

F. Adams sculp.

A
T R E A T I S E
ON
A R C H E R Y,
OR THE
A R T O F S H O O T I N G
WITH THE
E N G L I S H B O W :

CONTAINING

Every requisite Information to obtain a complete Knowledge of
that Noble Weapon, considered as an Instrument of
Amusement.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

A SUMMARY SKETCH OF LAWS FOR ARCHERS,
With many other Observations and Instructions.

NINTH EDITION.

BY THOMAS WARING.

SOLD ONLY BY R. HAMM,

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INTRODUCTION.

IN offering this small work to the Lovers of Archery, the Author attempts not to introduce any new idea to their notice; his sole motive for writing this short Treatise, is—for the express purpose of instructing young Archers in the practical part only of Archery; for although many books have been written upon this art, still no author has yet condescended to employ his talents upon what is thought by the experienced Archer as trifling: if therefore this work should ever fall under the eye of one so experienced, let him not treat it with contempt, but transfer it to one of less knowledge. An Author is seldom so fortunate to be understood by his readers when expressing his ideas in writing, so well as when personally addressing himself to them; but every remark contained in these few pages, it is hoped, will be found so explicit and clear, that if read with *any* thing like attention, need no further explanation: but if the young Archer is still at a loss upon some points, and he should feel disposed to honour the Author with a visit, he will be happy to give him any further information.

The learner is requested when he takes up the Bow

for the purpose of profiting from this work, to pause at the end of every sentence, remembering that each is in a manner a lesson of itself ; every trifling particular is inserted, as every trifling particular to a learner is worthy of notice.

There never was a mistaken notion more prevalent than that the Bow is too simple to require any study, but simple as it may appear, it will be found that without a theoretical knowledge, the practical part never can be attained, and so many inconveniences arise to a person attempting one without having acquired the other, that he soon grows disgusted because not able to overcome them :—these difficulties the Author wishes to remove, by pointing out proper methods to pursue, for many thinking them too insignificant as not worthy a moment's study, adopt, what their own ideas suggest, and thereby fall into such bad habits, as to find that after much practice they have not arrived at any improvement, and thereby get disheartened from pursuing the amusement any further, and lay it aside altogether : these, and other vexations arise through not beginning in a proper way at first.

If any one thinks the amusement of the long Bow childish, it can only be so from the recollection that it was once his juvenile recreation, and supposing no greater feats can be performed by a manly weapon, than was done by a boyish plaything, but admitting his contempt of the Bow is founded upon that idea alone, it cannot justify him for the slur he throws upon

all the lovers of Archery, and those not a few ; for travel into any part of the Globe and he will discover that it is, or has been the amusement of the nobles and sovereigns of every nation, and is the general amusement of many Eastern Countries to this day ; but the long Bow need not travel out of this kingdom to obtain honours, for it has received sufficient to stamp its fame both as an instrument of war, and amusement on its native soil ; but at present it must be confessed that the inhabitants of Turkey, Persia, India, South America, and of various other countries far excel the best of English Archers, and the reason is obvious—early practice. There, they are taught from their infancy,—here, it is not taken up until the age of manhood, by some with indifference, and by others is thrown aside if they do not succeed in the first attempt, not considering that it requires time, practice, and observation, to become a good Archer.

A novice witnessing the performance of an unskilful Archer, wonders how a man can amuse himself with what he remembers was only looked upon at school as a toy ; but when he beholds the shooting of an expert Bowman, and is shewn the strength and powers of the Bow, his wonder changes to the opposite side, and he admires with delight what he before treated with contempt.

As the use of arms is universally allowed to be an honourable profession, why should not the pursuit of an amusement founded upon that warlike weapon, preceded by the present, be deemed *likewise* honourable ;

and when it is recollected that the deeds achieved by our fore-fathers, which secured to England its present independence was with the Bow, it cannot be denied but that it is the noblest amusement, and in its admirers, seeming to draw forth a tribute of gratitude for past services. It was in former times thought of such importance as to become the object of the legislature's care; many acts of parliament at various periods having been framed in support of it, long after it was laid aside as a weapon of war, and which even went so far as to compel every man, except the clergy and the judges, to practise shooting, and to have continually in his possession a Bow and at least three Arrows—the City of London was obliged by other acts to erect butts and to keep them in repair.

Edward III. wrote to the sheriffs commanding them to see that the people laid aside the games they then practised, which he called dishonest and unprofitable,* and to exercise themselves with Bows and Arrows; and in 1498 many gardens were levelled and made into one field, for the use of the London Archers, which is now the Artillery Ground, near Finsbury Square. In 1514 the inhabitants of Islington, Hoxton, and Shore-ditch, having enclosed the fields into gardens which had been appropriated for the exercise of Archery, the citizens of London assembled in great numbers, and with spades and pick-axes levelled the banks and

* Such as hawling stones, wood, and iron; some in hand-ball, foot-ball, bandy-ball, and cock-fighting.

ditches, and restored the grounds to their former state. Henry VIII. was particularly fond of Archery, and commissioned Sir Christopher Morris, master of the ordinance, to revive the amusement, which at that time was rather drooping, by establishing a society of Archers, which was called, "The Fraternity of St. George," who obtained a charter from the king with many privileges, in which was this remarkable passage :—“ That if any Archer killed a man he could not be sued or in anyway molested, if he had before he shot, called out ‘ *Fast!* ’ ” a word common at that time.

Archery was so much approved of as a bodily exercise by *Bishop Latimer*, that he even preached a sermon in favour of it before Edward VI.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Archery was again declining, the Bow-makers petitioned the Queen for authority to put the acts of Henry VIII. in force, by which they obliged every man who had not a Bow and three Arrows in his possession to provide himself accordingly :—if the Bow-makers of the present age could again enforce the act, what a sum might be raised.

In the time of James I. the inhabitants round London, again began to encroach upon the grounds belonging to the London Archers ; and upon the citizens petitioning the King against such proceedings, he appointed commissioners to enquire into the grievances complained of, and if true, to see that the grounds were restored to the state they were in at the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII.

After the restoration, Archery became again the general amusement. Charles II. himself took such delight in it, that he even knighted a man for excelling an excellent shot,* whose portrait is in the possession of the Toxophilite Society. After the death of Charles it again declined, and was confined in practice to a few counties only, till about fifty years ago, when it was revived with increased splendour throughout every part of England, as will appear by the number of societies that were instituted,† many of which exist, and continue their yearly and monthly meetings to this day.

As an amusement, Archery has these advantages over all others, which is not only approved of by our ablest physicians, but strongly recommended by them as being the most healthy exercise a man can pursue, strengthening and bracing the bodily frame, without that laborious exertion common to many games, every nerve and sinew being regularly brought into play without the danger of being exposed to those alternate heats and colds incident to many other diversions, as in cricket, tennis, &c.

A gentleman in the country who is fond of Archery, can resort to it though alone—not so with other field amusements, for a party must be formed to accomplish it. On Sir William Wood's Tomb Stone, which is still extant, are these two lines :—

“ Long did he live the honour of the Bow,
And his long life to that alone did owe.”

* Sir William Wood.

† See the last two pages.

Archery is an amusement which steals (if it may be so expressed) upon a man's affections, and often makes him perform more than he thinks is in his power, for many an Archer who would not undertake to walk five miles on a journey, has walked six at the targets ; for in shooting forty-eight times up to one target, and forty-eight times back again to the other, (the number of rounds the Toxophilite Society shoot on grand days) besides walking to the Arrows shot beyond the targets, which upon a reasonable calculation, may be reckoned five yards each time, and that five back again, makes ninety-six times one hundred and ten yards, which is exactly six miles. Another advantage attending the amusement of Archery, is, that it is equally open to the fair sex, which has for the last fifty years been the favourite recreation of a great part of our female nobility ; the only field diversion they can enjoy, without incurring the censure of being thought masculine : it will be needless to enumerate the many advantages received in pursuing this amusement ; those who have tried do not require any further encomium in support of it, than what their own experience has already convinced them of.

It not being the author's intention to swell this pamphlet beyond what is absolutely necessary, he must refer the reader to a work entitled, "The English Bowman," in which he will not only meet with further instruction, but likewise derive great entertainment ; also to a very ingenious publication just written by Mr. Hastings of the Isle of Wight.

THE

Art of Archery.

How to bend the Bow.

THE first thing necessary to learn, is to know which way the Bow should be bent; not knowing this properly, is the reason that it is sometimes broken by beginners in the attempt only to string it:—Put a Bow into the hands of a person who never saw one, and he cannot take hold of an instrument that will more perplex him to use rightly, simple as it appears.

Female Archers will please to observe, that the following instructions, though addressed to gentlemen, are equally applicable to them.

OBSERVE.—The flat part of the Bow is the *outside*, called the back.

The round part is the *inside*—and called the belly.

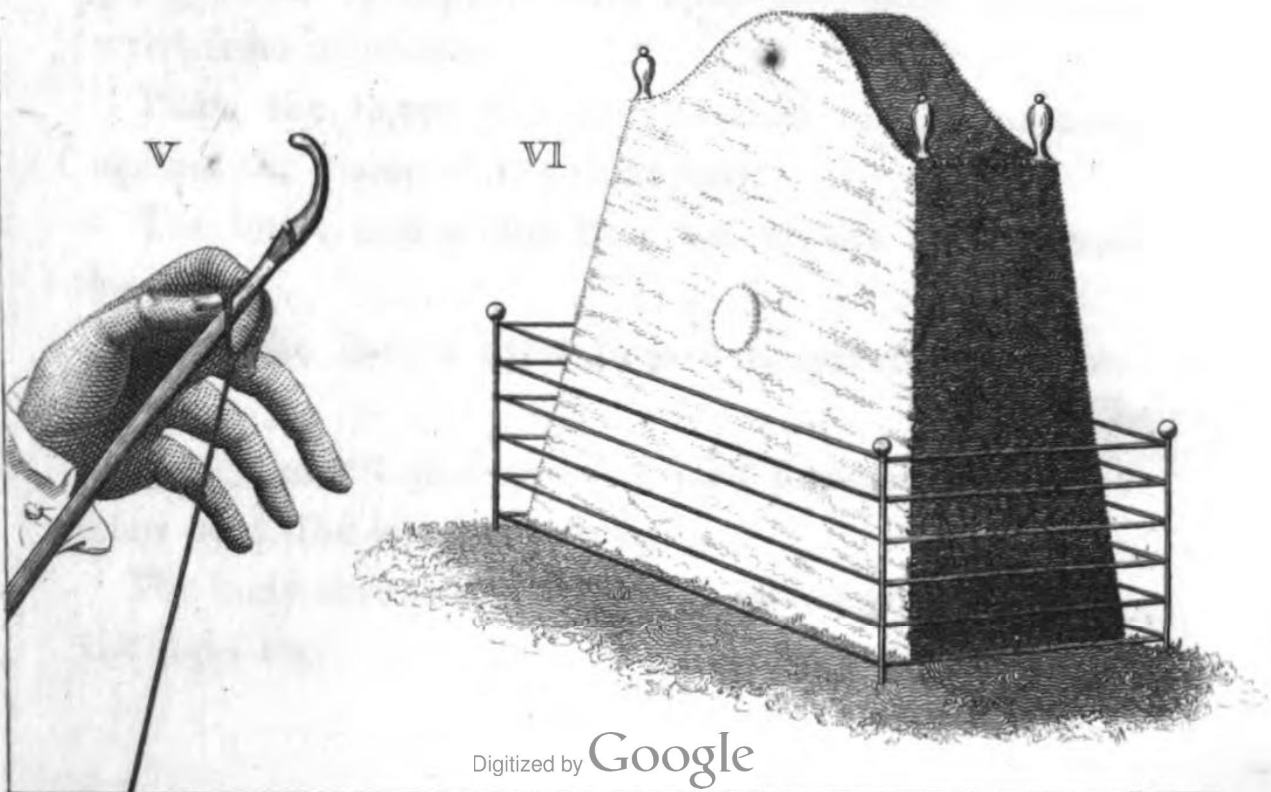
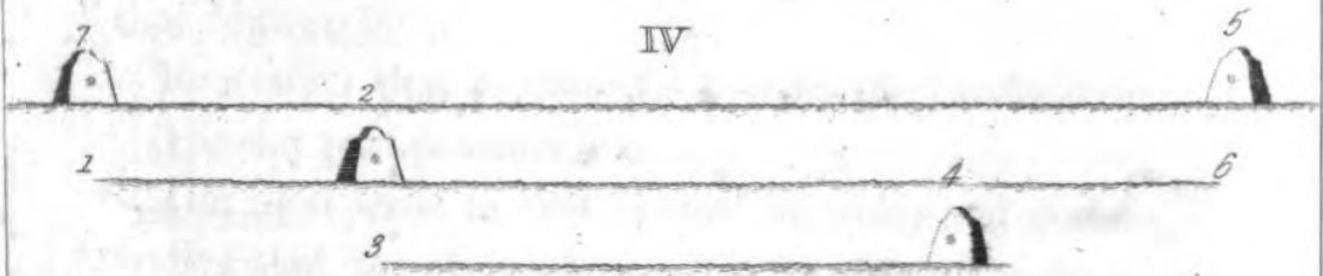
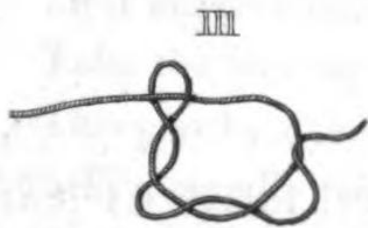
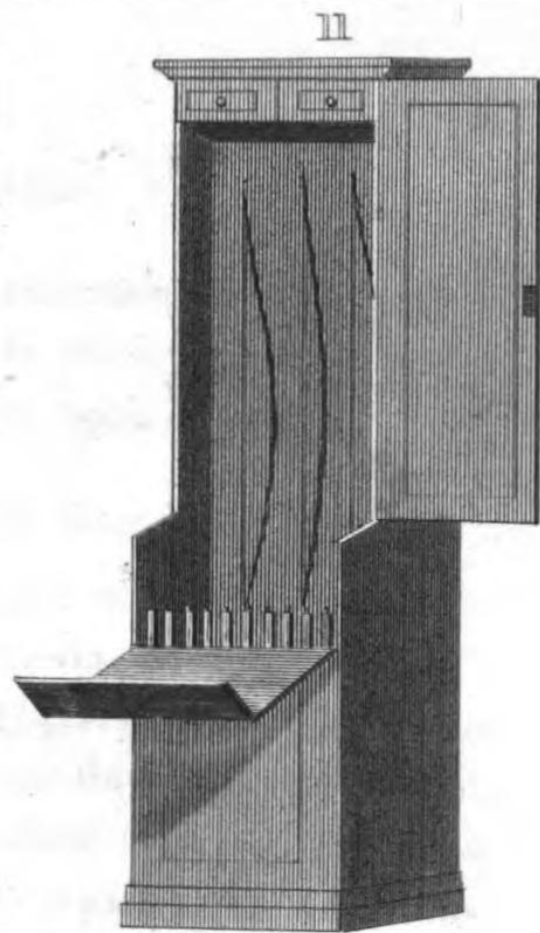
The round side is always to be bent inwards, or towards the string.

To bend it the reverse way will break it instantly.

If a beginner should have a Bow that bends *with the round part outwards*, let him not suppose that it is to be strung so;—but be it remembered, that a Bow, *however bent when unstrung*, is invariably to be strung with the *round part inwards or towards the string*.

I

Names	Gold 9	Red 3	Inner White 2	Black 5 for 4	Outer White 1	Total	Value
A	52	103
B	48	93
C	.	;	23	40



The learner thoroughly understanding this part of Archery, may now attempt to string the Bow, which in his hands would before have been in danger.

To string the Bow.

First observe that the string is not twisted round it.

Take the bow by the handle—in the right hand.

This part by a young Archer is very soon forgotten, for he will generally take hold of the Bow *above* the handle, instead of the handle itself, which is wrong, for as in the handle of the Bow lies the centre of action, so the resistance to each end of the Bow ought to be from that centre.

Remember then to take the Bow by the handle only.

The flat part towards him.

The right wrist to rest against his side, and that so firmly, that the strength required in the left wrist to press down the upper limb, shall not force the right wrist from its station.

Place the lower end of the Bow on the ground, against the inside of the right foot.

The lower end of the Bow has always the shortest horn.

Turn the foot a little inward to prevent the Bow slipping.

Bring the left foot nearly a yard forward—the right knee bent, the left quite straight.

The body thrown back so that its weight falls upon the right leg.

Place the centre of the left wrist upon the upper limb of the Bow, below the eye of the string—the arm straight.

The tip of the thumb upon one edge of the Bow, and a knuckle of the fore-finger upon the other edge.

When the above is thoroughly understood, pull up the Bow briskly with the right hand, keeping the wrist at the same time close to the body, and press the upper limb down with the left, sliding the wrist upwards towards the horn, while the tip of the thumb, and the knuckle of the finger drives the eye of the string into the nock (see plate 1, figure 1) ; before the left hand is removed be sure the string is quite in the nock.

It sometimes happens that the eye of the string gets under the thumb and finger, which makes it difficult to be pushed so far as the nock, but if the thumb and finger were pressed rather hard upon the two edges of the Bow, the spring could not then so easily slip under, but must slide on before them.

If this is attended to, the learner, with a very little practice, will soon be able to string his bow.

If he cannot at first accomplish the stringing, it often draws from him a remark that the Bow is too strong, but here let it be observed, that it is not so much strength that is required as a *knack*.

The three last fingers of the left hand are of no utility, and must therefore be *stretched out* ; if they should be placed between the Bow and the string, and the string should not be carried directly into the nock,

the string will in returning pinch the fingers to such a degree, as to cause, if the Bow is very strong, excruciating pain, nor is this all, for the fingers cannot be extricated unless the Bow is again bent, which is not always very easily to be done with the fingers so confined.

Remember then to avoid this evil—stretch the last three fingers out,—[see plate 2nd, figure 5.]

If the stringing is not directly accomplished, the practitioner should not be prompted by impatience to pursue any other means than the rules laid down.

If the Bow cannot be strung after a few minutes trial, let it be laid aside for a short time and resumed again.

The exertion of stringing, particularly if the Bow is strong, will sometimes force the right foot from its standing, to prevent which, place the foot against a wall or some other immoveable thing, and if the Bow cannot *then* be strung, let another person assist him, by drawing down the upper horn with his fore-finger, taking care to keep it clear of the nock: with the strength of two persons combined, the Archer can hardly fail of succeeding.

To unstring the Bow.

The same attitude and action as described in the stringing, is to be observed in the unstringing, with this difference only—that the left wrist must be closer to the top—indeed so far, that the fore-finger may reach round the horn, and the tip of it fixed in the eye of the string, this done, pull the Bow up briskly with the right

hand, and press down the upper limb with the wrist of the left, the same as in stringing, and the instant the string becomes slack, the fore-finger which must be ready in the eye, brings it out of the nock. The movement of slackening the string and bringing it out of the nock should be instantaneous.

The finger must not attempt to bring the string out of the nock until it is slackened, else the friction of the finger-nail will cut it, which at all times must be avoided, as it thereby weakens, and in time breaks it. There is another way of unstringing the Bow,—place the short horn on the ground, and the flat side of the upper limb on the palm of the left hand, the string upwards, press the right arm down on the handle, and when the string is slightly slackened, the thumb of the left hand, which is close to the eye of the string, will bring it out of the nock.

When the Bow is strong, both the stringing and the unstringing will become easier, by quickening the motion.

Attitude in Shooting.

Madame Bola, formerly a famous opera dancer, upon being taught the use of the Bow, declared that of all attitudes she ever studied, (and surely some little deference of opinion ought to be paid to one whose whole life was spent in studying attitudes), thought the position of shooting with the long Bow was the most noble and graceful she had ever seen ; certain it is, that the human figure cannot be displayed to greater advantage, as when drawing the Bow.

OBSERVE.—That no part of the front of the body is to be turned towards the mark.

Only the face—for instance,

If the mark is placed full south, the body ought to be opposite the west, the face looking over the left shoulder.

The heels should be about six or seven inches apart.

The head to incline a little downward over the breast.

In holding the Bow, the top of the hand must be level with the top of the handle, for as the resistance from each end is where the Bow is held, so if the hand is shifted the centre of action is changed accordingly.

The left arm, which holds the Bow, must be held out quite straight, the wrist turned in as much as possible, by this means, the Bow by being grasped only very slightly, will rest firmly in the hand; but if the wrist is not turned in, the Archer will not have power to resist the pressure of the Bow; therefore, it never can be drawn up with firmness to the head of the Arrow.

Remember, then, that the arm be so turned in, that the string strikes it when loosed: the blow will hurt the arm without some protection,—but that will be treated of hereafter.

The Bow must be held completely perpendicular.

When taking aim, the Arrow is to be brought up towards the ear,—not to the eye as many suppose.—(See plate 1, figure 2.)

Do not look along the Arrow, but direct at the mark, and let the mark be visible a little to the left of the knuckles.

The Bow must not be so held as to bring the pile of

the Arrow in a line with the eye and the mark ; for in that case, when shot off, the Arrow will go considerably to the left of the mark.

When drawing the Bow, let the whole of the hand rest upon the handle, yet let the part between the thumb and finger feel the most pressure.

In drawing the Arrow from the pouch, bring it out by the middle.

The Arrow is carried *under the string* and *over the Bow* : the Arrow still held by the middle, till the pile reaches the left hand ; the fore-finger of which is thrown over it, while the right hand retreats back to the nock, to look for the cock feather, which, when found, the Arrow being held between the thumb and finger is slid down the Bow, and fixed with the cock feather upwards on that part of the string, which is exactly opposite the top of the handle. (See plate 1, figure 3.)

The finger of the left hand is then removed, and encircles the Bow.

The Bow, during this, may be held horizontally with the string upwards, the upper end in the front, the lower end behind him.

Arrows have three feathers, either goose or Turkey ; two of which consist of one colour, and the third of another, which odd colour is to point out the feather that should be uppermost.

Upon a trifling inspection, the learner will observe that every Arrow is inlaid at the nock with horn, on one side of which a feather is laid,—on the opposite side none ; that feather which is placed upon the horn is

the cock-feather ; the other two are placed at an equal distance from it.

Now place the Arrow on the string with the cock-feather uppermost, that is to say, the further side from the Bow, and the other two will slide over it without being ruffled or discomposed ; but place the cock-feather downwards, or next the Bow, and the feather will go directly upon it, which not only injures the feather very much, but very soon takes it off ; besides, an Arrow so shot, is turned from the course of its destination by the feather as it passes over the Bow raising the end of it.

The cock-feather, therefore, must always be uppermost, and that it may be the more easily found, it is often different in colour from the other two, but let this be a guide to the learner, that the feather which is placed on the horn is the cock-feather, let the colour be what it will ; many Archers prefer all of the same colour, and to one of any experience it is of no consequence.

Many beginners are in the habit of holding out the left fore-finger, when drawing the Bow, to confine the Arrow from falling off the hand, but that is quite unnecessary : the fault of the Arrow falling is owing to the want of a proper *method in drawing*, which fault will wear off by practice ; but as errors are often instantly corrected, when the cause is discovered, so will the learner perhaps be able the first time to overcome this impediment.

The reason of the Arrow falling, is—that in draw-

ing the Bow, the fingers press too much over the string, which causes it to twist, and the Arrow being on the string is carried to the side the string turns, and consequently falls ; now let the pressure of the fingers be on the right of the string, and the Arrow will remain in its place.

The string should be held nearly up to the first joint of the fingers, but never beyond.

A great disadvantage attends the shooter when he holds the string beyond the first joint of the fingers, which is, that he cannot so easily disengage them when prepared to loose ; therefore, it will be useless to be very nice and exact in taking aim, for the exertion the fingers require to release themselves, will force the string out of its position, and however trifling it may be, will send the arrow considerably wide of the mark.

But if the string is held as at first described, the loose becomes easy, and as quick as thought can command it.

No one should ever stretch out his left fore-finger when drawing the Bow, for should he draw his Arrow up to the head, it is not improbable that in loosening it, the point might severely graze his finger.

In pulling the string up, the thumb is not used, only the three fingers ; and where an Archer can draw his Bow with two fingers, it is still better, as the loose becomes easier.

As the left hand raises the Bow, the right should begin to draw, so that when it is held up to its intended elevation, it should be three parts drawn.

It does not do to elevate the Bow quite undrawn, for the right hand in reaching to the string, displaces the position of the body.

It is the method of our best Archers, as they raise the Bow, to commence drawing at the same moment, that by the time it is raised to its proper elevation the Bow shall be three parts drawn,—there they pause to take aim—then draw it quite up to the head, and instantly loose, for it should not be kept upon the stretch more than a second or two, for fear of breaking.

The best of Bows, when drawn up to the head of an Arrow, are full seven-eighths towards being broken, for pull a Bow up an eighth more above the Arrow's length, and it is almost impossible it should escape.

It has often happened, that where ladies and gentlemen's Bow and Arrows have been promiscuously laid together, for a person to take up a lady's Bow, and not knowing any difference, a gentleman's Arrow, which has stood till drawn up to the twenty-four inches, but when pulled beyond that, has snapped in several pieces.

When the shooting is finished for the day, or only suspended for an hour, it is best to unstring the Bow, but in going from mark to mark it is unnecessary.

When the shooting is over, the Bow should be well rubbed, especially after rainy or hazy weather: the cloth case should likewise be kept dry.

A gentleman on no account ought to take up a lady's Bow, even with a proper Arrow; for it being made much inferior to his strength, yields so easily to his

pull, that he unconsciously draws it up beyond the power the Bow will bear.

A Bow of any description ought never to be drawn, even in a room, without having its proper Arrow in it, many only intending to try its strength do not think that precaution necessary, and often draw it too far, supposing they could not go beyond the proper limits, but an Arrow is a guide to the arm, and warns one to stop, when drawn up to its full length.

When drawing a Bow in a room, the person should turn himself from the windows, mirrors, and glass of every description; for should the Bow break, the damage will be then confined to the Bow only, otherwise, as pieces sometimes fly a great way, the mischief might extend to the above articles. And he should be still more careful not to draw a Bow when another is standing before him, for a by-stander might receive great injury if the Bow was to break: the shooter himself scarcely ever receives any, as the pieces fly from him.

In England, Bows are defined two ways, viz. as Backed Bows and Self Bows. Self Bows are formed from one piece of wood only, the best of which are made from the Continental yew, but the long known difficulty of procuring such wood,* has compelled bow-makers of late years

* When the Bow was used as a weapon of war, the English yew was mostly so bad, even at a period when it was cultivated for the purpose, that every merchant trading to the continent, was compelled, by Act of Parliament, to import a stipulated number of yew staves.

to resort to various others, all containing great spring, but little pliability; the deficiency of the latter is amply supplied by the addition of a slip of ash, or some other tough wood glued to them; the toughness of the one combined to the elasticity of the other, both acting in conjunction, make capital Bows: and these it is that are called Backed Bows.

It is these Bows that require some care in keeping the damp from: and again on the contrary, from being kept in too dry a situation, such as being in a very hot room, for that will perish the glue, and make the pieces come asunder: the best place is a closet, or a wooden case made for the purpose, and fixed up in a hall, called an ascham, as mentioned in another page. So as the Bow is kept dry it is unnecessary to oil or do any thing else to it.

Many Archers prefer Bows much reflexed; now, though they are more springy than those that are straight or that bend towards the string, yet they are not so steady, and a steady shooting Bow is preferable at the targets than a very springy one. If a string breaks upon a reflexed Bow, the Bow itself runs a great risk of being also broken: not so a Bow that is straight. A Bow is said to "follow the string" when it remains a little bent when unstrung.

An Archer should never lend his Bow to another, while shooting with it himself: for two persons to shoot with the same Bow, at the same time, is working it too much, and should it break, it would be difficult to say who was the cause of it, for the injury might be committed some time previously.

Bows, when not in use, should always be locked up, or otherwise secured, that they may not fall into the hands of others, for more are broken by strangers and servants, through their being exposed to their curiosity than by the shooters themselves; for, as it is most commonly the case, that they do not know how to use, or even to string them, they generally bend them the wrong way,—which, if they do not absolutely break in their hands, they perhaps so far damage, that the Bows break the first time they are drawn; and as the cause of the accident is seldom known, it is often unjustly imputed to the fault of the wood.

As this hint is given for the benefit of young Archers, it is to be hoped they will not neglect it; and should they be from home, where they cannot have that convenience, let them take off the string.

The handle should not be in the centre of the Bow, but under it; thus the lower limb is shorter than the upper one, by the depth of the handle: it is therefore made stronger than the upper.

If the centre of a Bow is in the centre of the handle, both limbs are of the same length, and must therefore be of the same strength, and should approach in shape the sixth segment of a circle, so far the Bow is correct; but to send an Arrow from the centre of the string, and the centre of the Bow, is rendered impossible from the situation of the hand, which holds the Bow covering its centre: the Arrow then must go from the Bow at least two inches and a half above the centre: supposing the handle five inches deep, the upper part of the string

measuring from where the Arrow is placed, is shorter by five inches than the lower part, consequently the upper limb is more bent when drawn to the length of an Arrow than the lower limb, therefore incorrect, as not acting in conjunction, which they ought to do.

To make the Arrow then go from the centre of the Bow, the handle must be placed below the centre, which is then met by another circumstance, that the lower limb becomes shorter by five inches than the upper, and would, when drawn up to the length of an Arrow, be most bent, therefore, again irregular : to remedy this, the lower limb is made the strongest, by which it so much resists the pull of the string, as to be enabled to keep pacc in the drawing with the upper limb, and the shooting, therefore, becomes more steady and correct.

Observe, that both limbs of the Bow must bend alike when the handle is exactly central ; nor does it matter then which end is held upwards, but where one limb is longer than the other, which is the case with most English Bows, then the longest must have the greatest bend, and always be drawn upwards ; if by accident the Bow should be drawn with the short limb upwards, it will have a narrow escape, if it is not broken, for a long Arrow is not only drawn against the short limb, but likewise with the short part of the string.

A good guide to a young Archer will be the silk lapping on the string ; for if he nocks his Arrow where there is no silk, he will at once see he has got the wrong end.

It will be observed, that every Bow has generally a number immediately over the handle, which is the number of pounds it takes suspended on the string, to draw the Bow down to the length of an Arrow.

Thus a man, according to the Bow he can pull, may judge of his own strength. Forty-eight pounds is the standard weight,—and he who can draw one of sixty with ease, as his regular Bow, may reckon himself a strong man : though some can draw a bow of seventy and eighty pounds, but they are very few.

A Bow should always be drawn up to the head of the Arrow, and unless the Archer does so, he is not using the strength the Bow is marked, for a Bow of forty-eight is not forty-eight until quite drawn up.

A man has to exercise double the strength that the Bow is marked ; for if he draws one of fifty pounds with his right hand, he must have the same strength in the left to resist that pull.

Ladies Bows are from twenty pounds to thirty.

A great fault with many young Archers, is their desire of drawing a strong Bow : this is a great error ;—no one ought to pull a Bow that he cannot draw with ease ; if the slightest tremor attends the action of drawing, then the Bow is too strong, and he never will shoot well.

Upon Arrows.

Arrows are generally selected according to the power of the Bow, and are weighed against silver money at the mint standard weight ; thus Arrows weigh from three to seven shillings ; though seldom shot with above five.

Mr. Roberts, in his *English Bowman* (page 153,) gives the following table for directing what Arrows to shoot with, at any particular distance :

30 yards	from 4s. to 6s.
60	3s 6d. to 5s. 6d.
90) 3s. to 4s. 6d.
120 }	

Thus it will appear, that an Arrow of 4s. and 4s. 6d. is a proper weight for any of the above distances, which shews there is no absolute rule what Arrows to select, as what suits one person may not suit another, for a great deal depends on the strength of the Bow, and whether it has a sharp or dull loose, (for two Bows may be of the same strength, yet one shall send an Arrow further than the other, for it is not only strength that is required, but a quick cast,) upon the method of drawing and loosing, and various other causes ; in short it seldom occurs, that two Archers shall shoot exactly alike : it is this part in Archery that is so diffi-

cult to acquire, what is called a knack, and which only can be obtained by attention and practice, and all errors attending these must be corrected by the Archer's own observation.

A shooter should always select his Arrows, and set apart particular ones for particular distances.

In shooting at one distance, let the Arrows be of an equal weight, for when the Archer has got into a train for shooting well, an Arrow that is heavier or lighter than the one that shoots best, must vary more or less in the distance. Thus the Toxophilite Society, though they only shoot with two Arrows, have always another of the same weight in their pouches, that in case one of the two should be broken, or any ways damaged, it may instantly be replaced, and thus they denominate three Arrows a pair.

This expression is only current among themselves—to call three a pair certainly does not sound well; a pouch of Arrows would be a more appropriate expression.

Arrows beside their weight vary in length; ladies' Arrows, or for Bows of 5 feet long, are 24 inches in length. Bows under 5 feet 9 inches, have Arrows of 27 inches in length; and above 5 feet 9, 28, 29, and sometimes 30; but the last must be to a very long Bow indeed, and a man must have very long arms to draw such a one up to the head; but after all, such long

Arrows are hazardous to the Bow—even a 29 inch Arrow is very dangerous. To Bows, therefore, of 5 feet 10 inches long, no Arrows above 28 inches ought to be used; and to those who wish to preserve their Bows, rather than to be ambitious of drawing a long Arrow, are recommended to shoot with them only.

A great deal has been said about ancient English Archers drawing a “cloth-yard” Arrow; but if it is true that what was then called the cloth-yard was only 27 inches long, then the wonder ceases, as the Archers of the present day shoot with Arrows above that length. When, in former times, only serges and other coarse woollen cloths were manufactured in this country, the superfine cloths were imported from Flanders, and the Flemish merchants measured these cloths by the yard or ell measure of their own country, which is only 27 inches: thus the yard measure of each country was known and designated as the “cloth yard” and the “English yard,” which was then as it is now, 36 inches long; and it is a fact, that old writers, in speaking of the Arrow, never describes its length as of an English yard but a “cloth-yard,” alluding to the Flemish measure; if that is the case, what becomes of the boasted superiority of the ancient Archers.

Arrows are likewise shaped differently, some are thick at the pile, and gradually slope to the nock. Some are made to be thickest near the middle, and others are stoutest close under the feathers, and taper

gradually to the pile ; but Arrows of any shape, if they are straight, will fly well at almost every distance within the power of the Bow.

A great many Archers, however, differ in this respect, even down to the very pile, who maintain that blunt-headed Arrows are preferable to sharp ones, and others again maintain the contrary.

The only advantage attending the blunt pile is, that when it is shot into the target-frame, or any other wood-work, it does not enter so far as the sharp pile, and, therefore, it is more easily extracted.

Some again think that an Arrow with a blunt pile goes further than with a sharp one ; for as a sharp pile is made something in the shape of a sugar-loaf, and the sides incline broader as it lengthens, so it is supposed to have a greater superficial front, therefore meets with greater difficulty in penetrating the air than the blunt one, which being equally thick, has but its bare circumference to contend against, and consequently meets with less resistance than the other.

The truth of this argument is left to the practitioner, who will, by his own experiments, be able to judge for himself.

He should, however, be careful not to shoot with Arrows of various lengths.

Every Archer should have his mark painted on his Arrows under the feathers, (this is generally a pattern of some ribbon) to distinguish them from others ; else, where four or five are shooting together, it creates great confusion and delay in collecting them ; but where the Arrows are painted, each Archer can see his own before he draws them out of the ground. The mark should be about an inch broad.

Great care should be taken in drawing the Arrow from the ground or mark.

Inexperienced shooters will take hold of their Arrows by the nearest part they can reach, which is bad, for it sometimes breaks the Arrow, very often bends it, and almost always rumples the feathers.

If the Arrow is in the mark, take hold of it close to the mark, and in drawing it out, turn it: the same to be observed when in the ground, take hold of the Arrow close to the ground, and be careful to draw it out in the same direction that it went in, before it is raised, else the Arrow will break in the ground.

An Archer should keep his Arrows clean, and the feathers smooth.

He should, before he goes into the field, see that his Bow and all his accoutrements are in complete order.

Viz.—That his Arrows want no piles—that no feathers are off, or otherwise out of repair.

The nock of the Arrow should exactly fit the string, not so large as to fall off, nor so small as to require force to push it on, for then it will break ; but just sufficiently wide to adhere to the string without pressing against the sides of the nock. Every Archer should have a small flat file to widen the nocks when they are too small.

The string should be lapped with stout sewing silk on that part where the Arrow and the three fingers are placed, viz. opposite the top of the handle, and this ought never to be neglected, as from such neglect, the string breaks by the continual friction of the nock upon it, and the breaking of a string sometimes causes the breaking of a Bow, particularly if the Bow is much reflexed.

When the silk wears off, the string should be re-lapped directly.

Some Archers, likewise, lap the eye and the noose, which, though not absolutely necessary, is not a bad plan, for where there is any friction, too much care cannot be taken.

If any of the threads of the string are broken, it is better to throw it away and take another.

A spare string, ready fitted to the Bow, and lapped, should be taken into the ground, in case the one in use should break ; and here let it be observed, that every Archer should know how to fix a string to his Bow.

It will be noticed, that on one end of the string, an eye is already made ; the other, as Bows vary in length, is left for the Archer himself to fit on ; but if he is not informed in what manner it is done, seldom can do it rightly, though nothing more than what is called a " timber noose " (see plate 2, figure 3.) The best way to get into the right plan, is to examine how the noose on an old string is formed.

The distance of the string from the centre of the Bow, when braced or strung, for a long Bow should not be less than five inches and a half, nor more than six ; but for a Bow of five feet long, the distance ought not to exceed five inches.

The string should not be allowed to ravel, this often happens by its coming off and untwisting, particularly when it is drawn out of the cloth case.

When this occurs, it should be re-twisted and waxed before it is put on.

If the string is looped at the eye to the top horn with a piece of silk cord or narrow ribbon, it will not then come off.

Butt Shooting.

The distances for shooting are various, those at the butts are thirty, sixty, ninety, and one hundred and twenty yards.

Butts are made from long plats of turf, pressed close down, and are about eight feet wide, inclining narrower towards the top ; the base is between three and four feet thick ; the height at the middle about seven feet ; the top is generally finished according to the fancy of the Archer, as pyramidical, circular, or in the shape of an urn : (see plate 2, figure 6.)

Turf cut from commons, as possessing the roots of heath, is more preferable than any other, because the sods are knitted firmly together, and makes them more durable.

If the Butts are built in a field or pasture where sheep are suffered to graze, the Butts should be fenced in with a slight moveable railing, to prevent the sheep from rubbing against the sides ; and during the shooting, the sheep should be penned up to prevent accidents.

A set of Butts consist of four, and so erected, that one shall not intercept the view of another : they take up very little room in width, and are generally built according to a plan laid down in plate 2nd, by which an Archer, if he stands at the spot marked No. 1, has a thirty yard mark ; let him stand at No. 2, and he has

thirty yards back. If he stands on the spot marked No. 3, he has a sixty yard mark; at No. 4, he has the same distance back; from No. 2, to No. 5, is a ninety yard mark; at No. 6, the same back again from 5 to 7, and from 7 to 5, one hundred and twenty yards.

The two furthest Butts may be erected exactly opposite to each other, the thirty yard Butt should be at least five yards from the line of the other two, and the sixty yards five more.

The mark fixed on the Butts, is a round piece of paste-board fastened by a peg through the centre, and the shorter the distance the smaller the mark is; thus, for the 16 roods, or 120 yards, the mark is 16 inches in diameter; for the 12 roods, or 90 yards, 12 inches in diameter; for the 8 roods or 60 yards, 8 inches; and for the 4 roods or 30 yards, the mark is only 4 inches.

No shot reckons that is not within the paste-board, and he who hits it most during the day, is the winner; where two reckon the same number, *his* nearest the peg claims the game; but when it is doubtful who has the best shot, then they shoot again; and he who hits nearest the mark in any part of the Butt, or to save time in that advanced state, who *even* shoots nearest the Butt itself the first shot, is the winner.

The same at target shooting.

Many Archers can shoot better at one distance than another; therefore, that no man shall keep an advantage to himself, it is customary to shoot an equal number of ends at all the Butts.

A single end is merely shooting at one mark; but a double end is shooting back again to the mark shot from.

Target Shooting.

Target shooting is generally at one distance, viz. gentlemen's at 80 or 100 yards, and the ladies at 50.

It is better for gentlemen to begin at a shorter distance, and as they improve, to place them further apart.

The target consists of three things,—the bass, the facing, and the stand or frame.

The diameter of a gentleman's target from the extremity of the outer white circle is four feet, and all shots beyond that do not reckon as being in the target.

The bass is made of compressed straw, and wrought after the manner of bee hives.

Some years since, there was a trifling controversy between a few Archers respecting the bass, viz. which was more durable, that made from thrashed straw, or from straw not thrashed.

Some were of opinion, that unthrashed straw was most preferable, because it remained unbroken by the blows of the flail; while others maintained that thrashed straw was the best, for the very reason the opposite party assigned; for, as every unthrashed straw is hollow when formed into a bass, the Arrow which penetrates must split it, and, therefore, makes it fall flat, thereby shrinking into a smaller space than before, loosening the binding, consequently weakening the whole fabric, and rendering it very soon unfit for use.

But when the bass is made of straw, already laid flat by the flail before it is bound, it cannot shrink into a smaller compass, by the penetration of the Arrow.

The facing is generally of canvas sown on the bass. There are four circles on the facing, independent of the gold or centre, viz. the red, inner white, black, and outer white, which last is bordered by a dark green.

Ladies targets are upon the same principle, but considerably smaller.

It is bad to shoot at one target only, for then the parties not liking the trouble to go for the Arrows, often employ an attendant to fetch them, and that destroys the intention of Archery, which is gentle exercise; but by having a pair, they are induced to *walk* to the target, as they then can shoot their Arrows back again.

For as the great advantage of Archery is the exercise which attends it, every person shooting should walk to the mark for his Arrows, and not send another for them.

Some beginners are so inconsiderate as to shoot all their Arrows, though they had twenty: the consequence is the loss of several, which arises from their not being able to remember where they all fell; but if they only shot three, their memory would direct them to the exact spot; besides, the fingers get unsteady after the third shot,—consequently the shooting bad.

Remember, then, to shoot with no more than three Arrows.

A young Archer should not shoot by himself, for he gets into a habit of indifference; but if he shoots with another, he then aims to emulate, and, therefore, in a little time shoots well.

It is best to shoot with a little elevation, rather than point blank, that, when the Arrow falls, the feathers may remain above the grass. In shooting point blank, the Arrow not only loses itself in the grass, but, if it is anyways damp, spoils the feathers, besides losing a considerable time in seeking for the Arrow.

The grass, for several yards about the marks, should therefore be kept particularly short, else the Arrows will sometimes be completely buried.

Never shoot when the grass is above the shoes, unless at a very great elevation.

Do not shoot with another person's Bow, without his permission, for if it should break, the damage may be greater than the intrinsic value can repay.

When the number of shooters at each target amount to four and upwards, they should divide themselves into pairs : the first pair to shoot alternately their allotted number, and after that, another pair should then come forward in *their* turn.

No one should be allowed to stand in front of the shooter ; for any object that catches the eye, may draw his attention from the mark.

Nor should there at the moment of shooting be any talking, as it distracts the shooter's attention.

While one is shooting, he that is to shoot next should stand behind him, and have his Arrow ready nocked to the string, that no time be lost.

When an Archer has shot, he must turn round to his left, and go behind the person he is shooting with, who then in *his* turn comes forward and shoots *his* Arrow, which having done, he turns to his left, and the first Archer comes forward again and shoots his second

Arrow, and so on in rotation. An Archer must stand in front of the mark he is shooting from, and if his Arrow should fall from the string, and he cannot reach it with his Bow, it must be accounted a shot.

At the targets two prizes are shot for, one for the most number of hits, and the other for the shot nearest the centre. This is certainly the best way, as it is an encouragement to young Archers, and gives them a chance for a prize; for as every Arrow must have a lighting place, it is not impossible that one of them may fall in the gold.

The prize for numbers will always of course be won by the best Archer.

There are two ways of reckoning the numbers: one by the mere number of hits, without distinction to the circles; the other, by the hits as they approach the centre, which, the nearer they are, the more they reckon; thus, a hit in the gold, is equal to nine in the outer white, because the gold is nine times less in size, consequently, nine times a less chance of hitting it.

Every circle approaching nearer to the centre becoming smaller in the circumference, the chances of hitting them are likewise smaller; therefore, are reckoned according to those chances that are against the shooter.

The diameter of the gold is nine inches and a half.

The value of each circle according to the Toxophilite Society's system increases two, viz.

The outer-white, one.

The black, three.

The inner-white, five.

The red, seven.

The gold, nine.

But they considerably over-rate most of them; because, as the outer-white is one, and the gold nine, they suppose that the intermediate circle ought to reckon in regular gradation, which is wrong, the real value being for—

The gold, nine.

The red, three.

The inner-white, two.

The black, one and a quarter, or five counts, for every four hits.

And the outer-white, one.

Mr. Roberts, in his *English Bowman* (page 113), gives an account of the number of shots by which a member of the Toxophilite Society won the prize in 1795—four in the gold, seventeen in the red, nineteen in the inner-white, twenty-four in the black, and twenty-six in the outer-white, in the whole ninety shots, which undoubtedly is very great shooting. But the value of those ninety shots, he makes amount, according to their system, to three hundred and forty-eight, when their real value is no more than one hundred and eighty-one.

The target contains about seventeen hundred and fifty-four square inches, and are thus divided into the five circles, viz.

The gold, seventy-two.

The red, two hundred and fourteen.

The inner-white, three hundred and fifty-two.

The black, four hundred and ninety.

And the outer-white, six hundred and twenty-six.

If the aggregate amount of every circle is divided by its width, viz. four inches and three quarters, the circumference of each will be, avoiding fractions,

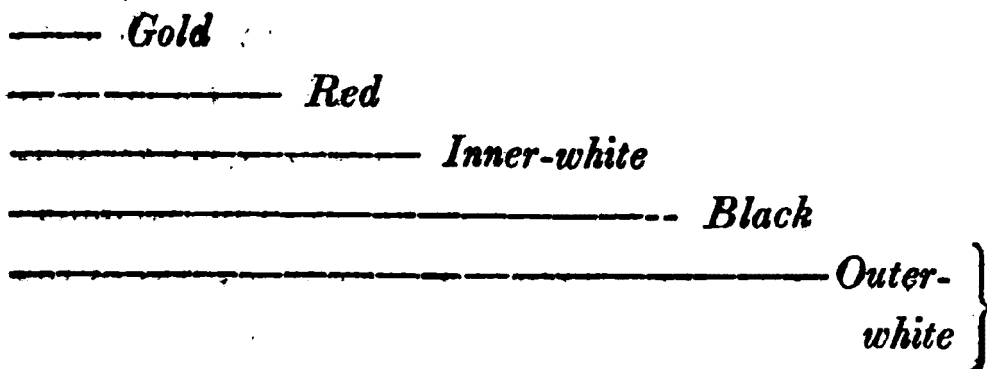
For the gold, fifteen inches.

The red, forty-five.

The inner-white, seventy.

The black, one hundred and three.

And the outer-white, one hundred and thirty-four : which, if they could be drawn straight, their different lengths would be after the following proportion :



by which it will appear, that the gold is a ninth-part of the size of the outer-white, the red a third, the inner-white half, and the black only four-fifths.

Many Societies in the face of the above calculation adopt the plan of 9, 7, 5, 3, 1 ; but as it is as fair for one Archer as another, it is perhaps of little consequence.

If a person was to hit the target every time, the chance of his hitting the gold would be twenty-four to one against him.

The skirt or margin of the target is called the *petticoat*.

In keeping an account of the game, a shooter at each target should have a card marked out into squares, with the names of the Archers written down on the left side, and the names of the circles on the top (see plate 2, figure 1) where A B and C are shooters ; A has got three shots in the gold, seven in the red, ten in the inner-white, twelve in the black, and twenty in the outer-white, which amounts in the total to fifty-two ; but according to the value of each circle, to one hundred and three, viz. by multiplying the hits in the gold by nine, in the red by three, in the inner-white by two, the black to the number of its hits one-fourth more added, and in the outer-white each hit standing for one.

B has three in the gold, four in the red, twelve in the inner-white, seven in the black, and twenty-two in the outer-white—the total of which is forty-eight, but the value ninety-three.

And C has one in the gold, two in the red, four in the inner-white, six in the black, and ten in the outer-white—total twenty-three, value forty.

Let it be supposed, that the above three are shooting for a cup and medal—A, as having most number of shots, is entitled to the cup ; and C, though he has a less number than B, yet his one shot in the gold being nearer than any of B's, is entitled to the medal ; but one of A's is still nearer than C's—A cannot claim C's prize.

A pin should be suspended from the card, to prick down the shots,—the mark of a pencil may rub out, and ink in the field is inconvenient, but the prick of a pin cannot be defaced.

The card only accounts for the bare number of shots, not the central ones : so, when two or more have hits in the gold, to prevent disputes, every Archer should write his name over them, before he draws his Arrow ; and which, *by the bye*, would stand as a memorial of his achievements as long as the target lasted.

If the Arrow falls upon the edge of a circle, it counts in that one which has the greater part ; but if it is so equal as to make it doubtful which circle it is most in, the Arrow is counted as a hit in the outer one ; so again, if the Arrow lights more upon the border than the outer-white, it reckons nothing. But many societies will not

allow an Arrow to reckon in a circle, unless it is completely within it, but must be reckoned in the outer one.

Ladies' targets contain about five hundred and fifty square inches, and may be thus divided :—

The gold, twenty-one.

The red, sixty-five.

The inner-white, one hundred and ten.

The black, one hundred and fifty-five.

And the outer-white, two hundred and two.

If these respective numbers are likewise divided by their width, their circumference will be—

For the gold, eight inches.

The red, twenty-five.

The inner-white, forty-two.

The black, fifty-nine.

And the outer-white, seventy-six.

And which, if laid out in straight lines, will be after the same proportion as the former.

Roving.

Roving is another kind of shooting, very different from the former; but equally, and to some Archers more pleasing, each shot almost always varying from the last.

The marks generally consist of Trees, Bushes, or any other conspicuous object.

The reason this kind of shooting is called roving, is that the shooters are not confined to any particular spot, but shoot from field to field, through a country of some miles in circuit. The sort of country best adapted to roving is, where there are many straggling trees, not confined to hedges; and where the shooters can, without difficulty, traverse from field to field.

A roving party should not consist of more than six persons—above that number they should divide into companies:—thus the first company takes the lead, and when they have shot to the next mark, and walked some distance, then the second company shoot to the first, and so on with the others.

A company is not compelled to follow another company's marks, though they should never be more than a field or two apart.

The number of the game is optional, but latterly many Archers have made it seven.

Arrows that reach the mark within five-lengths of its Bow, reckon, yet with this exception, that if several shoot within the distance, the nearest cuts the others out. Thus A and B are adversaries—A has two counts, B one, but B's Arrow is between A's two, by which he cuts A's furthest Arrow out, and does not score himself, because A's first Arrow is before his; but if A has two

Arrows within five lengths of his Bow, unseparated by his adversary, then he scores two: in short, every Arrow coming within the limits is cut out by the first of the adversary's.

Seven, it has been said, is game; but where two, as partners, shoot against two, then a greater number is game.

When three Archers shoot against two of equal skill, then the three must reckon more to their game than the other two, but good Archers shooting against inferior ones may allow the odds.

In measuring the distance of the Arrow from the tree, the Archer places one end of his Bow against the tree, a foot from the ground.

Thus if two Arrows are shot into the trunk of a tree, that one which is nearest to a foot from the ground, will cut the other out.

If an Arrow is shot into the ground within a foot of the trunk, and another into the branches, the first is the best shot, because the trunk is the mark, and not the branches, for, from the elevation of the Arrow, it would have gone a considerable distance farther if it had not been stopped by the branches; but if no other Arrow is within count, then the one in the branches may reckon,

When an Arrow is shot into a tree, or in wood of any description, and it does not come out easily, the wood round the Arrow must be cut away.

The marks must be within the reach of every Archer's Arrow ; and when that is not the case, then he who cannot shoot so far must walk in until he can, but then he must use a flight Arrow, and draw it up to an elevation of forty-five degrees.

In measuring the distance of an Arrow from the mark, the Archer may place the end of his Bow to any part of the Arrow he likes.

Every Archer must measure the distance with his own Bow ; but where two Arrows are nearly within an equal distance, then to see which is the nearest they measure with the same.

He who gains the last shot, has the privilege of naming the next mark, and continues that privilege till another scores.

It is necessary for every Archer to have nearly a dozen Arrows by him, as in roving a few will not be sufficient.

The marks are generally about two hundred yards distant.

Flight Shooting.

Flight shooting is another kind of diversion with the long Bow ; but it is very little practised, as its only tendency is to see who can shoot farthest. It is rather dangerous to the Bow, as it compels Archers to use longer Arrows than general ; the longest and lightest that will stand in the Bow are selected.

The farthest Arrow counts ; and so does every other that is sent farther than his adversary's. Seven is game.

Clout Shooting.

This is a piece of pasteboard of about twelve inches diameter, spliced into a stick and stuck into the ground ; and generally placed from one hundred and fifty, to two hundred yards apart ; and every Arrow that counts must be within three Bows' lengths of the clout ; and the reason it is limited to three is, that an Archer may soon shoot within that space, when the marks continue the same : it is only when they vary in distance, as in roving, that five Bows' lengths are allowed.

Clout shooting is mostly practised by those who have not the convenience of a ground near home, where they can shoot at targets or butts, but have to resort to a common, or public fields : in which case, for their portableness, small mill-board targets, or clouts, are taken with them. Some Archers make the clouts of

white cloth, with a seam on each side, and a stick run through for the convenience of rolling up. Seven is the game.

Mr. Roberts, in his *English Bowman*, mentions a few other games, but which are seldom or ever followed—those most practised are the targets, butts, and roving.

The following articles are the Archer's accoutrements, and which he will find necessary to call into his aid,—viz.—The brace, or arm-guard; the shooting-glove, or finger-guard; the tassel; the belt and pouch; the quiver, and grease box.

The Brace

Buckles round the bow-arm to prevent the string hurting it, which without one, would render the Archer incapable of shooting, from the pain the stroke of the string would inflict. In former times, many Archers did not wear any thing to protect the arm, but braced the string so high from the Bow, that when loosed could not reach the arm; but such a plan is bad, and will often endanger the Bow; for, as it always receives a jerk when loosed, if it is received when the Bow is much bent, the grain of the wood being likewise bent, is more likely to break from the force of that jerk.

Nor can a Bow, overstrung, send an Arrow so far as one understrung; like a man, whose arm is half con-

fined, cannot fling a stone so far as one who has the full use of it; so, if a Bow is stopped in its velocity by the confinement of the string, it cannot send an Arrow so far as when it has a greater course to make.

A Gentleman's Bow is overstrung when the centre of the string measures from the centre of the Bow more than six inches, and a Lady's Bow more than five.

As then, there are two great disadvantages attending a Bow overstrung, modern Archers always wear the brace, which is generally made of stout leather; the surface should be smooth, that the string may the better glide over it.

The Shooting Glove

Is to save the fingers from being hurt by the friction of the string as it passes over them, and consists of three finger stalls, a back thong cut into three slips, and a cross strap which buttons round the wrist; the finger stalls are small leather tubes about twice the length of a thimble, and sown to the three ends of the thong; some Archers only use two fingers, but that can only be done to weak Bows, or short shooting; to a strong Bow the third is absolutely necessary; the stalls should go quite up to the finger end, but not project more over than is sufficient to protect them as the string glides by: unless the stalls fit the fingers well, they are more an incumbrance than of utility.

The Belt

Buckles round the waist ; from which, on the right side, is suspended the pouch or bucket, to receive the Arrows, intended for present use. This is a necessary appendage, as for the want of it, the Archer must lay his Arrows on the ground, and in consequence they often get trod upon and broken.

The Tassel

Is likewise a very requisite accoutrement ; for an Arrow can seldom be drawn from the ground without dirt adhering to it, particularly after rain ; and, therefore, if not wiped off, will prevent the Arrow from flying. The tassel is then suspended from the left side of the belt, which is used directly the Arrow is drawn out of the ground, and before it is placed into the pouch.

The Grease Box

Is suspended from the middle of the belt, and contains a composition, for anointing occasionally the finger of the shooting glove, that the string may the more readily slip off ; likewise to anoint the brace when it is worn rough.

The Quiver

Is never worn but in roving. In shooting at targets or butts, it is placed a few yards by the side of them, three Arrows being sufficient, the rest are kept in


reserve, to supply the place of those that may meet with accidents, or for any other cause that the shooter may wish to change them. Quivers were formerly made of wood, which were succeeded by those of leather; but for these last few years, tin quivers have been preferred by almost every Archer, as keeping the Arrows more secure from the wet, and being considerably lighter; and though the last reason, not the least, being three-fourths less expense.

An Ascham

Is a long upright case, for the purpose of containing the whole of the Archer's accoutrements: it is considerably deeper at nearly the middle of the bottom, than at the top; the lower part holds a rack for about ten dozen of Arrows: this rack does not go quite to the back, but a space is left for the Bows to hang behind: at the top are generally a couple of drawers to contain the smaller accoutrements—(see plate 2, figure 2.)

Gentlemen have their Aschams generally placed in their Halls, and are rather an ornament to them than otherwise; and among a Society of Archers, when they are placed in a row in their pavilion or meeting-room, with each his arms and crest painted on them, assume a noble appearance.

The following Summary Articles are offered to Archers desirous of forming themselves into a Society, as a kind of basis, upon which they may draw out their Laws.



The Society should consist of a certain number of effective members.*

The Society to be named appropriately, viz. from the name of the town it is held near, or from the County, or from any other local circumstance, as the "Kentish Bowman," the "Yorkshire Archers," the "Woodmen of Arden," &c. (see page 61.)

The Society should have a Patron and Patroness, a President, three or four Vice-Presidents, besides the usual Officers of Secretary and Treasurer, and a Committee, to regulate their finances and other affairs.

The Patron and Patroness to retain their titles during their own pleasure : the President and other officers to be elected annually.

* The Members should be limited according to circumstances, such as the situation and conveniences where they assemble ; if they reside many miles apart, more might be admitted than when they lived concentrated, and could easily assemble together.

Each member should wear a uniform—the coat of green, the other part of the dress of a buff, or some light colour.*

Care should be taken that every member's coat be cut from the same cloth, as there are various shades in the colour of green; likewise that they be made after one fashion:—This circumstance is mentioned, because it has been observed of late years, in a Society near London, that scarcely three members have their coats of the same shape or colour. A grass green is the proper colour.

The Society should have a certain number of stated days to shoot, some more grand than others †, the common meetings once a week, the grand days about four or five times during the summer months, and should have a particular name allotted to each of them, as for instance, "The Spring Meeting," "The Patron's Meeting," "The Summer Meeting," "The Lady Patroness's Meeting," "The Autumn Meeting," &c.

* The uniform of the Toxophilite Society is a Green Coat, single-breasted, with an Archery device engraved on the button, Buff Kerseymere Waistcoat and Small-clothes, Hessian Boots, Hat turned up over the right eye, with a Black Feather; a Belt, with Pouch and Tassel.

† The grand days are generally allotted for shooting at Targets only.

on which days, to promote and encourage emulation, prizes should be shot for.

On target and other grand days, every member should appear in full uniform. On weekly meetings every part of the dress might be dispensed with, except the coat; but on other days, when members only meet to practice, the whole might be dispensed with.

In respect to the disbursements, it is recommended that the Society do abstain from all extraordinary expences; for unnecessary expenditure has been the cause of reducing the number of many Societies*—a committee would prevent any thing of this nature occurring, as it might be made part of their duty so to do, and to render an account at the close of every season to the whole Society.

But upon any extra grand day being proposed, it should be the business of the committee to look into the state of their funds, to see if a sum could be spared to cover the expences attending the same; and if not, any further sums intended to be raised, should be done among the attending members, and not the absentees;

* A Gentleman, once a Member of the Kentish Bowmen, told the Author, that it seldom cost him less than Ten Guineas on each of their grand days; the consequence was, that from such extravagancies, the Society was soon annihilated.

many a gentleman may have no objection to pay his annual subscription though seldom attending, but not approve of after-calls, when he does not partake of those diversions which caused them.*

A certain sum should be set apart to defray the charges of each target dinner, the deficiencies to be made good by the parties present.

Instead of adjourning to coffee-houses or hotels to dine, a pavilion ought to be erected in the Archery ground; one person, or the whole of the members, in turn, should provide a collation; and for which, to give in his account to the treasurer or committee.†

A meeting should likewise be summoned every winter; for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the last year, electing fresh officers, receiving subscriptions for the

* As an instance, when circular letters were sent round to every member of a Society, near London, some years since, demanding an extra sum to meet the debts contracted by a few; many declared they did not think themselves amenable for the conduct of others, if they were, they laid themselves open to fresh demands continually, to prevent which, they would withdraw themselves from the Society—and accordingly about twenty withdrew at one time.

† An article in the Royal British Bowman, compels every member, in rotation, to provide a Dinner—a limitation is made as to the number of dishes, and a display of any thing hot is punishable by a fine.

ensuing season, and making any other arrangement that may be deemed necessary—a sum out of the fund should likewise be allotted for the dinner on this day—this Meeting to be called “The Winter Meeting.”

The Archery Ground should be at least two hundred yards long, and one hundred wide—upon a level. It is best to have sheep to feed upon it, as their constant grazing keeps the grass continually and regularly low.

Every Archer should have his mark painted on his Arrow, under a penalty.

Four shooters is the proper number for each target ; though, if the meeting should be numerously attended, then six Archers might be allowed, but no more.

If the shooters at one target have all shot their limited number of Arrows before the shooters at the other, they must wait till all have shot, and then walk in single file, a regular pace, to the opposite target—except where one breaks a string, or meets with any other accident, then the rest go on without him, and he himself loses the benefit of those shots he might have had in the time he is repairing his damages.

Where there are many sets of targets, a person should be appointed to stand half-way between the opposite ones, about twenty yards from the line of

the outer set, where he can command a view of the whole Archers, who, when they have all shot, may march at a signal given by him—such as waving a small flag.

On what is called “Grand Days,” a band of music, playing while the Archers are marching from target to target, has a very pretty effect.

A fine ought to attend the non-compliance of members not appearing in uniform according to the articles, and likewise for the breach of any other article.

No member ought to be allowed to shoot until he has paid up his subscription and fines that he may have incurred: or, if he is so permitted, to be disabled from winning any prize.

None but members ought to shoot on Grand Days, any one introducing a stranger* to shoot, unless a member of some other society, should merit censure, if not fined.

It is customary on “Grand Days,” particularly on the “Lady Patroness’s Meeting,” for the members to

* The Toxophilite Society gave an invitation to all Societies, to shoot with them at their meetings, and which was given by every Society to them in return; so that at one time there was a general communication among Archers all over England.

invite Ladies, and in the evening to give a ball in the pavilion ; on which occasion, the Ladies, in compliment to the Archers, generally form part of their dress of green.

As the exercise of shooting with the Long Bow is to promote a manly amusement, and not for the purpose of gambling—all sums of money shot for, or wagers won, should be forfeited to the fund.

He who on a target meeting wins the first prize, is on the same target meeting in the year following, the captain of the day : the whole business of that day is under his direction, and it is his duty to see that every member acts conformable to the laws of the Society ; he takes the chair and all appeals are made to him. He who wins the second prize is the lieutenant, and in the absence of the captain, takes his place, and performs his duty.

One of the articles in the Laws of the Scorton Archers, runs thus :—“ VII. Item. For as much as
“ the exercise of Archery is lawful, laudable, healthful,
“ and innocent ; and to the end that God’s Holy Name
“ may not be dishonoured by any of the society, it is
“ agreed and hereby declared, that if any of them shall
“ that day curse or swear, in the hearing of any of
“ the company, and the same be proved before the
“ captain, or lieutenant, he shall forthwith pay down

“ one shilling, and so proportionate for every oath ;
 “ to be distributed by the captain to the use of the
 “ poor of that place, or township where they shoot ;
 “ and in case of refusal, or neglect to pay the same,
 “ then such party to be excluded from shooting, till
 “ payment is made as aforesaid.”—A very good law,
 for as swearing is unbecoming the character of a
 gentleman, every thing should be excluded that is
 derogatory to good behaviour.

One of the articles of the Toxophilite Society mentions,
 that if any member marry, he shall treat the rest with
 a marriage feast.

The following is the form of privilege, sent from
 one Society to another.

The Society of Yorkshire Archers, to the President for
 the time being, and the rest of the Members of
 the Toxophilite Society in London.

The Society meeting at Chapel Town, under the
 title of Yorkshire Archers :—

Send Greeting,

In consideration of the good will we bear to Archers
 in general, and especially to the worthy members of the
 Toxophilite Society, and being zealous to promote and
 bring into universal practice and perfection, the ancient
 and renowned science of Archery, and knowing that to

cultivate a free communication and intercourse between the several Societies in Great Britain, will greatly contribute thereto—We have thought fit to *give and grant* to all and every the Members of the Toxophilite Society of Archers, the freedom of this our Society, that is to say, the free liberty of associating with us and of shooting at the butts and targets of our Society, on our days and times of meeting, to which we most cordially invite you, when and as often as the same shall happen to be convenient to you, or any of you.

Given under our seal at Chapel Town, the fourth day of October, in the thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King George III. and in the year of our Lord 1790.

WENTWORTH FITZWILLIAM,
President.

HENRY DIXON,
Secretary.

<i>The different kind of Prizes that are shot for, are</i>	
SILVER ARROWS.	GOLD MEDALS.
SILVER BUGLES.	SILVER MEDALS, besides
SILVER CUPS.	BOWS & ARROWS.

Three Arrows form the compliment for a Prize.

LIST OF SOCIETIES.

- Aycliffe Archers, near Durham.
Archers of Nevill's Cross, Durham.
Archers of Archinfield, near Hereford.
Berkshire Archers.
Bowmen of the Borders.
Bowmen of the Isis.
Bowmen of the Chevy Chase: Patron, the Duke
of Northumberland.
British Bowmen: Prince of Wales, Patron.
Broughton Archers, Manchester.
College Archers, Cambridge.
College Archers, Oxford.
Cheetham-Hill Archers, Manchester.
Darlington Archers, Yorkshire.
Derby Archers.
Edinburgh Archers.
Finsbury Archers.
Harlow Archers.
Hatfield Archers: Lady Salisbury, Patroness.
Henault Foresters, Essex: this Society consists
both of Ladies and Gentlemen.
Hereford Archers.
John of Gaunt's Bowmen, Lancashire.
Kentish Bowmen: Prince of Wales, Patron.

- Kentish Rangers.**
Kilwinning Archers, Scotland.
Lancashire and Cheshire Archers.
London Archers.
Mercian Bowmen, near Coventry.
Middleton Archers.
Needwood Foresters, Staffordshire.
Preston Archers.
Robin Hood's Bowmen, Highgate.
Richmond Archers, Yorkshire.
St. George's Bowmen, Lewisham.
Scorton Archers, Yorkshire.
Selwood Foresters, Somerset.
Sherwood Foresters.
Somersetshire Bowmen.
**Southampton Archers : Duke of Gloucester,
Patron.**
South Saxon Archers, Sussex.
Surry Archers.
Sussex Archers.
Tottenham Archers.
Toxophilite Society, London : the King, Patron.
Woodmen of Arden : Lord Aylesford, Patron.
Woodmen of Hornsey.
Wharfedale Archers.
**Yorkshire Archers : Earl Fitzwilliam, Patron—
Countess of Mexborough, Patroness.**

FINIS.

THE
ENGLISH BOWMAN;

OR

TRACTS ON ARCHERY;

CONTAINING

- I.—The History and Military Career of the English Long Bow, including Sir John Smith's Discourse on Weapons.
- II.—An Account of the Revival of Archery, as an Amusement in England; in which the Value and peculiar Qualities of Archery, as an Exercise, capable of restoring Health, and adding Strength to the Body, is considered.
- III.—An Inquiry and Investigation into all the Ancient Feats (of Archery achieved with the Long Bow, with an Account of Robin Hood, from an Authentic Record) and a comparison of those with the Feats of Modern Archers.
- IV.—The Art and Practice of Archery, with a Comment upon the Toxophilus of Ascham, and a Glossary of Terms used in Archery, with many Notes and Historical Illustrations.

To which is added,

The Second Part of the BOWMAN'S GLORY,

(A very scarce Tract)

BY T. ROBERTS,

A Member of the Toxophilite Society.

The Frontispiece (An Archer in Attitude) by ROBERT KER PORTER.

Sold by Mr. WARING, at his Archery Ware-Room,
Caroline-street, Bedford-square.