post of the Beacon-course, for five hundred guineas. After the match was made, the famous Will Crane was applied to, to train the hounds of Mr. Barry, of which Bluecap was four, and Wanton three years old. Crane at first objected to their being hounds that had been entered, and wished for young hounds, who might probably be taught with more certainty to run a drag; his motion, however, was set aside, and the hounds were sent to Rivenhall, in Essex, and, as Crane suggested, at the first trials to induce them to run the drag, they took no notice; at length, by dragging a fox along the ground, and then crossing the hounds upon the scent, and taking care to let them kill him, they became more handy to a drag, and had their exercise regularly three times a week, upon Tip-tree heath; the ground chosen was turf, and the distance over which it was taken, was from eight to ten miles. The dogs were in training for one month, their food consisting of oatmeal, milk, and boiled sheep's trotters. On the thirtieth of September the drag was drawn over the distance previously agreed on, and the four hounds laid on the scent; Mr. Barry's Bluecap came in first; Wanton, very close to Bluecap, second; Mr. Meynell's Richmond was beat by upwards of an hundred yards, and the bitch never run in at all: the ground was crossed over in eight minutes and a few seconds, threescore horses having started with the hounds. Cooper, Mr. Barry's huntsman, was the first up, but the mare he rode was completely blind at the conclusion. There were only twelve horses up out of the sixty; and Will Crane, who was mounted upon Rib, a king's plate horse, was only in the twelfth. The odds before starting, were seven to four in favour of Mr. Meynell, whose hounds it was said were fed, during the time of training, entirely with *legs of mutton*.

The annals of sporting mention a superior performance by a famous bitch called Merkin, late the property of Colonel Thornton, who having run a private trial of four miles, in seven minutes and half a second, challenged to run any hound of her year, five miles over Newmarket, giving 220 yards for 10,000 guineas; or to give Madcap 100 yards, and run the same distance for 5000. The bitch Merkin was sold in 1795, for four hogsheads of claret, and the seller to have two couple of her whelps. Madcap, at two years old, challenged all England for 500 guineas; Lounger, brother to Madcap, did the same at four years old; the challenge was accepted, and a bet made for 200 guineas, to run Mr. Meynell's Pillager; the parties were also allowed by Colonel Thornton, to start any other hound of Mr. Meynell's, and Lounger was to beat both; but upon Lounger's being seen at Tattersall's, by many of the first sportsmen, his bone and form were so capital that it was thought prudent to pay the forfeit, which was done by giving a pair of gold couples to Colonel Thornton. In May, 1788, Lounger received forfeit of Mr. Tattersal, who named Mr. Meynell's Ravager, to run four miles for 200 guineas. Lounger also received forfeit from Mr. Sturt's Cryer, to run four miles for 1000 guineas, in 1787. In January, 1788, by a challenge in the turf betting-room at Tattersal's, he was offered to run any hound in England from four to six miles, for 2000 guineas, half forfeit. This not being accepted by the fourth of June, he was then, by the Green Seal Club, honoured by the distinguished appellation of CONQUEROR, and is, with well-founded reason, supposed to have been the fastest and most perfect hound ever produced in this, or any other country. He was afterwards sent as a present to his Grace of Northumberland, for a stallion hound, his Grace wishing to exceed, in the celebrity of his hounds, every other fox-hunter in that part of the kingdom, which may be readily credited, if the assertion we have heard made be founded in fact, "his having the fox's head *deviled*, after a severe chase, and eating the greater part of it."

So much having necessarily been introduced upon the subjects of fox-hunting and fox-hounds, it can be no less applicable to present our readers with a literary delineation of that celebrated picture of the DEATH OF THE FOX, painted by Gilpin, and exhibited some few years since at the Royal Academy.

Colonel Thornton, sitting amidst a company of his sporting friends, and speaking of the superior excellence of the Easingwood foxes, proposed a match

of

of twenty guineas for every year, that he would find a fox that should run twenty miles in the month of February, in each year, for eleven years in succession; the week to be appointed by Colonel Thornton, and the bet to be decided on one day in that week. The week and day being appointed, and the time arrived, the fox was *viewed off*, with the hounds at his *brush*, precisely at eleven o'clock, when he ran three-and-twenty miles in a most glorious style, and was killed. This first essay put a final period to the engagement, and was the cause of producing the very painting here alluded to, and the money won upon this occasion, was laid out in a piece of plate to commemorate the singularity of the event.

This picture is a most inimitable production, and may be considered, by every judicious sportsman, and scientific amateur, the very *ne plus ultra* of the art; nor can it create any surprise when it is recollected, that Colonel Thornton is a distinguished patron of the fine arts, and is known to possess the first collection of sporting pictures in this kingdom; he is admitted, also, to be the most experienced and practical sportsman this country has to boast; and having been present at many sporting exhibitions in France, under the old regime, as well as during the period of the cessation of hostilities in the year 1802, the perusal of his Foreign Tour, contained in a Series of Letters to the Earl of Darlington, must be highly gratifying, being the result of so much sporting experience; a splendid edition of this work is, we understand, now in the press, and will shortly appear, enriched with numerous beautiful engravings of the most finished kind. The Death of the Fox, already noticed, having been seen by the writer when exhibited at the Royal Academy, some few traits of it may probably prove acceptable to those who may not have had the same opportunity; the composition is admitted by connoisseurs to be masterly, and the *tout en semble* sublime. So great was the attention paid to the minutæ, in the delineation of nature, that some of the dogs were actually killed and pinioned down in the very position in which they appear, in order that the artist might perfect his work; as it was impossible to place dogs alive in those difficult positions, for a length of time sufficient for the purpose. The scene represented in the picture took place at Blackwoods, the distance of about fourteen miles from Thornville Royal, in Yorkshire, the seat of Colonel Thornton. In the fore-ground of the picture is seen Madcap, who was offered to match against all England for 5000 guineas, and give half a mile. Lounger, whose perfections have been already recounted, is prominent also in the picture; Merkin, Mystery (sister to Merkin and Mad-

cap) Wanton, Chaunter, Dinsley, &c. all dogs of high estimation, are included. The painting is twelve feet two inches, by eight feet six; and being now in the hands of the artist by whom the engravings to this work are executed, it would be superfluous to anticipate what may naturally be expected from the long and successful exercise of his abilities.

Having at length arrived at the *ultimatum* of the chase, and the infinite collaterals appertaining thereto, it becomes directly in point to inculcate such few mementos as may tend to the health and comfort of an animal who contributes so largely to the sports of the field, upon which so much has been written. To the humane and considerate it will naturally occur, that when the breeding season commences, the time is then come to discontinue the destruction of game; as well as that the horse, after a long and tiresome winter, stands highly entitled to his share of repose. He should, therefore, be permitted to enjoy his short-lived liberty, and to roll unmolested in the lap of nature; as his feet are the parts which are likely to have suffered most, so they are not the last to be neglected; whatever injuries they may have sustained, a soft, good, and quiet pasture is the principal means of rectification. Many there are, who affect to disapprove of turning out, upon a plea, that when a horse is in good order, the turning him out to grass inevitably reduces him to bad condition. That he will get rough in his coat, sizeny in his blood, and somewhat unattracting in external appearance, must be admitted; but when superficial considerations, so easily removed, are put into competition with matters of more material magnitude, they can bear no weight whatever in the scale of comparative estimation. Can a horse continue fair and fresh in his form, pliable in his limbs, or likely to be strong and lasting without rest? Can standing confined upon dry litter in hot weather, do any good? And can hard exercise upon the parched road and rolling stones in the summer, be of any advantage to him? Is it not soft foot-hold, plentiful pasture, and permanent rest that will best refresh him and expand his limbs, while the nocturnal air and morning dews combine to invigorate the body.

Some of the old and obstinate, never physic their hunters at all; only observing, when they first take them up from grass, to work them gently, and by moderate exercise promote condition. When horses are turned out, the land should not be too wet and swampy, or the pasture too long and coarse; in this state they have opportunity to stretch their limbs, cool their bodies, and take as much exercise

exercise as they find applicable to their own wants. Thus treated they are less liable to catch severe colds, have the use of their limbs more freely, and are in general not so soon affected with lameness, as horses who are not possessed of similar advantages. The late Earl of Pembroke, who felt no disgrace in writing upon this subject, has observed, "It is of the greatest consequence for horses to be kept clean, regularly fed, and as regularly exercised; but whoever chooses to ride in the way of ease and pleasure, without any fatigue on horseback, or, in short, does not like to carry his horse, instead of the horse's carrying him, must not suffer his horse to be exercised by a groom; standing up in his stirrups, holding himself on by means of the reins, and thereby hanging his whole dead weight on the horse's mouth, to the entire destruction of all that is good, safe, or pleasant about the animal." In another place he says, "Horses should be turned loose somewhere, or walked about every day when they do not work, particularly after hard exercise; swelled legs, phisic, &c. will be saved by these means, and many distempers avoided. It is a matter of the greatest consequence, though few attend to it, to feed horses according to their work: when the work is hard, food should be in plenty; when it is otherwise, the food should be diminished immediately, and the hay in particular."

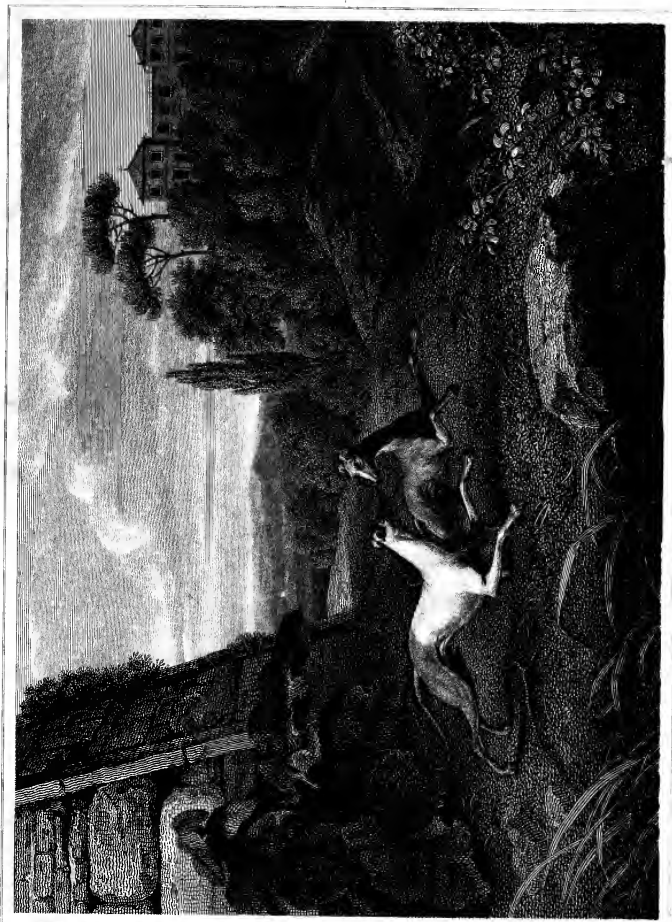
In a fox-hunting establishment, every subordinate, as well as the principals, should be respectably mounted---there can be no good œconomy in providing bad horses; those who ride them, take no care of them, but most probably contribute their own ill-will to wear them out so soon as they can, in a hope they may soon have a better to ride upon. The proper rest for the horses having been adverted to, the humane and considerate will turn their minds to the comfort of the hounds also: to these, hunting late in the spring is prejudicial; they should have ample time allowed them to recover the strains, shakes, and bruises of many a painful chase; and their diet, in which the adding to their strength has been, perhaps, too much considered, should now be altered. No more flesh should now be given, but in its stead, should have their bodies cooled with whey, greens, and thin meat; without this precaution, more particularly in the incessantly increasing heat of the weather, the *mange* would probably become the gradational consequence; or perhaps more direful malady, *madness*. Various and desultory as opinions have long been, and will long continue upon what by some are called pleasures, and by others the follies of the chase, it must be dispassionately admitted, that, by a long list of most popular writings, the infinite advantages of a country life have been recommended in all ages; not less for the contentment of the

the mind, than the health of the body, it can create no surprise to the reflecting observer, that hunting should constitute so necessary and useful a part of it, since it is so well known that nothing conduces more to both; a writer of much celebrity having long since told us, that it is

“ Better to hunt in fields for health unbought,
 “ Than fee the doctor for a nauseous draught.”

ITALIAN GREYHOUND.

THIS kind of dog is so little known in England, that it is only necessary for us to offer some few observations on its nature in order to prove its existence amidst the group of the canine species which constitute the subject of the present work. In respect to its form, shape, make, and delicate constitution, it may be justly considered truly emblematic of its habitual diffidence and inability. In external appearance the Italian greyhound perfectly resembles the English breed of that description; but from a constitutional want of animation, seems to be entirely destitute of the powers naturally appertaining to that stock. Those who have professedly written upon these subjects, are not known to have introduced any thing even plausible or satisfactory upon the origin of this diminutive breed, which seem only calculated to sooth the vanity, and indulge the frivolities of antiquated ladies; some few in this, but more generally in France and Italy, where the breed (as most applicable to the climate) is more universally cultivated. They are so deficient of the spirit, sagacity, fortitude, and self-defence of every other sort of the canine race, as not to be able to officiate in the services of domestic alarm or protection; and, in consequence are dedicated, only to the comforts of the tea-table, the fire-side carpet, the luxurious indulgencies

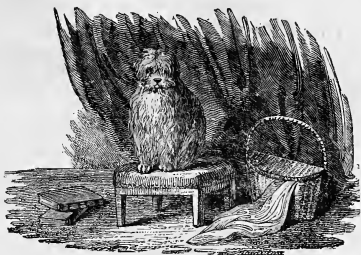


ITALIAN GREYHOUNDS.

Engraved from a drawing by the artist, published by the artist.



gencies of the sofa, and the warm lap of the mistress; as a proof of the delicacy of this little animal, it is averred, that if held up by its legs (in the same position as when standing) the texture of the skin is so exceeding fine, when inter-veningly opposed to the sun, or a strong light, that the distinct chain of the in-testinal canal is truly perceptible to a nice observer.



DISEASE.

HAVING in conformity with the original intent of the design, not only gone through every necessary description of the canine race, but also of the different services they are severally and individually destined to perform, the time is at length arrived when their natural and acquired infirmities are to be considered, and the most scientific, expeditious, and permanent means of alleviation and cure, candidly pointed out. Exclusive of such injuries and disquietudes as arise from accidents, the principal disorders to which they are subject, may be ranked under the heads of *Distemper*—*Mange*—and *Madness*. The first of these is casual and incidental, principally dependent upon the early and infantine stages of life; the second is commonly produced by internal filth, and external foulness, being almost invariable contagious by close communication; the last, and most dreadful, is in a great degree influenced in its attack by the excessive heat of the summer, unless when infectiously communicated to one animal by the poisonous malignant bite of another. In conformity to the order in which they stand,

THE DISTEMPER,

As it is universally called, lays first claim to consideration; not more in respect to its unrelenting severity in the infinite extent of its unlimited depredations; but, because it is one of the most dreadful disorders with which the race is unfortunately afflicted; no one species of morbidity is better known, or more destructive; it invariably attacks the youngest and the weakest with the greatest inveteracy, and is the most fatal of any disease this animal is subject to. Infinite are the numbers that have been destroyed by it within the period of its being known in this country, which has been about fifty years. Whether the attention since paid by medical practitioners (a little devoted to sporting,) and the medicines of different adoptions now brought into use, may not have occasioned the alteration, must remain matter of opinion; but certain it is, the disease is not so severe in its attack, so tediously distressing in its progress, or dreadful in its termination as it was from fifteen to twenty years past. Another suggestion may

may be fairly inferred upon the accidental appearance of this distemper, which is, that the most advanced and experienced sportsmen now living, can well remember, that in proportion as the disorder called the distemper, continued to increase with the young dogs, canine madness was observed to decline with the old, so that of the two evils, man has been most undoubtedly favoured by the innovation.

After every investigation that was likely to display some literary information upon the subject before us, it is found, that at the conclusion of a work of great veterinary celebrity, under the head "Supplement," published fourteen years since, is given an account of this disease by the author, who thus proceeds: "It is now twenty years since I commenced my observations upon the nature and progressive indications of the disease in question, and discovered by my own occasional remarks, as well as upon information in reply to enquiries made to others, that the remedies heretofore adopted, and standing in the estimation of specifics, were so little calculated to counteract or remove the predominant symptoms of morbidity and painful distress in the animal, that I felt no surprise that little more than one in twenty should recover from the fatal attack, when commenced with its usual threatened severity." He observes, that in his most strenuous endeavours to form some rational idea of the origin or cause of the complaint, he could neither obtain by enquiry, nor collect by persevering industry, any encouraging information from others. All to be learnt, even from the most confident and self-sufficient, was, "that the disorder was in the head, and a green (or seton) in the poll, was the only remedy to be relied on." Of this concise and dictatorial explanation, he so far availed himself in the progress of his pursuit, that he did not omit the inspection of a single subject labouring under the distemper in his own neighbourhood, that he might be the better enabled to make his remarks upon each case; and to decide, whether the insinuation of this seton in the poll, was worthy approbation, or entitled to rejection by the event; when, after several months of strict attention, he never saw a greater proportion than one out of ten recover under this mode of treatment. From which, he conceived he might fairly infer, that those who derived their recovery from this practice, were much more indebted to the strength of the habit, and the efforts of nature, than any fundamental effect from so superficial and uncertain a remedy.

Finding so little truth or gratification in this analization of the subject, he became the more eager and anxious to discover to a certainty how far the head, as so frequently and boldly asserted, was the seat of disease; but after every the

most minute attention, and incessant observation, as well with his own hounds, pointers, and spaniels, as with those of others, he could ascertain no one trait of indication, or predominant symptom of consequence to justify such idea, nearer than a tumefaction of the glandular parts on each side the throat, which, in a greater or less degree, affected every individual; in proportion to the mildness or malignity of disease. The more he attended to minute and prevalent symptoms, the more he perceived the disease to be epidemic, but by no means infectious, and that the time of attack varied in different subjects; but that the ratios of nineteen out of twenty were affected before they were twelve months old: or, not being so, generally escaped the distemper altogether. He observed, hounds, greyhounds, pointers, and the larger kinds of dogs, were usually attacked between eight or nine months old and twelve; while spaniels, terriers, and smaller of the species, generally suffered at six or seven. It was also remarkable, that the females were much less afflicted than the males; many escaping entirely, and those that did not, were neither so severely affected, nor was their disorder of so long duration.

Having at the time of forming a regular chain of observations upon young pointers and spaniels in his possession, they not only soon gave him opportunity to become exceedingly accurate in his remarks, but to adopt such remedies (being a medical man) as, in his opinion, he should find most applicable to the predominant symptoms of disease. Of these a pointer of eight months old was the first attacked; the earliest prognostics of disease were dulness, loathing of food, an incessant nausea, and perpetual straining to vomit; these were gradationally followed in a few days by great lassitude of body and depression of spirits, accompanied with a disquieting huskiness in the throat, and a proportional difficulty of respiration; the nose intensely hot and dry; the mouth parched, viscid, and clammy; the nostrils exuding an oily, gummy mucus, which hardened as it oozed, leaving a kind of barky eschar upon the surface; and in addition to these was a constant *tenesmus*, or almost unremitting straining to void excrement by stool, but without the least effect. Urine was often discharged but in dribblings and small quantities, never plentiful, or in a stream; this was of a very high colour, as if tinged with blood, and exceedingly foetid in the effluvia, which seemed to denote a deficiency in the secretion of the kidneys. The uncommon contraction of the belly, and preternatural tightness of the abdominal muscles, with the eternal tendency to evacuate without success; all combined to justify the opinion, that the disease was of a complicated construction, in which the thoracic glands, the lungs, stomach, and intestinal canal were implicated as much or more than the head,

head, which had for so many years, by the inconsiderate and inexperienced, been considered the seat of disease.

As these symptoms so minutely ascertained and described, are invariable diagnostics of this disease in all, it should seem almost improbable, that even a very superficial observer should be mistaken, in a patient attention to symptoms (as they progressively make their appearance), so as not to comprehend the nature of the disease. The distinguishing traits already mentioned, are invariable in their effect upon every part of the species; but every symptom is more or less severe with different individuals, in proportion to the mildness or inveteracy of disease: as is the case with the human species, in the small-pox, fevers, and many other disorders. Mr. Beckford has sported a considerable share of speculative matter upon this disease, its origin, and cure; in which he has been re-echoed by a late reverend writer, who has extracted largely also from another work of some professional publicity; but as the two former, it may naturally be conceived, have not been possessed of any great scientific proficiency in either medical or anatomical knowledge for the task of philological disquisition; and the latter to have built his opinion upon the basis of the writer whose production is already quoted, it is, of course, the most candid, and ultimately the most useful, to extract such remarks from the original, whose researches are founded upon indefatigable exertion and unwearied application. From his minute investigation of the disease, finding the glands, the lungs, the stomach, and the intestinal canal to be conjunctively affected, it was natural to advert to such remedies as were more immediately adapted to obstructions in, or defects of those parts; to effect which (under a perfect conviction there must be a very violent spasmodic affection of the stomach, and corresponding irritability in the intestinal canal), it became natural and proper, to advert to such stimulative deobstruents as are more particularly calculated to counteract the inveteracy of disease.

In this early stage of the disease, the mildest modes may be adopted; gentle evacuants to lubricate the passages, and assist in reducing the abdominal stricture, become the first object of consideration, from the interposition of which, expeditious relief may, probably, be obtained. As the disease advances in respect to time, the general symptoms become more violent; the animal, from the first attack, is seldom or ever known to take flesh of any kind, or any nutriment whatever, except milk a little warm, and in small quantities; which, it is fair to con-

clude, is taken spontaneously in a hope, and expectation, that it may mollify and afford ease to the tumefactions in the thorax. During this progressive state of compulsive abstinence, the frame becomes more and more emaciated; this is accompanied with a hollowness of the flank, and a more perceptible stricture upon the abdominal muscles, the aggregate of all which produces an hourly increasing weakness of the loins, so that the hind-quarters, deprived of their powers, absolutely drag upon the ground, holding forth an indication of speedy dissolution. Arrived at this state of wretchedness, the poor animal becomes an object of perfect misery and of general commiseration; extended at full length, each limb no longer enabled to perform its office, and the frame alternately agitated with frequent twitchings and convulsive spasms, all form a complication of agonies seemingly combined to threaten immediate death. No refinement of thought, no sublimity of expression, is adequate to the description of a sportsman's mortification at a scene of such distress. Every man whose mind is open to the more refined sensations, and whose heart is instinctively alive to the sufferings of those who are contributors to our pleasure, as well as the protectors of our property, would find it impossible to witness so much misery without the most depressing reflections.

For the better comprehension of this disease, and elucidation of the successful treatment, even in the worst of its stages; it can be but candid (as it may be useful) to take a review of cases in point, as recorded by the professional writer, whose production is already mentioned, as having been the first who had promulgated a public opinion upon the subject. So soon as the leading symptoms announced the approach of disease, as in the case of the young pointer in question; he prepared a small ball with half a scruple of jalap in powder, four grains of calomel, and two of ginger; forming it into a proper consistence with conserve of hips; then covering it with a thin coat of fresh-butter to facilitate its passage, he laid it upon the root of the tongue and gave it in that form; but it continued no longer than during its solution in the stomach, from whence it almost instantly regurgitated with the most severe vomiting, entirely unaccompanied with any other substance whatever; and this was repeated four or five times in the two first days, but without any better success. As the disease advanced in respect to time, the predominant symptoms became more distressing, the stricture upon the abdomen occasioned a farther contraction and hollowness of the flank, and the whole such an hourly increasing debility of the loins as seemed to indicate the speedy approach of inevitable dissolution. The hinder parts had absolutely declined their powers, and could

no longer execute their office; when raised from the ground he could not stand without support, his hind-legs instantly sinking under him, and by the incessant twitchings and convulsive spasms he seemed encountering the agonies of immediate death.

In this serious predicament, when nothing but a rapid dissolution seemed impending; any rational experiment that could be put into immediate practice was to be justified in a farther investigation of the cause, or very slender and improbable chance of alleviation, or cure of disease. Almost hopeless in respect even to time itself for the administration of medicine, a ball was prepared containing three grains of emetic tartar, the same weight of calomel, and ten grains of jalap, forming the mass, and passing the ball down the throat as before. One ounce of the spirit of hartshorn was likewise incorporated, by shaking, with a quarter of a pint of fine olive oil, and, when well mixed, all the affected parts of the throat were patiently bathed with the mixture till the hair was plentifully impregnated with the composition. For rather more than half an hour after the administration of the ball, and its consequent effect upon the stomach, the subject seemed to undergo the most painful sensations; agitating vibrations and incessant tremblings were perceptibly predominant without the least intermission; the eyes nearly closed seemed totally fixed, and the foam, as he lay with every appearance of death, issuing from both sides of the mouth, left not the least expectation of ever seeing him once more upon his legs during the few probable moments of his existence; when, after many sudden and ineffectual efforts, he arose a mere helpless skeleton, and reeling about three or four feet from the carpet-bed on which he lay, threw up, without much painful straining, near half a pint of viscid, limpid coagulum, so tenacious and adhesive, that there was not the least possibility of partial separation. After this extra effort, he was so completely exhausted, that he could not move one step towards his bed without assistance; to which being carefully carried and laid down, he soon after appeared to be considerably relieved.

Still convinced no permanent advantage could be obtained, or even expected, till the intestinal obstruction and muscular contraction were removed; and seeing that was not to be effected by any purgative that could, with consistency, be introduced, the following article was prepared:—

Strong decoction of garden-rue half a pint; lenitive electuary and common salt of each a quarter of an ounce; olive oil two table-spoonful.—These were mixed and deposited in a bladder and pipe for immediate use.

These

These being properly incorporated were administered as a glyster, and of a warmth sufficient to stimulate the internal parts to speedy action. The whole of this, however, was almost instantly expelled after its injection, with great force, as having met some hard and substantial obstacle in its course through the intestines, which served only to increase the irritable stimulus, and to excite a more unremitting perseverance to obtain relief; particularly as there was every reason to believe, by every look and endeavouring action of the poor suffering dejected animal, that he had already found some promising degree of mitigation from the previous regurgitation by vomit, and the emollient effect of the last operation, in its relaxation of the contraction upon the intestine. The glyster was repeated in two hours, with the addition of two tea-spoonful of liquid laudanum, and was soon ejected with no other advantage than a palpable alleviation of the most disquieting symptoms; the subject becoming evidently more at ease, displaying in both his looks, his actions, and attention, certain proofs of relief: the incredible stricture upon the abdominal muscles was considerably reduced, and gave to the disease an entire change in its complexion.

Appearances so highly promising (and those produced in a few hours only by experiments new and uncertain), afforded the best encouragement to bring forth every exertion that could, in the least, tend to crown the event with success. In conformity with this suggestion, in about an hour after the last operation, a small plate of bread and milk was offered boiled well together; supporting his head and fore-quarters from the ground, in a hope he might be able to take such small portion of nutriment as would assist exhausted nature, and support the frame; he, however, after giving proof of his being disposed so to do, failed in the attempt from absolute weakness, and was compelled to decline it. Notwithstanding the mortifying disappointment of this failure, every other circumstance tended to hold forth ample proof the subject was in a certain degree mending; perfectly convinced, beyond every shadow of a doubt, where the unremoved obstacle lay; and as firmly persuaded the foundation of relief was already laid, a ray of enlivening expectation broke in, that it might be totally removed. That so desirable a point should be promoted, no time was to be lost, and therefore the whole of the following night was dedicated to a verification of that excellent excitement to industry—"persevere and conquer." The subject continued to become much less disquieted, not a symptom but was evidently less painful, and he even dozed without extreme pain; in the middle of the night the glyster was repeated, and then retained a considerable time, but was, at length, discharged in the state it

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was thrown up, without the least appearance of, or admixture with any of the contents of the intestinal canal.

After this retention and subsequent expulsion of this injection, he reelingly retired to his bed unsupported, and lay down evidently easier. In less than an hour after this emotion, he took, with some degree of eagerness, the bread and milk that had been previously warmed; and about eight in the morning the injection was repeated, which, after a retention of about ten minutes, came away with a large portion of discoloured crudities, as if extracted from the interstices of the intestines by the repeated lubrications of the glysters. This produced palpable and striking advantages, he was seemingly relieved in every respect, the stricture of the muscles upon the intestines, and the contraction of the flank and debility of the loins were evidently better, and the violence of every dangerous symptom promised speedily to decline, he beginning to take in very small quantities the necessary nutritives of different descriptions. The glysters were patiently persevered in every four or five hours with very little variation in advantage or appearance till nine or ten had been given, their good effects being plainly perceptible in every repetition; when after a succession of severe trials and repeated strainings for many minutes, one entire mass was voided, composed of every extraneous substance such an animal could be supposed to have picked up with its food during a long stage of puppyism. It clearly consisted of imperfect particles of hay, or straw, matted with hair, small pieces of bone, and sand or gravel cemented together so exceedingly hard, that it might have been thought a preparation of art, and passed through a mould by some instrument, or powerful pressure.

This extraordinary expulsion occasioned no surprise, as it was the very effect so anxiously solicited; it removed every suspense, confirmed every suspicion, and left no remaining doubt upon the cause of complaint, or certainty of cure. The poor, suffering, emaciated animal became, from that moment, a new subject, demonstrating by every action and attention his change in situation; notwithstanding which, the operation in a few hours was once more repeated, and in its effect brought away some loose remains exactly corresponding with the substance before described. From this time he suffered no palpable pain, or disquietude, except the bodily debility resulting from all the progressive stages of the disease; continuing daily to improve, not only in the re-establishment of health, but the ensuing season in his expected qualifications: when he had arrived at the very summit of perfection, he was (upon a thousand entreaties), for a valuable consideration, parted

parted from by the owner to a gentleman going to Scotland, who avowedly purchased him with an intent to improve the breed in that country: he being, probably, as fine a figure, as handsome a form, with size, bone, and speed in proportion, as ever went into a field. To this succeeded, in a very short space of time, the case of a young spaniel, which proved in every respect the same, but of much less severity; the symptoms were, in fact, not so violent as to alarm, and were very expeditiously counteracted by the same means, with even a slender perseverance.

During a constantly increasing desire to proceed in such speculative investigation as might, probably, tend to public good, a brace of pointer-puppies were presented to the writer by a gentleman of Banbury, in Oxfordshire; and of so good a breed, and so high in estimation, that the sire of the puppies had been sent for from Newport Pagnel, in Buckinghamshire (46 miles), to the *dam* at Banbury, merely for this act of propagation. These were both attacked with the distemper in their seventh month, and within three or four days of each other; one, being in figure, shape, marks, and every promising appearance, much like the dog already described, had already (and probably for that very reason) become a great favourite, and to this every attention, every necessary ceremony and operation hitherto explained, was critically and equally performed; with no alteration in form, no variation in effect, but exactly corresponding in every particular with the case first recited: the symptoms were all equally violent, the danger as great, the cure as improbable, and the recovery as perfectly complete. Thus were two of the best, and most beautiful dogs in the kingdom preserved, by the effect of experiments, which, had they not been boldly brought into trial, could not have proved successful. Such proofs of the propriety of the practice have since occurred, as leave no room to doubt much of success, if the plan so plainly laid down is implicitly persevered in. A son of the dog, whose case is the first described, and then in the possession of a gentleman at Binfield, in Berkshire, was attacked at nine months old, and though (by timely prevention) not affected with the severity of the two whose cases have gone before, yet he suffered so much as to render his recovery for many days a matter of great uncertainty. The mode of treatment already described was most punctually adhered to in the emetic balls and repetition of stimulative glysters; the effect proved progressively alleviating, and though the evacuations might not have been precisely the same, they were nearly so to those in the cases of recovery already recited.

If another case had been wanting to remove doubts respecting the success of the practice, it soon occurred; affording another instance in favour of the discovery, without a single failure to justify the least degree of incredulity upon the subject. After a long and uninterrupted enjoyment of field-sports for very many years, in unsullied health and tranquillity, the writer, satiated with the infinity of game he had progressively destroyed, relinquished his gun, and disposed of his pointers: thus declining the most laborious pleasures of the field for life. But an invincible attachment to the species rendering it impossible to exist without similar association, a brace of high-bred, and beautiful terriers were obtained, by personal influence, from the roof of royalty, which soon became, as pointers had been, objects of equal favouritism. The male of this brace was attacked with every distinguishing trait of the distemper at little more than six months old, and every progressive symptom appeared exactly the same as with those who had gone before; and with so much continued severity and increasing violence, that not the least idea, or expectation of its recovery, could be entertained. The same plan of operation was pursued as had been adopted with all the rest, varying the quantities of the medical ingredients in proportion to the size, age, and strength of the patient; which was by reducing the composition of the ball to *calomel* and *tartar emetic*, each two grains, and jalap eight; the glysters were repeated as usual in respect to time, but in smaller quantities than to larger dogs, 'till his recovery was complete: the bitch, his sister, was never in the least affected with any symptom of the disease, either at the time alluded to, or any other period of her existence. This being the fifth successful experiment made in succession, it may be candidly admitted to controvert the pique or prejudice of those who affect to believe the subject too trifling for the press, or the canine species too insignificant for the process.

M A N G E.

THE disease so called is of different kinds, and what every part of the canine race is equally subject to; every individual is liable to its morbidity, but it is the most prevalent and inveterate in dog-kennels, where air, exercise, healthy nutriment, and the utmost cleanliness are least attended to. Of its infectious influence no doubt need be entertained; experience has long since proved the certainty of contagious communication. Notwithstanding its being communicated from one to another by infection, it may also be generated by individuals, from

causes directly opposite to each other ; one may acquire it by too much gormandization and over-feeding, and another by a too much impoverished and scanty a diet. Coarse food, as horse-flesh, in too great an abundance, greaves, and other substances equally gross, tend to produce it, and more particularly if the exercise and consequent evacuations are not proportioned to the food. Dogs, and even those which are most useful, are, in general, too much neglected, and their lodgings but little attended to ; it may be seen, by the most superficial observer, that warmth is invariably congenial to the feelings of those animals ; but, in sickness, it is absolutely as necessary to the promotion of health, as the proportional admission of external air. Good and nutritive food is essentially necessary in most of the diseases to which the species is liable ; for living an irregular life, in respect to the certainty and uncertainty of alimentary supplies, some of their complaints may originate in an acrimonious, or impoverished state of the blood, accompanied by bodily debility. Cleanliness is not more necessary to the health, than to the individual comfort of dogs ; and more particularly so during sickness, as in health.

When dogs are diseased, weak, and emaciated, from whatever cause it may have proceeded ; whether from over-fatigue, long fasting, atmospheric influence, or miasmatic infection, their stomachs are generally too relaxed to digest meat : in such cases they derive more nutrition from alimentary fluids, in broths, or gelatinous substances, as beef-soup, with a small quantity of the meat finely minced, and mixed with the liquid ; a small portion of ground-rice boiled in new milk, but not made of too thick and glutinous a consistence ; or oatmeal-gruel made palatably attracting by such little comfortable additions as may occur ; and, most probably, the two last are the best of the whole ; for greasy broth is often observed to relax the contents of the intestines, and run through the body as a purgative, which ground-rice, or oatmeal-gruel never does. By those who have been the most minute in their remarks it must be admitted, that dogs are not only improperly treated in sickness, but are, in general, too little attended to in the preservation of health. Exercise is as necessary to the canine-race as to any other part of the creation ; the want of it may be productive of many ills, as an enormous accumulation of fat ; difficulty of respiration ; huskiness and asthmatic cough ; indurated tumours ; cancerous swellings ; habitual sloth and indolence ; and very frequently mange. All dogs display a tendency to costiveness, which, of course, promotes an accumulated foulness in the interstices of the stomach
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and intestinal canal; to prevent which, plenty of exercise, and a thin vegetable diet may be brought into use, or a mercurial purging-ball occasionally given.

Hounds it is known, either from their confinement, or their association in such great numbers, are more liable to the mange than many individuals singly supported, and always in a state of liberty unrestrained; and when it has once found its way into a kennel by any of the means already described, it is a most troublesome, loathsome, and infectious disorder: if it has not been introduced by the latter, it must have originated in an acrimonious and vitiated state of the blood, arising from too long a perseverance in some impoverished, or putrified kind of food; a want of proper air and exercise; or a culpable deficiency in the still more important requisite cleanliness; without all which, health, strength, and energy cannot be long expected. This disorder, so commonly called the *mange*, is so well known, not only in hounds, but every other sort of dog, that a minute description of its external appearance might be thought both superfluous and unentertaining; and, for the cure of which, authors and compilers of every class have enumerated means in abundance. Sulphur vivum, oil of turpentine, gunpowder, ginger, train-oil, soot, and a tedious combination of combustibles, are recommended to extirpate, what may be, in general, completely eradicated, without half the nastiness or trouble. All that can be expected from the use of externals, may be accomplished by the following cheap and easily procured composition:

Take white bellebore-root in powder, and sulphur-vivum, each three ounces; sal-ammoniac, and black-pepper, very finely powdered, each one ounce; incorporate these with hog's-lard and olive-oil, each half a pound (the last two being first liquified and united over the fire), upon a marble-slab, when which are substantially mixed, add by small degrees, and rub in with a bolus-knife, two ounces of oleum tartari per deliquium. With a proper portion of which every part affected should be patiently impregnated, by gentle rubbing, once every day, for six in succession; during which process, three mercurial purging-balls, of a strength adapted to the age, size, and strength of the subject in question, should be given at the distance of three days apart.

The mange in different dogs often assumes a different complexion, which, as it is, probably, no more than the gradational progression of symptoms to inveteracy, has given rise to the general opinion of there being different kinds of mange, when it is more reasonable to believe, that they are only the varying and increasing symptoms of one and the same disease. In all recent attacks, as well as in every moderate case of the mange, the above mode of extirpation may be con-

sidered infallible; but where, from want of attention, it has attained inveteracy, some additional recourse must be had to the most powerful ingredients. There is, however, one exception to this allusion and suggestion respecting the variegated symptoms constituting but one disease. The distinct disorder passing under the denomination of *red mange*, does not seem to be nearly allied to that so exceedingly prevalent, and known by the name of the common mange. The red mange is certainly a species of disease within itself, seated in the skin, and not in general infectious amongst dogs who lay together, but is almost invariably communicated by a dam to her whelps; whether that is by the hereditary taint in the blood, or by the perspirative warmth of laying so long together, it may be difficult to ascertain; unless she was afflicted with the disease during the time of her having been in pup, when the hereditary transmission may be evidently accounted for.

This disorder is most malignant in its progressive effect, the incessant and severe itching, which, by every accurate observation, seems accompanied with a burning heat, and this too constantly increased by the perpetual biting and scratching of the suffering subject, give such parts of the frame as are severely affected, the appearance of having been scalded by some boiling liquor, with a consequent loss of hair. This is the kind of mange that so constantly baffles *dog-doctors* and *dog-mongers* of every description, and reduces them to an absolute ultimatum, where the fertility of invention can go no further. It is, perhaps, the most deceptive disorder to which any part of the animal world can become unluckily subject; for when it has (seemingly and repeatedly) submitted to, and been subdued by, some of the combination of combustibles before described, it has as suddenly, as repeatedly, and as unexpectedly, made its re-appearance, with all its former virulence. Anxious observation, minute investigation, and long experience, have been enabled to discover but one infallible mode of perfect eradication, as for instance:

Let half an ounce of corrosive mercury sublimate be reduced to an impalpable powder in a glass mortar; when this is completed, add, by very little at a time, two ounces (that is half a gill) of rectified spirits of wine; and, lastly, the corrosive sublimate being entirely dissolved, a pint and a quarter of rain, or river-water, must be added, and well shaken together, and the bottle closely stopped for use. With a soft sponge, fully impregnated with this solution, every part affected (as the neck above the head, and below, the poll and back down the spine to the rump; the brisket between the fore-legs, and every appertaining part where the cutaneous morbidity is displayed) to be plentifully bathed, or mollified, every other day, for six repetitions, the bedding frequently changed and kept sweet and clean, and the food more nutritive and delicate than is usual, contributing, by such change,

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to an alteration in the property of the blood. During the twelve days engaged in this process and its effect, three mercurial purging-balls should be given at four days apart, that one contributory mode of cure may go hand in hand with the other.

However opinions may vary in different fox-hunting establishments upon the means and manner of feeding hounds, as well in respect to time, as the occasional and applicable changes in, and property of, the food best adapted to the purpose of nutritious support; no opposition whatever can arise to the general inculcation of cleanliness, as indispensibly conducive to the preservation of health, and consequent exclusion of disease. In the fair and candid acceptation of the word cleanliness, may be included the true intent and meaning of both internal and external circumspection and attention, as well in physic and in food, as the neat and judicious arrangement of the kennel concerns; where the conjunctive force of which is wanting, what a train of filth, disease, misery, and wretchedness frequently ensue. To avoid all which, at the times and seasons found most proper for their introduction, antimonial alteratives, and mercurial purgatives, should be brought into use. Mr. Beckford, who was always indefatigably attentive to every thing in which the chase was concerned, has promulgated his opinion upon this subject in the following words:—"I am not fond of bleeding hounds, unless they want it; though it has long been a custom to physic them twice a year; that is, after they leave off hunting, and before they begin. It is given in hot weather, and at an idle time. It undoubtedly cools their bodies, renovates the system, and is of service to them. If a hound be in want of physic, I prefer giving it in balls; it is more easy to give in this manner the precise quantity he may want, and you are more certain that he takes it. In many kennels they also bleed the hounds twice a year, and some there are who presume to say, that it is a preventive to madness. The practice of anointing them, or dressing them (as huntsmen call it), makes them fine in their coats; it may be done twice a year, or oftener, if found necessary."

The necessity of introducing something medicinal and precautionary, for the preservation of health and prevention of disease, stands thus admitted upon the best of all foundations, practical experience; but as medical precision cannot be expected from those who have never made it their study, so Mr. B. seems to have applied the word "physic" in one general sense, to every kind of medicine, whether an alterative, a purgative, or a diuretic; though when the word physic is technically used by men of science, it is intended to apply to purgation only.

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The articles (sulphur and antimony) recommended by him under the appellation of physic, are nothing more than antimonial alteratives calculated to obtund acrimony, and alter the property of the blood; but mercurial purgatives are well known to perfectly cleanse the intestinal canal, and correct cutaneous eruption and morbidity at the same time. External applications, passing under the denomination of "dressings," are more particularly directed to bodily eruptions and cutaneous diseases of the skin; in all preparations for which, sulphur is esteemed as the most predominant ingredient, and looked to as a specific; in fact, its utility in different forms, stands so high in general estimation, that no doubts or controversy can be entertained upon the occasion. Some few rules almost invariably appertain to the alledged different kinds, or gradational shades of this disorder. It is averred by some, that it may be communicated from one dog to another by living together when either is afflicted with the disease; but accidental and temporary intercourse will not produce it. Sleeping on the same straw, or in the same kennel, is a very probable means of promoting it, but it is not, in general, so contagious as has been generally imagined; and it is a received opinion, that it is not so readily caught from a dog having it constitutionally, as it is from a dog who himself received it by infection.

The superficial redness and cutaneous itching so common at all times, but more particularly in summer, will, without care, frequently degenerate into confirmed mange; and fleas in great numbers promote a disposition to it: these tendencies, however, may be counteracted in the infancy of their appearance, by immediate reference to the mercurial lotion already prescribed, and a course of antimonial alteratives; but when a slight affection begins to assume the character of confirmed mange, the more powerful means already described must be had recourse to. There are not wanting those who are of opinion, that the mange cannot be completely cured, unless the operation of bleeding has previously taken place; but the reverse of this is evidently the fact, notwithstanding it appears, by a case recited in the philosophical transactions, that the blood taken away from one dog, labouring under the extremity of the disease, being introduced by injection, communicated the infection to another. Therefore, when the disorder has attained a very great degree of inveteracy, it may not be imprudent to begin the cure by bleeding. In this complaint the usual mode of feeding should be changed, as some change in the aliment will certainly tend to an alteration in the property of the blood; if the subject has previously, and most commonly subsisted upon flesh, a change to boiled vegetables, biscuit, potatoes, butter-milk, &c. &c. may
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be made with advantage. Mr. Beckford (although certainly not to be looked up to as any great medical authority) did not omit any opportunity that offered to collect information and prescriptions (both internal and external) that could, in the least, tend to the extirpation of this rancorous disease.

In confirmation of his eagerness in the pursuit of every thing appertaining to the improvement of his hounds, and the perfection of his kennel, he observes, that in a hunting-establishment, the feeder should be particularly attentive to it, and when he perceives any spot upon them, he should rub it with a proper quantity of the following composition:—

A pint of train-oil; half a pint of oil of turpentine; a quarter of a pound of ginger in powder; half an ounce of gunpowder finely powdered; mixed well together, and kept covered for use.

If the disorder should be too much advanced to submit to that application, three mercurial purging-balls should be given three clear days apart, reckoning from the setting of one ball, to the administration of another, and the dog to be indulged with rest for some days after. For the red mange he prescribes as follows:—

Take four ounces of quicksilver; two ounces of Venice turpentine; one pound of hog's-lard. The quicksilver and turpentine are to be rubbed together in a metal mortar, till the globules all disappear. Every part affected to be patiently rubbed with such a proportion of ointment as will consume about an ounce in each application; which should, if the disease is in its earliest stages, be repeated every other day till it is evidently subdued; but if it is advanced to a palpable degree of severity, it must be well rubbed for three days in succession.

Mr. Daniel, who seems also to have been an industrious collector of remedies for this disease, proposes the following in succession; intended, perhaps, of a gradational strength, to be regulated and used in proportion to the mildness or severity of the symptoms as they appear:—

Take sulphur vivum one pound; white hellebore-root in powder half a pound; a quart of train-oil, and one pint of spirits of turpentine; mix well together, and with which let the parts be anointed every third day as long as it may be necessary.

Another:

Another:—

Take of white wine and spirits of turpentine, each half a pound; nitre in powder two ounces; of very strong beer one quart; these to be mixed well together, and when intended to be used, they are to be made milk warm, and then to be well rubbed in with the hand all over every part affected (taking care of the eyes), and the dog dried by the fire, and afterwards placed in some clean straw.

So prepossessed is the author in favour of this prescription, that he says, three times dressing will cure, although the subject should be nearly naked, and the worst state.

Another:—

A table-spoonful of soot; two ditto of sulphur-vivum; half a spoonful of oil of turpentine; four ounces of hog's-lard; mix well, and auoint the part occasionally till cured.

When the common, rank, scabby mange has acquired a degree of obstinate inveteracy, the following may be brought into use without the least fear of disappointment.

Take sulphur vivum half a pound; white hellebore-root in powder six ounces; black-pepper finely powdered two ounces; oil of tartar, per deliquim, two ounces; sal-ammoniac, powdered, one ounce; hog's-lard one pound; olive-oil half a pint. These are to be well mixed, and the diseased parts substantially rubbed, with a moderate portion of the ointment, every night and morning for seven, and if the mange is of long standing, for nine days; the first time the composition is used, the dog should have the following purging-ball, which is to be twice repeated, at the distance of three clear days from the final effect of its operation. Jalap and aloes ten grains each; calomel eight grains; ginger in powder three grains; conserve of roses, or hips, a small quantity to form a cement, and then with a few drops of syrup make it into a ball; which cover with a flattened piece of butter, and laying it upon the root of the tongue, pass it down the throat by the pressure of the point of the finger.

Two days after the last use of the ointment, the dog should be well washed with soap and warm water, being afterwards wiped dry with a cloth. The ingredients of the ball are adapted for a fox-hound, pointer, or a moderate sized greyhound; they may be added to, or diminished, for either larger or smaller dogs. Various other prescriptions might be introduced, but as the disease is so well known, and the cure so universally simplified, farther investigation, or disquisition, would be likely to prove more superfluous and unnecessary, than useful, or entertaining.

WORMS.

WORMS.

THESE destructive and disquieting insects are such confirmed enemies to the canine-species, that the younger branches, who are the most affected with them, soon display ample proof of their being in possession, by the impoverished and emaciated appearance of the subject affected. Worms are of different descriptions, and are of so pernicious and destructive a tendency, that, having once secured a settlement, in either stomach or intestines, the animal becomes a prey to perpetual depredation, till effectual means are adopted for their total extirpation. Few of the canine-species escape the ravages of these internal depredators, as almost every dog has them at some period of his life, and with many they seem to be almost habitual. The different kinds of worms affecting these animals, may be included under three distinct heads; the flat, long, tape-worm, which is, in some cases, of a most incredible length, possessing the power of rolling itself up into so enormous a mass as to form an impenetrable obstruction in the intestinal canal, producing convulsions, mortification, and death. Another is the round, white worm, which is of all sizes, and from one to four or five inches in length; being exactly similar to those which are so frequently expelled from the human body. The third is, seemingly, of an indefinite description; but, that a tolerable conception of their structure may be formed, it is impossible to communicate a stronger idea than its being nearly midway between a very small earth-worm and a millepedes, or wood-louse, partaking mostly of the make of the former, and the feet of the latter, extremely sharp, and exceedingly numerous. Immediately after the ejection of these with the excrement, they begin to writhe and twirl most rapidly in all directions, bearing no ill affinity to the action of an eel, when taken from its natural element it is thrown upon the earth. Lastly, there is a kind not unlike a small cream-coloured maggot, having a red head, but neither so common nor destructive as some of those already described.

The most distinguishing symptoms of worms, particularly in subjects of less than twelvemonths old, are easily ascertained by external appearances, although they should not be observed to pass away. When a dog, or puppy, is labouring under their perpetually corroding attacks, the coat stares, the flesh becomes reduced, the flank gets hollow, the eyes hollow, and the orb sunk; there is generally a slight, husky cough, with a slimy mucus exuding from the nose: there is a constant propensity to voracious eating, which never produces flesh; and there

is one additional symptom seldom deceptive, the stools are frequent, commonly loose, attended with painful strainings, slimy, fœtid, and mixed with a kind of effervescent froth. In cases where they procreate to great numbers, the ill effect becomes very perceptible; they act so severely upon the irritability of the internal coat of the stomach, that making the dog sick, the animalculæ may be seen among the viscid slime which is thrown up. It is somewhat remarkable, that when such loose stools are the consequence of worms, that although they acquire from restringent food, or medicine, a proper consistence, yet they soon return to their former state of laxity. When young dogs are first affected with worms, they are, in general, but little noticed; for, in the earliest stages of attack, the health is not seriously affected; but, as it advances to greater disquietude, the purging becomes more frequent, and the animal, though lively, gradually declines in flesh, although the length and staring of the coat may, in a certain degree, hide the deficiency: the promotion of growth is likewise partially stopped, and in this way it is no uncommon thing with whelps and puppies to decline till a period is put to their existence by successive convulsions. In dogs fully grown, and come to maturity, the effects of worms are not so fatal; though it is certain, their rapacity and the obstructions they form internally, are productive of great pain and dangerous disquietude. It need not to be considered as a matter of course, that because no worms are seen to pass away, that a dog has none; nor, because they are not seen, does it follow that none pass: for if they remain long after they are dead in the intestines, they are digested, and come away like other animal matter: this is frequently the case when dogs have medicines given that destroy the worms; for they then become digested, and pass away in a kind of coagulum completely dissolved.

Thus much has been introduced to prove the variety of these insects, in general so prejudicial to the frame when once they have obtained possession; notwithstanding the diversified opinions that have been promulgated upon this subject, it does not appear, that any thing decisively clear, or finally satisfactory in respect to their origin, in either the human species, or the brute creation, has been discovered. Some conceive the ovæ, or animalculæ to form themselves in the impurities of slimy mucus accumulated in the interstices of the stomach, and there brought to perfection; others believe the germin to be taken in with the food, and that the process of animation is carried on by the internal warmth of the body, till they arrive at maturity. From an infinity of observations made upon every kind of worm, and its consequent situation in different parts of the body, an inference

ference may be formed, whether, according to their progressive passage from the stomach, to the colon, the smaller intestines and the rectum, such changes may not take place, as are known to happen with the caterpillar, the grub-worm, the silk-worm, and other insects, at certain seasons of the year. And to the eye of the naturalist, this metamorphosis would admit of a paradoxical doubt, but that every spring and summer afford infinite ocular proofs of the mysterious and inexplicable acts of mutation. As, however, enlarging upon the consistency and rational probability of this change in passing from one part of the body to another, can only extend the field of investigation, without adding to the elucidation of the subject, that indeterminate point may remain undisturbed, while a more useful view is taken of the consequence and cure.

Worms are universally known to occasion so much irritability in the stomach and bowels, particularly with young dogs, that some judgment is required in the proper proportion of the necessary ingredients to dislodge and extirpate them without danger to the dog; and this requires the greater care and circumspection, because there is no one article in the *materia medica* adequate to the task of obliteration, without a previous incorporation with some of the many preparations of mercury, which only can be considered infallible. Numerous are the quackeries and nostrums announced by that great variety of medicine-mongers with which the metropolis so plentifully abounds; chiefly consisting of speculative inventions, and collected from old books long since buried in oblivion. These are dwindled into a certain degree of contempt, and more particularly since the discovery of those grand specifics, mercury and antimony, which may, with the strictest justice, be considered (including bark and opium) the very sheet-anchors of all medical knowledge and effect. To sum up the whole into a single point of view, it must suffice to say, that waving every kind of experiment, there is certainly no other mode of complete and permanent extrication than by mercurial purgatives, or antimonial alteratives, in proportions adapted to the age, size, and strength of the dog.

WORMING

Is an operation thought necessary to be performed upon puppies and whelps, to prevent their wanton and destructive tendency to play and mischief when young; and by others to render unnecessary any fear of their receiving the canine infection of madness during their lives; the latter, however, is too slender a foundation for

any decisive opinion to be built upon. This operation is safe and simple, being thus performed; underneath the tongue is a frœnum (or bridle), called the tongue-string, by which the motion of the tongue is regulated; the exterior skin of this is delicately divided superficially with a lancet, when a tendinous substance, bearing the likeness of a small white worm, is perceived: the point of a small probe, awl, or large needle, should be insinuated beneath its center to raise it up, when with very little force one end will come away; this taken hold of with a pair of forceps, a little piece of linen-cloth, or handkerchief, the other end will soon come away by gentle force to assist extraction (or may be separated by a pair of scissars), but too sudden force or violence must not be used in pulling, lest the worm should be broken, and a part left behind in the attempt.

CANKER,

Is a cancerous ill-disposed ulcer upon the edges of the ear, sometimes in one ear only, at other times in both; it is generally occasioned by injury from brambles or bushes in beating and hunting coverts, or hedge-rows, and might be easily cured at first with a little friar's-balsam, or tincture of myrrh: this being omitted, a rigid eschar forms upon the surface; which, when separated by accident, as it frequently is, leaves the wound with constantly increasing virulence larger than before. When this repeatedly happens the wound becomes more inveterate, and of course more difficult of cure; if the cure is not judiciously done in time, and the plan punctually persevered in, the greater part of the ear may be destroyed. After clearing away the scabby edges and surface of the defective parts with a soft sponge, impregnated with warm gruel, or milk, and wiped dry; a very slight touch with a probe, armed with lint and dipt in *butter of antimony*, upon the whole part, will prove the surest and best mode of total extirpation. Mr. Blaine says, "when it affects the edge of the ear only, it may, after scraping the whole of the scab away, be touched with *lunar caustic*. Should it break out again after this, the best mode," he says, "is to cut out the affected part. When it exists on the outer or inner surface of the ear, the treatment is not so easy; but here, likewise, something must be applied that will raise an active inflammation, as the following:—Oil of vitriol one drachm, lard half an ounce; mix and apply a little over the whole surface of the sore, and then cover the head up and watch the dog, that he does not tear off the covering, or rub it into his eyes."

MADNESS.

MADNESS.

“ Of lesser ills the muse declines to sing,
 Nor stoops so low ; of these each groom can tell
 The proper remedy. But O ! what care,
 What prudence madness can prevent, the worst
 Of maladies ? Terrific pest ! that blasts
 The huntsman's hopes, and desolation spreads
 Through all th' unpeopled kennel unrestrain'd,
 More fatal than th' envenomed viper's bite ;
 Or that Apulian spiders' poisonous sting,
 Heal'd by the pleasing antidote of sounds.”

SOMERVILLE.

THE disorder passing under the denomination of canine madness is, certainly, the most alarming, fatal, and destructive, with which any part of the creation, in its consequences, can be unhappily afflicted ; it is the very abyss of misery to man or beast, and is, by every class on earth, held in the most fearful abhorrence : miserable are those who become subject to its invincible and insatiate ravages, while happy such may be as fortunately avert it. The farther we go into a careful investigation of the origin of so severe and distressing a disease, the more evidently it appears from the disquisitions of the first, as well as the progressive imitators of later times, that they have not been at all deficient in a display of great fertility in the zeal of literary analization. The author (or rather compiler) of a former time has, least the disease should not be rendered sufficiently awful and alarming, given to the canine-disease, now under consideration, not the predominant and distinguishing symptoms, but absolutely sanctioned it with the dictatorial description of *seven* distinct degrees of disease which he terms madness. In his introductory recital, he says, “ the seven sorts of madness are as follow ; of which the two first are incurable, viz. the hot burning madness, and running madness ; they are both very dangerous ; for all things they bite and draw blood from will have the same distemper : they generally seize on all they meet, but chiefly on dogs ; their pain is so great it soon kills them. The five curable madnnesses are, sleeping-madness, dumb-madness, lank-madness, rheumatic, or slavinging-madness, and falling-madness.” To all these a profusion of sublime descriptions are annexed ; but so replete with speculative fallacy, that it is much more calculated for the superstitious and credulous times in which it was written, than worthy the perusal of the enlightened at the present day.

As

As this tremendous malady, whenever it happens, seldom or ever admits of minute examination into the precise state of the animal unfortunately afflicted (as in general he is almost instantaneously destroyed) ; so the above abstruse and uncertain distinctions lay the less claim to any scientific investigation, because there does not appear the least chance of any advantage to be derived from so fruitless an enquiry. It must, therefore, suffice to consider the subject as it at present stands, under one head, as the common canine-madness so generally known. Divested of every unnecessary ambiguity, it is necessary to state, the disease is produced either in an inherent morbidity of the individual animal itself (most probably an inflammation of the brain), or communicated by the bite of another, in whom it may have originally generated, or been transplanted by infection from a bite, as before inferred. When a dog is infected, and the predominant symptoms of disease are approaching, he becomes dull, solitary, and is constantly endeavouring to hide himself in holes and corners, as if to withdraw himself from family observation ; he seldom barks, but makes a kind of murmuring noise, and refuses all kinds of meat and drink : if inquisitively obtruded upon, he is enraged at, and flies at strangers ; but in this critical stage he almost invariably remembers and respects his master : his ears droop, his head hangs down, and he walks nodding, as if overpowered with sleep : this may be deemed the first stage, and a bite now, though dangerous, is not so bad as when the disease is more inveterately advanced.

Soon after these symptoms are observed, the subject begins to pant with palpable disquietude ; he breathes quick and heavy ; hangs out his tongue, and emits a great deal of froth, and viscid slime from his mouth, which he keeps perpetually open. Sometimes he walks slowly, as if drowsy and half asleep, then suddenly runs, but not in a straight line, directly forward, as erroneously reported ; at length that important crisis arrives when he forgets his master, and no more feels his friendly touch ; his eyes look dispirited, dull, red, and full of tears ; the tongue, by this time, changes from its former healthy floridity to a lead-colour of a dry and barky appearance ; he grows faint and weak, often reels, staggers, and not unfrequently falls ; then suddenly rises, and furiously flies at every thing, attempting to seize whatever may come in his way. This second stage seldom continues thirty hours, for, at the time of this desperation, death generally puts a period to the disease ; and a bite received during the last stage may, with the greatest justice, be considered incurable. To these correct and distinguishing traits of this direful malady, may be added the following, which there is the best well-founded reasons to believe are certain and invariable. All dogs are alarmed, and evidently

evidently agitated at the approach of one in this state; and upon scenting him, not only instantly avoid him, but fly from him with the utmost speed and horror. The tone of the dog's voice, when he attempts to vociferate, constitutes a kind of imperfect bark both hoarse and hollow. The dreadful effect of this disease, particularly when it has made its way into a kennel of hounds, causes a scene of fear and confusion, that absolutely beggars description. Of which Mr. Beckford was so truly sensible, that he guarded against its introduction by every means in his power, and was indefatigable in his inculcations to huntsmen and their subordinates, to be incessant in their observations upon the discovery of any suspected attack, that the individual might be instantly removed to prevent, if possible, and to avoid the danger of farther communication. Somerville too, equally alive to every sensation dependant upon the propriety and consistency of the chace, sings poetically in the same strain:—

“ When Sirius reigns, and the sun's parching beams
 Bake the dry gaping surface, visit thou
 Each ev'n and morn, with quick observant eye,
 Thy panting pack. If, in dark sullen mood,
 The glouting hound refuse his wonted meal,
 Retiring to some close, obscure retreat,
 Gloomy, disconsolate: with speed remove
 The poor, infectious wretch, and in strong chains
 Bind him suspected. Thus that dire disease
 Which art can't cure, wise caution may prevent.
 But, this neglected, soon expect a change,
 A dismal change, confusion, frenzy, death.
 Or in some dark recess the senseless brute
 Sits sadly pining: deep melancholy,
 And black despair, upon his clouded brow
 Hang lowering; from his half-opening jaws
 The clammy venom, and infectious froth,
 Distilling fall; and from his lungs inflam'd,
 Malignant vapours taint the ambient air,
 Breathing perdition: his dim eyes are glaz'd,
 He droops his pensive head, his trembling limbs
 No more support his weight; abject he lies,
 Dumb, spiritless, benumb'd; till death at last
 Gracious attends, and kindly brings relief.”

Notwithstanding this beautiful imagery, so persuasively demonstrative and satisfactory to every intelligent inquisitant, yet it must be admitted, that many casual

sual occurrences happen, by which many people are induced to believe, by temporary or accidental circumstances, a dog to be mad who is positively not so. To establish this likely and well-founded suggestion in fact, let it be supposed, that a dog, replete as usual with fidelity, loses his master, he naturally exerts his utmost speed, strength, and sagacity, in an anxious and eager hope of recovering the utmost gem of his existence; he pursues him with all increasing ardour of unalloyed expectation, and feels too high in emulation to let trifling obstacles become objects of the least consideration. In this career, eager in pursuit, panting with hope and anxious in fear, wanton boys throw stones, sticks, and halloo other dogs to overtake and worry him; having, probably, not speed enough to do, butchers, labourers, blackguards, and their whole fraternity, join in the inhuman hunt. "Mad dog!" is exclaimed from every mouth, both brutes and beasts being determined upon destruction. The poor persecuted victim finding a host of fiends at his heels; that he is most unworthily abused, and has no chance of extrication; looks wild of course, and lolls out his tongue as he continues his course in a fruitless hope of escape; and thus most unmercifully pursued, and taking every one in his way for an enemy, he naturally attempts a snap at every person he meets in his own defence. The dog in this unfortunate dilemma is not long before he is destroyed, and it is triumphantly declared that he was a mad-dog, and it is thus rendered impossible to prove the contrary.

This must be admitted a true history of the far greater part of those dogs who have thus accidentally encountered a bad name, and it can create no admiration that such a variety of speculative and uncouth medicines should have been so much extolled and obtruded upon the public for preventing the dreaded mischief from their bite; when, had the lives of the murdered animals been spared, it might have then appeared there would have been no mischief. To introduce part of the innumerable recitals of mad dogs, the injuries they have done, the recoveries of those bitten, and the number of dogs (supposed to be mad) killed, with which every periodical publication is replete, would take up more room than can be appropriated to the stipulated limits of this work. Having taken a fair and candid review of the predominant symptoms and certain effects of canine-madness, it cannot be deemed inapplicable or unentertaining, to make a few slight remarks upon the dreadful consequences attached to the circumstance, when a human being is polluted beyond the most distant hope of recovery, by the bite of a mad-dog, the most common and most dangerous in this country. Numerous, marvelous, and contradictory opinions have been entertained for many years past, and,

most

most probably, will continue so to do for as many to come; not only respecting the cure of this disease in the canine-species themselves, in whom it is supposed to originate; but after its communication to the human frame by the infection of a bite from a dog, which, in its effect, produces a similar kind of madness, passing with the faculty under the appellation of an *Hydrophobia*, which was originally adopted in allusion to the patient's invincible dread of, and aversion to, water.

Previous to the concluding part of the medical remarks upon this disorder, when it has taken possession of, and is making havoc in the human frame; it may be proper to renew the former recital of Somerville, supposing the animal did not lose his life in the kennel, as previously suggested :

“ Or, if outrageous grown, behold, alas !
 A yet more dreadful scene ! his glaring eyes
 Redden with fury, like some angry boar,
 Churning he foams ; and on his back erect
 His pointed bristles rise ; his tail incurved
 He drops, and with harsh broken howlings rend
 The poison-tainted air ; with rough hoarse voice
 Incessant bays : and snuffs the infectious breeze ;
 This way and that he stares aghast, and starts
 At his own shade ; jealous as if he deemed
 The world his foes. If haply towards the stream
 He casts his roving eye, cold horror chills
 His soul ; averse he flies, trembling, appall'd.
 Now frantic to the kennel's utmost verge
 Raving he runs, and deals destruction round.
 The pack fly diverse ; for whate'er he meets
 Vengeful he bites, and every bite is death.
 If now perchance through the weak fence escap'd,
 Far up the wind he roves, with open mouth
 Inhales the cooling breeze : nor man nor beast ;
 He spares inplacable. The hunter-horse,
 Once kind associate of his sylvan toils,
 (Who hap'ly now without the kennel's mound
 Crops the rank mead, and listening hears with joy
 The cheering cry, that morn and eve salutes
 His raptur'd sense) a wretched victim falls.
 Unhappy quadruped ! no more, alas !

Shall thy fond master with his voice applaud
 Thy gentleness, thy speed ; or with his hand
 Stroke thy soft dappled sides, as he each day
 Visits thy stall well pleas'd ; no more shalt thou
 With sprightly neighings, to the winding-horn
 And the loud opening pack in concert join'd,
 Glad his proud heart. For oh ! the secret wound
 Rankling inflames, he bites the ground, and dies !
 Hence to the village with pernicious haste
 Baleful he bends his course : the village flies
 Alarm'd : the tender mother in her arms
 Hugs close the trembling babe, the doors are barr'd,
 And flying curs by native instinct taught
 Shun the contagious bane ; the rustic bands
 Hurry to arms, the rude militia seize
 Whate'er at hand they find ; clubs, forks, or guns,
 From every quarter charge the furious foe,
 In wild disorder, and uncouth array :
 Till, now with wounds on wounds oppress'd and gor'd,
 At one short poisonous gasp he breathes his last."

SOMERVILLE.



THE HYDROPHOBIA.

THE disease so called, and to which every human subject is liable, is invariably occasioned by the bite of a dog that is affected with the canine-madness; originally generated from causes of morbidity within himself, or to have received it by infection from the bite of another labouring under the contagion: this is communicated by the smallest quantity of the poisonous saliva from the teeth, and the most trifling puncture of one tooth (even through the apparel) will produce it. The infection lies sometimes dormant for many months, and then displays itself with the most rapid virulence; but in most cases it makes its appearance in a month or six weeks from the time of receiving the infection; at the expiration of which, if no symptoms of disease are perceptible, nor any disquietude of body, or derangement of mind be observed to appear, the party supposed to have been dangerously injured, is concluded to be safe, and not to have received the infection. It has been pronounced, by the most eminent and experienced of the faculty, that the nearer the part bitten is to the salivary glands, the sooner the dreadful and alarming symptoms begin to appear; and this, by minute observation, has been fully confirmed. In the communicating of the infection, an absolute wound is no more indispensable than in impregnating the system with a particle of the variolous matter in inoculating for the small-pox; instances have occurred, where the human species have been infected by the *froth* and *saliva* only, but dogs by bites from each other; though it is averred, by writers of much respectability, that dogs have been proved to have received the infection by coming too soon to a kennel where the canine-madness has raged before. This disorder, it seems, is only inherent and natural to the canine-species (as the dog, fox, and wolf); but other animals having received the infection, by the puncture of a tooth from any one of

of

of those, can then communicate it to any other animal of a different species, and by the same means.

When the human species become unhappily the subjects of this calamity, though in particular instances some variation may be observed, yet the first symptoms are generally the same; these are a torpid disquietude in the wound (or seat of injury), attended with slight intervening itchings, ultimately amounting to pain, and much resembling rheumatic affection. It continues to extend itself to the surrounding parts; and, at length, from the extremities it expands its poisonous power to the viscera: the cicatrice, if there has been a wound, begins to swell, inflammation hourly increases, till, at length, a serious bloody ichor is discharged, and this alone may be considered the primary and invariable prognostic of a certain hydrophobia. These leading symptoms soon become progressively general, bearing with them every appearance of confirmed rheumatism; they are fluctuating, quick, acute, and of the spasmodic, convulsive kind; they suddenly attack the patient, severely affecting the head, neck, and principal joints; a dull, drowsy pain often seizes the head, neck, breast, abdomen, and even vibrates along the back-bone. The patient is gloomy and inclined to solitude, murmurs much, seems lost in reflection, is forgetful, inattentive, and prone to sleep; at times agitating starts denote the mind to be disordered; by turns he is attentively watchful; his slumbers become disturbed, and suddenly awaking from those, convulsive appearances soon follow.

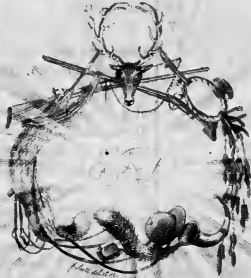
A deafness is sometimes complained of, the eyes are watery; the aspect sorrowful; the countenance pale, and the face contracted; sweat breaks out about the temples; an unusual flow of saliva, slimy and viscid, at length comes on with a dryness of the fauces, a foulness of the tongue, and a disagreeable (or rather fetid effluvia) from the breath. As the symptoms already recited increase, the second stage advances; a fever commences, which, at first is mild, but makes with gigantic strides the most rapid advances to extremity; it is accompanied with hourly increasing horrors, and all the alarming concomitants of mental derangement. Wakefulness becomes perpetual; violent periodical agitations ensue; the mind is evidently more and more disturbed; a delirium follows, at which critical moment an invincible aversion to *fluid, glass*, or any polished or shining body is plainly perceived. A constriction of the gullet takes place, and an incredible difficulty of swallowing ensues; liquids are offered, and are attempted to be taken, but the disgust and loathing become so predominant, they are most violently

lently declined : and this symptomatic dread and aversion so wonderfully increases, that, upon the very appearance of any watery fluid, the greatest horror comes on, and the most shocking muscular distortions ensue ; if the liquor is attempted to be forcibly pressed upon them, the experiment is rejected by an instantaneous succession of the most horrid gesticulations, and convulsive distortions, in which every ray of reason seems to be absorbed. Upon a temporary cessation of so serious and distressing a paroxysm, the poor unhappy patient now murmurs, groans, and mourns most miserably ; loses, by degrees, all knowledge of his dearest friends and most familiar acquaintance ; and their presenting themselves before him, is the very critical moment when all of this description give proof of their desire to bite, which, in the attempt, bears no ill affinity to the similar snappings of a village cur.

Awful to relate, reason returns at intervals, and he feelingly laments his own calamity, and deploras his incapacity. A consciousness of an approaching dissolution is perceptible even to himself, and he seems truly resigned to the singularity of his fate. Severe pain and consequent heat producing thirst, a desire to drink is displayed, but nature shrinks from her office, in vain the patient raises his hand to touch the vessel, it almost magically produces instant tremor—the hand recedes, and the patient sinks into the most afflicting despondency. Conscious, likewise, of his constantly increasing inclination to bite, he, in his rational moments, makes signals to warn his friends of their danger, and keep themselves at a distance. Towards the conclusion of this dreadful and most melancholy scene, the fever and parching thirst increase, the tongue becomes swelled and protruded, foam issues from the mouth, strength fails, cold sweats come on, the stricture upon the breast increases, as well as the other predominant symptoms, until, in a long succession of convulsive struggles, all-powerful Death closes the scene.

Notwithstanding the numerous literary efforts that might be collected from the works of different celebrated writers, and the greater variety of medical nostrums to be found in the shops ; it does not appear to the scientific practitioner that ever any well-authenticated, incontrovertible, and infallible means of counteraction, or cure of this deplorable malady, in either man or beast, has ever been discovered or produced. The detail of symptoms already enumerated are not the fertile effusions of fancy, or the harvest of literary selection, but the effect

fect of professional practice, and record of cases as they occasionally occurred, and now restored from his manuscript notes after a practice of more than forty years. Much more might have been introduced in anecdotes and other entertaining matter appertaining, but the original and announced extent of the work being already exceeded, it can only suffice to hope, both on the part of the proprietors, and the humble instrument of compilation, that its contents may be honoured with the approbation of an indulgent and enlightened public.



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