

British Rural Sports:

HUNTING

by Stonehenge

CHAP. I.

MATERIEL NECESSARY FOR HUNTING IN GENERAL.

SECT. 1.—THE GAME TO BE HUNTED.

284. Hunting may be defined to be the pursuit of certain wild animals, by means of a pack of hounds, following by scent. The animals hunted are—first, the red deer; second, the fallow deer; third, the roebuck; fourth, the fox; fifth, the hare; and sixth, the otter. The badger and marten are also hunted in some districts, but never, as far as I know, by a regular pack of hounds; and their pursuit will not, therefore, come under the above definition.

285. THE RED DEER (*Cervus Elaphus*), has been already fully described at page 82, under the chapter on Deerstalking. It is hunted in certain parts of England in a wild state, and is also sometimes turned out before a pack of staghounds, after being deprived of his horns, if a male, and taken to the meet in a deer-cart.

286. THE FALLOW DEER (*Dama Vulgaris*), is usually met with in our parks, where large herds are generally congregated, and form those pleasing groups which add so much to the effect of the beautiful scenery peculiar to Great Britain. It differs from the stag in size, being less, and in the form of the horns, which also are smaller, and flat instead of being round; they are also broader, palmated at the ends, and better garnished with antlers. The red and fallow deer never mingle together, even when confined in the same park avoiding one another most carefully, and never breeding together. The rutting season also in the latter is a fortnight or three weeks later; and the males at that time are not nearly so furious and excited; hence they are better suited for our parks, and the neighbourhood of man. They breed at two years, and bring forth one, two, or three fawns. They come to maturity at three years, and their average age does not exceed twenty. Fallow deer are easily tamed, and may be readily induced to follow their keeper into any crowd, which they speedily get accustomed to. At the rutting season, however, they are sometimes troublesome, and should then be carefully confined, or they

may injure children or infirm persons, more especially those who show a fear of their horns. In England there are two varieties of the fallow deer—the spotted deer, said to be of Bengal origin, and similar to the AXIS or CHEETUL (*Axis Maculata*), and the dark, self-coloured brown, which is supposed to have been introduced from Norway by James I., who was devoted to the chase, and especially to stag-hunting. Fallow deer, when hunted, are always turned out of a cart; and their horns are generally removed when the buck is the object of pursuit.

287. THE ROEBUCK (*Capreolus Caprea*), was formerly common throughout England, but is now chiefly met with in Scotland, north of the Forth, though it is occasionally found still in Dorset and Devon. Its extinction in the southern parts of this island is owing to its dislike of confinement, not bearing even the walls of our parks. It will not admit of being tamed, and is very savage and morose when in close confinement. It is much less than the fallow deer, being only 24 inches in height; and it is even more elegant in its shape and movements. It is not gregarious, but lives singly, or in pairs, and drives off its young at nine or ten months of age. The horns are short and small, divided into three small branches, not palmated, and they are seldom more than a foot in length. This deer is seldom hunted; unlike the stag which is found on the bare mountains, it prefers the thick underwood of large forests; and it is only on rare occasions that it can be driven into the open lowlands and hunted with a pack of hounds. The rutting season is at the same time of the year as in the stag, but it continues as long as in the fallow deer. The female goes with young five months and a-half, and brings forth two or three fawns. The term of life is not more than 15 years.

288. THE FOX (*Vulpes Vulgaris*), has been already described as a species of vermin; in which capacity its destruction has been permitted, and even enjoined. Here, however, he reappears as the cherished object of the sportsman's care; and no animal is so jealously watched and tended as Mr. Wiley, in the best fox-hunting districts. Coverts are made on purpose, often at great

expense, and kept undisturbed solely for his use. His ravages in the pheasant-preserve and hen-roost are overlooked, and the man who injures him is considered to have wounded the feelings of the whole hunt, and sullied his own honour. Nothing but this universal *esprit de corps* could have saved the fox from annihilation. Like the wolf, but for this protection, he would long since have been among the things that were; and the glorious sport he gives us would be impossible, for want of the necessary animal to hunt. Foxes are found of two or three varieties in the hunting districts, besides the hill-fox of Scotland, which is well calculated for showing sport before hounds, if the country would admit of horses. These varieties are—the greyhound-fox, a large, tall, and fast animal, of a greyish-red; the bulldog fox, thicker, and darker-coloured, with a heavy head; and the smaller, redder, and more compact fox, which has been, and still is, imported from France or Germany. All these several foxes have the end of the tail black when young, and becoming white in after years. I have already enlarged upon the preservation of foxes, and the means by which the keeper may satisfy both the pheasant-shooting and fox-hunting tendencies of his master. The fox burrows underground, in what is called his "earth;" and the vixen produces from four to six cubs at a birth, once a-year—generally in April or May. When cubs are turned down in the summer, they require regular feeding and looking after for some time, as they are unable to get their own food, from a want of parental teaching. In process of time, however, instinct prompts them, and they gradually learn to provide for themselves. A want of this precaution has caused the loss of many litters of cubs, procured at great expense and trouble.

289. THE HARE (*Lepus Timidus*), is too well known to need a full description. For hunting purposes she is well suited, because her instincts are so remarkably well developed in showing her how to foil the pursuit of her enemies. She doubles and returns upon her trail in a way which seems to prove the existence of reason; and sometimes even swims down a river to escape her pursuers when hard pressed.

There is a variety peculiar to Scotland, the SCOTCH HARE (*Lepus Variabilis*), and also an IRISH HARE (*Lepus Hibernicus*). The former is somewhat, and the latter much, less than the English hare; they are both, however, fast and stout; but the mountain-hare of Scotland, which is the one alluded to above, is not well calculated for hunting or coursing, having instincts very different from the ordinary Scotch or English hare.

290. THE OTTER (*Lutra Vulgaris*), has already been described at page 10.

SECT. 2.—HOUNDS, AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

291. THE VARIOUS KINDS OF HOUND were formerly much more distinct than at present. Nothing can be much more unlike the old southern hound or bloodhound, than the diminutive beagle; and almost the only point of resemblance is the exquisite power of scent which both possess. At present, hounds may be divided into—first, bloodhounds; second, staghounds; third, foxhounds; fourth, harriers; fifth, beagles; and sixth, otter-hounds.

292. THE BLOODHOUND, SOUTHERN HOUND, or TALBOT (See Art. "Dog"), is still met with in England, but it is entirely superseded by the foxhound or harrier for all the purposes of the chase. In parks, however, it is still used for singling out certain deer, and running them down, when they are to be taken for the purpose of hunting or for stall-fattening, or for removal. Here great caution is required, as the bloodhound is a dog which cannot be kept under command; and no whip or rating will prevent his gratifying his desire for blood when he has the opportunity. His nose, however, is so perfect, and he has so completely the power and the instinctive desire to keep to the hunted deer, that he will follow it through the whole herd, and pass them by regardless of their attractions. He has been also, and still is, used for hunting sheep-stealers and thieves of all kinds, and must then be muzzled. Besides his intractability, he is also comparatively slow, and the fox or stag-hunter of the present day would not require his thoroughbred horse to keep pace with his movements, but would vote him "a potterer," and would be more inclined to ride a steeplechase home than to watch his slow hunting. In size, he is the largest of the hounds, being about 27 or 28 inches high at the shoulders, and often weighing 80 lbs. The colour is generally black and tan, with a great preponderance of the red—which is, moreover, more yellow than red; but in the Talbot and sleuth-hound the yellow and black-pie was the usual colour. The head is very handsome; ears large, soft, and pendulous; jaw square, and lips well developed; nose broad, soft, and moist; and eyes lustrous and beautifully soft when in an unexcited state. This dog is nearly identical with the Talbot, and old southern or sleuth-hound, of which we now have no pure representative; but they may be said to be one variety, and to be the stock from which the staghound, foxhound, harrier, beagle, and otter-hound have been all bred.

293. THE STAGHOUND AND FOXHOUND may be considered as the same, the former

being only a larger variety of the latter; but though originally descended alike, they are not now bred from the same strains indiscriminately. As with the old deerhound and greyhound, so with these hounds, although their organisation and appearance are identical, yet from being entered and kept for many generations to different game, they are to be readily distinguished by their style of hunting. Nevertheless, no one could say where the line which divides them passes, and it would be impossible even for Mr. Davis to distinguish a large spiry foxhound from one of the smallest and lightest of her Majesty's beautiful pack. The staghound, therefore, may be considered as a large foxhound, or the foxhound as a small staghound; the one devoted to the hunting of deer, the other to that of the fox.

294. THE ORIGINAL STOCK of these two varieties of the hound is undoubtedly the southern hound, bloodhound or Talbot. But in process of time, when the country was cleared from forest, and more speed was required, and when the horse could be used in order to keep pace with that increased speed, a faster hound was sought for, and the old-fashioned, deep-toned, and careful hound was bred, which has been immortalised by the verse of Somerville and the prose of Beckford. These were faster than the southern hound, but still slow compared with the modern foxhound. In those days the cold scent of the morning drag was hit off by the hound, and the fox was hunted up to his retreat in the woodlands before he had time to digest his nocturnal meal, or to sleep off his fatigue in procuring it. Hence, nose was all in all; and the fox being full of food, could not go the pace which he now does at 11 or 12 o'clock, eight or ten hours after his belly was filled with the fat capon or the wary old "rooster," as our transatlantic friends denominate the dunghill cock. It is not fully known by what crosses this increase of speed was obtained; the subject was formerly enveloped in much mystery; and masters of hounds were embued with a very different spirit to that which prevails among them in the present century. But there is strong reason for believing that the greyhound, and, most probably, the old Scotch deerhound, were had recourse to, either directly or through the northern hound, which was a decided cross of the southern hound with the deerhound. In her Majesty's pack most of the hounds are fully 26 inches in height, and the bitches at least 24; they have broad short heads, with straight hind legs, well furnished thighs, and sterns more feathered than is often seen in the ordinary foxhound. They have

very delicate noses, can hunt a cold scent, and yet with a blazing one they run breast high, but not quite so fast as some of our packs of foxhounds when the scent is good. The deer's foot-scent is not good; but he leaves a strong body-scent, which falls to a certain height, according to the state of the air, and is readily owned by the staghound. The endurance of this dog is great, but not perhaps equal to the foxhound, as is to be expected from his greater size and weight. Few packs of staghounds could bear the road-work which most foxhounds undergo besides their runs, which are sometimes two or three in the day; they also escape altogether the work in covert, which is most trying to the lesser hound. Even where wild deer are hunted they are "unharboured" by slow hounds of the old breed. Consequently, the actual chase is all that is committed to the staghound, together with the road-work to the meet—generally pretty near the kennel; and the homeward journey, which, however, is often a long and dreary one, but not, as in the foxhound's case, prolonged into the night.

295. THE MODERN FOXHOUND is a most extraordinary animal; fast almost to the same degree as a slow greyhound, he has extraordinary stoutness and power of endurance, with a hardy constitution. To these invaluable qualities he adds a good nose, not quite equal, however, to a cold scent; with great docility, when considered in conjunction with his courage and dash. With regard to his origin, there is strong reason for believing, as with the staghound, that he is the old southern hound crossed with the greyhound, with perhaps a dash of the bulldog; but here, again, all is conjecture, and we can only guess at his origin from his form and peculiarities. Beckford describes the model hound as follows:—"Let his legs 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 bushy—if he carry it well so much the better . . . a small head, however, as relative to *beauty* only; for, as to *goodness*, I believe large-headed hounds are in nowise inferior . . . The colour I think of little moment, and am of opinion with our friend Foote, that a good dog cannot be of a bad colour."—p. 49. To this must be added a point of great importance, which has been insisted on by Nimrod—namely, the length of the back-ribs, which, as in the horse, should be well developed, and firmly fixed to the hips by strong muscles. Nimrod also very properly insists upon length of thigh, and good strong stines, without which speed cannot be long

maintained. This description will avail equally well in the present day, although written more than 50 years ago. He also recommends a middle-sized hound, neither too large nor too small; but, like many other writers on sporting subjects, he does not further define what he means by giving the middle height of the foxhound, or even the extreme ranges to which they go. I think that 24 inches for dogs, and 22 for bitches, will be found to be about the outside height which will be desirable for fast and open countries; while in strong woodlands, with much work in covert, an inch less will be desirable, because the large hound has more difficulty in following out the runs traversed by briars, &c., than the dog a size smaller. The quickest pack I ever saw, and that which worked in covert the best, was Lord Redesdale's hunting the Heythrop country, which were not more than 23 inches, dogs, and 22 inches, bitches. This pack, however, went like birds, and flew the stone walls as well as a greyhound. Indeed, the contrast with Earl Fitzhardinge's larger hounds hunting the same district during part of their season, was, I think, much in favour of the little ones. They were, certainly, the most beautiful pack, to my taste, which I ever saw; and so unusually "suity," as to please the eye in that particular in a way which no larger hounds could be expected to do. It is always easier to draft large hounds than small ones down to a certain size; and, consequently, a small-sized pack can be kept much more level than a larger one; and the difference also between the sexes being less marked, they look better when the dogs and bitches are hunted together.

296. THE HARRIER AND BEAGLE may be taken together, since they are now bred one with the other so much that it is difficult to say what are harriers and what beagles. The latter is the more specific breed, and may therefore with advantage be first examined. It should be remembered that the hare, unlike the fox, is constantly "doubling," that is, returning upon her track, and thus endeavouring to foil her pursuers; for this reason, an exquisite nose is required, with great patience, and considerable cunning, to meet artifice by artifice. Hence, the hare-hound must differ from the fox-hound, in possessing an acuter sense of smell, a slower pace, less dash, and more patience; he must also be able to distinguish a "heel-scent," as he may otherwise return upon the hunted line, fancying he is following a "double" of the hare. One other point, also, is of vast importance—he must "pack closely;" for as the hare so often doubles back, if the hounds are all over the field the chance of foiling the "double" by their own scent is

increased when they spread widely. The beagle, as embodying all these points in perfection, is, therefore, the model hare-hound of the old school; and has also lately been re-introduced in high quarters, being a great favourite at Windsor. In size the beagle measures from 10 inches, or even less, to 15. In shape they resemble the old southern hound in miniature, but with more neatness and beauty; and they also resemble that hound in style of hunting. No scent is too cold for them, and they can work out, in all its windings and folds, that of the most cunning old hare, if allowed time to do it. Nothing is more beautiful than to watch the working of these diminutive hounds; and I trace my first fondness for hunting and the sports of the field to the occasional sight of a pack of them belonging to the father of a school-fellow of mine, Mr. Harding, living near Dorchester. The extraordinary style of these little beagles I have never seen surpassed; but I fancy there was more in the mode of hunting, than in the hounds themselves. They were never lifted, and rarely cast, but left to work out their scent in their own way; and, consequently, their brains were thrown upon their own resources, and very rich those stores certainly were. Often have I seen them apparently consult, and then, without the slightest external cause, hit off the scent as if by mutual inspiration, and carry it on without a check for a mile or two. Slow they were, at least so slow that we could keep up on foot by cutting corners, &c.; but at times, with a blazing scent, they would race away from us. I would that I could now catch a view of their graceful forms. The head and ears of the beagle are much broader, and the ears longer, than the fox-hound—very nearly approaching to the bloodhound in development; the legs shorter, and the body bigger and stouter. He is a very hardy little dog, and will stand an immense deal of work. At the two extremes of the beagle subdivision stand the dwarf beagle—a little smooth lapdog, with very long ears, and almost pug nose; and the fox-beagle, resembling the foxhound in all but size and dash. The essence of the beagle is the freedom from this quality, and it should never, on any account, be permitted to be displayed. Patience, co-operation, freedom from jealousy, goodness of nose, and Lilliputian dimensions, are, in fact, the essential qualities of the beagle. There is an air about them which the sportsman recognizes, but which is very difficult to describe; nevertheless, there it is, and a comparison will soon show it. Besides these, there is the rough beagle, a cross with the rough Scotch terrier, and

partaking of his tongue rather than of the old mellow tone of the southern hound. We may, therefore, sum up the varieties of this little hound as—first, the medium beagle, which may be either heavy and southern-like, or light and northern-like; second, the dwarf or lapdog beagle; third, the fox beagle; and fourth, the rough or terrier beagle.

297. THE HARRIER is now a mongrel animal, bred in all sorts of ways, and varying from 21 inches down to 15 or 16. In looks more like the foxhound than the beagle, he has some remnants of his old breed in the longer ears, wider head, and stouter body which he possesses. He should, however, have a most delicate nose, even more so than the beagle; for as his increased size carries him faster over the ground, so is he more likely to overrun the scent, and foil it so that he cannot recover it. Some of these hounds, however, have a wonderful power of carrying a scent at full speed, and will race into a hare in such a time as to finish her up almost as soon as found; this, however, spoils sport in great measure, as, by their speed, they prevent all those artifices on the part of the hare which give zest to this otherwise slow amusement. For this reason it is that harriers appear to have as good noses as beagles, though they really have not; for by depriving the hare of scope to double back, by pressing so closely upon her scent, they give themselves much less to do, and have only to work out a straightforward scent. Many huntsmen of harriers now cast forward as if hunting a fox, and with reason too; for as the hare *cannot* double back, she tries all her wiles in a forward or side-direction—hence the alteration in the principles called for by the alteration in the speed of hounds. It is, however, in my opinion, an alteration for the worse; and I hope that as hare-hunting becomes more common, as will most probably be the case, that beagles, rather than harriers, will be the hounds selected. From an hour to one hour and a-quarter is the proper average time to kill a hare in; she then has a quarter of a mile law all through, and stops and pricks up her ears, and considers, and then doubles and doubles again, and resorts to all sorts of expedients, which try the powers of the little animals behind. The pack, which is shown in the cut hereafter given with the chapter on Hare Hunting, is a cross of the beagle and foxhound; they are from 16 to 17 inches in height, can go quite fast enough to keep horses galloping, and can give a good account of 19 hares out of 20, having, indeed, killed 51 in the season of 1854-5. They are of Lord Sefton's blood, and such hounds I should like to see

throughout England, kept at little expense, and affording amusement to hundreds on horseback and on foot.

298. OTTER-HOUNDS are nothing more than the old southern hound crossed with the Scotch terrier and water-spaniel, and kept for generations to the hunting of the otter.

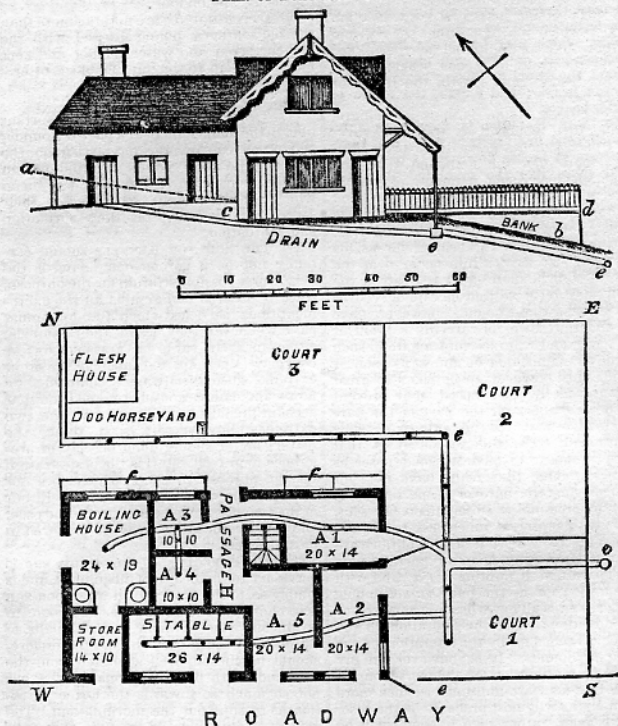
SECT. 3.—CONSTRUCTION OF KENNELS.

299. THE KENNELS form a most important item in the management of a pack of hounds; and much controversy has arisen on the subject; the chief points of difference in opinion consist—first, in the soil upon which they are built; secondly, on their aspect; and, thirdly, on their formation and ventilation.

300. THE SOIL FOR KENNELS should certainly not be a porous one. Sand is the very worst possible stratum for the purpose, since it absorbs and retains all the excrementitious particles which the dogs must pass whenever they leave their kennels, either in their yards or grass-courts. A cold clay is perhaps too much in the other extreme, since it is always accompanied by a raw and damp atmosphere; and is on that account prejudicial to health. Of the two extremes, however, it is, I think, the better; and I should build on clay in preference to gravel. Marl is the best stratum for the purpose, or chalk, which does not absorb to the same degree as gravel. Either of the two last is well suited to the purpose, and one or the other may be procured in most districts.

301. THE ASPECT is all-important; sun is necessary to the health of all animals, and is doubly so to the dog, yet an afternoon-sun is too hot, and causes the sleeping-room to be uncomfortably warm in the height of summer. A south-eastern aspect, therefore, should be chosen, well sheltered from the east and north by plantations or hills, but not so much so towards the former direction as to shut out the morning-sun. The gently sloping side of a hill, therefore, which looks to the south-east may be selected, and the kennel built facing in that direction, by which means the drainage will all be carried off out of the way of the yards and sleeping-rooms; and the yards themselves may easily be levelled and drained laterally so as not to interfere with the kennel. This will be better understood by the annexed diagram, in which the dotted line *ab* indicates the old level, and *cd* that of the yards and kennel, with a good trapped-drain at *ee*, into which both yards and lodging-rooms are washed and drained. By this arrangement the internal parts are kept high and dry, and are cut off from all damp by the drain between them and the open yards. The morning

PLAN OF FOXHOUND KENNEL.



sun has full power, and gives health sufficient for all purposes, whilst in the heat of the afternoon the doors may be thrown open, and the interior is all in shade as well as great part of the yard.

302. IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KENNEL, one grand point is to select materials which will not absorb either the moisture or noxious effluvia emanating from the hound. They should be, therefore, either hard stone or flints, or well-burnt and hard bricks. Sandy and porous bricks make the very worst walls for kennels possible, and should carefully be avoided. Next, as to size and shape:—the former must depend upon the number of hounds; but, as it is

easier to build a large kennel originally than to increase it when once built, it is as well to calculate upon one which will hold 40 couple of hounds, the number which will suffice for stag or fox-hunting three or four days a-week. For such a pack, the dimensions given in the annexed plan are sufficient. The essentials as to accommodation are very simple, and consist of—first, the lodging-rooms; secondly, the feeding-room; thirdly, the boiling-house; fourthly, the men's rooms; fifthly, the men's stables; and sixthly, the courts. The lodging-rooms should consist of five rooms—three large, and two small—A1, A2, A3, A4, A5. A1 is for the regular pack; A2 for the pack

drafted for hunting next day; A 3 for invalid dogs; A 4 for bitches in season; and A 5 for those whose room is drying after being washed down. Where a dog and bitch pack are kept separately, one other room, at least, must be set apart for the bitches. These houses should all have benches, raised about 20 inches from the floor, and about 30 inches wide. These should surround three sides of the room, and should have open lattice-work bottoms, with a front-edge to them about four inches deep, of stout timber, well rounded off. They should also be lined with board, towards the walls, at least eight inches from the top of the bench. The size of the rooms is indicated in the plan annexed. All should be paved with *glazed* tiles, sloping to the centre, which should have a trapped-drain; and they should be on a foundation of concrete, composed of large cinders or broken bricks, with lime and gravel. When expense is of little importance, all kennels should be built on brick arches, which, after all, are not very expensive, a single brick arch being quite sufficient. These rooms should be from 12 to 14 feet high, and ventilated by means of three or four trap-windows, similar in principle to those in church windows. The traps should, however, be capable of being entirely removed in the heats of summer. One large feeding-room is all that is necessary, but I have not given it in the plan, as I should much prefer an open verandah, running the whole length of the kennel, for this purpose. Here the troughs may be placed, and in the summer time the food cools more rapidly, while, after feeding, and indeed at all other times, the verandah allows the hounds to enjoy the shade from the sun, or protection from the rain. The troughs *f f* are made, with perforated covers; and when these are shut down, they form a seat for the men, or a bench for dogs to lie upon, high and dry. The boiling-house may be placed at the end of the building, or at some greater distance, if desirable; but it should be tolerably near, on account of the increased labour of carrying the pudding, broth, &c., from a distance. It should be a room *open to the roof*, to admit of the escape of the steam; and containing two large cast-iron boilers, set in proper brickwork. These boilers should hold from 50 to 60 gallons, and should be kept, one for meal, the other for flesh. In the boiling-house, also, there should be two or three coolers, eight feet by five feet, and one foot deep, in which the pudding or broth may be allowed to cool. This room should also be floored with tiles or bricks; no concrete is necessary, but a drain must be added, to allow of the blood, &c., from the flesh, being washed away.

Over one of the three lodging-rooms (A 1) are the rooms of the kennel-huntsman, or feeder, who should always be at hand at night, prepared to put down the first symptoms of quarrelling by the voice, or, if necessary, the whip. Opposite the junction of the inner wall of A 1 with that dividing A 2 from A 5, there should be in the feeder's room a small stove, or fireplace, fed with air from three air-drains, one of which commences at the bottom of each of the three lodging-rooms. By this plan, when his fire is lighted, a draught is maintained from the lodging-rooms, and the air kept pure thereby, compelling the entrance of fresh air from the windows. Over the room A 2 is a meal-room, and over A 5 a hay-loft, for the stable adjoining. At the end of which passage, at H, is a foot-bath for the hounds after hunting; it should be made of Roman cement on brickwork, about four or five inches deep, and filled with warm broth; a plug easily allows of the escape of the broth after use. As the hounds pass backwards and forwards to the feeding-trough, they bathe their feet in the warm broth, which they afterwards lick off, the tongue finishing the good work begun by the warm broth. A bucket of hot broth mixed with an equal quantity of cold water is sufficient for this purpose. Three courts are in the plan, as follows, viz. :—I., for the hunting-hounds; II., for the general pack; and III., for any others, or for feeding. The posts of the verandah stand in these courts; and there should be a trap at the foot of each, leading to the drain, for a purpose which every person conversant with the dog will readily understand. There should also be a grass-court or paddock adjacent. The stabling is calculated for four horses, which is quite as many as should be at the kennel at one time—the change-horses being better at the regular hunt-stable; but these three or four horses being done by the kennel-men, are better at the kennel; and in the summer-time the stable is required for the cub-hunting horses, which are seldom more than screws adapted for that purpose. Good hunters would be sacrificed at this time, owing to the hardness of the ground, and the great amount of covert-work. Kennels of these dimensions and construction ought to be put up without much ornamental work, but in a thoroughly substantial manner, for from £200 to £250, according to locality and expense of materials.

SECT. 4.—THE MASTER AND HIS MEN.

303. THE MASTER of a pack of foxhounds, staghounds, or even of harriers, ought to possess the qualities which would fit him for the command of an army in the field,

together with that particular knowledge which is essential to hunting. He should be able to keep in good order—first, a pack of high-couraged hounds; secondly, a set of opinionated men, in the shape of Huntsman & Co.; and, thirdly, a disorderly field of sportsmen. If, fortunately for him, he is master of his own pack, without the aid of subscriptions, his task is comparatively light; but even then he is often considered to be the property of those who hunt with him; and, if things go wrong, he is pulled to pieces as much as if he were the servant of his followers, instead of their being immeasurably obliged to him for enduring the trouble, and undertaking the expense, of his establishment. There can be no doubt that a man who undertakes to hunt a country, even at his own expense, is bound to carry out his engagements, because one part of the arrangement is the giving up the country to him; and, while he is in possession, no other master has a right to it. Sometimes nearly the whole of a fox-hunting country belongs to the master—that is to say, the whole of the large fox-coverts; but this is seldom the case, and generally he is dependent upon the permission to draw them, granted as a part of his district. This permission is given on the implied understanding that sport shall be shown, for no man wishes fox-hunting to be conducted in a slow or unsportsmanlike manner; and hence those owners of coverts who have granted leave to draw, have clearly a right of interference; but they are seldom the grumblers, the actual malcontents being generally the sporting butchers, &c., who indulge the field with their presence. If this grumbling happens with the master who keeps his own hounds, how much more likely is it with the master of a subscription pack. He has unfortunately a hundred subscribers, or sometimes more, each of whom fancies himself justified in calling him to account, or in refusing to obey orders, if he has been transgressing the limits which are compatible with the enjoyment of sport. Yet a field *must* be kept in order; the how? is the problem to be solved, and its solution has puzzled the brains and exhausted the energies of many a high-spirited and well-intentioned sportsman. The master should possess the iron nerves of the "Iron Duke," and yet with these should be joined the polished courtesy of the Earl of Chesterfield. Oaths and imprecations *may* succeed with the self-supporting master, but even then they are better left at home; but these tactics are misapplied with the subscription pack. Nothing but firmness, united with gentlemanly language, has a chance in these days; and their union, when combined

with a knowledge of the noble science and good riding, will be sure to succeed anywhere and everywhere; the combination, however, is rare; and there are few men who possess it in full force who will not soon give up their office in the full knowledge that the same talents applied in a different way, will lead to success in the legislature, or in some collateral pursuit. Every master, however, should have a good knowledge of the theory and practice of hunting; and though he may be inferior, in some respects, to his huntsman, who has made it the business of his whole life to study hounds and hunting, yet he ought to know enough to be able to judge whether he is doing right or wrong. If this is not the case, the man will too often exult over the ignorance of the master, if he attempts to interfere; and if he does not in any way take the management, he is the slave of a despot rather than the master of a good servant. However, in all cases the master must undertake to keep the field from overriding the hounds, and from surrounding a covert, and thereby heading a fox back, and causing him to be "chopped," from an incapacity to break, in face of a lot of chattering cigar-smokers and scandal-mongers, who care little about hunting, and only want to have the pleasure of exhibiting their persons in pink before the young dressmakers of their town or village. These gentlemen must be ranged in their places, or the efforts of the best pack of hounds and the most clever and persevering huntsman will be rendered abortive, whenever there is a light scent. With a blazing scent, after once hounds are away, no care is required; but in nine days out of ten, unless the master uses his "Hold hard! gentlemen," pretty unceremoniously, the sport is spoilt, or, at all events, greatly interfered with. Such are the duties of the master in the field, which every man, noble or gentle, who undertakes to hunt a pack of foxhounds, takes upon his shoulders. With his kennel duties, if self-supporting, no one whatever has a right to interfere; but if supported by subscriptions, his subscribers have a right to expect that he shall see that their money is properly expended in the use of the meal, &c., for the hounds, and in all other ways. There is a very great difference in different packs in the money spent, amounting to about 50 per cent.; and this can only be accounted for by the management being good or bad on the part of the master.

304. THE HUNTSMAN next comes before us, and he, like the master, should be a general out of place; but his duties are not so multifarious, as he has nothing to do with the field, while the master should have the

knowledge of a huntsman, and also be able to keep his unruly friends in order. In all cases, whether the master hunts his hounds himself or not, he should have a steady man to act as huntsman during the exercise, and in cub-hunting, &c.; also in his absence, from business or ill health. But the regular servant must possess the following qualities: temperance, judgment, hound-knowledge, knowledge of hunting, including the ways of all foxes, knowledge of country generally, and of the particular country hunted; good horsemanship—by which is meant anything but random riding, nevertheless, a huntsman ought, in nine cases out of ten, to be able to get to his hounds; *sometimes* a park-wall, or a river, or canal may interfere, but these exceptions do not often occur. A good voice is also essential, and the more peculiar the better, as the less hounds answer to strange voices the more successfully the sport will proceed; and, in particular, he should have the faculty of making hounds fond of him. With these requisites, added to a quiet, civil deportment, and a natural liking for the science, a man will always command sport; and in proportion to his success there, will be the respect paid him by the field. For a pack of harriers or beagles the huntsman requires much less dash and hard riding, and should be quieter, more steady, and less interfering. His field is generally smaller; the farmers take care that their wheat, &c., are less ridden over, and the hounds have full chance to do their work without being interfered with. An older man is therefore more suited to this place, as he is more required in the kennel than the field; for if he gets command of his hounds in the former, he will easily manage them in the latter. Indeed, a word from a huntsman is enough with harriers; they turn like lightning, and are, or ought to be, as handy as kittens.

305. **UNLIKE THE HUNTSMAN, IN EVERY RESPECT, SHOULD BE THE WHIPPERS-IN**, both first and second; they should both be good horsemen, and, may be, perhaps, a little more dashing at times in their riding than their superior officer—that is to say, that it may be permitted to them to risk a drowning or a broken neck when certain things are to be effected, which risks the huntsman seldom has occasion to incur. If a hard-run fox is heading for certain earths which are open, woe to the whip who does not risk the breaking of his own neck and his horse's heart in getting to them in time. If hounds are changing their fox, and the hunted one is close before a single hound, or a couple or so, then, at all hazards, the other hounds must be stopped, and the whip's riding must be daring enough to

effect his object. He, however, should not think exactly for himself, but should work in a subordinate capacity to the huntsman. There may often be two courses to be pursued, and it is not for him to consider which is the best, but that which the huntsman will consider the best, and that is the one for him to work to. He should always be on the look-out for "riot," and careful to check it in the bud; using a rate, if that will act, and if not, then getting to the rebellious hound directly and "serving him out." No plan is so bad as that of constantly flicking and cutting at hounds; if they do wrong in spite of a rate, then punish them severely; but in all cases try the gentler means first, and if they fail, use the whip with power, but at the same time with care and caution, *as the dog's eye is very easily cut out*. The first whip's duty is chiefly to restrain any wildness in the leading hounds, to stop them, or to check riot; while that of the second whip is to bring up the tail hounds, to drive on those hanging in coverts, and generally to keep the slow hounds up with the pack. The duties of the second whip are very subordinate, and require nothing but a strict attention to plain orders. Nevertheless, he may do harm by over-using his whip, or by a want of activity; but most second whips are ready enough in acting; and, as they are generally selected for their good horsemanship, their task is performed with ease and satisfaction to themselves.

306. **THE FEEDER** is a Jack-of-all-trades, in a subscription pack especially. He has first to look out for and kill the dog-horses, and should be able to know what to accept and what reject. Some over-drugged and diseased horses are absolutely injurious to the kennel, and the hounds had much better live on their pudding alone, than be poisoned with unwholesome food. Besides this duty, he has to wash out all the lodging-rooms, and mop them dry; to boil the flesh, and make the pudding and broth, and to get the food ready for them, either when returning from exercise or from hunting. It is usual for the feeder to undertake the grooming, &c., of one or more of the men's horses, generally the huntsman's; but sometimes a helper is allowed. In almost all cases the whips do their own horses, and there can be no reason why they should not; then, if there is only one horse kept at the kennels for the huntsman, the feeder may well undertake him, as his duties are over when the hounds come in, and he has nothing to do but attend to this horse; whereas the huntsman should himself feed the hounds, and attend to any wounds, &c., which they may have incurred in their day's work. This will take him nearly two

hours, including a short interval for his own stomach. The feeder ought to be a thoroughly trustworthy man, civil and obliging, and also fond of hounds. A good deal must be trusted to him; lame and sick hounds must be left in his charge, and if he does not carry out his instructions, many hounds will die or be ruined. If, also, he is not careful in drying the sleeping-rooms before the hounds are returned to them, or if he leaves doors or windows open in bitterly cold days, from thoughtlessness or carelessness, kennel-lameness, or some other form of rheumatism, is sure to show itself.

307. Lastly comes the **EARTH-STOPPER**, a very important functionary to a pack of foxhounds, though only wanted there, and sometimes superseded by the keepers, who engage to stop, on notice being given them; but in all well-appointed establishments he is still a regularly paid official. His office is, to proceed at night when the foxes are all out feeding and stop the earths, wherever they are likely to be run to on the following day. If he is a man who knows his business, it is only needful to tell him what coverts will be drawn; but although this is all that is necessary for him to know, yet he should in all cases tell the first whip what earths are stopped, in order that, if the run is by chance different to what was expected, he may know whether it will be needful for him to get forward and head the fox before entering the open earths. After hunting, the earth-stopper should also carefully unstop the earths, and leave as little trace as possible of his midnight work. If the keepers are to be trusted to do this, they of course easily can; but it is so important to hunting to see well to this part of the arrangements, and disappointment so often follows the reliance upon men whose hearts are more often set upon the gun than the hound, that it is much better for the earth-stopper himself to see to this part of his duty. I have certainly seen many runs spoilt from a dependence upon the aid of the keeper.

308. **THE HORSES OF THE MEN** should be good useful hunters, especially those for the huntsman, who ought to be the best-mounted man in the field. It is all very well to say they may be blemished, but so may any hunter. Who cares for blemishes in the hunting-field? Many of our best and highest-priced hunters have had badly broken knees, and with these drawbacks, or with scored-hocks, have fetched £400 or £500. If a man is not well mounted he cannot get to his hounds, and should not be blamed for failing in effecting an impossibility. The whips may be put on half-made horses, because, in case of accident,

their places may be more readily supplied; but the better horses they have, the better they can perform their duties. In hunting three days a-week, the huntsman and whips require a fresh horse generally every other meet; and in fast countries the huntsman usually has two out in the same day.

SECT. 5.—KENNEL MANAGEMENT.

309. **THE FEEDING AND KENNEL MANAGEMENT** of all hounds is nearly the same, making due allowance for size. Cleanliness is the great virtue to be practised, and without it no hound can be preserved in health, and in perfection of nose. It will be remembered that, for the purposes of the general pack, their lodging-rooms are devoted according to the plan of kennel at page 100. One of these (A 5) has been empty all night, and should have been washed out and have had time to dry by morning. Into this the general pack should be turned the first thing in the morning, after giving them an airing in the grass-yard, if dry, or under the verandah, if in wet weather. The feeder should then sweep out their lodging-room (A 1), and after doing so he should mop it out well, leaving it quite sweet and clean, taking care afterwards to dry it as much as possible. This will be ready for the hounds again by eleven o'clock, when, in the usual way, they may be returned to it, after feeding and exercise. A 5 may then be roughly swept, but not washed; and then, after just walking them into the yard, the hunting pack may be turned into it while their lodging-room (A 2) is being swept and washed out. They will remain there an hour or two, and then should be taken out for half-an-hour or an hour, according to the work they are doing, when they may be brought home, fed, and returned to their regular lodging-room (A 2). This again leaves A 5 empty, and it may be thoroughly cleansed at any time when the feeder has leisure. Thus, the hounds are never turned into wet kennels, and consequently are not subjected to the chances of rheumatism. With regard to the hour of feeding, it should, as a general rule, be about eleven o'clock for the general pack, and from one to two for the hunting pack, according to the time of meeting and the distance they have to travel. By giving two hours between the feeding times of the two packs, the duties of the feeder are lightened, and he has time to exercise and feed the former on hunting days without help. In many kennels it is the practice to give a little broth or thin gruel to hounds at night; but even in the case of delicate hounds I do not think it of much use. Some certainly are so delicate that they can scarcely be fed too often; but these

are exceptions, and they should be treated as such. Water should always be within reach, and raised above the height of the belly of the dogs, or it will be soiled by their urine. It is best in iron troughs, one of which should be in each sleeping-room and court-yard. In summer the doors and windows of all the rooms may be left open, and access to the yards admitted night and day; but in severe weather the doors must be shut, and ventilation only carried on by the tops of the windows, and by the air-flue communicating with the chimney of the feeder's room. The food should be principally of flesh and meal, with an occasional mixture of vegetables. The flesh is always that of the horse, to save expense, and should be boiled for hours in one of the iron boilers till it is ready to leave the bone. A great saving of expense is made in the long-run, by having digesters instead of open boilers; they cost about three to four pounds a-piece *untinned*, and will save the difference in prime cost in a single season. This difference is not only in the extra goodness of broth obtained from the meat and bones, which is, however, at least 15 or 20 per cent., but also in the fire, which need not be above half what is required for the open boiler. If the digester is used, it should be set like a boiler; and it is a very good plan to screw a pipe in it near the top, which can be led into the drain adjoining, by which means all the disagreeable smell given off from the stale flesh in boiling is carried into the bowels of the earth. This benefits all parties—hounds, horses, master, and men; for all are nauseated by the hot, greasy, and sickening smell of boiling stale meat. The flesh having been thoroughly boiled, may be withdrawn by a pitchfork, and set to cool under the shed of the flesh-house, or in the boiling-house, if the weather is not too warm; then taking out one-third, or thereabouts, of the broth, pour it into the other boiler, and fill up with water till nearly half-full, in which condition the other is left. Both may then be thickened with meal, which should be oatmeal chiefly, but mixed with coarse wheaten-flour, or Indian-meal, or barley-meal, according to the fancy of the master. The first I believe to be the best and strongest for giving the power of standing work; the second very nearly, or quite as good; and the third only fit to fill hounds' bellies, without benefitting them in any other way. Indian-meal and barley-meal are usually about the same price; but the former is ten times as good, and has the valuable property of bearing a much greater amount of boiling than the oatmeal, which is not the case either with wheaten-flour or barley-meal. Wheaten-flour requires about half-an-hour

to boil; barley-flour, one quarter; Indian-meal, two hours; and oatmeal, about one hour, or nearly so. Hounds will generally thrive best, if hard-worked, upon equal quantities of oatmeal and wheaten or Indian-meal; one pound of the mixture being sufficient for each hound. Enough only for two days should be boiled at once; and one-half being made with better broth, the other will serve for the more delicate light-fleshed hounds. Each boiler holding, when half-full, about 80 quarts of broth, there will be required the same number of pounds of meal, which will serve 40 couple of hounds two days; if more or less, the quantities must be regulated accordingly. In many kennels, as soon as the thickened broth, or stirabout, has boiled sufficiently, the fire is drawn, and the pudding is allowed to cool in the boilers; but by far the best plan is to draw the fire, and then ladle out the stirabout into the coolers, which have been already described in the boiling-house department. Here the meal sets much more rapidly, and has not time to get sour, as it soon does in the summer. I am quite satisfied that, cooled in this way, it forms a much more wholesome, and even a more palatable food, than when suffered to grow cool in the boilers. After cooling, it forms what is called "the puddings," and is thick enough to be cut out with a spade. It may always be reduced with thin or thick broth to any quality desired for bitches, invalids, &c.; but for working-hounds it should be pretty solid. When they are to be fed, this should be broken up with the spade, and carried into the feeding-troughs, and the meat, after being thoroughly cut up small, should be incorporated with it. By some it is said, that the meat is more easily picked out of thick than thin "puddings," but this is a mistake. If they are thick enough, it is ten times more difficult for the dainty hound to pick out the bits, and he is obliged to eat all as it comes, or none. In feeding, every hound should be called by his name, commencing with the light feeders, and giving them the best "puddings" in a separate trough. The huntsman—except the general pack on hunting days—should always feed, as he is the best judge of the wants and powers of each hound. Throwing open the door of the room or court where they are, he keeps all in expectation, but not daring to cross the threshold; then, with a decided, yet encouraging tone, he calls out the name of each hound intended to share the first trough, thus: "Wanton! Racer! Wasteful!" &c., &c.; generally drawing, at first, six or seven couple. When these have filled themselves, he calls two or three couple more by name, and allows them

also to get their fill with the first lot; thus often encouraging the first to take a little extra food through jealousy of the second. When these have also fed they are all sent back, and the third lot, consisting of all the remainder of the hunting hounds, except a few very gross feeders, are admitted. These are allowed to fill themselves as far as the huntsman thinks proper, ordering each off as he has had what his feeder thinks right. Then, lastly, the same kind of process is repeated with the general pack of lame and non-hunting hounds, and the gross feeders, which are admitted either in lots of eight or ten couple, or altogether, according to the fancy of the huntsman; but all called by name, and ordered off in the same way. This last feature is of great importance, as it uses hounds to attend when their names are called in the field, and the slightest word then serves to call their attention to their master's rate. Once a-week in the winter, usually on Sundays, some greens, potatoes, or turnips, are boiled and mixed up with the food, and serve to keep the hounds cool and in good general health. In the hunting season, about from a quarter to half-a-pound of flesh per hound per day is sufficient, and many use even less; this is the average, but some take more, some less. The oatmeal should be at least one year old; and the Scotch meal is much better and goes farther than the English. Wheat and Indian meal need not be so old. In summer the feeding may be conducted on a very different plan, and the hounds are better divided into a dog and bitch pack, whether such is the hunting division or not. One of the best and most

cooling kinds of food is, then, the lowest stomach or paunch of the cow, full of grass half-digested. These should be thrown on the grass raw, and the hounds soon tear them to rags and devour them. Properly, each paunch should be given to about six couple of hounds by themselves, but few huntsmen care to take this trouble. This food will suffice for three days a-week, given in the morning; and on the same evening, which is the best time for feeding, some cabbages, or turnips, or potatoes should be given boiled in broth. On the intermediate days thin porridge, not "puddings," may be given, being weak broth thickened with Indian-meal, as the cheapest, or oatmeal, or a mixture of each. Little or no flesh should now be allowed, as the hounds have nothing but walking exercise, and do not gallop about like greyhounds. They should be fed so as to look healthy and bright, but still not so as to be round and fat to the extent of concealing their ribs. I know no food which keeps hounds so bright and healthy as the butcher's paunches; and they may be obtained at a very low rate in the neighbourhood of a town of any size. The half-digested grass is a capital alterative, and there is also considerable nourishment in it. Hounds are very fond of it, and prefer it to any food you can give them; and nature seems to point it out to them in the summer, for they are then always looking out for grass and garbage. Very little physic is required, as a rule, but a dose of Epsom salts or castor-oil now and then does no harm. If worms are present, or other disease, treat according to directions given under the chapters on the Diseases of Dogs.

CHAP. II.

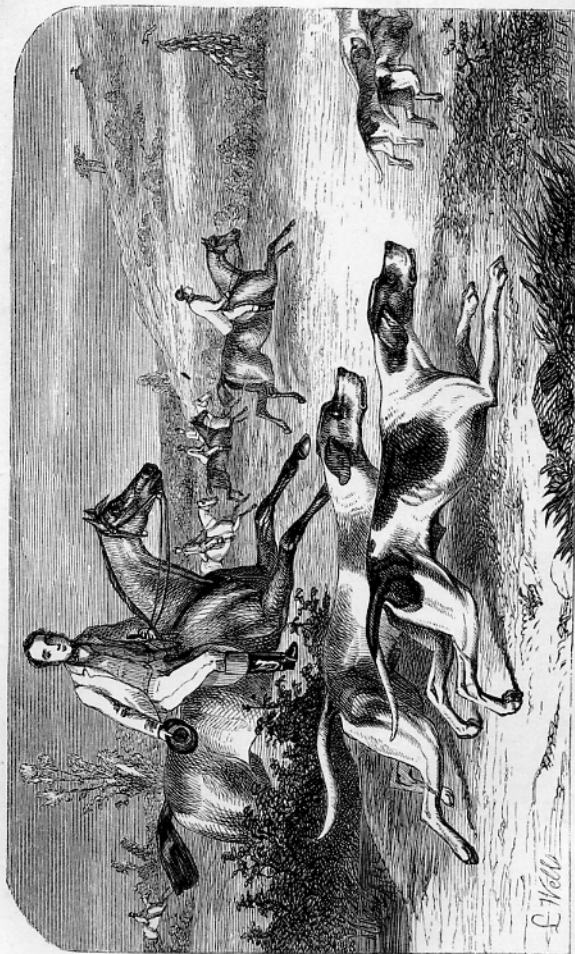
STAG-HUNTING.

SECT. 1.—HUNTING THE CARTED-DEER.

310. Stag-hunting may be divided into two grand sections—1st, hunting the carted-deer; and 2nd, hunting the deer in its wild state. The former is confined to the red deer and the fallow deer; the latter to the red deer and roebuck. In describing stag-hunting, I shall assume that the pack is a perfect one, because there are no rules for making it so, and I have no personal knowledge on the subject; besides, it is so rare a sport, that few of my readers are likely to want this knowledge.

311. IN HUNTING THE CARTED-DEER, besides the pack of staghounds already sufficiently described, and usually consisting of from 18 to 20 couple, and, besides the master, huntsman, and whips, there is also

employed a cart or small caravan, to convey the deer to the meet. This is drawn by one or two horses, and it is accompanied by two or three yeomen-prickers, or, as they are called in some hunts, "verderers." One of these drives, and the others release the deer and prick him on, and when taken, hobble him and replace him in the cart. It often happens that the same deer is hunted from twelve to twenty times in the season, and at last becomes so used to the gallop as to show little fear of the hounds. One peculiarity of the staghound is his great tractability, in which he far excels the foxhound and bloodhound, and is, in fact, selected, in great measure, for this virtue; for if the whips are unable to stop the hounds when the deer is at bay, the



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animal's life is sacrificed, and much future sport, if sport it can be called, is put an end to. All these officials, with the deer, being assembled at the spot appointed for the meet, which is generally a common, in order to allow the deer to get well on his feet before he arrives at the enclosed country, the deer is uncartered, and, with a great parade of whip-smacking and horn-blowing, is turned off into the open country.

312. THE DEER, which ought to be, and usually is the red deer, male or female, has been some time before deprived of his horns, if a male, and also trained by compelling him to gallop round his enclosure for a considerable time each day. In most hunts three or four, or sometimes five or six brace of these deer are turned into a large paddock, surrounded by a high fence, and they are daily driven round and round at a moderate pace by men on horseback, or muzzled hounds, or sometimes by hounds trained like sheep-collies, to bark without biting. Without this training they would be wholly unable to stand ten minutes before the hounds, but would be blown at once, because they are highly fed in order to get them into good condition, and would become internally fat, if this food was allowed to be converted into that material so unsuited to produce good wind. Any hounds will hunt deer naturally, and are peculiarly fond of the scent; and therefore it is only when carted-deer are to be turned out and preserved from the fangs of their assailants, that the highly-broken stag-hound is so necessary. Sometimes the hind is used, and many of this sex have afforded as good sport as their lords and masters. In this case there are no horns to be removed; but in the latter part of the season they are so much disposed to lay on fat, that they require a great deal of work to keep them in good training. The cart accompanies the progress of the hunt as nearly as may be, and the yeomen-prickers ought to be in attendance at the place where the deer is at bay, to hobble him. The hobbles are leather straps, which are buckled round the hind fetlocks, and are then drawn up on each side of his shoulders to a loop of rope thrown over the neck, and so secured. When the fallow deer is used as a substitute for the red deer, his horns also are removed, and he is trained in the same way; but this species has neither the boldness nor the speed of the red deer, and does not consequently afford anything like the same amount of sport. Formerly, hounds were kept to hunt the fallow deer, called buckhounds—a smaller kind of staghound, but they are now wholly out of fashion, and I am not aware that any such pack is maintained in Great Britain at this present time.

313. AFTER THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE DEER, FROM FIVE TO TEN MINUTES' LAW is usually allowed before the hounds are laid on; during this time the deer has been driven away, selecting, as far as possible, the desired direction, and arousing his fears by whip-smacking, hallooing, and horn-blowing. Sometimes great difficulty is experienced in getting the deer to go straight away, and he runs the roads, instead of taking to the open country. It is always the best plan to send one or two mounted-men to start him off, and these, in the Royal Hunt, are termed yeomen-prickers. Occasionally, however, a good and bold deer takes a line, and goes straight away without dwelling a moment; and such deer have even escaped into the forest, and been lost for some time. Often they will stand before the staghounds, fast as they are, for two hours, or even two hours and a-half; and instances have been known of runs lasting three hours without a check. This long period of time would require at least 40 or 50 miles to be traversed, and such a distance has really been accomplished on some memorable occasions; one of which is recorded by Johnson, in his "Sportsman's Dictionary," as having taken place in 1796. The stratagems of the stag are sometimes very curious; he has been known to enter the bed of a rivulet, and run for some considerable distance *up the stream*; then, leaving its banks, he has again pursued his way, and as the scent has been carried by the water many yards below the point where he left the banks, it does not correspond with the actual line of the stag. This is a very puzzling affair, as a cast is necessitated, and nothing but great experience in the ways of deer will enable the huntsman to make it in the right direction. When hounds, therefore, suddenly throw up at a brook, and cannot carry the scent beyond it, the huntsman at once guesses either that the deer has "taken soil," or that the above manoeuvre has been practised. If, however, the former is not found to be the case, which the eye soon detects by examining the brook, he has only to cast widely enough forwards, remembering that the deer is almost certain to take up stream, and he, most probably, hits off the scent. Deer are also very fond of running through sheep, and nothing foils the hounds so much as a flock of these animals. Here, again, a cast is required, and the huntsman's experienced eye must enable him, if possible, to guess in which direction to make it; but as the deer has been reared in a pack, and has no knowledge of the country he is traversing, this is often a matter of pure speculation.

314. CASTS ARE EFFECTED AS FOLLOWS:— When the huntsman perceives that the hounds are at fault, and have thrown up their heads, being unable to hit off the scent, he gives a note or two on his horn, by which the hounds are gathered at his heels, and "lifts them" clear of the sheep, brook, or small covert, or whatever else may be the cause of "the check." Then, making up his mind what is the most likely direction for the hunted deer to have taken, he trots off with his hounds so as to cross that line at some hundred yards off from the original scene of the check. Here, if his surmise is correct, the hounds at once hit off the scent; and if they fail to do so, he proceeds to cast his hounds in another direction, only giving up all hope when he has tried every possible plan of proceeding, and has failed in all.

315. THE TAKE OF THE STAG is the wind-up of the royal sport, and is effected wherever the animal is standing at bay before the hounds. He usually "takes soil," that is, enters a pond or river, and there, with his back against a high bank, or some similar defensive position, he awaits his assailants. It is always necessary in stag-hunting that the huntsman or whipper-in should be with the hounds, because, though from long custom they are so polite as to waive their title to a slice of the haunch, yet nature will prevail sometimes over education, and the deer, unprotected as he is by the defensive armour which his horns would be to him if not removed, must not be left undefended also by his former assailants—but now guardians—the huntsman and whips. These officials immediately whip off the hounds, and await the arrival of the verderers or yeomen-prickers, whose task it is to hobble the deer. The hounds are thus never blooded, which may account for their tractability, and their refraining from fastening upon the stag when first running into him at bay. The chief packs are at this time (1855)—Her Majesty's, the Cheltenham, Baron Rothschild's, and Mr. Petre's, in England; and the Ward Union in Ireland.

316. THE EXPENSES OF A PACK OF STAG-HOUNDS vary immensely, from the enormous outlay of the Queen's Pack to that bestowed upon the Cheltenham Stag-hounds, which have been at times supported upon little more than £900 a-year. Few stag-hounds meet more than twice a-week, and consequently one pack and a double set of horses are all that are required. Setting aside, therefore, the master's personal expenses in horses, &c., the necessary outlay will be as follows, calculated on the most economical scale:—

EXPENSES OF STAGHOUNDS, PER ANNUM.	
	£ s. d.
Huntsman and clothes.	100 0
First whip, ditto	70 0
Second ditto ditto	55 0
Feeder and verderer in one	30 0
Taxes on servants	4 0
	— 259
Feeding 25 couple of hounds, at	
1s. 6d. a-week each	195 0
Medicines, dressings, &c.	5 0
Tax on ditto	30 0
	— 230
Six horses, for six months, at	
15s. per week	108 0
Ditto ditto summering, at 7s. . . .	54 12
Shoeing	16 0
Veterinary surgeon	6 0
Saddler	15 0
Tax on horses	6 0
Helper in stable, at 12s. per	
week, for six months	14 8
	— 220
Allowance for keep of &c.,	
accidents, &c.	91
	—
Total	£800

SECT. 2.—HUNTING THE WILD RED DEER, OR ROEBUCK.

317. This is a very different affair from the pursuit of the carted-stag, but it is now almost unknown as a regular sport. Her Majesty's stag-hounds still hunt the wild deer, for a week or ten days, in the New Forest; and, until very recently, the Devon and Somerset stag-hounds had usually some good days on the Quantock Hills in Somersetshire, and in the Forests of Exmoor and Dartmoor. Now, however, I believe they are obliged to abandon their much-prized sport for want of the deer, which have become gradually exterminated by the encroachments of cultivation and the aid of poachers. Killarney, in Ireland, still boasts of her occasional days of sport, the gaps being filled up by the hunting of the carted-deer. It is useless to describe the hunting of the roebuck, because, as far as I know, no established pack is used for the pursuit of this wild and beautiful little variety of the deer. Whenever it is hunted, it is when it has been seen or heard of in the neighbourhood of any of the Scotch packs of harriers, and then it affords often a very good day's sport. No particular laws or rules can be laid down, as its being hunted is only an exceptional case.

318. THE FINDING THE WILD DEER is the point of difference between the two modes of stag-hunting; for here the animal is "harboured" in some secure retreat, instead of in his cart. Certain men, called "harbourers," with hounds trained for the

purpose, called "tufters," undertake the task, and proceed into the forest for the purpose, the regular pack being held at hand by the huntsman and whips, ready to be laid on when the hart or hind is "unharboured." The harbourers being always in the forest, know the haunts of the deer, and can generally tell pretty nearly where to find them. By walking round any cop-pice supposed to harbour a hart or hind, they ascertain by the "slot," or tread, and by the "fewment," or dung, whether the animal is in season, and of a proper age for hunting; that is to say, whether his age is such as to make him "warrantable,"—a term already explained at page 82, as meaning six years of age. The hounds also, by their tongues, indicate the sex and the presence, if any, of a calf with the hind; and if so, they refuse to hunt, knowing, by previous experience, that these are unsuited to their master's purpose.

319. CERTAIN PERIODS ARE FIXED for hunting wild red deer; being, for the warrantable hart, from the 20th of August to the 31st of September, both inclusive; after which he is so weak from rutting, as to be unfit for sport. The hind is then hunted for a short season; and in the spring again, from the 10th of April to the 20th of May, old barren hinds, warrantable as such, are hunted, and afford good sport. Thus, wild stag-hunting has a very short season, and three months out of the twelve is the utmost extent to which it can be strained. It is, therefore, no wonder even if wild deer could be found, that the park-fed and trained-deer should be used to fill up this gap; and these are almost always hinds,

the stags being out of season after their rutting; though sometimes they keep their condition in the paddock, and are able to stand a run as well, or even better, than in their autumnal state.

320. THESE WILD DEER ARE HUNTED exactly in the same way as the carted-deer, but the hounds getting blood, they run much more fiercely, and with more resemblance to the dash of foxhounds. The huntsman must still keep well with his hounds; not as before, to save the deer, but rather to assist the hounds when the deer is at bay, and to save them from his horns, which are dangerous weapons of defence. Sometimes, however, a deer is saved from the hounds, because of their scarcity; but the rule is for the huntsman to go in as soon as he can, or dare, and cut the deer's throat with his knife while he is engaged with the baying of the hounds; the latter are allowed to lap his blood, which they do eagerly, and then he is "gralloched," and his entrails distributed to them. After this the carcase becomes venison, and is carried home on the harbourer's pony, to be treasured as a special dainty.

321. THE EXPENSES OF THIS KIND OF SPORT do not much vary from those given at par. 316, as applying to the carted-deer; the varying margin being that devoted to fees to harbourers, &c., &c., which cannot be estimated. I have, however, heard that the Devon and Somerset hounds were kept, all expenses included, for about from £1,000 to £1,200; which, considering that they rarely had a dozen days' sport in the year, is indeed paying dear in proportion to its amount.

CHAP. III.

FOX-HUNTING.

SECT. I.—GENERAL REMARKS.

322. THE NOBLE SCIENCE, as fox-hunting is called by its votaries, is, by common consent, allowed to be the perfection of hunting. The animal hunted is just fast enough for the purpose, and is also full of all kinds of devices for misleading his pursuers. He leaves a good scent, is very stout, and is found in sufficient abundance to afford a reasonable chance of sport. It would, therefore, be consistent with the importance and dignity of fox-hunting to have placed it above stag-hunting, in the consideration of the varieties of hunting; but in order to avoid disconnecting stag-hunting from deer-stalking, the former has

been placed in a more prominent situation than it deserves, unless the size of the animal hunted is to be taken as a guide to the value and importance of the hunt. In this point of view it would certainly rank much higher than fox-hunting; but in every other it sinks immeasurably lower. Still there are certain advantages attendant upon the one which the other does not enjoy; for example, the followers of the stag may allege that they can always be sure of a gallop within certain hours, and can therefore calculate on being in their places, either of business or pleasure, by a certain hour. Thus, members of either the House of Lords or Commons may hunt with Her

Majesty's staghounds, and yet be in town in time for their duties at the palace of Westminster. These considerations, and these alone, appear to keep up the expensive establishment at Ascot Heath.

SECT. 2.—LAWS OF FOX-HUNTING.

323. These laws are very difficult to get at, because they are not recorded in any written code of rules, but are retained in the traditional records belonging to the families of the various masters of foxhounds. Certain countries have long been held by certain families, from father to son, and any attempt to encroach upon them would be resisted by all parties concerned, with as much force as if the title-deeds to their estates were themselves endangered. Long disputes and violent controversies have estranged the masters of neighbouring packs from each other; but, nevertheless, no step has been taken to avoid a recurrence of these unpleasant fracas, by the framing of written rules, to which an appeal could be made. Objections are doubtless easily produced at the onset to any such course; for it would be rather a dangerous proceeding, perhaps, to admit *on paper* that A has a right to draw B's coverts whenever it suits him. It may be all very well to *suffer* it as a habit or custom between gentlemen; but to admit it as the preliminary section of an established law would do away with the liberty of the subject. At present A has the right (recognised among gentlemen) of drawing B's coverts during the time not objected to by him; but more than that would be conceded, if B admitted the force of a law by which he would allow to A the right of entering for the purpose of drawing any of his coverts. If A conducted himself ever so obnoxiously towards B or others, there would be no means of getting rid of his presence, and he would really be more the master of the property, for sporting purposes, than B himself. B, therefore, virtually says—"As long as you continue to hunt this country to the satisfaction of the hunt, including myself, you may draw my coverts, and, at all events, until I give you notice to the contrary." And such is really the understanding everywhere, though much more strong in self-supporting hunts than in subscription ones. The law of the land says, that before a trespass with hounds can be committed, due notice must be given of the action which will in that case be brought; and this notice can at any time be served upon the master of hounds who is obnoxious to any owner of a covert. But if a law relative to drawing had been signed by this land-owner, the power of giving notice would have been suffered to lapse, and the

master would be entitled to enter and draw in spite of the real owner. This would no doubt be an evil, and is, I think, a sufficient reason for leaving fox-hunting laws as they now exist—only in the breasts of gentlemen; for while all conduct themselves as such there is not likely to be a dispute, and the presumption is, that if such a dispute has arisen, some one has outraged those other laws which gentlemen hold sacred among themselves, and which are independent of the code peculiar to fox-hunters. All land-owners, therefore, individually, can spoil sport; and many cases of such selfish proceedings do occur, though not so often as might be expected from the feeling which game-preservers have that fox-hunting is injurious to their interests. In spite of this feeling, such is the general impression in favour of fox-hunting, that even the coverts most strictly preserved for the purpose or the *battue* are open to the foxhounds whenever the master pleases. No one can dispute that the disturbance of the game is then very great, and that many pheasants are driven by the noise, &c., out of bounds and lost for ever to the owner of that preserve; but, nevertheless, all is borne with good temper, and the interests of the select few are made to bow to those of the many who compose the hunt. A more unselfish and praiseworthy act can scarcely be quoted, than that of the pheasant-shooter giving up his most cherished preserve to the use of a sport in which neither he nor any of his perhaps partakes. Fox-hunters are certainly rather *exigant* in their demands when they require this concession as a public right, but custom has sanctioned it, and the refusal is now considered the act of a churl. But though this permission is a great boon, a greater one still is generally practised by the very same individuals—namely, the actual preservation, or rather the breeding and rearing of foxes for the express purpose of affording sport to others, but annoyance to themselves; and this also fox-hunters seem to claim as a right, and complain if it is not acted up to; but if the reverse is the case, if not only is there no permission to hunt, and no preservation of foxes, but in addition, if a stray fox is trapped, then maledictions are heaped upon the head of the offender in language more strong than elegant; and no punishment which could be devised would be thought too strong. But is this in conformity with the fair spirit of gentlemanly feeling which ought to exist? I can hardly think so; I honour most highly the fox-preserving pheasant-shooter, but I confess that I absolve from actual blame him who *openly* professes to forbid his presence on his property. The

man of all others, however, who is to be despised and discountenanced is that one—too common, to my knowledge—who professes to preserve, and is always ready and pressing with his invitations to the master, and yet only disappoints him with a tame fox or a bagman; the former being fed up to his throat with rabbits and poultry, and the latter just shaken out before the hounds. These covert-owners, therefore, must be allowed to have the power of doing what they like with their own, by the law of the land as well as the law of fox-hunting; but, by the universal consent of gentlemen, it is settled that while they have this *negative* right of withholding their coverts from the master of the hunt in which their property is situated, they have no *positive* power of inviting a strange master to enter and draw. This is a very wholesome rule, because it prevents one gentleman from annoying his neighbour by bringing an extra pack of hounds into the district, and thus being an extra source of damage as well as of rival-claims. This rule, however, is only in operation as to coverts which have been habitually drawn, and are included within the limits of hunting countries actually in existence; and it is admitted, that if a covert is not drawn by a pack of hounds for a certain number of years, which is variously stated to be five and seven, that the proprietor has a right to hand it over to another and adjacent hunt. If this be done, and no reclamation takes place immediately, supposing that no draw has been made during the last seven years, then the covert becomes definitively attached to the new hunt, and no law of fox-hunting allows its disavowance. These are the only really recognised laws among fox-hunters; for all mutual agreements between neighbouring hunt-clubs or masters are not laws, but simply temporary agreements, revocable at will. I know of no law which can be considered as such, other than those I have already stated. The agreements are as to stopping each other's adjacent earths, in case of drawing coverts on the borders of the respective countries; and these being mutually beneficial, are acted upon on all occasions; because, otherwise, every border-fox would escape by running to the nearest earths in the next country, and, consequently, all coverts but the central ones would be quite useless. No one disputes the law, which is universally acted on, that a hunted fox may be followed into another hunt; and it is better for the hounds to do so than to whip off while the scent is good, and there is any probable chance of blood; but if the scent is bad, no sportsman would think of risking unpleasant reflections by casting his hounds, or otherwise assisting

them. This would lead to an imputation of an attempt to find a fresh fox, and should be cautiously avoided. Such are the laws and customs relating to this noble sport; and nothing shows the general high estimation in which it is held more than the universal concession of private convenience to its purposes.

324. THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DECISION has lately been given, by two of our highest authorities on the laws of fox-hunting countries. It referred to a dispute which had existed for a long time between the Essex and Herts Hunts, with respect to the right to draw a particular covert, viz., Takeley Forest. A committee was formed to collect evidence, and conduct the case before the arbitrators, Lords Yarborough and Redesdale, who have given the following award, which is a lucid and searching exposition of the merits of the respective claims, and deserves to be placed amongst the archives of fox-hunting law, as establishing clear and fundamental principles with regard to the difficult subject of neutral coverts:—

“1. Immemorial usage is the common title to a fox-hunting country. When the date of the commencement of such usage is known, the right to it will depend on the manner in which it commenced. 2. In the case referred to us, satisfactory proof is given that the forest has been drawn by both hunts as long as any living man can remember. The evidence of the Calvert family, as to its belonging exclusively to the Herts Hunt, can only be received as a record of their opinion. At the time when the statement was made the Essex were drawing it, as well as before and since; and in making the statement, Mr. Calvert does not say that they did so by permission asked and granted, or give the date and particulars of any agreement on the subject. 3. There is a wide difference between permission and sufferance, as regards a title to a fox-hunting country. No term of years will bar an original right of the liberty to draw, commenced on permission granted conditionally, with a power to resume. An encroachment may be neglected for a time, and, nevertheless, afterwards properly and successfully resisted, if satisfactory proof can be given that it was an encroachment and an innovation on former practice between the hunts. But a practice claimed as a right by one hunt, and suffered to be exercised by the other for a period of sixty years and more, when all evidence as to the time and manner in which it originally commenced is lost, must be held to establish that right, or a door would be opened for endless disputes as to boundaries. 4. The fact of the forest having been drawn by the Essex

is admitted, and a reason assigned for its never having been formally objected to—viz., that it was a great nursery and preserve of foxes, and then so strong and impracticable a woodland, that there was no getting a fox away, and no chance of a run from it; and that, as it was necessary for the sport of both counties that it should be routed as much as possible, 'the Herts were glad to see the Essex go there, and do the disagreeable work, and therefore no objection was taken to their doing so.' This is a very important admission. It is seldom that so clear a reason can be assigned in the origin of a neutral draw, as the case of a woodland, to which no one was very anxious to go, but which it was the interest of both hunts to have regularly disturbed. 5. The neutral districts so established between the hunts, extended beyond the forest, and disputes arose. In 1812, an arrangement was come to between the masters of the hunts, which the Herts rely on as establishing their exclusive right to the forest, because it is not mentioned among the neutral coverts. The answer of the Essex is, that it is not mentioned because there never was a doubt as to its neutrality, and that the dispute was only as to certain woods outside. In support of this they prove that the forest was regularly drawn by them afterwards. The Herts reply that this was done because Mr. Houblon, the chief proprietor there, became joint-master of the Essex, and asked permission to draw it from Mr. Hanbury, the master of the Herts; and a copy of a letter from Mr. Hanbury to Mr. Houblon is produced, in which he says that he understands that the latter wishes to draw 'some more coverts' as neutral, and that though he was not himself an advocate for a neutral country, he and Mr. Calvert had every wish, on Mr. Houblon's account, to accommodate him, and would meet him and ascertain his wishes. What these were is not known—the words 'some more coverts' could hardly apply to the forest, nor is there any proof given that they did apply, or that any extension of the neutral country then took place. On the contrary, from the care Mr. Hanbury and Mr. Calvert bestowed on these matters, it is hardly possible that, if anything was done, no written memorandum should have been kept; and the probability is that, on discussing the matter, the objections of Mr. Hanbury to extend the neutral country were found insurmountable, notwithstanding his desire to accommodate Mr. Houblon. 6. The forest continued to be drawn by the Essex till 1832, when Lord Petre took the Herts hounds, and 'claimed an exclusive right to the forest

and the other coverts, and asked for a reference.' A meeting took place, and the result was that there was no reference, and that Mr. Conyers was not dispossessed. Again, in 1838, Mr. Houblon, the owner of the forest, became master of the same hounds, and desired 'to have the forest drawn on certain defined conditions, or a reference;' but Mr. Conyers still kept his old ground. It is clear that if Mr. Houblon's father had only got leave to draw the forest conditionally from Mr. Hanbury, in 1812, there must have been positive evidence of that fact in 1832, as it must have been known to many. It is asserted, that in 1832 the claim was only waived during Mr. Conyer's life, but, as in 1838, the owner of the forest, then master of the Herts hounds, asked to have the arrangements respecting that draw 'defined, or a reference,' it is clear that no abandonment of the Essex claim of right took place in 1832; while Mr. Houblon's demand negatives the idea of any agreement having been then entered into by the Herts to abstain from making a claim only during Mr. Conyer's life. 7. The reference asked for on these two occasions has now been brought before us, and, after having given our best consideration to the subject, we are of opinion that, according to fox-hunting laws, the forest does not belong exclusively to either hunt, but must be considered neutral, for the reason assigned in the third and fourth paragraphs.—YARBOROUGH, REDESDALE.—Nov 19, 1854."

SECT. 3.—FOX-HUNTING COUNTRIES.

325. The different fox-hunting countries are classed under two heads—crack countries and provincials. This is a curious line to draw, as if either were a metropolis, as opposed to a province. It is true that the grass-countries of Leicestershire, with parts of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, are, as it were, one centre of hunting, and, even geographically speaking, of England; but, nevertheless, for one province to call others provincial, is like the Chinese calling all other nations barbarians. One thing is clear, that the grass-countries have a great advantage over all others in holding a scent, and enabling hounds to go their best pace with a middling one, as they often do. Any hounds can race with a blazing scent in any country, but for one good scenting-run in an arable country there are six over grass. Horses also can live through a much longer and faster burst on sound turf than on arable land, however well drained; and the ridges and furrows alone, without the extra depth and stickiness of soil, will make all the difference. Many horses can carry weight

above ground which would die away at once in dirt, and, consequently it is as easy to be carried up to fast hounds in Leicestershire, as up to slow ones in deep arable countries. Good fences are required in grass-countries, because the grazing of cattle always necessitates a strong fence; and that which will keep an ox in his pasture, requires a good made-hunter to get over it; but as the taking off is sound and springy, the horse has a better chance of doing his jump well, and clearing the fence without touching it; and this is a very important feature in grass-countries. Again, as the land in these districts is very valuable, it is seldom planted to any greater extent than for game-preserving purposes; and the only coverts where foxes can hang are those narrow belts which are formed for the *battue*, or the *spinnies*, and gorse-coverts, expressly made for his own convenience. Hence, the obstructions which large woodlands present are not offered in the crack countries, at least not in the crack portions of them, and hounds can have fair scope for their powers. No wonder, therefore, that they often burst a fox in twenty or thirty minutes; and that a run lasting more than an hour gets the reputation either of being after a wonderful fox, or of being wonderfully slow in itself. The excitement in these "bursts" is very extraordinary; men are as jealous of success in getting forward here as in the army, the forum, or the bar; and perhaps, as the blood of its votaries is generally younger, the contest is to the same extent hotter and more ungovernable. Neither accident nor illness will cause a man to remain with his friend, and "*saute qui peut*" is the order of the day. It is truly a glorious sight to see two or three hundred of England's best men mounted on her still unrivalled horses, and racing for the lead. Glorious is the view of this the most beautiful cavalry in the world, while waiting at the covert-side; but far more glorious is the first swoop made in charging the fence which presents itself after the word is given, and "hounds are gone away," as well as the fox. Crash goes everything if not easily cleared, and horses and men make light of ox-fences, brooks, or gates, in the first frenzy of their charge. On the other hand, in arable countries the scent in the first place is comparatively bad, from the nature of the soil, varying much according to its precise kind, and the mode of its cultivation; next, the depth of the soil is too great for horses, and to a certain extent interferes with hounds; and lastly, there are almost always large woodland tracts which come even into the heart of the country, and cause checks at every few miles. Besides

these obstacles, every plough at work affects, more or less, the line of the fox, and therefore straight runs are the exceptions; while the short, sharp, and decisive bursts of twenty or thirty minutes' duration are almost unknown. Much lifting and quick casting are here constantly required, if a fox is to be killed in the modern and fashionable style; and if a hound has nose enough to work out a scent through all the intricacies of small and large coverts, constantly-repeated small flocks of sheep, chasing of sheep-dogs, &c., he will be so slow as to be ridden over by the field, in their impatience. Either, therefore, the modern system requires, and must receive, attention, or the arable (provincial) countries must be gradually extinguished. From this there is no appeal, and one horn or other of the dilemma must be encountered. It is no wonder, therefore, that the crack grass-countries look down with contempt upon the worst arable ones; but there are some, not included in the grazing countries, which afford as good runs as can be met with anywhere. Such are some parts of the Beaufort hunt; great part of the Oxfordshire country, some part of which is grazing land, it is true; the Heythrop, including the beautiful slopes of the Cotswold Hills; Mr. Farquharson's, in Dorsetshire; the York and Ainsty and the Holderness, in Yorkshire; and the Vale of White Horse, now hunted by Lord Gifford. Still, if a good sportsman *had his choice*, he would settle himself in one of the crack countries; and, as he would then be able to command several packs, he would enjoy hunting in all its glory. This, however, requires a good stable of horses, because to be badly mounted there argues and necessitates the loss of a good place in the field. If all are equally badly off, good horsemanship may shove a bad horse into a good place; but when in a large field, every position is filled by a good man on a good horse, it is idle for even a good workman to appear on a sorry and inferior hunter; he had far better be contented with a slower country, and settle himself where an occasional check will give him the chance of seeing the hounds between the find and the worry. Less than this is not *hunting*; for mere riding to hounds I hold to be anything but that amusement. If the working of hounds is not seen and watched, and admired when good, or blamed and criticised when defective, no one can really be said to participate in the sport of hunting the fox. He may ride as well as a rough-rider, and as boldly as the Light Division at Balaclava, but he knows nothing of hunting as a science, and should not flatter himself that he is anything more than a good horseman, with, perhaps, a good eye for country.

SECT. 4.—THE PRESERVATION OF FOXES.

326. This being the primary and most essential part of fox-hunting, is necessarily the first thing for a master to attend to. Hounds may be bought even at a month's notice; horses may soon be got together if a cheque is only written for their value (real or supposed); but foxes *must* be bred, if sport is to be shown. Any number may be turned down in the autumn, but they will either be shot or trapped if the keepers are not otherwise ordered; or, if allowed by them to escape, and living till they are found by the hounds, being in a strange district, instead of making good their point they will be running circles like hares. The general and, if possible, the ready consent of the owners of coverts being obtained, they should all be requested to see that their keepers do their duty; but the keepers themselves should also be engaged in the cause by certain promises of reward for every good find. They should specially be informed that wild foxes only will be paid for, and that if the evidence is strong of the fox found being a bagman, they will be mulcted of their *honorarium*. An additional present for a good run will never be thrown away, as these gentlemen have more in their power than is generally known. These arrangements in subscription-packs are usually left to the committee, and perhaps properly so, because the disputes with keepers are better kept out of the master's hands. Whenever the foxes are short in numbers, cubs must be obtained in the summer, or vixens turned down in the spring. There are in a great many hunts certain localities unfitted for this sport, and yet in which foxes are very apt to breed. Here the cubs may with propriety be dug out and turned down in some more favoured spot, as, for instance, in a gorse-covert in the middle of a good open country. Great numbers of French foxes and cubs are introduced every year into this country, but they are unfitted for hunting, and the best by far are the Scotch foxes from non-hunting districts, if these can with certainty be obtained. Of course every fox-dealer will account for the possession of his cubs, if requested to do so; but too often no questions are asked or answers given, and the fox or cubs are thankfully paid for from whatever quarter they have been obtained. Bad as this system is, it is so general that one act neutralizes another, and the fox-stealer only takes the trouble off the hands of the whips or earth-stoppers, who would have to look out for woodland cubs, if they were not taken possession of for the purpose of sale in another and perhaps adjacent country. The cubs, when

turned down, require careful feeding for some time, and seldom can take care of themselves until the end of September or the beginning of October. No master can calculate upon more than one half of his cubs turning up at the beginning of the season, the others not escaping the chances of death and imprisonment which the fox-dealer, the small farmer, and the badly instructed keeper are constantly endeavouring to compass.

SECT. 5.—THE NUMBER OF PACKS KEPT.

327. At this time nearly 100 packs of fox-hounds are kept in England and Wales, exclusive of a considerable number in Scotland and Ireland. Each of these packs costs, on an average, about £1,500 a-year, some being three times as costly, and others again not costing half that sum. In England, therefore, a yearly expenditure of at least £150,000 may be calculated on as the cost of the establishments alone, while, if to this is added the additional cost of hunters to mount "the field" attending each hunt, the whole outlay cannot be less than five or six hundred thousand pounds. In a national point of view, therefore, as supporting the breed of horses calculated for war purposes, this sport should be encouraged; and not only as keeping up a good supply of these useful animals, but also as keeping up to a high standard of health, the courage or pluck, and bodily constitutions of the men who ride them. Many obstacles are now interfering with these establishments—low rents of landlords, bad times for farmers (latterly never pleaded), the increase of railways, and the yearly progress of the plough—all combine against fox-hunting, which is becoming in some districts less popular than hare-hunting. How much of this is due to its own change of management we shall, perhaps, hereafter explain; but that it is so, the lists of the two kinds of hounds sufficiently show. For my own part I care not, as far as the country is concerned, which sport is triumphant; but one or the other certainly ought to be encouraged for the sake of that country's welfare. Some countries are totally unfitted for fox-hunting, and are yet pretty well adapted for the pursuit of the hare, which takes a smaller range, and can often be well hunted on a few hundred acres. Let these, then, be reserved for her pursuit; but let the establishment be of such a character as to reflect credit upon its subscribers. Expense is not the criterion I mean; but let the hounds only be well hunted and well fed—which last is not a very expensive proceeding—and I am quite sure the number and quality of the horses kept for the purpose

of following them will be quite equal to those which would be used with an inferior pack of foxhounds, hunting a country unfitted for the display of their peculiar powers.

SECT. 6.—EXPENSES OF FOX-HUNTING.

323. Nothing varies more than the bills of various packs of foxhounds. I have seen a pack, costing little more than £700 a-year, show more sport in the same country than another subsequently established, and costing £1,400 per annum. The following may be considered as the cost of two packs—one for three days, the other for five days a-week:—

ESTIMATE FOR A PACK OF FOXHOUNDS HUNTING THREE DAYS A-WEEK.

	£	s.	£
Huntsman	100	0	
First whip	70	0	
Second whip	55	0	
Feeder	30	0	
Earthstopper, or fees to keepers	25	0	
Taxes on servants	4	0	
			234

Feeding 30 couple of hounds at 1s. 6d. per week each	234	0
Medicines, dressings, &c.	6	0
Taxes on ditto	36	0
Expenses of walk, for 20 couple of young hounds	65	0
		341

Six horses, for six months, at 15s. per week each	108	0
Ditto ditto summering, at 7s.	54	12
Shoeing	16	0
Veterinary surgeon	6	0
Saddler	15	0
Tax on horses	6	0
Helper in stable, at 12s. per week, for six months	14	8
		220

Total £345

ESTIMATE FOR A PACK OF FOXHOUNDS, HUNTING FIVE OR SIX DAYS A-WEEK.

	£	s.	£
Men, as before, with the addition of second horse- man for huntsman, at £30 per annum, and extra tax on ditto			815
Feeding 55 couple of hounds at the same rate	429	0	
Medicines, dressings, &c.	10	0	
Taxes on ditto	66	0	
Expenses of walk, for 30 couple of young hounds	100	0	
			605

Carried forward, £920 0

	£	s.	£	s.
Brought forward,			920	0
12 horses, for six months, at 15s. per week each	216	0		
Ditto ditto, summering, at 7s. a-week	109	4		
Shoeing	30	0		
Veterinary surgeon	12	0		
Saddler	20	0		
Tax on horses	12	0		
Three helpers in stable, one at 15s. and two at 12s. per week	102	18		
			502	2
Total			£1,422	2

These estimates are both exclusive of all fees to keepers and rents of coverts, &c., which vary in different countries so much, as to make it impossible to form any correct idea as to their amount.

SECT. 7.—DIFFERENT STYLES OF FOX- HUNTING.

329. Foxhunting in the eighteenth, and foxhunting in the nineteenth centuries are somewhat different pursuits; the former was truly hunting, from the time when the drag was hit off up to the end of the run, which generally lasted more than two hours. Contrast this with the speedy burst in the neighbourhood of Melton Mowbray in the present day, and one would scarcely recognise the two as being included under one head. In order that modern fox-hunters may be able to compare the old style with the modern, I will here quote Beckford's imaginary run, given in his celebrated letters; reminding my readers that this was written little more than seventy years ago, when already the old slow southern hound was being replaced by the cross with the northern hound and the greyhound. Beckford begins by recommending the *hour of sunrise* as that for the meet. How would this suit the men of the present day I wonder?

330. BECKFORD'S DESCRIPTION OF A RUN. —“Now, let your huntsman throw in his hounds as quietly as he can, and let the two whippers-in keep wide of him on either hand, so that a single hound may not escape them; let them be attentive to his halloo, and be ready to encourage or rate as that directs. He will, of course, draw up-wind, for reasons which I shall give in another place. Now, if you can keep your brother sportsmen in order, and put any discretion into them, you are in luck; they more frequently do harm than good, and, if it be possible, persuade those who wish to halloo the fox off to stand quiet under the covert-side, and on no account to halloo

him too soon; if they do, he most certainly will turn back again. Could you entice them all into the covert, your sport, in all probability, would not be the worse for it. How well the hounds spread the coverts! The huntsman is quite deserted; and his horse, who so lately had a crowd at his heels, has now not one attendant left. How steadily they draw; you hear not a single hound, yet none are idle. Is not this better than to be subject to continual disappointment, from the eternal babbling of unsteady hounds?

“ See! how they range

Dispersed; how busily this way and that

They cross, examining with curious nose

Each likely haunt. Hark! on the drag I hear

Their doubtful notes preluding to a cry,

More nobly full and swelled with every mouth.”

SOMERVILLE.

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 crash they make! and echo seemingly takes pleasure to repeat the sound. The astonished traveller forsakes the 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! 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 halloo; by G—he's gone! Now, huntsman, get on with the head hounds; the whipper-in will bring on the others after you; keep an attentive eye on the leading hounds, that, should the scent fall them, you may know at least how far they brought it. Mind Galloper, how he leads them! It is difficult to distinguish which is first, they run in such a style; yet, he is the foremost hound; the goodness of his nose is not less excellent than his speed. How he carries the scent! and when he loses it, see how eagerly he flings to recover it again! There, now! he's at head again! See how they top the hedge! Now, how they mount the hill! Observe what a head they carry, and show me, if thou canst, one shuffler or skirter amongst them all. Are they not like a parcel of brave fellows, who, when they engage in an undertaking, determine to share its fatigues and its dangers equally among them? It was, then, the fox I saw as we came down the hill; those crows directed me which way to look, and the sheep ran from him as he passed along. The hounds are now on the very

spot, yet the sheep stop them not, for they dash beyond them. Now, see with what eagerness they cross the plain! Galloper no longer keeps his place—Brusher takes it; see how he flings for the scent, and how impetuously he runs! How eagerly he took the lead, and how he strives to keep it! yet, Victor comes up a-pace; he reaches him! Observe what an excellent run it is between them; it is doubtful which will reach the covert first. How equally they run! how eagerly they strain! Now Victor! Victor! Ah, Brusher! thou art beaten, Victor first tops the hedge! See there, see how they all take it in their strokes! The hedge cracks with their weight, so many jump at once. Now hastes the whipper-in to the other side of the covert,—he is right, unless he head the fox—Listen! the hounds have turned; they are now in two parts—the fox has been headed back, and we have changed. Now, my lad, mind the huntsman's halloo, and stop to those hounds which he encourages. He is right—that, doubtless, is the hunted fox! Now, they are off again. Ha! a check. Now, for a moment's patience. We press too close upon the hounds. Huntsman, stand still; as yet they want you not. How admirably they spread! How wide they cast! Is there a single hound that does not try? If there be, never shall he hunt again. There, True-man is on the scent: he feathers, yet still is doubtful. 'Tis right; how readily they join him! See those wide-casting hounds, how they fly forward to recover the ground they have lost! Mind Lightning, how she dashes; and Mungo, how he works! Old Frantic, too, now pushes forward; she knows as well as we the fox is sinking. Huntsman! at fault at last? How far did you bring the scent? Have the hounds made their own cast? Now make yours. You see that sheep-dog has coursed the fox. Get forward with your hounds, and make a wide cast. Hark! that halloo is indeed a lucky one. If we can hold him on, we may yet recover him; 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 they enjoy the scent! See how busy they all are, and how each in his turn prevails! Huntsman, be quiet! Whilst the scent was good you pressed on your hounds: it 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 stoop again.

Ha! 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, there, has headed-back the fox. Huntsman, cast not your hounds now! You see they have overrun the scent: have a little patience, and let them for once try back. We must now give them time. See where they bend towards yonder furze-brake. I wish he may have stopped there. Mind that old hound how he dashed over the furze: I think he winds him! Now for a fresh *entapis*! Hark! they halloo. Aye, there he goes! It is nearly over with him; had the hounds caught view, he must have died. He will hardly reach the covert. See how they gain on him at every stroke. It is an admirable race; yet the covert saves him. Now be quiet, and he cannot escape us; we have the wind of the hounds, and cannot be better placed. How short he runs! He is now in the very strongest part of the covert. What a crash! Every hound is in, and every hound is running for him. That was a quick turn! Again another! He is put to his last shifts. Now Mischief is at his heels, and death is not far off. Ha! they all stop at once—all silent, and yet no earth is open. Listen! now they are at him again. Did you hear that hound catch view? They overran the scent, and the fox had lain down behind them. Now, Reynard, look to yourself. How quick they all give their tongues! Little Dreadnought, how he works him! The terriers, too, they now are squeaking at him. How close Vengeance pursues! how terribly she presses! It is just up with him! Gods! what a crash they make! The whole wood resounds! That turn was very short! There! now—aye, how they have him! Who—hoop!" This glowing description, except in the time fixed for the meet, is a beautiful account of what a run should be in the present day; but there is one remarkable proof contained in it, that the speed was in those days very different to what it is now. Suppose, for instance, a moderately-fast run in a grass country, and a terrier by chance started with the hounds, where would the little rascal be at the kill? Yet Beckford expressly mentions the terriers as squeaking at him before the kill while the hounds are running in the last covert. Now the terriers here alluded to can only be those belonging to the pack, which were formerly, indeed, part of the establishment, and which must have started with them when the fox was found. This speaks volumes as to comparative speed. I am quite sure that even in provincial countries a terrier cannot live with foxhounds of modern blood and speed; if he could, a pack of

terriers would be better than foxhounds, for they can generally hunt lower than fast foxhounds. The remarkable patience and want of interference on the huntsman's part, in this account, would strike any one who is now in the habit of seeing the hounds perpetually lifted and capped to halloos,—whips sent on to points to view him, and to halloo if viewed, and all those *human* artifices rather than *canine* by which time is saved, and the fox so quickly killed. But all these artifices and pressing forward, it may be said, are now necessary, in order to get out of the way of the impatient field. Well, they may be so, and are, no doubt; but then, why should the field be allowed to be so unruly? This is the fault of the master, though of fashion also; for if this latter all-powerful motive power were to say that order in the field must be kept, no doubt the master's voice would be scarcely needed. As it is, the horsemen are vying with each other for a good place, and are utterly regardless of the proceedings of the hounds, or of the necessity for giving them fair play.

331. THE DISADVANTAGES OF THE MODERN SCHOOL are, that hounds being so constantly taken hold of and lifted on every possible chance of doing so, they cease to persevere when in difficulties, and look to their huntsman for aid rather than to themselves and the delicacy of their noses. Hence, the evils react upon one another—first, the horsemen press upon the hounds, and, as a consequence, the hounds are obliged to be got forward out of their way; secondly, the hounds, in being thus constantly lifted for the above reason, are injured in hunting power, and cease to afford those beautiful specimens of the old-fashioned style of hunting, which will induce men, if anything will, to watch their proceedings with interest and caution, lest they should be disturbed. Nothing affords so strong an argument in favour of the old style of hunting as this double reaction of the errors of the present day; and the cautious riding of the "thistle-whippers," as they are deridingly called by the fox-hunter, is a clear proof that hunting, when carried to perfection, will always be watched with attention. Observe the same men with foxhounds and harriers: with the former, they are all alive for galloping and getting a good place—jealousy of their friends is the predominant feeling, and the hunting of the hounds is not seen, or, if seen, is not regarded; but next day the same parties attend a "thistle-whipping concern," and there they are all attention to the beautiful self-casts of the harriers or beagles, and admire as much as anybody their brilliant powers. I believe, even now, in spite of fashion, if a

master would only be firm, and, after breeding his foxhounds with a little more hunt in them, would rigidly abstain, through his huntsman, from assisting them except in extreme cases, that, in a very short time, the field would pay that attention to their efforts which they now bestow upon their horses and themselves. At all events it is worth trying the experiment in enclosed and arable countries, where it is impossible to vie with the grass countries in *pace*; but where in hunting a cold scent the hounds may display such powers as to attract attention and command respect. But even here discouragement meets the provincial master, for with the most

delicate-nosed hounds he can scarcely expect that a scent will be made as much of over his fallows, as would be shown in Leicestershire by hounds not nearly such good natural hunters. None but a practical and experienced man can be a judge of these points, and such men are rare indeed in the hunting field. Nevertheless, I should much like to see the trial made, and in course of time, I cannot help fancying, that the system, if well carried out, would induce many to admire the genuine hunting of the fox under difficulties, as much, or perhaps more than the comparatively easy task of bursting one in the grass-lands of the crack countries.

CHAPTER IV.

FOX-HUNTING (*Continued*).

SECT. 1.—PACK TO BE OBTAINED AT ONCE BY PURCHASE.

332. No one now-a-days would dream of getting together a pack of foxhounds by breeding them himself from a bitch or two, without any considerable outlay. Such a plan is impracticable, because several important elements of success must co-operate at the same time, and will not wait for one another in idleness, as—first, the country cannot lie open and unused; secondly, the huntsman, whips, &c., would have nothing to do, and yet are required for a small pack as well as a large one; and thirdly, patience will seldom last long enough, even if the other elements were so accommodating as to allow of this mode of business. All these several items must, however combine; and all *might* be kept dangling on but “the country,” which will not wait; and which alone will put a stop to all dallying with such a fickle mistress. The moment, therefore, a master undertakes the important duty of “hunting a country,” he must put his best leg foremost, and set about getting a pack of foxhounds in earnest. The country and the fox-preserving I have already dilated upon, and it now remains to consider how the procuring of the hounds is to be compassed in the quickest time, in the best manner, and at the most economical rate. These three items will form my guide in considering the subject in the following pages; being really those which ought to guide every prudent master throughout his career.

333. THE BEST MODE OF GETTING TOGETHER A PACK OF FOXHOUNDS, is to purchase a lot of draft-hounds from those

kennels which your fancy leads you to select. In my own opinion, there is little choice in this respect; all hounds are well enough bred, and you may always succeed in getting together a good pack in a few years, from drafts obtained from any of our best kennels, if only you are careful in your subsequent breeding, kennel management, and hunting. I am quite satisfied, in hunting all depends upon the huntsman; and that a good man will always be able to make good tools, provided that he is not stinted in horses, meal, and whips; and has a good country with plenty of foxes. With these advantages he will readily make a good pack, but not always a good-looking one. It sometimes happens that too much attention is paid to looks, and good hounds are drafted from having coarse heads or throats, necks, &c., while neat but useless animals are prized and carefully retained. Draft-hounds may always be bought at three guineas a couple; and one-quarter, or a third of them, will generally be serviceable for one or two seasons. The remaining two-thirds, or three-quarters, will, on trial, be consigned to a speedy death; and the result will be, that for thirty couple of tolerably useful hounds, from 200 to 250 guineas must be paid; and if this result could only be calculated on with certainty, it would be a cheap way of getting such a pack of hounds together. Unfortunately, however, it will be found that this number will be more than the average, though, with luck and some little judgment in going to work, the above has been accomplished on more than one occasion. Sometimes a good pack is to be sold; and if steady, well bred, and well-hunted, it is cheaper to give £500 for an

entire pack of forty or fifty couple, young and old, than to buy drafts at three guineas a-couple. One, two, and even three thousand guineas have been given for packs of foxhounds; but 500 guineas is the usual and average price, and more than that is only a fancy one. But supposing a draft pack is determined on, and the country is a "three days a-week" one, then you should purchase about from 80 to 100 couple, according to your luck in the first drafts you buy; but, at all events, you must persevere in your purchases until you can reckon on fifty couple of *serviceable looking* hounds—that is, hounds which have no apparent bodily defect, such as lameness, blindness, &c. For it must be remembered that in drafts there must be no picking and choosing, but the lots offered must be either taken entire or refused. Such is the custom; and as they are the huntsman's perquisite, there is great reason for this liberal mode of dealing. Well, then, having at length got together fifty couple of useful looking hounds, they must be kept on till the month of August, when cub-hunting will soon show you which can be retained, and which must be discarded as useless, from their babbling, skirting, or slack-running propensities. The head and tail must also be drafted at this time—that is, the very fast and the very slow hounds, because the beauty of a pack and their efficiency also are marred by one, two, or three leading away from all the rest, or by the same thing happening at the tail, but in an opposite direction.

SECT. 2.—BREEDING.

334. THIS PACK THUS GOT TOGETHER THEN, MUST BE KEPT UP BY BREEDING; and if some brood-bitches are procured in February or March, something may be done in this way during the first summer. The best months, however, are March or April for this purpose, which would require the bitch to have been put to the dog nine weeks earlier. Of course at this time the young master of hounds must be dependent upon his longer-established fellows for the sires of his whelps; but he will seldom have much difficulty here, unless he is very particular, or has a very limited hunting acquaintance. In subsequent seasons he must breed from twenty to thirty couple of whelps, if he wishes to attain anything like excellence in his pack; for out of these he will not choose to send out to walk more than half that number; or if sent, he will speedily weed them down to about from twelve to fifteen couple, which should be the young entry every year. If the bitches whelp very early, they should be allowed to have a warm place, such as a loose box or

stall in a stable which is warm enough to preserve the whelps from the effects of cold; and the young puppies should not be sent out to walk before the end of April or the beginning of May, unless the person who is to rear them is one who will take care their growth is not checked by cold.

335. THE BEST BLOOD OF THE PRESENT DAY is to be found in the kennels of Lord Fitzwilliam, the Duke of Beaufort, Earl Fitzhardinge, Lord Yarborough, Lord Southampton, and Mr. Drake; however, these hounds are very much of the same blood, and have been bred one with the other to a great extent. No kennel could long be maintained in all its excellence without an occasional infusion of fresh blood; and though I believe in-and-in-breeding may be practised to a certain extent with advantage, yet if persisted in without occasional fresh infusions, it will ruin the constitution of either horse or dog.

336. THE WORKING EXCELLENCIES of the foxhound, and for which he should be selected, are—first and foremost, the dash peculiar to his breed; secondly, a good nose; thirdly, a tendency to cast forwards, and never back like the harrier; fourthly, great power of endurance of fatigue, cold, and wet; fifthly, sufficient tractability, without having too much softness; and sixthly, perfection in drawing and hunting.

337. THE DEFECTS WHICH SHOULD ESPECIALLY BE AVOIDED are—first, the throwing the tongue too freely, commonly called "babbling;" secondly, mute running; thirdly, skirting, or a tendency to leave the rest of the pack, and not, as the foxhound should do, "scoring to tongue"—this is that excess of jealousy which should be avoided in the foxhound as much as it should be encouraged in the greyhound; fourthly, pottering and dwelling on the scent; fifthly, hanging in covert when hounds are gone away; sixthly, running riot; which means that the particular game which is being hunted should be adhered to, and all other considered as "riot;" thus, the fox and hare are "riot" to the staghound, while deer and hare are in the same category as regards the foxhound, and the deer and fox to the harrier. Some of these faults are easily broken by means of the whip, if necessary, or a severe rate in milder cases; and the three last only require the aid of the whipper-in, but "babbling," "mute running," and "skirting," are dependent upon a defect in breeding, which nothing will eradicate; and they also generally increase with age, so that little hope of amendment is afforded, and the rope or the river must be resorted to at once.

338. THE SELECTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL BITCH should be very carefully made. Her

pedigree, above all, should be such as to lead you to expect good performances in the field. I should never, certainly, breed from a foxhound or harrier-bitch, however well formed, which had not shown good hunting qualities during at least two seasons; but even this recommendation would not suffice without good blood, and, in addition, shapes suited to her office. Exceptional cases of good hunting are common enough, even with mongrels; but though good in themselves, such bitches will not throw good puppies. In crossing her, due care will be taken to select such a dog as shall improve her good qualities, and eradicate bad ones. Thus, if she is too small, she should be put to a dog of good size, or *vice versa*; again, if light in the body, a dog of full proportions in that department must be given her; or, if she is thin and weak in the feet, her mate must be remarkable for good understandings. On these principles the cross must be selected, and every pains must be taken to get what is the *desideratum* for her. After lining, the bitch may hunt for about three or four weeks; but from that time she must not be taken out for fear of injury to her burden, which then begins to show, so as to make her also unwieldy and short of wind. She should, however, be allowed her liberty, if possible; or should, if confined, be regularly exercised, since her health, and consequently the health of her litter, will suffer by entire want of this advantage. When near her whelping-time, she should be allowed to choose her bed in some quiet corner of an outhouse or loose box, or in that part of the kennel which ought to be especially set apart for breeding. She should not be allowed to get too fat; but still she should be maintained in good condition. The former is bad, as leading to difficulty in whelping, whilst the latter is necessary, because she will have to sustain great drains upon her constitution. When pupping, great quiet is desirable, as many bitches are so nervous as to destroy or devour their whelps if alarmed. The usual attendant, whether feeder or kennel-huntsman, should be the only person who should go near her; and he should always speak before opening her door. It is necessary, however, that he should occasionally visit her; because

bitches are sometimes so long in labour as to demand assistance; and they also often require a little stimulating and supporting food, in the shape of broth, or even caudle. When the whelps are brought forth, the mother should have some gruel with the chill taken off, and after 12 or 14 hours, a little warm broth or milk. After this, she should be well fed upon milk, or broth with a little flesh mixed in it. For other particulars, see the general management of bitch and whelps, under the article Dog.

SECT. 3.—REARING THE WHELPS.

339. THE YOUNG HOUNDS WILL REQUIRE TO BE **ROUNDED**, which is an operation for the removal of a portion of their ears, so as to prevent their being torn by the briars and thorns of the woods they traverse. Removing the ear entirely does great harm, and the cropped terrier is almost useless in covert, from the water getting into the ear, and from the want of protection to the delicate outside skin. But there is the happy medium to be preserved, and this is effected by rounding off the tips of the ears, and leaving only enough to guard the interior. It is a very easy operation, and requires only a steady hand and care to avoid cutting the two edges unequally long. The two layers of skin should be held firmly, and without allowing them to roll upon one another; and should then be cut through with a pair of sharp scissors. This should be done at about three or four months; for earlier than that it is very difficult to cut off exactly the right quantity, as some ears grow very differently to others at various ages. The dew-claws often require removal, if not sitting very close to the leg; and in all cases the claw itself should be drawn out by the teeth or nippers. If the claw is very prominent, the whole had better be removed at the end of the first week. At this time, also, it is usual to remove a small portion of the tail; but fashion now has reduced that portion to an infinitesimal dose. Before sending them out to their walks they should be branded, and duly entered in the list kept for the purpose. Now, also, the name should be given, selecting from the following list, which is equally applicable to the staghound, harrier, or beagle:—

DOG-HOUNDS.

A	Arrogant	Baffler	Boisterous	Brutal	Carver
Acton	Arsenic	Barbarous	Bonnyface	Burster	Castor
Adamant	Artful	Bedlamite	Bouncer	Bustler	Castwell
Adjutant	Artist	Bellman	Bowler		Catcher
Argent	Atlas	Blaster	Bravo	C	Catchpole
Aimwell	Auditor	Bluecap	Bragger	Caitiff	Caviller
Amorous	Awful	Blueman	Brawler	Caliban	Catkiller
Antic		Blueboy	Brazenface	Capital	Cerberus
Anxious	B	Bluster	Brilliant	Captain	Challenger
Arbiter	Bachelor	Boaster	Brusher	Captor	Champion

Charon	Flagrant	Laster	Perilous	Sampler	Tickler
Chaser	Flasher	Lanker	Pertinent	Sampson	Tomboy
Chanter	Fleece'em	Leader	Petulant	Sanction	Topmost
Chieftain	Flinger	Leveller	Phœbus	Sapient	Topper
Chimer	Flippant	Liberal	Piercer	Saucebox	Torment
Chirper	Flourisher	Libertine	Pilgrim	Saunter	Torrent
Choleric	Flyer	Lictor	Pillager	Scalper	Torturer
Claimant	Foamer	Lifter	Pilot	Scamper	Tosser
Clamorous	Foiler	Lightfoot	Pincher	Schemer	Touchstone
Clangour	Foreman	Linguist	Piper	Scourer	Tracer
Clasher	Foremost	Listener	Playful	Scrambler	Tragic
Clinker	Fore sight	Lounger	Plodder	Screamer	Trampler
Combat	Forester	Lucifer	Plunder	Screecher	Transit
Combatant	Forward	Lunatic	Politic	Scuffler	Transport
Comforter	Fulminant	Lunger	Potent	Searcher	Traveler
Comrade	Furrier	Lurker	Prater	Settler	Trim bush
Comus		Lusty	Prattler	Sharper	Trimmer
Conflict	G		Premier	Shifter	Triumph
Conqueror	Gainer	M	President	Signal	Trojan
Conquest	Gallant	Manager	Prevalent	Singer	Trouncer
Constant	Galliard	Manful	Primate	Singwell	Truant
Contest	Galloper	Mariner	Principal	Skirmish	Trueboy
Coroner	Gameboy	Marshall	Prodigal	Smoker	Trueman
Cottager	Gamester	Marksman	Prompter	Social	Trudger
Counsellor	Garrulous	Marplot	Prophet	Solomon	Trusty
Countryman	Gazer	Marvellous	Prosperous	Solon	Trial
Courteous	General	Match'em	Prosper	Songster	Tryer
Coxcomb	Genius	Maxim	Prowler	Soundwell	Trywell
Craftsman	Gimcrack	Maximus		Spanker	Tuner
Crasher	Giant	Meanwell	R	Special	Turbulent
Critic	Glan cer	Meddler	Racer	Specimen	Twanger
Critical	Glider	Menacer	Rallywood	Speedwell	Twig'em
Crown er	Glorious	Mendall	Rambler	Spinner	Tyrant
Cruiser	Goblin	Mender	Rampant	Splendour	
Crusty	Governor	Mentor	Rancour	Splenetic	V
Curl ew	Grappler	Mercury	Random	Spoiler	Vagabond
Currier	Grasper	Merlin	Ranger	Spokesman	Vagrant
	Griper	Merryboy	Ransack	Sportsman	Valiant
D	Growler	Merryman	Rantaway	Squabbler	Valid
Damper	Grumbler	Methodist	Ranter	Squeaker	Valorous
Danger	Guardian	Messmate	Rapper	Statesman	Valour
Dangerous	Gulder	Mighty	Rattler	Steady	Vaulter
Dapper		Militant	Ravager	Stickler	Vaunter
Dapster	H	Minikin	Ravenous	Stinger	Venturer
Darter	Hannibal	Miscreant	Ravisher	Stormer	Venturous
Dasher	Harbinger	Mittimus	Reacher	Stranger	Vermin
Dashwood	Hardman	Monarch	Reasoner	Stripling	Vexer
Daunter	Hardy	Monitor	Rector	Striver	Victor
Dexterous	Harlequin	Motley	Regent	Strive well	Vigilant
Disputant	Harasser	Mounter	Resonant	Stroker	Vigorous
Downright	Hazard	Mover	Restive	Stroller	Vigour
Dragon	Headstrong	Mungo	Reverber	Struggler	Villager
Dreadnought	Hearty	Musical	Rifler	Sturdy	Viper
Driver	Hector	Mutinous	Rigid	Subtle	Volant
Dustman	Heedful	Mutterer	Rigour	Subscour	Voucher
Dulcimer	Hercules	Myrmidon	Ringwood	Supple	
	Hero		Rioter	Surly	W
E	Highflyer	N	Riskier	Swaggerer	Wanderer
Eager	Hopeful	Nervous	Rockwood	Sylvan	Warbler
Earnest	Hotspur	Nestor	Romper		Warning
Effort	Humble	Newsman	Rouser		Warrior
Elegant	Hurtful	Nimrod	Router		Warwhoop
Eminent		Noble	Rover	Tackler	Wayward
Envious	I & J	Nonsuch	Rudesby	Talisman	Wellbred
Envoy	Jerker	Novel	Ruffian	Tamar	Whipster
Errant	Jingler	Noxious	Ruffler	Tangent	Whynot
Excellent	Impetus		Rummager	Tartar	Wildair
	Jockey	P	Rumbler	Tattler	Wildman
F	Jolly	Pageant	Rumour	Taunter	Wilful
Factor	Jollyboy	Paragon	Runner	Teazer	Wisdom
Factionis	Jostler	Paramount	Rural	Terror	Woodman
Fatalist	Jovial	Partner	Rusher	Thrasher	Worker
Fearnought	Judgment	Partyman	Rustic	Threatener	Workman
Ferryman	Juniper	Pealer		Thumper	Worthy
Fervent	L	Penetrate	S	Thunderer	Wrestler
Finder	Labourer	Perfect	Salient	Thwacker	
Firebrand	Lasher			Thwart	

BITCHES.

A	Credible	Furious	Lively	Rampish	Toilsome
Accurate	Credulous	Fury	Lofty	Rantipole	Tractable
Active	Crony		Lovely	Rapid	Tragedy
Actress	Cruel	G	Luckylass	Rapine	Trepass
Affable	Curious	Gainful	Lunacy	Rapture	Trifle
Agile	Current	Galleyslave		Rarity	Trivial
Airy		Gambol	M	Rashness	Trollop
Aunt	D	Gamesome	Madcap	Rattle	Troublesome
Angry	Dainty	Gamesstress	Madrigal	Ravish	Trucelass
Animate	Daphne	Gaety	Magic	Reptile	Truemaids
Artifice	Darling	Gaily	Maggotty	Resolute	Tunable
Audible	Dashaway	Gaylass	Matchless	Restless	Tuneful
	Dauntless	Ghastly	Melody	Rhapsody	
B	Delicate	Giddy	Merrylass	Riddance	V
Baneful	Desperate	Gladness	Merriment	Riot	Vanquish
Bashful	Destiny	Gladsome	Mindful	Rival	Vehemence
Bauble	Diana	Governess	Minion	Roguish	Vehement
Beauteous	Diligent	Graceful	Miriam	Ruin	Vengeance
Beauty	Docile	Graceless	Mischief	Rummage	Vengeful
Beldam	Document	Gracious	Modish	Ruthless	Venomous
Bellmaid	Doubtful	Grateful	Monody		Venturesome
Blameless	Doubtless	Gravity	Music	S	Venus
Blithsome	Dreadful	Guilestone		Sanguine	Verify
Blowsy	Dulcet	Guilty	N	Sappho	Vicious
Bluebell		Guiltless	Narrative	Science	Victory
Bluemaids	E		Neatness	Scrupulous	Victrix
Bonny	Easy	H	Needful	Shrewdness	Vigilance
Bonnybell	Echo	Hasty	Negative	Skilful	Violent
Bonnylass	Ecstasy	Handsome	Nicety	Songstress	Viperous
Boundless	Endless	Harlot	Nimble	Specious	Virulent
Bravery	Energy	Harmony	Noisy	Speedy	Vitiate
Brevity	Enmity	Hazardous	Notable	Spiteful	Vivid
Brimstone	Essay	Heedless	Notice	Spitfire	Vixen
Busy		Helen	Notion	Sportful	Vocal
Buxom	F	Heroine	Novelty	Sportive	Volatile
	Faithful	Hideous	Novice	Sportly	Voluble
C	Fairmaid	Honesty	P	Sprightly	W
Capable	Fairplay	Honorable	Passion	Stately	Waggery
Captious	Famous	I & J	Pastime	Stoutness	Waggish
Careless	Fanciful	Jealousy	Patience	Strenuous	Wagtail
Careful	Fashion	Industry	Phoenix	Strumpet	Wanton
Carnage	Favourite	Jollity	Phrenzy	Sully	Warfare
Cautious	Fearless	Joyful	Placid	Sybil	Warlike
Charmers	Festive	Joyous	Playful	Symphony	Wasplike
Chantress	Fickle		Playsome	Syncope	Waspish
Cheerful	Fidget	L	Pleasant	Syren	Wasteful
Chirrupers	Fiery	Lacerate	Pliant		Watchful
Chorus	Fireaway	Laudable	Position	T	Welcome
Circe	Firetail	Lavish	Precious	Tattle	Welldone
Clarinet	Flighty	Lawless	Prettylass	Telltale	Whimsey
Clio	Flourish	Lenity	Previous	Tempest	Whirligig
Comely	Flurry	Levity	Priestess	Temptation	Wildere
Comfort	Forcible	Liberty	Probity	Termagant	Willingmaid
Comical	Fretful	Lightning	Prudence	Terrible	Wishful
Concord	Friendly	Lightsome		Testy	Wonderful
Courtesy	Frisky	Likely	R	Thankful	Worry
Crafty	Frolic	Lissome	Racket	Thoughtful	Wrathful
Crazy	Frolicsome	Litigate	Rally	Tidings	Wreakful
	Funnylass				

It is the custom to name all the whelps of a litter after the initials of sire or dam; but it should always be the endeavour of the person who chooses the names to select those as much unlike one another as possible, in order that the puppies may distinguish them with more ease.

340. THE WALKS FOR THE YOUNG HOUNDS should be chosen in such situations as that they shall be accustomed to all sorts of company, from children to horses, and shall

not consequently be shy and retiring. Boldness in the foxhound is an essential point, and a shy one utterly useless; he will not pass through a town, nor even face a cow feeding, but is constantly incurring the wrath of the second whip, from his lagging propensities. If a walk at a farmhouse can be procured so much the better, or at a butcher's, or village innkeeper's. Wherever they are reared they should be well done, and not starved into the rickety

frames which one often sees. Here they remain till after the hunting season is over, when they are brought back to the kennel, and at once are submitted to its discipline.

341. WHEN FIRST RETURNED TO KENNEL, the young hound is generally sulky at losing his liberty, and often refuses his food for some days; this does no harm, and no notice need be taken of him, when, in all probability, in the course of a few days he will recover his appetite and spirits. For some little time a low diet, with an occasional dose of castor-oil, should be adhered to, because the change is considerable, from the free roving life of "the walk" to the close confinement of the kennel. Little or no flesh is required at this time, and the free use of vegetables should be encouraged. For some little time these young hounds will often refuse to notice their new master, but by kind words and feeding them, they learn to attach themselves afresh, and may then be treated like any other member of this great family.

342. BREAKING FROM RIOT should be commenced from the very first day that the young hounds are taken out to exercise. This should be regularly carried on every day during the summer months, both with young and old; and all the young and unsteady hounds should be in couples; always putting together a young and an old hound, and dogs with bitches. In this way they may at first be taken out along the adjacent roads, choosing the more private ones in preference, till the young hounds know their names and attend to a rate pretty quickly. At first, until they are accustomed to their new huntsman, only 8 or 10 couple should be alred at a time; and for a day or two they should only be walked out in the paddock in couples, and caressed and fed by the huntsman. As soon as they seem to be pretty ready to own his voice, and to follow him at heel, he may take them into the roads, and after a time, varying according to circumstances, he may gradually increase his numbers, till he can venture to take out all the pack, unless a very large one. When quite tractable on the road, they should be walked through sheep and deer, beginning again with small numbers at first, and gradually, as before, increasing them. With sheep and deer, at first *all* should be in couples; and, after a time, a few at a time should be released; and when found to take no notice, they may be coupled again, and others set at liberty, till all have had the chance of showing their propensities without restraint. In this way, during the summer, the huntsman, by his kennel-management, already described, and by exercise as here detailed, teaches his pack obedience, and breaks

them from riot of the above description—viz., from sheep and deer, which may almost always be met with in some park adjacent. Deer must especially be guarded against, because the scent is so tempting to all hounds, and seldom a week passes in the hunting season without the run leading through a deer-park. Very often, too, they may be broken from hare and rabbit-riot, during the summer, to a certain extent; but too much must not here be attempted, as the young hounds are easily made shy of hunting altogether if they are continually being rated, and never encouraged. Until, therefore, hounds are entered to their particular game, they must not be too much rated and broken from "riot," but sheep and deer being of great value, must at once be protected; and on no account should cub-hunting be commenced till all the hounds are quite steady from them. A neglect of this precaution has led to great expense and annoyance, for, as while exercise only is the motive, couples may be kept on, so while hunting itself is going on they cannot be confined, and the hounds having no mechanical restraint are much less manageable; and if they begin to run a flock of sheep or a herd of deer, they generally end by pulling down one or more victims. When once this blood has been tasted, there is no saying when and where the passion may return, and the hound, apparently cured by the whip, is never safe from a repetition of his frolic. Stop the tendency therefore thoroughly, early in the summer, and never mind the fear of making shy the young entry. If they are well-bred, they will soon find out that something is meant when they are thrown into covert, and they will readily join in with their fellows, when their game is afoot, though perhaps at first shy for fear of the lash.

343. THE AMOUNT OF DAILY EXERCISE during the summer months should be very considerable, since the hounds are only walked out, and seldom trotted. The huntsman should take them out early in the morning on the road, for a couple of hours, and may also do the same in the evening, in the paddocks, or on any grass hill, of which he can command the use. Nothing but the time of the men ought to limit this essentially healthy part of the management of the pack; and as foxhounds are a very high-couraged set of animals, unless their energies are suffered to expend themselves in this way, they will, in the first place, be always fighting in kennel; in the second place, they will be under very little command; and in the third, they will be out of health. In the morning road-work the men should be on their horses, but in the evening on foot. In all cases

when out with hounds, they should have their hunting-coats on.

SECT. 4.—ENTERING YOUNG HOUNDS.

344. In grass-countries, by the month of August, in arable-countries, as soon as the corn is cut, and in the large woodlands, even before, the young hounds should be entered to fox. If the pack is altogether new, it will be prudent to take the old hounds out first, without any of the young entry, since many of them are sure to be altogether useless—some from incurable tendency to “riot,” others from “babbling” propensities, and others again from hanging in covert, skirting, or slack hunting. There will, therefore, be quite enough to do for some days, to get the old hounds handy, and to decide upon what are so incurably bad as to be wholly useless, and even injurious to the young hounds. Some of these vices certainly do not show themselves plainly in the early cub-hunting; but the experienced huntsman may make a very good guess even on the first day a fox is found. He must not expect too much, but must be contented if he can get from fifteen to twenty couple of hounds, tolerably steady from riot, and with hunting enough in them to drive a fox pretty hard in the woodlands. He need not yet care about the hounds “packing” well, nor can he yet judge of their powers in this respect; all that he has to do is, to get them to hunt steadily and perseveringly their own game, to avoid “skirting,” and to turn to his horn quickly and readily. The hunting tendency is partly dependent upon breeding; but much must be owing to previous education. It is generally too late with draft-hounds to instil hunting into them; but if they are slack for want of blood only, by perseverance, even with a bad pack of draft-hounds, early in the season, a few cubs can be run into, and chopped, somehow or other. This will often, with a persevering and encouraging man, totally alter the disposition of a hound; for nothing is so infectious as the *manner* of the men. If they are slow and careless in cub-hunting, so will the hounds be, while if they are bustling and energetic, these qualities are rapidly imbibed, and the whole aspect of the pack is changed. I have seen this effected in a very short time when a slack pack has changed hands, partly from higher feeding, but chiefly from the determined energy of the men; they have become lively and full of dash, instead of looking dull, and hunting like slow harriers. The old hounds must at once be well flogged, if not free from riot, and the incurably bad ones must be drafted at once before the young hounds are entered.

345. WHENEVER THE OLD HOUNDS ARE TOLERABLY STEADY AND HANDY, but not till then, begin to think of entering your young ones; taking out five or six couple of them along with the steadiest and best hunters of your old pack, and remembering that *your chance of good sport through this season and the next depends more upon your young entry than upon the old draft-hounds*. No huntsman makes the mistake of parting with old hounds, unless they are either infirm from age, or are bad hunters in some form; but many men draft young hounds from their looks not pleasing the eye, or from their being too high or too low, or not being “suity,” as it is called, and yet in doing so perhaps give you the best blood of their kennels, and a hound which will do you as good service as if picked out of ten thousand. Cherish, therefore, this young entry, and sacrifice time, cubs, and old hounds to make them perfect. On the first appearance of the young hounds, it is very desirable to find a cub as quickly as possible, for as they are sure to run something or other, if they have any sort in them, they will be likely to run “riot” if nothing else turns up; and the whip is a poor introduction to their first day’s sport. Some even go so far as to wait till the old hounds have found before they give the young ones liberty, keeping them in couples outside the covert till the cub is on foot. This, I believe, to be a very good plan, but as it is a troublesome one, it may not suit the notions of all. When once the old hounds are running a cub hard, and the scent is strong, the young ones rapidly chime in, and there is very little more trouble in urging them on. Hallooing, however, should be indulged in to any extent; encouragement is the order of the day, and too much devil can now hardly be infused. The sound of the huntsman’s voice, if with his pack, also keeps them together, and prevents the young ones from losing themselves, which they might otherwise easily do. It should be understood that this cub-hunting begins at three or four o’clock in the morning, when, even in the summer, the air is cool and refreshing and scent lies pretty well—though the ground being generally dry, it is not so good as in the autumn. After the cub is killed let the huntsman lay hold of him, and take him into the first open space he can find, then, before the blood of either fox or hounds has had time to cool, let him excite the hounds by a few cheers—not too long continued however, and throw him to them. After this first-blooding it is better, if the morning is not far advanced, to draw for a fresh fox; choosing, if possible, an unsoiled part of the woodland, and proceeding to this chiefly in order to have an

opportunity of rating the young ones for speaking to "riot," while under the fresh recollections of the encouragement which they have received in their entry to their own particular game. Much punishment should be avoided; a severe rate or two generally suffices; and, if possible, the whip should not be used so soon as this. If, however, a young hound chops a hare or rabbit, and will not drop it, let him have a taste of the whip, and be compelled to leave his dainty meal undevoured. If another cub is soon found, let him be killed also, if possible, or else marked to ground, and the hounds well encouraged after doing so; but do not by any means tire out the energies of the young entry, rather letting them leave off while still feeling a zest for their new sport. This is a very important consideration, as all means should be taken to inculcate a desire for the peculiar kind of game to which they have just been introduced.

SECT. 5.—REGULAR CUB-HUNTING.

346. This should now be entered upon in earnest; and should, in September and October, be followed two or three times a-week, or, with a very large entry, still oftener. Upon it depends the sport to be obtained during the coming season, not only as regards the hounds, but also in reference to the foxes. It should be known that cub-hunting and regular fox-hunting have two entirely different objects; the former being to prepare for future sport, the latter to afford present amusement to the field of sportsmen attending the meet. Cub-hunting is, therefore, merely a kind of breaking-in of the hounds and men to their respective places; and yet some sportsmen are particularly fond of this business—for sport it is not intended to be. I can easily understand this, when they are interested in the future success or failure of the pack, but cub-hunting *per se*, without any reference to the future, is, to my taste, a most tiresome affair. First of all, it requires a strong temptation to induce me to leave my bed at one or two o'clock in the morning, in order to reach a woodland-meet 10 or 15 miles off; secondly, there is little pleasure in crashing through thick tangled under-wood, which at this time and season is heavy with dew on the leaves; and thirdly, the ground is so hard that a gallop is out of the question, and anything like a leap destructive to the joints of the horse. Few, therefore, would willingly undertake the task; but, nevertheless, it must be perseveringly conducted as often as I have stated, in order to effect two principal objects; first, the dispersion of the foxes; and secondly, the bleeding and entering of the hounds.

347. THE DISPERSION OF THE FOXES is one of the most important features in cub-hunting, and one which is perhaps too often neglected. Foxes naturally prefer large woods, and especially those which so often are connected with others of a similar character. There are many districts where the soil is so unfit for grass, or to bear cereal crops, and is yet so well calculated for timber trees, that it is, and has been, long devoted to that purpose. These extensive woodlands are generally on the outskirts of the hunting country, and are often far removed from any populous neighbourhood; hence, they are chosen by the foxes; and these animals are often to be found in great numbers in these secure fastnesses, at a time when they are scarce enough in the best coverts. Now, if these large woods are never thoroughly routed during cub-hunting, there is seldom much chance of doing this afterwards, because they are always unpopular meets, and are only had recourse to for want of foxes in coverts likely to afford good runs. The huntsman, too, often likes an early good run from a good covert, in preference to a tiresome and hard morning's work in the thick under-wood; and if his heart is not in his work, or if he is not compelled to do so by his master, he will avoid trouble, and instead of doing good for the future, and driving out the foxes into the small coverts, he actually drives them back again into the large woods. This I have often known done, and especially by young masters themselves, who often like to go out cub-hunting, and have a quiet little spin to amuse themselves with; but such masters will seldom show good after-sport, and only eat bad pudding in September, instead of getting it good in November or December; for no run early in the season can be compared to a winter one, when the ground is cool, the scent good, the turf soft and elastic, and the fences may be taken by the hunter without fear of injury. Let, therefore, all masters, as well as men, bottle up their impatience till the proper season, and take care to avoid cub-hunting for pleasure. They should never enter, on any consideration, a favourite spinney or small covert, in the middle of a good hunting country, but should always stick to those woodlands where foxes are sure to breed, and where they may be killed in great numbers without injury to future sport; whence, also, they should be systematically driven. These large woodlands are almost always on the boundaries between two countries, and sometimes are hunted by two packs. In such a case every master will endeavour to drive out the foxes into his own country, and for this purpose

will draw towards it, not entering them on his own side, but commencing to draw them as far as possible from it, and driving all out towards his own dominions. Much, perhaps, cannot be effected in this way; but it should be tried nevertheless, for without a trial nothing can ever be done.

348. THE NECESSITY FOR BLOODING THE HOUNDS is the second and most immediate object of cub-hunting. Without blood even the pack in regular work soon becomes slack, and the hounds hang back, instead of getting forward with the true foxhound dash. Beckford relates a case in point, in a modest note, to the following effect:—"A pack of hounds which had been a month without registering a kill, at last ran a fox to ground, which the men dug out and threw to them. After this, their spirits were so renovated, that they killed seven days in succession." Now this *might* have been a run of luck, but most probably the marked change in their success was due to the cause to which he assigns it. However, all practical men are agreed that blood must be had even during the season; then, how much more necessary must it be before hounds are made to know their business, to give them blood.

349. AS SOON AS THE YOUNG HOUNDS ARE DULY ENTERED, and have had a fair share of blood, the pack may be hunted exactly as in the season, due reference being had to the remarks already made on the early hour necessary, on the propriety of drawing only the large woodlands, and on the imperative want of blood, almost daily,

which must be had, somehow or other, either by marking to ground and digging out, or by chopping, or some other means. At this time, even bag-foxes are justifiable; for it is not until hounds are rendered fastidious by success, that they turn up their noses at bagmen with disdain. These animals cause disgust, because their scent, instead of possessing the due amount of fox-flavour suited to the hound's nose, has become rank by confinement and fear, coupled with constant irritation. The fox, in common with the polecat, cat, and all others of his kind, has a reservoir of offensive scent under the root of the tail, where it is secreted by certain glands for the purpose. When these animals are annoyed, as they are in confinement, this scent is found in large quantities, of a rank nature, and the consequence is that they smell, or rather, in common English, they stink most abominably. But when young hounds are first entered, they *can* hunt this strong scent better even than that of a wild fox, and they do so because they have not yet learnt to know better. If, therefore, wild cubs cannot be found, a bagman or two must be obtained, and turned down before the hounds, and they will afterwards work with redoubled zest. The bagged fox should be turned into some small covert free from wild foxes, as the hounds will be thereby encouraged to draw, which is one of their most disagreeable duties. The management of hounds in drawing, &c., will be considered under the chapter devoted to regular hunting.

CHAP. V.

FOX-HUNTING (*Continued*).

SECT. 1.—PREPARATIONS FOR HUNTING.

350. SEVERAL DUTIES DEVOLVE UPON THE MASTER preparatory to a hunting-day:—First, he should have previously given the usual notice of the meet; and it is advisable that this meet should be so fixed as to suit two or more coverts if possible, so that every attendant shall be obliged to appear at the place appointed, foot-people included. If this is not done, a great number will assemble at the covert to be drawn, rather than at the meet, and often they surround it so that no fox can break; but by this precaution, on taking the hounds on to draw the covert, the foot-people cannot anticipate them, and a fox has time to make his point before he is headed. Secondly, the hunting-pack must be drafted on the

previous day, fed, early or late, according to the distance they have to travel, and separately shut up for the night. When drafting the hounds for the morrows' hunting, a list should be entered in the huntsman's book; and he should take a copy of this with him in hunting—so should the master, if he at all interferes in these matters. In making this draft it is usual for the huntsman to select the hounds which are the best suited to the particular country which is to be drawn, if he has sufficient numbers for that purpose; and also to proportion his pack to the strength and extent of the coverts. Thus, for an open country with nothing but small spinnies, eighteen or twenty couple are amply sufficient, while for large woodlands twenty-four couple will not be too many. Thirdly,

the earth-stopper and keepers should have their orders what earths to stop, and whether to stop at night or in the morning, according to the season, for if in the spring, they must not be stopped too long, or the cubs may be starved, if there are any. All these preliminary duties should be carefully attended to, since a failure in any will affect the chance of sport on the morrow.

SECT. 2.—GOING TO COVERT.

351. According to the distance from the meet must the start be made from the kennel. About six or seven miles an hour is the pace at which hounds generally travel on the road, except in very wet days, when eight miles an hour will better serve to keep hounds and horses from feeling any ill effects from this disagreeable attendant upon hunting. The hounds seem to know the hunting days, and are as impatient as the most ardent tyro. They are all life and animation on first bursting out of kennel, and are the better for a turn in the paddock to empty themselves before getting on the road. The men should then mount and proceed on their way, the first whip leading, with the huntsman in the middle of his hounds, and the second whip bringing up the rear. This order is maintained until their arrival at the meet. It is always advisable to avoid the crowded streets of towns as far as possible for fear of accidents, as it is not always that the hounds can be safe from the careless driving of carts or carriages, whose charioteers will not always pull up for them to pass. When arrived at the meet the men may tighten their girths, &c., but the hounds should be kept moving on the grass and not allowed to lie about, except it be in the very warm and dry weather which is sometimes experienced at the beginning or end of the season. Hounds in going to covert are very apt to pick up bones, and will sometimes in their greediness for these unwonted dainties, swallow large ones. This should be prevented by the second whip, as their possession only leads to delay and quarrelling; and if of large size, and they are swallowed, they do not improve the wind.

SECT. 3.—DRAWING.

352. No part of a huntsman's duties is so often performed in a slovenly manner, and yet none is of more consequence than the drawing of coverts. It is so unpleasant to all, that it is no wonder that it is shirked; but, nevertheless, it is like business with regard to pleasure, it should come first in importance, as in precedence. One of the most beautiful sights in fox-hunting, is the perfect drawing of a pack of hounds. I have rarely seen it to perfection, because it

is seldom that the eye can command the covert so as to get a bird's-eye view. But in the Heythrop country some of the best coverts are merely willow-beds under the sides of the hills; and there I have seen the hounds, when under Lord Redesdale's mastership, drawing in a style which elicited my admiration, as well as that of all the field. Every square yard of covert seemed to have its allotted hound, and they drew from one to the other, and back again, so as to leave no single patch of ground untried. No hound could be seen following another, but, apparently, each cautiously avoided this common defect. It happened on one occasion that this was conspicuous, through a long series of blank-draws, on the same day, and still, even to the last, these persevering hounds spread out and drew their ground as closely as ever. It was, I recollect, a great disappointment to me to meet with a blank-day, after travelling more than forty miles to the meet, especially as, from the rare occurrence of such an event, I did not expect it; but the gratification afforded by the perfection of the drawing, quite made up for the loss of the expected run. The first thing the huntsman does is to send the pack into covert with a wave of the hand, which is all the signal that ought to be required; then, entering himself, he takes the line which he wishes his hounds to follow, keeping a little behind the body of his hounds, but well with them. Much will depend on the size of the covert as to the proceedings from this time. If large, the draw is made up-wind, and the first whip is sent on to the point where the fox is most likely to break, in order to view him away, and save time by hallooing, which signal is of course at once acted on by the huntsman. If the woods are very large, it is no use for the first whip to go to any one point outside—he must rather select some ride or break, which the fox must cross at some distance a-head of the body of the hounds, and, as they approach, quietly slip off to a second and more distant one. He will thus have a good chance of viewing the fox as he crosses, and at last may post himself at the outside, at the point where foxes usually break from that particular covert. I need not say that, while engaged in this occupation, strict silence should be kept, and no one should approach the whip for any purpose, much less enter into conversation with him. Some masters, when drawing large coverts, station five or six men in different parts, and give them a separate signal. This is of great use, and is certainly carrying out Beckford's rule to the fullest extent. In this case, also, much noise is to be avoided, as it is not desirable to drive

the fox out of his kennel far before the hounds; the second whip should be a little in the rear of the huntsman, and should urge forward the lagging hounds. It is most important that the huntsman should himself penetrate the thickest parts of the covert; it is here that the fox will most probably be lying; and many a one has been drawn over unfound, from the dislike of the huntsman to set the example to his hounds. They will go anywhere with encouragement; but a slack huntsman is soon imitated, and if he leaves untried the thick part of the underwood, so will his pack. The field seldom can judge of these things, because they seldom are where they should be, in covert, but are talking, laughing, and cigar-smoking, often where the fox is most wanted, or, most likely, to break. If they would all enter and assist the huntsman inside, they would be as useful as they now too often are the reverse. As soon as the first challenge is given, the first whip should be all attention to his duty, and carefully watch, by eye and ear, for his charge's appearance. If he sees him, no notice should be taken till he has reached the first fence from the covert; but as soon as this has been gained, he should screech and halloo in such a way as to bring every hound, with the huntsman, to the spot in less than no time. Thus is a fox well found, which is the first item towards killing him. If, however, the covert is small, it is not necessary to take all these precautions; but, the huntsman entering with his hounds, the whips may each take the skirts outside the fence, so as to see the fox break before them, driving every hound which appears outside into covert; and thus, with as much noise as they like, the spinney or gorse may be threaded. Here the fox seldom gets away far enough before the hounds to require caution; and the moment the scent is owned, they settle to it, and are away.

But it often happens that foxes in large coverts when first found, instead of breaking at once, run ring after ring inside, and at last break down wind, at the point where the hounds entered. These are generally foxes which have been unkennelled just before the hounds, and perhaps headed by the whip, or by some other person who is trying to be over-clever. Sometimes these rings are repeated so often, that the whole covert is foiled by the hounds so constantly running over the same ground, and the consequence is that they cannot hunt a yard. This is a most annoying affair, and tries the temper of all parties more even than a blank-draw. Whenever it happens, and the hounds begin to throw up, and really *cannot* hunt, it is better to take them

away to some other covert than to persevere in this hopeless pursuit.

SECT. 4.—THE RUN.

353. "GONE AWAY! GONE AWAY!!" resounds through the covert, and every nerve is strained by master, men, hounds, and field to fill their respective stations with due credit. The first whip now is a gentleman at large, in comparison with his previous duties; and need only ride so as to be at hand in a moment, in case of difficulty. He should now carefully husband the powers of his horse. The second whip should bring up the tail hounds, and see that none are hanging in covert, using his whip and tongue pretty freely to compel all to get "forrard," which is constantly now to be in his mouth. Thus they stream over hill and dale. After leaving the covert the huntsman gives a few notes on his horn, and a cheer or two, then places himself by the side of his hounds; carefully watching them, and taking advantage of every bend in the leading hounds to cut corners and thus be with them. He thus sees when and where the scent falls in case of a check, and is able to notice any facts which may assist him in his cast, if necessary; as, for instance, the presence of sheep, or deer, or a plough at work, or a sheep-dog, or the scent ceasing at a road or river, or fifty other such occurrences. Upon these facts, trifling as they appear to unlearned eyes, the skilful huntsman founds his calculations, and acts according to them. At this time the master should be in the rear of his huntsman, and ready to restrain the field from pressing upon the hounds, if necessary. Presently a check occurs, and, "Hold hard, gentlemen!" should be the order from the master before mischief is done. The hounds now, if used to cast themselves, will do so without a moment's loss of time, and spread right and left, or wheel in a body, in order to recover the scent. It is extraordinary how clever some hounds are in this self-casting; and how, if left to themselves, they try every stratagem likely to occur to a dog's imagination. But there are many facts which they do not grasp, and of these the huntsman takes advantage; nevertheless, I believe, that if left to themselves, hounds would in the long run kill more foxes than if interfered with too much. Here, as in every other pursuit, moderation is the great virtue, and the huntsman who interferes at the right time, and then only, is the man who is to be applauded. But though hounds when left to themselves will kill their foxes, yet they do not kill them *secundum artem*, because the hunting of the fox is now considered to be a compound operation, partly canine, but partly human; and therefore if the

biped is ignored by the quadruped, and the latter can do without him, the only party who can use his tongue in intelligible language is sure to throw it pretty freely.

354. **THE FIRST CHECK** is the trial of both hounds and huntsmen. Time is now precious, for the fox is travelling; but "most haste is often worst speed;" if, therefore, nothing very evident presents itself to the huntsman as the cause of the check, by all means let the canine instinct have fair play—for a very short time at all events—and then cast them in favour of some reasonable proceeding which the huntsman's brain may have devised, as that which the fox has employed in his defence. Now the scent is either hit off, or fails altogether; and, in the latter case, what is to be done? Either wait for a "halloo," or at once lift the hounds to the point which the fox is most likely to make, and this is generally the nearest covert. Halloos are ticklish affairs, and the man who attends to them indiscriminately, when he does not know by whom they are given, is sure to mislead himself and his followers, in nine cases out of ten. As long as the scent is owned it is better to work it out, unless a halloo which is to be depended on is heard, and then it should certainly be attended to; but if hounds are lifted from the scent and disappointed, they soon become slack, and lose that confidence in their huntsman which is the strong link between him and them.

355. But a common accident occurs perhaps in the run—the hunted fox is **CHANGED** for a fresh one. It happens, unfortunately for foxhounds, that the fox, unlike the deer, loses scent as he goes on; the deer, as he warms, sweats and emits a very strong scent with it, which falls on the ground, and increases mile by mile; on the other hand the fox, like the dog, its congener, never sweats, and what scent it emits is gradually lost during the progress of the chase, becoming fainter and fainter, though generally lasting for the length of a run. Hence, while the deerhound sticks to the hunted deer, by preference for its scent, the foxhound is tempted by the fine fresh scent of a newly-roused fox to take after him, in preference to the sinking animal before him. Hence the difficulty in which the huntsman is placed, for the natural powers of the dog would here mislead him, and it is in this predicament that foxhounds most want his aid. For this also he must always be on the look-out, especially in covert, when running his fox through. During this time it is very important that he should be with them, and that his first whip should be on the other side of it, in order to view any fox which breaks, and

decide whether he is the hunted one or not, whilst, at the same time, he may be able to halloo forward the huntsman and hounds, if all is right. But there are some signs which may indicate the hunted fox, as, for instance, the following:—Supposing the hounds divide, then the huntsman should be able to know in which lot are the leading hounds at the time of the division; to these he should stick, regardless of those who were skirting at the time; and the whipper-in should stop the others, if possible, and bring them to him. During a division the second whip should wait anxiously for orders, and be ready to act in a moment when he sees to which side the huntsman is leading. Now all goes on again, and the hounds are running breast-high: soon they press still more eagerly forward, and the huntsman can perceive the fox hard pressed only a field before him; at this time he fancies that his prize is won, and halloos and screams to encourage his hounds, which then certainly do not want it. Alas! his hopes are damped, for, after carrying on to the middle of the next field of turnips, they throw up their heads, and cannot own the scent. What can have happened! The fox *must* have lain down in the hedge-row, or run down the ditch; but the horsemen are so forward that all idea of hunting back for him is out of the question, and the hounds must be lifted to the hedge. Here, after a careful cast, he is hit off, and at last run into only a hundred yards or so from the line, being fairly blown, and lying in the ditch.

SECT. 5.—THE KILL.

356. It is usual, when hounds have killed their fox, for the huntsman to dismount, and get in among them, for the purpose of laying hold of the fox and removing it, in order to "worry it." This done—in order that the hounds may recover their wind, and that the tail-hounds shall be encouraged as well as the leaders—the fox is held aloft, and the huntsman or whip gets into a tree, or on a high bank, holding the fox towards the hounds. The cheers and noise are then redoubled, and the baying of the hounds in addition, constitute a chorus most gratifying to the sportsman's ear. Presently the fox is thrown among the hounds, and soon torn limb from limb, and eaten. Such is the finale of this exciting sport, in which the energies of so many have been long engaged.

SECT. 6.—RUNNING TO GROUND.

357. This happens sometimes as a finale to a run, instead of a kill or losing the fox, and is certainly a better finish than this last conclusion, the most unsatisfactory of

all to the good sportsman. When hounds have marked their fox well, and there is no doubt about his having gone to ground, they may, after some few minutes, be taken off to some fresh "draw," or home, if the day is too far gone. Sometimes, however, it is desirable to dig out or bolt the fox, when hounds have been short of blood; and then, a terrier having been procured, he is put in, and soon pins the fox in some corner where he is heard baying him. Over this point the spades should be used, and soon come down upon him in the ordinary way. Sometimes, however, though rarely, the fox is bolted by the terrier, and may even run the gauntlet of the hounds, and escape, as has happened on some occasions. The use of the terrier is to mark the exact situation of the fox, and to prevent his digging on further, which he will often do in sandy soils. Sometimes in shallow spouts or drains a terrier may be made to lay hold of the fox, and, by withdrawing him, the fox will be brought out. If he can be reached, a whip-thong should be first introduced, in the hope of taking off the fox's attention from the dog, who has then a better chance of escaping his teeth.

SECT. 7.—ON SCENT.

358. No single subject connected with hunting has received so much attention as this, and for this simple reason, that none is so difficult to settle, from an ignorance of the laws which govern it. But not only do we know nothing of its laws, but we also are at sea with regard to facts, for of these we have none upon which certain dependance can be placed. One party asserts that different foxes have different scents; and consequently, that scent varies with the individual fox; but, says another, "scent varies in a few minutes with the same fox—then how is the individual the cause of the variation?" There can be no doubt that this often happens. We have all often seen on the advent of a hail-cloud, scent melt away as if by magic; although over the same country it was previously a good one. But what is there that we have not seen? that is the question in reference to scent. One thing may be said—viz., that we have seen no one fact with regard to scent which could be considered so constant as to form the basis of a rule. Is even "the southerly wind and the cloudy sky" a certain prelude to scent? I trow not; and I should be sorry to depend upon it. Living for many years in a bad scenting country, I have been saluted on all occasions with prophecies as to scent; but never did I find the man whose foretellings were worth a farthing. Scent must be either good or

bad, or indifferent, on any given day; and therefore it is an even chance that any opinion given beforehand will be right, because the indifferent scent will do for either, and will be claimed by both parties. Yet I never knew any man receive general credit for knowing anything on the subject, practically. I believe, however, that scent really does depend upon the individual fox, and, moreover, that this scent is constantly varying with his hopes and fears. My impression is, that it is only partially dependant upon his skin, and that when that only emits the scent hounds have a difficult task. Did any of my readers ever catch a cat in a trap set in a room? If so, they will surely remember the rank scent which pervaded that room; and which was not produced by the skin of the cat, but by its anal glands. So with the fox. When first disturbed he emits a considerable quantity of this scent, and if hard pressed at first, it is produced in great quantities, and to such an extent as to enable hounds to hunt breast-high; hence the advantage of pressing him early, for the more he is pressed the better scent he gives; but if this scent is gradually and slowly emitted, as it is when he is suffered to go his own pace without fear, the result is that the hounds are less and less able to own it, and he has a fair chance of escaping. Again, supposing a change of atmosphere from a cloud, or whatever other cause may produce it, these glands suddenly cease to emit their scent, and the change is as rapidly transmitted to the hunting of the hounds. The soil and air have much to do with the "bad scent" and with the skin-scent, but with this glandular-scent his fears and anxieties are the chief agents; or, in the state of repose, his hopes and desires. This theory will, I think, explain some of the anomalies of scent, but that it will do away with all difficulties is beyond my fondest fancy. When we know all the intricate laws connected with and governing the electrical condition of the air—that called ozone and the laws of storms—we may hope to improve our knowledge of scent; but, perhaps, then it may elude our grasp. If, however, attention is paid to nature it will, I think, be found that however useless in practice, the above is the true theory of scent as regards the fox. At all events it explains some of the facts which before were at variance with each other; but it will only explain the strong variations in scent, and will not affect the ordinary rules which Beckford gives, and which every one re-echoes, though not exactly believing in them. Such, however, as they are they should be known, and are given by him as follows:—"It depends chiefly on two

things—the condition the ground is in, and the temperature of the air; both of which should be moist without being wet. When both are in this condition the scent is then perfect, and, *vice versâ*, when the ground is hard and the air dry, there seldom will be any scent. It scarcely ever lies with a north or an east wind; a southerly wind without rain, and a westerly wind that is not rough, are the most favourable. Storms in the air are great enemies to scent, and seldom fail to take it entirely away. A fine sunshiny day is not often a good hunting-day; but what the French call *jour des dames*, warm without sun, is generally a perfect one—there are not many such in a whole season. In some fogs I have known the scent lie high, in others not all; depending, I believe, on the quarter the wind is then in. I have known it lie very high in a mist, when not too wet, but if the wet should hang upon the bushes, it will fall on the scent and deaden it. When the dogs roll, the scent, I have frequently observed, seldom lies—for what reason I know not; but, with permission, if they smell strong when they first come out of kennel, the proverb is in their favour, and that smell is a prognostic of good luck. When cobwebs hang on the bushes there is seldom much scent; during a white frost the scent lies high, as it also does when the frost is quite gone. At the time of its going off scent never lies; it is a critical minute for hounds, in which their game is frequently lost. In a great dew the scent is the same; in heathy countries, where the game brushes as it goes along, scent seldom fails; when the ground carries, scent is bad, for a very evident reason, which hare-hunters, who pursue their game over greasy fallows and through dirty roads, have great reason to complain of. A wet night frequently produces good chases, as then the game neither like to use the covert nor the roads. It has been often remarked that scent lies best in the richest soils, and countries which are favourable to horses are seldom so to hounds. I have also observed that in some particular places, let the temperature of the air be as it may, scent never lies." Beyond this nothing, as far as I know, has been added to our knowledge of the laws of scent.

SECT. 8.—ON DRAFTING HOUNDS FOR FAULTS.

359. The characteristic of the foxhound is "dash." As the harrier can scarcely be too cautious, so the foxhound can hardly be too fast, *if only his nose is good*. The combination, therefore, of these two points should be encouraged, and all old and slow hounds, however good they once were, must be drafted. Few hounds retain their

dash after five or six seasons; and though they can hunt a cold scent then perhaps better than ever, they will dwell too long upon a good one, and will thereby only do harm to the younger hounds. Let not any feeling of favouritism keep these oversteady old hounds in the hunting-pack, but discard them at once whenever their places can be supplied by younger and more vigorous hunters. Inveterate skitters, also, and conceited babblers, by all means hang—they are not worth keeping a day, and deserve no mercy. Hounds should carry a good head, and not follow one another like a flock of geese; and each should seem to struggle for an opening. It is remarkable how various are the powers of different hounds: some seem to hunt best in covert; some can pick out a cold "pad scent;" whilst others again, though not otherwise faster, can rattle away with a breast-high scent, and beat their rivals at that particular point, though, with the fox in view, they might again be overmatched. But the various classes of hounds seem themselves aware of these variations, and depend upon one another for assistance—Rattler, Rainbow, and Admiral giving way to Jowler, Concord, and Beauty at certain conjunctures, and again appearing to resume their positions by sufferance, whenever that conjuncture has passed by. Nothing does so much harm to hounds as leaving them in covert to hunt "riot" unchecked. The second whip ought, therefore, to be careful in getting all away; and he had better be out of the run altogether than leave four or five couple behind him; they learn all sorts of bad tricks, and if some are left every day, almost any pack is speedily ruined. Nothing is more wonderful than the power which hounds have of threading their way through horsemen, and reaching the body of the pack. With a Leicestershire field this is truly marvellous; and when the pace is considered, it will be admitted that it is difficult to account for the way in which tail hounds get forward; but if they do not, they are useless, and they also should be drafted.

SECT. 9.—THE DUTIES OF THE MEN.

360. THE HUNTSMAN.—The general duties of the men have been already alluded to in the preliminary chapter; but I shall now say a few words on those which are peculiar to the hunting of foxhounds. In the first place, the huntsman must be a man in the prime of life, a good and bold horseman, and able to be with his hounds wherever a horse can live. Beckford was of opinion that the huntsman's office is not so important as that of the first whip; and in his days, when hounds were a good deal

less interfered with than now, perhaps such was the case. But now-a-days a huntsman must be a very superior man; for he must interfere a good deal, or lose his character for "fastness;" and yet, when he interferes, he must really do something or other in a way superior to that which the hounds themselves would have followed. His casts, consequently, must not be general casts, which the hounds themselves would have managed as well as he; but they must be with some particular object in view, and that object ought to be really founded on observation and experience. Beckford says, "I am very well satisfied if my huntsman be acquainted with his country and his hounds; if he ride well up to them; and if he have some knowledge of the nature of the animal which he is in pursuit of; but so far am I from wishing him to be famous, that I hope he will still continue to think his hounds know best how to hunt a fox." In the present day, however, if a huntsman is not "famous," his hounds will have a poor character, and the sport will not be considered as good as it should be. A huntsman's temper should be good, both for the sake of his hounds and for that of the field; and he should revel with delight in his business, not following it solely for a livelihood, but enjoying it with as much zest as the youngest of his followers. His language to his hounds should be good, and his manner to them of an animated character, whether encouraging them or repressing their ardour. The dog-language chiefly used by the huntsman is—"Hark! hark! to Governor!" when Governor speaks, and is deserving attention; or, when encouraging all to draw, he cries, "Yooicks! yooicks! there, have at him! Rout him out! Push him up! At him, again, boys!" These are his chief words of encouragement. The horn brings hounds to his heel in casting or lifting, or in leaving covert, and is always a signal for the second whip to bring on tail-hounds. The great misfortune is, that the huntsman of a pack of foxhounds requires an old head on young shoulders, which is seldom met with; in fact, Hector and Ulysses in one would not be a more improbable combination than that desirable in the model-huntsman. I can conceive no situation more trying than that of a huntsman when things *will* go wrong; a bad scent, a short-running fox, an impatient field, and an easy-tempered master, are enough to try a Job in pigskin. Some excuse, therefore, should be made for such trying circumstances; but when ill success lasts all through a season, or perhaps two, no man should be astonished at grumbings on the part of the attendant

"field." Success will generally in the long-run be commanded if it is deserved; and if a man has a good head, a good seat, a good eye, and, above all, a fox-hunter's heart, he will generally both deserve and command success. "Scrutator," who has lately written a series of interesting letters on hunting and hounds, appears to lean to the system of non-interference, and thinks, with many others, that the modern system of lifting over fallows, and all kinds of halloos, is a bad one. This opinion, coming from a gentleman-huntsman, is a very valuable one, because these are generally the men who delight most in exercising their own talents in preference to those of their hounds. But, after all, it is a question of taste, and it is not to be decided by the number of foxes killed in each way, which is not a decisive test, but rather by the general opinion as to which way is most consonant with the preconceived idea of sport. If the number of kills is to be received as decisive in all cases, shooting birds sitting, or shooting into "the ruck" of a covey, ought to be praised; but the reverse being the case, is an example of the rule not applying in all cases. While, therefore, the present fashion lasts, the huntsman must interfere whenever he thinks (*and is right in thinking*) that he can do so with a prospect of advantage—not waiting till the hounds cannot hunt, but always lifting or casting when he is satisfied that his doing so will gain time in pursuing his fox. Such I believe to be the modern rule, and if so, it requires, as I before remarked, a better head than does the office of first whip, although his duties are by no means light and easy. In remarking on the duties of the huntsman of a pack of foxhounds, I have passed over his kennel-duties, and those which refer to entering his young hounds, because they are pretty much the same with all hounds and huntsmen, and have already been sufficiently insisted upon in the preliminary chapter on Hunting. The following twelve rules may be useful to the young huntsman:—

Rule 1.—Avoid extremes in interfering with hounds, for though too much assistance will destroy their hunting powers and make them slack, too little will make them tie on the scent, and hunt *heel*.

Rule 2.—Always cast on the most likely ground first—taking a hedge, for instance, in preference to the open field; and casting rapidly or slowly in proportion to the goodness of the scent.

Rule 3.—Be careful not to mislead hounds, let them always know what is the precise nature of the work to be done.

Rule 4.—Always make good the cast in

each direction before trying another, and do not have to go over the same ground twice. In returning from a bad cast over soiled ground, trot as quickly as possible, as the hounds then are not to suppose themselves doing anything.

Rule 5.—When it is *probable* that the fox is headed back, if a forward cast is first decided on, let it be a very short and quick one, and do not lose more time than necessary in that direction.

Rule 6.—When hounds are running in covert, if the fox is seen in a ride, and not over it, no attempt should be made to interfere with the hounds, as they must hunt very carefully to avoid over-running the scent.

Rule 7.—Although the horsemen are better in the covert than out, yet they should not be riding all over the wood, or they will foil the scent.

Rule 8.—When a fox is hunted up to a farm-yard or village, great care should be taken not to leave him behind. The hounds are very apt to overrun the scent for half-a-mile or more, when there is the hallooing of the farmer and his men, or of the villagers, and the fox may escape by taking refuge in any outhouse.

Rule 9.—The heel-scent is sometimes stronger than the right-scent, in consequence of the wind favouring it.

Rule 10.—When a fox runs his foil in covert, the tail hounds may be lifted and thrown in at head (Beckford).

Rule 11.—When hounds are seen to be perfectly unable or unwilling to cast themselves, and are apparently bewildered, the chances are that the fox is headed back.

Rule 12.—If many foxes are a-foot, it is better to let the hounds divide and hunt all of them at once, as by these means all are equally distressed, and one is sure to break; when the remaining hounds may soon be got up to the hunted fox by the efforts of the whips.

361. THE FIRST WHIPPER-IN is truly a Jack-of-all-trades; he is expected to rate hounds, and stop them from riot on all occasions, as well as the second whip; yet, in case of the huntsman's absence from the field, from any cause, he must be able to hunt them as well as he does. Now, every one knows that half of the power of the huntsman over his hounds is vested in their personal attachment to him, and that *ceteris paribus*, the man who best succeeds in making his hounds fond of him, in the summer and in kennel, will do most with them in the hunting field. Yet the first whip, who is always to be rating and using his whip, is at once to step into the huntsman's shoes, and show sport as well as if every hound was accustomed to fly to him,

instead of from him. Next, the first whip must be able to foretell the exact point of the fox in breaking covert, and ought to be there to see him; or, if in a larger covert, he ought to be *wherever he is wanted*, which is rather a large space to cover. Then, if the fox unexpectedly takes a line which leads to open earths, the first whip must get there before him, let the pace be what it may, or the maledictions on his head will be many and loud. Such are his greatest difficulties, often so great as to be insuperable; but the regular duties he may fulfil in a satisfactory manner, and they are chiefly the following; and even in these he may easily exhibit extraordinary talent:—He must, of course, be a good horseman, and should be a tolerably light weight; the more under 11 stone the better, and never over that weight. In stopping hounds, never let the whip begin to rate them before heading them, but gallop well before them, and *then* begin to smack his whip and rate them. This is particularly necessary when in the open, but it should also be attended to in covert. While the hounds are running many slight offences may be passed over; which, however, should be treasured up, and considered in aggravation of punishment on the next similar offence. When not running no offence should be passed over, and if the rate and whip are not attended to, the hound should be taken up and well flogged. When hounds are very riotous, it has been the custom to introduce the subject of their riot to the kennel, and flog them well in its presence, rating them the while; but this is certainly a bad plan, and quite unnecessary, if due care is taken in the summer to accustom hounds to riot, two or three couple at a time. When these means have been taken in the summer, and the whip sufficiently used then, the rate "Ware-hare," or "Have a care," or "Ware-sheep," will generally nip such offences in the bud; and that is the time when they are the most easily prevented. Besides these rates, the first whip should chiefly use the halloo on viewing the fox, and should be able to give it artistically; thus—"Tally ho! tally ho!! taaally ho!!! Go-n-e away! go-n-e away!! go-o-n-e aw-a-y!!" followed by the peculiar scream which no words will convey. If, however, the fox is headed back, he alters his note to "Tally ho! back! Tally ho! back!!" and, with a smack of his whip, sends the hounds into covert again as fast as they appear. In assisting the huntsman to get hounds out, not by the whip, he uses the words, "Elup! eluppe!! eluppe!!!" One thing a first whip should especially guard against, and that is, the giving the huntsman any cause for jealousy. This feeling is

always sufficiently near the surface, and if encouraged, adieu to all hopes of co-operation on the part of two men whose duties are as much connected as is the right hand with the left. If, however, the huntsman fancies that the whipper-in is trying to show off at his expense, or to supplant him in the estimation of the hunt, he is sure to endeavour to lower him, and in so doing he interferes with sport; and the same is the case with the whip himself. They can do as much harm by opposing one another, as good by co-operation. Many think that a good whipper-in makes a good huntsman, but the two offices are so very distinct that it rarely is the case. The one has a limited field of operations, and has confined himself for many years to that field in which he has been activity itself, and has rivalled "the varmint" himself in skill and daring. The other has a much larger field, and requires to know not only the habits of the fox, but those of the hound as well; also, the natural history of everything upon which his eye falls in the hunting-field: the habits of the crow, whose flight often indicates the line of the fox; the habits of sheep, who often in the distance may be seen to indicate the fox's presence among them; the peculiar style of hunting of each hound, who each often tell him something of what is going on; and lastly, the general features of the part of the country which he is hunting, upon which much depends in his casts and lifts.

362. THE SECOND WHIP has a much more easy place, as far as head-work is concerned, but his hands will find full occupation, even if he had a dozen pair. He must look out for riot in covert, and stop it quickly and decidedly; he must be ready to bring up the tail-hounds, and on all occasions work to the huntsman whenever he is getting his hounds forward, and lifting them either in covert or out. "Farrard, farrard," is his everlasting cry, and the acting up to it his chief duty. If he does this well, and takes care to leave no hound behind him, he will fulfil his duties to everybody's satisfaction.

SECT. 10.—POINTS OF DIFFERENCE FROM STAG-HUNTING.

363. STAG-HUNTING being a sport in which the game is to be saved, hounds must necessarily be easily stopped; they must therefore be very tractable, which, to a certain extent, is desirable with foxhounds, but still not so much so as with staghounds. Nothing perhaps would be more difficult than to save a fox close before a pack of foxhounds, and many a vixen in the spring pays the penalty of this excessive desire for blood. Without it the dash of the foxhound

would be lost, and the chief beauty of the sport marred; it would indeed sink into tameness, and the high price at which it is purchased would be totally thrown away.

SECT. 11.—POINTS OF DIFFERENCE FROM HARE-HUNTING.

364. HARE-HUNTING, as we shall presently see, is a sport totally different from fox-hunting; and requires different men, different horses, different hounds, and a very different field. Harriers should certainly never be interfered with, and should be able to carry on their hunting under every difficulty. It must be remembered that the hare is always above ground, and that the hounds ought to be able to pick out her scent through every disadvantage; consequently, time is of no consequence, and the end must always come if only the hounds can continue to hunt. Patience, therefore, may have full play; and the huntsman has little to do but to watch his beauties, and admire their wonderful efforts to out-manceuvre the turns and doubles of the hare. As Beckford observes, fox-hunting without its spirit would be no longer fox-hunting; it would be as stale small-beer to champagne. The harrier or beagle is always at work, but is content to do that work "slowly and surely;" he should never be hurried; while the foxhound's dash leads him to try forward and get on as rapidly as his nose will allow him to do. With a strong bold fox this quality is very necessary, and no true harriers or beagles would reach him; but with a short-running and bad one, the case is different; and then the latter hound would perhaps succeed better than the high-bred foxhound. But when foxes take a straight line, hounds must race as well as hunt; and it is their great peculiarity that they are capable of doing this. Beckford distinguishes hunting the fox from fox-hunting; and, to illustrate his position, shows that a hackney, though he runs a race, is not therefore a race-horse. The foxhound therefore ought to be kept to his own game, and not be used for the hare, whose style of running he is not suited for. If hares are to be raced into, greyhounds are the appointed dogs; and it is a poor kind of coursing when the hounds occasionally stoop to the scent, and at other times run their hare in view. Fox-hunting in its very essence implies courage, impetuosity, pace, and dash in all engaged; whilst hare-hunting is inseparably connected with cool, cautious, old-gentlemanly discretion and wile. Towards the end of a run the difference is very remarkable. The foxhound *vires acquirit eundo*, is more and more full of dash, and as he catches view is literally frantic with excitement; but

throughout the hare-hunt the same steady and beautiful, but calm kind of hunting goes on; and even at the kill the hounds seem scarcely to enjoy their bloodless victory. Beagles cannot possibly be too tender-nosed, provided they are all alike and pack well; but the foxhound may easily be so, if he is thereby tempted to tie on a scent and potter, whereby time is lost, and the fox escapes to his earth. **FOX-HUNTING IS THE SPORT OF YOUTH AND EARLY MANHOOD**, and is rarely enjoyed to the fullest extent after that period of life is gone. Few men after forty-five can get up the steam sufficiently to enter into it with all the zest which it is capable of inspiring; and though many who have passed their grand climacteric join in its pleasures, it is generally without also partaking of its perils. A perfect hunter and a little riding to points will generally suffice for the prevention of accidents, but the sport is not then enjoyed as it was at thirty; nor is it really partaken of in all its glories and perfections. How seldom do we see any man above the age I have specified at all near the hounds! Certainly there are some brilliant exceptions, and especially with some of our most prominent huntsmen of late years, whose grey hairs seem no impediment to daring horsemanship, and proper and efficient assistance to hounds. I have heard of some men who prefer a tough beef-steak to one cut from a tender London rump, because the former lasted longer than the latter; and with them perhaps a four or five hours' fox-chase is the perfection of the sport; but though I like to see hounds left to themselves a good deal, I confess it is only that they may get on the faster, not dwell the longer on a scent. All hounds go fast enough with a good scent, but no hound can go the pace which a foxhound can with a bad one; and in this is another point of difference between the two hounds. It must be remembered that during every minute lost, the fox is nearing his point of safety by some hundreds of yards; whilst in the case of the hare she is only crouching close to you in all probability. For all these reasons foxhounds should always be above their work, in order to retain that dash which is so highly prized; while harriers can scarcely be too much worked, as thereby they are rendered sufficiently steady and ready to stoop.

SECT. 12.—BAG-FOXES.

365. Whenever bag-foxes are to be used, they should be hunted solely for the purpose of giving blood; and if it is intended to depend upon them entirely, a pack of harriers will serve the purpose much better than foxhounds. They run much more like

hares than wild foxes, and, not knowing where to look for earths, they do not take a line; and consequently are soon run into by foxhounds which will condescend to hunt them. Old hounds which have tasted good, sweet, and healthy wild foxes, will scorn such carrion; and the fact of a bag-fox being shaken out before hounds by the keeper, is often clearly indicated by the best hounds refusing to take their usual leading places at the head of the pack. Harriers, however, will hunt bagmen with great alacrity; and the sport is very similar to a run with the hare; and, as displaying all the excellencies of the beagle, is not to be despised. I should much prefer such a sport with a good pack of full-sized beagles, to the slow sport which is afforded by bad foxhounds in a bad country, where foxes are perpetually lost, or changed, or chopped; and where a good run is a rare exception.

SECT. 13.—CONSEQUENCES OF A SEVERE RUN.

366. When hounds have had a very severe run, they require some time to recruit; and the same pack should not be again taken out for three, four, or five days, if it is possible to avoid it. In all cases, the hardest working hounds suffer the most, and they must have rest, while those which have husbanded their powers, must make up the pack with the hounds which were left at home on the occasion of the hard day. When hounds have been very severely tested, they often take a week to come round, and should have it at all costs, as these are the treasures of the pack, and if they are over-worked, will sadly injure its brilliancy. Hard-worked hounds should have a little extra flesh; but this will not entirely do away with the necessity for rest, and, carried to extremes, will only make them mangy, and full of humours. Lame hounds, also, ought to have full time to recover, and should never leave the kennel till quite recovered; it is a stupid and cruel plan to take out lame hounds in order to make up the numbers. They must lag behind, and only occupy the time of the second whip, in getting them taken care of at some keeper's house or labourer's cottage. It is far better to start with short numbers of useful hounds, than to cheat the eyes of the uninitiated, by taking out a lot of cripples to the meet—a practice which every sportsman soon condemns in the hearing of the whole field.

SECT. 14.—NECESSITY FOR BLOOD.

367. It is commonly, and indeed almost invariably, said that foxhounds must have blood; and, since the time of Beckford, the saying is constantly paraded. But though

some blood is necessary, yet it by no means follows that it is well for the hounds to kill every fox they find. Even were it possible, it would not, I think, increase their dash, or add to their hunting; for an occasional disappointment is more likely to give zest to success, than if the constant termination by a kill was the goal to which all hounds look forward without a doubt or fear. Observe how differently an old greyhound runs when he thinks there is a chance of losing his hare; he then puts on the steam, and is a different animal to what he was when he thought ultimate success as certain as fate. And so with the foxhound;

if he finds blood always reward his exertions, he will not try nearly so hard as he would do if he was doubtful of success. Hence, how often we see, after a week's bad scent, a good pack go off with a fair scent, and run as they never ran before. Such dash! such a head! as never was seen. They have been disappointed day after day, and are savage *for want of blood*. But this must not be carried too far; if they are hopeless of success, they will become slack, and in time this is always the result of bad management. Hounds soon learn to know if they are well hunted; and, like race-horses, they do not half answer to bad handling.

CHAP. VI. HARE-HUNTING.

SECT. 1.—HARE-HOUNDS—AND HOW TO PROCURE THEM.

363. The varieties of hounds for hunting the hare have been already mentioned at page 98, under the heads of Harriers, Medium-Beagles, Dwarf-Beagles, Fox-Beagles, and Terrier-Beagles. I shall, therefore, now proceed to describe, as in fox-hunting, the best mode of obtaining a pack. It will be evident that here time is no object, for a man may spend half-a-dozen years in procuring a pack if he likes; and I am inclined to think he would succeed the best by so doing. A pack of hounds to the exact taste of the intended sportsmen is seldom in the market, and the first thing a purchaser does is to set to work to get rid of certain peculiarities inherent in his bargain. Thus, they are too high or too low, or too fast or too slow, or too flashy or too low hunters; or some other fault will be found which destroys his pleasure in hunting them. There is such a vast difference between the two extremes, and so many shades to be met with, that few men can exactly please themselves with any but bantlings of their own breeding. Besides, a man can easily breed six or eight couple of hounds in one season, and these, with a few old and steady hounds, will serve very well for him to begin with. He will also, if he hunts them himself, be better able to manage a small pack, and may teach himself and them at the same time. I should, therefore, advise intended masters of hare-hounds, unless they meet with a pack *exactly* to their minds, to set to work and breed, rather than to buy an indifferent pack. Three or four bitches should be selected of the exact

size, blood, and symmetry which is desired, and any price given for them. Let no moderate sum be considered too high to procure this nucleus of the future "little terribles;" for upon them all depends, since, whatever they are, such will be your young hounds, subject always to the change produced by the cross with the intended sire. Now, it will be seen at page 99, that I have recommended the beagle-blood to be selected in preference to the foxhound for hare-hunting, because in them is developed to the highest extent the hunting powers of the old tender-nosed hound, with sufficient pace only to allow the hare to exhibit all those wiles which serve to display the hunting of the hound. Unlike the fox, the hare cannot save herself but by her doubles; and the beagle has full time to follow her in all her mazes and wanderings. The hare-hunting foxhound, on the contrary, presses her too much, prevents her running in her natural style, and races into her in a most bastard and unnatural manner, comprehending the bad features of both kinds of hunting without their good ones. By all means, therefore, I should steer clear of that cross, except in a very remote degree, or in very small hounds which bear the foxhound cross without injury, because, with all their dash, they cannot press the hare sufficiently to prevent her display of doublings.

If the purpose, however, is to get together a pack of average-sized harriers, say of about 18 to 20 inches, the less foxhound-blood they have the better. Of course it may be easy to err in the opposite extreme, and to get hounds which will sit down on their seats of honour (if they have any),

and throw their tongues in the most melodious manner without stirring their legs. Such animals are absurdly slow, and will please no one, I should imagine; nor indeed would they be easy to procure in the present fast age. But plenty of tender-nosed harriers can be procured, with more or less foxhound blood in them; and the brood-bitches should be selected according to taste from these hounds. These bitches will also serve to enter the young pack, for, as the dash and speed of the foxhound are not wanted in hare-hunting, their age and caution will be exceedingly useful in picking out the scent when the young hounds are in difficulties. The full-sized and naturally fast modern harrier is particularly adapted for running trapped hares, when a gallop of twenty minutes is all that is desired, or that can be expected. These hares run as straight as a fox, and in very much the same style; often topping the low fences like a dog, if hard pressed. They do not try the hunting powers of the hound, because, in the first place, their scent is strong; and in the second, their ignorance of the country they are in seems to prevent all attempt at safety by artifice, and they run straight till picked up by their followers. Small and comparatively slow hounds are here out of place; displaying neither the pace which may be obtained with the trapped hare, nor the beautiful hunting met with in the wild one. The small drafted foxhound is very little different from those modern harriers, but not having been so long confined to the hunting the hare, is not so well suited to the hare-hunter's purpose; and I should prefer breeding from such a pack as the Blackmore Vale Hounds, which are true foxhounds in blood, though long used to hunt hares. These hounds are very fast, and burst their hares generally within half-an-hour; they have also excellent noses, but they are too fast, in my humble opinion, for the sport of hare-hunting. Occasionally a quick hare, or one of the down hares, may stand before these hounds for miles, and show as straight running as a fox often displays; but if such is desired, why not hunt the fox at once? in which you will get such runs constantly, and not as exceptional cases. If harriers are to be used as a means of giving a gallop, trapped hares are by far the best, and for them these dwarf foxhounds are fully adapted; but if for showing true and close hunting, without reference to pace, we must go further back towards the old southern hound to procure a hound suited for the purpose. Nevertheless, as all may not think alike, it is well that every one should know how to procure that which will produce exactly what he wants. This I have endeavoured to show, and also to

point out how the pack may be bred exactly to suit the taste of the master; but if that plan is considered too slow and long of accomplishment, two or three packs are generally sold every season, at a price varying from 60 or 80 guineas to 300 guineas; the latter being a very high price for harriers, though £700 is said to have been once given for a celebrated pack. From these one may be selected, and if it does not answer the purpose, it is no fault of mine.

SECT. 2.—BREEDING.

369. When the choice is made of a particular kind of hound, it is necessary in the pack of harriers, far more than in foxhounds, that all should be bred to that standard. This is not only desirable on account of looks, but also on the score of efficiency; for, if hounds are not of the same size and form, they are much less likely to pack well than if all are cast in the same mould. Let the bitches, therefore, be all as much as possible alike and of the same blood; though, for after-convenience of breeding, not too nearly related. Then put them all to the same dog, or to similar ones, for if they are put to dogs of various sizes and blood, the progeny will vary also in externals as well as in style of hunting. It is well known that breeding in-and-in will not do if carried too far, but with harriers it may be carried to a great extent, and thrice in to once out will keep up in a pack a sufficient amount of strength of constitution. Supposing, therefore, two couple of bitches have been bred from, they will, in all probability, throw from 12 to 15 couple of whelps; and with a little aid from other bitches, for which purpose many may generally be obtained at the right time, that number may be reared. These must be sent out to walk at two or three months' old, and, with good luck, 10 couple of young hounds will come in towards the beginning of January, and may be at once subjected to kennel-discipline, and in a month's time may be entered to hare; which, however, they should never run for more than an hour or so in the day during their puppyhood. These hounds, however, may be entered much earlier than foxhounds, but the larger dog-puppies should be kept until the autumn. The management in kennel is the same as already described under the first chapter on Hunting, and the breaking from riot also; remembering that for them hare is not riot, but the contrary. Much time is gained, and great advantage in every way results, from entering harriers to their game at this early age; and I am sure that the development of the taste for the sport is in a ratio with its early instilment; besides, as these hounds

have not the courage of the foxhound, so they are less calculated to bear any loss of this quality; and yet, during the next summer, they must be constantly exercised, with the whip and rate perpetually going, though the less these are used the better. But if they have been entered, their natural propensity to hunt has been encouraged and gratified, and they will afterwards bear some degree of rating during the summer. During this first entering and the next season, it will not be possible to be very strict in drafting hounds, because there is little choice, and the master must make up his mind to rub through this time with what he has, looking forward with pleasure to the future as the time of perfection. By again breeding the same number of whelps, at the end of the first season he may begin to draft, as he finds there is a probability of supplying their places with more efficient and elegant substitutes; and by the beginning of the second season he may take the field with a good-looking pack of perhaps 18 or 20 couple of hounds, which, if not quite up to all the dodges of the hare, are at all events soon likely to be—that is, if properly managed, and not too much interfered with. This plan will produce a pack in two or three years, at only a few pound's expense, for walking and keep of hounds, over and above the original price of the brood-bitches. It will also afford the master the pleasure of feeling that he has bred his pack to his own model of perfection; and if he has not fully succeeded, he will be sure to console himself by the belief that he has approached it as nearly as possible. We are all prone to hug ourselves in this way, and a great happiness it is to most that human nature is so constituted. Every man's goose is a swan in his own eyes, however manifest its anserine properties are to all the rest of the world.

SECT. 3.—PECULIARITIES PROPER TO THE MEN.

370. THE HUNTSMAN, who is also with hare-hounds generally the master, should be a very different person to the huntsman of a pack of foxhounds. Sometimes a young man succeeds in this task; but more frequently he fails from want of temper and patience; and the age which is best suited for the sport is that at which man usually has arrived at some degree of control over his natural impulses. Still there are some exceptions to this rule, and I have seen harriers exceedingly well hunted by very young men. But, whatever the age of the huntsman, he should be quiet, persevering, cautious, and free from meddling, and should trust to the noses of his hounds

in preference to his own head. Beckford recommends that the huntsman of a pack of harriers should be bred from a female of the family of the "quiet gentleman" in the "Spectator," crossed with a knowing huntsman; and probably this cross would suit; but, as with the poet so with the huntsman, *nascitur non fit*. He must be taken as he is framed by the Almighty; and few are so framed as to fit them for the management of harriers till they have sown a crop of wild oats in other and more exciting amusements. The chief art of the huntsman here is in breeding his hounds, and in drafting them, so that they shall be "suity," and pack well; for when once they are in the field, little or no interference is necessary. They should be as handy as kittens, and should scarcely require a whipper-in; and indeed some of the best packs I have ever seen have been without that appendage. By constantly taking out hounds in summer, and breaking them from riot, and by feeding them after drawing each by name, and otherwise getting control over the hounds in the summer season, it is seldom that any occasion occurs for the office of the whip. If the huntsman rides well to them, he is always near enough to them to interfere when this is wanted; and the hounds are not cowed by the needless display of power, which, if placed in the hands of a whip, is sure to be exercised. But the critical eye of the master is always employed, though he may otherwise be idle, in watching the actions of each hound, and noting his hunting and his pace, also in detecting skirting and babbling, and in deciding upon all the various qualities which will lead him to draft certain hounds, or to breed from others. This is interest sufficient for any man; and to a real lover of hunting it is a most delightful amusement. A comparison may here be drawn between getting a perfect pack of beagles together, and putting four horses in harness so as to exhibit a perfect team. In both cases any one can manage them when broken; but the artist is shown in getting them all to pull together, and to be exact repetitions, the one of the other. In a four-in-hand team, one horse ought not only to be like the others in size, colour, and shape, but his action should be the same, his carriage the same, and he should do exactly his own share of work, and no more. This is the perfection of four-in-hand driving, and a very difficult task to accomplish satisfactorily; and so it is with harriers or beagles—they may easily be handled when well-matched; but it is in the matching that the huntsman's power is shown. He therefore requires a great knowledge of

individual character in the hounds, so as to select those only, which exhibit what he wants in great perfection, to breed from, and to cross with those which will develope still further those good qualities, or suppress the bad ones.

371. THE WHIPPER-IN should be a mere groom, solely intended as a second pair of hands to those of the master; and he should never be allowed to use them without orders. With a gentleman hunting his own pack, such an assistant is very desirable, for holding gates open, turning hounds, keeping them from tying on the scent, and from riot, &c., all which are tiresome tasks, but may be easily performed by one pair of hands, if the owner of them does not mind the trouble.

SECT. 4.—PREPARATIONS FOR HUNTING.

372. The pack intended to hunt on the following day should be drafted and fed at about twelve or one o'clock, and then shut up. From twelve to fifteen couple are quite sufficient for hare-hunting; and the hounds ought to be all equally free from lameness, and very level in condition. Beyond this nothing is requisite, as there is no earth-stopping to be attended to, or public notice of the meets; but the privileged few should have their information in good time, which is arranged in different ways, according to the different circumstances of the pack. Sometimes harriers are publicly announced to meet two or three times a-week, but the injury done to the crops and fences by the field, if numerous, is so great, that there will always be great objections to this. Hares almost always take a ring, and often the same fields are run over several times; and, consequently, much greater damage is done than in a straight run, as with foxhounds. It is only, therefore, where hounds have a great reputation that farmers will allow their land to be thus sacrificed; but in some neighbourhoods the sporting tendency is so strong as to overpower the love of gold, and with them the result is, that a well-behaved field of horsemen is always welcome. There is never any excuse for wantonly riding over turnips, or young wheat, or seeds, with harriers, because the pace and direction are seldom such as to compel the maintenance of a straight line, and a slight detour to avoid such crops will never much interfere with the enjoyment of sport. Some excuse may be made for the field of fox-hunters riding over any crop, let it be what it may, in the ardour of pursuit; but even then some little care should be taken to avoid doing injury to one's neighbours; but in the pursuit of the hare, the man who does such a thing deserves to be well-rated by the master, as well as the sufferer, for his thoughtlessness.

SECT. 5.—HARE-FINDING.

373. THE FORM OF THE HARE, or, as it is sometimes called, her SEAT, is very easily seen by some men, and with as much difficulty by others. This does not seem to depend upon quickness of sight only, for I have known many who could see long distances, and were very quick-sighted, who never could find a hare in her form. Others, again, of comparatively weak sight and slow habits, were sure to find her if she was within view; so that it may be considered as a knack or gift, a good deal dependent upon the powers of observation. Much depends upon the observance of colour, for it appears to me that this is the chief guide. I have generally observed that quick hare-finders have corrected a mistaken "See, ho!" by the remark, "No, that is too red for a hare;" or, "That is too green." Never, "That is not the right shape," but always the difference being referred to colour. It is probable, therefore, that good hare-finders have a very delicate perception of the shades of colour, and by that faculty are able to find the hare in her seat. Hares sit in different situations, according to the weather, and should be looked for accordingly. Thus, in windy weather they get out of its way, and sit on hill-sides under the lee of the wind, or under the protection of a hedgerow, and not far from it. In dry weather they affect damp and marshy grass-bottoms, and in wet weather will only be found on high and sandy banks. They seldom sit on their feeding-ground, though this rule is not an invariable one. Fallows are a very favourite and chosen seat for hares, and when there they generally choose their forms near the top of the ridge. Fallows newly ploughed are never used by the hare for much less than a fortnight, and very stale ones are also rejected. It is difficult to account for this last rejection, because we cannot understand why a stale fallow should be disliked by the hare; but so it is, and the fact is well known to the hare-finder. Some fields, also, are much liked, year after year, by hares, and others as much rejected; but, here again, no one can assign a reason, since their food has nothing to do with the choice, and we know nothing of their other *penchants*. In hare-hunting, it is very desirable to find the hare sitting, because she may otherwise sit so close as to be "chopped" before she gets away, a consummation to be carefully avoided; and, at the present usual hour of meeting, the trail up to the form can seldom be hit off, in consequence of the hare having too long been in form to have left any scent on her road to it; though in this way hares are much

more easily found than foxes, the scent of whose drag is much more faint than that given out by the trail of the hare. The hare-finder therefore, if possible, finds the hare for the master, who brings up his hounds to within a reasonable distance, and then the hare is put up out of view; immediately after this the hounds are laid on the scent, and the run begins. If this cannot be managed, and no hare is found by man, the hounds proceed to draw for puss on the most likely ground; and as the hour of meeting is, as I before remarked, generally too late for the trail, they spread themselves over the land, in the hope of finding her in her form. The objection to this is that the hare always gets up in view, and is frequently chopped; but if she escapes this early death, the view makes the hounds flashy and unsteady, and prevents them settling down to the scent as they would have done if not excited by the view. Much, however, depends upon the hounds and upon the hares, also upon the kind of hunting preferred; for if the fox-hound style is preferred, this flashy kind of hunting will not be rejected. If a hedge is to be beaten, a man or two should advance a few yards before the leading hounds and beat it well, or otherwise the hare in jumping out is sure to be chopped. In any case the drawing of the hounds is a very beautiful sight, and the careful trying and even-spreading of the little symmetrical animals is one of the prettiest parts of the sport. Hounds, when thus accustomed to find their hares, take a great delight in looking for them, and go on from tussock to tussock, and from one likely spot to another, in the most lively yet knowing way—reminding one of the peering ways of the magpie, by their sharp and quick, yet quiet style of trying every likely spot. This part of hare-hunting has always appeared to me the one in which they may assume a superiority over fox-hunting; for here the eye finds an opportunity of dwelling with admiration in the minutes of expectation, whilst in drawing for a fox, it is but seldom that the expectant and impatient fox-hunter can find any amusement or occupation, except in his cigar or the gossip of the covert-side. Next in beauty to the working of a brace of pointers or setters. I should place the drawing of a pack of "suiety" beagles or harriers; it is, to my taste, not far behind that beautiful picture, though the find certainly does not come up to the "set and back" of the shooter's grand assistants.

SECT. 6.—THE RUN.

374. The artifices of the hare are truly wonderful, and beat those of Mr. Wiley

hollow. Why the fox should have obtained this name in preference to the hare, is very unaccountable; for every man conversant with hunting is aware that the hare is ten times more cunning than the fox in her doubles and running devices. If she is watched before the hounds, she will be seen to go straight away while in view, and then to commence a series of doubles, which certainly must require a degree of reasoning power for their development. She returns on her track, perhaps, then makes three or four enormous jumps, and starts off again at a right angle with her former course; she will then, if in a wall-country, jump on to the top of a wall, and run some yards along the top; then, descending with a long jump, she will perhaps squat till she ascertains the success of her manœuvres. After this, if unsuccessful, she will try others, such as running through sheep, or through a covert and back again, coming out at the same meuse, and running up the ditch, and off again on a fresh circle. Often she will pass by a furze or thorn-bush, at the distance of a couple of yards, then, returning, she will carefully follow her former course, and from it throw herself into the bush, where she calmly remains while the hounds hunt by her. Again, she will perhaps take water, and endeavour to foil the hounds in that way, often swimming a tolerably-wide river in effecting her purpose, and generally without perhaps intending it, being carried down the stream, while the hounds are sure to cross straight over, or as nearly so as possible. Such are a few of her artifices, and the hounds should be able, and also be permitted, to follow out all these various devices without assistance; the huntsman knowing that time will always bring her to bag, if they can only hold on with any scent at all. Hunting is here the perfection of the sport, and no one should care for the gallop. Plenty of fencing may be had, if it is desired, or the hare-hunter may otherwise avoid it in most cases, by availing himself of gates and gaps. If, however, a huntsman is to be in his proper place, he must take all before him just as with foxhounds; though this is not necessary for the present day's sport, but rather for that of the future; for unless he sees all the working of the hounds, he cannot possibly distinguish the good from the bad, for the purpose of drafting or breeding. Hare-hounds seldom or never require a cheer; they are only too apt to overrun the scent without it; and, as a pack, they should be left to their own devices on all occasions but the following—first, when they come to a check, and cannot recover the scent; secondly, when they change hares; and

thirdly, when they divide. Individual faults must of course be rated by the huntsman himself, or through him, by the whip.

375. **THE CHECK** is the great criterion of the harehound's powers, for while the good pack spreads and tries every yard of ground with the greatest care, persevering even beyond all apparent hope of success, the bad one soon gives up, and the hounds stand idly and listlessly about, expecting the hare to jump into their mouths. In hare-hunting the check generally arises either from the stain of sheep, or from the hare having practised some unusually clever double, or from her passing through a covert stained with the scent of rabbits or other hares. When the check is in the open, and from sheep, the hounds having tried their cast and failed, the huntsman should try round the whole field, taking the hedge carefully, and not allowing the hounds to follow at his horse's heels, but encouraging them to try all the way. If the scent cannot be hit off, and the hounds are good, the probability is that the hare has squatted in the middle of the field, which she often does; and if there is any covert, as in turnips for instance, every yard of it should be tried. During this second cast in the field, it often happens, if a good look-out is not kept, that the hare steals away without being seen, and in that case may be missed; though if the ground is carefully beaten she will be sure to be hit off by some of the hounds. If, nevertheless, no hound can scent her, the huntsman must extend his cast and try the hedgerows next beyond, taking them in the order of their probability; and remembering that hares have always a tendency, *unless they have a decided home*, to return to the place where they were found. If, however, they have a home, he should try forward towards that home; and in that direction will generally succeed in recovering the scent. Most hares now-a-days are bred in covert, and return to it whenever disturbed; and these will generally be easily recovered by a cast in the direction of their home. Where the check arises from a double, the huntsman should have previously observed the nature of the doubles which have already been followed out, because these will afford some clue to the one now interfering with the sport; for this reason, that the same hare generally adopts the same *kind* of double throughout her run. Thus, if she has been returning on her line, then taking a jump and on again, she will most probably repeat this over and over again, but under different circumstances—as, in or near a hedge, or in or near a brook, &c.; and the huntsman must expect these variations of the same artifice. Again, if she has been making a

small ring and hunting the hounds once, she will be sure to try it again; and when most at fault, the hounds may just have passed over her in her secure retreat, where her scent is completely overpowered by that of the hounds.

376. **IN CASE OF THE CHANGE OF HARE**, the hounds should be stopped from the fresh hare, and the old scent recovered if possible. Nothing disturbs hare-hunting so much as the over-abundance of hares; and where they are thickly preserved it is quite out of the question to attempt this kind of sport. In many preserves a change would occur every five minutes, from a fresh hare jumping up before the hounds; and, therefore, the sport is totally unfitted for such countries. The hunted hare may almost always be known by her changed colour, and wet and dirty appearance, while the fresh one is clean and dry. Hares long hunted become very dark indeed, and almost of a dark slate colour.

377. **WHEN HOUNDS DIVIDE**, the huntsman, if both hares are fresh, may choose which he shall follow, and send his whip to stop the hounds from the other, and bring them up to him. If one is the hunted hare and the other a fresh one, no one will hesitate a moment in selecting the former, and stopping the hounds from the latter.

SECT. 7.—THE KILL.

378. **THE KILL** is generally, with harriers, the most painful part of the whole business; because, in the first place, the cries of the hare are often piercing and piteous in the extreme, resembling those of a child in agony; and the hounds not being always allowed to have her, the whip is obliged to be used at a time when they least deserve it. It is true that some packs are so highly broken that they will not tear the skin of the hare even; but few have arrived at such a pitch of perfection without losing their hunting powers, and it is not, I think, to be attempted by the amateur-master. Ordinary hounds will occasionally gratify their desire for blood, and should be indulged with a hare once a-week at the least; indeed, many huntsmen like their hounds to have the last hare they kill on each day; but this is perhaps more than necessary. If the huntsman is a good horseman, and is well up with his hounds, he may generally pick the hare up without using the whip, as the hounds will not break her while he is so close; but if at a distance at the time, they will take advantage of his absence, and when once the blood is tasted, the whip must be used, to stop them in time. No one but the huntsman should attempt to pick up the hare without the whip, as the hounds will only

tear her from his hands. I confess that I should at all times be unwilling to interfere, as I would much rather see the hounds enjoy their dainty morsel, than see it reserved for the stomachs of less deserving bipeds, who have not earned even the currant jelly with which it is served up.

SECT. 8.—THE EXPENSES OF HARRIERS.

379. Compared with fox-hunting, the expenses of hare-hunting are very trifling, and they may be calculated as follows. It must be also recollected that the first outlay is much less.

	£	s.	£	s.
24 couple of hounds, at				
1s. 6d. per week per head .	187	4		
Tax on ditto	28	16		
Medicines, &c.	4	0		
Carry forward,			220	0

	£	s.	£	s.
Brought forward,			220	0
3 horses for 7 months, at				
15s. per week	63	0		
Ditto ditto 5 months, at 7s.	21	0		
Tax on ditto	3	0		
Veterinary surgeon	3	0		
Shoeing	7	10		
Saddling	12	0		
			100	10
Helper and whip, at 12s. per				
week each	62	0		
Tax on ditto	2	0		
			64	0

Total £393 10

By great economy, and the dispensing with the Whip, and using one horse only, with twenty couple of hounds, only about half this sum will suffice, especially with beagles.

CHAP. VII.

OTTER-HUNTING.

SECT. 1.—THE OTTER, AND ITS HAUNTS.

380. At page 11, the otter has been already partially described, but for hunting purposes his habits and peculiarities must be more carefully studied. He is an amphibious animal, living entirely upon fish, and seizing them by swimming under them, and thus taking them when they least expect it. His scent is very strong, so that hounds can hunt it for some hours even after the otter has passed. He is very tenacious of life, and a very hard biter, and will easily break the leg of a dog if he gets good hold. The otter does not confine himself to the water, but travels up the side of the river or brook for some distance, and leaves his foot-mark, called his *seal*, which may be easily recognised by the round ball or cup-like depression, and the marks of the webs, which are visible in the well-marked *seal*. The hounds can, therefore, generally hunt the otter up the banks of the brooks which he frequents; but the *seal* will afford the best signs for tracking him to his burrow, the entrance to which is like the water-rat's, always under the water, while a small and invisible hole supplies it with air. This burrow is called his *couch*; and his coming to the surface to breathe, which he is obliged to do every few minutes, is

called his *vent*; his dung is also called his *spraints*.

SECT. 2.—OTTER-HUNTING IMPLEMENTS.

381. Otter-spears are the chief requisites for this sport, and are of great assistance to the otter-hunter, not only in killing the otter, but in enabling the sportsmen to leap over brooks, &c. They consist of two portions, the pole and the head. The pole is an ash staff, about 12 feet long, and strong in proportion to the strength of the party using it, but stout enough to bear his weight as a leaping-pole. It should have an iron head, either fixed on or screwed into a socket fixed on the pole, but the permanent head answers all the purposes required, and is very much cheaper. It can also be made by the village blacksmith, and, if lost in the ardour of the chase, may be easily and cheaply replaced. If the head is made to screw on and off, it is usual to have a concealed barb, which comes out of a mortice, on the animal being transfixed, and thus holds him firmly fixed on the spear; but the slightly-barbed spear-head is quite sufficient to secure him firmly if fairly through him, and even the concealed barb will not do this unless it also pierces the body of the animal. Each sportsman

should have a spear, and one or two spare ones should be carried by an attendant, in case of accident.

SECT. 3.—THE OTTER-HOUNDS.

382. The otter-hound has been also partially described as a descendant of the old southern hound crossed with the wire-haired Scotch terrier, and probably with the water-spaniel. He is the nearest approach of all to the southern hound, and has the length of ear, the full pendent lip, the dewlap and throaty frill, which are so characteristic of that hound. His nose is very good, which is required to track the cold scent of the otter, and to follow him in the water, where the otter-hound often speaks to the scent in a wonderful manner. The pure foxhound has been successfully used by Mr. Grantley Berkeley for the otter, and will hunt him no doubt, as indeed he will hunt whatever he is entered to; but he is quite out of place here, being too fast on land, and not a sufficiently good swimmer in the water, nor capable of bearing that element for so long a period as the webbed otter-hound, whose greasy and woolly coat is impenetrable to wet. These last two peculiarities he obtains from the water-spaniel. The deep-toned note of the otter-hound is another remnant of the old southerner, and he may be often seen to throw his tongue on the scent, without the power of moving his legs, so great is his pleasure and excitement. This, however, is too much of the old school, and should be got rid of in the perfect hound; and generally is, if the terrier and spaniel cross is sufficiently introduced. Both these dogs have no disposition to tie on the scent, but if too much of their blood is introduced, the hound will suffer in delicacy of nose, and will want perseverance in hunting. Otter-hounds are very savage animals, and will fight to the death, which is a common result of their quarrels. If not savage, they will scarcely cope with the otter without flinching, as his bites are exceedingly severe. The otter-hound may be obtained without much difficulty in Wales, Devonshire, or Scotland, where packs of them are still kept up, and hunted wherever the otter is heard of. The great drawback to the sport is the scarcity of the otter in any given spot, so that to obtain sport a large district must be ransacked, and the hounds taken long distances, often to seductive promises of sport which are without real foundation. Nothing is more disheartening than to find, after travelling 20 or 30 miles to a river where otters are promised to be shown, that no seal is visible along the whole course of the banks. This mark is always to be met with, either fresh

or stale, and the experienced otter-hunter knows that if it is entirely absent, he has been deceived by false representations. Otter-hounds are generally bred about 24 inches in height, the bitches being less, as usual with hounds. There is a smooth otter-hound, but the rough one is that generally in use.

SECT. 4.—THE MEN.

383. A huntsman is required for this sport as well as for all others where a pack of hounds is engaged; for no pack can be properly managed except by a man who is always in the habit of taking them under his control. Unless, therefore, the master of the hounds undertakes the task himself, he had much better entrust the entire management to his man; because they will seldom work so savagely and courageously for any one else as they will do for their regular feeder and attendant. Otter-hounds are no use unless they try most perseveringly every inch of the bank; and they must stand the water, or at least continue to be wet for hours together. This, even in the summer-season, is a very cold business in the early mornings; and they soon begin to be slack, unless animated by a person to whom they are strongly attached. For this reason, therefore, I should prefer the regular huntsman to any other person. The only other paid servant necessary for this sport is an attendant to carry a spare pole or two.

SECT. 5.—THE HUNT.

384. When an otter has been heard of as having been seen in any neighbouring stream, or when his presence is suspected there from his "spraints," or "seal," or from the half-eaten remnants of the fish which he has caught, the hounds are started off very early on a summer's morning—that is, by dawn of day. No other season but the summer will suit this sport, because the cold water of early spring, winter, or autumn, will chill and cramp hounds and men to a dangerous degree. But while the warmth of summer is necessary to heat the water sufficiently, the rays of the mid-day sun are inimical to the scent; and, therefore, the hunting must be over by nine or ten o'clock. The meet should take place by five at the latest, which will give four or five hours' hunting. When the river is gained, the sportsmen should divide into two parties, one-half taking each bank, and anxiously looking for the "seal" of the otter. The hounds at the same time should try every likely place; and when used to their work they do this most systematically; scenting and trying every inch of ground, and especially those which, by experience, are likely to contain the

"couch." The roots of old trees are especially likely, and those still pools which are just below a point in the river are the usual places where the otter chooses his "couch." At this hour in the morning the otter has not long retired from his nocturnal foray, and his trail may then generally be hunted even when his seal is not visible from the hardness of the ground, or its being covered with grass. There is no reason why otter-hunting should not be commenced as soon as the water is warm enough in some rivers where the meadows are grazed on each side; but where there is mowing-grass it must be postponed till that is cut, because the men and dogs do great injury to that valuable crop. After some search, perhaps a "challenge" is at last given, and one of the most tender-nosed hounds hits off the scent, with a note which informs his master, in the most unmistakable manner, that his game is at hand. Now every sportsman must take his place and perform his allotted task. Some one or two should pass upwards to the next ford, and carefully watch that point; another pair should take the same post at the ford below; while the remainder must watch every intervening yard for his "ventings." Meanwhile, the hunt proceeds, and the hounds are following the "challenger's" steps, and endeavouring to make out the whereabouts of their game. At last, the scent becomes stronger and stronger, and the couch is reached with a grand chorus of music from the whole pack. At this moment, from the ford above, a halloo is given, and he attempts to pass it, but is turned by the spears of the hunters posted there. The otter, knowing full well that his couch is not secure, generally leaves it before the hounds arrive there; and it is from that cause that he has tried the stream. He next tries the ford below, and here again he is turned; then, seeking the pools of the intermediate space, he is obliged to "vent," and is met with the spear of the hunter, or the fangs of the hound. If, now, the hunters appointed to watch the fords will only keep well their ground, his death is almost certain; but too often they are watching the progress of the sport above or below, and while doing this, neglect their own allotted office, and suffer the otherwise doomed animal to pass their watch. A lull ensues; no vent is seen, no tongue is heard, and disappointment is marked on every face. Every inch of water is tried, and still without success; for the otter has broken through the ford, and is perhaps a mile off at the time when the first pool is finally pronounced untenanted. The next step is to decide upon his having run up or down stream, which is always a

lottery; for when hunted, he will be as likely to run up as down; and *vice versa*. One or the other, however, must be tried; and the hounds will here soon pronounce whether the selection has been a good one or not. If, therefore, after trying in one direction for a quarter or half-a-mile, no challenge is heard, by all means try in the opposite direction. As soon as any certain indication is afforded of his having chosen either course, it will be desirable at once to halt, and to send a party of three or four of the best runners down to the next ford, at least half-a-mile below. Here they should diligently keep a look-out while the hounds hunt up or down to them; and if this pool is blank, then let them run on to the next. When once the otter is again pounded, he must be again hunted as at first, a party being placed to interrupt him above and below, and the remainder, with the hounds, hunting him in the pool. This is the only way to kill an otter with any certainty; for if he is regularly followed, he will assuredly tire out any pack of hounds, since he swims with ten times the ease with which a dog can follow him, in deep or shallow water. But by pounding him at the fords, and confining him within given bounds, he tires himself in his efforts to swim from one to the other, and to avoid the spears and hounds; and yet is obliged to come up and "vent" for want of air. In doing this, he is sure to fall a victim sooner or later; and as his "vents" become more and more frequent in his increasing exhaustion, he is at length impaled upon the spear of one of the hunters, and borne aloft in triumph. Sometimes a hound seizes him; but it takes a very bold and strong one to hold him, for his bite is exceedingly severe, and his strength in the water is very great; many dogs have been drowned in their efforts, and sometimes both otter and hound have been killed under water. The spear should be used with caution when hounds and otter are closely mixed in the *mêlée*, or a valuable hound may suffer from the careless thrust of some impetuous hunter. Upon these general principles all otters should be hunted; but in deep streams without fords it is quite impossible to hunt him with any chance of success. In these situations he takes off at once, and unless the hunters are in sufficient numbers to watch the stream for miles, for his "vent," he will probably never be seen again. But if such were practicable, it would scarcely be hunting; for the hounds can take no part in the sport, and the spear must do all the work, if done at all.

335. THE ANNEXED DESCRIPTION OF A RUN with Mr. Oswald's hounds, in Ayrshire, will afford a good indication of the way in which

this sport is now conducted:—"Exactly at half-past eight, at a signal from the master, John's cheery, 'Ho, wind him, ho!' rang through the clear morning air, and opening in full chorus, the pack dashed for the river. No sooner, however, had they rushed to the water, than every hound settled to his work, and not a stone or root escaped their notice. I may here mention for the information of such of your readers as may not be acquainted with the locality, that the river Ayr is broad, though not deep, with rocky and rugged banks, in many places wooded to the water's edge. The coverts are well-stocked with game and roe-deer; and it is, therefore, necessary to have bounds steady and free from riot; and, from the nature of the banks and the number of roots and natural 'hovers,' it is of the utmost importance that hounds should work slowly and carefully, even with a good scent. We had drawn on for rather more than a mile without a whimper, when Rattler, who had swum to a large stone in the middle of the stream, opened, and a 'true bill' was speedily returned by Old Comely, Nailer, and Dazzler, whilst the rest of the pack struggled to gain the rock, where Old Comely had sat down to discourse sweet music. From this point we had a cold drag for about two miles; but on reaching a celebrated stream, where the largest trout are to be found, 'a change came o'er the spirit of our dream.' Lambton, always the last hound to own a scent, began to cast anxiously from side to side—now trying the water, and now springing from rock to rock, his stern erect and his hackles rising. At last, on a small tuft of grass, he hit it off; his clear loud note rang through the cliffs, and brought every hound to his side; for well they know that when *he* speaks the chase has begun in earnest. In a moment the rocks and woods rang with the cry of the whole pack, as they carefully followed the zigzag track of the otter, who, contrary to the usual custom, it was evident had fished up stream. I never remember to have seen anything more beautiful. You might, in reality, have covered the hounds with a small sheet, the very puppies entered this season took it up. Forward was still the cry, till he reached the holm below Barskimming House, where there is a large and deep pool; at the lower end is a shallow ford, on the right hand side a high rocky face, and on the left a steep earth embankment, on which stands a row of old plane trees. On arriving at this pool the hounds were at first a little at fault; it was evident the 'fishmonger' had entered the water by the ford at the bottom. John pushed through the water; with a single twang on his horn every hound was with him; and,

making for the top of the pool, he cheered them on with a 'Ho, cast for him, good hounds.' We were not kept long in suspense: Old Rally, who devotes her attention almost entirely to roots, opened loudly at the foot of a large plane tree, and was instantly joined by Ringwood; with a dash the rest of the hounds made for the spot, and we were left in little doubt that the varmint was at home. Pincher and Charlie were now brought into requisition, and disappeared through the open net-work of roots laid bare by the late heavy floods; they had not been in above a minute, when a large otter bolted almost through the middle of the pack, and made one long dive, rising in the centre of the pool to see where his pursuers were; but finding them in his wake, he disappeared. It would be tedious to recount to you (though to us, at the time, highly exciting) the various dodges he tried to elude his pursuers; now diving under one root, again lying resting in the still pool, with nothing but his nose above water, and then endeavouring to run the lower ford (this we had manned, leaving him free access to the upper waters). For full two hours he afforded us incessant work; and we were beginning to doubt if the hounds could stand the cold any longer, when he suddenly disappeared, 'leaving not a trace behind.' John, however, had been too long at his work to be done in that way, and, leaving us to watch the pool, he made a cast forward about 500 yards, when the whole pack opened with a burst of music that sent us after them in double-quick time. When we reached the spot, we found all hands busy at a hole, where a severe fight was going on, the voices of Pincher and Charlie were both clearly distinguishable above the deep ring of the hounds as they bayed at the mouth of the hover, from which they were tearing huge mouthfuls of earth and roots, and in the centre of them stood John, up to his middle in water, now swearing at a hound to 'keep quiet,' and now digging with his hands like the best of them. What took place 'in the hole' we could not exactly see, but the earth seemed to give way before the united efforts of John and his hounds, and in a minute or two he appeared with a large otter grasped tightly by the fore-legs, with Pincher, Billy, and Charlie hanging to his mouth like so many leeches. He had just time to change his grip to the tail, when the pack were upon him. But John is not the man to let go; he held on till, by the united efforts of three men, he and his hounds were pulled on to the green grass, and then, with a 'Hi, worry-worry,' that made the echoes ring, he threw him to them. I never remember to have seen an otter fight so long; he drew

blood from almost every hound in the pack, and nearly cut the terriers to pieces. He was a large dog otter, and weighed exactly 22½ lb. We found the drag about half-past nine or ten o'clock, and killed him at three o'clock in the afternoon."

SECT. 6.—DRESS FOR OTTER-HUNTING.

386. It may readily be supposed that, if possible, waterproofs would be used in this sport, but they are inadmissible for many reasons. First, they are too cumbersome for the active exertions which must be made. This is not like fly-fishing, where the fisherman stands for some time in one spot, but the legs are constantly called into play, and sometimes at a very rapid rate; and, consequently, the height and bulk of long waterproof-boots would be beyond measure annoying. Besides this, it must be remembered that, unlike snipe-shooting, the season is a warm one, and if the water was kept from penetrating from the outside, the interior would be damp, and even wet, from the sweat produced by exertion and excitement. From all these causes, there-

fore, india-rubber is tabooed. Flannel is the article in request, and should be worn all over the body. No linen should touch the skin, but fine Jerseys should be worn over the upper half of the body, covered by open but soft clothing in the shape of a Tweed shooting-coat, or some similar material; whilst plain white flannel trousers are the best investments for the lower half of the body. Strong shooting-shoes, well nailed, are the best covering for the feet, and good woollen socks should be worn under them. With this clothing, although the wet easily penetrates, it is as easily dried, and no chill takes place from the absence of confinement or of wet linen next the skin. It is only necessary to keep moving till the whole dress is dry, and no ill effects will be likely to follow.

SECT. 7.—EXPENSES.

387. The cost of otter-hounds may easily be estimated at 3s. per couple per week for the hounds, and 14s. to 18s. per week for the huntsman; beyond this no other expense need be incurred.