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San Juan Pajon. 1827

Birds.

THE AUTHOR OF NATURE, attentive in all his dispensations to the happiness of Man, has furnished to him, in the feathered Creation, a Source of diversified and delightful enjoyment: the loveliness of their Plumage captivates his Eye; the sweetness of their Harmony enchants his Ear: without their "woodnotes wild," the morning walk would be cheerless, and the rural landscape would lose half its charms. In a former part of this Work, the *Finny* Tribe engaged the attention of the Reader: we shall now endeavour to extend his acquaintance with the *Tuneful* Race. Objects with which we are familiar, raise no Emotions within us of surprise or admiration. Nothing is more common to our Sight than the flight of Birds*; yet to the reflective mind it affords matter of rational Amaze-

* Most Birds have something peculiar in their manner of Flying; to enumerate some of them—*Kites* and *Buzzards* sail round in Circles, with wings expanded and motionless. The *Kestrel*, or *Wind-hover*, often hangs in the Air in one place, all the while briskly agitating its Wings. *Hen-harriers* fly slowly over heaths or fields of Corn. *Owls* move in a buoyant manner as if lighter than Air, and wanting Ballast. *Woodpeckers* are always rising or falling in Curves, opening and closing their Wings at every Stroke. The *Gallinæ* fly with difficulty, with an impetuous Whirring, and in a straight line. *Ravens* spend all their leisure time in striking and cuffing each other on the Wing in a kind of playful Skirmish, frequently turn on their backs with a loud Croak, and seem to be falling to the ground. When this odd Gesture takes place, they are scratching themselves with one foot, and thus lose the centre of Gravity. *Rooks* sometimes dive and tumble in the Air. *Magpies* and *Jays* flutter with powerless Wings, and make no Dispatch. *Heron*s seem incumbered with too much Sail for their light Bodies, but, as they sometimes have large Fishes to carry, their vast hollow Wings are useful. *Pigeons*, particularly the Variety called *Smiters*, have a way of clashing their Wings, the one against the other, over their backs, with a loud snap: another Variety, called *Tumblers*, turn themselves over in the Air. The *Kingfisher* darts along like an Arrow. The *Goatsucker* glances in the dusk over the tops of Trees like a Meteor. *Starlings*, as it were,

ment. A Bird, when on the wing, is elevated high above the Earth; notwithstanding the tendency of all bodies to the Centre, it glides through the boundless regions of Air with ease and vigour, varies its course to every direction with the utmost facility, and at last descends almost from the Clouds on a particular spot with the greatest exactness, and without the slightest danger; and all this without any external impulse, but by its own appropriate make and movement, which are most curiously calculated for the Element for which it is destined.

Every class of Animals has its peculiar and appropriate designation; the Quadruped, muscular and vigorous, treads the earth, in common with Man, and is either subdued to Docility, or left to range the Woods in the wildness of their native Strength; the Bird, feeble and timid, wings its flight in Air, and eludes the Force it cannot resist.

Birds (it is not here intended to discriminate all their Varieties) may be chiefly distinguished, like Quadrupeds, into granivorous and carnivorous: the former, naturally of a mild and gentle nature, are more easily

swim along; while *Missel-thrushes* use a wild and desultory flight. *Swallows* sweep over the surface of the ground and water; and distinguish themselves by rapid turns and quick Evolutions. *Swifts* dash round in Circles; and the *Sand-martin* moves with frequent Vacillations like a Butterfly. Most of the *Small Birds* fly by Jerks, rising and falling as they advance. *Skylarks* ascend and fall perpendicularly as they sing. *Woodlarks* hang poised in the Air. *Titlarks* rise and sink in large Curves, singing in their Descent. The *Whitethroat* uses odd jerks and gesticulations over the tops of hedges and bushes. *Geese* and *Cranes*, and most *Wild-fowls*, move in figured flights, often changing their position. The secondary Remiges of *Tringa*, *Wild-ducks*, and some others, are very long, and give their Wings, when in motion, an hooked appearance. *Dob-chicks*, *Moor-hens*, and *Cootes* fly erect, with their Legs hanging down, and hardly make any dispatch. The *Cormorant* flies swiftly along the surface of the Sea, with its long Neck stretched straight out.

Thus from the bold and lofty flight of the *Eagle*, to the short flitting of the *Sparrow* and the *Wren*, there is an ample field for the curious Investigator of Nature, wherein he may delight himself by tracing the various Movements of the feathered Nations, which every where present themselves to his View.

reclaimed; and Man, ever alert, and on the watch to select whatever is subservient to his Interest or his Appetite, has accordingly domesticated such as experience has proved to be the most palatable and most nutritious.

The Structure of these sprightly tenants of the Air is most wisely and curiously contrived to assist their aerial motion; in every part of their form, they are active and buoyant, moulded for *Lightness* and shaped for *Celerity*. The *Lungs* also of Birds, as compared with the Lungs of Quadrupeds, contain in them a provision, distinguishingly calculated for this same purpose of Levitation; namely, a communication (not found in other kinds of Animals) between the Air-vessels of the Lungs and the Cavities of the Body; so that by the intromission of Air from one to the other, at the will, as it should seem, of the Animal, its body can be occasionally puffed out, and its tendency to descend in the Air, or its specific gravity, made less. The Bodies of Birds are blown up from their Lungs, which no other animal bodies are; and thus rendered *buoyant*.

All Birds are *Oviparous*. This, likewise, carries on the Work of Gestation, with as little increase as possible of the *weight* of the Body. A gravid Uterus would have been a troublesome burthen to a Bird in its flight. The advantage in this respect, of an Oviparous procreation is, that, whilst the whole Brood are hatched together, the *Eggs* are excluded *singly* and at considerable intervals. Ten, fifteen, or twenty young Birds may be produced at one Covey, yet the parent Bird has never been encumbered by the load of more than one *full-grown Egg* at *one time*. Their feathers, particularly those of their Wings, are found to contain a great quantity of air; the general diffusion of air through their bodies, at the same time that it sustains them when they continue long on the wing, prevents their respiration from being impeded by the Velocity of their motion, through a resisting medium*. Were they not thus provided with

* Were it possible for a Man to move with the *swiftness* of a *Swallow*, the actual Resistance of the Air, as he is not provided with *internal Reservoirs* similar to those of Birds, would soon suffocate him.

the means of swiftly transporting themselves from one place to another, their Subsistence would be extremely precarious. Obvious causes necessarily occasion their supply of Food to be distributed widely, and with little regularity; they are consequently impelled to take very wide and various Excursions, in order to procure it; owing to the revolutions of the Seasons, the supply is sometimes extremely scanty, at other times greatly abundant; this, together with the fluctuation of Climate, with which they are not fitted to contend, is among the chief causes of the periodical Migration of particular Classes.

Besides the scarcity of Food, the want of a convenient situation for the breeding and rearing their *Young* is another cause of Migration. Such as migrate to great distances are alone denominated *Birds of Passage*, but most Birds, although they do not go to places far remote from their former habitations, in some degree, migrate; at particular times of the Year many kinds remove from the more *inland* Districts towards the Shores. The times of these flittings are observed with the most astonishing order and punctuality. Mr. POPE has most beautifully asked and answered the Question respecting these periodical Migrations, in the following Lines:

“ Who taught the Nations of the Field and Wood
To shun their poison, and to chuse their food?
Prescient, the Tides or Tempests to withstand,
Build on the Wave, or arch beneath the Sand?
Who bid the Stork, COLUMBUS-like, explore
Heav’ns not his own, and Worlds unknown before?
Who calls the council, states the certain day,
Who forms the Phalanx, and who points the way?
See then the acting and comparing powers
One in *their* nature, which are two in *ours*;
And Reason raise o’er Instinct as you can,
In *this* ’tis God directs, in *that* ’tis Man.”

But the secrecy of their Departure, and the suddenness of their Reappearance, have involved the subject of Migration in great Obscurity. Much of this difficulty arises from our not being able to account for their means

of Subsistence during the long flights of many of the Birds, which are obliged to cross immense Tracts of Water before they arrive at the place of their Destination. Accustomed to measure *Distance* by the Speed of those Animals with which we are well acquainted, we are apt to overlook the superior Velocity with which Birds are carried forwards in the Air, and the Ease with which they continue their Exertions for a much longer time than can be done by the strongest Quadruped. CHILDERS, one of our swiftest Race Horses, went at the rate of one Mile in a Minute, having in *twenty seconds* run *one-third* of a Mile; he also carried Nine stone two pounds, FOUR MILES in *six minutes* and *forty-eight seconds*. FIRETAIL and PUMPKIN ran a Mile in a *Minute and a half*; but these Efforts, great as they certainly are, were not of long duration, and were attended with a total want of Power to continue them: but the case is very different with Birds; their Motions are not impeded by Debility, which is the constant attendant upon the uncommon Exertion of Quadrupeds or of Men; they glide through the Air with a quickness superior to that of any Quadruped; and they can continue on the Wing with the same Speed for a considerable length of time. Suppose a Bird to fly half a Mile in a Minute for *twenty-four hours*, in that Period it will have gone over an Extent of more than *seven hundred Miles*, which is sufficient to account for almost the longest Migration; and, if aided with favourable Currents of Air, which when in their highest Flights, from the appearance of the Atmosphere, the Clouds, direction of the Winds, and other causes, they can apply by that instinctive Knowledge which regulates their Movements, the Journey may be still more speedily performed.

The body of the Bird is so shaped as to dispose it most readily for Flight*; feeding chiefly on small Worms and Insects, it requires no power or

* The *Steerage* of a Bird in its flight is effected partly by the Wings, but in a principal degree, by the Tail. And herein we meet with a circumstance not a little remarkable. Birds with *long legs* have *short tails*; and in their flight, place their legs close to their bodies, at the same time stretching them out backwards as far as they can. In this position the legs extend beyond the rump, and become the Rudder; supplying that *Steerage* which the Tail could not.

strength to contend with its prey; we therefore find nothing about it of the well-knit and muscular limb, which characterises the Quadruped; its make is full of airiness and symmetry; its plumage is well adapted to protect it from the inclemency of the Atmosphere through which it passes, and though its bones* are sufficiently solid and compact to sustain its bulk, they are yet so slender and delicate as to make but little addition to its weight. The quills of its feathers are firm, but very light, but by the firmness of them, it is enabled to cleave the Air with proper force: by their lightness it elevates itself at pleasure, and but for which it would sink downwards. All their Feathers are placed generally according to their length and strength; so that in flight, the longest and strongest feathers have the greatest share of Duty.

The feathers of the Bird would perpetually imbibe the moisture of the Atmosphere, and in every impetuous Shower would absorb so much wet, as would almost, if not wholly, impede its flight, had not the wise Economy of Nature obviated this by a most effectual Expedient. This Animal is furnished with a Gland at the Extremity of its body, containing a quantity of unctuous matter, which can be pressed out with its bill, and with which

* The *Bones*, according to the Observations of the late Mr. JOHN HUNTER, are hollow, and contain Air, which he imagined might be intended to assist the Animal in the act of Flying, by increasing its bulk and strength, without adding to its Weight. The *internal Structure* of Birds is no less wisely adapted. The *Lungs* are placed close to the back-bone and ribs; the Air entering into them by a *Canal* from the Windpipe, passes through and is conveyed into a number of membranous Cells which lie upon the sides of the Pericordium, and communicate with those of the Sternum. In some Birds these Cells are continued down the Wings, and extend even to the Pinions, Thigh-bones, and other parts of the Body, which can be filled and distended with Air at the pleasure of the Animal. It seems to be evident that this general diffusion of Air† through the bodies of Birds is of infinite use in assisting Respiration in the rapidity of their Flights.

† It has been asked, whether this universal dispersion of Air through their Bodies does not account for the superior heat of this Class of Animals? The separation of *Oxygen* from respirable Air, and its mixture with the Blood by means of the Lungs, is supposed by Dr. CRAWFORD to be the efficient cause of *Animal Heat*.

it lubricates and anoints its feathers at pleasure. The wisdom of Providence measures out to every class of Animal Nature a supply proportioned to its *Necessities*. Thus Birds that share, as it were, the habitations of Man, and live under covert, as they require a more slender supply of this Fluid, are not provided with so large a stock as those that rove and reside in the open Element. On this account it is that poultry, when *wet*, make so rumpled and scurvy a figure.

In considering and comparing the Senses of animals, we find that of *Sight* to be more piercing, extensive, and exact in Birds than in Quadrupeds; and this, from the conformation of the Eye, which is so organized as to render their Vision infinitely superior to that of all other Animals, and is much larger in proportion to the bulk of the head: nor is this superiority conferred upon them without a correspondent utility; it seems indispensable to their Safety and Subsistence: were this Organ dull and obtuse, Birds, from the rapidity with which they move, would be in danger of striking against every object in their way; the celerity of their motion, instead of being an *advantage*, would be an *evil*; their flight would be restrained by the danger resulting from it: were their Sight therefore defective, their Swiftmess would avail them nothing. Indeed, we may consider the Velocity with which an Animal moves as a sure indication of the perfection of its Vision: a Bird, for instance, that moves swiftly through the Air, must undoubtedly see better than one that slowly describes a waving tract; for its movement would be less rapid, were it not exempted from *fear* by a just confidence in the subtlety and Quickness of its Sight. Among the Quadrupeds the Sloth has its eyes enveloped, and its sight limited; but a Sparrow-hawk, while he hovers in the Air, espies a Lark sitting on a clod, though at twenty times the distance at which a Man or a Dog could perceive it. A Kite, soaring at an imperceptible height in the Clouds, yet distinguishes the small lizards, field-mice, birds, &c. and from this elevated station pounces upon them with astonishing swiftmess and unerring aim. The Turkey-hen too sends forth a scream to warn her defenceless brood to make good their retreat from the Bird of prey, which

she descries to be intent upon them from above, although at a Height which no *human* Eye could reach*.

In the faculty of *Hearing*, likewise, Birds hold a superiority over the *fourfooted* Race; encompassed, generally, when not on the wing, by the branches and leaves of Trees, which must greatly intercept their Sight, they would be the Victims of every attempt to destroy them, were they not admonished of approaching danger by their quick and distinct perception of Sound. The Sense of *Smell*, however, is less acute in Birds than among the Quadrupeds, as may readily be discovered on examining the structure of the Organ. Man is eminently superior to all animals in the Sense of *Touch*, and perhaps too in that of *Taste*; but he is inferior to most of them in the other *three* Senses. We may therefore say, Touch in Man, Smell in the Quadrupeds, and Sight in the Birds, are the three most perfect Senses, and which influence the general character.

BUFFON, to whose attentive Experiments and curious Researches the Science of Natural History is considerably indebted, seems of opinion, that

* It were, however, injustice to dismiss the Eye as a piece of mechanism, without noticing that most exquisite of all contrivances, the *Nictitating membrane*, which is found in the Eyes of *Birds*, and of many *Quadrupeds*. Its office is in the front of the eye; but its body is lodged in the back part of the Globe, where it is safe, and where it incumbers nothing. Its use is to sweep the Eye, which it does in an instant; to spread over it the lachrymal Humour; to defend it also from sudden injuries; yet not totally, when drawn upon the pupil, to shut out the light. The Commodiousness with which it is folded up in the upper corner of the Eye, ready for use and action, and the quickness with which it executes its purpose, are properties known and obvious to every Observer. The Membrane itself is an elastic Substance, capable of being drawn out by Force like a piece of *elastic Gum*, and by its own elasticity returning when the force is removed to its former position. Such being its Nature, in order to fit it up for its Office it is connected by a Tendon or thread, with a Muscle in the back part of the Eye: this Tendon or thread, though strong, is so fine, as not to obstruct the Sight, even when it passes across it; and the Muscle itself being placed in the *back* part of the Eye, derives from its situation the advantage, not only of being secure, but of being out of the way. When the Muscle behind the Eye contracts, the Membrane, by means of the communicating thread, is instantly drawn over the fore part of it. When the muscular contraction (which is a positive, and most probably a *voluntary* effort) ceases to be exerted, the Elasticity alone of the Membrane brings it back again to its position.

the Birds of Song owe not a little of their euphonic powers to their intermixture with the Human Species: "sweetness of voice and melody of song (says the celebrated French Naturalist) are qualities which, in Birds, are partly natural, partly acquired. Their great facility in catching and repeating sounds, enables them not only to borrow from each other, but often to copy the inflexions and tones of the human Voice*, and of our musical Instruments. Is it not singular (he asks) that in all populous and civilized Countries, most of the Birds chant delightful airs: while in the extensive Deserts of Africa and America, inhabited by roving Savages, the winged tribes utter only harsh and discordant Cries, and but a few species have any claim to Melody? Must this difference be imputed to the variance of Climate alone? The extremes of heat and cold operate indeed great changes on the nature of animals, and often, externally, permanent characters and vivid colours. The Quadrupeds, of which the garb is variegated, spotted, or striped, such as the Panthers, the Leopards, the Zebras, and the Civets, are all natives of the hottest Climates. All the Birds of the *tropical* Regions sparkle with the most glowing tints, while those of the temperate Countries are stained with lighter and softer shades. Of

* It is imagined by some Philosophers, that Birds and Beasts (though without the Power of Articulation) understand one another by the *Sounds* they utter; and that *Dogs* and *Cats* have each a particular Language to themselves, like different *Nations*. Thus it may be supposed that the *Nightingales* of *Italy* have as fine an Ear for their native Wood-notes, as any *Signor* or *Signora* for an Italian Air; that the *Boars* of *Westphalia* gruntle as expressively through the *Nose* as the inhabitants of *High Germany*; and that the *Frogs* in the Dykes of *Holland* croak as intelligibly as the *Natives* jabber their low *Dutch*. However this may be, we may consider those whose Tongues hardly seem to be under the Influence of *Reason*, and do not keep up the proper Conversation of Human Creatures, as imitating the Language of different Animals. For instance, the Affinity between *Chatterers* and *Monkeys*, and *Praters* and *Parrots*, is too obvious not to occur at once: *Grunters* and *Growlers* may be justly compared to *Hogs*: *Snarl*ers are *Curs*: and the *Spitfire*, *Passionate*, are a sort of wild *Cats*, that will not bear stroking, but will pur when they are pleased: *Complainers* are *Screech Owls*; and *Story-tellers*, always repeating the same dull note, are *Cuckoos*: *Poets*, that prick up their Ears, at their own hideous braying, are no better than *Asses*: *Critics*, in general, are venomous *Serpents*, that delight in hissing; and some of them, who have got by heart a few *technical Terms*, without knowing their *Meaning*, are no other than *Magpies*.

the three hundred species that may be reckoned belonging to our Climates, the *peacock*, the *common cock*, the *golden oriole*, the *king fisher*, and the *goldfinch*, only can be celebrated for the variety of their Colours; but Nature would seem to have exhausted all the rich hues of the Universe on the plumage of the Birds of America, of Africa, and of India. These Quadrupeds, clothed in the most splendid Robes, these Birds, attired in the richest Plumage, utter at the same time hoarse, grating, or even terrible Cries. Climate has, no doubt, a principal share in this phenomenon; but does not the Influence of Man contribute also to the effect?"—I must confess that this hypothesis of the Influence of Man, in producing the effect here in part ascribed to it, appears to me rather fanciful than solid. The Harmony of the woodland Choristers is so dissimilar, even from the most musical articulation of the human Voice, that I fear we cannot arrogate to ourselves the honour of having been the first Singing-masters of the *winged* Creation. As to any improvement in Melody which they may have derived from our musical instruments, the grove resounded with the Harmony of its feathered Tenants long before even the Sackbut, Psaltery, and Dulcimer of distant days had attained to such perfection as much to advance them in the Gamut. It may be questioned whether an Aviary would be very beneficially constructed, even in the side boxes of the Opera-house; its Inmates would, perhaps, not edify much, even by the exquisite trillings of a BANTI, or the *ad libitum* cadences of a BILLINGTON. Perhaps sufficient reason may be assigned why Birds in *populous* and civilized Countries chant their delightful airs, while in the extensive Deserts of Africa and America but a few species have any claim to Melody. The varied tones of Birds, like the inflexions of Speech in Man, are derived from Imitation: a few Barbarians scattered over a pathless waste, and having but little intercourse with each other, would no doubt have the faculty of speech infinitely less perfect than the civilized Man, born amid the busy Hum of his species, and in a state of perpetual Communication with all about him; so in populous Countries, in which the woods and forests abound with Birds of every species, always consorting with each other, and intermingling their songs in Concert, it seems a necessary consequence that

their notes will be richer, more euphonical, and more diversified, than in the *extensive Desert*, where they wing the skies *alone*, and are by necessity in a state of almost perpetual separation. May we not likewise consider it as in the order and intention of Providence that the Birds, which chant their delightful songs, should soothe the ear, and solace the heart of Man; that frequenting his Haunts, and in some measure supported by his Labours, they should cheer and relieve them, rather than warble in the solitary wild, and “waste their sweetness in the desert air.” Besides, when Mr. BUFFON tells us, that in those immense and barren tracts of Africa and America, the winged tribes utter only harsh and discordant Notes, and that only a few Species have a claim to Melody, it is likely that these few species are of the smaller size, and that it is the larger tribe of Birds that utter these *harsh and discordant cries*. In this there is nothing extraordinary; the fact is common to the winged species, as well of the populous Regions of the *temperate*, as the forlorn Tracts of the *torrid* zone. “I believe,” says DAINES BARRINGTON, “there is no instance of any Bird’s singing, which exceeds our Blackbird in Size; and possibly this may arise from the difficulty of its concealing itself, if it called the attention of its Enemies, not only by Bulk, but by the proportionable loudness of its Notes.”

The different principles established by BUFFON, and established with sufficient exactness, are, that the *Sensorium** of Birds contains chiefly the

* The Exhibition which many years since was made at the celebrated BRESLAW’s, in Cockspur-Street, in some degree, however, contradicts this Idea, and evinces a Docility, of which, perhaps, this Class of Animals was previously deemed unsusceptible. A number of little Birds, to the amount of *twelve or fourteen*, being taken from different Cages, were placed upon a Table in the presence of the Spectators, and there they formed themselves into Ranks, like a Company of Soldiers. Small Cones of paper, bearing some resemblance to *Grenadiers Caps*, were put upon their heads, and diminutive imitations of *Muskets*, made of wood, secured under their left wings. Thus Equipped, they marched to and fro several times, when a single Bird was brought forward, supposed to be a *Deserter*, and sat between Six of the Musqueteers, three in a row, who conducted him from the top to the middle of the Table, where a small brass *Cannon*, charged with a little Gunpowder, had been already placed, and the *Deserter* was situated in the front of the

Images derived from the sense of *Sight*; and these, though superficial, are very extensive, and for the most part relate to Motion, to Distance, and to Space; that, comprehending a whole Province within the limits of their Horizon, they may be said to carry in their brain a *geographical* Chart of the places which they view; that their Facility in traversing wide territories, is one of the causes which prompts their frequent Excursions and Migrations; that their Ear being delicate, they are alarmed by sudden noises, but may be soothed by soft Sounds, and *allured* by Calls; that their Organs of Voice being exceedingly powerful and soft, they naturally vent their feelings in long resounding Strains; that, as they have more signs and inflexions, they can, better than Quadrupeds, express their meaning; that easily receiving, and long retaining the Impressions of Sounds, the Organ delights in repeating them; but that its Imitations are entirely mechanical, and have no relation to their Conceptions; that their Sense of *Touch* being obtuse, they have only imperfect ideas of bodies; that they receive their information of distant Objects from Sight, not from Smell; that, as their taste is indiscriminating, they are more prone to Voracity than Sensuality; that from the nature of the Element which they inhabit, they are independent of Man, and retain their natural Habits; that for this reason, most of them are attached to the Society of their fellows, and easily convene; that being obliged to unite their Exertions in building a Nest*, and in providing for their offspring, the pair contract an

Cannon. His Guards then divided, three retiring on each side, and he was left standing by himself. Another Bird was immediately produced, and a lighted Match being put into one of his Claws, he hopped boldly on the other leg to the tail of the Cannon, and, applying the Match to the priming, discharged the piece without the least appearance of fear or agitation. The moment the Explosion took place the *Deserter* fell down, and lay apparently Motionless; but, at the Command of his Tutor, he rose again. The Cages being brought, the feathered Soldiers were stripped of their Ornaments, and returned into them in perfect Order.

* Nidification is one of those wonderful contrivances of Nature that would compel us to believe that we and every other part of the Creation are ever under the protection of a Superintending Being, whose Goodness knows no bounds, and who is alike provident for the Preservation and Comfort of the inferior, as well as the highest Orders of his Creatures. The Art in the Construction of the *Nests* of Birds, would baffle all the boasted Talents of Man to imitate.

Affection for each other, which continues to grow, and then extends to the tender Brood; that this friendship restrains the violent passions, and even tempers love, and begets chastity, purity of manners, and gentleness of disposition; that though their power of fruition is greater than in other Ani-

—————Mark it well; within, without:

No tool had they that wrought, no knife to cut,
 No nail to fix, no bodkin to insert,
 No glue to join; their little Beaks were all;
 And yet how neatly finished. What nice hand
 With every Implement and means of Art,
 And twenty years Apprenticeship to boot,
 Could make me such another? Fondly then
 We boast of Excellence, whose noblest skill
 Instinctive Genius foils.

The conduct of many kinds of Animals towards their Young has escaped no Observer, no Historian of Nature. "How well they caress them, (says DERHAM,) with their affectionate notes; put food into their mouths; teach them to eat and gather meat for themselves; and, in a word, perform the part of so many Nurses, deputed by the SOVEREIGN LORD AND PRESERVER OF THE WORLD to help such shiftless Creatures!" Neither ought it, under this head, to be forgotten how much the Instinct costs the Animal which feels it: "How much, for example, (says Dr. PALEY,) a Bird gives up by sitting upon her Nest; how repugnant it is to her Organization, her Habits, and her Pleasures! An Animal formed for Liberty submits to confinement in the very Season when every thing invites her abroad. What is more, an Animal delighting in and made for *Motion*, all whose Motions are so easy and so free, hardly a moment, at other times, at rest, is for many Hours of Days together fixed to her Nest, as close as if her limbs were tied down by pins and wires. For my part, (continues Dr. P.) I never see a Bird in that situation, but I recognise an invisible Hand, detaining the contented Prisoner from her Fields and Groves, for a purpose, as the event proves, the most worthy of the Sacrifice, the most important, the most beneficial."

But the loss of liberty is not the whole of what the procreant Bird suffers. HARVEY tells us, that he has often found the Female wasted to skin and bone by sitting upon her Eggs.

Another Observation Dr. P. makes, that the *Pairing* of Birds, and the *non-pairing* of Beasts forms a distinction between the two Classes, which shews that the *conjugal* instinct is modified with a reference to Utility, founded in the Condition of the Offspring. In *Quadrupeds*, the young Animal draws its nutriment from the *Body of the Dam*. The male parent neither does, nor can contribute any part to its sustentation. In the *feathered Race*, the young Bird is supplied by an Importation of Food, to procure and bring home which, in a sufficient quantity for the demand of a numerous Brood, requires the Industry of *both Parents*. In this difference we see a Reason for the vagrant Instinct of the *Quadruped*, and for the faithful love of the *feathered Mate*.

mals, they confine its exercise within moderate bounds, and ever subject their pleasures to their duties; and finally, that these sprightly Beings, which nature would seem to have produced in her gay Moments, may be regarded as a serious and decent Race, which exhibit excellent lessons, and laudable examples of Morality.

There are certain Birds, which were formerly considered by the superstitious as of evil Omen; indeed many are not a little addicted to these idle Terrors, even at this Day: SPENSER has enumerated some of them, and perhaps was not himself exempt from the vulgar Opinion of them, as prophetic of Misfortune.

The ill-fac'te Owle, deathes dreadful Messenger,
The hoarse night-Raven, trompe of doleful dreere;
The lether-winged Bat, dayes enemy,
The rueful Strich still wayting on the Beere;
The whistler shrill, that whoso heares doth die,
The Hellish Harpies, prophets of sad destinie.

Birds afford the same Nourishment as Quadrupeds, but not in the same Degree*. Much depends on their mode of feeding: those Birds that live on Worms and Insects, give but a meagre and impure Nourishment; those that live on Fishes are next to the former; but those that feed on Grain

* Besides being immediately useful to Man either by their *Feathers*, or the food they present to him in their *Eggs*, or their *Flesh*; in the Economy of Nature, the use of Birds is very considerable. *Vultures*, *Ravens*, &c. devour dead Carcases, which would infect the Air. The *Picæ*, and many of the *Passeres*, feed on all sorts of Insects and Worms, which would otherwise multiply excessively. The *Anseres* and *Grallæ* diminish the number of the watery Inhabitants: the *Accipitres* devour the too numerous species of Birds and small Animals; many of the *Picæ*, *Gallinæ*, and *Passeres*, feed on the super-abundant Seeds and Fruits; they at the same time increase the number of *Fishes*, *Insects*, and *Plants*, by swallowing their Eggs and Seeds, which are not injured by passing through their Bodies, but are deposited in places fit for their Production and Growth. They exercise their functions chiefly during the *Day*; *Owls* and the *Goatsuckers* in the *Night*: and although some appear to be noxious to Man, by feeding on Seeds and Fruits, and on serviceable Animals, yet Experience shews us, that the *Good* they do far exceeds the *Harm*; for, in those Districts where some kinds, such as *Rooks* and *Sparrows*, have been extirpated, they have been succeeded by swarms of *Insects* infinitely more hurtful.

and Berries are reckoned the most wholesome and delicate eating. All Birds are improved by being *domesticated*, as they grow fatter, and more muscular, though they lose somewhat of their original Flavour. Birds are scarcely ever in Season in Spring. For use, they are preferable young *, when they should be roasted: when Old, they are most fit for Broth, or they may be stewed: but the flavour of fowls is generally impaired by Boiling. The smaller kinds, that do not admit roasting, are best baked. Of the parts of Birds, the Wings of the *flying* kind are driest and insipid; and in the same way, of the *running* kind, the Legs are the worst part, as being the most exercised; hence the Breast is, in all of them, the softest and most nutritive part. The flavour of Birds is peculiarly lost by Domestication, while their fleshiness and tenderness is, on the contrary, augmented.

The smaller Birds, though neglected amid the Luxury of the present Age, were considered, at a Roman Banquet, as most delicate and delicious Fare. The modern Italians are fond of *small* birds, which they eat under the name of *Beccaficos*; and the prodigious Sum paid by the Roman Tragedian for one dish of singing birds is well known. *Maxime tamen insignis est in hac memoriâ, CLODIA ÆSOPI tragici histrionis patina sexcentis H. S. tarata; in quo posuit aves cantu aliquo, aut humano sermone, vocales.* Plin.

* The ages of *Birds* do not seem to bear the same proportion to the time of acquiring their Growth, as has been remarked with regard to *Quadrupeds*. Most Birds attain to their full Dimensions in a few months, and are capable of propagating the first Summer after they are hatched. In proportion to the Size of their bodies, *Birds* are much more vivacious, and live longer than either *Man* or *Quadrupeds*. Notwithstanding the difficulties to ascertain the Ages of Birds, there are instances of great Longevity in many of them. *Geese* and *Swans* have been known to arrive at a Hundred and upwards; and of the latter, some are said to have existed *three hundred* years. *Ravens* are very long lived; they sometimes exceed a Century. *Eagles* are supposed to reach a great Age. *Pigeons* are known to live more than *twenty* years: and even *Linnets* and other small Birds have been kept in Cages from *fifteen* to *twenty* years: and Mr. TAYLOR, of *Handsworth Woodhouse*, near *Sheffield*, has now in his Possession a common *Poultry Hen*, *Twenty-four* years old, which has reared *Sixteen* Chickens this year (1805), and continues to lay Eggs.

lib. x. c. 51. The price of this Expensive Dish was about 6843*l.* 10*s.* according to ARBUTHNOT's Tables. This prodigality of Expencc, perhaps, arose rather from an ostentatious Caprice, than any view to the actual gratification of an epicurean Taste.

Without pursuing this introductory Chapter further, we shall proceed to examine the peculiar attributes, and detail the more interesting particulars of those Species of Birds which come under the denomination of Game, or are subject to the Sportsman's Pursuit. Verbal descriptions often fail in communicating an adequate Idea of their object; this division of the Work therefore, as well as the former, will be illustrated by Engravings; which it is hoped will be found to unite accuracy with elegance, and to combine spirit with Fidelity*.

* The Explanation of some TECHNICAL Terms in ORNITHOLOGY may perhaps not unacceptably be here inserted.

<i>Cere. Cera</i>	{ The naked Skin that covers the base of the Bill in the <i>Hawk</i> kind.
<i>Capistrum</i>	{ A word used by LINNÆUS to express the short Feathers on the Forehead just above the Bill. In <i>Crows</i> these fall forwards over the Nostrils.
<i>Lorum</i>	{ The space between the Bill and the Eye, generally covered with Feathers, but in some Birds naked, as in the black and white <i>Grebe</i> .
<i>Orbits. Orbita</i>	{ The Skin that surrounds the Eye, which is generally bare, particularly in the <i>Heron</i> and <i>Parrot</i> .
<i>Emarginatum</i>	{ A Bill is called <i>Rostrum Emarginatum</i> when there is a small notch near the end: this is conspicuous in that of <i>Butcher-birds</i> and <i>Thrushes</i> .

- Vibrissæ* } *Vibrissæ pectinatæ*, stiff hairs that grow on each side the Mouth, formed like a double Comb, to be seen in the *Goatsucker*, *Flycatcher*, &c.
- Bastard Wing. Alula spuria* } A small joint rising at the end of the middle part of the Wing, or the *Cubitus*; on which are three or five Feathers.
- Lesser Coverts of the Wings* } The small Feathers that lie in several rows on the bones of the Wings. The *under Coverts* are those that line the inside of the Wings.
- Tectrices Primæ* }
- Greater Coverts* } The Feathers that lie immediately over the Quill-feathers and secondary Feathers.
- Tectrices secundæ* }
- Quill Feathers. Primores* } The largest Feathers of the Wings, or those that rise from the first bone.
- Secondary Feathers. Secundariæ* Those that rise from the second.
- Coverts of the Tail. Uropygium* Those that cover the base of the Tail.
- Vent Feathers* } Those that lie from the Vent to the Tail. *Crissum Linnæi*.
- The Tail. Rectrices* } In many Birds consisting of twelve Feathers in number, in some eighteen, and often only ten.
- Scapular Feathers* } That rise from the Shoulders, and cover the sides of the Back.
- Nucha* The hind part of the Head.
- Rostrum subulatum* } A term LINNÆUS uses for straight and slender Bill.

<i>Pes scansorius</i>	{ The Foot of the <i>Woodpecker</i> formed for climbing. Climbing Feet.
<i>Finned Foot</i>	{ Such as those of the <i>Grebes</i> , &c. Such as are indented are called scolloped, such as those of <i>Coots</i> , and scollop-toed <i>Sandpipers</i> .
<i>Pes lobatus, pinnatus</i>	
<i>Pes tridactylus</i>	Such as want the back Toe.
<i>Semi-palmated</i>	{ When the Webs reach only half way of the Toes.
<i>Pes semi-palmatus</i>	
<i>Ungue postico sessili</i>	{ When the hind Claw adheres to the Leg without any Toe, as in the <i>Petrels</i> .
<i>Digitis 4 omnibus palmatis</i>	{ All the four Toes connected by Webs, as in the <i>Cormorants</i> .

EXPLANATION of other LINNÆAN Terms.

<i>Rostrum cultratum</i>	{ When the edges of the Bill are very sharp, such as in that of the <i>Crow</i> .
<i>Unguiculatum</i>	{ A Bill with a Nail at the end, as in those of the <i>Goosanders</i> and <i>Ducks</i> .
<i>Lingua ciliata</i>	{ When the Tongue is edged with fine bristles, as in <i>Ducks</i> .
<i>Integra</i>	When quite plain or even.
<i>Lumbriciformis</i>	{ When the Tongue is long, round and slender like a Worm, as that of the <i>Woodpecker</i> .

Pedes compedes { When the Legs are placed so far behind as to
make the Bird walk with difficulty, or as if in
fetters; as is the case with the *Auks*, *Grebes*
and *Divers*.

Nares Lineares { When the Nostrils are very narrow, as in *Sea-*
Gulls.

Marginatæ With a rim round the Nostrils, as in the *Stare*.

Bustard.

THIS singular Bird is the largest of the *Land Fowl* in our Island, the male weighing from twenty-five to thirty pounds, the length near four feet, the breadth nine; its characters are various, some which connect it with Birds of the *Gallinaceous* kind, others which seem to belong to the Ostrich and Cassowary. Its bill is strong, and rather convex, its eyes red, head and neck ash-coloured; on each side of the lower bill is a tuft of feathers, from five to nine inches long, the back is barred transversely, with black and bright rust colour, the greater quill feathers are brown, the belly white; the tail consists of twenty feathers, the middle ones are rust-colour barred with black; those on each side are white; the legs are long, naked above the knees, and dusky; it has no hind toe; its nails are short, strong, and convex, both above and below; and the bottom of the foot is furnished with a callous prominence, which serves instead of a heel.

The Female is about half the size of the Male*, the crown of the head is of a deep orange, crossed with transverse black lines; the rest of the head is brown; the lower part of the foreside of the neck is ash-coloured; the Female wants the *Tuft* on each side of the head. In the rest of the plumage she resembles the Male, except that the colours of the back and wings are more dull; the Male has however an essential distinction, being

* The size of the female is sometimes larger; for on the 29th September 1800, Mr. CROUCH, of Burford, shot a hen Bustard on Salisbury Plain, which measured from tip to tip of the wings, full six feet, and upwards of three feet from the point of the beak to the extremity of the tail: perhaps this unusual size was the result of Age. This Bird was killed at the distance of forty yards, with a common fowling piece, and with such shot as is generally used for Partridge shooting. There were two other Bustards in company with the one shot, neither of which appeared to be hurt.



BUSTARD.

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furnished with a *pouch*, capable of containing near *seven pints* of water, the entrance being immediately under the *Tongue*; Dr. DOUGLASS first discovered this singular Reservoir, which the Bird is supposed to fill with water, as a supply in those dreary Plains, where it is accustomed to wander: this is of use also to the Female while *sitting*, which is generally at a distance from water, or for the Young, until they can leave the Nest. A further use of it has been observed at *Morocco*, where they fly the *Hawk* at the *Bustard*; on the attack of the *Hawk*, it has been known that the *Bustard* has spirted out the Water against the Assailant, and has by this means baffled the pursuit of its Enemy*.

The *Bustard* makes no *nest*, but, scratching a hole in some dry field, drops two Eggs upon the ground, as big as those of a *Goose*, and of a pale olive brown, sprinkled with small dark spots, resembling the brown colour of the plumage, upon which she sits for *thirty Days*. During the absence of the Female from her Nest in quest of food, should any one handle the Eggs, she immediately abandons them. The *Bustard* feeds on *corn* and *vegetables*, and upon those large *earth worms* that appear in great quantities on the *Downs* before Sun-rising in the Summer; these are replete with moisture, answer the purpose of *liquids*, and enable them to live long without drinking on these dry and extensive Tracts, and without having recourse to the admirable Magazine before mentioned: like the *Ostrich*, it swallows small Stones, bits of Metal, &c. BUFFON relates that in the stomach of one opened by the *Academicsians*, there were found (besides small stones,) to the number of *ninety Doubloons*, all worn and polished by the attrition of the *Stomach*, but without any appearance of Erosion.

Bustards were formerly more frequent in this Island than at present; these Birds inhabit most of the open Counties of the *south* and *east*, from *Dorsetshire* as far as the *Wolds* in *Yorkshire*. In *France* they are seen in

* Has it ever been tried, or is the Experiment worth making, by those Gentlemen who yet continue the sport of *Hawking*, if it be not practicable to fly the *Hawk* at the *Bustard* in this Country? the approach to this Bird by any other mode is most difficult, and it is rarely to be got at within reach of shot, unless by mere accident.

the Spring ; in *England*, are in greatest numbers in Autumn, and are now and then met with at that Season in large Turnip fields, near the *Downs* in *Wiltshire*, in troops of *fifty* or more. In Sir ROBERT SIBBOLD's time they were found in the *Merse*, but are now supposed to be extinct in *Scotland* : they keep near their old haunts, seldom wandering above *twenty* or *thirty miles* ; they run most rapidly, but very slowly take wing ; they are sometimes caught with *Greyhounds*, and the Chase is said to afford excellent diversion. In *Hungary* this bird is so common as sometimes to be seen *four* or *five hundred* in a Flock.

The Compiler of this account, in returning out of the *Fens* in the dusk of the Evening from *Snipe* shooting, some years since, shot at a *Bustard* which flew very low over his head : he did not at the time know what Bird it was ; and although the Gun was charged with very small shot, the Bird, from the short distance when struck, was so wounded, as to be caught by a Shepherd within three hundred yards of the place, the Morning after. This Bird weighed nearly *twenty-eight* pounds, and the Shepherd sold it for a Guinea to a Gentleman at Cambridge.



PHEASANTS.

Published by J. Hall, 17, Pall Mall, London.

Pheasants

were brought into *Europe* by the *Argonauts* 1250 years before the Christian *Æra*, and are at present found in a state of Nature in nearly the whole of the *Old Continent*. It may surprise the Sportsman to read, that this bird, which he finds wild in Forests, which can scarcely be said to have an Owner, was brought from the Banks of the *Phasis*, a river of *Colchis*, in *Asia Minor*, and artificially propagated with us, and in other parts of the Globe. The price they bore, according to ECHARD'S History of England, Anno Dom. 1299 (being the 27th of EDWARD the First), was *fourpence*; (at the same period, the value of a *Mallard* was three halfpence; a *Plover*, one penny; a couple of *Woodcocks*, three halfpence; *Wheat* was sold for *twenty*, and at some places for *sixteen*, pence per quarter, or four shillings of our money. A *fat Lamb*, from Christmas to Shrovetide, one shilling and fourpence, and all the year after *fourpence*)*.

* If we search further back, we may judge of the Comparative value of Money by the underneath cost of Cattle, &c. at different periods. We read, that the Rates which Purveyors appointed by the KING to levy Provision, for his Court or Army excepted, were, in 1073,

Bread for 100 Men, One Shilling.
 One Pasture fed Ox, Ditto.
 One Ram or Sheep, Fourpence.
 Provender for Twenty Horses, Ditto.

The Year 1125 was a dear time in *England*. *Wheat* was then sold for *six shillings* the Quarter.

In 1184, Thirty-three *Cows* and two *Bulls* sold for £. 8 7 0. *Sheep* and *Hogs* in Drovers, were sold at less than *One Shilling* each. *Fowls* were a *halfpenny* each; and a *Ram* cost *Eightpence*. In 1197, from bad Seasons, or artful Management, *Wheat* sold in *England* at *Eighteen shillings* and *Eightpence* per Quarter. The year ensuing HUGH DE BOSCO stocked the KING'S lands of *Mienes* with *Oxen* at three Shillings, and *Sheep* at fourpence, each; and, in 1200, the highest price of the best *French Wine* was £. 1 6 8 per Ton.

Pheasants are not Inhabitants of any part of *America*; their wings being short, they are ill adapted for long Flights, therefore it is more

A Transcript from that curious publication, "*The Regulations of the Household of the fifth Earl of NORTHUMBERLAND,*" begun in 1512, may be an excusable appendage. It will shew not only the BIRDS in high Vogue at the great Tables of those days, but also how capricious a thing is *Taste*, several then of high price being at present banished from our Tables; and others again of uncommon Rankness much valued by our Ancestors.

Thus *Wegions* (I give, says Mr. PENNANT, the Spelling of the Time,) *See-pyes*, *Sholardes*, *Kyrlewes*, *Ternes*, *Cranys*, *Hearonsewys*, *Bytters*, *Sea-gulles*, and *Styntes*, were among the Delicacies for principal feasts, or his Lordship's own *Mees*.

Those excellent Birds the *Teylles* were not to be bought, except no other could be got.

Fesauntes, *Bytters*, *Hearon-sewys*, and *Kyrlewes*, were valued at the same price, twelvepence each.

The other Birds admitted to his Lordship's Table were, *Bustardes*, *Mallardes*, *Woodcockes*, *Wypes*, *Quayles*, *Snypes*, *Pertryges*, *Redeshankes*, *Reys*, *Pacokes*, *Knottes*, *Dottrells*, *Larkys*, and small *byrdes*.

The great *byrdes* for the Lord's *Mees*, for the *Chambreleyn* and *Stewardes Mees*, may be, as the ingenious Editor conjectures, *Fieldfares*, *Thrushes*, and the like.

The estimation each Species was held in, may be known by the following table; to which is added the modern name:

<i>Cranys</i> , the Crane	. . . . .	16 <i>d</i> .
<i>Hearon-sewys</i> , the Heron	. . . . .	12 <i>d</i> .
Mallards	. . . . .	2 <i>d</i> .
<i>Teylles</i> , Teal	. . . . .	1 <i>d</i> .
Woodcock	. . . . .	1 <i>d</i> . or 1½ <i>d</i> .
<i>Wypes</i> , Lapwings	. . . . .	1 <i>d</i> .
<i>Sea-Gulles</i> , black-headed Gull	. . . . .	1 <i>d</i> . or 1½ <i>d</i> .
<i>Styntes</i> , Purrs	. . . . .	6 <i>d</i> . a dozen.
Quails	. . . . .	2 <i>d</i> .
Snipes	. . . . .	3 <i>d</i> . a dozen.
Partridges	. . . . .	2 <i>d</i> .
Red-shanks	. . . . .	1 <i>d</i> .
<i>Bytters</i> , Bitterns	. . . . .	12 <i>d</i> .
Pheasants	. . . . .	12 <i>d</i> .

probable that they have been purposely sent to every place which they now inhabit, than that they came there by chance. This is ascertained by their complete Imprisonment in the *Isolo Madre*, in the *Laggo Maggiore* at *Turin*, as they cannot fly over the Lake; and, unless picked up by the Boatmen, are always drowned when they attempt it*.

The Plumage of this bird has every thing that can satisfy the observer as to its variety and brilliance; its Shape too is elegant: the old Cocks will sometimes weigh *three pounds eight ounces*; their general weight is from *two pounds twelve ounces* to *three pounds four*; the *Hen* is usually

<i>Reys</i> , Land Rails *	. . . . .	2 <i>d.</i>
<i>Sholardes</i> , Shovelers	. . . . .	6 <i>d.</i>
<i>Kyrlwes</i> , Curlews	. . . . .	12 <i>d.</i>
Peacocks	. . . . .	12 <i>d.</i>
Sea Pies	. . . . .
Wigeons	. . . . .	1 <i>d.</i>
Knots	. . . . .	1 <i>d.</i>
Dotterels	. . . . .	1 <i>d.</i>
Bustards	. . . . .
Ternes	. . . . .	4 <i>d.</i> a dozen.
Great birds	. . . . .	Ditto.
Small birds	. . . . .	12 <i>d.</i> a dozen.
Larks	. . . . .	12 <i>d.</i> for two dozen.

* SONNINI relates, that the Pheasants of some of the Northern Islands of the *Archipelago*, and which come thither from the Woods of *Thessalia*, are larger and handsomer than those of other Countries; and that it is an Amusement for the rich Turks of *Salonica*, to fly at them Birds of Prey, which they carry on their Fist. "When the Pheasant takes its flight, the Bird of Prey, which they let loose, hovering above, compels it to perch on some Tree; he then places himself on another branch over its head, and keeps it in such Terror, that it suffers itself to be approached, and easily taken alive." This Fact, continues Mons. S. sufficiently develops the Mystery of *Fascination*.

* I imagine the *Reys* (says Mr. P.) to be the Land Rail, not the *Reeve*, the female of the *Ruff*; for that bird seems not to have been in Vogue in those days. Old DRAYTON does not even mention it in his long Catalogue of Birds, but sets a high value upon

"The *Rayle*; which seldom comes but upon rich Mens' spits."

POLYOLBION, Canto XXV.

ten ounces less; the length from two feet two inches to three feet; the bill is of a whitish horn colour (the more Aged the *whiter* it is;) irides yellow; sides of the head deep scarlet, granulated and running into a point behind, and in old birds elongated over each jaw like the *wattle* of a *Cock*, and dotted with minute black spots: from the nostrils springs a line of greenish black feathers passing under, and a little beyond the eye; the rest of the head and neck is tinted with gold, changing to violet and blue in some Aspects; and in the breeding Season, there is above the Ears a tuft of these gold-tinted feathers, that are like horns; lower part of the neck, breast, and sides, glossy reddish chesnut, each feather margined at the end with black, or apparently purple, according to the light they are viewed in, and under the purple there is a transverse streak of gold colour; each feather on the shoulder and wing covert has more or less of a curved mark in the middle, bounded with a black line both within and without; the lower part of the back the same, but less distinct; rump, plain reddish brown, glossed with green, belly and vent dusky; the tail, from the middle feather to the end, is about twenty inches, the shortest less than five; and the whole consists of eighteen feathers, regularly shortening towards the sides; all of them have transverse bars of black on each side of the shaft, about twenty-four on the two middle feathers, the rest in proportion; the legs are dusky, furnished with a strong membrane between the toes; they have Spurs near an inch above the hind toe, shorter than those of the *Cock*, but which *increase* with *their age*, and in the *old birds* are extremely *sharp*, and in birds of only *one year* are *round* and *blunt*. The *Female* is less, the general colour brown, variegated with grey, rufous, and blackish; the tail much shorter, but barred like the *Male*; the regions of the Eyes are covered with feathers. She also has a small knob on the hinder part of the leg, more prominent as they increase in Age. The Pheasant will live to *sixteen* Years.

These birds are no less salutary than beautiful. When the *ancient* Physicians spoke of the wholesomeness of any Viands, they made their

Comparison with the *Pheasant**. The *Hens* are certainly more juicy, and every way preferable; still the real Sportsman feels a *twinge* whenever he sees a *Hen Pheasant* destroyed. They are best roasted, and perhaps the most eligible mode of dressing an *old Cock* is (after being kept a proper time) to stuff him with the lean of the inside of a Sirloin of Beef, cut into pieces the size of Dice, and well seasoned; the Gravy issuing from the Beef gradually diffuses itself through the flesh, and renders it less dry and hard, than when destitute of this supply. Notwithstanding all that can tempt the Curiosity or the Palate, the *Pheasant*, as if disdaining the Protection of *Man*, has left him, to take shelter and multiply in the thickest and remotest Woods. All others of the domestic kind, the *Cock*, *Turkey*, *Pintado*, when once reclaimed, have still continued in the habits and appetites of willing Slavery: but the *Pheasant*, although taken from its native Country, where the Woods supply a variety of food, and the warm Sun suits its constitution, has still preserved its attachment to native Freedom, and now wild among us, forms a brilliant and envied Ornament of our *Parks* and *Forests*, where he feeds upon acorns and berries, the scanty produce of our chilling Climate.

This spirit of Independence seems to attend the *Pheasant* even in Captivity, the *Hen* seldom then laying so numerously: when *wild* she

* It should seem that the *MONKS* of *France* were thoroughly acquainted with the healthful Quality and delicate Flavour of the *Pheasant's* Flesh, and wished to monopolize it, since one of their celebrated Preachers, about the Year 1216, represented in one of his Sermons, the *Pheasants*, *Partridges*, and *Ortolans*, as addressing themselves to the *Clergy*, and entreating to be eaten by them, and *them only*: "That, incorporated with their glorious Bodies, they might be raised to Heaven; and not go with impious Devourers to the infernal Regions." At a later period, the *Pheasant* in some manner appears to have been held sacred; since A. D. 1453, PHILIP, Duke of BURGUNDY, at a great feast (at which were present all his Nobility) swore a most solemn Oath over 'a roasted *Pheasant*,' that he would march against the Turk, who had just destroyed the Grecian Empire! His Barons all took the same tremendous Engagement; but not one of them ever stirred towards the performance of his Vow. Whether the Zeal of the Party at this Repast evaporated with the Fumes of the Liquor they drank, as has sometimes happened in our own times, when at City Feasts, or at Dinners of Volunteers, the subject of War and Politics has been canvassed, History has not informed us.

hatches and rears her brood with vigilance and courage, but when kept *tame* she never sits well, and a *common Hen* is generally her substitute to hatch the Eggs; and as for leading her young to their food, she is utterly ignorant where it is to be found, and the young birds *starve* if left solely to her Protection. The *Pheasant*, therefore, on every account, is better left at large in the Coverts: its Fecundity is there sufficient to stock, whilst its splendid Plumage adorns them, and the flesh retains a higher Flavour from its unlimited Freedom.

The *Males* begin to *crow* the first week in *March**; the noise can be heard at a considerable distance: they will frequently come into the Farmyards in the Vicinity of Coverts where they abound, and produce a cross breed with the *common Hens*; and, it is said, that such is the spirit of the *Pheasant*, that this Cross is sometimes resorted to by our most experienced breeders of *Game Fowls*. It is a well-known fact, that it is far from unusual to turn down a Game Cock ready *weaponed*, and that the *Pheasant* instantly accepts his challenge, and attacks him: the first time the Cock strikes, so as to entangle the Weapon in his Opponent, the *Pheasant* is secured, and the Cock is left ready armed for the next Assailant.

They breed on the ground (but do not pair like the Partridge, one Cock, like the *common Poultry*, being sufficient for seven Hens,) and lay from *twelve* to *fifteen* eggs, which are smaller than those of the Poultry Hen, and similar to those of the Partridge, but paler. The young follow the mother, like Chickens, so soon as excluded from the Shell.

Both *Pheasants* and *Partridges* are partial to *nesting* in *Clover*, which, when mown, too often exhibits occasion to lament this partiality, from the number of *Eggs* the Scythe destroys. In some places, Gamekeepers who

* An extraordinary Instance of the early breeding of this Bird was discovered on the 25th of January, 1804, when a *Pheasant* was disturbed from her Nest near *Norwood*, which contained a number of Eggs.

know their business hunt them from fields of this Plant, so soon as they begin to lay, until the haunt is broken, and they retire into the Corn; in others, Poultry Hens are kept ready for sitting upon any Eggs* that may

* The Hatching CHICKENS by means of *Artificial Heat* is a process that has been long known in *Egypt*: (It was successfully tried by Mr. POTTER, in the Isle of Ely, both with *Hens* and *Pheasants Eggs*;) but this is only now practised by the Inhabitants of a single Village called *Berme*, and by those who live immediately in its Vicinity. About the beginning of *Autumn* these persons spread themselves all over the Country, and each of them is ready to undertake the management of an *Oven*. These *Ovens* are of different Sizes, capable of containing from *Forty* to *Eighty Thousand Eggs*; and the number of *Ovens* in different parts is Three hundred and eighty-six. These are annually kept working for about *Six Months*; and as each Brood takes up *Twenty-one days* in hatching, it is easy in every one of them to produce *Eight* different broods of Chickens in the Year.

The *Ovens* are of the most simple Construction, consisting only of a low arched apartment of Clay. Two rows of Shelves are formed, and the Eggs so placed as not to touch each other. They are slightly moved five or six times in every twenty-four hours. All possible care is taken to diffuse the *Heat* equally throughout; and there is but one small Aperture large enough to admit a Man stooping. During the *first Eight* days the Heat is rendered great; in the *last Eight* it is gradually diminished, till at length, when the young brood is ready to come forth, it is reduced almost to the state of the *Natural Atmosphere*. At the end of the *first Eight* days it is known which of the Eggs will not be productive.

Every Person who undertakes the care of an *Oven* is under the Obligation of delivering to his Employer only *two-thirds* of as many Chickens as there have been Eggs given to him; and he is a Gainer by this Bargain, as it always happens (except from some unexpected Accident,) that *more* than *two-thirds* of the Eggs produce Birds. In order to make a Calculation of the Number of Chickens thus hatched yearly in *Egypt*, it has been supposed that upon an Average of only *two-thirds* of the Eggs being productive, and that each Brood consists of at least 30,000 Chickens, the *Ovens* by this Estimate give Life *Annually* to at least 92,640,000 of these Animals.

M. DE REAUMUR introduced this advantageous mode of hatching Eggs into *France*, and by a number of ingenious Experiments reduced the Art to certain Principles. He found that the *Degree of Heat* necessary for producing *all kinds* of Domestic Fowls was the same, the only difference consisting in the *Time* during which it ought to be communicated to the Eggs: it will bring the *Canary* bird to perfection in *eleven* or *twelve* Days, while the *Turkey* poult requires from *twenty* to *twenty-eight*. M. DE REAUMUR found that Stoves heated by means of Pipes from a *Baker's Oven*, or the Furnace of *Glass-houses*, succeeded better than those made hot by layers of *Dung*; the mode preferred in *Egypt*. These should have their Heat kept as nearly equal as possible, and the Eggs should be frequently removed from the Sides into the Middle, in order that each may receive an equal Portion of Heat. After the Eggs were hatched he had the

be so exposed, and with Care numbers are thus rescued from destruction. M. REAUMUR says, by stopping the pores of *Eggs* with *Varnish*, or a slight

Offspring put into a kind of low Boxes without Bottoms, and lined with *Fur*, whose Warmth supplied that of the Hen, and in which the Chickens could at any time take shelter: till the Chickens acquired some Strength, these Boxes were kept in a warm Room; with safety they then could be exposed to the open air in a Court-Yard. The young brood seldom take any food for a whole Day after being hatched; then a few crumbs of Bread are given for a Day or two, after which time they begin to pick up Insects and Grain for themselves. That the trouble of attending them might be saved, M. REAUMUR taught *Capons* to watch them in the same manner as *Hens*, of which three or four were sufficient to take care of two hundred Chickens.

The Progress of Incubation in the *Natural Way*, is a subject too curious to be silently passed over. The *Hen* has scarcely sat on the Egg twelve hours, when some lineaments of the Head and Body of the Chicken appear. The *Heart* may be seen to beat at the end of the *Second day*: it has at that time somewhat of the form of a *Horseshoe*, but no *Blood* yet appears. At the end of two Days two Vesicles of Blood are to be distinguished, the pulsation of which is very visible: one of them is the left Ventricle, and the other the Root of the great Artery. At the *fiftieth Hour*, one Auricle of the *Heart* appears, and resembles a Noose, folded down upon itself. The *beating* of the *Heart* is first observed in the *Auricle*, and afterwards in the Ventricle. At the End of *Seventy Hours* the *Wings* are distinguishable; and on the Head two bubbles are seen for the *Brain*; one for the *Bill*; and two others for the fore and hind part of the Head. Towards the end of the *fourth Day*, the two Auricles, already visible, draw nearer to the Heart than they did before. The *Liver* appears towards the *fifth Day*. At the Expiration of a *hundred and thirty-four Hours*, the first voluntary Motion is observed; in *seven Hours* more the *Lungs* and *Stomach* become visible; and *four Hours* after this the *Intestines*, the *Loins*, and the *upper Jaw*. At the *hundred and forty-fourth Hour* two Ventricles are discerned, and two drops of *Blood*, instead of the Single one which was seen before. The *Seventh Day* the *Brain* begins to have some Consistence. At the *hundred and ninetieth Hour* of Incubation the *Bill* opens, and the *Flesh* appears in the *Breast*; in *four Hours* more the *Breast Bone* is seen; and in *six* after this the *Ribs* appear, forming from the *Back*; and the *Bill* is plainly seen, as well as the *Gall-bladder*. The *Bill* becomes green, at the end of *Two Hundred and Thirty-six Hours*; and if the Chicken is taken out of its Coverings it evidently moves itself. The *Feathers* begin to shoot out towards the *two hundred and fortieth Hour*, and the *Skull* becomes gristly. At the *two hundred and sixty-fourth* the *Eyes* appear. At the *two hundred and eighty-eighth* the *Ribs* are perfect. At the *three hundred and thirty-first* the *Spleen* draws near the *Stomach*, and the *Lungs* to the *Chest*. At the end of *three hundred and fifty-five Hours* the *Bill* frequently opens and shuts; and at the end of the *Eighteenth Day* the first Cry of the Chicken is heard. It afterwards gets more Strength, and grows constantly, till at length it is enabled to set itself free from its Confinement.

In the total of this Process must be remarked, that every part appears at the appropriate

covering of *Mutton Suet*, they may be preserved perfectly fresh, and generally even fit for *Incubation* five or six months after they have been laid.

time: if, for example, the *Liver* is formed on the *fifth Day*, it is founded on the preceding situation of the *Chicken*, and on the *Changes* which were to follow. No part of the *Body* could possibly appear either sooner or later, without the whole *Embryo* suffering; and each of the *Limbs* becomes visible at the proper Moment. This Ordination, so invariable in its effects, is manifestly the work of a SUPREME BEING, whose creative Powers must be still more sensibly acknowledged, when the Manner in which the *Chicken* is formed out of the parts which compose the *Egg* is also considered: how astonishing it is, that in this there should be at all the Principle of Life; that all the parts of an Animal's *Body* should therein be concealed, and require nothing but *Heat* to unfold and quicken them—that the formation of the *Bird* should be so regular—that exactly at the same instant the same *Changes* will take place in a great number of *Eggs*—that the *Chicken* when hatched is *heavier* than the *Egg* was before. But even these are not all the wonders in the Production of the *Bird* from the *Egg* (and this Instance will serve to illustrate the whole Feathered race;) there are others which, from our limited Faculties, are altogether hidden from our Researches.

In speaking of Instinct, the celebrated Dr. PALEY observes, we may select out of *this Catalogue*, The *Incubation of Eggs*. He thus proceeds:—"I entertain no doubt, but that a couple of *Sparrows* hatched in an *Oven*, and kept separate from the rest of their Species, would proceed, as other *Sparrows* do, in every Office which related to the Production and Preservation of their Brood." Assuming this Fact, the thing is inexplicable upon any other Hypothesis, than that of an Instinct impressed upon the Constitution of the Animal. For, first, what should induce the Female *Bird* to prepare a *Nest* before she lays her *Eggs*? It is in vain to suppose her to be possessed of the Faculty of Reasoning; for no Reasoning will reach the case. The fullness or Distension, which she might feel in a particular part of her *Body*, from the growth and Solidity of the *Egg* within her, could not possibly inform her that she was about to produce something, which, when produced, was to be preserved and taken care of. Prior to Experience, there was nothing to lead to this Inference, or to this Suspicion. The Analogy was all against it; for, in every other instance, what issued from the *Body* was cast out and rejected. But, Secondly, let us suppose the *Egg* to be produced into day: How should *Birds* know that their *Eggs* contain their *Young*? There is nothing either in the Aspect, or in the internal Composition of an *Egg*, which could lead even the most daring Imagination to a Conjecture that it was hereafter to turn out, from under its shell, a living perfect *Bird*. The form of the *Egg* bears not the rudiments of a Resemblance to that of the *Bird*. Inspecting its Contents, we find still less reason, if possible, to look for the result which actually takes place. If we should go so far, as, from the appearance of order and distinction in the disposition of the *Liquid substances* which we noticed in the *Egg*, to guess that it might be designed for the Abode and Nourishment of an Animal, (which would be a very bold Hypothesis,) we should expect a *Tad-pole* dabbling in the Slime, much rather than a *dry, winged, feathered* Creature; a compound of parts and properties impossible to be used in a state of Confinement in the *Egg*, and bearing no con-

The Pheasant and its brood remain in the *Stubbles* and *hedge-rows* some time after the Corn is carried, if *undisturbed*; otherwise they seek the Woods, and only issue thence to feed in the Stubbles at Morn and Eve. The *Pheasant* has no objection to a field of Corn, but he can procure his living without it; he can obtain a hearty meal from the wild

ceivable relation, either in Quality or Material, to any thing observed in it. From the *White* of an Egg, would any one look for the *Feather* of a *Goldfinch*? or expect from a simple uniform Mucilage the most complicated of all Machines, the most diversified of all collections of Substances? Nor would the Process of Incubation, for some time at least, lead us to suspect the Event. Who that saw *red streaks*, shooting in the fine Membrane which divides the *White* from the *Yolk*, could suppose that these were about to become *Bones* and *Limbs*? Who, that espied two discoloured Points first making their appearance in the Cicatrix, would have had the courage to predict that these Points were to grow into the *Heart* and *Head* of a *Bird*? It is difficult to resuscitate Surprise, when Familiarity has once laid the Sentiment asleep. But could we forget all that we know, and which *our Sparrows* never knew, about *Oviparous* Generation; could we divest ourselves of every Information, but what we derived from reasoning upon the appearances or quality discovered in the Objects presented to us, I am convinced that *Harlequin coming out of an Egg upon the Stage* is not more astonishing to a *Child*, than the hatching of a *Chicken* both would be, and ought to be, to a *Philosopher*. But admit the *Sparrow* by some means to know, that within that Egg was concealed the Principle of a future Bird, from what *Chymist* was she to learn, that *Warmth* was necessary to bring it to Maturity, or that the Degree of Warmth, imparted by the Temperature of her own Body, was the Degree required? To suppose, therefore, that the *Female Bird* acts in this Process from a Sagacity and Reason of her own, is to suppose her to arrive at conclusions which there are no premises to justify. If *our Sparrow*, sitting upon her Eggs, expect *young Sparrows* to come out of them, she forms, I will venture to say, a wild and extravagant Expectation, in opposition to present Appearances, and to Probability. She must have penetrated into the Order of Nature further than any Faculties of ours will carry us: and it has been well observed, that this deep Sagacity, if it be Sagacity, subsists in conjunction with great Stupidity, even in relation to the same Subject. ‘A Chymical Operation,’ says ADDISON, ‘could not be followed with greater Art and Diligence, than is seen in *hatching a Chicken*: yet is the process carried on without the least glimmering of Thought or common Sense. The *Hen* will mistake a piece of *Chalk* for an Egg; is insensible of the Increase or Diminution of their number; does not distinguish between her own and those of another Species; is frightened when her supposititious Brood of *Ducklings* take the Water.’

“But it will be said, that what Reason could not do for the Bird, Observation, or Instruction, or Tradition might. Now if it be true that a couple of *Sparrows* brought up from the first in a state of Separation from all other Birds would build their Nest, and brood upon their Eggs, then there is an End of this Solution. But what,” continues Dr. PALEY, “can be the *traditionary Knowledge* of a *Chicken hatched in an Oven*?”

Berries of the Woods, or content himself with a belly-full of Acorns : to him, therefore, *Corn* is a *luxury* ; to the *Partridge* it is a *necessary*. As the cold Weather comes on, they begin to fly up at Sun-set into the branches of the Oak for roosting during the Night ; this they do more universally as the Winter advances, and the Trees lose their foliage : and at the instant they do this, the *Male* birds immediately make a noise, which they repeat three or four times, and is termed *Cocketting* ; the Hens, on flying up, utter one *shrill whistle*, and are then silent. *Poachers* avail themselves of these Notes to get beneath where they are *perched* : when in Woods not over well *watched*, they shoot them with the greatest ease and certainty (for the *Pheasants*, when once settled for the Night, will not readily *take wing*, even if the first shot misses them ;) where they are more strictly attended to, the *Poacher*, who is an *Adept*, breaks his *phosphoric*, and so lights his *brimstone* Matches ; and the moment the Fumes of the Sulphur reach the *Pheasant*, it falls a Victim to the Address of the wary *Miscreant*.

In attempting to raise a Stock of *Pheasants*, one or two Coverts that lie convenient for being attended to must be appropriated solely to their accommodation ; wherein should be small *Troughs* about *four feet* long, and their food placed in them should be *white Pease*, of which they are so immoderately fond, that if two neighbouring Woods are tried, one feeding with the above, and the second with any other sort of Grain, all the *Pheasants* will resort to the *Pease*, and desert the latter ; besides, the *wet*, which moulds *Buck wheat*, only swells the *Pease*, and perhaps renders them more delicious to the birds. Many persons have little heaps of *Buck wheat* stacked in the Woods ; and where no *Pease* are to be used in opposition, it may answer, but will never keep them together so well as the former. The *feeding* Coverts should be preserved quiet as possible : if the quantity of *Cock* birds be too great, *one Day's* disturbance at the latter end of the Season, to reduce their numbers, may be allowed. Dogs should never be permitted to hunt there ; for which reason *Traps* for them, as well as for various kinds of *Vermis* (some of which are mentioned under the head *Martin*, in the first Volume,) should be always set. Man-traps ought also

to be employed: they deter the *Poacher*, and at the same time annul the requests of *Wood Pigeon Shooters*, who on *no Account* ought to be suffered to enter Coverts where a preserve of *Pheasants* is intended. A *Pheasant* roosts lower, and is easier discerned than a *Ring-Dove*. A Man with a Gun is extremely apt to mistake in the dusk; but the person who allows the opportunity for making it, deserves his Game should suffer for an Indulgence which is sure to be abused.

Pheasants shew a decided preference to Aldercars, Willow-garths, Saltings or Marshes close to the Sea, or Cliffs with any furze or cover in them, and which join the Salt water; for, like *Pigeons*, they are great lovers of Salt*. If in such natural advantages of situation they are more-over tempted to continue, by a regular supply, during *winter*, of their favourite food, they will soon be as plentiful as can fairly be desired; and will prove, that the character ascribed to the *Pheasant*, of being a determined *Rambler*, is void of all truth. Doubtless, driving a Covert thrice a Week with a *team of Spaniels*, as noisy and numerous as a pack of hounds, will be sufficient to induce any Animal, possessing the ability, to shift its quarters; but where a *Pheasant* can obtain Food and enjoy Quiet, he is of too indolent a nature to be flitting through a Country in search of Adventures.

It has been contended, that *Pheasants* are ever shy, and difficult to be tamed. The Compiler has had them *pinioned*, and run with the common Poultry; they were equally as domesticated; and some, hatched under Hens, remained in or about the Garden until the Spring following, and then probably bred at no great distance. During one Winter, a brace of Cocks and leash of Hens so fostered regularly perched upon trees not five yards from the Bed-room windows; and these birds, in the day-time, would take Bread out of the hand that offered it. But without having re-

* So fond are *Pigeons* of Salt, that they were reported at one time to have materially injured the *Spa* at *Cheltenham* by their numerous flocks eating the Salt from those places where the water had partially evaporated, and which contributed very much to impoverish the Virtues of the Spring.

course to instances where the Will was restrained in the first, and the natural dread of Man counteracted from the earliest period of their existence, by his appearing almost constantly before their Eyes; in the second, the *Pheasants* in those Coverts, where fed, would immediately come to the Keeper's *whistle*, follow him by *scores*, and scarcely allow the *pease* to run from his bag into the *Troughs* before they began to feed; those that could find no *Pease* at one, would attend him with the same familiarity to other *Troughs*, until they obtained room; yet these were birds with all their native wild Habits, and hunger alone could not have induced this fond intercourse, as they were regularly fed *twice*, and sometimes, in severe weather, *thrice* a Day*.

The directions for breeding and rearing *Pheasants* are many and various; *Two*, which may be depended upon, are as follow:

In a *Mew* the Females will drop many Eggs, but very rarely will dispose them properly in a Nest, or set upon them; the task of *Incubation* is for the most part performed by a common Hen, (the *Silk-Fowl* and *Bantam* are by some kept solely for this purpose.) According to BUFFON, when first hatched, they should be fed with *hard boiled eggs*, *crumbs of bread*, and *lettuce-leaves*, well mixed, with an addition of the Eggs of *Meadow Ants*. At this tender age two precautions are essential, *viz.* never

* MR. BERNERS, of Woolverston Hall, in Suffolk, pursues a novel Method of keeping the *Pheasants* within some particular Covers where they are fed, by placing *Boys* from Day-break till Dark, with long sticks, at short Distances from each other, by the sides of these Covers; and who, by the Noise they make with their sticks against the Bushes, and their Talking, effectually deter the Birds from approaching the Boundaries of the Wood where the Centinels are stationed, and from running into the adjoining fields to feed, which happen not to be Mr. B.'s Property.

The Counties of Suffolk and Norfolk are, probably, more productive of *Pheasants* than any other in the Kingdom. Upon the Manors of Mr. THELLUSSON the Numbers have been so considerable as to admit the killing of *two thousand brace of Cock Pheasants* Annually. In 1804 the Honourable Mr. VANNECK shot *Seventy-Six brace of Pheasants* in three Days. Mr. COKE, Sir J. SHELLEY, and Mr. T. SHERIDAN, in 1803, killed in one Day, at *Houghton*, *twenty-five brace of Pheasants*; *Thirteen brace of Partridges*; *Fourteen brace and a Half of Hares*; *Fifteen couples of Woodcocks*; and *Sixteen couples of Rabbits*.

to allow them any *Drink*, nor carry them abroad until the *Dew* is entirely off, (every kind of Humidity being hurtful;) and that their food be given frequently, and in small quantities, beginning at *Day-break*; and always mixing it with *Ant eggs*: the place must be kept extremely clean, and they should be taken in before *Sun-set*. In the *second month* Nutrient more substantial may be given, such as Eggs of the *Wood Ant*, wheat, barley, ground beans, woodlice, earwigs, and other small insects, to make a variety; and the intervals between the meals may be gradually prolonged. At this time they begin to be subject to Vermin; place small heaps of dry Earth, or fine Sand; by tumbling in which they will soon rid themselves of the painful itching occasioned by them: Water must also now be given frequently, and always clean, else the *Pip* may be contracted; which, as in common Chickens, is advised to be removed, and then the Bill be rubbed with bruised *garlick* mixed with *Tar*. The *third month* is attended with new diseases; the *tail feathers* then drop, and others appear; a sort of *critical period* to the Pheasant, as well as the Peacock: *Ant eggs* given moderately are efficacious in hastening the trying moment, and lessening its danger. The young birds may now be carried with the Crib into the field where the Colony is to be dispersed: if white Clover grows in it the young Pheasants will pick the seeds out of the heads, and it will wonderfully strengthen them, (*white Clover* seed, given when wheat or other grain is used, will prove very nourishing;) they must also at first be fed in the field with some favourite food, but never twice in the *same spot*, and the Quantity may be diminished *daily*; and thus, by degrees, they will be constrained to provide for themselves, and become acquainted with the Country. When able to procure subsistence, they will soon grow as wild as those bred in the Woods; with this exception, that they will retain a sort of affection for those Spots into which they were first resigned to Liberty and Nature.

The Second is more circumstantial, and is as well worth the observation of those who accidentally hatch them from Eggs mown over in *Clover*, *grass*, &c. as when obtained from the Eggs of Pheasants kept on purpose. The same plan will also answer for *Partridges*.

Have Frames seven feet long, and two feet and a half wide, similar in their form to those for *Cucumbers*, and without a bottom; the large end is to be made as a Coop for the Hen, the bars wide enough for the young *Pheasants* to run from the Hen, to feed in the frame, which is to be covered with a fine meshed net. If *Pheasants* are kept from which the Eggs are to be procured, there should be *seven Hens to one Cock*; to forward their laying, give *white pease*; when they drop their Eggs, stick them in *bran*, with the small end downwards, until there are *fifteen*, which are a *sitting* for a Hen. Get small square boxes wide enough for the Hen to turn in, with covers to hasp down, and holes to admit the Air; make a Nest of clean wheat straw; every morning take the Hens off, and put them under small Coops, allowing to each a quarter of an hour to feed and empty themselves; then replace them on the Nest until the next morning: when they have set a *Fortnight*, remember to sprinkle the Eggs with *milk-warm water* every Morning, just before the Hen is put upon the Nest, to prevent the Eggs being *shell-baked*; when hatched, let them remain with the Hen *eight hours* to dry; then move them into the *coop* in the *frame*, upon gravel, in the eye of the Sun; feed them with the *small Ant* eggs: after a week, move the frame upon grass in a warm place. There must be a sliding board to pen the young with the Hen when moved; each frame must have small pans for water, and that for the Hen must be fixed to the Coop, out of the young birds reach. Every Morning give the young *Pheasants* *curd* made with *new milk*; small *Ant* eggs during the day: at a Month's end put a small piece of *saffron* into their water, and every morning, for each frame, give a good sized Toast steeped in *Chamber-lye*, which will keep them free from distemper, and is of the first use in causing *easy Moulting*. Use the young birds to a *whistle* when fed, which should be *four times* in the course of the Day. When the *Poult*s are large, there should be a hole in the small end of the frame, to let them out and in, and a sliding board to pen them in at night, when they are always to be covered with Mats. Before the hole is opened in the Morning there should be food, such as large *Ant* eggs, buck wheat, and other grain, laid near the frame; every Day this is to be moved further

from it: by so doing they will soon partly learn to take care of themselves, and at the sound of the *Whistle* will come in from all quarters, like Pigeons; when they gradually disregard the Whistle, and at last desert it, they are safe, and capable of providing for their own sustenance and safety.

The above will, it is presumed, be ample Instructions for the treatment of these Birds in their Infancy. There is one other Peculiarity of the Pheasant which merits notice.

M. SALERNE remarks, that the *Hen Pheasant* when old, and the powers of Propagation are over, acquires the *Plumage of the Male*, and is treated by them with the same roughness as if she really were of the latter Sex. LATHAM however says, and says *truly*, that it does not require *mature age* to cause this appearance, as sometimes *young Birds** undergo this Change; he does not know from what Cause this proceeds, or whether it is peculiar to this Species to grow *barren* sooner than any other of the *gallinaceous* tribe.

The celebrated JOHN HUNTER wrote a paper upon this subject, from which we may be excused giving the following Extract.

“It is observed, (says Mr. H.) by those who are conversant with this bird, when *wild*, that there appears, every now and then, a Hen Pheasant with the feathers of the Cock; and all that they have decided upon the subject is, that this Animal does not breed, and that its Spurs do not grow.

* The Compiler, early in *October*, once shot a *Hen Pheasant* with this Variety of colour; it was one of *seven* full grown young Birds, found in a Wheat Stubble; he killed a brace of Cocks of the same *nide*, and from the feathers supposed this, when he fired, to have been a third: from every circumstance this *Mule* bird had not changed his plumage from *Age*. He has kept *Hen Pheasants* in *Mews*, until from *Age* they have undergone this strange Alteration; and has also shot them in some Manors where the *Hen* Birds are held inviolate; and the Gamekeepers have always expressed great satisfaction at the event, as they all agree in declaring that *Hen Birds* thus metamorphosed destroyed more *Pheasants eggs* than any *Vermin* whatever.

Some years since, one of these was sent to the late Dr. WILLIAM HUNTER, which I examined, and found it to have all the parts of the Female peculiar to that bird. This Specimen is still preserved in Dr. HUNTER'S Museum.

“ Dr. PITCAIRN having received a Pheasant of this kind, I was desired to examine it; and the result of my examination was, that I found the parts of generation to be truly Female. They were as in any Hen Pheasant that is not in the least prepared for laying Eggs; there were both the *Ovaria* and *Oviduct*.

“ As the Observations hitherto made have been principally upon birds found *wild*, little of their history can be known; but from what took place in a Hen Pheasant in the possession of a friend of Sir JOSEPH BANKS, it should seem probable that this change arises from some alteration of Temperament at a late period of the Animal's life, and does not grow up with it from the beginning. This Lady had paid particular attention to the breeding of Pheasants. One of the *Hens*, after having produced several broods, *moulted*, and the succeeding feathers were those of a *Cock*. This Animal was never afterwards impregnated: hence it is most probable, that all these Hen Pheasants, found *wild* with this *change* of Plumage, were formerly perfect *Hens*, but have become changed by Age, and perhaps by certain constitutional Circumstances.

“ Having bought (continues Mr. H.) some Pheasants, I perceived that one of the *Hens* the year after did not lay, and began to change her Feathers; the year following she had nearly those of the *Cock*, but less brilliant, especially on the Head. This, in all probability, was an *old Hen*, nearly under similar circumstances to those before described.

“ Lady TYNTE had a favourite pied *Pea-hen*, which had, at eight several times, produced *Pea-chicks*; when about Eleven years old, having moulted, the Lady and her family were astonished by her displaying the feathers

peculiar to the other Sex, and appearing like a pied *Peacock*. In this process, the Tail, which was like that of the Cock, first appeared. In the following year she moulted again, and produced *similar* feathers; in the third year she did the same, and then had Spurs resembling those of a Cock. This Hen never bred after this change in her Plumage, and died in the winter 1775-6. This bird is now preserved in Mr. PARKINSON's (late Sir ASHTON LEVER's) Museum. It might be suggested, that this bird was really a *Cock*, which had been changed for a *Hen*; but the following Facts put this matter beyond a doubt. *First*, there was no other *pied* Pea Fowl in the Country; *secondly*, the Hen had knobs on her toes, which were the same after her change; *thirdly*, she was as *small* after the change as before, therefore inferior to the size of a Cock; *fourthly*, she was a favourite bird, and was generally fed by the Lady, and used to come for her food, which she still continued to do after her Plumage was altered.

“ From what has been related of these three Birds, may it not, (asks Mr. H.) be reasonably inferred, that all those wild Hen *Pheasants*, whose Feathers resemble the Cock, have changed the nature of their feathers at a certain Age? This not only obtains in the birds above-mentioned, but perhaps to a certain degree in every class of Animals. We find something similar taking place even in the human Species; for that increase of Hair observable on the Faces of every Woman in advanced life is an approach towards the *beard*, which is one of the most distinguishing secondary properties of Man.

“ We thus see the Sexes, which at an early period had little to distinguish them from each other, acquiring, about the time of Puberty, secondary properties, which clearly characterise the male and female. The Male at this time recedes from the Female, and assumes the secondary properties of his Sex.

“ The Female, at a much later time of life, when the powers of Propa-

gation cease, loses many of her peculiar properties, and may be said, except from mere sexual Organization, to be of the *neuter* Gender; and even recedes from the original Character of the Animal, approaching in appearance towards the Male, or perhaps more properly towards the Hermaphrodite."

There is a beautiful Variety of the Pheasant with a *white ring* round the neck: of these the Earl of BERKELEY has a considerable quantity at Cranford Bridge; except the white neck feathers, they appear in size, and the rest of their plumage, exactly to resemble the Common. At *Blenheim*, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH has bred, in great quantities, both the *Chinese*, or *Pencilled*, and also the *Gold* Pheasants; it is supposed that three or four hundred brace of each of these Species are to be found at large within the Park Wall.

The native place of both the *Pencilled* and *Gold Pheasant* is *China*, where the latter is called *Kin-ki*. Both sorts will bear Confinement well, and breed readily in Menageries. LATHAM observes, *Gold Pheasants* are hardy Birds, and he should by no means wonder if future Generations should see them as perfectly naturalized to this Climate as the *common Pheasant*: and this Idea his Grace of MARLBOROUGH seems already to have realized. The *Gold Pheasant* is less than the *Common* kind: length two feet ten inches. Bill and irides yellow; general colour of the Plumage Crimson: on the head is a most beautiful glossy yellow Crest, the feathers of which appear like *Silk*, and fall backwards: Cheeks almost bare, and flesh-coloured; the feathers of the hind-head are orange-coloured, square at the ends, and crossed with black lines; these are long, and can be erected at will, like those on the neck of the *Cock*; beneath these the feathers are green, very little rounded at the ends, and tipped with black: the back and rump are yellow; the upper Tail coverts long, narrow, and crimson, and fall on each side the tail; the Wing coverts chesnut and brown mixed: Scapulars blue: Quills brown, marked with

yellowish spots; the Tail is long and cuneiform, the largest feather twenty-three inches, and the outer one very short; the colour chesnut and black, beautifully variegated: the legs are yellow, and furnished with a *Spur*, a quarter of an inch in length.

The *Female* is smaller, and wants the gaudy colours of the *Male*. The irides are hazel; the feathers of the head longish; the general colour of the Plumage brown, variegated with yellowish brown; the Tail is shorter, but not much unlike that of the *Male*; the Legs have no *Spurs*. The Eggs are redder than those of our *Pheasants*, somewhat resembling those of the *Guinea Fowl*. The *Gold* will breed with the common *Pheasants*: an instance of it is mentioned by BUFFON, where two *Male* birds were produced, one of which paired with a common Hen Pheasant, and had one young, which was a female. This Species, as has been mentioned of the former, is likewise subject to change the Appearance of *Sex*. EDWARDS records the Circumstance, in respect to some kept by Lady ESSEX; the *Females* of which, in the space of *Six Years*, gradually gained the *Male Feathers*; and we are further informed, that it is not unusual for the *Hen* birds, when about four or five years old, to be neglected by the *Cocks*, and their Plumage by degrees to assume that of the *Males*. The Flavour of the Flesh of the *Gold* is said to exceed that of any other *Pheasant*.

The Black and White *Chinese* or *Pencilled Pheasant* is bigger than the common: length two feet and a half. The bill and irides yellow: Sides of the head covered with a carunculated crimson, bare skin, as in our *Pheasants*, which rises upwards above each Eye, giving the appearance of *Horns*, and in some birds likewise hangs so deep below on each side of the Jaw, as to look like *Wattles*; the head is crested, and, as well as all the under parts of the body, is of a full purplish black; the upper parts are white, and each feather marked with three or four lines one within another, all parallel to the margin: the tail is Cuneiform, the feathers obliquely shaded with black, except the two middle ones, which are

plain white; the Legs are red, and furnished with a *Spur* behind, of a white colour.

The *Female* is somewhat smaller. The bill is brown: the irides yellow brown; the eyes surrounded with a red skin, which is narrower, and less bright than in the *Male*; the head is a little Crested, and brown; throat and cheeks whitish; the neck, back, breast, belly, and other parts beneath, are white, irregularly mixed with brown, and crossed with transverse black bands: greater Quills blackish; secondaries like the back; those nearest the body dotted with white; Tail shorter than the Male; the two middle feathers brown; the others brown and white mixed, and striped obliquely with black; Legs red, without Spurs. The Eggs are of a pale Yellowish Ash colour, with a blush of red. The Compiler has frequently had the *Pencilled Pheasants* go at large with the common Poultry.

We shall now briefly consider the Properties of the *Pheasant* as seen by the Sportsman in the Field.

It has been asserted, that this is a *stupid* bird, imagining itself secure when its Head is concealed, and heedlessly falling into all kinds of Snares. The *Poacher* certainly avails himself of *Snow* to trace and know their haunts, and thus sets his *Springs* with success and less trouble than when the ground is open, and he is obliged to continually drop Corn along the *Pheasants* path or runs, to allure them to their fate: that multitudes are thus destroyed, and also by *Rat traps* and *Wires* placed in their Tracks, is not to be denied; but ask a Sportsman to recount the Stratagems he has known an *old Cock* Pheasant use in a large and thick Covert, when he felt himself pursued, before he could force him to take wing, and his intelligence will convince us that the *Pheasant* is by no means deficient in Contrivances for its own Preservation. It has been said, that when hunted and met by a *Pointer*, it squats down and looks steadily at the Dog, so that the Sportsman can take his aim at leisure; the Compiler, with some little experience, and a tolerably sharp sight, never saw *three* Pheasants so off their guard, as to expose themselves when thus stopped

THE PHEASANT.

by the *Pointer*; neither is it *exactly* the Custom *at present* for Gentlemen to shoot *Pheasants* on the Ground, supposing they *were* so readily discerned; undoubtedly the springing of a Pheasant from the Nose of a Pointer, with nothing to intercept the sight of so large a bird, may forcibly revive in the Mind these beautiful lines of POPE,

Ah! what avails his glossy, varying dyes,
His purpled crest, and scarlet circled eyes,
The vivid green his shining plumes unfold,
His painted wings, and breast that flames with gold.

WINDSOR FOREST.

for the chances are all in favour of the *Marksman*, who by this means escapes the *gentle flutter* with which both his aim and thoughts are molested, by a Pheasant's accidentally *whirring* into the Air, from under his feet.

For *Pheasant Shooting*, Spaniels are the proper sort of Dogs, and in Coverts are indispensable. It is to *Sportsmen* this Assertion is made, and not to those who deem no *Springers* so good as two or three *fellows* with long Staves, and who only wish to shoot where the Game is so abundant, that scarcely a Bush can be struck, but a Bird is seen: to them *Pigeons* thrown up from a trap, *Rabbits* started from a Basket, or *Swallows* skimming across a Horse-pond, are like Objects of Diversion, if a certain number of Shots can be obtained without any fatigue, and a certain quantum of *Guineas* be depending upon each discharge. Shooters equipped with only these steady *Human Mongrels*, can neither feel the Ardour nor the Expectation which gives Spirit to the Amusement, and which the mettled hunting of the *Spaniel* so unceasingly enlivens.

See how with emulative zeal they strive,
Thread the loose sedge, and through the thicket drive!
No babbling voice the bosom falsely warms,
Or swells the panting heart with vain alarms,
Till all at once their choral tongues proclaim
The secret refuge of the lurking game.



WOUNDED PHEASANT.

Engraved by J. G. Smith, from a drawing by J. G. Smith.

Swift is their course, no lengthen'd warnings now
 Space to collect the scatter'd thoughts allow,
 No wary *Pointer* shews the cautious eyes
 Where from his russet couch the bird shall rise:
 Perhaps light running o'er the mossy ground,
 His devious steps your sanguine hopes confound;
 Or, by the tangled branches hid from sight,
 Sudden he tries his unexpected flight.
 Soon as the ready dogs their quarry spring,
 And swift he spreads his variegated wing,
 Ceas'd is their cry, with silent look they wait
 Till the loud gun decides the event of fate;
 Nor, if the shots are thrown with erring aim,
 And proudly soars away the unwounded game,
 Will the staunch train pursue him as he flies
 With useless speed, and unavailing cries.
 No open view along the uncumber'd field
 To the cool aim will time and distance yield;
 But the nice circumstance will oft demand
 The quickest eye-sight and the readiest hand,
 Swift as he rises from the thorny brake,
 With instant glance the fleeting mark to take,
 And with prompt arm the transient moment seize,
 'Mid the dim gloom of intervening trees.
 His gaudy plumage when the *Male* displays
 In bright luxuriance to the solar rays,
 Arrest with hasty shot his whirring speed,
 And see unblam'd the shining victim bleed;
 But when the *Hen* to thy discerning view
 Her sober pinion spreads of duskier hue,
 The attendant Keeper's prudent warning hear,
 And spare the offspring of the future year;
 Else shall the fine which custom laid of old,
 Avenge her slaughter by thy forfeit *Gold* *.

PYE.

Pointers have been tried to be used in Woods with *Bells* upon their Collars, but the contrivance has ill answered the Intention; and their

* This is a *custom*, that, like the laws of the *Medes* and *Persians*, should never be altered, nor ever suffered to be evaded; it preserves the future stock of Game, and is a needful check to occasionally near-sighted or wilfully ignorant Gentlemen; of this I have seen numberless instances; and it is astonishing how quickly the Vision is cleared, when an error is sure to cost a *Guinea*.

Master, when the jingling ceases, is prying into every Stub, as if examining for a Bird's Nest, to find his Dog, and at the same time agitated betwixt hope and fear lest in his search he should rouse the Bird, without getting the Shot, which *Pero* had done his best to procure for him.

Lord GWYDIR, whose Manors are as well stocked with *Pheasants* as most in the Kingdom, and astonishingly so, if their short Distance from the Metropolis be considered, shoots *Pheasants* always to a *Lurcher*, who points them with singular correctness, and whose *Nose* is so excellent, as never to miss securing a *wounded* Bird that runs into the thickest Covert; yet it does not hence follow, that this kind of Dog is generally appropriate to the Use here made of it.

AN ITALIAN PRINCE was, by a much-esteemed friend of mine, requested to be shewn a day's *Pheasant* shooting; it was hinted to the Prince's Companion, that the *Hen* *Pheasants* were not to be molested, however the *Prince* fired away at all the *Pheasants* that presented themselves, and with great success at the unfortunate Females; of course no penalty could be extracted from a foreign Gentleman, and the only satisfaction was, that *his Highness*, from the keenness of his pursuit, left the greater part of his Breeches and Stockings (which were both Silk) in the Coverts, and was obliged to be bandaged up with Handkerchiefs, with his Legs and Thighs in a very lacerated state, to make even a decent appearance.

A laughable Mistake was made by a Gamekeeper at *Holkham* after being out with one of the *BOURBON* Princes, attended by a foreign Servant, who at the springing of every *Hen* *Pheasant* cried out to his Master, *Poule* (*Hen*). Mr. COKE, at Night, enquired what sort of a shot the Prince was? to which the Keeper answered, "I thought, Sir, you had been the best Shot in the World, till I saw his Highness, who shoots as well; and if he had *pulled* as often as the French Fellow desired him, he would have killed all the *Pheasants* upon your Honour's Estate."

The following rules, hung up in the Breakfast-Room of a Shooting Lodge in *Sussex*, might with good effect be generally adopted.

Killing a <i>Hen</i> <i>Pheasant</i>	.	.	.	.	.	£.1	1	0
Shooting at ditto	.	.	.	.	.	0	10	6
Shooting at a <i>Pheasant</i> on the <i>Ground</i> or in a <i>Tree</i>	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	0
Shooting at ditto at more than <i>Forty</i> yards, unless before wounded	.	.	.	.	.	0	5	0
Shooting <i>Two</i> or more <i>Partridges</i> at one shot	.	.	.	.	.	0	10	6
Shooting at ditto on the <i>Ground</i>	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	0
Shooting at ditto at more than <i>Forty-five</i> yards, if not before wounded	.	.	.	.	.	0	5	0
Shooting at a <i>Hare</i> in her <i>Form</i>	.	.	.	.	.	0	5	0

Half of the above *Fines* go to the Poor of the Parish; the other *Half* to the Keepers.



So TOOMER (formerly one of the KING's Keepers in the New-Forest, and afterwards Gamekeeper to Sir HENRY MILDMAY) actually broke a *black Sow*, to find Game, and to back and stand; and SLUT* was as staunch

* Of this most extraordinary Animal, will be here stated a short History, to the Veracity of which there are hundreds of living Witnesses:—SLUT was bred in, and was of that sort which maintain themselves in the *New Forest* without regular feeding, except when they have young, and then but for a few Weeks, and was given when about three Months old, to be a Breeding Sow, by Mr. THOMAS, to Mr. RICHARD TOOMER, both at that time Keepers in the Forest. From having no young, she was not fed, or taken very little notice of, until about eighteen months old, was seldom observed near the Lodge, but chanced to be seen one day when Mr. EDWARD TOOMER was there. The Brothers were concerned together in breaking Pointers and Setters, some of their own breeding, and others which were sent to be broke by different Gentlemen; of the latter, although they would *stand and back*, many were so indifferent, that they would neither *hunt* nor express any Satisfaction when Birds were killed and put before them. The slackness in these Dogs first suggested the Idea, that by the same Method any other animal might be made to *stand*, and do as well as one of those huntless and inactive pointers. At this instant the Sow passed by, and was remarked as being extremely handsome: R. TOOMER threw her a piece or two of Oatmeal Roll, for which she appeared grateful, and approached very near; from that time they were determined to make a *Sporting Pig* of her. The first step was to give her a Name, and that of SLUT (given in consequence of soiling herself in a Bog) she acknowledged in the course of the Day, and never afterwards forgot. Within a *Fortnight*, she would find and point *Partridges* or *Rabbits*, and her Training was much forwarded by the abundance of both which were near the lodge; she daily improved, and in a few Weeks would RETRIEVE Birds that had ran, as well as the best pointer; nay, her nose was superior to any Pointer they ever possessed, and no two Men in England had better. They hunted her principally on the Moors and Heaths. SLUT has stood *Partridges*, *Black-game*, *Pheasants*, *Snipes*, and *Rabbits* in the same day, but was never known to point a HARE. She was seldom taken by choice more than a mile or two from the Lodge, but has frequently joined them when out with their Pointers, and continued with them several Hours. She has sometimes stood a *Jack Snipe*, when all the Pointers had passed by it: she would *back* the Dogs when they pointed, but the Dogs refused to back her until spoke to, their Dogs being all trained to make a general *halt* when the *Word* was given whether any Dog pointed or not; so that she has been frequently standing in the midst of a Field of Pointers. In consequence of the Dogs not liking to hunt when she was with them, (for they dropped their *Sterns*, and shewed Symptoms of Jealousy,) she did not very often accompany them, except for the Novelty; or when she accidentally joined them in the Forest. Her pace was mostly a Trot, was seldom known to Gallop, except when called to go out Shooting, she would then come home off the Forest at full Stretch, (for she was never shut up, but to prevent her being out of the Sound of the *call* or *whistle*, when a party of Gentlemen had appointed to see her out the next Day, and which Call she obeyed as readily as a Dog,) and be as much elevated as a Dog upon being shewn the Gun. She always expressed great pleasure when Game, either dead or alive, was placed before her. She has frequently stood a single

as any *Pointer*; still nobody has since thought it worth while (which, by the way, is somewhat surprising in this Age, and present rage for Novelty) to be accompanied into the Field with a brace of *Pig-Pointers*; but possibly the secret of breaking *Swine* to *Dog* and *Gun* expired with the Inventor, or as the Race were found capable of more refined Acquirements, by the Exhibition of the learned *Hog*, which was so much noticed at both Universities, the Talents of *Slut's* Relations were conceived better adapted for the Study than the Field.

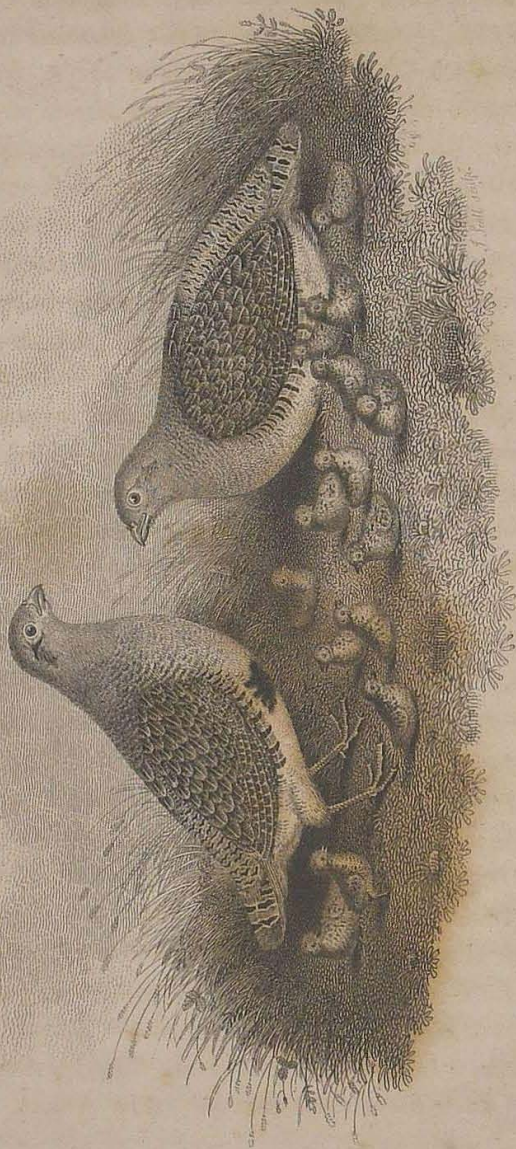
Spaniels for Pheasant or Cock shooting cannot be too *strong*, too *short* upon the Leg, or have too much *Courage*; the Thickness of the Coverts will oppose, and sometimes almost overpower, even this combination of form and spirit. It is not absolutely required that they should *literally* answer the terms of the Gentleman's Advertisement, who, in expressing his Want of a Brace of Spaniels, insists, as a *sine qua non* Qualification, that "they must know their *Names*, and be able to bear Confinement;" but the first part is highly necessary, and also that they should *come* when called. Should the Woods be very extensive, when steady from *Hares*, the *Spaniels* cannot well be too numerous; but if given to hunt *Hares*, they disturb the *Pheasants*, who just fly up, and perch upon the low boughs, and the *ground* of the Covert is in vain traversed and

Partridge at *forty yards* distance, her Nose in a direct line to the Bird; after *standing* some considerable time, she would *drop* like a *setter*, still keeping her Nose in an exact Line, and would continue in that Position until the Game moved: if it took wing, she would come up to the place and put her Nose down two or three times; but if a Bird ran off, she would get up and go to the place, and draw slowly after it, and when the Bird stopped she would stand it as before. The two Mr. TOOMERS lived about seven miles apart, at *Rhinefield* and *Broomey Lodges*; SLUT has many times gone by herself from the one Lodge to the other, as if to court the being taken out Shooting. She was about *five years* old when her Master died, and at the Auction of his Pointers, &c. was included in the Sale, and bought in at *Ten Guineas*. Sir H. MILDMAY having expressed a Wish to have her, she was sent to Dogmersfield Park, where she remained some years; she was last in the possession of Col. SIKES, and was then *Ten years* old, and had become fat and slothful, but would point Game as well as before. When killed, which was at Bassilden House, SLUT weighed *seven hundred pounds*: her Death, to those who possess common feelings of Humanity, appears, (if one may use the Expression,) at least *Animal Murder*; it would have cost but a trifling Sum to have fed and sheltered her in the *Winter*, and the Park would have supplied her Wants during *Summer* at no Expence.

beat for Birds, that are already some Yards above it; in short, a *Spaniel* that follows a *Hare* further than whilst in *view* is never worth keeping. Other circumstances to be minded are, that when a *Spaniel* is once put into a *Covert*, he is never to quit it to range in the *Fields*, which some *slippery* ones will do, whilst their Owners are beating within it. When a *Spaniel* owns a *haunt*, and *quests* freely, there should be no disappointment; whenever the *Notes* are *doubled*, their Master should be certain there is Game, and accordingly press forward: much depends upon the practice which *Spaniels* have; the constant use and the *killing* of Game to them, is as essential to the Steadiness of a high-mettled *Spaniel*, as to a high-bred *Fox-hound*; neither can be worked *too hard*, if kept well in Blood. Upon no account accept or keep a *Spaniel* (it is needless to tell a Sportsman not to *breed* from) which has any taint of the *Hound* in his Pedigree, although for Generations back; they will be sure to hunt *Hare* in preference to *winged* Game, and the Stock may be crossed everlastingly, may attain *beauty*, *strength*, *symmetry*; yet this latent spark of the *Harrier* will never be extinguished, and they will always shew their predilection for *Hare*, whenever they have opportunity, and this generally happens when their goodness is mostly required; namely, in *Coverts* where the *winged* Game is preserved, and there, for the most part, *Hares* are also in the greatest plenty. A stronger instance could not well be exhibited, than in the *Spaniels* of the deceased Lord WALTHAM and Mr. HOARE: a road only parted the Seats of these two Gentlemen, and their Gamekeepers frequently shot in the Woods together; their Dogs were equally handsome, but those of the *former* would drive *Hares* the day through, and consequently sprung every thing that accidentally laid in their Course; whilst those of the *latter* no more ran *Hares* than they did *Sheep*; they would indeed find the *Hares*, but follow no farther than they saw them: they were always in their places, twisting around every Stub with that agility, and possessed such fineness of Nose, that neither *Woodcock* nor *Pheasant* could escape their Search. Lord WALTHAM's *Spaniel* Bitches had originally a cross of the *Beagle*, and although this was tried to be remedied by resorting to the best Dogs, the tendency to *Hare* could never be subdued.

The Compiler's Spaniels were so very excellent, that he was once desired to fix his own price upon six Brace and a half, after being offered one hundred and fifty guineas for them. He had, many years previous, purchased at various times, at least fourscore Spaniels, all with the *best* of Characters; but which, with the Exception of *four brace*, were regularly consigned to the *halter* for incorrigible *Hare-hunting*; nor would he ever have got them to his wish, but by procuring Mr. HOARE's after that Gentleman's decease: those, with an increased attention to obtain any *Cross* that could improve them, had rendered them superior to most. Amidst a great abundance of Hares in all the Manors he preserved, he had at one time in his possession *six brace* of *Spaniels*, that would not individually or collectively run a Hare *thirty yards*; it will readily be supposed, with such Dogs he could not fail of finding all the game that any Covert contained; he seldom lost a wounded bird, nor (unless in the pursuit of a *winged* Pheasant, when they sometimes laid hold of his tail feathers, which, from his rapid running, he left in their mouths) did his Spaniels ever break or rumple their Game.

There are no fixed Rules for beating Coverts; this however ought to be a standard regulation, never to beat in a *slovenly* manner. Make *all* the ground good; it will save time, and frequently produces the object of pursuit: a *nide* of Pheasants sometimes are collected in a narrow compass, and in the *middle* of the Day conceal themselves very close. Recollect, after the Morning *scent* is evaporated, it is *then* the Spaniel's *nose*, and Shooter's *perseverance*, are called into their fullest Exertion. In the early part of the Season, Pheasants prefer *grassy, brambly, two and three year* old slops; and it is lost labour to try higher growths; as the Season advances, they will lie in clearer bottoms, especially near pits of water, which are sometimes found in woods. In Winter, skirting the *edges*, and afterwards, by degrees, sinking deeper into the Coverts, is, perhaps, where the game is not very plentiful, as good a mode as any; the Haunt of the Game that have been feeding in the adjoining Fields will thus be probably hit off, and it may at least serve to shew whether there is Game in the Covert. If any of the Spaniels are *wide rangers*, (which by the way,



PARTRIDGES.

The Coloured Copy taken by permission of the Hon. the East India Company.

when *steady from Hare*, the Compiler never saw any objection to,) after traversing the Wood well, always make a *concluding Circuit* round the *Edges* of it; depend upon getting shots by this means at the birds, which may have run or flown thither from the interior parts.

Partridges,

says WILLOUGHBY, "hold the principal place in the Entertainments of Princes, without which their Feasts are deemed ignoble and vulgar: the French are so fond of, and value themselves so highly, as utterly to despise the best spread Table, if *Partridges* are wanting." However it might be in the time of this Historian, *Partridges* are now too common in France to have that consequence attached to them, and their former high station at the festive Board is supplied by luxuries of a more compound invention. In *England*, where the *Partridge* is both scarcer and dearer, it is a favourite delicacy. The old Distich asserts,

"If the Partridge had the *Woodcock's* thigh,
'Twould be the best bird that e'er did fly:"

and the desire of appropriating it to certain classes of the Community, has induced Laws to be made for its preservation, no way harmonizing, in the judgment of many distinguished Lawyers, with the general Spirit of English Legislation. Were these birds solely nourished on those grounds that belong to the person whose Entertainments they improve, the Man who fed might claim them, with some shew of justice; and, like a *Peacock* or a *Turkey*, they might then be ranked as *private* Property. However, the Law has taken *Partridges* (wild as they are) under its protection; and the only difference now is, that one is fed upon the Farms, the other in the Yards; that *these* are contented Captives, *those* servants that have the power to change their Master, by changing their Abode.

Of Partridges there are two kinds, which it is here purposed to notice, the *grey* and the *red*; the latter is the biggest, and often perches upon

Trees, and has been brought and reared here with difficulty: the Grey always keeps on the Ground, and is that with which we are best acquainted, and is a native of this Country.

This species is seen throughout Europe in the temperate parts, but is not every where equally common; the extremes of heat and cold are unfavourable to its abundant propagation; neither is the *Partridge* so partial to the wild scenes of the Forest as the *Pheasant*; she is more the bird of Cultivation: where the plough flourishes, she best thrives, and is generally discovered gleaning the stubble, or basking under a hedge, and gets into many a difficulty which might have been avoided by feeding more at large; sometimes indeed she is found in the Forest, but it is chiefly when hunted by Men and Dogs from her more favourite haunts. In *Sweden* it makes burrows beneath the Snow, into which the whole Covey retires, leaving a spiracle at each end of their lodges. In *Greenland* the Partridge is brown in Summer; so soon as the icy Winter sets in, it is then clothed with a warm down, and its outward plumage assumes the colour of the Snows amongst which it seeks its food, and thus is doubly fitted to resist the cold, and to screen its figure from its enemies: this change also takes place in Muscovy, Poland, &c. Near the mouth of the *Oi*, in Russia, is an innumerable quantity of *Partridges* and *Quails*; the adjacent Mountains are crowded with them; these birds here spend their Winter *beneath the snow*: the cause that prevents their wandering to warmer southern climates is the high mountains, which are much sooner covered with Snow, and which, as the Autumn drives them here from the low lands, blocks up their passage Southwards into Europe. Partridges, which assemble near the *Volga* in the greatest numbers in September and October, are caught in these months, and until December, in Nets.

The male Partridge weighs nearly *fifteen** ounces, the female two ounces less; the length to the end of the tail *thirteen* inches, breadth

* In September, 1804, Mr. FORTNAM, of Henley, killed a Cock Partridge on the *How Farm*, Hambledon, Bucks, which weighed *Twenty Ounces and a half*. Its girth across the Breast was *twenty inches and a half*.

twenty; the eyes *hazel*; the bill in the young is *brown*, in the old *blueish white*; the legs also are *yellowish* when young, and, as they increase in age, turn to a *dark blueish white*: by the *bill* and *legs* the Age is discovered, and another method is, from the appearance of the *last feather* of the wing, which is *pointed* after the first moult, but in the following year is quite *round*. The general colour of the Plumage is brown and ash, elegantly mixed with black, and each feather is streaked down the middle with buff colour; the chin, cheeks, and forehead, are tawny, and palest in the female; under each Eye there is a spot, with small warty excrescences, and above and behind the Eye, towards the Ear, is a naked Skin of a bright Scarlet, which is not very conspicuous, except in *old birds*: the legs of the *male* are furnished with a blunt spur or knob behind, and the *breast* with a *crescent* of a deep chesnut colour, which takes place the beginning of *October*; this mark the *Female* wants, and her feathers in general are not so distinct and bright. It is said, the Partridge, if unmolested, lives from *fifteen* to *seventeen years*; others dispute this computation, and maintain, that they live Seven years, and give over laying in the Sixth, and are at their full Vigour when *two years* old.

Partridges pair about the third week in *February*, and sometimes, after being paired, if the Weather be extremely severe, they all gather together, and again form the Covey, and are then said to pack: they begin to lay about six weeks after being paired. According to RAY, there is *one-third* more *male* than *female Partridges* hatched; and it is well known, the *old Cocks* will drive the young off the ground, and afterwards frequently fight until they kill each other; (*Partridges*, in this respect, differ from *Pheasants*; they will have a certain Range to themselves, whilst *Pheasants* will hatch and live quietly with their Broods close together.) When too many birds are left, these contentions are sure to happen; and the consequence is a scanty produce, for the Female is so pursued, that she drops her Eggs in various places, forming no Nest,

and perhaps never laying two Eggs in the same spot. So well aware was the Duke of KINGSTON of this circumstance, that he always had the *Partridges* netted upon his Manors so soon as *paired*, and destroyed all the *Cocks* *. The late Mr. DOUGHTY, of *Leiston*, who was an excellent and most *observant* Sportsman, once preserved an overstock of *old Partridges*, and declared to the Compiler, he did not believe, for two Seasons following, there was a Covey of *young* birds upon a tract of near three thousand Acres of as fine breeding land as any in the Kingdom; he shot, and encouraged the destruction of this stock of *Ancients* by all possible means; and the result was, that the *Partridges* bred again as abundantly as formerly.

The amorous nature of *Partridges* has given rise to very *strange accounts*; the Compiler is unprepared to controvert, and less inclined to investigate, this peculiar propensity ascribed to them. The Female lays her Eggs on the ground, scraping together a few bents and decayed leaves, which are strewed roughly in the hollow made by an Ox or Horse's foot. The Nest is also sometimes formed upon hedge-banks, in corn or grass, but more particularly in *Clover* fields; and the number of eggs laid is from *fifteen* to *twenty-five*, of a greenish grey colour: the number of Eggs is much reduced when the bird is either very *young* or very *old*, and also when the *first eggs* have been destroyed, and a *second* hatch produced. There have, however, been instances of amazing Fecundity in the *Partridge*. In 1793, on a farm occupied by Mr. PRATT, near Terling in Essex, a *Partridge* nest was found in a fallow field with *thirty-three eggs*; *twenty-three* of the Eggs were hatched, and the birds went off; four more had live birds in them: the number of the Eggs was ascertained before hatching, to decide a Bet laid by a person who refused to credit so unusual a production; the Female covered all the Eggs, seven of which in the Centre

* Mr. WHITE relates, that a friend, who was fond of *Setting*, told him, that, soon after Harvest, he has frequently taken small Coveys of *Partridges*, consisting of *Cock* birds only; these he pleasantly, and not inaptly, used to term *Old Bachelors*.

were piled in a curious manner. In 1798, a nest was found at Eldborough, Somersetshire, in a wheat-field, with *twenty-eight eggs*. In June 1801, at Welton Place, Northamptonshire, the seat of Mr. CLARKE, a Partridge's nest was found in a plantation, containing *thirty-three eggs*.

Upon the Farm of Lion Hall, in Essex, belonging to Colonel HAWKER, in 1788, the following extraordinary incident of a Partridge depositing her Eggs was known to many persons. This bird chose the top of an Oak pollard to make her Nest; and this Tree too had one end of the bars of a Stile, where there was a Footpath, fastened into it: and by the Passengers going over the Stile before she sat close, she was disturbed and first discovered. The Farmer, whose name was BELL, apprised the Compiler of the circumstance, which he laughed at, as being the report of his workmen, and saying, that it was only a *Wood Pigeon* they had mistaken for a *Partridge*; but Master BELL, who had killed some hundreds of Partridges, so positively affirmed his having beheld the Bird upon the Nest on the tree, and also, at another time, having told the Eggs to the number of sixteen, that he was persuaded to ride to the spot, where the Partridge was seen sitting: in a few days she hatched the sixteen Eggs, and her brood, scrambling down the short and rough boughs which grew out all around from the trunk of the tree, reached the ground in safety.

The female sits three weeks*, and during that period undergoes a considerable moult, for the feathers of the belly drop off; the Young run so soon as hatched, often with part of the Shell adhering to them: the great Hatch is about the first ten days in June; the earliest birds begin to fly towards the latter end of that Month.

* Birds which sit twenty-one days have the Chick entirely formed on the *seventh* day; and from that time until it issues from the Egg, nothing happens but an expansion of all the parts it acquired during the first *seven* days. The feathers appear on the *fourteenth* or *fifteenth* day; and on the *twenty-first*, the bird escapes from the Egg, by breaking the *shell* with its *bill*.

Partridges are not every year equally plentiful: in general, when the Season is *dry* during May and June, the birds are numerous*; on the contrary, heavy and frequent Rains, during the time of laying and incubation, may chill or drown the Eggs: if the weather is wet when the young first leave the Shell, the cold benumbs the little strength they then possess in their Legs, and they die whilst the mother is leading them in search of food to sustain life. At this time too much Drought† is likewise unfavourable; the ground cracks from the heat, and into these crevices they fall and inevitably perish; and this latter spreads a more universal destruction than the former, especially in *Clay* lands.

The old Partridge has other dangers to encounter, from *Weazels*, *Stoats*‡, &c. *Crows*, *Magpies*, *Curs*, and *Shepherd's Dogs*; all of which suck the Eggs; not to mention the Shepherds and farmers themselves, who, in some Counties, very *kindly* destroy them. It is not, under all these disadvantages, an unfair calculation to suppose that *one half* of the Broods in any one year are never reared. When the Eggs are destroyed

* Mr. WHITE, in his *History of Selborne*, notes, that after the dry summer in 1740 and 1741, and for some years after, the Partridges swarmed to such a degree, that unreasonable Sportsmen killed *twenty*, and sometimes *thirty*, brace in a day.

† In 1803, so long and excessive was the Drought at Oxford, that there were no *Dews* for Six Weeks, just after the Hatching season, nor any rain fell for Months; and Lord HERTFORD's Keepers, at Sudbourn, (where the fine sandy soil is highly proper for breeding Game,) found Partridges and Pheasants more than a quarter grown, that had their Crops so distended for want of Moisture, that they suffered themselves to be taken by the hand, and vast numbers were also found dead.

‡ Mr. WICKENS, of *Mapperton*, near *Blandford*, assured me of the Truth of the following Circumstance: a Gamekeeper of Mr. D. GROSVENOR's, in Dorsetshire, hearing a Partridge utter a distressful cry, was attracted by the sound into a piece of Oats, when the Bird ran round him, very much agitated: upon his looking minutely among the Corn, he saw a large *Snake* in the midst of the Infant Brood, which he killed, and perceiving the Body of the Reptile considerably distended, he opened the Belly, when, to his Astonishment, two young Partridges ran from their horrid Prison, and joined their Mother; two others were found in the Snake's Stomach, quite dead.

in any of the above ways, the Partridge frequently lays again, and the produce of these second Hatchings constitute those small birds that are not perfectly feathered in the tail until the beginning of October, and always continue a puny, sickly Race, that seldom outlive the rigours of the Winter.

The Affection for its young, which the Partridge shews, is peculiarly strong and lively; by her Mate she is greatly aided in the care of rearing them; together they lead them out, call, and point out to them their food, and assist them in finding it, by scratching the ground with their feet: they frequently sit close by each other, covering the young with their wings like the Hen; in this situation they are not easily sprung, nor will the Sportsman, who is attentive to the *preservation* of his Game, disturb a Scene so interesting; but should the Pointer come too near, or unfortunately run in upon them, there are few who are ignorant of the confusion which ensues. The *male* first gives the signal of Alarm, by a peculiar distressful cry, throwing himself at the same moment more immediately in the way of danger, in order to mislead the Enemy; he flies, or rather runs, along the ground, hanging his wings, and exhibiting every symptom of debility, whereby the Dog is decoyed, by a too eager expectation of an easy prey, to run further from the Covey. The *Female* flies off in a contrary direction, and to a greater distance, but soon after secretly returning, she finds her scattered brood closely squatted among the grass, and hastily collecting, she leads them from the danger, before the Dog has had time to return from his pursuit. Mr. WHITE relates an instance of this instinctive Sagacity in a Hen Partridge, which came out of a ditch, and ran along shivering with her Wings, and crying out as if wounded and unable to get from him: while the Dam acted this Distress a Boy who attended Mr. W. saw the Brood, which was small, and unable to fly, run for Shelter into an old Fox's hole under the Bank. Mr. MARKWICK says he has seen, when a *Kite* has been hovering over a Covey of young Partridges, the old birds fly up at the Kite, screaming and fighting with all their might to preserve their Brood.

It is no uncommon thing to introduce *Partridges eggs* under the *common Hen*; when she has set the regular time, if the young do not appear, the feathers are glued to the *inner surface* of the shell from being exposed to too *great heat* from the *Hen*. To remedy this, dip the Eggs five or six minutes in Water, and the moisture will soak through the Shell, and loosen the feathers; and this kind of bathing may also perhaps refresh the young bird, and give it additional strength to break its prison. It is said that the *Partridge*, bred under a *Hen*, retains through life the habit of *calling* when it hears the *clucking* of *Hens*. The first food for the young *Partridges* should be the Eggs of the *small ant*; afterwards fresh Curds mixed with lettuce, chickweed, or groundsel: it will be some time before they will eat Grain of any kind readily.

In 1799 a singular partiality of a Female *Partridge* to a Male *Bantam* fowl shewed itself at Barford House, near Salisbury: the *Partridge* was observed to visit the Poultry-yard regularly every morning, to couple with the *Bantam*, and then take its departure.

The *Partridge*, even when fostered by hand, seldom forgets its wild origin, and, at its full growth, soon acquires a habit of estranging itself from the House, however intimately it may have connected itself with the place and its inhabitants in the early stages of its Existence. Amongst the very few instances of the *Partridge's* remaining tame, was that of one which had been reared at the Reverend Mr. Bird's; this, long after its full growth, attended the Parlour at breakfast and other times, received food from any hand that would condescend to give it, stretched itself before, and seemed much to enjoy the warmth of the Fire, and, at length, fell a Victim to the decided Foe of all *favourite Birds*, a *Cat*; his Dogs were too generous to molest it.

Partridges have been seen in part, and even wholly, *white**, where

* A Covey of Nine *Partridges* were bred upon a Farm of the Honourable J. OLMIUS, at Sandon, in Essex, four of which were pure *White*, and three of the others were *Mottled*. In

the Climate could not be suggested to have any influence in these alterations. BUFFON mentions, that ten or twelve *Partridges* entirely *white* have been seen at once among others of the *usual* plumage, and that those had the Pupil of the Eye *red*, as is common to the White Hare, Rat, Ferret, &c. In the *Leverian Museum* are several Specimens; one is wholly of a pale Cream colour, a second has the head and half the neck brownish Ash-colour, marked with darker streaks; round the neck a *white* collar; the under parts are also white; the Crest like the common Partridge, but very pale. A further Variety is of a *dun* colour: and a fourth much variegated and very beautiful; the crown and nape brown, marked with rufous spots; between the eyes, the chin, and throat, rufous; the fore-part of the neck and breast cinereous, minutely speckled with black; on the breast the *horse-shoe*; belly and vent, yellowish white; the upper parts not unlike the *common Partridge*, but more elegantly variegated.

In 1796, at *South Cave*, Mr. BARNARD's, near Market Weighton, was a Covey of eight Partridges; four of them were the most beautiful clear *white*, three were *pied*; the eighth bird escaped from under the net, by which the other seven were secured; they were kept alive in the Mew, and considered as great Curiosities.

In 1798, the following occurrence happened at East Dean, Sussex, which shews this Bird deprived of all power to use its Wings for its own preservation, and may perhaps tend to prove that Partridges are stationary, and have no powers of Migration. A Covey of *sixteen Partridges* were disturbed by some Men at plough, and directed their flight across the cliff to the Sea, over which they continued their course about three hundred yards, when, as if intimidated or affected by the element, the whole were observed to drop into the water: twelve of them were soon after floated to shore by the Tide, and picked up by a boy, who carried them to *East Bourne*, where he disposed of his birds at ninepence each.

1804, a Partridge was killed by Mr. B. DUDLEY's Keeper, that had half the longest Feathers in each Wing of a *Milk White*, and the Skin of the central Claw of both Feet was of the same Colour.

There are several methods of taking Partridges with *Nets*; the Sportsman can have little to do with any Net but where the Setting dog is used, and the less he practises *that* the better, unless all the *Hen* birds so caught are preserved in places for their reception until the *breeding* Season arrives, and then he liberates them: the Dog is trained to the Net, which should always be drawn so as to have the Wind as favourable to the *sweep* of the *Net* as his *point* will allow.

In *Shooting* Partridges, *Pointers* and *Setters* are usually employed. Many persons are particularly careful to give their Dogs the *Wind*, before they allow them to hunt a field: with all due deference to those very nice Sportsmen (who frequently receive this *positive Instruction* from the *Dog-Dealer*, who by this means has a ready excuse for the errors of the Animal he *sells*) the assertion is ventured, that a well-broke good Dog will naturally quarter his ground, so as to keep *enough* of the *Wind* to favour all his motions. In September, the *short flights* of the *Coveys*, and in Manors tolerably preserved, the quantity of shots to be got in a few hours, renders Partridge shooting a diversion *then* more suited to the majority of Shooters than when the birds are full grown, and have acquired their proper strength and cunning: at the *latter* period more *labour* to follow, and more *skill* to stop them, is required, than when they were unacquainted with the report of the Gun, and (to use the Expression of an old Sportsman) when *grey pease* thrown out of a *riddle* would beat them down to the Earth*.

* One Gentleman has given a curious detail of the manner in which to get at *Partridges*; it surely can only be mentioned to ridicule *Poachers*, who wear the garb of *Shooters*, for a *Sportsman* never condescends to resort to such pitiful subterfuges as *jucking* *Partridges*, or shooting them in the *Snow*; *neither* could ever be practised but by a *thoroughbred Poacher*. The *Manceuvres* are here presented *verbatim*.

“When a Sportsman is shooting in a Country where the birds are thin, and he no longer chooses to range the field, for the bare chance of meeting with them, the following method will shew him where to find them on another day:—In the Evening, from Sunset to Nightfall, he should post himself in a field, at the foot of a tree or a bush, and there wait until the Partridge

COVEY of PARTRIDGES.



Engraved by J. G. Thompson from a drawing by J. G. Thompson

The Lists of the Game that has been killed upon particular Manors in England by parties, and even by single Gentlemen, exhibit such a wanton registry of Slaughter, as no SPORTSMAN can read without Regret; but to prove that *British* are rather more merciful than *French* Shooters, the account of the former Game Establishment at Chantilli is first presented to the reader, in the words of the very ingenious person who recorded it.

The GAME ESTABLISHMENT at CHANTILLI was the most magnificent establishment of the kind in Europe.

The following long lists were copied from the household Registers there: and, what seems unaccountable, they never were printed before, not even in France!—The copy was taken in the year 1788, and this Statement, as an object in Natural History, is no small curiosity; and, as such, it is philosophically interesting!

begin to call or '*juck*,' which they always do at that time; not only for the purpose of drawing together when separated, but also when the birds composing the Covey are not dispersed. After calling in this manner for some little space of time, the Partridge will take a Flight; then, if he marks the place where they alight, he may be assured they will lie there the whole Night, unless disturbed. Let him return to the same post the next Morning by break of day, and there watch a while; being careful to keep his Dog in a string, if he is not under perfect command.

"As soon as the Dawn begins to peep, the Partridge will begin to call, and soon afterwards will perform the same manœuvre as on the preceding Evening; that is to say, after having called a while, they will take their Flight, and will commonly settle at a little distance. There, in a few minutes, they will call again, and sometimes take a second Flight, but that will not be far; then, as soon as the Sun is risen, and the Sportsman can see to shoot, he may cast off his Dog and pursue them.

"In *Snow* it is very easy to kill Partridges on the ground before a Setting-dog or Pointer; because the *colour* of the Birds, contrasting with the *whiteness* of the *Snow*, makes them perceivable at the first glance."

THE PARTRIDGE.

The First List

states the total *gross* numbers of Game killed at Chantilli, *year by year*, through a series of 32 Years, beginning with the Year 1748—ending with the Year 1779.

FIRST OF THE GAME.

54878	32470	24029	50812	37209	18479	19932	25813
37160	39893	27013	40234	42902	18550	27164	50666
53712	32470	26405	26267	31620	26371	30429	12304
39892	16186	33035	25953	25995	19774	30859	17566

BIRDS AND BEASTS.

Their bill of Mortality.—The numbers in Detail of each specific Description, thus registered to have been killed at Chantilli, in the above-mentioned series of Years.

Hares	77750	Bustards	2
Rabbits	587470	Larks	106
Partridges	117574	Tudelles	3
Red ditto	12426	Fox	1
Pheasants	86193	Crapeaux	8
Quails	19696	Thrushes	1313
Ralles (the male quail)	449	Guynard	4
Woodcocks	2164	Stags	1682
Snipes	2856	Hinds	1682
Ducks	1353	Fawns	519
Wood pigeons	317	Does	1921
Lapwings	720	Young Does	135
Becfique (small bird like our Wheatear)	67	Roe-Bucks	4669
Curlews	32	Young ditto	810
Oyes d'Egypte	3	Wild Boars	1942
Oyes Sauvage	14	Marcassins (young Boars)	818

GAME KILLED IN ONE YEAR.

By	Pieces of Game.	By	Pieces of Game.
M. de Cayla	460	M. Brieux	62
M. de Canillac	953	M. Bailli de Crusol	196
Comte d'Artois	553	Abbé Balivere	54
Duc de Bourbon	403	Baron de Chatelie	26
Duc d'Enghein	9	M. de Valou	8
Prince d'Henin	170	M. Nedouchel	16
Duc de Polignac	330	M. Minitier	770
M. de Roucherolles	93	M. P. de Tallemont	17
M. de Choiseul	195	Comte d'Authieul	403
M. de Tremouelle	86	M. d'Authieul	822
M. Vaupaliere	75	M. Sarobert	78
M. Lostanges	247	M. Bateroy	6
M. de St. Hermine	29	Mr. Franklin	119
M. Belinage (three of the same name)	10868	Mr. Franklin (his son)	198
M. Damezega	522	** No other English Gentlemen are	
M. St. Cloud	29	in the List.	
M. Boazola	471	Stag hunts	90
M. Guolett	10	Boar Hunts	207

The PRINCE's Name does not appear in the lists of 1779—that year the PRINCE did not shoot. But from the years 1748 to 1778, the Archives of Chantilli, with all due dignity, rehearse,

That the pieces of Game killed by S. A. R. Monseigneur le Prince de CONDE, were in number 65,524.

That the *nine* pieces of *game* killed by the late PRINCE's Grandson, the Duc de ENGHEIN, were all Rabbits.

That the pieces killed by the Duc de BOURBON, were these,

Pheasants	1451	Partridges	1254
Hares	1207	Red ditto	143

And by C. D'ARROIS these,

Pheasants	978	Partridges	1109
Hares	870	Red ditto	115

THE PARTRIDGE.

The Establishment was also thus extraordinary throughout! *viz.*

21 Miles of Park ! 48 Miles of Forest !

The horses, when the family were at the place, were above 500!

The Dogs 60 to 80 Couples.

The Servants above 500 !

The GERMANS too have a happy knack at a Massacre.

In 1788, a party of Ten persons at the Chateau of Prince ADAM DAVERSPERG, in *Bohemia*, who were out *five hours* on the ninth and tenth of September, allowed that the first day 6168 *shots* were fired, and 876 *Hares*, 259 *Pheasants*, 362 *Partridges*, besides Quails, Rabbits, Hawks, &c. were bagged, or rather *waggoned*. On the second day 5904 *shots* were discharged, and 181 *Hares*, 634 *Pheasants*, and 736 *Partridges*, were killed: in addition to these, in the Evening of the second Day, were picked up 42 *Hares*, 65 *Pheasants*, and 103 *Partridges*, (in all 210 pieces,) which could not be immediately found in the heat of the *Action*.

The number of Shots in the two days was 11972; the Game carried home were 1099 *Hares*, 958 *Pheasants*, and 1201 *Partridges*; in all 3258 pieces, besides a variety of *small Game*.—N. B. The Birds were all shot on the Wing.

When we are told that the Domains from which this quantity of Game was slain had no peculiar mode adopted to assemble it, it speaks the only Excuse for such wilful Murder, that of relieving the District from a Redundancy of Mouths, which, if permitted to increase, it might be unable to support.

In Germany, during the month of October, 1797, Prince LICHTENSTEIN, and Eleven other Gentlemen, killed in one Day, when they were out *fourteen hours*, 39,000 pieces of game; it was of all sorts, but chiefly *Hares* and *Partridges*. The KING of NAPLES and Sir W. HAMILTON

killed 800 head of Game in the neighbourhood of *Casarte*, (640 of which were Partridges,) in a very short space of time.

To return to our own country, upon Mr. COLQUHOUN's Manor, at Writham, in Norfolk, the late Duke of BEDFORD, and six other Gentlemen, in 1796, killed eighty Cock *Pheasants*, forty *Hares*, besides *Partridges*, in one Day.

At *Houghton*, in the same County, the Duke of BEDFORD, and seven others, killed, in the same Space, 165 *Hares*, 42 *Pheasants*, five *Rabbits*, a couple of *Woodcocks*, and a brace of *Partridges*; and this was done, although the Woods had been beat five times before during the Season. A Gentleman remarked, upon reading the Account, that since the Massacre of the *Hares* at Lord CHOLMONDELEY's, it was mere Affectation to pity the *Turkies*.

Mr. COKE, (who is perhaps the very best shot in England,) the 7th of October, 1797, upon his Manor at *Warham*, and within a Mile's circumference, bagged *forty brace* of *Partridges* in *eight hours*, at *ninety-three* shots; every bird was killed singly: the day before, on the same spot, he killed *twenty-two brace and a half* in *three hours*. In 1799, when the above Gentleman made his annual visit to *Castle-acre*, the party only killed 409 head of Game, which was deemed but *indifferent sport*. In 1801, Mr. COKE was more successful, having killed, in *five days*, *seven hundred and twenty-six Partridges*: surely the number of discharges must deafen the Operator, putting the destruction out of the question; and Mr. COKE is so capital a Marksman, that, as he inflicts death whenever he pulls the Trigger, he should in Mercy forbear such terrible Examples of his Skill.

It is a Fact well authenticated, that one Gentleman, who used to boast that he never killed less than *twenty-five brace* of *Partridges* on the *first of September*, has been known to take the late *hatched* birds, that could

scarcely fly above the Stubble, from before the Noses of his Pointers, tie their legs together, hang them up, and so shoot them, that he might not fall short of his *favourite* number. All that has been recorded are mere Trifles, when compared with the wanton Cruelty of this very *sportsman-like* Achievement.

Man is not only an open but secret Foe to the *Partridge*: they have a variety of other natural Enemies. Let us try to lay down a few Rules, which may deliver them from the *dark* practices of the former, and effectually destroy the latter.

So soon as the *Corn* is *cut*, the *Oats* and *Barley*, as well as *Wheat* Stubbles, (or the Poachers will disturb the Birds from the *Wheat* stubbles that are *bushed* into those that are *clear*,) should be bushed with the Dog-bramble laid lightly on the stubbles, so that it will *roll* with the least touch of the *Net*. Poachers pretend to laugh at this precaution, and insist that they can *drag* notwithstanding; but if the fields are properly *bushed*, it is impossible to use a *Net* with effect: the great *Sweep* which the *Poachers* make, is from the *standing Barleys*; a *Net* never works so lightly and smooth as when *there* employed, nor do the Birds, either *Pheasants* or *Partridges*, ever lie so well.

Tunnelling Partridges is a most destructive method: it cannot be so well practised in an inclosed Country, from the *hedges* darkening the Moon's light, when the *Partridges* will *drive* no farther, but instantly fly; the Poachers however spring them in the Evening with a Spaniel, and mark the Spot by a stick and piece of white Paper; the *Tunnel* is then set down on the Spot where the birds *jucked* from, and to which they are certain to return; they thus readily find and drive them with a Horse under the *Net*. To *prevent this*, take some *Partridges* from the outskirts of the Manors, cut off the *bearing Claws*, and turn them out; they cannot then *run*, and always *spring*: if one Bird springs, the rest of the Covey are

also sure to rise. This plan is perhaps the best for defeating the Havock made by the *Tunnel net*: the *Poachers* themselves term it, taking an *unfair advantage of them*.

The Partridge has not a more determined or dangerous Enemy than the *Ringtail* or Goshawk: when they find a Covey and spring them, they fly as fast as they can, and mark where they settle, (for they do not kill by their swift flying;) they then spring them again, and, after a *second* or *third* flight, the Partridge is so fatigued, as to fall an easy prey. To secure this *Marauder*, set a few traps in his regular beat, baited with a small Rabbit, or the stuffed skin of one, and he is sure to be taken. In *champaign* Countries, *Bird bushes* should be made *half a mile* asunder: what is meant by this Expression is, a large Stake is to be driven into the ground, and left *seven feet* high; *bushes* and *boughs* are to be laid round this post, and kept hollow at the bottom to the extent of *ten yards*, for the Partridges to run into; many Coveys will be driven into one of these *Bird bushes* by the Ringtail, who flies round the *bushes* for some turns, and then alights on the Post, where there must be a Trap *let in* ready to receive him, as mentioned for the *Marten* in the First Volume.

The *Carrion Crow* will strike the Partridge as well as the *Hawk*; *Magpies* are also very pernicious in destroying their Eggs. It would be a highly proper regulation to put the *winged game* under the same Restriction as the *Hare*, and suffer no persons whatever to shoot at or kill them during a *Snow*. Multitudes are then killed by every creeping Vagrant that has interest to borrow a Gun, and can procure money to buy Ammunition.

The Red Legged Partridge

is larger than the grey, and the bill and irides are red; the forehead is grey brown; the hind head is rufous brown; the chin and throat white, encircled with black; added to which is a band of white over each Eye to the hind head; the forepart of the neck and sides of it are cinereous, with two spots of black on each feather; the hind part of the neck rufous brown; the back, wings and rump, greyish brown; the breast, pale ash-colour; belly, sides, thighs, and vent, rufous; the sides marked with lunular streaks of white, black, and orange; quills grey brown, with the outer edges yellowish; the tail composed of sixteen feathers; the four middle ones grey brown; the next on each side the same, but rufous on the outside; the five outer ones rufous on both sides; the legs are red, and the *Male* only has the blunt knob or spur behind them. It is a common pastime in the *Isle of Cyprus* to use these birds as we do *Game Cocks*, for the *rational* amusement of butchering each other.

This species is abundant in various parts of *Europe*, *Asia*, and *Africa*, in many parts of *Italy* and *France*, and also in the Islands of *Madeira*, *Jersey*, and *Guernsey*, and is so plentiful in the *Isle of Nansio*, as to be the pest of the *Inhabitants*, who make it a rule to collect as many Eggs as possible every year, in order to lessen the breed, which in some Seasons have totally eaten up the fruits of the Harvest. These Eggs, which are taken by thousands, are prepared with different Sauces, and subsist the Islanders for many Days.

According to *TOURNEFORT*, they are so tame in the *Isle of Scio*, that they are driven to seek their food in the fields like so many Sheep, and that each Family entrusts its Partridges to the common Keeper, who brings them back in the Evening, and he calls them together with a whistle, even in the Day-time. Another account states, "that in the

PTARMAGAN.



RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE.

Engraved by J. G. Smith, from a drawing by J. G. Smith, Esq. London.

country round *Trebizond*, a Man was seen leading above *four thousand Partridges*; he marched on the Ground, while the Partridges followed him in the Air, until he reached a certain Camp, three days journey from *Trebizond*; when he slept, the Birds alighted to repose around him, and he could take as many of their number as he pleased."

In *Provence* persons have acquired the Art of assembling numerous flocks of Partridges, which obeyed the Voice of their Conductors with wonderful docility, and they most probably were Birds of this Species which WILLOUGHBY notices: "that a certain *Sussex* man had, by his industry, made a *Covey of Partridges* so tame, that he drove them before him, upon a wager, out of that *County* to *London*, though they were absolutely free, and had their Wings grown*."

The *red* Partridge is said to be fond of *mountainous* situations well covered with Wood; and it seems as if this Species alone was known to the *Jews*, since in the first book of Samuel it is represented as an Inhabitant of the Mountains; in DAVID's appeal to SAUL. "The King of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as one would hunt a Partridge on the Mountains."

The flesh of these birds is white, and by some considered of higher Flavour than the *grey*; in France they are made into Pies, and highly esteemed. In two points the *red* differ from the common Partridges, in being found in *Flocks*; whereas, among the latter, only those belonging to the same Covey herd together: the *red* are also observed to perch on

* These *Partridges* would, in all probability, have beaten Lord ORFORD's *Geese*: that Nobleman, in 1740, made a considerable Bet with the late Duke of QUEENSBURY, that a drove of *Geese* would beat an equal number of *Turkies* in a Race from *Norwich* to *London*. The event proved the justness of his Lordship's expectations; for the *Geese* kept on the Road with a steady pace: but the *Turkies*, as every Evening approached, flew to roost in the Trees adjoining the Road, from which the Drivers found it very difficult to dislodge them: in consequence of stopping to sleep, the *Geese* beat their Competitors hollow, arriving at their destination *two days* before the *Turkies*.

Trees, &c. which the common Partridges never do, and perhaps have not the faculty to do so: yet in roosting upon the Ground, they are not indifferent to their own Preservation; for, through apprehensions from Polecats, Stoats, &c. they never trust themselves to *Coverts*, but nestle together in the midst of large Fields, far removed from *hedges* and *coppices*, which they love to haunt in the Day-time, and wherein they can lie more secure from the Attacks of rapacious Birds.

So far back as the time of CHARLES the Second, several pair of these Red legged Partridges were turned out about *Windsor* to obtain a stock; but they are supposed to have mostly perished, although some of them, or their descendants, were seen for a few years afterwards. The late Duke of NORTHUMBERLAND preserved many, in hopes of their increasing upon his Manors; but the late earl of ROCHFORD and Marquis of HERTFORD have been at the most expence and trouble to establish them in this Country: both these Noblemen had not only numbers of the Birds sent over from France, but also imported many thousand of their Eggs, which were hatched under *Hens*, and set at liberty at a proper Age; by this means there is now plenty of the *red* Birds upon the latter Nobleman's Estate near Orford, in Suffolk. They did not breed numerously at St. Osyth (Lord ROCHFORD's;) the Soil was not so favourable, yet even here they increased, and now and then a Covey of them was found some miles from his Lordship's domain. The Compiler, in 1777, found within two miles of Colchester, a Covey of *fourteen*; they were in a very thick piece of Turnips, and for half an hour baffled the exertions of a brace of good Pointers to make them take wing, and the first which did so immediately *perched* on the Hedge, and was shot in that situation, without its being known what Bird it was; a leash more was at length sprung from the turnips, and shot; and two days after, a brace more of them was killed by another person: from that time until November, 1799, he never shot one; he was then out at *Sudbourn* with a Gentleman who was particularly anxious to kill some of these *red Partridges*, and hunted with a brace of capital Pointers for them only; the instant the Dogs stood, the *red* birds

ran, and always took wing (notwithstanding all the speed exerted to head them) at such distances as to be out of the range of the shot from any Fowling-piece. Upon the same Grounds, and on the same Day, they laid until the *Springing Spaniels* (with which the Compiler was shooting) almost touched them before they arose, and in a short time he killed two brace and a half. Whether the *questing* of the Spaniels caught their Attention, (having never before been attacked in that mode,) or, that from being frequently found by *Pointers* they perceived and immediately ran from their Enemy as the Dog became stationary, the Gamekeepers, who knew their Habits, and were not a little surprised at seeing the Circumstance, could not determine: they have one Peculiarity, that when wounded, they will go to ground in the Rabbit burrows.

Cock of the Wood, Capercalze, or Wood Grouse.

FROM the Scarcity of this Species, the notice of it here may be thought superfluous; as it was however formerly, and possibly may still be found in some parts of *Great Britain*, its History is inserted. Mr. PENNANT's Tour in *Scotland* mentions, that in the Forest of Pines, in the *Chisolme's* County, that rare Bird the *Cock of the Wood* is still to be met with, perhaps in those near *Castle Grant*; and speaks of one, a *Male*, which he had seen, and which was killed in Mr. CHISOLME's woods, north of *Inverness*; the last Bird of this kind was also seen there, and the Nest was placed in a Scotch Pine; but this placing of the Nest is very different from the account of *Naturalists*, who agree that the Bird lays her *Eggs* upon the *Ground*. It was formerly found in *Ireland*, but is now supposed to be *extinct* in that Country.

This Bird is nearly as large as the Turkey, is two feet eight or nine inches in length; the breadth three feet ten, and weighs from *twelve* to *fifteen* pounds; the bill of the Male is of a dusty horn colour, is very

strong and convex; the irides of the eyes are hazel, and over the eye is a naked red skin; the nostrils are small, and covered with short dusky feathers, which extend under the throat, and these are black, and much longer than the rest; the head and neck are ash colour, elegantly marked with transverse narrow blackish lines; the upper parts of the body and wings are chesnut brown, irregularly marked with blackish lines; the feathers at the setting on of the wings are white; the breast of a very glossy blackish green; the rest of the under parts black, but the belly and feathers over the thighs and vent are marked with a few white spots; the tail consists of eighteen black feathers, which in the outward ones are marked with a few white spots; the sides are marked as the neck: the legs are very strong, covered with brown feathers, and the edges of the toes pectinated.

The *Female* differs greatly, and excels the *Male* in the beauty and variety of its Colours, a Circumstance uncommon in Birds; is only twenty-six inches in length, the Bill is dusky, and the throat orange red; head, neck, and back, are marked with transverse bars of orange, red and black; the breast has some white spots upon it, and the lower part is of a plain orange colour: the belly barred with plain orange colour and black, and the tips of the feathers white: back and scapulars black; the edges of the feathers mottled with black and pale reddish brown; the scapulars tipped with white: the inner web of the quills dusky; the exterior mottled with dusky and pale brown; the tail is of a deep nut colour, barred with black, tipped with white, and consists of sixteen feathers; and when the Bird displays its tail, the white forms a Circle round it.

In the *northern* Countries this Bird is very common, living in the *Pine forests*, which there abound, and feeding on the Cones of the Fir-trees, which at certain Seasons render it too strong to be palatable; plants and berries, particularly the *juniper*, are also its food, and in feeding upon the pine and fir-trees, it is sometimes known wholly to strip one Tree of its Cones, whilst the next remains untouched.

From *Moscow* and *Petersburgh* they are sent, during the cold Season, as presents to *London*, their Flesh being esteemed a Delicacy at our sumptuous Tables; and, for the most part, they arrive in good Condition.

The Males and Females live separate, except from the beginning of *February*, the time of pairing, when the Male, Morning and Evening, places himself on an Eminence, or perches on a Tree, when, with his tail spread, the wings trailing almost to the feet, the *Scarlet patch* on each side of the Head assuming a deeper dye, his neck protruded, and the head feathers ruffled, he makes a noise not unlike the whetting of a *Scythe*, which he repeats at intervals, so loud as to be heard at a considerable distance: this Summons the Females attend, and which he continues to the end of *March*, or beginning of *April*, and is at that time so very inattentive to his Safety as to be easily shot. It is asserted, that both Males and Females are at that Season so negligent as to suffer the *Peasants* to take them up in their hands; and that when a Cock of this species is shot in the woods, its Widows are heard to utter a note inexpressibly miserable at their loss. The Female lays from *eight* to *sixteen* Eggs; eight at the first, and more as they advance in Age; they are of a white colour, spotted with yellow, bigger than those of the common Hen, and are accounted greater Delicacies than the Eggs of every other Bird; these are deposited upon Moss in some dry spot upon the Ground, where she can sit in security: the Female alone sitting the whole time of Incubation, and hiding the place by covering the Eggs with leaves, when at any time obliged to leave them in search of Food; she sits so close, that, after being approached, she can hardly be forced to forsake her Eggs; the young run after the Mother so soon as hatched, and, as Partridges are known to do, often with part of the Egg-shell attached to them.

The Mother leads them most carefully into the Woods, where she feeds them with Ant eggs, blackberries, &c.; as they grow older, they feed upon the tops of *heather* and the *pine cones*, and being a hardy bird, and their food lying every where before them in great abundance, they

soon come to perfection; they continue united (especially the young Males) through the rest of the Year, until the return of the Season of Love, inspiring them with new inclinations and appetites, disperses the Family.

It is said, in the Countries where they abound, they are very easily tamed, if taken *young*, and fed with Corn; and that the Males, in a *domestic state*, emit the same Note *all* the year, which in a *wild one* they only use in the season of Love; and that in *Winter* they bury themselves in the *Snow*, like the *Partridge* and other *Grouse*, but not deep; nor do they remain there in the *Night*: the *Goshawk* is their most dangerous Enemy, which they do not oppose, although so much larger.

It is the general opinion of Sportsmen, that the *Grouse* Species have no *Tongues*, but this could only have arisen from their being viewed when expiring, or after Death; for, upon inspecting the *Gizzard*, the Tongue will be found to have retreated there with all its Ligaments.

Black Grouse, Black Cock, or Black Game.

THIS Bird was abundant in the *Northern* parts of Great Britain, especially in *Scotland*, but becomes gradually more scarce, owing to various causes; the great Improvement in the Art of *Shooting flying*, the Inclosure of many Moors and Commons, added to the mischief done by burning the *Heath* on the Moors, in order to fertilize them, (which, notwithstanding the *Statute* to prevent such fires, it is difficult to convict upon, the *ling* being commonly set on fire in the *Night*, and which will often extend for several Miles :) this burning is chiefly done in the *Spring*, and many Nests, with the old Birds upon them, are thereby destroyed. Perhaps the Facility of conveying these Birds to the *Metropolis*, or the great trading Towns, by the means of numberless wheel *Carriages*, may likewise contribute much to their Scarcity: some are met with in *Wales*, *Cumberland*, and the Moors in *Yorkshire*; the Earl of UXBRIDGE has a sprinkling in *Staff-*



BLACK GROUSE.

Ardeotis Macroura Linnaeus. Ardeotis Macroura Temm. London.

fordshire; the *Boulderwood* and *Rhinefield* Lodges in the *New-forest*, *Hampshire*, afford tolerable plenty. The *Black Cock* is more a Forester than even the *Pheasant*, scorning all connexion with Man, and very rarely tasting the dainties of the Stubble; the wild Forest is his chief delight: it was formerly much more abundant in *New-forest*, and has the Honour, which no other *Bird* can boast, of being protected as *ROYAL Game*. When the *Chief Justice in Eyre* grants his Warrants to kill Game in the *Forest*, he always excepts the *Black Cock*, together with the *Red* and *Fallow Deer*. They are met with in *Sussex*, and some few in *Surrey*, but are sparingly scattered as one advances *South*: neither this Species, nor the *Ptarmigan*, is at present in *Ireland*, although the *Red Grouse* are in plenty among the Mountains and Bogs of that Country.

The *Black Grouse* are fond of wooded and mountainous Situations, and perch like the *Pheasant*: their Food is various; the bilberry, mountain fruits and berries, and in *Winter* the tops of the *heath*: in the *Summer* they sometimes descend from the Hills to feed on Corn. The length of this Bird is from one foot ten inches to two feet; breadth two feet nine; and weighs nearly four pounds: the bill is *dusky black*; the Eyes *dark blue*; below each Eye there is a spot of a dirty white colour, and above a larger one of a bright Scarlet; the Plumage of the whole Body black, glossed over the neck and rump with a shining *blue*; the coverts of the Wings are dusky brown; the greater are *white*, which extends to the ridge of the Wings, forming a spot of that colour upon the *shoulder* when the Wing is *closed*; the quills are brown, the lower parts and tips of the secondaries are white, forming a bar of white across the Wing: there is likewise a spot of white on the bastard Wing; the legs and thighs are covered with dark brown, mottled with white feathers; the Toes are toothed on the edges like those of the *Cock of the Wood*; the Tail consists of sixteen black Feathers, and is much forked; the end of the *exterior* feather, which bends greatly *outward*, seems as if cut off: the Feathers under the Tail, and inner coverts of the Wings, are of a pure white.

The *Female* is only one foot six inches long; breadth two feet six inches; and weighs two pounds; the Eye has the dusky white mark beneath like the *Male*; the head and neck are marked alternately with bars of dull red and black; the breast with dusky black and white; but the last predominates: the back, coverts of the Wings, and Tail, are similar in colour to the Neck, except the red being deeper; the inner webs of the quill Feathers are mottled with black and white; the inner coverts of the Wings are white, and a white spot is found on the Shoulder of both Sexes; the Tail is slightly forked, consisting of eighteen Feathers, variegated with red and black; under the Tail the Feathers are white, marked with a few bars of black and orange.

These Birds never *pair*, but in the Spring the *Males* assemble at their accustomed resorts, on the tops of high and heathy Mountains, when they *crow* and *clap their wings*; the Females, at this Signal, resort to them; they are very quarrelsome, and will fight together like game Cocks; and at that time are so inattentive to their own safety, that it has often happened that two or three have been killed at one shot; and in these Combats are so off their guard, as sometimes to be knocked down with a Stick. The Female makes an artless Nest on the Ground, and lays from six to eight Eggs, of a dull yellowish white colour, marked with numbers of very small ferruginous specks, and towards the smaller end with some blotches of the same hue, and hatches late in the Summer: the young Males quit their Mother in the beginning of Winter, and keep in Flocks of seven or eight until Spring; during that time they inhabit the Woods: in their first Feathers, they resemble their Mother, not acquiring their full Plumage till near the end of *Autumn*, when it gradually changes, and assumes that *blueish black* colour, which it afterwards retains*.

* The Setter in the Engraving pointing the *Black Cock* is not only a beautiful Dog of the kind, but unquestionably has fewer faults than any one the Compiler recollects to have seen. Many Dogs may possibly surpass him in some one peculiar *part*, yet, considering him as knowing and performing the *whole* of his Business, *Beau* (although now old) is deserving of his Master's care, and of this concise acknowledgement of his Merit.



SETTER *and* BLACK GROUSE.

Engraved by J. H. P. from a drawing by J. H. P.

A Sporting Friend, who has seen much of the Highland shooting, has made the following Remarks ;—That the *Broods of Black Grouse* are not found in *tall ling*, but chiefly in *marshy* ground, mixed with the *Candlebury Myrtle* (sweet Gale.) In these places are also found *Snipes*, and between the two, the Dogs and the Shooters are often deceived. From thence they run into the *ling*, mixed with *brackens*, and then along the edges of *fir*, or *birch* wood, or Corn ground. The *Old Black Cocks* are frequently found by the side of Hills in the long *Ling*, at some distance from Covert; and he instances finding *seven* together in very *deep ling*, on the edge of the beautiful Lake *Loch Awe*, belonging to the Earl of BREADALBANE; six of these Birds were killed. Another time, when shooting in company with the Marquis of LORN, Eighteen were seen together, but were so wild, there was no possibility of getting near them.

Above the *Black Game* is the *Red Grouse*; these also as *Broods* must be near *Water*, or swampy Ground. Higher up the Hills are the *barren* Birds, and still higher the *Ptarmigans* inhabit.

The *Black Grouse* will live and thrive in Menageries, but have not been known to *breed* in a *confined* state; although in *Sweden* it has connected itself with the domestic Hen, and produced a spurious Breed. In the northern parts of *Prussia* and *Siberia* they are extremely common wherever the *Birch*-trees grow; of which, in the Winter, the *Black Grouse* fills its *Craw* with the *Catkins*, before it retires under the Snow; and by this means can sustain Life many days without any other Food. Of the Seeds of the *Siberian Poplar* they are also very fond, and which are said to give their flesh an exceedingly fine Flavour.

It is somewhat remarkable, that *Cherries* and *Pease* are *fatal* to this Bird.

The flesh of several of the *Grouse* kind is more or less inclined to *brown*; in this Bird, part of the flesh of the *breast* is white, and called, in

the *North*, the *white muscle*, and which is peculiar to the *Black Grouse* from all the *species* at present known, appearing as a singular Contrast to the surrounding parts which are deep coloured.

In Russia the shooting of the Black Grouse is conducted in the following way:—Huts full of loop holes, like little Forts, are built for this purpose in the Woods frequented by these Birds. Upon the Trees, within shot of these Huts, are placed artificial decoy Birds, commonly made of black Cloth, with the marks of the natural Fowl painted: as the *Grouse* assemble, the Company fire through the Openings, and so long as the Sportsman is concealed, the *report* of the Gun does not frighten away the Birds: several of them may therefore be killed from the same Tree. If by chance three or four are placed on Branches one above another, the Sportsman has only to shoot the *undermost* Bird *first*, and the others gradually *upwards* in Succession; the *uppermost* Bird is earnestly employed in looking down after his fallen Companion, and keeps chattering to it till he becomes the next Victim.

During Winter, in *Siberia*, they take these Birds in the following manner:—a certain number of Poles are laid *horizontally* on forked sticks, in the open Forests of *Birch*; small bundles of Corn, by way of allurement, are tied on them, and at a small distance certain tall *Baskets* of a *Conic* shape are set, with the broadest part uppermost: just within the Mouth of the Basket is placed a small *wheel*, through which passes an Axis, so nicely fixed as to admit it to play very readily, and on the least touch, either on one side or the other, to drop down, and again recover its Situation. The *Black Grouse* are soon attracted by the Corn on the *horizontal* Poles, first alight upon them, and, after a short Repast, fly to the *baskets*, and attempt to settle on their Tops, when the *wheel* drops sideways, and they fall headlong into the Trap, which is sometimes found half full. In Little *Russia*, the price of a pair, Cock and Hen, is one *shilling and sixpence*, a brace of *Partridges* ten-pence, and a *Hare* seven-pence halfpenny.

Red Grouse, Moorcock, or Red Game.

THESE Birds mostly frequent the *Northern* parts of this Island; the nearest Approach towards the south is *Staffordshire*: they are plentiful in the wild, heathy, and mountainous Tracts of *Cumberland, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire* and *Wales*, and are very abundant in the *Highlands of Scotland*. Mr. PENNANT supposes it to be peculiar to *Britain*, and that those found in the mountainous parts of *France, Spain, Italy*, and elsewhere, as mentioned by M. BUFFON, are probably Varieties of this kind, and doubtless would *breed* with it.

The *Male* weighs *nineteen* Ounces, although one was killed near *Richmond*, in *Yorkshire*, which weighed *twenty-five*, and is in length fifteen inches and a half: the bill is black, nostrils covered with small red and black feathers: the irides hazel: at the base of the lower mandible is a white spot on each side; the throat is red, each Eye is arched with a naked spot of a bright Scarlet colour; the plumage on the head and neck is of a light tawny red; each feather is marked with several transverse bars of black; the back and scapular feathers are of a deeper red; and on the middle of each feather is a large black spot; breast and belly, dull purplish brown, crossed with numerous narrow dusky lines; tail even, consisting of sixteen feathers; the four middle ones barred with red, all the others black; the thighs are of a pale red, barred obscurely with black; the legs and feet clothed to the very claws with thick soft white feathers; the claws are whitish, very broad and strong. The *Female* weighs only *fifteen* ounces; the Colours are less bright, and the naked *red* part over the Eye is less conspicuous, and the edges of it not so deeply fringed as in the *Male*.

The Red Grouse pair in the Spring*, and lay from six to ten Eggs,

* On the fifth of March 1794, the Gamekeeper of Mr. LISTER, (now Lord RIBBLESDALE) of Gisburne Park, discovered on the Manor of *Twitten*, near *Pendle-hill*, a Brood of Red Grouse,

on the Ground; the young Brood (which at the first are called *Poults*) follow the *Hen* during the whole Summer; in Winter they join in Flocks of *forty* or *fifty*, which are termed *Packs*, and become remarkably shy and wild; they keep on the Tops of the Hills that are covered with Heather, seldom descending into the lower ground; their Food is the Mountain Berries, and tops of Heath, and the Smell arising from opening the part which contains the Food of a Red Grouse, just killed, is by no means unpleasant. The flesh is very good, but soon corrupts; to prevent this, the Birds are drawn so soon as killed*.

This Species has been known to breed in the *Menagerie* of the late Duchess Dowager of PORTLAND, and this was, in some measure, effected by her Grace's causing fresh Pots of *Ling* or *Heath* to be placed in the *Menagerie* almost every Day.

At Mr. GRIERSON'S, *Rathfarnham House*, County of *Dublin*, in 1802, a Brace of *Grouse*, which had been kept for three years past, hatched a Brood of young ones.

In shooting the Red Grouse, the old *English Spaniel* or *Setter* is preferred to the *smooth Pointer*; they have better Noses, and their feet are defended by their long Hair from the *Ling*, which in dry weather cuts like *wire*; they also are for the most part higher mettled, and hunt with more Courage: the only Objection to their general use is, that they require such plenty of Water, and without which their Speed and Steadiness are fre-

seemingly about ten days old, and which could fly about as many yards at a time. This was an Occurrence never known to have happened before so *early* in the Year.

* Neither this nor the *Black Cock* was at the famed Feast of *Archbishop NEVIL*, which is somewhat surprising, especially as both were found in *Yorkshire*: perhaps they were unaccustomed to the Taste of them, or did not in those Days consider them a Dainty: they are now highly esteemed, and are sent as presents to the *South*, both *fresh* and *potted*. The Expedition of the *Mail Coaches* has, at least, enabled the Londoners to receive their *Moor Game* sweeter than formerly.



RED GROUSE.

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WOOD GROUSE.

Wood Grouse. Also called by Pennock 1822. See also Linn. Index.

quently called in question. Upon the Moors there is seldom a want of this Article, and they there undoubtedly shew themselves superior to the Pointer; upon the Hills, where a *Horse* can travel, Grouse shooting is a noble Diversion; to be undertaken otherwise demands constant and hard Labour, for the Shooter is, during the course of the Day, *Ascending*; that is, if he finds a *brood* on the top of one Eminence, they will sweep over the Valley, until they reach the Summit of another, up which the Sportsman has to climb. In pursuing these Birds, when the Dog stands, should the Grouse erect their Heads and run, it is a Sign, either from Wet, or some other Cause, that they will not lie well that Day, and the Sportsman has small chance of getting a shot, but by running and heading them. The Grouse soon become *putrid*; they should, when shot, be *immediately* drawn very clean, and stuffed with Heather: should the Plumage be bit or torn by the Dogs, it must be wiped as dry as possible, when put into the Game bag; and before packing to be forwarded to any distance they should be again wiped, and laid within the moderate heat of a Fire to render them more perfectly dry. The best mode of packing is to put them in Boxes, with Partitions; a *single Bird*, or, at most, a *brace* in each Partition.

To shew the *Abundance*, rather than the *Exploit* itself, (which by a Sportsman, it must be hoped, never will be repeated,) the Earl of STRATHMORE's Gamekeeper was matched for a considerable Sum to shoot *Forty brace* of Moor-game in the course of the 12th of August, upon his Lordship's Moors in Yorkshire; he performed it with great Ease, shooting, by two o'clock, *forty-three brace*: at Eight in the Morning, owing to a thick Fog, he had killed only *three* birds, and the odds ran much against him; however, the day cleared up by Eleven, and the work of Slaughter went on rapidly.

In 1801, a Gentleman in Inverness-shire shot *fifty-two brace* of Moor-game in one Day, never killing a bird sitting, or more than *one* bird at a time.

White Grouse, White Game, or Ptarmigan.

THE length of this Bird is from fifteen to sixteen inches; the Extent of its wings twenty-four, and, according to PENNANT, weighs nineteen ounces, and is nearly the same size as the *Red Grouse*.

The bill of the *Ptarmigan* is black; the Plumage of a pale brown or ash colour, crossed or mottled with small dusky spots and minute bars; the head and neck with broad bars of black, rust colour and white; the wings are white, but the shafts of the greater quill feathers black; the belly white. In the *Male*, the grey colour predominates, except on the head and neck, where there is a great mixture of red, with bars of white; but the whole Plumage on this Sex is extremely elegant.

The *Females* and *young birds* have much rust colour about them. In their *Winter* dress they both agree, which is a pure White, except as follows: in the *Male*, a *black* line occurs between the Bill and the Eye; the shafts of the first *seven* quill feathers are black; the tail of the *Ptarmigan* consists of sixteen feathers; the two middle ones are ash-coloured in Summer, and white in Winter; the two next slightly marked with white near the ends; the rest wholly black. BUFFON states, that the tail is composed of two rows of feathers; the upper entirely white, the under one black, and each consisting of fourteen feathers; those incumbent on the tail are white, and almost entirely cover it.

The Feet of these birds are clothed with Feathers to the Claws, as the *Hares* are with *fur*, and under the toes, on the *Sole*, grow *long thick hairs*, which was a property supposed to be peculiar to the *Hare*; the nails are long, broad, and hollow: the first circumstance guards them from the rigour of the *Winter*; the latter enables them to form a lodge under the *Snow*, where they lie in heaps to protect them from the Cold. The Feet



SCENE in the HIGHLANDS of SCOTLAND.

of the *Red Grouse* are clothed with Feathers in the same manner; those of the *Cock of the Wood*, and *Black Grouse*, which perch upon Trees, are naked, the *Legs* only being feathered, the Feet not being in want of such a safeguard.

The *Ptarmigan* never seems to enjoy the Solar heat, but prefers the chilling Frost in the loftiest Situations; for as the Snow melts on the sides of the Mountains, the Bird constantly ascends, until it gains the Summits, where reigns eternal *Winter*, and there forms holes and burrows in the Snow. It might be curious to investigate the *internal* Structure of the *Ptarmigan*, and discover the reason why *Cold* seems so necessary to its Existence, and why it so carefully shuns the presence of the Sun; while almost every animated Being longs for his Return, and hails his Approach as the Source of delight, whose benign Influence inspires and enlivens all Nature. Must we ascribe it to the same Causes which make the *nocturnal* Birds retire from his Effulgence?

Ptarmigans are thinly scattered upon the lofty Hills near *Keswick* in *Cumberland*, and some few in *Wales*; are chiefly met with on the Tops of the highest hills of the *Highlands* of *Scotland*, in the *Hebrides* and *Orkneys*; they are found on the hill of *Ben-lawers*, and on *Ben-more* Mountain, near *Loch Tay*, inhabiting the very Summits amidst the Rocks, perching among the *grey stones*, and during Summer are scarcely to be distinguished from them by the similarity of their Colour; they seldom take long flights, and never soar aloft, but fly, taking a small circle like *Pigeons*; are silly birds, and so tame, as to bear driving like Poultry, and to suffer a stone to be flung at them without their rising: yet notwithstanding this apparent Gentleness of disposition, it is impossible to domesticate them; they refuse to eat when caught, and always die soon afterwards. It is not necessary to have a Dog to find them. They taste so like a *Grouse* as to be scarcely distinguishable, and keep in Summer in small packs; but never, like the *Grouse*, take shelter in the *Heath*, but beneath loose Stones. In Winter the *Ptarmigans* assemble, and fly in Flocks, still preserving their stupid tame-

ness: at that Season, when they perceive any person, they remain quiet upon the Snow, to avoid being seen; but they are often betrayed by their *Whiteness*, which surpasses the *Snow* itself; they are soon reconciled to the sight of Man, and are often caught by presenting Bread; or a Hat is thrown before them, and a Noose slipped round their neck whilst engaged in admiring this new object, or they are dispatched by the blow of a Stick behind; in short, they may be destroyed by any Device that may be employed against them *.

The females lay eight or ten eggs, the size of a Pigeon's, spotted with red brown, and these are deposited on the Earth, in a *stony* situation: about the middle of *June* is their time of breeding, thus imitating the rest of the *Grouse* genus. Their Food consists of the buds of trees, young shoots of the pine, heath, fruits, and berries, which grow on the Mountains. On the Continent, they feed greatly on the dwarf *birch* and *black-berried Heath*, and sometimes on the various kinds of *Liverwort*; are supposed to be Monogamous, for if the *Hen* is killed, the Male will not forsake her, and so loses his life. Immense quantities of these birds are found in high northern Latitudes; the *Greenlanders* catch them in Nooses hung to a long line, drawn by two Men, who drop them over their Necks; they eat them either dressed half rotten, or raw, with Seal's Lard; the Intestines, especially those next to the rump, and fresh drawn, being reckoned great delicacies: a second Luxury is, the Contents mixed with Fresh *Train oil* and *berries*. Of their Skins, with the feathers placed next the body, a comfortable Shirt is made, and the *Greenland Women* used the black feathers of the tail formerly, as ornaments to their Head-dresses.

* The only Preservative, says my sporting Friend, that Nature seems to have afforded, is their alighting upon Stones so exactly of their Colour, as to render it difficult for the Eye to discern them; he killed *forty-three* in one day above *Loch-Laggan*, which lies between *Dalwinnie* and *Fort Augustus* in this District; and also found *Whistling Plover* and *Dottrell*: and frequently at the tops of these Mountains are Lakes full of *Trout* and *Charr*; in one of these, called *Coriadar*, about a mile distant from *Loch-Laggan*, small Trout, about three or four inches long, so swarmed that in fishing with six flies, Six of these diminutive *Trouts* were often taken at a Throw.

The *Laplanders* take them by forming a hedge with the boughs of *Birch-trees*; leaving small Openings at certain intervals, and hanging in each a Snare, the *Ptarmigans* are tempted to come and feed on the buds or Catkins of the Birch; and whenever they endeavour to pass through the openings, are instantly caught. It is even said, that they will not venture to pass a row of Stones rudely piled like the foundation of a Wall, but will constantly travel close by the side of this humble Barrier, quite to the spot where the *Snares* are placed. In *Nova Scotia* they are called *Birch Partridges*. In *Russia*, the Feathers of the *Ptarmigan* were formerly an article of Commerce.

The *Hudson's Bay Ptarmigan*, or *White Partridge*, is mentioned, from the immense numbers which are taken, and also to express the *extra Plumage* which Providence has allotted it; for in Winter every feather, except those of the wings and tail, becomes *double*; a downy one shooting out from the Base of each, which affords an additional protection against the Cold of their Winter lodging; and this is the only *Species of Grouse* in *North America*, to which that warm covering for the Feet has been given. These birds make their Nests on dry ridges on the Ground, and lay from nine to eleven eggs powdered with black.

Every morning they take a flight into the Air directly upwards, to shake the *Snow* from their wings and bodies; they feed morn and eve, and in the middle of the Day bask in the Sun, which they seem not to dread, like our *Ptarmigan*, calling to one another in the Morning with a loud but interrupted note, feeding in the intervals, and then resuming their Call *. In the beginning of *October*, flocks of two hundred and upwards assemble and live much among the Willows, the tops of which they

* CONSETT says, the Voice of the *Ptarmigan* is very extraordinary, and often exerted during the Night; that it is rarely found in *Denmark*; but by some Accident one of these Birds, some years since, strayed within a hundred miles of *Stockholm*, which much alarmed the common People of the neighbourhood, for, from its nightly noise, a report very soon spread, that the Wood where it took up its residence was haunted. So much were they terrified by this

eat, and thence take the name of *Willow Partridges*. About the beginning of *December* they appear less plentiful, retiring from the flats about the Settlements on *Hudson's Bay*, to feed on the berries in the *mountains*, where, in *that month*, the Snow is less deep than on the *low lands*, in consequence of the Winds sweeping the Snow (which, owing to the intense cold, appears like fine powder) from the uplands into the Plains. Their flesh is much esteemed by the *Europeans* at *Hudson's Bay*; they are as tame as Chickens, especially in a mild Day: in their wildest state, by being driven about and fired at with Powder, they grow so weary by those short flights as very soon to be tame. If the Hunters see the birds unexpectedly likely to take a *long Flight*, they imitate the *crying* of a *Hawk*, which so greatly intimidates them, that they instantly settle.

Nets twenty feet square *, fixed to four Poles, and supported in front

dreadful Ghost, that nothing could tempt the Postboys to pass the Wood after dark. The Spirit was, however, at last happily removed, by some Gentlemen sending their Game-keepers into the Wood by *Moonlight*, who soon discovered and killed the harmless *Ptarmigan*.

* HEARNE mentions, that the Nets are from Eight to Twelve Feet square, stretched on a piece of Wood: to set the Nets requires no other trouble than lifting up one side of the Frame, and supporting it by two small Props about four feet long: they are usually set on the Ice of Rivers, Creeks, Ponds, and Lakes, about one hundred yards from the Willows; but in some situations not half that distance. That their *Winter Food* being so dry and harsh, in comparison to that of *Berries* and small *Herbage*, which they subsist upon during the *Summer*, compels them to swallow a considerable quantity of *Gravel* to promote Digestion, and which the great Depth of the *Snow* at that Season makes it difficult for them to procure. The *Indians*, considering this Circumstance, invented the Method now used by the *English* of decoying them beneath the Nets by means of the simple Allurement of *Gravel*: in the Centre of the Net, a Hillock of well beaten *Snow*, of the size of two or three Bushels, is thickly covered with *Gravel*; if driven, (which they will allow themselves to be, as has been before remarked, like *Poultry*) immediately as they see the *Gravel* upon the *Snow* they fly to it; and when the Hunter sees as many about the *Gravel* as the Net can cover, or as are likely to go under at that time, he hauls down the *Props*, runs to the Net as speedily as he can, and kills the Birds by biting their Heads: he retires with the *dead Birds*, and repeats the Operation frequently. *Break of Day*, and *early in the Afternoon*, are the best times for the Nets. It is common to get from *Thirty to Seventy* at a Pull; and in 1786, Mr. PRINCE caught *Two Hundred and Four* at two Hauls. Their numbers vary; in some Seasons few are taken by Nets: in 1785, Mr. H. says, they were so plentiful near *Churchill*, and such numbers were brought to the *Factory*, that upwards of *Two Thousand*

in a perpendicular direction with Sticks, is the usual mode adopted to take them; a long Line is made fast to these Props, the end of which a person holds, who lies concealed at a distance: several people are then employed to drive the Birds within reach of the Net, which, when pulled down, often covers *fifty* or *sixty*. At this time so plentiful are they, that Ten thousand are taken for the use of the Settlement, from *November* to the end of *April*. In former Days they must have been infinitely more numerous. Sir THOMAS BUTTON relates, that in the Winter of 1612, he took Eighteen hundred dozen of these and other Fowl. This Capture may astonish us; but the Success and Appetites of M. JEREMIE and his Companions will astonish us still more, who asserts, that there were taken and eaten in one *Winter*, between himself and Seventy-nine others, 90,000 *Grouse* and 25,000 *Rabbits*, being about 1125 *Grouse* and 312 *Rabbits* per Man.

were given to the *Hogs*. The *Feathers*, which make excellent *Beds*, are generally sold by the *Hunters*, as their Perquisite, to the Captains and Mates of the Company's Ships at the easy rate of *three-pence* per pound. Of the Account of Monsieur JEREMIE, he thinks 40,000 *Ptarmigans* or *Willow Partridges*, and 5000 *Hares*, much nearer the Truth; and even that on Calculation will be found an ample Provision for *Eighty Men* for *Seven Months*, exclusive of any Change of Food.

STATUTES RESPECTING WINGED GAME.

Bustard, Black and Red Grouse.

EVERY person who shall shoot at, kill, or destroy, with any gun or bow, any *Grouse*, *Heath-cock*, or *Moor Game*, shall, on conviction, be committed to gaol for *three* months, unless upon conviction he pay, for the use of the poor, 20s. for each fowl; or, after one Month after his Commitment, become bound, by recognizance, with two Sureties in 20*l.* each, not to offend in like manner. 1 *Jac.* c. 27. s. 2.

No person shall, upon any pretence whatsoever, wilfully take, kill, destroy, carry, sell, buy, or have in his possession or use, any Heath-Fowl, commonly called *Black Game*, between December 10 and August 20; nor any Grouse, commonly called *Red Game*, between December 10 and August 12; nor any *Bustard* between March 1 and September 1, in any year, on pain of forfeiting, for the first offence, any sum not exceeding 20*l.* nor less than 10*l.* and for the second, and every subsequent offence, not exceeding 30*l.* nor less than 20*l.* half to the informer and half to the poor. 13 *Geo.* III. c. 55. s. 1, 2, 4.—To be recovered in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster, on prosecution, within *six* Calendar Months *after* the offence committed; or the same may be recovered before one Justice, information on Oath being made before him within *three* Calendar months *after* the offence committed; which said Justice may convict the offender by Confession, or Oath of one Witness; and on neglect or refusal to pay, shall levy the same by distress, together with all costs and charges attending the same. And such Justice may order the offender to be detained in safe Custody, until return may conveniently be had to the *warrant of distress*, unless the said offender shall give Security, by recognizance or otherwise, for his appearance on the Day appointed for the return of the *warrant of distress*, such day not exceeding five days

from the taking of such Security. And if no sufficient Distress can be had, such Justice shall commit the offender to the common Gaol, or house of Correction, there to be kept to hard labour for any time not exceeding *six Months*, nor less than *three*, unless the forfeiture, and all *costs* and *charges* attending the Prosecution, be sooner paid. *S. 3, 4. 9.* Any person thinking himself aggrieved may *appeal* as directed by the Act. *S. 10.*

By the 9 *Ann. c. 25.* If any person whatsoever shall take or kill any *MOOR, HEATH GAME, or GROUS, in the Night-time*, he shall, on conviction before one Justice, on the Oath of one witness, forfeit *5l. half* to the informer, and half to the poor, by Distress: for want of Distress, to be sent to the house of Correction for *three months* for the *first offence*; and for every other offence *four months*.

And by the 13 *Geo. III. c. 80.* If any person shall, knowingly and wilfully, take, destroy, or use any gun, dog, snare, net, or other engine, with intent to kill, take, or destroy any *Moor Game or Heath Game in the Night*, viz. between the hours of seven at Night and six in the Morning, from the 12th of October to the 12th of February; and between the hours of nine at night and four in the morning, from the 12th of February to the 12th of October; or *in the Day-time, on a Sunday or Christmas-Day*; he shall forfeit, for the first offence, not exceeding *20l.* nor less than *10l.*; for the second offence, not exceeding *30l.* nor less than *20l.*; for the third, and every subsequent offence, *50l.*

For the better Preserving the Red and Black Game of Grouse, commonly called Heath-cocks, or Heath-polts, no person whatsoever, on any mountains, hills, heaths, moors, forests, chases, or wastes, shall presume to burn, between February 12 and June 24, any grig, ling, heath, furze, goss, or fern, on pain of being committed to the house of Correction for any time not exceeding *one month*, nor less than *ten days*, there to be *whipped*, and kept to hard labour. *4 & 5 Will. c. 23. s. 11.*

As here is no method of Conviction directed for this Offence, the Justices of the Peace seem to have no Cognizance thereof; but the Trial and Conviction must be at the Assizes, or in the Courts at Westminster.

Pheasants and Partridges.

By the Stat. 11 *Hen.* VII. c. 17. None, of whatever degree, shall take Pheasants or Partridges on the Freehold of another, without his licence, on pain of 10*l.*; a moiety to the Owner of the land, a moiety to the Prosecutor, by action of debt, or by bill, or otherwise.

By the Stat. 23 *Eliz.* c. 10. None shall, in the Night, take a Pheasant or Partridge, on pain of 20*s.* for every Pheasant, and 10*s.* for every Partridge; a moiety to the Lord of the Manor, a moiety to the Prosecutor, or (if either release his moiety) to the poor, by action, &c. And Justices of Peace at Sessions may hear, &c.; and any Justice bind the offender to Sessions; and if he pay not the penalty in ten days, shall be committed for a month without Bail, and find Surety not to offend in two Years.

By the Stat. 1 *Jac.* c. 27. Any convict by Confession, or two Witnesses at Sessions, or before two Justices of Peace, of taking, &c. any Pheasant, Partridge, or House-Dove, or Eggs of Pheasant, Partridge, or *Swan*, shall be committed for three months, without Bail, unless he pay 20*s.* for every Fowl and Egg to the Poor; or, after a Month's commitment, shall find two Sureties of 20*l.* by recognizance before a Justice, not to offend more. (So by the Stat. 7 *Jac.* c. 11. if convicted by one witness of taking a Partridge or Pheasant.)

And not having 10*l.* per annum Inheritance, 30*l.* per annum for Life, or 200*l.* in goods, or the Son of an Esquire, &c. convict, &c. for keeping a Dog, Setting-dog, or Net for Partridge or Pheasant, shall be committed, &c. unless he pay 40*s.* to the poor.

And he who *sells*, or *buys to sell*, any Pheasant or Partridge not reared up in the House, or brought from beyond Sea, forfeits 20s. for every Pheasant, and 10s. for every Partridge.

By the Stat. 7 *Jac.* c. 11. Any convict, within six months, by confession, or two witnesses, before two Justices, for *Hawking* at a Partridge or Pheasant between the 1st of *July* and last of *August*, shall be committed for one Month, *without bail*, unless he pay 40s. for every Hawking, and 20s. for every Pheasant and Partridge killed, to the poor of the parish.

And a Constable, by warrant of two Justices, may search houses of persons not qualified, and seize *setting-dogs and nets*; but persons having a Warren, or lords of a manor, or inheritance of 40*l.* *per annum*, 80*l.* *per annum* for life, or goods of 400*l.* value, or their Servants, may take Pheasants or Partridges on their own grounds, between Michaelmas and Christmas.

By the 33 *Eliz.* c. 10. If any person, of what estate, degree, or condition soever, shall take, kill, or destroy, any Pheasants or Partridges in the *Night-time*, they shall forfeit for every Pheasant 20s. and for every Partridge 10s. and shall give Bond, with good Sureties, not to offend again for *two years*.

By the 9 *Ann.* c. 25. If any *Person whatsoever* shall take or kill any Pheasant or Partridge * in the *Night-time*, he shall, on conviction before a

* BURNS, the celebrated Scotch Poet, was once, it seems, detected in having shot a Partridge, and compelled to pay the fine; he has recorded his ill success as a *poacher* in the following whimsical lines:

'Twas ae night lately in my fun,
I gaed a roving wi' my gun,
An' brought a *Paitrick*† to the grun‡,
A bonnie hen.

And, as the twilight was begun,
Thought nane wad ken.

† A Partridge.

‡ Ground.

Morning, from 1st of February to the first day of October, in each and every year, having any gun or engine to kill or take any Hare, Pheasant, Partridge, Heath-Fowl, commonly called *Black Game*, or Grouse, commonly called *Red Game*, or any other Game, or persons aiding them with *offensive weapons*, may be apprehended; and, on conviction before a Justice, shall be deemed *rogues* and *vagabonds*, within the meaning of 17 Geo. III. c. 5. &c. See further Statutes relating to Game, Vol. I. p. 281.

Adjudged Cases.

AN action was brought against a person for entering another's Free-warren: the Defendant pleaded that there was a *Pheasant* on his Land, and his Hawk pursued it into the Plaintiff's ground. It was resolved, that this doth not amount to a sufficient justification; for in this case he can only follow his *Hawk*, and not take the *Game*. *Poph.* 162.

Though it is said to be otherwise where the Soil of the Plaintiff is not a Warren. 2 *Roll Abr.* 567.

With respect to the penalty which goes to the *Poor* of the Parish where the offence was committed: in some places a man may stand in one Parish or County, and shoot in another; and in such a case, the Place where the Offence was committed is where the party *stood* when he shot, and not where the Object *was* which he shot at. *Shaw.* 339. *M.* 3 *W.* *King v. Alsop.*

A person was *indicted* on 23 *Eliz.* c. 10. for taking Partridges, *cum retiis*; and it was quashed, because it should have been *cum retibus*, 3 *Bulst.* 178. In the same page there is the form of an *indictment* for taking Partridges, &c. without licence.

Skill v. Tarr, Taunton Assizes, 1801. This was an action to recover

the penalty of 5*l.* for killing a Pheasant without being qualified, and 20*l.* for so doing, without having taken out a Certificate. It appeared that the Defendant's Dog had sprung a Pheasant, which he followed into an adjoining field, where the Dog stood, and that the Defendant knocked it down with a *Rake* * as it was rising. The Counsel for the Defendant argued against a *Rake* being considered such an *Instrument* for killing Game as was intended by the Statute; but the learned Judge found a Verdict for the Plaintiff to the amount of the Penalties.

In an action of Trespass, the Plaintiff declared for taking *phasianos suos*, in such a place, on trial, upon *not guilty* pleaded, a Verdict was found for the Plaintiff. It was moved, in arrest of Judgment, that the Declaration was naught, in using the word *suos*, Pheasants being *feræ naturæ*, in which the Plaintiff could have no Property; but the Court gave judgment for the Plaintiff, for they said they would intend the pheasants were *dead*; and in that case the Plaintiff undoubtedly had a *Property* in them, and might call them *phasianos suos*. *Anon.*

Molton v. Cheeseley, *East. Term*, 28 *Geo. III.* 1788. This was an Action of debt †, brought to recover from the defendant two penalties of 5*l.* each,

* This Action seems, from its Circumstances, to have been advised by some worthy *Attorney* who wanted a *Job*; indeed, without some *Hits* of this wavering description, the *Knowing* part of the Profession must be at a loss for Business, especially when their *present* numbers are compared to what we read of in former times. An Act of Parliament, A. D. 1454, notices, "That there had formerly been *Six* or *Eight Attornies* only, for Suffolk, Norfolk, and Norwich together; that this Number was now increased to more than *Eighty*, most part of whom, being not of sufficient knowledge, come to Fairs, &c. &c. inciting the people to suits for small trespasses, &c. &c. Wherefore, there shall be hereafter but *Six* for Suffolk, *Six* for Norfolk, and *Two* for the City of Norwich. In the time of CROMWELL, the number of *Attornies* throughout England was settled at *Fifteen Hundred*: one hundred and fifty years have scarcely elapsed since his Death, and it is said they have now multiplied to at least *Thirty Thousand*.

† By Stat. 8 *Geo. I.* c. 19. When any person shall be liable to any Penalty under the Game laws, by Conviction before a Justice of Peace, it shall be lawful for any person either to proceed to recover the said penalty, by information before a Justice, or to *sue for the same by Action of debt*.

under the Stat. 5 Ann. 14.—The first was, for having a Pheasant in his possession, not being qualified. The second was, under another clause of the same Statute, for keeping a Dog for killing and destroying the game.

When the case was opened, BULLER, J. ruled that the plaintiff could go for *one* penalty only; for that both Offences being by the same Act, *one* penalty only could be recovered. The Case then proved on the part of the plaintiff was, that a Pheasant had been killed *by accident* by the defendant's Dog, but that he had carried it away. BULLER, J. said, that if it appeared that the bird was killed by Accident, that was no offence; and in such case it should be *left* where it was killed: but if it was *taken away*, it subjects the party to the penalty for having Game in his *Possession*. The plaintiff therefore recovered *one* penalty of 5*l.* for this offence.

Gamekeepers.

TO preserve a head of Game, such Domestics are necessary: it is needful to premise, that not every Fellow in a *short Jacket*, with half a *score* Pockets, can occupy this situation with Utility to his Master, or Credit to himself. There are many points which will here be noticed, perhaps worthy the Attention of *both* parties, which may inform the one what he ought to expect, and the other what it is incumbent for him *thoroughly* to understand, before he is the least fit for the Office. One material part of that Office is, to constantly bear in mind that he is faithfully to perform his Employer's business with *Civility*, and not to conceive himself the Executioner of the Law. A Determination in the offending Party to persist in Sporting does not warrant any *Abuse* from him, his Duty is to lay the proper Information before his Master, and it is for him to decide whether he thinks fit to appeal to the Statutes, for the Preservation of the Game, that the Intruders shall feel their Authority*.

A Sportsman does not require a man, to be *termed* a Gamekeeper, who is the best *shot* in the District; it is not for the purposes of *Slaughter*, but *Protection*, that he employs him, and to afford that Protection he should be well versed in the Nature of every sort of *Vermin*, with their

* The *Editor* of the *Sportsman's Cabinet* has printed some curious Instructions how *unqualified* Persons should proceed in their Depredations upon *preserved* Manors:—The Noblemen and Gentlemen who are at great Expences in the Preservation of their Game, must doubtless consider themselves extremely obliged, by his thus publicly suggesting the use of a *false* Name to avoid Detection, and to mislead a Gamekeeper, as a practice safe and creditable. That the Game Laws may on many occasions be evaded by paltry Cunning, or by deliberate and direct Falsehood, is not unlikely; for he who has nothing of that regard to Truth, which is the first and leading Characteristic of a Man, may sometimes make his gross Violation of the Rules of Veracity, subservient to his breach of the Rules of Law, but it is the extreme of Absurdity in such a person to adduce his behaviour as an Argument to prove the *very moderate Spirit of the Game Laws, and the Lenity of their Execution*. It is hoped, from the Disgust which such Conduct must occasion in every honourable Mind, that the Example will have no Followers.

Haunts, their mode of preying upon the *Game*; and not only know, but be indefatigable in catching the most subtle and wary of them. He should (like one who publicly advertised for a Gamekeeper's place four years since) be able to kill all Vermin, "from a *Mouse* to an *Otter*, and from the *Eagle* to a *Sparrow*." If with this Art he can shoot well enough to kill a *Dog* or a *Hawk**, his Master will have a greater prospect of a Stock of Game than if he could hit *eleven farthings* out of *twelve*, thrown at several times into the Air: these desperate *Marksmen* are very apt to keep *their hands in* by killing Game unknown to their Employers, and what perhaps is first sent as a Present to a Friend, soon becomes an object of *merchandise*, and readily finds its way to Market, through the medium of the *Coachmen*† and *Guards* to *Mail* and other Coaches‡, (the *Higglers* generally deal with *Poachers* themselves||.) These gentlemen, in conjunction with the *Porters* of the different Inns where they arrive at, carry on almost a *public traffic* in this article of Game, and at Prices which render it astonishing how *Purchasers* are to be met with; viz. *four* and *five* shillings (and sometimes as high as *eight*) a brace for *Partridges*, *twelve* to *sixteen* for *Pheasants*, and from *five* to *seven* shillings and *sixpence* for a *Hare*.

* To encourage their Vigilance and Skill, so much per head for *Hawks*, *Crows*, *Magpies*, *brown Owls*, *Dogs*, *Cats*, *Stoats*, &c. should be allowed.

† The Gamekeeper (after having sold them one Partridge) is placed, with *these Purveyors* of Game, in the same predicament as a Revenue-Officer, after having once touched a bribe from a Smuggler; both are completely in the Power of the *buyer* and *briber*, and must proceed, under the dread of being reported to their different Employers, if they hesitate or refuse.

‡ The Numbers and Rapidity of these Vehicles can now bring Game from the remotest corners of the kingdom to the Metropolis in marketable Condition; formerly this was impossible. In an old Newspaper dated about *Fifty* years back there was an Advertisement, announcing to the Public, that a Stage Coach would set off from the *Blue Boar*, Holborn, on the first *Day* of each *Month*, for EDINBURGH, in which City, (God willing,) it would arrive on the *Fifteenth*, and return to LONDON on the *Thirtieth*.

|| Sometimes Detection in the Sale of Game takes place, and the Penalties are heavily but very properly inflicted. One *Arnold* at Hargrave near Bury, was in February 1803 fined £.100 for buying *Pheasants* from *Poachers*.

The *Poulterers** too take any Quantity, notwithstanding the *Statute* expressly made to deter them from having Game even in their *Possession* upon *any pretext*; and it is a Fact, that two Persons, in *two Seasons*, shared upward of *fifteen hundred pounds* (after deducting all *Expences*) for Game purchased at very inferior prices from the *Poachers*, who caught it in the Country, by forwarding and selling it to the *London Poulterers*†, who again supply the Taverns, Coffee-houses, &c. where it is a regular Article in the *Bill of Fare*. (The Association for the Preservation of the Game all over *England* have here an ample and proper field for their most strenuous Exertions.) Some years since, one of the Proprietors of a certain Stage Coach told the Compiler, in the month of October, that he had discharged a Coachman who had driven for him many years, upon discovering that the Day before the first of the preceding September he had conveyed to Town so many Partridges, that, had an Information been laid, would have subjected them to Penalties amounting to upwards of 1000*l.*‡.

* The Poulterers Company were incorporated A. D. 1503. Their Livery Fine is £.20, and take their Precedency, *Thirty-fourth* among the Livery of London.

† One mode of supplying the *Poulterers* and *Fishmongers* is by Gentlemen who send Hares, Pheasants and Partridges to them, and receive an Equivalent in Poultry and Fish during their residence in Town. Allowing these Sportsmen do not truck their Commodities for *Money*, they are, in the proper sense of the Words, nothing less than Higglers, Dealers and Chapmen, for although an *Exchange* is affirmed to be no Robbery, yet it was never denied to be a Sale, and the Act of *selling Game* is illegal in *any Person whatever*. Besides, Gentlemen must allow these *Poulterers* and *Fishmongers* to bear their Names as a Qualification in case of being informed against for having Game in their *Possession*, and which is a Cover for *all* that comes into their Hands from the *Poacher*.

‡ When the *Game Licences* were first imposed, it was suggested to lay a small Tax upon the *Transit* of Game in lieu of them, to be under the Controul of the *Stamp-Office*, and no Game to be carried, upon any pretence whatever, without a *stamped Ticket*; for instance, *twopence* a *Partridge*, *fourpence* a *Hare*, and from *four* to *sixpence* a *Pheasant*, and proportionably for *Moor Game*; and either party *sending* or *receiving* Game, or in whose hands Game *in transitu* should be found without a *stamped ticket*, to be liable to *ten pounds* penalty: the whole to go to the Informer, and allowing Sender or Receiver to be Informer, and the Informer to be a *competent Witness*. The *Expence* would have been no object to any person forwarding Presents to

Some Gentlemen hire persons to shoot by the *head**; this description of *Gamekeepers* requires to be narrowly watched, otherwise they rob all the Manors contiguous to *that* for which they are deputed. The field Equipage of a *Gamekeeper* of this class for *Shooting*, is usually one or more *Greyhounds*, a *Pointer*, a couple of *Beagles*, and as many *Spaniels* or *Terriers*: *Ut quocunque paratus*, is his Motto, and he is moreover attended by half the Rabble of the Village.

A *Gamekeeper* should not be allowed to break any Dogs but those of his Master, or for his own immediate use; the Birds will be quite enough disturbed in their *pairing* Season with the hunting of *them*, without having a *Relay* to break for Strangers, to introduce still further confusion. Neither should he be a *frequent*er of the Alehouse. *Landlords* are too

Friends, or receiving Game from the Country for his own use; particularly, as the measure would, in all probability, have increased his supply, since it would have gone far to have annihilated *Poaching*, or at least the great Encouragers of it, namely, *Stage Coachmen*, *Poulterers*, *Guards*, *Porters*, *Higglers*, &c. These Persons are, it is true, already prohibited from having Game in their Possession; but it would have thrown additional Difficulties in the way of passing it from *hand to hand without detection*, as now is almost openly done. Tickets might have been delivered by Stamp Distributors, &c. in such parcels as to have suited all Persons applying for them; and the Revenue would have received a very considerable Augmentation beyond what it derives from the *Certificates*.

The following is the Way-Bill of the *In and Outside Passengers* of one of the Norwich Coaches which arrived on Christmas-Eve, 1803, at Lad-Lane. (The *private* and *poached* Passengers under the Care of the Guard and Driver do not find a place in this Account.) *Hares* 154, *Pheasants* 163, *Partridges* 189. To these Articles of *Game* are to be added by the same Conveyance, *Woodcocks* 34, *Snipes* 149, *Wild-Fowl* 72, *Turkies* 72, *Chines* 57, Chains of *Sausages* 65, ditto *Black-puddings* 43, and Sides of *Pork* 18.

* Most probably of this Class was the one employed at *Branceforth Castle* in the County of Durham, who, we are told, during the Season of 1802, killed *Eight* Partridges at one Shot, being the *whole* of the Covey.

Somewhat in the *same line*, although a trifle more of the *Marvellous*, is the Account of a Gentleman Shooting in *East Lothian* in September 1805, and who killed *three* Partridges and a *Hare* at a single Discharge of *one Barrel*. We will not suppose the Operator so little of a Sportsman as to fire upon the *Ground* at the Birds his Dog was pointing, yet unless he did so, the *Gun* he used must have been one of those that *kill, in all Directions*.

often connected with the *Poachers*, more especially if any Stage-coaches stop at the House to water the Horses, or rather to barter for any Game which is collected for *Jehu*, who sometimes condescends to admit *Boniface* into a share of the *Profits*, but most commonly employs him only as an *Agent*. It is his Interest, therefore, to encourage the coming of the Gamekeeper to his House, and protract his Stay, when there, all in his power, whilst his friends, the *Poachers*, are making the most of their time in the particular *Preserves* upon the Manor, which nothing but being well *studded* with *Man-traps* can, in such cases, secure from their Depredations.

The Game Establishment of King JAMES Ist. A. D. 1614, and the Account of the Person whose Portrait is given under the title Gamekeeper, will be here inserted; and with some Remarks upon the *Appointment of Gamekeepers*, and a brief Account of their Opponents the *Poachers*, this Subject will be concluded.

To John Banckes, Keeper of the Warren, called Wilbraham Bushes, in Com. Cantabr. 2s. per diem, and for keeping the Game ten Miles circuit, 2s. more per diem, 73l.

To Gilbert Wood, Keeper of the Hare Warren at Hampton Court, 2s. per diem, 36l. 10s.

To Alexander Glover, Keeper of the Game about Lambeth and Clapham, 12d. per diem, and 26s. 8d. per annum for his livery, 19l. 11s. 8d.

To Robert Moore, Keeper of the Game about Oatlands, 12d. per diem, 18l. 5s.

To Henry Beswick, Keeper of the *Swanns* in St. James's Park, 12d. per diem, and 22s. 6d. per ann. for his livery, 19l. 7s. 6d.

To the Lady Barwick, and John her Son, for keeping the KING's



GAME KEEPER.

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House at Thetford, 12*d.* by the day; and for keeping the garden there, 12*d.* by the day. In all, by the year, 36*l.* 10*s.*

To Thomas Cockeine, Keeper of the Hares at Roiston, and 12 Miles circuit; and for keeping the Game at Thetford, and 7 miles circuit, 2*s.* per diem, 36*l.* 10*s.*

To John Coward, and John his Son, Keepers of the Game at Thetford, 12*d.* per diem, 18*l.* 5*s.*

JOSEPH MAN was born within the last Century, at Poles Walden, in Hertfordshire; in which County he was, at an early age, employed as a *Gamekeeper*. When Nineteen years old, a violent Fever changed his hair to *grey* in one Night; so that at the time of being hired, in the year 1733, by P. Viscount TORRINGTON, as Huntsman, he had the appearance of an elderly Man. He remained in the family of three Viscounts TORRINGTON, from the year 1733 to the year 1777, generally as Huntsman; sometimes as Gamekeeper. Stout and bony, he continued in unwearied Exercise, a perfect Adept in Shooting, Hare hunting, and in the arts of preserving Game. Domesticated so long in the same Family, and attentive to the same Sports, he was looked upon by the Neighbours as a Prodigy; was known far and near as *Old Joe Man*, and was called by all the Country people *Daddy*. He was in constant, strong, morning Exercise; he went to bed always betimes; but never till his skin was filled with Ale. This, he said, "*Would do no harm to an early Riser, (he was ever up at day-break,) and to a Man who pursued field Sports.*" At Seventy-eight years of age he began to decline, and then lingered for three years: his Gun was ever upon his Arm; and he still crept about, not destitute of the hope of fresh Diversion.

Another eccentric Character died in 1804, at the age of Seventy, at Holkham Hall, the Seat of Mr. COKE, with whom he had lived Gamekeeper many years. HAWKESWORTH never associated with, or spoke to

any person, unless he was first addressed. He was very penurious, and had accumulated a considerable Fortune, which he had hid from the fear of Invasion; and his Death was supposed to be occasioned by depriving himself of sufficient Nourishment. Mr. COKE annually furnished him with proper Clothing; but his Dress was of the most miserable kind, and he always wore an old *painted* Hat, patched over with pieces of Cloth. The *Liveries* he had by him at the time of his Decease, and which had never been worn, are estimated to be worth *one hundred pounds*. Amongst the Neighbours he was known by the title of the *Walking Obelisk*.

Statutes concerning Gamekeepers.

GAMEKEEPERS were first introduced by the present Qualification act, 22 & 23 Car. II. c. 25. and various regulations have been made respecting them by subsequent Statutes. As all these Statutes seem to be in force in some degree at present, and as it is a subject interesting to Sportsmen, a short abstract of them, according to their Chronology, will be acceptable.

The Stat. 22 & 23 Car. II. c. 25. authorises Lords of Manors of the *Degree of an Esquire*, to appoint, under their hands and seals, Gamekeepers who shall have power *within* the Manor, to seize guns, nets, and engines, kept by unqualified persons to destroy Game*; and by a warrant from a Justice of Peace, to search in the Day-time the Houses of *unqualified* persons, upon good ground of suspicion, and to seize for the use of the Lord, or to destroy guns, nets, &c. kept for the destruction of Game. This Statute merely authorises Gamekeepers to use the necessary means towards the *preservation* of Game, but does not empower them to *kill it*.

By 5 Ann. c. 14. s. 14. Lords and Ladies of Manors are authorised to

* It is here observable, that Gamekeepers are not empowered to seize *Game itself*, but only the Instruments of its Destruction.

empower their Gamekeepers to *kill* Game, but prohibited the latter, under pain of *three months* Imprisonment, from selling or disposing of the Game so killed, without the Consent of the Lord or Lady, under whose Appointment they acted.

By a clause in this last Act, Lords of Manors might appoint *an indefinite number* of Gamekeepers; but the *evil policy* of this unlimited permission was speedily perceived: instead of *Game-keepers*, they became *Game-destroyers*; it was therefore provided by 9 *Ann.* c. 25. that no Lord or Lady of any Manor should appoint above *one Gamekeeper*, with power to kill game within *one* Manor, and the Name of such person shall be entered with the Clerk of the Peace; such Entry to be made and received without Fee.

And by Stat. 3 *Geo.* I. c. 11. no Lord of a Manor is to make or appoint any person to be a Gamekeeper, with power to take and kill Game, unless such person be *qualified by law* so to do, *or* be truly and properly a *Servant* to the Lord, *or* immediately employed to take and kill Game, for the *sole use or benefit* of the said Lord; and any person *not qualified*, *or not employed* as aforesaid, who, under pretence of any Qualification from any Lord of a Manor, shall take and kill, or keep or use any Dogs to kill or destroy Game, shall, for every such offence, incur such penalties as are inflicted by Stats. 5 *Ann.* c. 14. 9 *Ann.* c. 25.—By this last Statute, no Gamekeeper can qualify any person to kill Game, or keep Dogs, &c. for that purpose.

By Stats. 25 *Geo.* III. c. 50. 31 *Geo.* III. c. 21. every Deputation of a Gamekeeper shall be entered with the Clerk of the Peace of the County in which the Manor lies, and for a Certificate thereof shall be charged one Guinea.

On the Appointment of a new Gamekeeper, a *new* Certificate must

be taken out, and the persons acting under the *old* Certificate shall be liable to the penalties of this Act.

Gamekeepers are enumerated among the different descriptions of Servants, *chargeable with the duty* under 25 Geo. III. c. 43.

Adjudged Cases.

If a Gamekeeper shoot an *unqualified* person's Dog, who thereupon shoots the Gamekeeper's, and behaves insolently, the Judge will direct very considerable Damage. 2 *Atkyns' Rep.* 190.

Although by Stat. 22 & 23 Car. II. c. 25. s. 2. a Gamekeeper (so authorised) may search for Dogs and Engines, and seize the same for the use of the Lord, or destroy them; yet it hath been adjudged, that an Authority from the Lord of the Manor is not of itself sufficient for this purpose, but that he ought to have a Warrant from a Justice of Peace. *Comberbach* 183. *Carpenter v. Adams*. At least it may be safe to have such a Warrant, especially if any Houses are to be entered and searched; for it would be to allow too great a stretch of Power to Gamekeepers, to permit them, in their vigilant discretion, to search whatever houses or places they should think proper; as also to constitute them Judges, whether the person falling under their Suspicion *is or is not qualified* to kill Game.

Rogers v. Carter. The plaintiff being Gamekeeper within the Manor of *Ringwood*, in beating for Game within the said Manor sprung a covey of Partridges, which he shot at within the said Manor. They took a second flight, and he pursued them *out* of the Manor, but could not find them. As he was returning to the Manor of *Ringwood*, he was met by the defendant, who asked if he had a Qualification? The plaintiff answered, I have a deputation from the Lord of the Manor of *Ringwood*.

The defendant replied, you are now out of the Manor; and demanded his Gun, and took it from him. The plaintiff did not shoot out of the Manor, but was three quarters of a mile out of the Manor with his Gun and Dog, with an intention to shoot at Game. BY THE COURT.—The question is, whether the Justice had a right to take the plaintiff's Gun from him, while he was sporting for the purpose of killing game out of the Manor of Ringwood? And we are all of Opinion he had no such right. If he had killed Game where he was not a Gamekeeper, he might have been convicted in the penalty of 5*l.* but he was entitled to keep and have Dogs, Gun, and Nets, any where; and a Gamekeeper's Gun cannot be seized, either in *going to* or *returning from* the Manor, or in *any other place*. 2 *Wils.* 387.

The Lord of a *Hundred* or *Wapentake* cannot grant a deputation to a Gamekeeper. *The Earl of Ailesbury v. Pattison.* 1 *Dougl.* 28.

No Lord of a Manor can grant to *another person* the Power of appointing a Gamekeeper, without a Conveyance also of *the Manor itself*. Such a power is a mere Emanation of the Manor, and is inseparable from it. A right to a Manor cannot be tried in a penal action under the Game laws. *Calcraft v. Gibbs*, 5 *T. R.* 19.

In the case of *Jones v. Smart*, WILLES, J. said, that the Lord of a Manor is certainly not an *Esquire* by virtue of his Manor, though in common Acceptation he be considered as such; and that no Lord of a Manor under *that Rank* can appoint a Gamekeeper, whatever *his Estate* may be, 1 *T. R.* 44*.

It seems, *Gentlemen* receiving Deputations to be *Gamekeepers* are not chargeable with the Duty on Servants, under 25 *Geo. III. c. 43.* Several

* Sir THOMAS GAGE claims and exercises a Paramount *Free Warren* over all the extensive Manors in Suffolk, from *Ipswich* nearly to *Newmarket*. His Keepers invariably go upon each at the beginning of the Season, and kill a *single bird*, merely to maintain this singular Supremacy.

Lords of Manors granted Deputations to divers Gentlemen to be *Gamekeepers* within their respective Manors; and being surcharged for the said Gentlemen Gamekeepers, they appealed against the Surcharge. The Surveyor urged, that in the terms of the Act, all Gamekeepers are rateable without distinction or exception; and that they, therefore, in their present Capacity as Gamekeepers, could have no pretence to any Exemption: but the Commissioners were of opinion, that the said Gentlemen, considered as Gamekeepers, did not come within the meaning of the Act as Servants, and therefore not rateable; and with that Opinion the Judges concurred.

By the act passed in the year 1716, it is stated that “Whereas it is become usual for Lords of Manors to grant Deputations to the Farmers, Tenants, and Occupiers of lands, to be Gamekeepers, with power to kill Game; which practice tends to the destruction of the same: for remedy whereof, be it enacted, that no Lord of a Manor shall appoint any Gamekeeper, with power to *kill game*, unless such person be *qualified* by the Laws of the Land so to do; or unless such person be truly and properly a *Servant* to the said lord, or immediately employed to *kill game*, for the *sole use* of the said lord.” It appears, therefore, as plain as any enacting words can make it, that Gamekeepers, unless qualified by the possession of *one hundred pounds a year*, real Property, are liable to all the Penalties against sporting illegally; and the lords of Manors granting Deputations to such Farmers, Tenants, or Occupiers of Land, are themselves liable to the Penalty of not entering them *annually* with the Assessors, and paying the Tax on each Gamekeeper, agreeably to the express words in the *Act, taxing Male-servants*. The Lord’s appointment is destroyed by a two-fold species of fraud against the Revenue; first, by the Master not paying for his Gamekeeper as a Servant; secondly, in taking out a *Guinea Licence* for him as a *Gamekeeper*, when the person ought to have a *three guinea Certificate*, to warrant his attempting to *sport at all*. *One guinea* only is paid by this Manœuvre, when the Revenue is entitled to *four*. The Stamp Office would do well to look to this, which the *Parochial returns*

of Servants by their Masters, and their own List of Gamekeepers *Certificates*, would render no difficult task; and by an act passed the tenth of May 1798, a penalty of 30*l.* is inflicted on any person omitting to deliver in a List containing the greatest number of Servants by him retained or kept. By the same Act a duty of six shillings is payable for every greyhound, hound, pointer, setting-dog, or spaniel, lurcher, or terrier; and a duty of four shillings payable on every dog (not being a greyhound, hound, setting-dog, spaniel, lurcher, or terrier,) where one such dog, and no more, is kept. And a penalty of 50*l.* against any person *wilfully omitting* any Description in his List of Dogs, to be by him delivered in according to the Act.

THE sentimental Novel writer of the present day, without Invention or real knowledge of Mankind, dresses up some Narrative with affected maxims of exquisite Sensibility, and endeavours to influence the passions, and mislead the understandings, of the rising Generation, with direful Stories of the *ingenuous Peasant*, torn from his *weeping Parents*, or his *distracted Bride*, and either hurried into a loathsome dungeon, or banished to an unhealthy climate, only for the murder of a *Hare* or a *Partridge*. In Contradiction to these fictitious tales of Woe, hear the *Truth* from the remarks of our JUDGES, almost every *Circuit*, upon the Offences which *Poaching* and *Smuggling* are sure to inculcate and cherish, until at length brought under their Cognizance: unfortunately, their Admonitions have little weight to deter from the Practice, however verified by the too frequent exercise of even *Capital Punishment*, as its Consequence. A remedy should be seriously tried, which should attach upon the *Receiver* of the Spoil; and if the Penalty of *five pounds* for destroying a single Partridge, &c. be inflicted upon the actual offender in catching it, this Sum ought to be multiplied *five fold* to the person who *purchases it, be he whom he may*. Pass a Law to this effect, and allow the *Informer* to be a sufficient Evidence against the *Buyer*, and the *whole Penalty* to go to him, the Traffic will be checked, and the public Morals be benefited, however less luxuri-

ously the Appetites of some parts of the Community may be regaled and pampered.

That laws should be made to prevent the man whose Family depends entirely on his Labour for support, from quitting his *flail*, his *plough*, or his *spade*, to range the Woods for a precarious Subsistence, by the destruction of Animals, must be conceded by all, who contribute to the Fund which is exacted to support the *indigent* in this Country; and the Writer, who paints in his *Closet* the *hardship* of the Husbandman, in being restrained from capturing these *feræ naturæ*, would, in his *Parlour*, be amongst the foremost to grumble at the demand of an increased Rate, occasioned by the Families of half a dozen *Poachers* coming suddenly upon the *Parish Purse*, to which he paid.

Of *Poachers* committing Murder, there have been many instances; one, some few years since at Lord BUCKINGHAMSHIRE's in Norfolk*; and another so recently as November 1805, when WILLIAM BAKER, Gamekeeper to Lord SELSEY, of West Down, in Sussex, was murdered in his Lordship's Woods, called *Badger's Ditches*. He had found a *Snare*, and with an Assistant had concealed themselves near it. When the *Poachers* came in the Morning, they perceived they were laid wait for, and after one of them exclaiming "Ah! Ah! are you there?" BAKER was immediately fired at. His Companion ran out of the Cover to procure Aid, and on his return found the Keeper quite *dead*, having received the whole

* A Peer suffered for a Murder committed by a Gang of Deer-stealers, whom he had thoughtlessly attended. The Occurrence happened A. D. 1542, when Lord DACRES going in a Frolic to steal Deer from the Park of Sir NICHOLAS PELHAM, was accused of having murdered a Park-keeper, although he had parted from those who did the Deed. Unhappily he was advised to acknowledge the Fact, in hopes of a Pardon; but he was deceived, and, notwithstanding his fate was much lamented, he was Executed.

At the Northampton Assizes, 1803, *George Bacon* was tried for shooting at, and desperately wounding, one of the Gamekeepers of the Marquis of EXETER. At the York Spring Assizes, 1804, *James Carr* was tried for a similar offence upon one of the Earl of CARLISLE's Keepers: both these Culprits had the good fortune to escape by the Verdicts of very *merciful* Juries.

Charge in his Body. A considerable Reward was offered, and a Man of the name of *John Bradston* absconded directly after the Murder, but no Discovery has yet been made. In 1798 the Duke of *RICHMOND*'s Life was threatened, and Fire denounced against his Grace's and other Gentlemen's Property: for discovering of the Offenders a Reward of 2800*l.* was offered upon their Conviction. In Norfolk it has been known, that the *Norwich* Poachers have gone so numerous and well armed, that when the Gamekeepers of the different Manors upon which they have entered, and their helpers, have opposed them, they have candidly told them the business they came upon, and their determination to effect it by Force; and if the keepers chose to begin the Engagement, they were properly prepared, and would not be the last to leave off*. With these facts, and a very numerous Catalogue of a similar complexion, a Gentleman, well known for his general Philanthropy, asks "if ever the *Character* or *Sufferings* of a real systematic *Poacher* could entitle him to a *Tear*, even from that most sentimental of all sentimental Heroes, the *Man of Feeling* himself?" *MENOU*'s Soldiers in *Egypt* were not more blood-thirsty when primed with *brandy* and *gunpowder*, before the attack upon what they termed the *English School-boys*, than our *Poachers*, when starting in an Evening, after being muddled all day in an Alehouse, are ripe for any Mischief that they can perpetrate†. Of the Extent of a Poacher's labours in his voca-

* Lord *SUFFIELD* has been able to break up one of these Associations. This Party, consisting of *Thirteen*, in January last, were destroying the *Pheasants*, when attacked by his Lordship's Keepers and their Assistants. The *Poachers* fired and wounded four Men, a desperate Battle ensued, and *three* of the *Poachers* were secured upon the spot, and most of the others were apprehended shortly after. At the Spring Assizes for Norfolk, *George Walter*, *Stephen Tillett*, *John Boyers*, *Edmund Gaskings*, *Thomas Wiley*, and *Thomas Goose*, were indicted on the *BLACK ACT* for shooting at *John Worts*, one of the Gamekeepers. They were all capitally convicted, and Sentence of Death passed upon them, but were afterwards reprieved.

† The following is a curious Proof with what determined Resolution a *Poacher* perseveres in his Calling. During a *Snow* in 1804, a noted Poacher was shooting at a Covey of Partridges on the Manors of Worthen and Brockton; the Gun burst and terribly shattered his left hand. On his way home he was met by a Neighbour, who observed his Hand bleeding freely, and inquired the Cause: the other replied, "The Gun has burst and blown off two of my *Fingers*; but never mind that, Mun, I ha' got the *Birds*."

tion, a display was made in 1793, upon searching the house of a Farmer in Yorkshire, when a great quantity of Snares and other Implements were found, and *fifteen hundred Hare skins*, to all appearance killed that Season; and, to crown the whole, the Culprit was the *Constable* of the Parish, and *openly* extremely alert against Offenders of his own Class.

In 1795, at Barnstaple, in Devonshire, at the age of 96, died Mrs. BARBARA SNELGROVE, the most noted *Female Poacher* (until upwards of 94) that the *Century*, or perhaps any preceding one, ever produced. The Skill of *Granny Bab*, (the name she was known by,) in taking all kinds of Game, was never surpassed; she frequently boasted of selling Fish to Gentlemen taken out of their own Ponds, and Game from their own Manors; her Coffin and Shroud she kept in her Apartments *twenty* years previous to her Decease: *Mementos* seldom even in the recollection of *Male Poachers*, and for the most part provided for *them* at the *Parish* Expence.

Woodcocks,

although not cognizable by the *Game Laws*, are Birds which afford the Sportsman as much, or perhaps more Diversion, than any that are objects of their immediate Protection.

Woodcocks are birds of Passage, and appear about *Michaelmas*, (one was shot in *Lincolnshire*, in July 1801; but this probably was a bird bred in the Country; and on the 20th of May 1805, Sir T. CARR's Game-keeper killed, near Crawley in Sussex, *two couple* of Woodcocks, which is an extraordinary circumstance so *early* in the year, supposing them to have been bred here,) and leave this country in *March*; they are Inhabitants of the *Alps*, and other high Mountains, (where, according to WILLOUGHBY, they continue all *Summer*;) also of *Norway*, *Sweden*, *Polish Prussia*, *Russia*, the northern parts of *Europe*, *Kamtschatka*, as well as *Iceland*; and generally found through the old Continent and its Isles: from the cold Coun-



WOODCOCKS.

Ardeotis arborea Linn. & *Ardeotis arborea* Linn.

tries they all retire the beginning of Winter, so soon as the Frosts commence, which force them into milder Climates, where the ground is open, and adapted to their manner of feeding. The time of their appearance and disappearance in *Sweden* coincides exactly with that of their arrival in, and return from, *Great Britain*. Their *Autumnal* and *Vernal* appearances on the Coast of *Suffolk* have been accurately noted; they come over sparingly in the first week in *October*, the greater numbers not arriving until *November* and *December*, and always after Sunset. It is the *Wind*, and not the *Moon*, that determines the time of their Arrival; and it is probable that this should be the case, as they come hither in quest of Food, which fails them in the places they leave: if the Wind has favoured their Flight, their stay on the Coast where they drop is very *short*, if any; but if they have been forced to struggle with an adverse Gale, such as a Ship can hardly make any way with, they rest a Day or two, to recover their fatigue. So greatly has their Strength been exhausted, that they have been taken by hand in *Southwold* Streets; they do not come *gregari-ously*, but separate and dispersed. When the *Red-wing** appears in

* The *Red-wing* is in length near eight inches, and weighs two ounces and a quarter; the bill is of a dark brown, but the under mandible whitish at the base; irides deep hazel; the plumage in general is similar to that of the *Thrush*, but a white streak over the eye, almost to the hind head, distinguishes it from that bird; the belly is not quite so much spotted, and the sides of the body, and under the wings, are an *Orange red*, which is its peculiar characteristic, and from whence it derives its name. *Red-wings* appear in this Kingdom in vast flocks a few days *preceding* the arrival of the *Fieldfares*; they are seen with them afterwards, frequenting the same places, eating the same food, and coinciding with them in their general manners, usually accompanying them in all their Migrations, and are found with the *Fieldfares* in breeding time in the most Northern parts of the Continent: like the *Fieldfare*, it leaves us in the Spring, for which reason its Song is quite unknown to us, but is said to be very pleasing. This species breeds in *Sweden*, inhabiting the forests that abound in *Maple* trees, where, perched upon their highest tops, it sings delightfully; the Nest is placed in some low shrub or hedge, and the Female lays six greenish blue eggs, spotted with black. In the *Southern* Countries it does great injury to the Vineyards.

Red-wings and *Fieldfares* are supposed to be the *Turdi* of the ROMANS, who held them in such Estimation, that thousands of them were kept together in *Aviaries*, and fed with a paste made of bruised figs and flour, and various other kinds of food, to improve the flavour and delicacy of their flesh. These *Aviaries* were so contrived as to admit light barely sufficient to direct them to their food, every object being carefully kept out of sight that might disturb the

Autumn, on the *Suffolk Coast*, the *Woodcocks* are certainly *at hand*; when

Repose necessary for their improvement; under this management these birds fattened, to the great profit of their Proprietors, who sold them to *Roman Epicures*, for three *denarii*, or about *two shillings sterling*, each.

The *Fieldfare* is in length, ten, in breadth, seventeen inches, and weighs four ounces; the bill is yellowish with a black tip, and each corner of the mouth is furnished with a few black bristly hairs; the eye is light brown; the crown of the head and back part of the neck are of a light ash colour, the former spotted with black; the back and coverts of the wings, chesnut brown; rump, ash-coloured; quills cinereous with pale edges; the throat and breast yellowish inclined to rufous, each feather being more or less brown in the middle, and regularly spotted with black: the belly, thighs, and vent, dusky white; tail, black brown; legs, yellowish brown, in young birds, *yellow*; the *male* and *female* are much alike. This bird is by some called the *Pigeon Fieldfare*.

The *Fieldfare* is, like the *Redwing*, only a Visitant, making its appearance about the beginning of *October*, sooner or later, according to the approaching Rigour of the season in the *North*, from whence it sometimes comes into *England* in prodigious flocks; but in mild Winters few are seen: they leave us about the latter end of *February*, or early in *March*, and retire to *Sweden*, *Russia*, *Norway*, and as far as *Siberia* and *Kamtschatka*; in the former of these Countries, according to LINNÆUS, it builds in high trees, and frequents the places where *Junipers* grow. A nest was once found at *Paddington*, near *London*. Vide *Harl. Miscel.* ii. 561, and *Barrington Misc.* p. 221.

BUFFON observes, "that *Fieldfares* do not arrive in *France* until the beginning of *December*, that they assemble in flocks of two or three thousand, and feed on ripe *Cervices*, of which they are extremely fond." *Fieldfares* are sometimes seen singly, but usually form numerous flocks, and fly in a body. Though they often spread themselves through the meadows in search of food, they seldom lose sight of each other; but when alarmed, fly off, and collect together upon the same Tree. During their winter stay with us, they feed on *haws*, *holly* and other berries, and likewise eat *worms*, *snails*, and *slugs*: the flesh is good, though sometimes apt to be bitter.

In the *History of Selborne*, Mr. WHITE says, "it has always been matter of wonder to me, that *Fieldfares*, which are so congenerous to *Thrushes* and *Blackbirds*, should never chuse to breed in *England*; but that they should not think even the *Highlands*, cold, and northerly, and sequestered enough, is a circumstance still more strange. The *Ring-ousel* stays in *Scotland* the whole year, so that we have reason to conclude the *Migrators* (of that species) that visit us every *Autumn* for a short space, do not come from thence." Mr. W. likewise mentions a particular anecdote of *Fieldfares*, "that although they sit on Trees in the Day-time, and procure the greatest portion of their food from *White-thorn* hedges, and moreover build in very lofty Trees, yet always appear with us, to roost on the ground: they are seen to come in flocks, just before it is dark, and to settle among the *Heath* on the Forest; and besides, the *Larkers*, in dragging their Nets by Night, frequently catch them in the *Wheat-stubbles*, while the *Bat-fowlers*, who take many *Redwings* in the *Hedges*, never entangle any of this species. Why these birds in the matter of

the *Royston Crow**, they are come. Between the *twelfth* and *twenty-fifth* of *March*, they throng towards the Coast to be ready for their Departure; the *first* Law of Nature bringing them in *Autumn*; the *second* carrying them from us in *Spring*. If the Wind be propitious, they are gone immediately; but if contrary, they are detained in the neighbouring Woods, or among the Ling and Furze on the Coast. It is in this Crisis that the Sportsman finds extraordinary diversion; the whole Country around echoes with the discharge of Guns; seventeen Couple have been killed by one person in a Day; but if they are kept any time on the dry Heaths, they become so lean, as not to be worth pursuing, at least, eating. The instant a fair Wind springs up, they seize the opportunity; and where the Sportsman has seen *hundreds* one Day, he will not find a *single bird* the next. As this extra Sport depends on the *Winds*, it must necessarily be precarious; and it accordingly sometimes happens that the Sportsmen on the Coast, for some years together, know not precisely the time of the

Roosting should differ from all their Congeners, and from themselves also with respect to their proceedings by *Day*, is a fact, (continues Mr. W.) for which I am by no means able to account."

* The *Royston*, or *hooded Crow*, is somewhat larger than the *Rook*, is twenty-two inches in length, and twenty-three in breadth. The bill is black, and two inches long; the irides hazel; the head, forepart of the neck, wings and tail, are of a fine glossy blue black; the bottom of the toes broad and flat, to enable them to walk without sinking on marshy and muddy grounds, which they much haunt. This is an elegant Species, and sufficiently plentiful during *Winter*. In divers parts of *England*, it arrives with the *Woodcock*, and on its first coming keeps near the Shores of Rivers; it departs with the *Woodcock* at the approach of Spring, to breed in other Countries, (in the more Northern ones many of them continue the whole Year;) but it is said they do not all leave us, as they have been seen during the *Summer Months* in the mountainous Counties of the *Northern* parts of our Island. In *Scotland* they remain the whole Year, and is the only Species in the *Scottish Isles* and great part of the *Highlands*, growing scarcer the nearer we approach to the *South*. The Manners of these Birds coincide with those of both the *Crow* and the *Rook*; with the *former* feeding at times on *Carrion*, and frequenting the borders of Rivers, for the sake of the *Offal* cast on shore, *Shell-fish*, *Sea-worms*, and other marine productions, and actuated by the same inclination to do mischief among defenceless young Birds, and other Animals. (In the *Elements of Natural History* they are described not only as picking out the Eyes of *Lambs*, but of *Horses*, when entangled in Bogs.) On the other hand, like the *Rook*, they are often content with *Insects*, *seeds*, and *berries*. They are gregarious, but in the breeding Season separate into pairs, build in trees, lay six eggs, and are much attached to their Offspring: after that period they again unite in bands, and are often seen in small flocks near *London*, where, from being supposed a useful Bird, they are seldom much persecuted.

Woodcocks departing; they have the same Harbingers (the *Red-wings*) in Spring as in Autumn. A similar abundance is found (at the same periods of their approach and retiring) upon the *Essex* coast, especially in the large Woods at St. Osyth.

Upon the *Sussex* Coast *Woodcocks* have been seen at their first dropping, in considerable numbers, in the Church-yard, and even in the Streets, of *Rye*; but during the Night, the usual time of their flying, they removed further inland, and dispersed. At their first coming on that coast, they are commonly poor, as if wasted by their long Journey, and are sometimes *scurfy*, though not so much as before their return in the Spring; and it is remarkable, that when the *Woodcock* first arrives, the Taste of its Flesh is quite different from what it is afterwards; it is very white, short, and tender, and seems to have little or no Blood in it; but after it has been in this Country a considerable time, the Flesh becomes more tough, stringy, and fibrous, like that of *domestic* fowls. If a *Woodcock* is shot just before his Departure, it bleeds *plentifully*; whereas, at the beginning of Winter, scarcely any Blood flows from the wounds: by this it seems, that in those Countries, where they have their Summer residence, they have a different Nourishment to what they here find. Probably the luxuriant and succulent Food which they meet with among us prepares them for breeding in those Countries, where they retire with the Companions of their choice.

By the short Flights which *Woodcocks* take when flushed in our Woods, they do not appear fond of using their Wings *long together*, yet they certainly come from places far distant: those which arrive on the *Sussex* coast, it is most likely, proceed by way of *Normandy* * and the adjacent Provinces, as others do from *Germany* to the *Eastern* Coasts; but *whence* do they come to our *Western*, where they abound more than

* Mr. WHITE, in his History of *Selborne*, as a proof that Birds of less Speed in their Flight than the *Woodcock* may pass the *German Ocean* in Moonshiny Nights from *Scandinavia*, says, that as some persons were shooting in the Parish of *Trotton*, in the County of *Sussex*, they killed a *Duck* in the dreadful Winter, 1708-9, with a Silver Collar round its Neck, on which were engraven the Arms of the King of DENMARK. This was strictly a Fact, and the Collar was in the Possession of the Rector of *Trotton*.

in other parts of the Kingdom? and whence to *Ireland*, where they are much more numerous than in *England*? Do they *first* alight in *Ireland*, and then come to us? or do they pass *over* from us to *Ireland*, and there continue as their *ne plus ultra*? It has been said, that it was possible for some to reach *Ireland* from *North America*; but it should be recollected, that our Species of *Woodcock* is unknown in that Country: a kind is there found that has the *general* appearance of it, but which is scarcely *half* the Size, and wants the *bars* on the *breast* and *belly*: the Distance between the two Countries might *not* render the difficulty of Transition insuperable; as, like other Birds that are formed for long Flights, their *bones* are very fine and light; some almost as small as those of a Herring, yet at the same time firm and strong.

Woodcocks appear in *Scotland* first on the *Eastern* coasts: they do not arrive in *Breadalbane*, a Central part of the Kingdom, until the beginning or middle of *November*, and do not reach *Ardmaddie*, or any part of the *Western* coast of the *Highlands*, until the latter end of *December* or beginning of *January*; there they continue in plenty until the middle or latter end of *March*, according to the mildness or rigour of the Season, and then disappear at once. In the first of the Season they continue arriving in succession for a Month, and in every County in *Scotland* (where they are found) fly regularly from *East* to *West*. Their first landing-places are in the *Eastern* Counties, such as *Angus*, *Mearns*, &c. and usually about the end of *October*; but their stay in these parts is very short, as Woods are so scarce. *Woodcocks* are very rarely seen in *Caithness*; and there are still fewer in the *Orknies*, or in the more remote *Hebrides*: one or two appear there, as if by accident driven thither by Tempests, but are not *voluntary* migrants. There is no account of *Woodcocks* having ever bred in *Scotland*.

Speaking *generally* of the *Woodcock*'s arrival in *England*, they come in flocks, taking advantage of the *Night*, or a *Mist*; they soon separate, but *pair* before returning to their native haunts: in the same manner as *Woodcocks* quit us, they retire from *France*, *Germany*, and *Italy*, making the

northern and cold situations their universal Summer Rendezvous. They visit *Burgundy* the latter end of *October*, but continue there only four or five weeks; it being a dry Country, they are forced away, for want of sustenance, by the first Frost. In the *Winter*, they are found in vast plenty as far *South* as *Smyrna* and *Aleppo*; during the same Season, in *Barbary*, where the Africans call them the *Ass* of the Partridge. It has been asserted, that some have appeared as far *South* as *Egypt*, which is the remotest Migration to which they can be traced on that side the *Eastern* world; on the other side, they are very common in *Japan*. The *Woodcocks* that resort into the Countries of the *Levant* probably come from the deserts of *Siberia* or *Tartary*, or the cold Mountains of *Armenia*.

In the neighbourhood of *Athens*, Hares and other Game are purchased for little more than the Value of powder and shot. In *Winter* *Woodcocks* abound, descending, after Snow on the mountains, into the plains, and as suddenly retiring if the weather continues severe; they enter the Gardens of the Town in great distress, rather than cross the Sea, and are sometimes caught with the hand. Snipes, Teal, Wigeons, &c. are also very plentiful, and a Party shooting is usually attended by a *Horse* to bring home what they kill.

At *Ciotat*, near *Marseilles*, the *Woodcock* is alledged to be generated by the *Polecat*, a great Destroyer indeed of the feathered race, but not the Producer of any. A small bird, which they call *Putois* (*Polecat*) or *Woodcock's Father*, from the resemblance of its Plumage, is carried on a strong Pole by two Men, as if it were a heavy load; others accompany them, armed with sabres and pistols: this whimsical Procession parades through the Streets of the City; they weigh the Bird in a strong balance, and afterwards sit down at table to divert themselves. This singular Ceremony is annual, and observed the first day of *Nivose*.

In 1798, a *Woodcock*, the first seen in *India*, and which weighed thirty *Sicca rupees*, was shot at *Chittagong*, by a gentleman resident at *Ducca*.

The Existence of this bird in the *East Indies* has been much doubted: it was exposed for the Satisfaction of the Curious, and was then sent to *Bengal*, where it is now preserved*.

Woodcocks have been known to settle upon a Vessel at Sea; Mr. TRAVERS, of *Cornwall*, records one instance: when at a distance from Land, unusual for birds to be seen, a Bird was discovered hovering over the Ship; when first discerned it was high in the air, but gradually descended, and, after taking several Circuits round, at length alighted on the Deck; it was so wearied as to be taken up by the hand: probably this bird had lost its Companions, or, by the force of Winds, was driven from the true aerial Track. In 1799, a couple of Woodcocks, seeking Shelter from a gale of wind, alighted upon the *Glory* Man-of-War, at that time cruising in the Channel.

In their Flight, the *Woodcock*, like other birds, is attracted by a glare of Light, and many instances have occurred, at the *Cromer* and *Eddystone Light-Houses*, of their falling Victims to it: but in 1796, at the Light-House upon the *Hill of Howth*, the Man who attends, whilst trimming his lamps, was surprised by a violent stroke against the outside of the windows, which broke a pane of *Plate-glass* cast for the place, and more than three-eighths of an Inch thick: on examining the Balcony that surrounds the Light, he found a *Woodcock*, which had flown with such Violence as to break his *bill*, *head*, *breast-bone*, and *both wings*: the Man had often found birds which had killed themselves by flying against the Windows, but never before knew the Glass to be injured.

* The Author of the *Wild Sports of the East*, observes, "*Woodcocks* are so extremely scarce that most of the best and oldest Sportsmen doubt whether *one* is to be found in *INDIA*. However, *two* or *three* have to my Knowledge been shot. Indeed, I am greatly mistaken if I did not one Day see *several* *Brace*, as I was following the course of a small Spring through an extensive Jungle of Underwood near *Hazary Baug*. They flitted before me for at least a Mile, suddenly dropping as they got out of my Reach, and taking great care to dog in such a Manner through the Bushes as to destroy every possibility of taking an effectual Aim. It was in the Month of *January*, when we had as sharp a Frost as ever I can remember to have experienced in *INDIA*."

At *Langleys*, the seat of Mr. TUFFNELL, in *Essex*, some years since, a *Woodcock* flew through the Hall window in the day-time; whether pursued by a Hawk, or deceived by the thorough Light from the opposite Windows, is unknown.

Upon the Migration of *Woodcocks* various Opinions have been maintained respecting their return to that particular part of the *Coast* in this Country, to which they have resorted at the landing of a former, or former years. The following account, for which the Compiler feels himself extremely indebted to Mr. PLEYDELL, of *Whatcombe House*, near *Blandford*, *Dorsetshire*, seems to have decided the point in Favour of the opinion that they periodically (barring accidents) seek out the same Coverts to which the search of Food had previously conducted them.

In *February* 1798, (says Mr. P.) a *Woodcock* was caught in *Clenston Wood*, by the Gamekeeper, in the Rabbit-nets, and preserved alive; a brass ring was put on its left Leg, and it was let fly from *Whatcombe House*. In the following Season, upon the thirteenth of *December*, the same bird was shot by Mr. P. in the same *Wood* in which it was originally taken; the *Woodcock* was stuffed, and is now preserved at *Whatcombe House*. A second instance occurred in *February* 1802, when a *Woodcock* was taken alive in the same *Wood*; and, after a Tin ring, with the date, was affixed round its Leg, the bird was liberated from the front of the house; its flight was very high in the air, and towards the Sea. Upon the eleventh of the following *December* the bird was shot in the same *Wood*, where it was captured the preceding *February* *.

* As further Proofs that the Haunts of this Bird, and also of the Snipe, are the same, Year after Year, the following instances are recited. A *White Woodcock* was seen three successive Winters in *Penrice Wood*, near the Castle of that Name in *Glamorganshire*. It was repeatedly flushed, and shot at during that time, and at last was found dead, with several others which had perished by the Severity of the Weather in the Winter of 1793, in the very same place where it was first discovered.

In *December* 1804, Mr. THOROLD shot a beautiful Variety of the *Snipe*, near *Syston Park*,

That there are different Sizes of Woodcocks, it is presumed, will be assented to by all Sportsmen; those found in the first of the Season are of the *largest* Size*, fly heavily, and their Heads appear to be muffled, especially the *under parts*, with short feathers: the most numerous tribe, which arrive in *November* and *December*, are rather smaller, their Heads *less*, the feathers smoother, and the bill *shorter*. *Woodcocks* that come about *Candlemas* are also small, and differ in their manner of flying; are *quicker* of wing, take longer Flights, and are well known to be more difficult to be shot, from their not rising *above* the Spray, like the larger *muffled Woodcock*, but make their way for some distance, as it were, *among* the Boughs. These delicious birds become more rare every Year; they are not only here so eagerly hunted after that but few escape to get back again, but in *Sweden* the better Class of people are exceedingly fond of the *Woodcock's eggs*†, which are eaten either plain boiled, like those of Plovers, or dressed in various modes. The Boors are thus encouraged to rob their Nests; and, although the abundance of *Woodcocks* in the Woods of *Finland* and *Lapland* is immense, still the destruction of the Eggs has rendered them comparatively scarce in many parts of *Sweden*, and of course England and other Countries will feel the ill effects of it. Formerly,

in Lincolnshire. The Body was a clear White; the head, neck, and throat, closely marked with pale ash-coloured and yellow Spots; the Breast a pure White; the back and Wings strongly tanned with bright Buff-colour; the tail white, the Extremities of the tail feathers of a bright buff: when first shot the legs and bill were of a lively Pink; but have since faded to a pale Salmon colour. This elegant Bird had frequented the same Spot for *three Successive Winters*. It was more than once seen in 1802: Mr. THOROLD shot at and missed it in 1803. It was last Year killed rising from its favourite *Spring* in the same Close, where it had always before been seen.

* M. BAILLON says, he has frequently remarked that there are *two* kinds of *Woodcocks*; the *first* that arrive are the *largest*, their Legs are grey, slightly inclined to *rose* colour; the others are smaller, their plumage similar to that of the *great Woodcock*, but their Legs are *blue*. It is observed, that when this little kind is taken or shot in the neighbourhood of *Montreuil*, in *Picardy*, the larger sort becomes scarce.

† CONSETT tells us that the Inhabitants of the North of Europe, to whose Woods the *Woodcocks* retire in the Summer, never eat the *Birds*, esteeming their *Flesh unwholesome*, from the Circumstance of their having no *Crops*.

when the art of Shooting *flying* was little known, they were more plentiful in this Country; they were then taken in *Springs*, which is still practised in *Westmoreland*, and some other Counties. Mr. PENNANT says, "that on the plain part of the hills, near *Winander Water*, he saw numbers of *Springs* for *Woodcocks* laid between tufts of *Heath*, with Avenues of small stones on each side, to direct these foolish birds into the Snares, for they will not pass over the pebbles. Multitudes are taken in this manner in the open weather, are sold on the spot for *sixteen* or *twenty-pence* a couple, (about Forty years ago at *six* or *seven-pence*,) and sent to the all-devouring Capital by the *Kendal Stage*." The *Springs* were also set in moist places where they come to feed, and which are discovered by the Peasants by the marks of their Feet upon the margin, and by their *muteings*; but the greatest Havock is made in *Cornwall* and *Devonshire*, by *Glade Nets* hung in the Woods. The *Exeter Coach* has brought *thirty dozen* in a week up to the London markets, where the Price is now so exorbitant that they sometimes sell from *ten* to *sixteen* shillings the Couple*.

The weight of the *Woodcock* is generally from *twelve* to *fourteen* Ounces; the Compiler killed one that weighed *sixteen*, and was told, from good authority, of one shot in 1789, that weighed upwards of *seventeen ounces*. The length of the *Woodcock* is fifteen inches, the breadth twenty-six; the bill three inches, dusky towards the end, reddish at the base, and hollowed lengthwise with deep furrows; the upper mandible hangs over the lower, and forms the round point of its bill; and Nature has given at this Extremity an additional Organ, appropriated to its mode of life; the tip is rather *flesh* than *horn*, and appears susceptible of a sort of touch, calculated for detecting its prey in the moist Earth†; (this advantageous

* The Neighbourhood of *Torrington*, in *Devonshire*, is remarkable for *Woodcocks* and *Snipes*. One Person has been known to send Birds of that description to LONDON to the amount of from *Seventeen* to *Nineteen* Hundred pounds in the course of One Season.

† The manner in which *Woodcocks* feed is, so soon as they enter the Woods, they run on the dry Leaves, which they turn over and scatter to find the *worms* that lie underneath; they do not scrape the Earth with their Feet, but only toss the Leaves briskly from right to left with their Bill. Mr. BOWLES has described with precision the mode in which the *Woodcock* feeds, from

Structure has been also bestowed on the *Snipe*, which, as well as the *Woodcock* and *Curlew*, has *three pairs* of Nerves equal almost to the *Optic Nerve* in thickness, which pass along the upper Chap, down to the point of the Bill, long as the Bill is;) the Tongue is slender, long, sharp, and hard at the point; the *Eyes* large*, and placed near the Top of the head, that they may not be injured when the bird thrusts its Bill into the ground. The shape of the Head is remarkable, being rather *triangular* than *round*; the *Ears* are placed very forward, nearly on a line with the corners of the Mouth; from the bill to the eyes is a black line; the forehead is a reddish ash colour; the crown of the head, the hindpart of the neck, the back, the coverts of the wings, and the scapulars, are prettily barred with a ferruginous red, black, and grey, but on the head the black predominates; the under eyelid white; the chin ash-colour; forepart of the neck yellowish, marked with dusky minute dashes; the under parts of the body dirty white, barred with numerous transverse dusky lines; the quill

those he saw in the Aviary at *St. Ildephonso*, in *Spain*. "There was (says he) a Fountain perpetually flowing to keep the ground *moist*, and trees planted for the same purpose; fresh Sod was brought to them, the richest in Worms that could be found. In vain did the worms seek concealment when the *Woodcock* was hungry; it discovered them by the Smell, stuck its Bill in the ground, but never higher than the Nostrils, drew them out *singly*, and raising its Bill into the Air, it extended upon it the entire length of the worm, and in this way swallowed it smoothly, without any action of the Jaws. This whole Operation was performed in an instant, and the Motion of the *Woodcock* was so equal and imperceptible, that it seemed doing nothing; it never missed its aim; for this reason, and because it never plunged its bill beyond the *Orifice* of the Nostrils, I concluded (says Mr. B.) that *Smell* is what directs it in Search of its food."

* It appears that this Bird, although it has large prominent Eyes, cannot support a *glaring* light, and does not see well, but in the *Twilight*: this is evinced by its manner of life, and by its motions, which are never so agile as in the *dawn* or at the *close* of Day; and so strong is this propensity to Action at the *rise* or *descent* of the Sun, that *Woodcocks* confined in a Room have been observed to flutter regularly every *Morning* and *Evening*, while during the *Day* or the *Night*, they only tripped on the Floor, without attempting to fly; and probably the wild *Woodcocks* remain still in *dark* Nights, but in *Moonlight* come abroad in quest of Food. It is well known they leave their Retreats on the approach of Eve, and spread among the Glades, always keeping the little paths, by which means the Nets are so destructive; they are then seeking the wet pasturage, ponds, or water, by the skirts of the Woods, where they wash their Bill and feet, which are daubed with Earth, in searching for the worms and insects.

feathers * are dusky, marked, on the outer web, with triangular rufous spots; and the same on the inner web close to the Shaft. The Tail consists of twelve Feathers, dusky or black on the one web, and marked with red on the other; the tips above are ash-coloured, below *white*, which, with the full black Eye, when Shooting on the *ground* was in Vogue, were the leading marks by which the *Fowler* discovered the birds; for the shades of the Plumage are so blended that the Bird is exactly like the withered stalks and leaves of Ferns, Sticks, Moss, and Grasses, which form the back *ground* of the Scenery by which it is sheltered; the legs and toes are pale flesh-coloured brown; the latter divided almost entirely, having only a very small Web between the middle and interior toes; as likewise are those of the *Snipes* found in England.

Though Woodcocks in general leave this Kingdom, yet a few are known every year to remain; according to Mr. PENNANT, in *Case Wood*, about two miles from *Tunbridge*, a few breed almost *annually*, the young † having been shot there the beginning of *August*, and are as healthy and vigorous as they are with us in the Winter, but not so well tasted; a Female with Egg was shot in that neighbourhood in *April*; the Egg was the size of that of a Pigeon: they are remarkably tame during Incubation; a person, who discovered one in its Nest, has often stood over, and even stroked it, notwithstanding it *hatched* the young, with which in due time it disappeared.

Mr. LATHAM states, "that the first of May 1769, the Gamekeeper of HORACE MANN, Esq. shot a Couple of *Woodcocks* in *Chellenden Wood*,

* The *Female* Woodcock may be distinguished from the *Male* by a narrow *stripe* of *white* along part of the *exterior* web of the *outermost* Feather of the Wing; the same part on the *outermost* feather of the *Male* is elegantly and regularly *spotted* with *black* and *reddish white*. In the *Bastard* wing of *each Sex* is a small pointed narrow feather, very elastic, and much sought after by *Painters* as a pencil.

† WILLOUGHBY states, Mr. JESSOP saw young Woodcocks to be sold at Sheffield; that others have been seen elsewhere; and that the Stragglers, which are by Accident left in England, *breed here*.

and also a Couple the preceding day, which were sitting on their young; he likewise says, that a Friend of his met with a *female* Woodcock sitting on her Eggs, and the *Male* close at hand; she was so tame as to suffer him to touch her without rising; this was in a Wood near *Farningham*, in *Kent*: and about the year 1781, a brace of old *Woodcocks*, with five young ones in company, full fledged, were found: three of the young were taken and presented to a Lady in the Neighbourhood, one of which soon died, and was given to him, and is now in his Possession."

The Woodcock makes an artless kind of Nest on the ground, composed of a few dried fibres and leaves, generally against an old stump or great root of a Tree; the Eggs, four or five in Number, are bigger than those of a Pigeon, of a rufous grey, marked with dusky blotches (a Specimen of the Nest and Egg, found at the Earl of *Cork's*, near *Frome*, in *Somersetshire*, is in the *LEVERIAN Museum*;) the young run so soon as hatched, but as they cannot immediately provide for themselves, the old Birds for some time accompany them.

Respecting the Breeding of *Woodcocks* in this Country, a Circumstance happening in *Leicestershire*, is said to be authentic. *MR. JEREMIAH TUPMAN*, who died about nineteen years since at *Berkeley*, caught upon his Estate at *Lyston* a young *Male* Woodcock, which he carefully reared, and having procured a Mate for it, they bred in considerable abundance. He was so pleased with his Success, that he actually altered his Will, which was originally made in favour of a young Lady, and left his Fortune to the Minister at *Berkeley*, to be principally laid out in the Breed of *Woodcocks*, upon the neglect of which the Estate was to revert to the family Relations, a Reversion for which probably the Family were not long in Expectancy.

Woodcocks have bred occasionally in various parts of England; whether this arose from the old Birds being wounded and unable to accompany their fellows when they quit this Country in Spring, or from a real fitness

of situation * for their purpose of Increase, is, and perhaps ever must remain a Mystery. *Young Woodcocks* have been found in the *High Woods*, near *Colchester*; and in the year 1801, a Gentleman shooting in a Wood of Mr. WENNIVE, of *Brettenham*, in *Suffolk*, flushed a Woodcock, which he shot at and missed; the Bird returned again to the Spot, and a Nest with three Eggs was discovered: the Nest was carefully watched, and two days after the Eggs were hatched, and the young Birds safely taken off by the old ones. A young Woodcock was found the same year in *Bewdley Park*, in *Warwickshire*; and also a Nest with three young Woodcocks, a few miles beyond *Dartford* in *Kent*†. And in *Birchwood*, near *Sharford House*, Mr. LOCKART's Seat, in *Hampshire*, a Woodcock's Nest was found with four Eggs, which were hatched, notwithstanding the visits of the curious frequently put the Bird off her Nest.

Specimens of varieties in the plumage of the Woodcock are to be seen in the *LEVERIAN Museum*; a very curious one was shot the 15th of November, 1797, by the Duke of GORDON's Gamekeeper; the quill feathers were perfectly *white*, their coverts, both greater and lesser, upon the upper side of the Wing, of the same colour; on the lower side, the coverts were also white, except the three outermost feathers, which, together with those upon the rest of its body, were of the usual plumage of the *Woodcock*.

* With respect to the aptness of our Climate for the Summer residence of the *Woodcock*, it has been noticed in the *LINNEAN Transactions* that a *single* Bird was observed to remain in a Coppice belonging to a Gentleman in Dorsetshire through the Summer. The place, from its shady and moist situation, was well calculated to maintain it; yet by degrees it lost almost all its Feathers, so that for some time it was unable to fly, and was often caught; but in the *Autumn* it recovered its Feathers and Strength, and flew away.

† Woodcocks are known to breed annually in *Jordan's Wood*, near *Foot's Cray*, in *Kent*, belonging to the Hon. T. COVENTRY. A couple of young Woodcocks, in 1801, were there found, and reared by one of his Keepers; and, as a proof of their Docility, they followed him like Poultry to be fed; and this Tameness continued after they were full grown. The Food given them was Worms (of which they would eat a pint at a meal,) and *lean Beef*, cut into thin slips to resemble them, when Worms could not be procured in sufficient quantity. By flying up, one of the Birds struck its Head against a Nail at the top of the Mew where they were kept, and fractured the Skull; the other pined away, after the loss of its Companion.

In March 1798, in a Wood in the parish of *Salehurst*, in *Sussex*, a Gamekeeper of Sir JOHN LADE's shot a Woodcock completely *white*; and in November the same year, Mr. GOODYEAR, of Box, Somersetshire, killed one with both its Wings white.

In January 1804, Mr. LUDLOW's Gamekeeper killed a *milk white* Woodcock, in the Woods adjacent to Heywood House, near Westbury, Wilts.

Mr. WILTON, of Wadebridge, Cornwall, lately shot a brace of Woodcocks; one of them was of a light fawn-colour in the body, the Wings striped with fawn, black, and brown, the Legs and Bill milk white; the other had white Wings, and a white feather on its Breast.

In November 1804, Mr. POWELL, of Okeover Hall, Derbyshire, shot a Woodcock whose plumage was a bright *Chesnut* faintly mottled, except the neck and breast, which, as well as the legs and feet, were nearly *white*. The Wing feathers (of which Mr. P. sent the Compiler two) were beautifully mottled with Chesnut upon a fawn-coloured ground. The head and eyes were *larger* than usual, the Bill thicker, and of a fine brown colour. It weighed eleven ounces, and was flushed in very thick Cover, from whence it rose with great rapidity, and seemed uncommonly strong on the wing. The Plumage was too much cut with the small mustard seed shot to admit of its being stuffed. When dressed the Flesh appeared *whiter*, but was in other respects like the common Woodcocks.

Having said thus much upon the general History of the Woodcock, their Properties, as they immediately concern the Sportsman, will be concisely remarked upon.

The *East* or *north-east* winds, especially when accompanied with Fogs, are said to bring them over in the greatest numbers. At their first Arrival, they drop in *hedge rows*, clumps of trees, upon *heaths*, among *bushes*

or *furze* *: when they first take to the Coverts, they choose the *year old* *slops*, or to be at the *Edges* of Woods; afterwards they lie in Wood from *seven to ten years* growth: in the Spring, when preparing to depart, they prefer the *thick, bushy, and grassy* slop, of *four or five* years old. The *Woodcock*, when undisturbed, will continue for Weeks together in the same Wood. This bird rises heavily †, and makes a noisy flapping with his Wings; when found on a *heath*, in a hedge-row, or *path* in a wood, he only skims slowly along the ground, and the Marksman can desire no fairer object; but when sprung in *tall wood*, where the Top must be cleared, before he can take a *horizontal* flight, the Woodcock ascends with great Velocity; and in this case, the precise instant of shooting is not easily determined: when turning and twisting through the branches of the Trees, it is difficult to catch any Aim at it: and it is believed more *Woodcocks* are killed from firing at them by certain *theoretical* Rules than by a proper Sight of the Object. The Woodcock, though its flight for the time is *rapid*, is yet seldom long supported; it stops with such promptness as to fall apparently like a dead weight: a few Moments after being upon the Ground, it runs swiftly, but soon pauses, raises its Head, and casts a glance all around, before it ventures to lurk in the Herbage or under the Stubs; and frequently the Sportsman, who imagines the Bird *marked* to a certainty, is deceived, by its having tripped away to some distance, before he arrives at the spot where he perceived it to alight. Woodcocks are

* In relating the different species of Birds found in the *New Forest*, Mr. GILPIN says, the *Woodcock* is indeed sometimes seen in the *Forest*, but the rough Lawns and Heaths he finds there do not entirely suit his appetite: he is curious in the choice of his Haunts, must have some woody Glen, watered by oozing mossy rills, into which he can easily thrust his Beak; and these he cannot every where meet with in the Forest.

† Mr. WHITE, in his *History of Selborne*, says, he observed there were times when *Woodcocks* were so *sluggish*, that, after being flushed and shot at, they would drop again close to the *Spaniels*. Whether this laziness was the effect of a recent fatiguing Journey, he does not presume to determine; but from the Observation of himself and a Friend, they appear to be singularly listless against *Snowy* foul weather: should this be the case, Mr. W. considers the inaptitude for flying, then, to arise only from an Eagerness after Food; as *Sheep* are remarked to be very intent on Grazing, against stormy wet Evenings.

inhabitants of the Woods during the whole Winter, if the weather is *open*; but if severe *Frosts* happen, they will disappear during their continuance, except a few, which by chance may be found in certain Coverts, where there are warm Springs, which do not freeze. About a Month previous to their quitting this Country in the *Spring*, it is not unusual to see them near the Woods in *pairs*, at the Morning and Evening flight time, and at that period to hear them, when flying, make a small *piping noise*; at all other times they are *silent*. Woodcocks are fattest in *December* and *January*; from the third week in February, when they usually pair, until their Departure, they are greatly inferior in Flesh and Flavour*.

Spaniels are the only Dogs adapted for the Amusement of *Woodcock* shooting; and of these the proper sort has been described when speaking of shooting Pheasants. It is particularly to be remembered that *Spaniels* to be excellent for the *Woodcock*, should *quest* upon the *haunt*, hunt the ground *close*, and at the same time with great Spirit. The *Woodcock* seldom flushes (especially the first time) until *winded* by the *Spaniel*; it conceals itself under the *stubs*, and rarely makes much work before laying itself up; so that *Spaniels* for this use must have the *finest* Noses. As to

* Mr. MARKWICK's Observations made in *Sussex* upon the *Migration* of Birds, taken on an Average of *Twenty-six years*, were as follows:

	First seen.		Last seen.	
<i>Woodcock</i>	October	20	April	1
<i>Snipe</i>	November	20	March	20
<i>Jack Snipe</i>	December	26	March	16
<i>Land Rail</i>	September	1	October	20
<i>Quail</i>	August	20		
<i>Fieldfare</i>	November	21	April	10
<i>Redwing</i>	November	20	March	18
<i>Royston Crow</i>	December	22	March	26
<i>Swallow</i>	April	18	October	31
<i>Swift</i>	May	9	September	3
<i>Cuckoo</i>	May	1	July	10
<i>Wheat-ear</i>	May	4	September	26

The Time, however, must vary considerably, from the Impossibility of seeing them on their *immediate* Arrival, and of also ascertaining the Departure of the last of each Species. Another general Remark is, that in the *Spring*-passage, that is, on their return to our Climate, Birds

hunting *Pointers* for Woodcocks in Coverts, it must, generally speaking, be useless, even had they a complete *Peal of Bells* affixed to them (instead of one to the Neck or Tail,) notwithstanding the Opinion of some, who advance that the jingling of the Bells makes the Woodcocks stir, and be more readily found.

It may save the Sportsman time and trouble to recollect, that after *Spaniels* have flushed *Woodcocks* *two or three* times, they either pitch in the Ditch, upon the Bank of the Wood, or betake themselves to the Hedges adjoining to the Covert. A person who *marks* well is a valuable Assistant in this Diversion. The Gun should not exceed *two feet eight* in the barrel, and the *shot* used be No. 6 or 7.

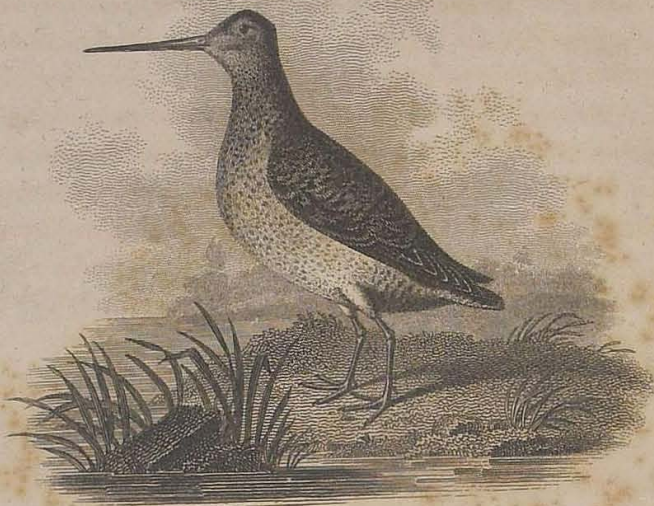
That *Spaniels*, or any kind of sporting Dogs, will not eat the Bones or Flesh of the *Woodcock* has been strongly insisted upon: as to the *Flesh*, the Compiler, being rather an Admirer of it himself, does not recollect ever giving it to a Dog; but he is thoroughly convinced that his *Spaniels* never have discovered, nor would shew, any dislike to the *Bones*.

In 1796, Mr. YEA, of *Swansea*, killed one *hundred couple* of Woodcocks in one Season*. In *Ireland*, the Earl of CLERMONT shot *half as many* in a Day; but then it should be premised, that such was the Abundance of these Birds, as to be sold in some parts (for instance, near *Ballyshannon*, in the County of *Donnegal*) for *one penny* each, and the Expence of Powder and Shot.

travel in bodies less numerous, and are more dispersed than in *Autumn*; and this sort of Disunion constitutes their Safety. In their *Autumnal* Migration, they are, generally speaking, very *fat*, and in *this* Migration fall readily into the numberless Toils, which are spread for them on every side; in the *Spring* they are usually *lean*, and escape these Snares by the Dispersion of their Flight.

* In November 1804, the Record appeared of a most astonishing Exploit in Woodcock shooting performed by the Gamekeeper of Sir WILFRID LAWSON, who killed *sixteen* Woodcocks at one shot; and to mark the Miracle still stronger, one of these unfortunate Birds was of a *light yellow* colour, with *yellow Legs*.

GREAT SNIPE.



SNIPE.

In that Country the *Woodcocks* are beaten up by *Men* and *Boys*, and a curious Circumstance once befel an English Gentleman, who had engaged a parcel of these *Springers*; he fired at a *Woodcock*, but, from some elevation of the ground, the shot hit one of the *Boys*; he heard among his *Beaters*, withinside of the *Covert*, a great Commotion, and desiring to be informed the reason, was told—"Nothing at all, but, plase your Honour, you have *kilt a boy*." The Gentleman was extremely alarmed, but was soon quieted by the Appearance of the *Boy*, whom a few shot had struck rather smartly; and was at the same time made sensible, much to his Satisfaction, that *kilt* had no mortal Signification attached to it.

Snipes

are found in every Quarter of the Globe, being mentioned by most Voyagers, as well as brought into *England* from such variety of places. It is seen throughout the old Continent from the Arctic Regions of *Siberia* to the *Cape of Good Hope*; at which last place it is common: it also inhabits the Islands of *Ceylon* and *Japan*. In *America* it is met with almost without exception, particularly in *South Carolina*, where it swarms. LATHAM saw a Specimen from *Cayenne*, and was informed it is at *Surinam*: it is frequent in *Jamaica*, and more common in *Falkland Islands* than in *England*. In *Egypt*, in the fields from whence the crops of *Rice* are just taken, *Snipes* are so numerous, that it is not uncommon for a person to shoot a Basket-full in a day; the Sport is however fatiguing, from the light Earth of the *Rice* grounds being so deeply impregnated with water, that the Sportsman sinks at every step he takes, and sometimes above his knees. *Snipes* arrive the beginning of *November* in *Lower Egypt*, and pass the whole Winter there. In parts of *Ireland* they so greatly abound, that *Forty-three* brace have been killed by one Gentlemen in Six Hours. The three birds of this species here to be noticed are, the *Common*, the *Jack*, and the *Great Snipe*.

Snipes are in *Winter* very usual inhabitants of all our marshy and wet

grounds, where they shelter themselves in the Rushes, &c. In the *Summer* they disperse to different parts, and are found in the midst of our *highest Mountains*, as well as our *low Moors*: they begin to *pipe* the first week in *April*; many of them breed with us, and the Nest is composed of dried grass and plants, with sometimes a few feathers; they lay four or five Eggs, of a dirty olive colour, marked with dusky spots: the Young appear ugly and shapeless; the Mother never deserts them until their *long Bill* is firm enough to enable them to procure their food. When disturbed much in the *Breeding Season*, they soar to a vast height, the Male making a singular bleating Noise, which, in superstitious Times, was called the *Campana Cælestis*, and when they descend, dart down most rapidly; the Cock also, whilst the *Hen* is sitting, poises himself on his wings, sometimes making a Whistling, and frequently a Drumming, noise; and it is uncertain whether this noise is Ventriloquous, or is produced by the Motion of the Wings. Mr. WHITE says, this Noise happens always when the Bird is *descending*, and his *Wings* are violently agitated. They feed on *worms* and *insects* which they find in the moist ground, as also on small *snails*, which last have been found whole in their stomachs: they usually have abundance of Fat, which is not apt to cloy, and rarely disagrees with those that eat it: it is cooked like the *Woodcock*, without extracting the *Entrails*, and is every where esteemed for its delicious flavour.

This Species weighs *four ounces*; length, near twelve inches; breadth, about fourteen: the bill is three inches long, in some pale brown, in others of a greenish yellow colour, flat at the end, and often rough, like *Shagrin*, above and below; the head is divided lengthways by two black lines, and three of red, one of the last passing over the middle of the head, and one above each eye; between the bill and the eyes is a dusky line; chin white; the neck is varied with brown and red; the Scapulars are beautifully striped lengthways on one web, and barred on the other with black and yellow; the quill feathers are dusky, but the edge of the first is white, as are the tips of the Secondaries; the quill feathers next the back are barred with black and pale red; breast and belly white; tail coverts long, almost cover the Tail, and are of a reddish brown; the tail consists of fourteen

feathers, black in their lower part, then crossed with a broad bar of deep orange, another narrow one of black, and the ends white or pale orange; the vent feathers, a dull yellow, the legs pale green, and the Toes entirely divided. In the LEVERIAN *Museum* are some Specimens of Snipes with the Plumage curiously variegated.

Snipe shooting, when the birds are plentiful, is an excellent diversion*; they are said to puzzle the Marksman by the irregular *twistings* of their Flight when first sprung; but this difficulty is soon surmounted if the birds are suffered to reach a *certain distance*, when their flight becomes steady and easy to traverse with the Gun: there is no reason to be apprehensive of their getting out of the Range of the Shot, as they will fall to the ground if struck but slightly with the smallest grain. *Snipes*, like *Woodcocks*, and many other birds, always fly *against the Wind*; therefore, by keeping the Wind at his Back, the Sportsman has this advantage of the bird when it rises, that it presents a fairer mark. These birds are scarcely good until *November*, when they get very fat; in hard, frosty, and more particularly in *Snowy* weather, Snipes resort in numbers to warm Springs, where the rills continue open, and run with a gentle Stream: these, on account of their long Bills, are *then* the only places where they can haunt for food. Snipes will generally lie well to a *Pointer*, and some Dogs have a singular knack at finding and standing them.

A *Norfolk* Gentleman, who has made some interesting Observations upon the times of the *Snipe's* Appearance in the Vicinity of *Norwich*, says, "That their *first coming* is early in *September*, which is merely transitory, stopping for a Day or two, or perhaps only a few Hours; they are then often found in large Flocks, but *lie very light*. At the end of *October* the *greatest* number arrive, are found more universally dispersed, and afford better Amusement than earlier in the Season; but immediately as the Severity of the *Winter* commences, they almost entirely disappear, and

* *Eel Moor*, near Hartford Bridge, has frequently abundance of Snipes upon it.

return no more until *March*, previous to their final Departure." During *Frost* this Gentleman has searched the *Spring ditches*, which, remaining free from Ice, presented both food and shelter, but, excepting the two or three *early* days of the *Frost*, found very few; and he asks, if any Sportsman can inform him, whether they retire farther *South* for a milder Climate, or to the rapid Rills in the mountainous parts of the Island? The forwardness or backwardness of the *Spring* always regulates their Return, which induced this Gentleman to remark the Coincidence of the time of the *Flowering* of *wild plants*, and that of the Re-appearance of the *Snipes*. In February a few prematurely arrive, as in 1800, when, upon the *twentieth*, he found several, but a Frost set in, and again drove them back; in 1801, between the *tenth* and *seventeenth*, there were many *Snipes* in the Marshes, and several *Wild Fowl* in the River, during which period the ground was covered with *Snow*; he looked the same Marshes on the *twenty-fourth*, and did not find a *Snipe*. In *March* they again visit the Marshes numerous, earlier or later, according to the *Spring's* appearance: in that of 1800, they returned the *thirteenth*, accompanied by a great number of *Lapwings*: on the *twenty-sixth*, they were observed to be most numerous, and within a few Days, most of them left us for other Countries; while some few remained to rear their Offspring in this. The *Spring* of 1801 was very forward, and several *Snipes* this Gentleman observed, on the *ninth* of *March*, on Mounhold Heath; on the *eleventh*, there were considerable numbers in the Marshes, but were in *flocks*, and laid very light: by the *twenty-seventh* many had departed, and the *Lapwings*, *Reeves*, and *Red Shanks*, had begun to lie. "In the *vegetable* kingdom, I observed (continues this Gentleman), on the *twenty-fifth* of *March*, 1800, the *Viola odorata*, or *March violet*, in *flower*; and at that time the *Snipes* were in greatest Abundance. In 1801, the *Violet* was in *flower* by the *fifth* of *March*, and on the *ninth* and *eleventh*, the *Snipes* were in plenty, both on the *Heath* and *Marshes*. In 1800, the *Ficaria verna*, or *Pilewort*, began to expand its yellow flowers, under warm hedges, by the *twenty-sixth* of *March*; in 1801, it was so early as the *eleventh*; in both which Instances it coincides even to a *Day* with the appearing of the

greatest Number of *Snipes*, which this Gentleman observed in the *Spring* of those two *Years*." Some Sportsmen in Norfolk are endeavouring to ascertain the Natural History of the *Snipe* as to its *Migration*, and also as to its *Breeding* here. The former, by Correspondents upon the Coast to watch for their Coming and Departure; the latter, by Observations in the extensive *Fens* of the County where they are known to harbour and rear their Young.

The *Snipes* in the *Cambridgeshire Fens* were, *Thirty Years* ago, most abundant; those brought to Cambridge Market, which at that time were all *shot Birds*, sold from *three to five pence* each: in 1775 the Compiler killed, in three Mornings, *thirty-three* couple of *Snipes*, and from having known his Father's Men catch them by drawing with a Net in the *night-time*, he mentioned to a person near *Milton Fen* his surprise that this mode of taking them had not been resorted to. The *Fen-man* enquired what sort of Net was to be used, and was told a *Lark-Net* would answer the purpose of a trial; this the *Fen-man* soon borrowed, and the first Night of his making the Experiment, caught as many *Snipes* as a small Hamper could contain: the Practice soon became general, and the *netted* were so much better than the *shot Birds*, that the latter would scarcely find a Purchaser in the Market. The price of *Snipes* at Cambridge has increased to a *shilling*, and sometimes *eighteen-pence* a piece.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH's Gamekeeper, some years since, killed *twenty-two Snipes* at one shot.

The haunts and food of the *Jack Snipe*, or *Judcock*, are similar to the preceding, but the Bird itself is more rare; it is very difficult to be found, as it lies so close as to hazard being trod upon before it will rise; the flight is never distant, and its motion is more *sluggish* than that of the larger kind. The *Jack Snipe* is only half as big as the former, and weighs scarcely *two ounces*, for which reason they are called the *half Snipe*; the Dimensions are not exactly in the same proportion, the length of the *Snipe* being twelve

inches, *this eight and a half*; the bill is above an inch and a half long, and black; crown of the head black, tinged with rust-colour; a black streak divides the head lengthwise from the base of the Bill to the nape of the Neck; over each eye a yellow streak passes to the hinder part of the head; neck varied with white, brown, and pale red; scapulars narrow, very long, brown, and margined with yellow; the rump of a glossy, blueish purple; belly and vent white; the greater quill feathers dusky; tail brown, with tawny edges, and consists of twelve pointed feathers; the legs are of a cinereous green. These Birds breed in our Marshes; their Eggs are of the same colour as the common *Snipe*, but smaller, corresponding to their Bulk, which does not exceed that of a *Lark*. FERMIN, in his Account of *Surinam*, says, they are seen there by Thousands on the Sea shores; that it must be a bad Marksman who does not kill *sixty* at once, with fine shot, and that he killed *eighty-five* at a single discharge; that the flesh is excellent, but the Bird so small, that a Man may eat *twenty* at a meal. It is to be apprehended, that FERMIN has mistaken the *Purre* or *Ox-bird* for the *Jack Snipe*, as they fly in Clouds that would admit such aggregate Slaughter as he has described.

The *great Snipe** is not common in England, but is sometimes found in Lancashire, and also in Kent; in 1792 they were in tolerable plenty in the North of England, and are there called the *solitary Snipe*, from always being found alone and detached: some have been since occasionally shot; one in 1798, by a Gentleman of Liverpool. A very fine Specimen is preserved in the LEVERIAN Museum, from which the Engraving is taken.

It is not clearly ascertained whether this be a distinct *Species* of Snipe, or whether its *Bulk* and change of *Plumage* are acquired from *Age*, and its solitary Habits from ceasing to *breed*.

* A Gentleman of Yarmouth in September 1805 shot a *Snipe* of the astonishing Weight of *Fourteen Ounces*.

This Bird is of a size between the *Woodcock* and the *Snipe*, weighs *eight ounces*; length sixteen inches; bill four inches long, and like that of the *Woodcock*; crown of the head black, divided down the middle by a pale stripe; over and beneath each eye another of the same; neck and breast of a yellowish white, finely marked with small semicircular lines of black; belly with cordated spots, and sides undulated with black; the upper parts of the body very like the common *Snipe*; quills dusky; tail reddish; the two middle feathers plain, the others barred with black; the legs black. According to Mr. LATHAM, the *great Snipe* is found in *Germany*, and in *Siberia*; and he once saw it among a parcel of Birds sent from *Cayenne*, and has no reason to suppose but that it came from thence.

Of all their Enemies, perhaps the *Snipe* has none more destructive than the *blue Hawks*; they beat over a Marsh or Bog with great exactness, until they find the *Snipe*, who, through fear, crouches as close to the ground as possible, and which they instantly seize. A young Rabbit placed on the bridge of the Trap, as before mentioned for the *Ring Tail Hawk*, and the Trap nicely covered with *moss*, if set in the Bog, or with *grass*, if in a Marsh, will generally be successful, especially as, whichever way they fly in the Morning, they are sure to return by the same Course in the Afternoon, and this regularly for four or five Days successively; which will sufficiently intimate where the Trap may be placed in his Track, so as most probably to engage his Attention.

Corn Crake, Land Rail, or Daker Hen.

THIS Bird has by some been supposed to be the same as the *Water Rail*, and its only difference to be a Change of colour at a certain period: this Error proceeds from inattentively considering the Character and Nature of each, which are entirely different.

THE CORN CRAKE.

The length is nine inches; the bill is one inch long, strong and thick, and of a greyish brown, formed exactly like that of the *Water Hen*, and makes a generical distinction. The eyes hazel; the feathers on the upper parts are of a rufous brown, each dashed down the middle with black; the under parts the same, but paler, and not spotted, and edged with pale rust colour; chin very pale: both wing coverts and quills are of a lightish chesnut; the forepart of the neck and breast is of a pale ash-colour; a streak of the same colour extends over each eye, from the bill to the side of the neck; the belly is of a yellowish white; the sides, thighs, and vent, are faintly marked with rusty-coloured streaks; the tail is short, and of a deep bay; the legs are of the colour of the bill. It does not, like the *Land Rail*, affect *watery places*, but is always found among the *corn, grass, broom, and furze*. The *Land Rail* quits this Kingdom before *Winter*, and repairs to other Countries in search of Food, which consists of *worms, slugs, insects, and seeds* of various kinds; but the *Water Rail* endures our *sharpest Seasons*.

The *Corn Crake* is the Harbinger of Summer, and begins to be heard about the middle of May, and continues its Note during the *breeding Season*; it then migrates.

In Meadows, from the time the Grass is grown until cut, there issues from the thickest part of the Herbage a Sound, expressing the word *crek, crek, crek*, and which is a noise much like that made by stripping forcibly the teeth of a large Comb under the fingers; as we approach, the Sound retires, and is heard fifty paces off: it is the *Land Rail* that emits this Cry, and begins to be heard about the second Week in *May*, at the same time with the *Quails*, which it seems ever to accompany, and from being less common and larger, has been deemed their Leader, and therefore called the *King of the Quails*. The *Land Rail* (says Mr. PENNANT) lays from *twelve to twenty* Eggs, of a dull white, marked with a few yellow spots; but, according to LATHAM and BUFFON, the number of Eggs does not exceed *twelve*, which are larger than those of the *Quail*, and more

coloured; are an inch and a half in length, and not unlike those of the *Missel Thrush*, being of a reddish cinereous white, marked with ferruginous blotches, with a few indistinct ones of a pale reddish ash-colour: the Nest is negligently constructed with a little moss, or dry grass, and placed usually in some hollow of the turf where the grass is thickest. The young *Crakes* are covered with a black down, and run as soon as they burst the shell, following their Mothers; but quit not the Meadow till the *Scythe* sweeps away their habitation. The late hatches are plundered by the Mower; all the early broods then shelter themselves amongst *buck-wheat*, *oats*, very frequently in *clover-seed*, and in waste grounds overspread with *broom*, where in Summer they are often found; a few return again to the Meadows at the end of that Season.

It is easily known when a Dog scents a *Land Rail*, from his keen search, and the obstinacy with which the Bird persists in keeping the Ground, insomuch that it may be sometimes caught by the hand; it often stops short and squats; the Dog, pushing eagerly forward, overshoots the spot, and loses the trace; and the *Rail*, it is said, profits by his blunder, and retraces its path; nor does it spring till driven to the last extremity, when it flies *heavily*, and generally with its legs hanging down, but never far at a flight: when it alights, it runs off, and before the Sportsman has reached the place, the Bird is at a considerable distance; nor is it sprung a *second* time but with great difficulty. The fleetness of its Feet compensates for the tardiness of its Wings: all its excursions, windings, and doublings in the Fields and Meadows, are performed by Running. When upon wing, if it flies to a *hedge*, the Sportsman is recommended to look upon the *boughs*, as it will *perch* and sit till he almost touches it, and frequently, by that means, eludes all Pursuit.

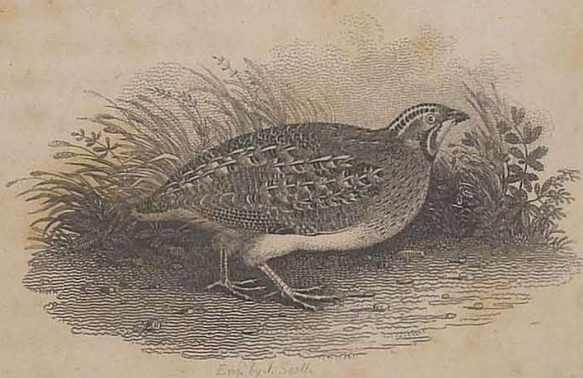
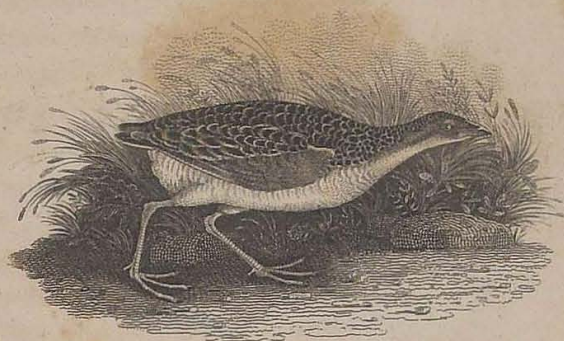
Corn Crakes are plentiful in some parts of these Realms; in *Ireland* particularly so, where it is probable they pass the Winter. They are in the greatest plenty in the Isle of *Anglesea*, where they appear about the third week in *April*, supposed to come there from *Ireland*; at their first arrival

it is common to shoot *seven* or *eight* in a Morning. They abound in the County of Caithness, in *Scotland*, and are found in most of the *Hebrides*, and the *Orknies*. Few places in *England* are destitute of them in Summer, but they are no where what may be called *common*. It is observed, wherever *Quails* are in plenty, the *Crake* abounds: on their first Appearance in *England*, they are so lean as to weigh less than *six ounces*, but before their Departure have been known to exceed *eight*; and are so fat, that the Compiler has been frequently obliged to wrap his Handkerchief round them, to prevent the Fat, which exuded from the shot-holes like Oil, from soiling other Birds; their Flesh is reckoned an exquisite Morsel.

BUFFON states, that when the *Land Rail* returns to other Countries, the flight commences during the Night, and, aided by a favourable Wind, it attempts the passage of the *Mediterranean*, where, no doubt, many perish, as it is remarked that their numbers *decrease* upon their Return; that Migrations of this Bird extend more to the *north* than the *south*, and, notwithstanding the *Slowness* of its flight, it penetrates into *Poland*, *Sweden*, *Denmark*, and even *Norway*. To the *northern* Countries, he conceives, the *Land Rail* repairs, as much for *cool* Situations, as to obtain its proper Food; for although it eats the Seeds of *broom*, *trefoil*, *groundsel*, and fattens in a Cage on millet and grain, and when grown up, every sort of Aliment suits it, yet it prefers *insects*, *slugs*, *worms*; and these, which are necessary for its Young, can be found only in shady, wet grounds: the Humidity of those of *Ireland* is also congenial to its Nature.

In the Island of *Cyprus*, *Land Rails* and Partridges sell for *twopence* a piece; Snipes rather dearer, being considered a Delicacy. All other Birds, both *Land* and *Water Fowl*, so cheap, that they are rather given away than sold. Becaficos and Ortolans are bought at the rate of a *penny* a dozen.

THE CORN CRAKE,
LAND RAIL or DAKER HEN.



THE QUAIL.

Published May 1800, by Bunnell & Co. 102, Old Lane, London.

The Quail

seems to spread entirely throughout the *Old World*, but does not inhabit the *New*; is met with from the *Cape of Good Hope* quite to *Iceland*; in *Russia*, *Tartary*, and *China*; and, in short, is mentioned by so many Travellers, and in so many places, that it may be almost termed an Inhabitant of all, and is every where esteemed as excellent Food.

Such intimate relation has by some been supposed to exist between the *Partridge* and the *Quail*, that they have called the latter the *dwarf Partridge*; these Birds resemble each other by being both pulverulent, have short wings and tail, and run very swiftly; they feed, copulate, build their Nest, and raise their Young nearly in the same way; both are salacious, inordinately lustful, and the Males quarrelsome; but numerous as are the points of Resemblance, they are more than balanced by a number of Disparities, which render *Quails* a distinct Species; for, omitting the peculiar incident of their *Migration*, *Quails* are universally smaller; they have not the *bare Space* between the Eyes, nor the figure of the *horse-shoe* impressed on the *breast* of the *Males*, as in the *Partridge*; the *Quails* Eggs are *smaller*, and of an entirely different *Colour*; their Notes are unlike; the *Flesh* of the *Quail* is also of a different flavour, and more loaded with *fat*: the period of their life is shorter, for the *Quail* does not live more than *five years*; they are less cunning than the *Partridge*, and much more easily ensnared, especially when Young; their dispositions are not so gentle; it is extremely rare to see them tamed. *Quails* seldom form themselves into *Coveys*, except when their Wants unite the feeble family to their Mother, or some powerful cause urges at once the whole Species to assemble, and traverse together the Extent of the Ocean, holding their Course to the same distant Land; but this forced Association does not subsist after they have alighted, and find in their adopted Country that they can live at will: the Appetite of Love is the only tie, and even this

is momentary; so soon as passion has spent its Force, the Male abandons his Mate to the labour of raising the Family: the young *Quails* are hardly full grown when they separate, or, if kept together, fight obstinately, and their quarrels are terminated only by their mutual Destruction.

The propensity of this bird to *migrate* at certain Seasons, coming *northward* in Spring, and departing to the *south* in Autumn, is an Instinct most powerful; it acts on Individuals *confined* and *debarred* from Communication with their Kind. Some *Quails*, kept in Cages from their earliest infancy, which had never *enjoyed*, and therefore could not *feel the loss of Liberty*, were observed for four successive Years to be restless, and to flutter with unusual agitations regularly at the periods of Migration, which are in *April* and *September*: this uneasiness began constantly an hour before *sunset*, and lasted *thirty* Days each time; they passed the Night in these fruitless Struggles, and the *following* Day appeared dejected and torpid. We know, that in a state of Freedom *Quails* sleep the greater part of the Day; if to this be added, that they are seldom known to arrive in the Day-time, it may be inferred that they perform their *Journeys by Night*, and that they direct their Course to those Countries where the Harvest is making, and thus change their abode, to obtain the proper subsistence for themselves and their young. As a proof of their *nocturnal flight*, *PLINY* remarks "that they alight in such numbers on *Ships*, (and which is always in the Night,) by their settling on the Masts, Sails, &c. as to bear down Barks and small Vessels, and finally sink them, and on that account the Sailors have a great dread of them when they approach near the Land." *Quails* are seen in Autumn in immense flocks, traversing the Mediterranean Sea from *Italy* to the Shores of *Africa*, and returning again in the *Spring*, frequently alighting on many of the Islands of the *Archipelago*, which they almost cover with their numbers. At the time of their first arrival at *Alexandria*, such Multitudes are exposed in the Markets for Sale, that three or four may be bought for a *Medina*, (not three farthings;) the Crews of Merchant vessels were fed upon them; and there existed at the *Consul's* Office at *Alexandria* several Complaints

preferred by *Mariners* against their *Captains*, for giving them *nothing* but *Quails* to eat.

The *Quails* assemble at the approach of Autumn, to cross the *Black Sea* over to the Southern coast: the order of this Emigration is invariable: towards the end of August the *Quails*, in a body, choose one of those fine Days when the Wind, blowing from the *North* at *Sunset*, promises them a fine Night; they take their departure about seven in the Evening, and finish a Journey of *fifty leagues* by *break of day*; a wonderful distance for a *short-winged* bird, and that is generally fat and sluggish of Flight.

Such prodigious quantities have appeared on the *Western Coasts* of the Kingdom of *Naples*, in the vicinity of *Nettuno*, that *an hundred thousand* have in *one day* been taken, within the Space of four or five Miles; these are sold to a sort of Broker for *fifteen Jules* the Hundred, (not seven shillings), who carries them to *Rome*, where they are much less common, and in great request; and this Capture is so lucrative that Land near the place is extravagantly high priced. Nor is this a solitary instance of the Value of Land in particular Districts being increased by the quantity of Birds taken upon it. The Country round *Leipsic*, in *Saxony*, from its good cultivation and fertility, draws thither multitudes of Larks, which are very fat, and have a delicious flavour: so that *Leipsic Larks* are renowned all over *Germany*, and the Excise on them produces 900*l.* sterling per annum to the City. In our own country, *Dunstable* is, perhaps, as famous for these Birds, although no *public Revenue* is derived from their number or delicacy*.

Clouds of *Quails* also alight in the Spring on the coasts of *Provence*,

* The Lark is not in general considered a *migratory* bird, yet in 1601 a flock of these Birds, covering an extent three quarters of a Mile in breadth, and more than double in length, and so crowded as to represent an immense Curtain, passed over the Western Coast of Kent, in a direct line for the Continent. A similar Instance, and the only one, is remembered to have occurred at the beginning of the *hard Winter*.

especially in the Lands belonging to the Bishop of *Frejus*, which border on the Sea, where they are sometimes found so exhausted that for the first few days they may be caught with the hand.

It appears highly probable that *Quails* are the same kind of Bird which Providence gave to the murmuring *Israelites* as food in the Wilderness, and which were sent thither on their passage to the North, by a Wind from the South-west, sweeping over Egypt and Ethiopia, towards the shores of the Red Sea—in a word, over the Countries where these birds were most abundant. About the *Dnieper*, and the *South of Russia*, Quails swarm so greatly at the time of their Migration, that they are caught by thousands, and sent in Casks to *Moscow* and *Petersburgh*.

In the Autumn great quantities are imported into *England* from *France* for the Table, all of which are *Male* birds; they are conveyed by the Stage coaches, about an hundred in a large square Box, divided into five or six partitions, one above another, just high enough to admit the *Quail's* standing upright; for, were a *Quail* to be allowed greater height he would quickly knock himself on the head, for even with this precaution the feathers on the top of the Skull are generally beat off. These Boxes have wire on the forepart, and each Partition is furnished with a little trough for food; and thus they may be forwarded without difficulty to great distances. By this it should seem they have undergone some Change in their Manners, for the *Ancients* found them such petulant Birds that when the Children fell out they applied a proverb—"As quarrelsome as Quails in a Cage."

PLINY says the *Quails* ballast themselves in their *Sea* voyages by carrying Stones in their feet, or Sand in their Craw. This opinion, and that of the *Ancients* antipathy to their flesh, because they were the only Animals besides Man that are subject to the *Epilepsy*, are now exploded.

The length of the *Quail* is seven inches and an half, breadth four-

teen; bill dusky; the feathers of the head, neck, and back, are a mixture of a brown ash-colour and black; the crown of the head divided by a whitish yellow line, beginning at the bill, and running along the hindpart of the neck to the back: above each eye is another similar coloured streak; a dark line passes from each corner of the bill, forming a kind of *gorget* above the breast; the chin, throat, belly, thighs, and vent, dirty yellowish white; the scapular feathers, and those of the back, are marked in their middles with a long light yellow streak, and on their sides with ferruginous and black bars; the coverts of the wings are reddish brown, elegantly barred with paler lines, bounded on each side with black; the quills are of a lightish brown, with small rust-coloured bands on the exterior edges of the feathers; the breast is of a pale rust-colour, spotted with black, and streaked with pale yellow; the tail consists of twelve short feathers, barred with black and very pale brownish red; the legs are pale brown.

The *Female* differs from the *Male* in having no black spots on the forepart of the neck, breast, and side feathers, and from the Colours being less vivid. Some of them have a long spot of brown beneath their Throat.

In the LEVERIAN *Museum* is a very beautiful Variety.

Quails are found in most parts of *Great Britain*, but not very numerously. It appears that one Circumstance which determines their abode in a Country is, the plenty of *Herbage*; for it is well known by the Sportsmen, that in a dry Spring, when consequently Grass is scarce, few Quails are seen the rest of that Year. With us they are birds of Passage, some entirely quitting our Island, others shifting their quarters, as it is said, from the neighbouring inland Counties into the *Hundreds* of *Essex*, in *October*, where they continue all the Winter. If *Frost* or *Snow* drive them out of the stubble fields and marshes, they retreat to the Sea side, shelter themselves among the Weeds, and live upon what they can pick up from

the *algæ*, &c. between high and low Water-mark; their appearance in *Essex* coincides with that of their leaving the inland Counties; and this same observation has been made in *Hampshire*. But however genuine this Account is of the *Quail's* abode in the *Hundreds of Essex formerly*, there is good ground for discrediting the existence of the circumstance at present. It is an occurrence thought by PENNANT worthy of Remark, that a *Quail* was shot at *Erith in Kent*, in January 1781. The *Quail*, like the *Partridge*, makes no Nest, except a few dry leaves or stalks scraped together may be so called, and sometimes a hollow in the bare ground suffices; in this the female lays six or seven Eggs of a whitish colour, marked with irregular rust-coloured spots. MR. HOLLAND, of *Conway*, once found a Nest with *twelve eggs*, *eleven* of which were hatched; and the Compiler of this account has seen a *Bervy* of *nine* young ones. BUFFON differs in regard to the *number of Eggs*, stating, that in *France and Italy* they lay from *fifteen to twenty*: perhaps from the influence of Climate they are there more prolific. The Hen sits about three weeks. The young *Quails* run as soon as they leave the Shell, like the *Partridge*; but are in many respects more hardy, quitting their mother much earlier, and even venturing to depend upon themselves for Subsistence *eight days* after they are hatched; and when the young are *four months* old, they are capable of accompanying their Parents in their distant Flight. It has been thought by some that *Quails* breed *twice* in the year; and by others it has been asserted that they begin to lay the *same Year* they are hatched, in the month of August, and have *ten eggs*; but however early they may propagate, it is certain they have but *one brood* in a Year, and never breed in a state of Confinement.

The *Quail* grows much *fatter* than the *Partridge*: what is supposed to contribute to this is, their remaining *still* during the greatest part of the Heat of the Day; they then conceal themselves in the tallest Grass, lying on their side, with their legs extended, in the same spot for hours together: so very indolent are they, that a Dog must absolutely run upon them before they are flushed, and when forced upon wing seldom

fly far. These birds are easily drawn within reach of a *Net* by a call imitating their Cry, which is not unlike the words *whit, whit, whit*. The Fowler begins to take in *April*, and continues until *August*; the times are at Sun rising, about *nine* o'clock, about *twelve*, and *three* in the Afternoon: after placing his *Net*, he hides himself under it amongst the Corn, and then uses his *Quail* pipe; the Cock, thinking it the note of the Hen, approaches rapidly to it; yet, notwithstanding he is so extremely ardent, employs not his Wings, but travels through the strongest herbage without rising into the *Air*. When the bird is got under the *Net*, the Fowler shews himself, and in attempting to fly the *Quail* is entangled and taken; these Calls and Nets, which are about eight yards long, and four broad, are to be had at the *Net* shops. In *Italy* they use the *Tunnel* net, having Cages with *live Quails* pitched before the *Tunnel*, and the persons who drive have each a jingling Instrument in their hands, which they sound from one to the other: the *Tunnel* is pitched three or four hours before day, and the *Quails* driven early in the Morning. In Moonlight they use their *tunnels* at any time of the Night.

In former times *Quail*-fighting was among the *Athenians* as great an entertainment as *Cock-fighting* is in this Country*; at this time the *Chinese* are very fond of it, and large Sums are betted on the event: after feeding the *Quails* very highly, they place two birds opposite, and throw a few grains of Seed between them; the Birds rush upon each other with the utmost fury, striking with their *bills* and *spurs* until one of them yields.

* Sometimes these Combats were performed between a *Quail* and a Man; the *Quail* was put into a large box, and set in the middle of a Circle traced on the floor; the Man struck it on the head with one finger, or plucked some feathers from it: if the *Quail*, in defending itself, did not pass the limits of the Circle, its Master won the Wager; but if in its fury it transgressed the bounds its worthy Antagonist was declared Victor. Such *Quails* as often won the Prize sold very dear; and we are told that AUGUSTUS punished a *Prefect* of Egypt with Death, for buying and bringing to Table one of these Birds which had acquired Celebrity by its Victories.

The *Chinese* also use this Bird, whose body is extremely *hot*, to warm their Hands in cold weather: this we see frequently delineated in *Chinese* paintings, and also in the common Paper hangings from that Country. Among the French, "*Chaud comme un Caille—Warm as a Quail*," is a Proverb.

Quails shew great diversion, to the young Shooter particularly; and as they fly straight, and seldom far, many shots may be got with very little fatigue.

THE BIRDS that remain to be treated of are what will be *here* termed *Fen-birds* and Wild Fowl; many of the *former* appear and breed in the *Fens*, affording the Sportsman, during the *Summer*, a varied store of Diversion. The Snipes certainly ought to have been included among *Fen-Birds*, but since they are more generally considered objects of the Shooter's skill than most of those that follow, they have been placed next to the *Woodcock*.

It is almost needless to premise that the *Fens* are (or rather *were*, for I refer back to *thirty years*) vast tracts of Morass covered with Water, and very shallow, except in the Drains, or some particular places; they abound in fish, such as *Pike*, *Perch*, *Tench*, *Roach*, *Bream*, and *Eels*; *Reeds* and *Flags* grow almost universally throughout the *Fens*, and yield Shelter to a great variety of *Water-fowl*. The *Reeds* are a sort of Harvest to the neighbouring Inhabitants, who mow them *annually*: they prove a much more durable Thatch than Straw, and not only *Cottages*, but very good Houses are covered with them. *Stares* or *Starlings*, which, during *Winter*, resort in Myriads to roost in the *Reeds*, are so very destructive in breaking them down, by the vast numbers that perch upon them,

that a Reed bed has been damaged to upwards of an *hundred pounds* in *one Night*: the people are therefore very diligent in driving them away; and in their attempts to do so are at great expence in Ammunition, to free themselves of these troublesome Guests. Stocks of *Reeds* properly harvested and stacked, are often, to a *Fen-farmer*, worth *three hundred pounds*.

The Ornithologist who does not content himself with bare Names and Appearance, will find ample room for the Exercise of his Labours, in examining the Economy of the different Sorts of Birds, and the Structure of their several parts; and although he can scarcely overlook the slow and almost imperceptible degrees by which the CREATOR has removed one Class of Beings from another, yet, in his attempts to trace their Affinity, he will find himself at a loss to ascertain that precise link of the Chain where the *doubtful, crossing line* is drawn, and by which the various Genera and Species are to be separated; but, however, after he shall have examined a few gradations, upwards or downwards, he will more readily discover the Modes of Life which the several kinds are destined to pursue; and their Ability to perform the Evolutions necessary for the Procuring of their Food in that Exactitude to which the great AUTHOR OF NATURE has formed them. In some of those which run on the Surface of the *soft Mud*, and can occasionally take the Water, the Tokens of their Fitness for *Swimming* are furnished very sparingly: these Indications first appear in the *breadth* of the *undersides* of the Toes, with the two outer Toes joined by a small Web. The scalloped *Membranes* attached to the *Sides* of the Toes form the next Advance: some are webbed to the Nails, with deep Indentations in the middle, between each Toe; others have only *three* Toes, all placed *forwards*, and fully united by webbed Membranes; some have the Addition of *back* Toes, either plain or with webbed appendages to each; and others again have the *four* Toes fully webbed together. The *Thighs* in the most expert *Divers* are placed very far back; their Legs are almost as flat and thin as a *Knife*, and they are enabled to fold up their Toes so closely that the least possible Resistance is made, while they are

drawing them *forwards* to repeat their Strokes in the Water. Many of these *Divers* are provided *internally* with a Receptacle, seated about the Windpipe, for a Stock of *Air*, which serves the purpose of Respiration, whilst they remain *under Water*: and the whole of the Tribe of *Swimmers* have thin Feathers bedded upon a soft, close, warm *Down*; and are furnished with a *Natural Oil*, supplied from a *Gland* in the Rump. This Oil they press out with their Bills from a kind of Nipple, and with it preen and dress their Plumage, which is thereby rendered impenetrable to the *Water*, and in a great Degree to the extremest *Cold*.

The Birds inhabiting the different *Fens* are extremely numerous, and may be all, or mostly, named, although this Work is not designed to give the peculiar History and Properties of each; yet of many, both *Fen* and *Wild Fowl*, there will be found *specific* Descriptions. Wild Ducks, Geese, Garganies, or *Summer Teal*, Pochards, Shovelers and Teals, Pewit Gulls and Terns, Herons, Bitterns, Coots, Water-hens, Water-rails, Ruffs and Reeves, Knots, Godwits, Redshanks, Lapwings, and many others, here breed and rear their young. Should any *Cambridge Man*, who was a *Fen Shooter Thirty years ago*, honour this Book with his perusal, he will not wonder at seeing the Name of Old MERRY, of *Stretham Ferry*, mentioned as a truly *scientific* Conductor of this kind of Sporting.

In his Knowledge of the *Haunts* of the different Species of Birds which visited the *Fens*, he was most precise; and in the Navigation of his *Punt* (a small boat) along the *ditches*, which are in fact the only Roads through the Fens, his judgment and assiduity were alike conspicuous; he knew if a Drought had lowered the Water where he could make good his point; and frequently, whilst Shooting parties with other Guides were wearying themselves with *towing*, or from the noise occasioned by being *towed* all the Birds in the vicinity were disturbed, *Old Merry* was steering his *Punt* silently to the scene of Action; and in the *Fogs*, which are so thick as to exclude objects at the smallest distance, or in the Dark, he was equally collected, and knew how to proceed in the Morning, or return at

Night, in spite of all Obstacles. As a *Marksman* he was extraordinarily expert; with a Gun upwards of *six feet* in the *barrel*, and that placed in its Stock by the *Village Carpenter*, and altogether of a Weight which nothing but a most powerful Arm could extend and elevate, would he kill a *Snipe* flying. Before exhibiting this proof of Dexterity, he usually requested to be supplied with a fresh Charge, in lieu of what he threw away (as he termed it) after so worthless a bird: the charge of this *Demi-culverin* was *two pipes and a half* of powder, and *three* of shot, and the *wadding* was a little *dry sedge*, of which he always took a whisk in the *Punt*. At *Wild-Fowl*, either single or in *Trips*, he was a fatal shot; from long habit his Eye and Ear were both singularly keen at the approach of Wild-fowl in their flight, and his Gun generally verified the truth of this observation, when fired at them in the *twilight*, or in the *fogs*; and for the most part his Caution to look out at the coming of the birds was so exact, that no person could well complain of want of shots, if they obeyed his Directions; his knowledge (either from the Wind, or some other cause) in seeing the *wild-fowl* fly, to what particular spot they would direct their Course, was accurate, and his *Punt* was certain to be either in a Direction to intercept them in their Flight, or to be concealed among the Reeds close to where they assembled to feed at Eve or Morning. Old MERRY had not been much troubled with Education; rude as the Country in which his occupation lay, he possessed, perhaps like *that*, Materials which would have received and well requited the labour of Cultivation; he had an innate Civility, and evenness of Temper, which very few could ruffle, always preserving the most unassuming Behaviour; and, whilst reciting a fund of *Fen-shooting* Anecdotes, was ever indefatigable in procuring Amusement for his Employers.

One Circumstance happened in the Course of our shooting acquaintance, which, however it may evince *Old Merry's* attachment to his Dog, might have been attended with serious Consequences. This favourite Dog was of the old *English water-spaniel* kind, and constantly went with his Master, to whom he used to bring *Coots* and *Wild-ducks* when moulting,

or the young *flappers*, in astonishing quantities. One afternoon the Dog shewed symptoms of being unwell, refused the Food offered him, and took no notice of the Birds as usual, and scarcely roused himself at the discharge of the Guns. Upon our return, the Dog was at one end of the Punt, and the Howl it almost incessantly uttered, added to the Darkness of the Evening, and the reflections upon the Cause by which these Howlings were produced, rendered it as unpleasant a Voyage as ever was made; for MERRY had no doubt but that the Dog was *going mad*, and meant to secure and administer some famous never-failing Remedy so soon as he got him home; the Dog, however, frustrated his intention, for when landed at the House, he directly set off, and what became of him was never discovered.

For the *Summer Fen-shooting* nothing was necessary but two Guns, one with a *long* and the other a *short* barrel, a pair of *Boots* made to resist the Water, and which were to be had of excellent leather from the Shoemakers in the Neighbourhood.

Of the Fen-birds within the Cognizance of this Work, those that are not *web-footed* will be first noticed; the others will be mentioned under the general head of *Wild-fowl*.

Dotterel

are common in some parts of England, in others unknown; they are found in tolerable plenty in *Cambridgeshire*, *Lincolnshire*, and *Derbyshire*.

These Birds are migratory; on *Lincoln Heath*, and on the *Moors* of *Derbyshire*, they appear in small flocks, of eight or ten only, in the latter end of *April*, staying there all *May* and the greater part of *June*; during which time they are very fat, and much esteemed for their excellent

flavour. In *Cambridgeshire* their appearance and abode are nearly similar. In the Months of *April* and *September* they are taken on the *Wiltshire* and *Berkshire Downs*: they are also found, in the beginning of the former Month, on the Sea side, at *Meales*, in *Lancashire*, and continue there about *three weeks*, attending the Barley fallows: from thence they remove northward to *Leyton Haws*, and stay there about a *fortnight*; and at the same time are plentiful about Holderness, and upon the *Yorkshire Wolds*. It is not perfectly ascertained where they breed; it is probable upon the Mountains of *Cumberland* and *Westmoreland*, as they appear there in *May*, and are not observed after the *breeding* Season: ten or twelve were once shot on the top of *Shiddaw*, in *June*; and from *Keswick*, in the former County, Dr. HEYSHAM once received some *Dotterel's* Eggs: they are likewise said to breed on several of the *Highland Hills*. LINNÆUS says they are frequent in *Dalecarlia* and the *Lapland Alps*, and visit *Sweden* in *May*. They are common in the North of Europe, where we may suppose they breed: in the Northern parts of *Russia* and *Siberia* they are known to do so, appearing *Southward* only in their Migrations. Their *Winter* residence is unknown.

The *Dotterel* is reckoned a very foolish bird, and was believed to mimic the Action of the *Fowler*, by stretching out a Wing when the other extended his Arm, continuing his imitation, regardless of the Net that was spreading for him. To follow this sport of catching them WILLOUGHBY states, six or seven persons go in Company; when they have found the Birds, they set their Net in an advantageous place, and each of them holding a Stone in either hand, they get behind the Birds, and striking the Stones often one against another, rouse them from their natural Sluggishness, and by degrees drive them into the Net. At present, Sportsmen watch the arrival of the *Dotterel* and shoot them, the decoying them by Artifice, and driving them into the Net, having been long disused.

The *female* weighs above four ounces; the *male* more than half an

ounce less: the length of the female is ten inches, breadth nineteen and a half; the bill black, slender, depressed in the middle, and not an inch long; the forehead brown and grey, mottled with white; top and back of the head dull black, former spotted with white; eyes dark, large, and full; over the Eyes is a white band, which bends downwards, and passes to the hind head; the sides of the head and throat white, surrounded by a broad band of light olive colour, bordered on the under side with white; forepart of the neck of a cinereous olive, mixed with a little white next the throat; the middle of the feathers of the back, and coverts of the wings and tail, olive, but their edges of a dull deep yellow; the greater quills are brown; the outer edge and the shaft of the first feather are white; the lower part of the neck is bounded with a line of black, beneath it, another of white; the breast and sides of a pale dull orange; middle of the belly, black; lower parts of belly and thighs, rufous white; tail, olive brown; near the end, a bar of dusky; the tip white; the two outer feathers margined with white; the legs are dark olive, and it wants the *back* toe, wherein it agrees with the *Green Plover*.

The Colours of the *Female* in general are duller, the white over the Eye narrower, and the crown of the head mottled with brown and white; the black on the belly is mixed with white, and the white line on the breast is narrower.

The *Dotterel* feeds upon worms and small land *Snails*; but when they leave the Marshes, and betake themselves to the Hilly parts of the Country, it is for the sake of *Beetles*, which form their principal and favourite food. Their flesh is very delicate.

The Wheat-ear

is also a Bird which subsists chiefly upon the same Food as the *Dotterel*, and is equally delicious. This Species is met with in most parts of *Europe*,

even so far as *Greenland*; and LATHAM says he has seen Specimens sent to *England* from the *East-Indies*. The Wheat-ear visits *England* annually in the middle of *March*, and leaves us in *September*; and about that time are seen in great Numbers by the Sea-Shore, where probably they subsist some little time before they take their Departure. The *Females* arrive about a fortnight before the *Males*, and keep coming till the third week in *May*. They resort to new-tilled grounds, and follow the Plough in search of Insects, which are their principal Food; though in rainy Summers they feed much on small Earth Worms, and are said to be fattest in such Seasons. In some parts of *England* they are very plentiful, and much esteemed. About *East-Bourn* in *Sussex*, they are taken in Snares made of *Horse hairs*, placed by the *Shepherds* beneath the hollows of a long Turf cut out for the purpose, and being very timid Birds, the appearance of a Hawk, or even the Motion of a Cloud that intercepts the Sun-beams, will drive them for Shelter into these Cavities, where they are entangled in the Hair Nooses. Gentlemen who ride or walk upon the Downs frequently examine these Traps, and used formerly to commute with the *Shepherds* by depositing a penny in the Trap whence a *Wheat-ear* was taken. The numbers annually ensnared in that District alone amount to 1,840 Dozen, which formerly sold for *Sixpence* per Dozen. Mr. PENNANT says, that the reason why they are in such Plenty about *East-Bourn* is, because a certain Fly abounds in the adjacent Hills, which feeds on the *Wild Thyme*, and of which they are particularly fond. Quantities are eaten by the Neighbouring Inhabitants; numbers are picked, and sent up to the London Poulterers; many are potted, and they are in as high Estimation in *England*, as the *Ortolans** are upon the Continent.

* The *Ortolan* is something less than the *Yellow-hammer*; length six inches and a quarter: Bill yellowish, the head and neck are cinereous Olive; throat and round the Eyes yellowish; the breast and belly are red, and the upper part of the Body brown, varied with black, Tail deep brown, with rufous edges, excepting the outer feather, which is edged with white, and the inner part of the neck to it, tipped with White; though in some Birds, the outer Feather is marked obliquely with White near the end, with a brown tip: Legs yellowish. The *Female* differs in having the head and neck inclining to Ash-colour, marked with small blackish lines down the shaft of each Feather: otherwise like the *Male*.

The Size of this Bird is nearly that of the common *Sparrow*. The length is five inches and a half; the bill black, and more than half an inch long; the top of the head, hind part of the neck and back, are of a blueish grey; from the base of the bill, a black streak extends over the eyes, cheeks, and ears, where it widens into a large patch, and above this there is a line of white. The Quills are black, with tawny edges; the rump,

The *Ortolan* or *Bunting* is the same Bird with the celebrated *Miliaria* of VARRO. Long before his time, it was known at ROME, where it was kept in the Aviaries, along with the *Quails* and *Thrushes*. The *Ortolans*, when fattened, are prepared for the Table in various ways. Sometimes they are roasted in a natural or artificial *Egg-shell*; a Mode of Cookery borrowed from the *Ancients*, who not only dressed small Birds, but presented them at their Entertainments in this Manner, so that upon Opening the Egg, they were seen floating amidst a high-seasoned Sauce. We have in page 16 of this Volume noticed the Cost of a *Dish of Small Birds* to have been £.6843 10s. Od. At *Montpellier*, where the *Becca-ficas*, *Grieves* and other small Birds make their appearance *twice a Day* at all Ordinaries there and in its Neighbourhood, they are served up in *Vine leaves* and are always *half raw*, in which state the *French* choose to eat them, rather than risk the loss of the *Juice* by over-roasting. SMOLLET remarks, that the best way of dressing them, is to stuff them into a Roll scooped of its Crumb, to baste them well with Butter, and roast them until they are brown and crisp. The delicacy of the Flesh, rather than the powers of Song, recommended the *Ortolan* to the luxurious *Romans*, and laid the foundation of their Fame in the ancient World: this species will however sing prettily both by *Night* and *Day*, and has been kept for that purpose. The Song is not unlike that of our *Yellow-hammer*, but finer and sweeter.

Ortolans are found in several parts of *Europe*, but are rarely met with in *England*; are common in *France* and *Italy*, and some parts of *Germany* and *Sweden*, migrating from one to the other in *Spring* and *Autumn*; and in their passage are caught in numbers, in order to fatten for the Lovers of good Eating. This Process is managed easily, by including the Birds in a *dark Room*, setting before them plenty of *Oats* and *Millet*, with which they soon grow so fat, that they would die from that Cause alone, did not their *Feeders* kill them for the Emolument of their Sale. Their *Flesh* is thought to be one of the most exquisite Morsels yet known, being as it were a Lump of rich Fat, and the Birds arrived at this State will often weigh *three Ounces* each. It is impossible to eat a large quantity of this Food, provoking as it may be, as it palls on the Appetite by its Richness; and Nature, as in other Instances, so here, has placed *Disgust* before *Excess*, as a Guard against the Intemperance of the *Glutton*.

Ortolans are also very common in the South of *Russia*, and in *Siberia* as far as the River *Ob*, but never go much to the *North*. The Arrival of the *Ortolans* in *France* is nearly at the same time with that of the *Swallow*, and they take their Departure with the *Quail*. They are lean on their first Appearance, which is during their Season of Love. In some parts they make their

upper tail coverts, and base half of the tail, white, the rest black. The under parts of the body, yellowish white, changing to pure white at the Vent. The breach tinged with red; legs and feet, black. In the Female, the white above the Eye is somewhat obscure, and all the Black parts of the Plumage incline more to brown, nor are the tail feathers marked so deeply with white.

Wheat-ears frequent Heaths; and, except in particular Spots, as before mentioned, are only seen in a few scattered Pairs. The Nest, which is placed in new-ploughed lands, under stones, or sometimes in old Rabbit-burrows, is constructed with much care, and is composed of dry grass or moss mixed with wool, and lined with feathers: it is defended by a sort of covert fixed to the Stone or Clod under which it is formed, and is always made on the Ground. The Eggs, from five to eight in number, are of a light blue, with a circle at the large end, of a deeper blue. The Young are hatched the end of *May* or early in *June*.

Nest in a *low Hedge*, in others, on the *Ground*. It is carelessly constructed, similar to that of the *Lark*: The Female lays *four* or *five* greyish Eggs, and in general has *two Broods* in a Year. They sometimes frequent *Oat-fields*, of which they seem very fond, quickly growing exceeding fat; and are deemed sufficiently so for the Table, though the Preference in point of Flavour is always given to those that are fattened *artificially*.

IN INDIA, we are told in the *Wild Sports of the East*, that "towards the Conclusion of the cold Season, that is to say, about the beginning of *March*, the *Ortolans* make their Appearance, and assemble in such *Flights* as can be compared to nothing better than an immense *Swarm of Bees*. They are partial to *Stubbles*, and new-ploughed Land; in the latter it is extremely difficult to distinguish them. They are most numerous in *April* and *May*, especially if the Squalls of Wind and Rain called *North-Westers*, be not frequent: those violent Gusts disperse them. In clear, hot Weather, perhaps a *Score* of large *Flights* may be seen in various Directions: they are not very difficult to approach; indeed whole *Flights* will sometimes settle close to the Persons who happen to be on a favourite or inviting Spot. Though many may be killed by firing at random, while the Flock is on the *Ground*, it is best to kill them on the *Wing*.—Major DUCAREL once killed more than *Thirteen Dozen* by one discharge of *Dust-shot* at a *Flight* that passed close to him."

THE WHEAT-EAR.

MR. STILLINGFLEET in his Tract, speaking of this Bird, says, that if the *Wheat-ear* does not quit *England*, it certainly shifts places; for about Harvest they are not to be found, where before there was great plenty of them. The most intelligent Shepherds, some of whom make many pounds in a Season by catching them in Traps, told Mr. WHITE, that some few of these Birds appear on the Downs in March, and then withdraw to breed, probably in Warrens and Stone-quarries*; for, although sometimes a Nest was ploughed up in the Fallows, it is considered a Rarity. At the

* From "CONVERSATIONS, including POETRY, by CHARLOTTE SMITH," the following elegant and descriptive Lines, respecting the *Wheat-ear*, are taken:—

THE WHEAT-EAR.

FROM that deep sheltered Solitude,
Where, in some Quarry, wild and rude,
Your feather'd Mother rear'd her Brood,
Why, Pilgrim, did you brave
The upland Winds, so bleak and keen,
To seek those Hills, whose Slopes between,
Wide stretch'd in grey Expanse, is seen
The Ocean's toiling Wave?

Did *Instinct* bid you linger here,
That Brood and restless Ocean near,
And wait, till with the waning Year
Those northern Gales arise;
Which, from the tall Cliff's rugged side,
Shall give your soft light Plumes to glide
Across the Channel's reflux Tide,
To seek more fav'ring Skies?

Alas! and has not *Instinct* said,
That Luxury's Toils for you are laid,
And that, by groundless fears betray'd,
You ne'er perhaps may know
Those Regions, where th' embow'ring Vine
Loves round the luscious Fig to twine,
And mild the Suns of Winter shine,
And Flow'rs perennial blow?

time of *Wheat* harvest, they begin to be taken in great Numbers, are sent for sale to *Brighthelmstone* and *Tunbridge*, and appear at all elegant Tables. About *Michaelmas* they retire, and are seen no more till the following *March*. Though the *Wheat-ears* when in Season are in great plenty on the *South Downs* near *Lewes*, yet at *East-Bourn*, which is the *Eastern* extremity of these Downs, they are much more abundant. One thing, continues Mr. W. is very remarkable, that though so many hundred Dozens are taken, yet they are never seen to *flock*; and it is a rare thing to see more than *three* or *four* at a time: so that there must be a perpetual *Flitting*, and constant progressive succession, and possibly for the purpose of a *general Migration* they draw towards the Coast of *Sussex* in *Autumn*. It does not appear that any *Wheat-ears* are taken to the Westward of

To take you, Shepherds' Boys prepare
The hollow Turf, the Noose of Hair;
Of those weak Terrors well aware,
That bid you vainly dread
The Shadows floating o'er the Downs,
Or murm'ring Gale, that round the Stones
Of some old Beacon, as it moans,
Scarce moves the Thistle's head.

And, if a Cloud obscure the Sun,
With faint and flutt'ring Heart you run,
And to the Pit-fall you should shun
Resort in trembling Haste;
While on that dewy Cloud so high,
The Lark (sweet Minstrel of the Sky)
Sings in the Morning's beamy Eye,
And bathes his spotted Breast.

Ah! simple Bird; resembling you
Are those, that with distorted View
Thro' Life some selfish End pursue,
With low inglorious Aim:
They sink in blank oblivious Night,
While Minds superior dare the Light,
And high on Honour's glorious Height
Aspire to endless Fame!

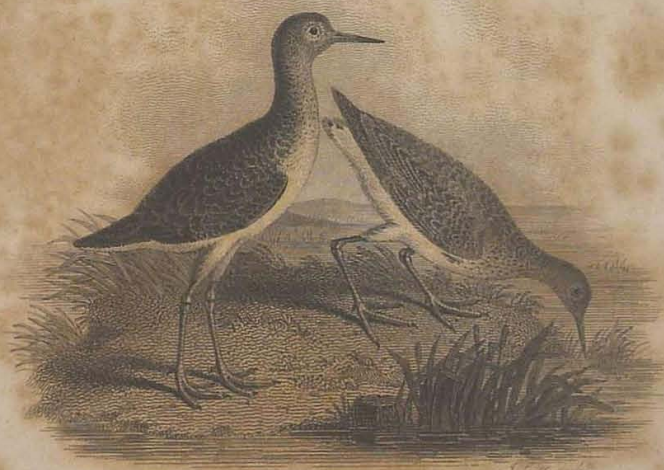
Houghton Bridge, which stands on the River *Arun*. A few Stragglers are seen in many Counties at all times of the Year, especially about Warrens and Stone Quarries.

Ruff and Reeve.

THE former are entitled to the Appellation of *Combatants*, given them by BUFFON, who notes, they not only contend with each other in single Rencounters, but they advance in order of Battle; and that these hostile Armies are composed entirely of the *Males*, which in this, as in many other Species of Birds, are much more numerous than the *Females*. Love is the Source of these Contentions, which Nature seems to countenance, by the *disproportionate* numbers between the *Ruffs* and *Reeves*.

The *Ruffs* assume such variety of Colours, that it is scarcely possible to see two alike; but the great length of the feathers on the neck, from which they take their name, at once distinguishes these from *all other Birds*; the feathers which compose this peculiarity swell out in a remarkable manner, not unlike the *Ruff* worn by our *Ancestors*: a portion of these feathers stands up over each Eye, imitating Ears; and this singular bunch of feathers grows from the back of the neck, spreading wide on both sides; this Tuft, and the feathers of the *Ruff*, are frequently of different colours in the *same Bird*: the *Ruff* is of as many and as various Dies, as there are Birds that wear it. LATHAM observes, “that of whatever hue the *Ruff* may be, the *breast* differs very little, and the transverse markings on the upper parts of the Plumage somewhat correspond, the ground tint being mostly *brown*.” The Tuft in the *Males* is not a warlike Ornament only, but is a sort of defensive Armour, which wards off the blows by the length, stiffness, and closeness of the feathers; they bristle in a threatening manner when the bird makes an attack, (*vide the top figure* in the Engraving), and their Colours form the chief distinction between the Individuals. In some

REEVE.



RUFFS.

these feathers are rufous, in others grey, some white; some of a fine violet black, broken with rufous spots: the *white* is most rare. In its Form too, the Tuft is as variable as in the Colours, during the whole time of its growth. This beautiful Ornament drops when these birds *moult*, about the end of *June*, (*vide* the *upright figure* in the Engraving), as if Nature reserved her Decorations and Armour for the Season of Love and of War. After the time of Incubation, the long feathers fall off, the Caruncles shrink in under the skin, so as not to be discerned, and their place is occupied by feathers; the *Males* are no longer by their *Plumage* to be distinguished, and *both Sexes* abandon the places where they bred.

The feathers that bear an Uniformity of *colouring* in the *Ruff*, are the *coverts* of the *wings*, which are brown, inclining to ash-colour; the feathers on the breast, which are often black or dusky; the four exterior feathers of the tail, which are of a cinereous brown; and the four middle ones, which are barred with black and brown. The quills are dusky, the lower belly, vent, and upper tail coverts, white.

The length of the *Ruff* is one foot, breadth two feet, and weighs, when taken, about seven ounces and a half; the bill is black towards the end, and more than an inch long; yellowish red at the base; the irides are hazel: the whole face covered with numerous yellow or red Pimples; the Legs in all are yellow, or yellowish red; claws black.

In moulting, they lose the long neck feathers, nor do they recover them till after their return to the *Fens* the *Spring* following; it is then they regain those *characteristic* feathers, and at the same time the Pear-shaped Pimples break out in great numbers on their face, above the Bill.

The *Stags* or *male* birds of the *first year* want these Marks, and have been sometimes mistaken for a new species of *Tringa*; but by the Colours of the wing coverts, and the middle Feathers of the tail, they may be

easily known: the *older* the Birds, the more numerous are the *Pimples*, and the fuller and longer the *Ruffs*.

Until the second Season, and also from the end of *June* until the Breeding time commences, the Plumage of *both sexes* is similar.

The *Reeves* never change the Colour of their feathers, which are pale brown, the middle of each feather dusky, in some parts almost black; the back spotted with black, slightly edged with white; the legs of a pale dull yellow: in length the *Reeve* is *ten* inches, in breadth *nineteen*; and its usual weight, when taken, is about four ounces, (*vide* the *stooping figure* in the Engraving).

In the LEVERIAN Museum is a variety of the *Reeve*, being wholly *white* except the wings, which have the usual marking of the feathers, but are rather paler.

These Birds are found early in the *Spring*, in the *Fens* of Lincolnshire, particularly the *West Fen*; the Isle of Ely; the East Riding of Yorkshire; and disappear about Michaelmas: they also visit a place called *Martin Mere*, in Lancashire, the latter end of *March*, or beginning of *April*, but do not continue there above three Weeks. It is uncertain where they spend the Winter; by their regular appearance upon our coasts in the Spring, and their stay for two or three Months, it would seem that they seek a temperate Climate; and if Observers had not assured us that they come from the *North*, we might justly draw the opposite inference, that they arrive from the *South*. It may therefore be presumed, that it is the case with these Birds as with the *Woodcocks*, which are said to come from the *East*, and return to the *West* or *South*; but which in some Countries only descend from the Mountains to the Plains, and again retire to their Heights. It is even probable that the *Ruffs* remain in the same Country, only shifting to different parts of it as the Season changes, or perhaps may

pass unobserved, intermingled with the dusky *Sand-pipers*, or the *Horsemen*, to which they bear great analogy, after the *moulting in June*. The *Reeves* lay four white Eggs, marked with large rusty spots, in a knot of grass, the beginning of *May*, and sit nearly a Month. Fowlers are said to avoid taking the *Reeves*, not only because of their being so much smaller than the *Ruff*, but that the Breed may be increased.

Soon after their arrival, the *Ruffs* begin to *Hill*, that is, to collect on some dry Bank near a splash of Water, in expectation of the *Reeves*, which resort to them.

Each *Male* possesses itself of a small piece of ground, which it runs round till the grass is worn away, and nothing but a naked Circle is left.

When a *Reeve* alights, the *Ruffs* immediately fall to fighting; they use the same Action in fighting as a Game Cock, place their bills to the ground, and spread their Ruffs. When a Fowler discovers one of these *Hills*, he places his Net over Night, which is of the same kind as those called *clap* or *day nets*, only it is generally single, and is about *fourteen* yards long, and *four* board: at Day-break he resorts to his stand, at the distance of one, two, three, or four hundred yards from the Nets; the later the Season the *shyer* the Birds, and he must keep the further off; he then makes his pull, taking such Birds as are within reach; after that he places his stuffed birds or *stales*, to entice those that are continually traversing the *Fen*. A Fowler has been known to catch *forty-four* birds at the first haul, and the whole taken in that Morning were *six dozen*. When the *Stales* are set, seldom more than two or three are taken at a time. An experienced Fowler will take *forty* or *fifty dozen* in a Season; they are fattened for the Table with *bread and milk*, *hempsced*, and sometimes boiled Wheat; but if Expedition is required, *Sugar* is added, which in a Fortnight makes them a lump of fat; they then sell for *half a crown* a piece. Great nicety is requisite to kill them at the highest pitch of *fatness*; if that is passed over, the birds are apt to fall away: the Method of killing

them is, by cutting off the Head with a pair of Scissars; the quantity of Blood that issues is very great, considering the size of the Bird: like the *Woodcock*, they are dressed with their Intestines, and when killed at the critical time, *Epicures* declare them to be the most delicious of all Morsels.

It is a vulgar error, that *Ruffs* must be fed in the *Dark*, lest the admission of Light should set them fighting: the fact is, every Bird takes its stand in the *Room*, as it would in the open *Fen*; if another invades its Circle, an attack is made, a battle ensues, and a whole Room may be set into fierce contest by compelling them to move their Stations; but after the Person's quitting the place, they have been seen to resume their Circles, and grow pacific. The Compiler kept many of the *Ruffs* in *Mews*, and the only disposition they ever shewed to be quarrelsome, was at the first, when the *Pan* which contained their Food was not large enough to admit the whole Party to feed, without being too close and touching each other. After the Food was divided into *three Pans*, it very rarely happened that the smallest Animosity was seen, although the birds were narrowly watched, in order to ascertain the *truth* of a Peculiarity ascribed to the *Ruff*, that a general Battle would ensue, if each Bird had not its *own Pan* to feed out of.

Ruffs and *Reeves* are very frequently shot in the Fens. Old MERRY, who has been before noticed, well knew how to place those, whom he conducted in *Fen Shooting*, near some Spot to which they resorted; the Birds flew backwards and forwards to this Spot in small Parcels (termed by the Fen-Men *Wings*), of seldom more than eight or ten; they flew very low, and close together, and some of those that were shot were extremely fat.

The Knot

which frequents the Fens, and is taken in the same manner as the *Ruffs*, may be here described. The *Knot* is said to have been a favourite Dish

with CANUTE *King of England*; and CAMDEN observes, that its name is derived from the Monarch's, KNUTE or KNOUT, as he was called, which, in process of time, has been changed to *Knot*. These Birds are caught in Lincolnshire and other *fenny* Counties by Nets, into which they are decoyed by *Stale* birds, carved and painted so as to represent themselves, and placed within the range of the Nets: their numbers are so considerable that Mr. PENNANT states *fourteen dozen* to have been taken at once. They are fattened in the same way as the *Ruffs*, and by some are supposed to excel that Bird in flavour. The season for taking them is from *August* to *November*, after which they in general disappear with the first Frosts. The weight of the *Knot* is four ounces and a half, length from nine to ten inches, breadth from sixteen to twenty inches. Bill one inch and a quarter, black at the tip, and dusky ash fading into orange towards the base. Tongue extends to the very end of the bill, and is sharp and horny at the point. Irides hazel; from the bill to the eye a dusky line; over the Eye a white one: the top of the head, neck, back, and wings, ash-colour; lower order of coverts tipped with white, and edged a little way up with the same, making a bar across the wing when extended; greater quills darker, with white shafts: lower part of the back and tail coverts dark ash-colour, mixed with white, forming spots like crescents: tail ash-coloured; the under part from the throat to the vent, white, with small dusky spots on the throat and breast; the sides under the wings, the belly, thighs, and vent, crossed with dusky lines; ridge of the wing white; the thighs feathered very nearly to the knee; the legs are short, in some are blueish ash-colour, in others reddish yellow; the toes are divided without any membrane. These Birds, however, like others of the same Genus, vary considerably from each other in their appearance at different Seasons of the year, as well as from Age and Sex. *Knots* have been observed about *Lake Baikal*, and Mr. PENNANT mentions a Specimen which came from *New-York*.

The Godwit

is taken at the same time, and in the same manner, with the *Ruffs* and

Knots, and when ready for Market, each sells for *five shillings* and upwards. In the Spring and Summer it resides in the Fens and Marshes, where it rears its young and lives upon small worms and insects. During these Seasons it only removes from one Marsh or Fen to another, but when the Winter sets in with Severity (for the *Godwit* continues with us the whole Year), it seeks the Salt-marshes, and the sandy Shores by the Sea-side, which for a great space are uncovered at the ebbing of the Tide, where it walks like the *Curlew*, and feeds upon the Insects which there abound.

This Bird is rather bigger than the *Woodcock*, being in length from sixteen to eighteen inches, and between the tips of the extended wings twenty-eight inches broad. The weight twelve ounces. Bill four inches long, bending a little upwards, black at the point, gradually softening into a pale purple towards the base; the under mandible the shortest; the tongue sharp; the nostrils oblong; and the ears large. A whitish streak passes from the bill to the eye; the head, neck, and upper parts of a dingy reddish brown, each feather marked down the middle with a dark spot. The fore part of the breast is streaked with black: in the Female the throat and neck are grey or ash-coloured; the belly, vent, and tail, are white, the latter regularly barred with black; the six prime quill feathers are black, edged on the interior sides with reddish brown. In some birds the rump is white, and the Chin nearly so; the legs are not very long, naked to the middle of the second joint, and are generally dark coloured, inclining to a greenish blue.

The *Godwit* is met with in various parts of the Continent of *Europe* and *Asia*, as well as in *America*: at *Hudson's Bay*, the *Red Godwit* in particular is so plentiful, that Mr. ATKINSON, long resident at York Fort, killed *seventy-two* at one shot.

Plovers.

THERE are three sorts of these birds, which are objects of the Sportsman's pursuit; the *Golden*, the *Grey*, and the *Peewit*, or *Lapwing*.

GOLDEN PLOVER.



DOTTEREL.

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The *Golden Plover* is the size of the *Turtle*; its weight nine ounces; length eleven inches, breadth twenty-four; the bill is short and black; the feathers on the head, back, and wing coverts, are dusky, beautifully spotted on each side with light yellowish green; round the eyes and the chin almost white; sides of the head, the neck, and sides of the body, the same as the upper parts, but much paler; the breast brown, marked with greenish oblong strokes; the middle feathers of the tail barred with black and yellowish green; the greater quills are dusky; the legs black; and it wants the *back toe*, by which it is distinguished from other Birds of its kind. There is some variety seen in the colour of the belly; this is owing to the Season: about the beginning of *March*, the appearance of *black* in the breast is first seen, increasing by degrees, until that part becomes a full Black; but after the time of Incubation, this Tint again disappears, and the belly is white. The *Male* and *Female* differ very little, and in the *young* birds the spots are not of a full yellow, but incline more to grey.

M. BAILLON, who has observed these birds in *Picardy*, asserts that their early plumage is *grey*; that at their first Moulting in *August* and *September*, they get some feathers of a yellow cast, or which are spotted with that colour; but it is not until after some Years that they acquire their fine *golden Tint*. He adds, that the *Females* are hatched entirely *grey*, and only when *old* assume a little yellow; and that it is very rare to see their feathers so uniform and beautiful as the *Males*. No longer need the distinction of Tints in this Species of Birds be remarked, since this Gentleman has proved, that the Varieties result from the difference of Age and of Sex.

This elegant bird inhabits England the whole year, and breeds on several of our unfrequented Mountains; is very common on those of the Isle of *Rum*, and others of the loftier Hebrides; also on the *Grampian*, and all the heathy Hills of the Islands and Highlands of *Scotland*: Millions are found in the *Orknies*, from which they never entirely migrate; they

lay four Eggs, two inches in length, more pointed in shape than those of the *Lapwing*, and of a pale cinereous olive, blotched with blackish spots; they make a *whistling* noise, and fly in small Flocks, and by a skilful imitation of the Note, may be enticed within shot. They frequent, in *November*, Meadows and Commons; and there was once an instance of a *Warrener* near *Bristol* killing *eleven* at one shot. Their flesh is sweet and tender; they are dressed like the *Woodcock*, with their trail, and are excellent eating.

The Golden Plover is common in all the northern parts of *Europe*. It is numerous in *America*, from *Hudson's Bay* to *Carolina*; migrating from one part to another according to the Seasons. Is met with to the South as far as *Aleppo*; and if, says *LATHAM*, the Species is not mistaken, in the Island of *Batavia* and in *China*. Our last Voyagers found them at *Owhyhee*, *Tongataboo*, and also *York Islands*, but of a smaller size.

The Grey Plover

is about twelve inches long and twenty-five broad, and weighs seven ounces; the bill is black, about an inch long: in the roof of the mouth is a double row of spinous Appendages pointing inwards; the head, back, and wing coverts, are of a dusky brown, edged with greenish ash-colour, and some with white; the cheeks and throat white, marked with oblong dusky spots; the belly, thighs, and rump, white; the exterior webs of the quill feathers black; the lower part of the interior webs of the first four white: the tail is short, does not project beyond the wing, and is marked with transverse bars of black and white; the legs are of a dirty green; the back toe extremely small. This bird is in no great abundance, in England*; they generally come in small flocks about *October*, and leave

* *Mr. GILPIN* speaks of them as sometimes abounding in the *New Forest*. "*Plovers of different kinds* (says that Gentleman) *are common in its heathy parts. I have sometimes seen*

this Country about *March*: in cold and frosty weather, they seek their Food on such Lands as lie near and adjoining to the Sea; in open weather they feed in *ploughed* fields, especially if sowed; and, having fed, fly to some splash of water to wash their Beaks and Feet; a habit which is also common to the *Woodcocks*, the *Lapwings*, the *Curlews*, and many other birds which feed on *Worms*; they sleep chiefly in the *day* in calm weather, passing most of the *night* in running up and down after the *Worms*, which then creep out of the ground: at that time they always make a small cry, as if to keep their flock collected till Day-break, when they unite and fly to the Coast; they are sometimes taken in Nets at their first coming, and the Fowler is cautious to set his Nets to play with the Wind; for instance, when the Wind is *Easterly*, that they may play *Westerly*. The *North-west* is the worst Wind to take them; all Sea-fowl fly *against* the Wind, whenever they design to rest on the Land. The preferable places for setting the Nets are, in large common fields of *green Corn*, and near to *Water*, for there they are sure to resort to clean their Beaks and Feet: their flesh is very delicate. In *Carolina* they are seen in the vallies, near the mountains, in great numbers, but seldom alight; are also very common in *Siberia*, appearing there in Autumn in vast Flocks, coming from the extreme *North*, where they breed.

The Lapwing, or Peewit, or Bastard Plover,

is so common, that a detailed Description is unnecessary: it is about the size of a Pigeon, and weighs eight ounces; the plumage is beautiful, especially the *Crest*: the *Male* and *Female* are alike, but the last rather

large flocks of the *grey* species, and admired them as they encircled the Air; in their regular flight they in some degree resemble Water-fowls, but are not so determined in their course, wheeling about, and forming various Evolutions: at times they appear scattered and in confusion, until closing together, as if by some word of command, they get again into form."

The *Snipe* is also a frequent inhabitant of the wildest Scenes of the above District: any swamp or marshy spot pleases; and of these abundance is found in various parts of the Forest.

smaller; is a constant inhabitant of this Country, and seen on most of the heaths or marshy grounds; but as it subsists chiefly on *worms*, it is forced to change its place in search of Food, and is frequently seen in great numbers by the Sea-shores, where it finds an abundant supply. It is every where well known by its loud and incessant Cries whilst on the wing, and whence, in most Languages, a name has been given to it as imitative of the Sound. The *Peewit* is an active bird, almost continually in motion; it runs along the ground very nimbly, and bounds from spot to spot with great Agility; it frolics in the Air in all directions, assuming a variety of Attitudes, remaining long upon the wing, and sometimes rising to a considerable height.

The Female lays her Eggs on the ground, scraping together a little dried grass for a Nest: they are four in number, of a dirty olive, spotted with black. It is worthy of notice, that among Water-fowl, congenerous birds lay the *same number* of Eggs: for Example, all of the *Sandpiper*, and also of the *Plover* tribe, lay *four* a-piece; the *Puffin* Genus only *one*; and the *Duck* tribe in general are numerous layers, producing from *eight* to *twenty*. The *Lapwing's* Eggs are held in great esteem for their delicacy, and are sold by the *London Poulterers* for four shillings the *dozen**. The *Hen* sits about three weeks; the young Lapwings run very soon after being hatched, are first covered with a blackish down, interspersed with long white hairs, which they gradually lose; and about the latter end of *July* acquire their handsome feathers. The *old* Birds shew remarkable solicitude for their *Offspring*; on the approach of any one to the place of their deposit, they fly round his head with cries of the greatest Inquietude, and become more clamorous when farthest from the Nest; and will even flutter along the ground as if lame, in order to draw off the attention of the Fowler.

* Is it not an encroachment upon the *rights* of Nature thus to destroy the tender germs of Species which we cannot multiply? The Eggs of domestic *Poultry* are in a manner our own Creation; but those of independent *wild* birds belong only to the common Mother of all; and her Decrees ought not to be violated, to gratify the *Whims* of a luxurious Appetite.

Hence around the head
Of wand'ring Swains the white-winged Plover wheels
Her sounding flight, and then directly on
In long Excursion skims the level Lawn,
To tempt him from her Nest.

In *August*, the young and old associate in large flocks, which hover in the Air, and either betake themselves to Downs and Sheep-walks, or saunter in the Meadows, and after *rain* disperse among the *ploughed* fields. In *October*, the *Lapwings* are very fat, and are then excellent eating. In *Lorraine* there is an old Proverb, “ Qui n’a pas mangé de Vanneau, ne sait pas ce que gibier vaut : ”—He that has not eaten *Lapwing*, knows not what *Game* is worth. In *October* and *November* they are taken in the *Fens* in Nets, in the same manner as the *Ruffs* are, but are not preserved for further *fattening*, but killed as soon as caught.

In the provinces of *Brie* and *Champaign*, in *France*, they are seen in flocks of thousands, and decoyed into the Nets by the playing of a Mirror, with the Addition of some *stuffed* birds, with here and there a live one intermixed; and in the Canton of *Bassigney* they are hunted at Night with Flambeaus, the light of which attracts them.

The *Lapwing* is frequently kept in Gardens, where it is useful in freeing them from *Worms* and *Slugs*. When this bird sees a Worm-cast, he turns it aside, and after walking two or three times around it, by way of giving Motion to the ground, attentively waits the issue: the Worm soon makes its appearance, which the *Lapwing* immediately seizes, and carefully draws out. During frosty and hard Weather, they will eat bits of Pudding or Meat; but always forsake these when *Worms*, its favourite food, can be had.

The following Anecdote shews the *domestic* Nature of this bird, as well as its singular Conciliation of Animals, generally supposed to be

hostile to the feathered Race. Two *Lapwings*, given to the Rev. Mr. CARLYLE, were turned into a Garden, where one soon died; the other picked up such food as the place afforded, till Winter deprived it of its usual supply. Necessity compelled it to approach the House, by which it became familiarized to occasional interruptions from the Family. It was observed by one of the Servants, that the *Lapwing* always made his cry of *Peewit* at the *back Kitchen* door to obtain admittance: as the Winter advanced he came into the Kitchen, but with much caution, as that part of the House was already occupied by a Dog and Cat, whose Friendship the *Lapwing*, by degrees, so conciliated, that when dark he constantly resorted to the Fireside, sitting close to his two Associates, and partaking the warmth: when *Spring* appeared, he left the House, and betook himself to the Garden; but on the appearance of *Winter*, had recourse to his old Shelter and his old Friends, who received him cordially: he frequently washed in the bowl set with the Dog's water; and while thus employed, was highly indignant if either of his Companions presumed to interrupt him. In his Winter lodging, crumbs of *wheaten bread* were his principal food, which he preferred to any thing else. He died in the *winter Asylum* he had chosen, being choaked with some hard substance he had picked up.

A further instance of friendship between instinctive Enemies occurred in 1803, where a *Starling*, in the possession of Mr. BAKER, of Northgate-Street, *Chester*, lives in perfect intimacy with a *Cat*. Such is the mutual friendliness of these Animals, that one platter serves for both, and the back of Puss is frequently the Perch of his feathered Companion.

The *Lapwing* is common in most parts of *Europe*, on the Continent, and as far as *Iceland*: it changes place according to the Season, being seen in the Winter in *Persia* and *Egypt*, and a Specimen has been sent from *China*.

The Bittern,

as a *Fen* Bird remarkable in its Habits, may be here described. It is a common Bird in *England*, and is found in most temperate parts of the *Continent*, and remains with us the whole year, frequenting *Marshy* places, and particularly the *Fens* where *Reeds* are abundant, among which it makes its Nest in *April*, which is chiefly composed of a bed of *Rushes*. The Female lays from four to six Eggs, of a pale greenish ash colour; the young are produced in *twenty-five* Days, and are naked and ugly, appearing almost all Legs and Neck, and cannot venture from the Nest till after being *twenty days* hatched, during which time the old Birds feed them with Slugs, Small Fish, or Frogs. The *Hawks*, which plunder the Nests of most of the Water Fowl, seldom dare to attack that of the *Bittern*, the old Ones being always so alert in Defence of their Offspring. In *February* and *March*, the *Males* make a deep lowing noise, Mornings and Evenings, and which ceases after the Breeding Season: this sound was formerly believed to be made while the Bird plunged its Bill into the *Mud*: hence
THOMSON—

— So that scarce
The *Bittern* knows his time, with Bill ingulphed
To shake the sounding Marsh.

This Bird leads a very solitary Life amidst the *Reeds* and *Flags* of our most extensive *Fens*, concealed equally from the *Fowler*, whom he dreads, and the prey that it watches, continuing for whole Days about the same Spot, and seems to look for Safety only in Retirement and Inaction. Its principal Food during *Summer* consists of *Fish*, *Frogs*, and *Insects*; but in the *Autumn* it repairs to the *Woods* in pursuit of *Mice*, which it seizes dexterously, and always swallows whole, and about this Season it generally becomes very fat. A Female *Bittern*, that was killed during the Frost in Winter, had in her Stomach several Water Lizards quite complete, and

the remains of Frogs; these were supposed to be taken out of the Mud under the shallow Water in the *Swamp* where the Bird was shot: and Mr. LATHAM remembers to have seen two middle-sized *Trouts* taken perfectly whole, from the Stomach of a *Bittern*.

In taking its *Autumnal* Trip, it commences the Journey at *Sunset*, when it is seen to soar aloft in a spiral ascent so far as the Eye can reach, making a singular *Cry*, but different to that which it utters in the *Spring*. When *roused* from its Retreat, as it flies heavily, the *Bittern* is easily shot; but if only *wounded*, makes a severe Resistance, and will fight with both *Bill* and *Claws* desperately, and has been known to dart with the former so as to pierce the Leg of the Sportsman, even through his Boot.

Mr. MARKWICK once shot a *Bittern* in frosty weather, which fell on Ice just strong enough to support the Dogs, who eagerly attacked it; but being only slightly wounded, the Defence was so vigorous, that (till killed by a second Shot) the Dogs were compelled to leave it.

In HENRY VIII's Reign, at the Tables of the Great, the *Bittern* was in high Repute. Its *Flesh* (which has nothing of the *Fishiness* of that of the *Heron*) is very excellent, and is somewhat similar, but has a far superior Flavour to that of the *Hare*. *Poulterers* even now value this Bird at about *half a Guinea*; and it is fast recovering its credit as a Fashionable Dish. The *hind Claw*, which is remarkably long, was once supposed a grand Preservative of the *Teeth*, and was often used as a *Toothpick*, mounted in Silver or Gold.

The *Bittern* is rather smaller than the common *Heron*, and is in length two feet six inches; the Bill Brown, beneath inclining to Green, and is four inches long; Irides, yellow; the Head feathers are long, and those of the Neck loose and waving; the crown of the Head, black; the feathers on the hind part forming a sort of pendent Crescent; the lower Jaw on each side, dusky; the Plumage is beautifully variegated;

the ground, a ferruginous yellow, palest beneath, marked with numerous bars, streaks, and zig-zag lines of black; the feathers of the Breast very long and loose; the Legs are pale green; Claws, long and slender; and the inner Edge of the middle Claw *serrated*, for the better holding of its Prey. The *Female* is less, darker coloured, and the Feathers on the head and neck are shorter, and less flowing than those of the *Male*.

The Redshank, or Pool Snipe,

resides the greater part of the year in the Fen and Marshy Countries, where it is pretty common; and there it breeds and rears its young, laying four whitish Eggs, tinged with olive, and marked with irregular black Spots, most numerous at the large end. When disturbed it has nearly the Actions of a *Lapwing*, in flying round its Nest, which it is said to do in such regular *Circles*, the Nest being in the Centre, whether the Circuits be larger or smaller, insomuch that an attentive Observer will often find it by this circumstance. The *Redshank* is in length twelve inches, in breadth twenty-one, and weighs about Six ounces: the bill is two inches long, slender, and like a *Woodcock's*; of a dark red at the base, and black towards the point: the tongue is sharp and undivided; the upper Mandible longer, and sometimes crooked at the very tip: Irides reddish hazel; a whitish line passes over and encircles each eye, from the corner of which a dusky brown Spot is extended to the beak. The head, and hind part of the neck, dusky ash-colour, spotted with brown: back and scapulars glossy olive brown: Wing coverts ash-colour, mixed with dusky and brown, and marked with whitish spots: the bastard wing and primary Quills are brown; the inner webs of the latter are deeply edged with white freckled with brown, and some of these quills next the Secondaries are elegantly marked near their tips with narrow brown lines, pointed and shaped to the form of each feather. Some of the Secondaries are similarly barred, others are white: the throat and forepart of the breast are marked with short dusky Spots; the under parts from the breast, and

the lower parts of the back and rump, white, marked with minute dusky spots: Tail Coverts and tail crossed with narrow bars of black, twelve or thirteen on each feather: legs orange red, and measure, from the end of the toes to the upper bare part of the thigh, five inches and a half: Claws black. In some birds both the rump and belly are of a pure white. The *Redshank* is common in many parts of *Europe*, as high as *Finmark*; is likewise found in *Siberia*, and is indigenous also to the Continent of *America*.

The Water-Hen,

Water-Rail, and *Coot*, (with which last some Naturalists begin the Tribe of *Swimmers*, and divide them from the *Waders*,) may here be mentioned. Although the *Water-Hen* is no where very numerous, yet one Species or other of them is met with in almost every part of the Globe. It is not yet ascertained whether they ever migrate from this to other Countries, but it is well known that they make partial flittings from one District to another, and are found in Summer among the cold Mountainous Tracts, and in lower and warmer Situations during the Winter. The *Water-Hen* is a common Bird in *England*, frequenting every where the borders of Rivers and Ponds where *Weeds* and thick Willows grow; (upon the boughs of the latter it often perches :) wherein, like the *Water-Rail*, it conceals itself during the Day; in the Evenings it runs and skulks by the Margin of the Waters, among the roots of the Bushes, Oziers, and long loose Herbage which overhang the Banks, in quest of its Food, which consists of Water Insects, Worms, aquatic Plants, and Seeds; it will likewise pick up *Corn* from the neighbouring Stubbles; and is at all times very good eating, but from *September* to *December* the flesh is extremely delicious.

The Female forms her *Nest* with a large quantity of withered *Reeds* and *Rushes* closely interwoven, in a retired spot, close by the brink of the Waters, and frequently places it upon some low tree or Stump by the

Water side: she lays *Seven Eggs*, nearly two inches long, of a yellowish white, marked with irregular reddish brown spots, and is said never to leave the *Nest* during Incubation, without covering the *Eggs* with the leaves of the surrounding Herbage. The *Water-Hen* has *two*, and sometimes *three*, Hatchings in a Summer; the young brood remain but a short space in the Nest, under the fostering care of the Mother, and as soon as able to crawl out they take to the Water, and shift for themselves. In the Spring the *Water-Hen* has a shrill Call; it strikes with its Bill like the common Hen; its Flight is slow and awkward, with the legs hanging down, and to no great distance at a time: in Running, which it does pretty fast, the Tail is so flirited up as to shew the under *white* feathers.

The length of the *Water-Hen* is about fourteen inches, the breadth twenty-two; the weight from twelve to fifteen ounces: bill red, with a greenish yellow tip, and above an inch long: at the base a singular kind of *red* Membraneous substance shields the forehead as far as the Eyes, and which is the Colour of *Sealing Wax* in the *breeding* Season; at other times it varies or fades into a *whitish* colour. The head is small and black, except a white spot under each Eye; the irides red; colour of the Plumage sooty black above, tinged with shining olive green, beneath cinereous; outer edge of the Wing, outside feathers of the Tail, and under tail Coverts, white; Vent feathers black, those on the belly and thighs tipped with dirty white; the long loose feathers on the sides hanging over the upper parts of the thighs are black, streaked with white; above the knee, at the commencement of the bare part, a circle of red; from the knees to the toes the colours are different shades, from pale yellow to dark green; the toes are very long, the middle one measuring, to the end of the nail, nearly three inches; their under sides are broad, being furnished with membraneous edgings their whole length on each side, by which the Bird is enabled to Swim, (which it does very well, and also dives and hides itself with equal ease,) and readily run over the Surface of the slimy Mud, by the sides of the Waters where it frequents: its legs are placed far behind. The Body of this Bird is long, and *compressed* at the Sides,

contrary to those of the *Duck* kind, which are broad, flat, and *depressed*; its feathers are thickly set, and bedded upon Down.

The *Water-Hen* is common on the Continent; is also an Inhabitant of *America*, from *New-York* to *Carolina*; and is recorded as a Native of *Jamaica*, and other Islands in the *West Indies*.

The Water-Rail,

although a shy and solitary bird, is sufficiently common in this Kingdom, but it is only seen during the Winter in the *Northern* parts. It is found chiefly on the edges of Ponds and Rivulets, much overgrown with Sedges, Reeds, and other coarse Herbage, among which it may find Shelter on the appearance of an Enemy, and also feed in secret Security: it runs, occasionally flirting up its tail, through its tracts with similar swiftness to what the *Land Rail* exerts in the Meadows and Corn-fields; and also shews an equal aversion to take flight as that Bird does; and possesses more means of disappointing the Sportsman, whose Patience it generally exhausts, and distracts his Dog, seldom rising until after it has crossed every Pool, and skulked through every Avenue, within the Circle of its Retreats: when once flushed it is, however, easily shot, flying very indifferently, and with its legs hanging down: it will, at times, take to the Water, swimming tolerably well, and is often seen running on the Surface, where there are any weeds to bear it up.

The *Eggs* of the *Water-Rail*, according to LATHAM, are more than an inch and a half long, of a pale yellowish colour, marked all over with dusky brown Spots, nearly equal in size, but irregular. The Flesh is of a delicious flavour.

The length of the *Water-Rail* is twelve inches, breadth sixteen, and weighs four ounces and a half; the bill is slightly curved, one inch and

three quarters long, of a dusky black colour, but reddish at the base; irides red; the top of the head, hinder part of the neck, back, scapulars, coverts of the Wings and tail, are black edged with dingy brown; the under parts from the Chin to the middle of the belly, ash colour; in some supposed to be *young* birds, margined with White; the side feathers are beautifully crossed with black and white, and slightly tipped with reddish brown; the inner side of the thighs, the belly, and the Vent, are pale brown, sometimes specked with blueish ash-colour; under tail coverts white; Quills dusky; the tail consists of twelve short black feathers, edged and tipped with dusky red; some of those on the under side barred with black and white. The legs, which are placed far behind, dusky red; the toes long, and without any membrane to connect them.

The *Water-Rail* is plentiful in the Marshes of *Sweden*, *Norway*, *Russia*, and in the Western part of *Siberia*, and throughout the Continent of *Europe*; from whence, during the Severity of Winter, it migrates Southward, even into *Africa*. BUFFON says, they pass *Malta* in the Spring and Autumn; and in confirmation adds, that “the Viscount de Querhëint saw a Flight of them at the distance of *Fifty Leagues* from the Coasts of Portugal, on the 17th of *April*, some of which were so fatigued that they suffered themselves to be caught by the Hand.”

The Coot

is common throughout *England* all the Year, and in Winter repairs to the Sea in great Numbers. During the *breeding* Season the *Fens* are alive with them; and Ponds, whose borders are well covered with *Weeds*, *Rushes*, &c. are seldom destitute of them at that period. The *Coot* both swims and dives well, and does not often leave the *Waters* to come upon *Land*, where it is a bad Traveller, and may be said not to walk, but to splash and waddle between one Pool and another, with an awkward, ill-balanced Gait: it hides itself like the *Rail* and *Water-Hen* among the

Sedges during the Day, and rarely ventures abroad, except at Dusk, and in the Night, in quest of its food, which is *Water Insects*, *Seeds*, the *very small fry* of Fishes, and the *Roots* of the *Bullrush*, with which it feeds the young. It is said, likewise, to eat *Grain*. The Sportsman and his Dog with difficulty can force the *Coot* to spring from its Retreat, for it will, in a manner, bury itself in the *Mud*, rather than take Wing, and when compelled to rise it does so with much *fluttering*, and apparent Labour. The *Female* makes her Nest in the *Rushes*, surrounded by the *Water* *, with a large quantity of coarse dried Weeds, well matted together, and lines it with soft fine Grass: she lays from *twelve* to *fifteen* (some say *Eighteen* or *Twenty*) Eggs, about the size of a Pullet's, and of a pale brownish white colour, speckled with numerous small dark spots, which, at the thicker end, seem as if they had run into each other, and formed bigger blotches. So soon as the Young quit the Shell, they plunge into the Water, dive and swim with much ease, but they still gather together about the Mother, take shelter under her Wings, and do not forsake her for some time. From the Circumstance of *Coots* laying so *numerously*, and hatching *twice* in a Season, they might be expected to be more abundant, but they are at first covered with sooty coloured *Down*, and are of a shapeless appearance; and while in this State, and before they have learned by Experience to shun their Foes, the *Moor Buzzard*, *Kite*, and others of the *Hawk* Tribe, make dreadful Havoc among them: the *Pike* is also the indiscriminate Devourer of the *Young* of all these *Water* Birds: and thus the seeming Scarcity of this Species may be accounted for.

The *Coot* is the size of a small *Fowl*, weighing, when fat and in good condition, twenty-eight ounces, and is in length fifteen inches. The Bill is greenish white, and an inch and one-third long; a callous *white* Mem-

* A *Coot* built her Nest in Sir WILLIAM MIDDLETON's Lake, at *Belsay*, Northumberland, among the *Rushes*, which were afterwards loosened by the Wind, and, of course, the *Nest* was driven about, and floated upon the Surface of the Water in every direction; notwithstanding which, the *Female* continued to sit as usual, and hatched her Young upon her moveable Habitation.

brane, like that of the *Water-Hen*, but larger, is spread over the forehead, and which changes to a pale *red*, in the breeding Season. Irides red, and a white spot under each Eye; the head, neck, and back, are black; outer edge of the Wing white; the breast, belly, and Vent, dark ash-colour; the Skin is clothed with a thick Down, and covered with close fine feathers; the thighs are placed far behind, are fleshy and strong, and at the beginning of the naked part above the knee is a Circle or *Garter* of Yellow; the legs and toes yellowish green, sometimes of a lead-colour; and the Toes are furnished on each side with a scalloped broad Membrane. No difference is observed between the Sexes. A *Coot* was once shot at *Spalding*, in *Lincolnshire*, entirely *white*, except a few feathers in the Wings, and about the Head.

The *Goodness* of this Bird is what many persons are not acquainted with. The *Young* ones are extremely good put into Pies, or boiled with *Onions*, like *Rabbits*; and in the Winter when fat, and they haunt the *Sea Shore*, they are of as high a Flavour, and equally as pleasant to the taste as a *Widgeon*.

The Curlew

is common in *England*, where it is to be met with at all Seasons. In the Winter haunting the Sea coast and Marshes in great Numbers, where they live upon the worms, marine insects, and different fishy Substances, which they find upon the Beach, and among the loose rocks and shallow pits left by the retiring Tide. Their Summer residence is upon the heathy, mountainous, boggy Moors, where their Food consists of Worms, Slugs, Flies, and Insects, which their long Bills enable them to pick out of the soft mossy Earth, and here they breed. The *Female* (which is rather bigger, but whose Plumage is nearly like the *Male's*) makes her Nest upon the ground, in a dry tuft of Rushes or Grass, of such withered materials as are found near, and in *April* lays four Eggs, of a pale olive colour, marked with brownish Spots. These Birds vary much in *Size*, as well as

in the different Shades of their feathers, some of them weighing not more than *twenty-two*, and others *thirty-seven ounces*. In some the White parts of the Plumage are clearer than in others, which are more uniformly grey, and tinged with pale brown: they utter a very shrill Cry, that may be heard at a considerable Distance.

The common length of the *Curlew* is two feet, and from tip to tip from three feet to forty inches; the bill is about Seven inches long, of a regular Curve, and tender substance at the point; the tongue sharp, and very short, extending not further than the angle of the lower Chap; the upper Mandible is black, gradually softening into brown towards the base, which of the under Mandible is flesh coloured; the feathers of the head, neck, upper part of the back and wing coverts, are of a pale brown; the middle of each feather black, edged and deeply indented with pale rust colour, or light grey; the breast, belly, and lower part of back, dull white, marked with Conjoint lines of black, the two former with oblong strokes more thickly set; Quills black, spotted on the inner webs with white; tail reddish white, barred with black; the legs are bare a little above the knees, of a dusky blueish colour; the toes are thick, and flat on the underside. The *Curlew* flies Swiftly. The flesh of the *Curlew* has been characterised as being very good, and of a fine flavour; by others the direct Reverse has been maintained. The old Proverb of

A *Curlew*, be she white, or be she black,
She carries twelve-pence on her back,

is a strong presumption that it was a Bird at that period deemed excellent. The Truth is, that while they live *Inland*, and on the Moors, and are in health and Season, scarcely any Bird excels them in goodness; but when *Curlews* return to and continue some time on the Sea-Shores, they acquire a rank and fishy Taste.

Curlews are found in most parts of *Europe*; they abound in all the plains and open Marshes, or heath grounds of *Russia* and *Siberia*; also in *Kamtschatka*, *Lapmark* and *Iceland*, in general retiring *North* to breed,

and returning to the *South* as Autumn approaches. In *Italy* and *Greece*, and perhaps much further *South*, they are met with, as Flocks are seen passing over the Island of *Malta*, Spring and Autumn.

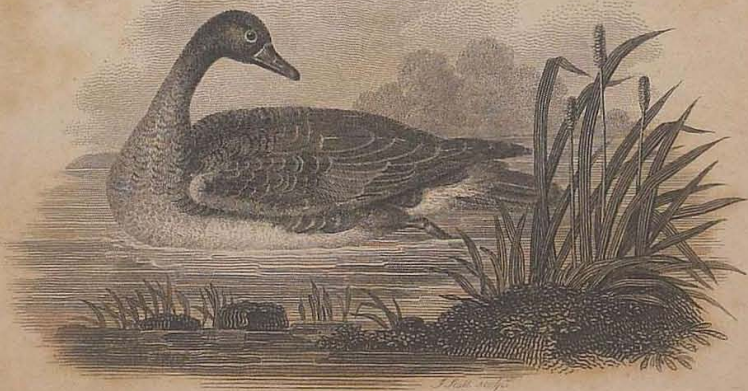
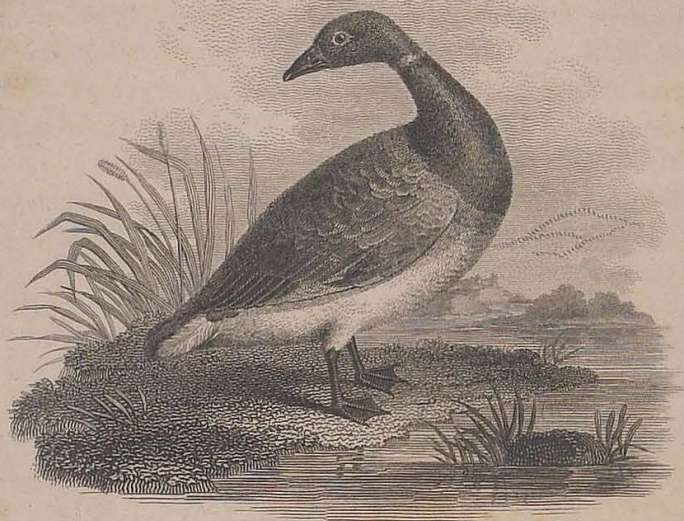
Stone Curlew.

OF the *Stone Curlew* (*Charadrius Oedichnemus*) Mr. WHITE gives the following account:—That it lays its Eggs, which are short and round, of a dirty white, spotted with dark bloody blotches, usually *two*, never more than *three*, on the bare ground, so that the Countryman in ploughing his Fallows often destroys them. The Young run immediately from the Egg like *Partridges*, and are withdrawn to some *flinty* field by the Dam, where they skulk among our grey spotted *Flints*, which are so exactly of their colour, as to be such a security, that unless he catches the *Eye* of the young bird, the most accurate Observer may be deceived. *Oedichnemus* is a most expressive Name for them, since their Legs seem swelled like those of a *Gouty Man*, yet they run with the swiftness of a Greyhound, and sometimes stop suddenly, holding the head and body motionless. After Harvest, Mr. W. says, he has shot them before the Pointers in Turnip fields. When it flies, this bird stretches out its legs straight behind like an *Heron*. A *Sussex* Friend, to whom Mr. W. applied for further Information respecting the *Stone Curlew*, states, “That they live with us all Spring and Summer, and at the beginning of Autumn prepare to depart by getting together in Flocks. They seem to me a Bird of Passage, that may travel into some dry hilly Country *South* of us, probably *Spain*, because of the abundance of *Sheep-walks* in that Country; for they spend their Summers with us in such Districts. I believe they are not fond of going near the water, but feed on *Earth Worms*, that are common on *Sheep-walks* and Downs. There is reason to think, that the *old* do not feed the *young* ones, but only lead them about at the time of feeding, which, for the most part, is in the Night.”

In the Manners of the *Stone Curlew* there is, says Mr. W. something very analogous to the *Bustard*, whom it also somewhat resembles in Aspect and Make, and in the structure of its *Feet*.

Of the Web-footed Fen-birds the first noticed will be the *Grey Lag*; those that follow will be the Water-fowl, which are generally found upon the Sea-coast, or in the Rivers affected by the Tide during the Winter; and of which many resort to the Fens, as a safe Asylum in the *breeding* Season: but, as a celebrated Writer has well observed, "It is the *Northern* extremities of the Earth which seem as if set apart as the peculiar Heritage of the *feathered* Race: a possession which they have held coeval with Creation. There, amidst Lakes and endless Swamps, where the *Human* foot never trod, and where, excepting their own Cries, nothing is heard but the Winds, they find an Asylum where their Young can be reared in safety, and surrounded by the greatest profusion. This ample Provision consists chiefly of the *Larvæ* of Gnats and Insects, with which the Atmosphere must be loaded in those Regions, during the Summer Months. The Eggs of these Insects deposited in the Mud, and hatched by the Influence of the unsetting Summer's Sun, arise, like Exhalations, in multiplied Myriads, and, as we may conceive, afford a never-failing supply of Food. An equal abundance of Nutriment is also provided for the Young of those kinds of Birds, which seek it from the Waters, in the *Spawn* of Fishes, or the small Fry, which fearlessly sport in their Element, undisturbed by the *Net* or *Hook* of the Fisherman. In these Retirements the feathered Tribes remain, or only change their Haunts from one *Lake* or misty *Bog* to another, to procure Aliment or to mix with their Kind; and thus they pass the long enlightened Season. So soon as the Sun begins, in shortened peeps, to quit his horizontal Course, the falling *Snows* and the hollow *Blasts* foretel the change, and are the Signals for their Departure. Then it is, that the widely-spreading Host, having gathered together their well-fledged Families in separate Tribes, directed by instinctive Knowledge, leave the *Arctic* Regions, that prolific Source,

BLACK GOOSE.



GREY GOOSE.

Printed & Sold by J. Smith, at the Old Swan, in the Strand, London.

whence these Migrators, in Flocks innumerable, and in Directions like Radii from the centre of a Circle, are poured forth to replenish the more *Southern* Quarters of the Globe. In their Route, they are impelled forwards, or stop short in greater or lesser numbers, according to the severity or mildness of the Season, and are thus more equally distributed over the cultivated World; where Man, habituated to consider every thing in the Creation subservient to his Use, and ever watchful to seize all within his Grasp, makes them feel the full Force of his Power. Wherever they settle under his Dominion, these beautiful Wanderers yield a Supply to the *Wants* of some, pamper the *Luxury* of others, and keep the eager Sportsman in constant Employment."

The Grey Lag, or Wild Goose,

weighs ten pounds; the length is two feet nine inches, the breadth five feet, and is our largest species of Wild-fowl: in 1799, one was shot at Horning Ferry which weighed twenty-three pounds.

The bill is large and elevated, of a yellowish flesh-colour, with the nail white; the head and neck are cinereous, mixed with dusky yellow; the hindpart of the neck of a pale grey rather striped, and at the base of a brownish grey; breast and belly whitish, clouded with grey or ash-colour; back and primaries grey; the last tipt with black, and edged with white; secondaries black, grey only at their base; lesser coverts dusky white; the middle row deep cinereous, slightly edged with white; the tail coverts and vent feathers of a pure white, middle feathers of the tail dusky, tipt with white; the exterior almost entirely white; the legs flesh-coloured, claws black.

This species inhabits the *English Fens*, and it is believed does not migrate, as in many Countries on the Continent, but resides and breeds in the Fens: they sit *thirty* Days, and hatch eight or nine young, which are

often taken; are esteemed most excellent Meat, and are easily made *tame*. (The Compiler took two Broods one Season, which he turned down, after having pinioned them, with the *common* Geese: both parties seemed shy at first, but they soon associated, and remained very good friends). The old Geese which are shot are plucked and sold, but their flesh is coarse; they unite in great Flocks during *Winter*, changing their place in search of Food; and are very destructive to the growing Corn in the Fields where they happen to halt in their *migratory* Excursions. At such times they are extremely vigilant, and always have a Sentinel whilst the rest are eating: and as they feed in the Day it is almost impossible to get near them, for the instant the Sentinel sounds the Alarm of any thing approaching the whole Flock immediately take Wing. The Flight of *wild Geese* is always, except in thick fogs, very elevated; their motion is smooth, accompanied with little rustling, and the play of the Wings seems never to exceed two or three inches; the Regularity with which they are marshalled implies a sort of Intelligence superior to that of other birds which migrate in *disorderly* bodies. The Arrangement observed by the *Geese* is at once calculated to preserve the Ranks entire, to break the Resistance of the Air, and to lessen the Exertion of the Squadron; they form two oblique lines like the letter V, or if their number be small, only one line; generally they amount to forty or fifty, and each keeps its rank with admirable exactness: the Chief, who occupies the point of the Angle, and first cleaves the Air, retires when fatigued to the Rear, and the rest by turns assume the station of the *Van*. PLINY describes the wonderful harmony that prevails in these flights, and remarks, that, unlike the *Cranes* and the *Storks*, which journey in the obscurity of the Night, the *Geese* are seen pursuing their Route in broad Day*.

* OPIAN says, that in passing *Mount Taurus*, the *Geese* take the Precaution to stop their Mouths with a *pebble*, that their natural disposition to *gabble*|| may not betray them to the *Eagles*. PLUTARCH repeats the Tale §.

|| It is certain, that nothing can stir in the Night, nor the least or most distant noise be made, but *Geese* are roused, and immediately commence their *cackling* Converse; and on the nearer approach of apprehended Danger, they set up their more shrill and clamorous Cries. It is owing to this Property, that they are esteemed by many as the most

Geese seem to be general inhabitants of the Globe: on the *American** Continent are found from *Hudson's Bay*† (where they breed in the Plains along the Coast; moult in *July*, and being then incapable of Flight, are easily killed or taken by the Inhabitants: some are reserved alive, and fed on *Corn* for Winter use; and it is singular that the Young will never learn to eat *Corn* unless some of the Old ones are kept along with them) to *South Carolina*, which they frequent during Winter, and particularly the *Rice-grounds*, where they glean the droppings of the Harvest; are met with in *Iceland*, in the eastern and southern parts of which they breed; are seen early in the Spring flying over *Sweden* to the *Lapland* moors, and in fact are found from thence to the *Cape of Good Hope*; are frequent in *Arabia*, *Persia*, *China*, as well as indigenous to *Japan*. Our Voyagers

vigilant of all Sentinels, when placed in particular Situations. The Story of their saving *ROME* by the Alarm they gave, when the *Gauls* were attempting the Capitol, is well known, and was probably the first time of their Watchfulness being recorded; and, on that account, they were afterwards held in the highest Estimation by the *Roman* People.

§ At *Whitby*, a Lady of great Piety, named *HILDA*, whenever she had a fancy for a few *Wild Geese*, had, it is said, the power to impart such a noxious quality to the Air, that these fascinated Birds would "suddenly fall to the ground, to the great Amazement of the Beholders;" but this remarkable falling is also attributed to the Exhalations from the *Alum Works*, when the Geese fly over them.

* It is probable this is the sort that *KALM* mentions the taming of by the *Americans*, taking the chance of shooting them in the Wing; these will often become tame, though old Birds, and have been kept for a dozen years, but never familiarize with the *domestic* Geese nor lay Eggs.

† The Indians *snares Swans, Geese, and Ducks* in the *Water*, by making a number of Hedges or Fences project into the Water at right Angles, from the Banks of a River, Lake, or Pond; for it is observed, that those Birds generally swim near the Margin, for the benefit of feeding on the *Grass*, &c. The Fences are continued for some distance from the Shore, and separated two or three yards from each other, so that openings are left sufficiently large for the Birds to swim through. In each of these openings, a *Snares* is hung and fastened to a Stake, which the Bird when entangled cannot drag from the bottom; and to prevent the *Snares* from being blown out of its proper Position by the Wind, it is secured to the *Stakes* which form the Opening with tender Grass, which is easily broken when the Bird is caught. To *Snares* the above Birds in their *Nests* requires a considerable degree of Art, and, as the Natives say, a great deal of Cleanliness; for they have remarked, that when *Snares* have been set by those whose Hands were not clean, the Birds would not go into the Nest; even the *Goose*, though so simple a Bird, is notoriously known to forsake her Eggs, if they are breathed on by the Indians. It has been noticed, that all Birds which build on the *Ground* go into their Nest at one particular side, and out of it on the opposite: the Indians, thoroughly acquainted with this, always set the *Snares* on the Side on which the Bird enters the Nest, and seldom fail of securing their Object.

describe them as found in the Straits of *Magellan*, the *Falkland Isles*, and *Terra del Fuego*, in *New Holland*, but not in *New Zealand*, where Captain Cook gave the Natives a pair, in order to encourage the breed of them.

The *Grey Lag* is the Origin of the *domestic* Goose; it is the only Species the *Britons* could take young and familiarize; the *Mallard* comes within the same description, and is the Source from whence the *tame* Breed of *Ducks* is derived: both preserve some of the Marks of their *wild* state; the *Goose*, the Whiteness of the tail coverts and vent feathers; the *Drake*, its *curled* Tail feathers.

The Management of *tame* Geese, as yielding considerable Profit, will warrant our digression in giving the following Account of them:—They are kept in vast multitudes in the *Fens* of Lincolnshire; a single person will keep a *thousand* old Geese, each of which will rear *seven**; so that at the end of the year he will become master of *eight* thousand. The *Goose* in general breeds only once in a year, but will frequently have *two* Hatches in a Season, if well kept. The time of sitting is about *Thirty* days. They will also produce Eggs sufficient for *three* Broods if the Eggs are taken away in Succession. During the breeding Season these Birds are lodged in the same houses with their Owners, and even in their Bed-chambers; three rows of *wicker* pens are placed, one above another in every Apartment; each Bird has its separate lodge divided from the other, which it keeps possession of during the time of *sitting*. A person called a *Gozzard* attends the flock, and twice a day drives the whole to Water; then brings them back to their Habitations, helping those that live in the upper Stories to their Nests, without ever misplacing a single Bird. The Geese are *plucked* five times in the year; the first plucking is at *Lady-Day* for *feathers* and *quills*, and the same is renewed, for *feathers only*, four times more between that and *Michaelmas*: the *old* Geese submit quietly to the Operation, but the *young* ones are very noisy and unruly. *Goslings*

* It was once by a Town Lady made a matter of Astonishment, how a Goose could *suckle* its Goslings.

of six weeks old are not spared, their Tails being plucked to habituate them, as it is said, to the Ceremony. About ten pluckers are employed, each with a coarse apron up to his Chin. Should the Weather prove cold, numbers of the Geese perish from this barbarous Custom.

In the Annals of Agriculture it is said, the time of Plucking is about the beginning of *April*; when the fine feathers of their breasts and backs should be gently and carefully plucked. Care must be taken not to pull or intercept their Down or Pin feathers. The *Quills* should be pulled *five* out of a Wing: they will bear pulling in thirteen or fourteen Weeks again, or twice in a year, the *Feathers* three times a year of the old Geese and Ganders, seven Weeks from each pulling. The young Geese may be pulled at thirteen or fourteen Weeks old, but not *quilled*, being hatched in *March*; but when late in hatching, the brood Geese should not be plucked so soon as *April*, but the Month after. When well fed with *Barley* and *Oats* they thrive and do better, and their feathers grow faster and are better in Quality, than where it is omitted. They must constantly have plenty of *Grass* and *Water*.

Mr. YOUNG, in his Agricultural Report of *Lincolnshire*, says, "In many parts of this *Fenny* District, vast advantage is made by the frequent plucking of the Geese. At *Pinchbeck*, it is the practice to pluck them *five* times in the year, viz. at *Lady-Day*, *Midsummer*, *Lammas*, *Michaelmas*, and *Martinmas*. The feathers of a dead Goose are worth *threepence* a-head per annum. Some wing them only every Quarter, taking *ten* feathers from each Goose, which sell for *five shillings* a thousand. Plucked Geese pay in *feathers* one shilling a-head in *Wildmore Fen*."

Vast numbers of Geese are driven *annually* to London from distant Counties* to supply the markets; among them all the superannuated

* In their Journey they will walk from eight to ten miles a Day on an Average, travelling from *three* in the morning until *nine* at night; and as it happens that some of the weaker ones are thereby much fatigued, in such case they are fed with *Oats* instead of *Barley*, the usual food

Geese and Ganders (called *Cagmags*,) which, by a long course of plucking, prove uncommonly tough and dry. In 1783, one Drove of above nine thousand passed through *Chelmsford*; Drovers of two or three thousand are common. The *Feathers* are a considerable article of Commerce; those from *Somersetshire* are deemed the *best*, and those from *Ireland* the *worst*.

The common price of Geese in *Wiltshire*, without the *Feathers*, is regulated by that of *Mutton*, both being the same by the pound: the usual weight of a fine *Goose* is from twelve to sixteen pounds; but it is scarcely credible how far this may be increased by cramming them with *Bean-meal*, and other fattening diet; and the Victims destined for this surfeit are by some nailed to the *floor*, by the *webs* of the *feet*, which causes no pain, and is meant to prevent the least probability of Action; to which, we are told, the *French* add the *refinement* of putting out their *Eyes*. To what weight they arrive in France is not said, but it has been asserted in England, they have been fed up to weigh *twenty-eight*, and even *thirty* pounds. Poulterers who are clever, fatten their Fowls, as well as Geese, by mixing *Gin* with their food, by which they are said to become sleepy, and fatten a-pace; and probably acquire enlarged *Livers*, as *Swine* are said to do which are fed at the Distilleries!

In *Languedoc*, in *France*, the method of fattening *Geese* is, after the bird has got its full flesh by feeding on *green* food, so soon as the Frost is set in (usually towards the end of *November*,) they are shut up to the number of *ten* or *twelve* (never more), in a still place, where no *Light* is to be seen, nor the *Cries* of the *Geese* which are kept for laying can be heard. In this prison they remain until they have acquired the greatest degree of fatness; that moment must be seized for killing them, otherwise they would very soon turn lean, and die.

upon the Journey. In ancient times they were driven in much the same Manner from the Interior of Gaul to Rome.

Two modes of fattening are employed: the *first* is, by filling a Trough with a grain called *Sarde*, (which perhaps may be *Buck Wheat*, for it is not clear what *kind of grain* is denoted by the word *Sarde*), so that the Geese may eat whenever they please. Those fattened on this food are very delicate. Others put into the Trough, grains of *Maize* boiled in Water; of this they give them plenty, carefully keeping the *Coop clean*. In *two or three weeks* the Geese are all fully fattened: they are then taken from the *Coop*, and allowed to go at large into the *Water* for *twenty-four hours*: without this precaution, their flesh would have a disagreeable flavour.

The *second*, which may be called the *artificial* method, is, by shutting the Geese up as before, and *cramming* them *twice a-day*, putting into their *Craw*, by means of a *tinned Tube*, as much as it will contain of *Maize*, boiled in Water; by this feeding the Geese attain a prodigious fatness, so that a *pair* sometimes weigh from *fifty to sixty pounds*. Their *Liver* weighs from one pound to a pound and a half, is white, but has a slight bitterness in its taste, which a *Duck's liver* has not. The *hearts* are large, like a small apple, and when boiled are excellent eating; the *feet* are first boiled, and then with the *Tongue* are fried.

Ducks are fattened in the same place. After they are in good plight by ordinary feeding, they are confined also in the dark: every Morning and Evening the Feeder puts their wings across, and placing them between his knees, opens their bill with his left hand, and with his right fills the *Craw* with *boiled Maize*; they sometimes are suffocated by this process, but are by their Owners not thought the worse of, provided they are bled directly. The unfortunate animals pass *fifteen days* in a state of Oppression and Suffocation, in consequence of their *livers* growing unnaturally large, which keeps them always panting for breath. When the *Tail feathers of the Ducks spread out like a Fan*, it is the signal that the Birds are fat enough; they are then turned out to bathe in the *Water*, previous to their being killed.

On opening and comparing two *Ducks*, one that had *not*, and the other which had been *crammed*, the first had a *Liver* of the natural size, the skin equally thick in all places, and the *Lungs* perfectly sound. The last had an *enormous Liver*, covering all the lower part of the belly, and extended as far as the anus; the *Lungs* were small, and loaded with blood: the skin of the belly which covered the liver was of the thickness of a *shilling*. The *Ducks*, as well as the *Geese*, thus *crammed*, appear when plucked like balls of *fat*, and none of their members are discernible.

There can be little reason to doubt, that Animals, which can be induced *voluntarily* to take an *extra quantity* of food in a *given time*, will be quickly fattened; yet the Opinion would not have been maintained that the same result would happen where Animals were compelled to swallow a much greater quantity of food than they ever would do if left entirely to themselves, unless the *Cramming* of Fowls had fully established the point; the Position is, however, confirmed, that the more food an Animal can be made to take in a limited period, the *quicker* will it be fattened; and this Rule holds even when given in a hurtful Excess, so much beyond what the Animal would naturally have consumed as to augment, by certain Modes of feeding, particular parts of the Body to an astonishing Extension of their Natural Proportions.

The *Ancients* are said to have possessed the Art of increasing the *Livers* of Geese to a Size greater than the *remainder* of the Goose; and this to have been done by feeding them on *Fat* and *Figs*. PLINY says, "these large Geese Livers were soaked in *Milk* and *Mead*;" and adds, that "it is uncertain whether SCIPIO METELLUS, of Consular dignity, or M. SESTIUS, a Roman Knight, was the great Discoverer of this excellent Dish." A modern Traveller asserts, that the Art of enlarging the Livers of Geese still exists in *Sicily*; and it is to be lamented that he did not import it to his native Country, as some method of affecting the *human* Liver might perhaps have been collected from it, besides the Honour he might have acquired in improving our *Giblet Pies*.

In *East Friezeland* the *Geese* exceed twenty-four pounds weight; and an uncommon breed of *Geese* is in the possession of a Family at *Highworth*, in Wiltshire, which the Owners take so much care to preserve to themselves that they would scarcely part with an *Egg* upon any consideration. These *Geese* they rear up and fatten so as to reach an almost incredible Size; some of them nearly *thirty* pounds weight: they are usually bespoke by Gentlemen who have the curiosity to entertain their Friends with such noble Birds; and, considering the Rarity and the Expence of feeding them, *one shilling* a pound, which is the lowest price they are sold at, does not seem extravagant.

Tame *Geese* are of vast Longevity*; nor does it seem that this is confined to the *Tame*, since the *Germans* have a Proverb, “*Older than a Wild Goose.*” WILLOUGHBY mentions a *tame* one that attained *eighty years*: in 1798 a Gander was killed at Rochdale, in the *sixty-seventh year*, by a Green-grocer, who gave him the name of a very fine *Goose*, although he could trace his being the property of various persons until that Age.

Of the Affection of *Geese* PLINY has stated, that at *Argos* one was enamoured of a fair Boy, named OLENUS, and also of a *Damsel* called GLAUCE, who was a skilful player on the Lute; in his latter attachment he had a rival in a *Ram*. LACYDAS, the Philosopher, had the honour of a *Goose’s* love so ardent, that it never left him night or day; and he was *Goose* enough, at the death of his favourite, to have the Creature buried magnificently. The Affection of *Geese* in these later days has apparently taken a different direction, and, like other experienced Lovers, have evinced their passion for *old Women*; as an instance, an aged blind Woman, of a village in *Germany*, used to be led every Sunday to Church

* Birds seem to be susceptible of very long life: a Parrot has been known to live a Century; a Sea Gull has been a constant attendant upon a Family, Mr. SCOTT’s of *Bonholm*, near *Montrose*, for *forty years*, and where it had the liberty of going and returning; and when *first* accidentally caught by Mr. SCOTT, it looked as *aged* as when last seen.

by a *Gander*, taking hold of her gown by his bill: when he had introduced her to her seat, he always retired to graze in the Church-yard, and no sooner was the Congregation dismissed but he returned to his duty, and led her Home. One Day the Pastor called at the house of the party, and expressing his surprise to the Daughter, of her Mother being abroad, "Oh, Sir," said the Girl, "we are not afraid of trusting her out, for the *Gander* is with her."

Mr. LYSON, in his *Environs of London*, has given a well-authenticated Anecdote of the partiality of a *Canada** *Goose* to a *Yard dog*: the *Goose* could only by force be separated from her Canine friend, and after his death fell herself a Sacrifice, endeavouring to obtain that seat in the Kennel where she had so long been fostered with the kindest friendship by the former Possessor.

* This is a Species that has been domesticated and multiplied in many parts of *Europe*, particularly in *France* and *Germany*, and very frequently in *England*; and which breeds as freely as the Common *Goose*. In the *Arctic Zoology* Mr. PENNANT says, "the English at *Hudson's Bay* depend greatly on Geese of this and other kinds for their Support, and, in favourable Years, kill three or four thousand, which are salted and barrelled. Their Arrival is impatiently expected by the Inhabitants, as they are one of the chief Articles of their food, and also the Harbingers of *Spring*; and the Month is named by the *Indians* the *Goose Moon*. They appear usually at our Settlements in Numbers, about St. GEORGE'S Day, O. S. and fly Northward to nestle in Security. They prefer *Islands* to the Continent, as further from the haunts of Men. Thus *Marble Island* was found, in *August*, to swarm with *Swans*, *Geese*, and *Ducks*; the *Old* ones moulting, and the *Young* unfledged and incapable of Flying.

"The *English* send out their Servants, as well as *Indians*, to shoot these Birds on their Passage. It is in vain to pursue them; they therefore form a row of *Huts* made of boughs, at Musket shot distance from each other, and place them in a line across the parts of the vast Marshes of the Country where the *Geese* are expected to pass. Each *Stand* is occupied by a Single person; these, on the approach of the Birds, mimic their *Cackle* so well that the *Geese* will answer, wheel, and come nearer the *Hovel*. The Sportsman keeps motionless and on his knees, with his Gun cocked, and never fires till he has seen the *Eyes* of the *Geese*. He fires as they are going from him; then picks up another Gun that lies by him, and discharges that. The *Geese* killed he sets up on Sticks as if alive, to decoy others; he also makes artificial birds for the same Purpose. In a good Day (for they fly in very uncertain and unequal Numbers) a Single *Indian* will kill *Two Hundred*. Notwithstanding every Sort of *Goose* has a different call, yet the *Indians* are admirable in their Imitation of every one.

Brent Geese

frequent our shores in the Winter: in *Holland* every Eating-house is full of them: in *Ireland* they are called Bernacles, and appear in great quantities in *August*, and leave that country in *March*.

The Brent Geese feed on a sort of long grass growing in the Water, preferring the root and some part above it, which they frequently dive for, bite off, and leave the upper part to drive on shore. They abound near *Londonderry*, *Belfast*, and *Wexford*, and are taken, in flight time, by Nets placed across the Rivers, and are much esteemed for their delicacy. In some Seasons they have resorted to the Coasts of *Picardy*, in *France*, in such prodigious Flocks as to prove a Pest to the Inhabitants, especially in the Winter of the year 1740, when these Birds spoiled all the Corn near the Sea-coasts, by tearing it up by the roots; a general War was therefore declared against them, and carried on in earnest, by destroying them in every possible way: but their Numbers were so prodigious that this availed but little; nor were the Inhabitants relieved from this Scourge until the *North* wind, which brought them, ceased to blow.

“The *Vernal* Flight of the Geese lasts from the middle of *April* until the middle of *May*: their first appearance coincides with the *Thawing* of the Swamps, when they are very lean. On their return *South* with their young, which is from the middle of *August* to the third week in *October*, much havoc is made amongst them, but these are preserved *fresh* for Winter store, by putting them, Feathers and all, into a large hole dug in the Ground, and covering them with *Mould*; and these, during the whole time of the *Frost* lasting, are found perfectly sweet and good. The Feathers constitute an Article of Commerce, and are sent into England.”

The *Canada* Goose measures three feet six inches in length, and weighs Nine pounds; the bill is black, and two inches and a half long; Irides hazel; the head and neck are black; under the throat is a broad white band, like a *Crescent*, the points passing on each side upwards to the hind head; the Whiteness of this *Cravat* is heightened by its contrast with the dark surrounding Plumage, and looks very handsome; this mark also distinguishes it from others of the *Goose* Tribe. The breast, upper part of the belly, back, and wing Coverts, are dusky brown, sometimes mixed with grey; the lower part of the neck, the belly, Vent, and upper tail Coverts, white; Quills and tail black; Legs dark lead colour.

The winter 1802 brought amazing quantities to our shores and rivers; a *Punt Shooter*, upon the river between Malden and Bradwell, killed *Seventy-four* of these birds at one shot; and such was the abundance, that they sold upon the Spot for *two shillings the couple*, although the Price given to the Poulterers in London for them was from three to *four shillings and Sixpence each*.

The bill of this bird is short, black, and elevated; irides light hazel; the head, neck, and upper part of the breast, black; on each side the hindmost part of the neck is a white spot; the lower part of the breast, the scapulars, and coverts of the wings, are ash-coloured, clouded with a deeper shade; the quills black; the feathers above and below the tail are white; the tail itself dusky black, and the shape a little rounded; legs black. The female differs in having the plumage less bright: and in *young* birds the white on the sides of the neck is small, or wholly deficient. They retire to breed in the extreme *North*, returning *Southward* in Autumn; fly in the shape of a wedge, with great clamour, and feed on *water plants, berries, and worms*. They are easily tamed, and when fat are very delicate food.

The Wild Duck

is so well known as to require no particular description.

The Plumage is little different to some *tame* Ducks, but the *neck* is slenderer, the *foot* smaller, the nails more *black*, and the Web of the foot *finer*. The young Ducks are distinguished from the old by their softer and redder Feet, and by plucking a feather from the wing; if *young*, it will be *soft* and bloody; if *old*, the extremity will be *hard*. The wild Duck is less in size than the *tame**; its general weight is nearly two pounds and

* A. D. 1001, ROBERT, King of *France*, espoused CONSTANCE, Princess of *Arles*, the most turbulent Female of that Age. ROBERT loved his Wife BERTHA tenderly, but the Excommu-



WILD FOWLS

a half; but in 1781, at *Chillesford* decoy, in *Suffolk*, several *Mallards* were taken that weighed three pounds and a half. *Wild Ducks* frequent the Marshes of this kingdom, where numbers of them breed; they pair in spring, and lay from *ten* to *eighteen* Eggs: the time of Incubation is about *Thirty* Days; the young take the Water so soon as hatched, which is usually in May; but the growth of their wings is very slow, and they are unable to fly before August.

The *Wild Duck* is an artful bird, and does not always make its Nest close to the water; an instance Mr. TUNSTALL mentions of a Nest being

nication hurled at him by the POPE had terrified his Courtiers, and even his Domestics, from his Presence. Two very faithful Servants only remained, and they made every thing which he touched pass through the Fire, and gave to the Dogs all that was carried from his Table. He at length consented to part from the unhappy BERTHA, on being assured that a *Duck* (which was produced to him in a covered Dish with great Solemnity) had been her Offspring instead of a PRINCE.

AYLESBURY, in Buckinghamshire, has been long famous for its *Ducks*, and many People in the Town and its Neighbourhood derive Support from their peculiar Skill in breeding and rearing them. For the Gratification of *artificial* Wants they reverse the Order of Nature, and, by a Restriction of food and other means, prevent the *Ducks* from laying till the Months of *October* or *November*. Some Weeks previous to the time they wish them to lay, the *Ducks* are fed with stimulating Provisions, and the Eggs being ready a *Hen* is employed to sit, and frequently obliged to continue in the Nest till *three* successive Broods are hatched. By this treatment the poor *Hen* is generally exhausted, and dies under her compulsive Duty. When the *Young* leave the Shell, they are placed near a Fire, and nursed with particular Care. By these Methods many *Ducklings* are sent at *Christmas* to the Metropolis, where they have been known to Sell from *fifteen Shillings* to a *Guinea* the Couple.

The *Chinese* make great use of *Ducks*, but prefer the *Tame* to the *Wild* ones. It is said *Artificial Heat* hatches most of the *Ducks* in that Country. The *Eggs* being laid in boxes of *Sand* are placed on a *brick* Hearth, to which is given a proper Heat during the required time for Hatching. The *Ducklings* are fed with *Craw-fish* and *Crabs*, boiled and cut small, and afterwards mixed with *boiled Rice*, and in about a fortnight they are able to shift for themselves, when the *Chinese* provide them an old *Stepmother*, who takes them where they are to find Provender, being first on board a *Sampane*, or Boat, which is destined for their Habitation, and from which the whole Flock, often to the Amount of three or four Hundred, go out to feed, and return at Command.

found at *Etchingham*, in *Sussex*, upon an *Oak* tree, five and twenty feet from the ground; the old Duck was sitting upon *nine* eggs, which were supported by some small twigs laid crossways. The Gamekeepers of Mr. EYRE, of *Passop*, *Derbyshire*, in 1801, observed a *wild Duck* fly out of a large *Oak*, in which, the year preceding, there was a Hawk's Nest; upon examining, the Nest was found in complete repair, and contained two Eggs, recently laid by the *Duck* in it*.

The number of *wild Fowl* taken in Decoys is amazing; these birds have of late years been all contracted for by the London Salesmen and Poulterers, at so much per Dozen, formerly *eighteen shillings*, now from a *guinea* to *four and twenty shillings*. It is to be remembered, that *twenty-four* of all other birds, except *Duck* and *Mallard*, go to the Dozen, or at least bring no larger Price.

A Decoy is generally situated in a Marsh, so as to be surrounded with *wood* or *reeds*, and, if possible, both, the better to keep the Pond quiet, and that the Repose of the fowl may not be interrupted; for the greatest part of the Animal world pass their lives in a state between Sleep and inactive reverie, except when they are excited by the call of Hunger. In this pond the birds sleep all Day; so soon as the Evening sets in, the Decoy rises (as it is termed), and the wild fowl feed during the *Night*. If the evening is still, the noise of their wings, during their flight, is heard at a great distance, and is a pleasing, although rather a melancholy, Sound. In *Somersetshire* this rising of the decoy in the Eve is called *rodding*. The decoy Ducks (which are either bred in the Pond-yard, or in the Marshes

* In these Cases, and when she breeds far from the Water, the Old *Duck* takes her Young in her beak, or between the legs, to the Water. In *young Ducks* it is *six Weeks* before the feathers of the Wings make any Appearance, and it is near *three Months* before they are able to fly. Notwithstanding the Mother leads them to the Water the Day after their leaving the Shell, they Swim with ease and Confidence; and to this helpless Family she is a fond and watchful Parent, not only in leading them where there is a plenty of Food, but in using similar Stratagems to mislead the Fowler and his Dog as those noticed respecting the Partridge.

adjacent ; and who, although they fly abroad, regularly return for food to the pond, and are mixed with tame ones, which never quit the Pond, and are taught for this purpose) are fed with *hempseed*, *oats*, and *buckwheat*, of which it will take, for the use of a pond for a *Year*, about *eight* quarters of *Oats*, *one* of *Hempseed*, and *one* of *Buckwheat*. The other expences are : a *Man* to constantly attend the *Decoy*; every *four years* the *Poles* and *Nets* will be *new*, as in the intervening years they will be replaced ; some at one time, some at another, so as to be all renewed in the above period. *Reeds* for repairing *skreens*, *Dutch turf*, *Rent*, *decoy birds*, and many *et ceteras* are also to be included ; and the Repayment all depends upon the haunt of fowl which take to the Pond.

In working, the *Hempseed* is thrown over the *Skreens* in small quantities, to allure the fowl forward into the *Pipes*; of which there are several, leading up a narrow ditch, that closes at last with a *Funnel-net*. Over these *Pipes*, which grow *narrower* from the first Entrance, is a continued arch of *Netting* suspended on *Hoops*. It is necessary to have a *Pipe* for almost every wind that can blow, as upon this circumstance it depends which *Pipe* the fowl will take to ; and the *Decoy-man* always keeps to *Leeward* of the wild-fowl, that his *Effluvia* should not reach them ; and this he likewise takes a further care to prevent, by keeping a piece of *Dutch turf* burning in his mouth or hand : for such is the acute sense of *Smelling* which *Wild-fowl* possess, that, should the pond be full of fowl, if they scented a *Man** not a *Bird* would remain in it a moment. Along each *Pipe* are placed *Reed skreens* at certain intervals, which protect the

* BURNS wrote these beautiful Lines on scaring some Water Fowl in *Loch Turit*, a wild Scene among the Hills of *Oughtertyre*.

Why, ye Tenants of the Lake,
For me your Wat'ry haunt forsake?
Tell me, fellow Creatures, why
At my presence thus you fly?
Why disturb your social joys,
Parent, filial, kindred ties?

Decoy-man from being seen, until he pleases to shew himself, or the birds are passed up the *Pipe*, to which they are led by the trained birds, who know the Whistle of the Decoy-man, or are enticed by the Hempseed. A Dog, which is generally preferred to be of a *red* colour, is sometimes used,

Common friend to you and me,
Nature's Gifts to all are free:
Peaceful keep your dimpling Wave,
Busy feed, or Wanton lave;
Or, beneath the shelt'ring rock,
'Bide the surging Billow's shock.

Conscious, blushing for your race,
Soon, too soon, your fears I trace.
Man, your proud usurping Foe,
Would be Lord of all below:
Plumes himself in Freedom's pride,
Tyrant stern to all beside.

The Eagle, from the clifly brow,
Marking you, his prey below;
In his Breast no pity dwells,
Strong Necessity compels.
But Man, to whom alone is giv'n
A Ray direct from pitying Heav'n,
Glories in his Heart humane,
And Creatures for his Pleasure slain.

In these savage, liquid plains,
Only known to wand'ring Swains,
Where the mossy Riv'let strays,
Far from human haunts and ways,
All on Nature you depend,
And Life's poor Season peaceful spend.
Or if Man's superior might
Dare invade your Native right,
On the lofty Ether borne,
Man with all his Pow'rs you scorn;
Swiftly seek, on clanging Wings,
Other Lakes and other Springs;
And the Foe you cannot brave,
Scorn at least to be his Slave.

who is taught to play backwards and forwards, between the *Skreens*, at the direction of his master; the fowl, roused by this new object, advance towards it, whilst the Dog is playing still nearer to the entrance of the *Pipes*, until at last the Decoy-man appears from *behind* the *Skreens*; and the Wild fowl, not daring to pass by him, and unable to escape upwards on account of the Net covering upon the Hoops, press forward to the end of the *Funnel-net*, which terminates upon the land, where a person is ready to receive them and break their necks; in doing of which there is much dexterity. The trained birds return back past the Decoy-man into the pond again, until a repetition of their services is required. A *side Wind* is the best to work the Birds.

The general Season for catching is from the latter end of *October* until *February*. The taking of them *earlier* is prohibited by the Act 10 Geo. II. c. 32. which forbids it from *June 1* to *October 1*, under a penalty of *five shillings* for each *Bird* destroyed within that space.

It was customary formerly to have in the *Fens* an annual *driving* of the young *Ducks* before they took wing. Numbers of people assembled, who beat a vast tract, and forced the birds into a *Net* placed at the spot where the Sport was to terminate. A hundred and fifty Dozen have been taken at once; but this practice being supposed detrimental, has been abolished by Act of Parliament.

At *Spalding*, a record of this driving of the old birds, when unable to fly, states, "that at the *ducking* on *Thursday* last were taken up one hundred and seventy-four Dozen of *Mallards* or *Drakes* moulting; and on *Monday* forty-six dozen and a half; in all, *two thousand six hundred and forty-six Mallards*.*" The above account certainly proves the necessity

* Something similar are the *Duck Hunts* in the Northern parts of *Russia*.:—Numbers of Men, Women, and Children go in Canoes which are drawn up in a regular Line forming a Crescent; the Tide receding leaves all the Canoes aground in about six inches Water; an Officer appointed for the purpose gives the word for a general attack, the whole party plunge into the

of Parliamentary interference to prevent such Slaughter, at a time too when the Birds must be *sickly* and *unwholesome*.

A *Decoy* in some Seasons is astonishingly lucrative; in 1795, the *Tillingham* decoy, in *Essex*, at that time in the occupation of Mr. MASCALL, netted, after every Expence, upwards of Eight hundred pounds, and the only birds taken were *Duck* and *Mallard*.

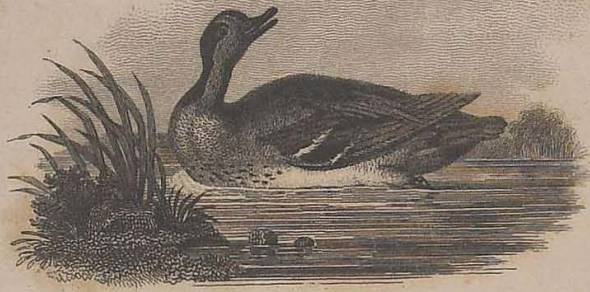
In 1799, ten thousand head of *Wigeon*, *Teal*, and wild Ducks, were caught in a Decoy of the Rev. BATE DUDLEY, in *Essex*.

The Tricks which the *Decoy-men* employ to destroy the haunt of the Birds in each other's Ponds are various, and as well calculated to produce the mischievous effects they intend, as can well be devised; such as putting a *slightly wounded* bird or two into the Pond, not a bird will *pipe* until the *stricken Deer* is removed; and the natural Shyness of the Bird is so awakened by the pain of his Wounds, that it is sometimes the labour of two or three Days to secure him and restore tranquillity. A second Manœuvre is, thrusting a feather through the Nostrils of a Wild-fowl, and launching it into the Decoy: here again not a fowl can be caught until

Water, and some with short bludgeons, and others with Strings and Nets, begin the Slaughter. The women are the most expert, and catch the greater Number, which frequently amounts to *six or seven thousand*. This *Duck*, which is called *Turpan*, is the size of a *domestic Duck*; the neck is short, bill black, short, and narrow, with a callous knob on the nostrils. The feathers are black with dark grey spots: they moult all the quill feathers at once, and consequently cannot fly; being thus driven into *shallow* Water, they are prevented from effecting their Escape by *diving*, and become an easy prey. Their taste is very fishy, but when salted and smoke-dried, are with a Dram esteemed an excellent Whet before Dinner.

PALLAS, in his Travels, gives a whimsical Account of a KHAN's Wife recovering the Affection of her Husband by whom she was divorced. The Lady fixed her Habitation by a Lake of sweetish Water much frequented by *Water-Fowl*, and into which she ordered a large quantity of Sugar to be thrown to decoy the aquatic Birds from the surrounding Country. The KHAN was passionately fond of *Hawking*, which made him often resort to the Lake, and thus she eventually effected a Reconciliation. Sugar is an odd Bait for a *Wild Duck*, and a *Wild Duck* is no common Lure for a *Husband*.

TEAL.



JACK SNIFE.

Printed by J. Smith, at the Press of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, No. 1, St. Paul's Church-yard, London.

this deformed Stranger is got rid of. A third, and perhaps the most decisive, is, starting *Train oil* into the Brook or Rill which supplies the Pond at some distance from it; some portion of this will be carried by the Current into the Decoy, and in an instant the Fowl, however numerous, quit, and will not resume their Haunt until every Taint is removed.

The Teal

is one of the most delicate Birds that graces our tables, and has been sold for ten, and frequently sells for seven, shillings a couple.

The *Male* Teal weighs about twelve ounces, the *Female* *nine*; the length is fourteen inches, the breadth twenty-three; the bill is a dark lead colour, tipped with black; irides pale hazel; from the bill to the hind-part of the head is a broad bar of glossy changeable green, bounded on the under part with a cream-coloured white line, and edged on the upper side with pale brown; the rest of the head, and the upper part of the neck, are of a deep reddish chesnut; forepart of the neck and breast dusky white, marked with roundish black spots; belly white, middle of the vent black; the wing coverts brown, quills dusky; the exterior webs of the lesser marked with a vivid green spot; above that another of black, and edged with white; the legs dirty lead colour. The *Female* is of a brownish ash-colour; the lower part of the neck, and sides over the wing, brown, edged with white; the wing has a green spot like the male; the belly and vent both white.

It was at no very remote period supposed not to breed in England; but Mr. WHITE, in his *History of Selborne*, has established the fact by some young Teals being brought to him, which were taken in a Pond on the verge of *Wolmer Forest*. It is also known to breed in the *Mosses* about *Carlisle*, in *Cumberland*; and the Compiler turned some upon the Ponds at Little Waltham Hall, which he received from the Decoys, after having

them pinioned, which also bred there. In *France*, where it stays throughout the Year, it makes its Nest in *April*, among the *Rushes* on the edges of ponds, and which is composed of the tenderest stalks of the rushes, with the addition of the *pith*, and a quantity of feathers. The Nest is of a large size, and placed on the Surface of the water, so as to rise or fall with it; the Eggs, to the number of from *twelve* to *seventeen*, are as large as those of a *Pigeon*, of a dirty white, marked with small hazel spots: it is said to feed upon the grass and weeds, which grow on the Edges of the waters it frequents; it will also eat the Seeds of the *Rushes*, and small Fish; and the Insects with which all stagnant Waters are so abundantly stored. The Teal is found to the north as high as *Iceland*, and is mentioned as inhabiting the *Caspian Sea* to the South, and is every where deemed most excellent Food.

HEARNE says, like the *Mallard*, they are found in considerable Numbers near the Sea Coast at *Hudson's Bay*, but are more plentiful in the interior parts of the Country, flying in such large Flocks, that he has often killed twelve or fourteen, and has seen both English and Indians kill many more, at one shot. At their first Arrival they are poor, but generally esteemed good Eating. He describes the *Teal* as the most prolific of the Water Fowl at *Hudson's Bay*, having often seen the Old ones swimming at the head of *Seventeen* young when not much larger than *Walnuts*. The *Teal* remains in these parts so long as the Season will permit; for in his passage from Cumberland House to York Fort 1775, he, as well as his Indian companions, killed them in the Rivers they passed through so late as the Twentieth of *October*; they were then entirely covered with Fat, delicately white, and might truly be called a great Luxury.

The Summer Teal

is found in the Fens, and the Plumage is so nearly similar to the Female of the *common Teal* as by many to be supposed the same Bird. Among

others, BUFFON is dubious of its being a *distinct* Species, yet gives an account of its remaining throughout the Summer, and breeding in *France*; and tells us that this Bird comes there the beginning of *March*, when they distribute themselves on the Coast. About *April*, they collect a quantity of Grass and Rushes and make a covered Nest, the Opening for the most part to the *South*; in this they lay from ten to fourteen Eggs, of a dirty white, and as big as those of a *Pullet*, (a Proof by the way that *it is* a distinct Species, as the Eggs of the common *Teal* are not larger than those of a *Pigeon*;) and sit from twenty to twenty-three Days. BUFFON likewise observes, that the *Male* loses the *Plumage* of *distinction* after the time of Incubation is over, becoming so like the *Female* as not to be distinguished; but regains it after *January*. He adds also, that this Bird cannot bear the Cold, and does not frequent the *northern* Countries.

The Wigeon, Whewer, or Whim,

is in length twenty inches, and weight twenty-three ounces; bill narrow, of a blueish lead-colour, an inch and a half long, tip black; the top of the head is cream-colour, over the bill almost white; head and neck light bay; the plumage of the back, and sides under the wings, undulated with black and white lines; wing coverts brown, more or less mixed with, and in some birds almost white; the greater quill feathers dusky; the outermost webs of the middle feathers of a fine green; the tips black, the last striped with black and white; the two middle feathers of the tail are longer than the others, black and sharp pointed, the rest ash-coloured; the belly white; vent feathers black; legs dusky lead-colour.

The head of the *Female* is of a rusty brown, spotted with black; the back is of a deep brown, edged with a paler; the tips of the lesser quill feathers white; the belly white.

This Species is common on most parts of the *old Continent*; it is

caught as low as *Egypt*, from the middle to the end of *November*, by Nets in the Marshes before the departure of the waters; it is also found at *Aleppo*, during the Winter, in plenty; observed likewise in the *Caspian Sea* and its neighbourhood; and in most parts of *Europe*, as far as *Sweden*. It abounds in *England* during the Winter months, and is caught in the Decoys; it is said not to breed in *France*; nor is it certain they breed in this Country. Both Sexes are alike until the following *Spring* after hatching, (this obtains in the *Pintail*, the *Gadwall*, and the *Shoveller*, who are all grey and have no beautiful Feathers when young,) when the *Males* about *March* gain their full plumage, but lose it again the end of *July*, and with it in some measure their Voice, which they regain, and always use during their flight, in the Winter season, and which is thought to be like the sound of a Fife. Their Flesh is much esteemed, and they are easily domesticated in places where there is much Water, and are greatly admired for their Beauty, sprightly look, and active frolicksome Motions.

Divers,

as they are termed by the *Decoy-men*, consist of the *Scoter*, *Scaup*, *Golden Eye*, *Morillon*, and others of the *Duck* kind, and are not meant to particularly signify those birds to which *Naturalists* have given the name of Divers.

They vary much both in plumage and size, some weighing two pounds and a half, and others a pound less, are caught in the Decoys with the Ducks, &c. In hard Weather they frequent the Shores and the Tide rivers in great plenty, and are almost always at that Season fat and in good condition; they do not fly in such large flocks as many of the Duck Species, and usually close to the Surface of the Water, and bear very hard blows from the shot without dropping, unless struck upon the head or Wing. The *Scoter* is seen in prodigious numbers from *November* to *March* on the French Coasts, especially if the Wind be to the North or North-

West; their chief food is a glossy bivalve shell-fish, near an inch long, called by the French *Vaimeaux*; these they are perpetually diving after, frequently to the depth of some fathoms: this affords a method of catching them, by placing *Nets* under Water, in such places as the Shells are most numerous; and by this means, thirty or forty *Dozen* of them have been taken in one Tide. The Day seems to be spent by these Birds, between diving and flying to small distances over the Water, which they do so low, as often to dip their Legs in it: they swallow their food whole, and soon digest the Shells, which are found crumbled to powder among their Excrements. They have been kept *tame* for some time, and will feed on soaked Bread. The flesh tastes *fishy* in the extreme, and from this Cause is allowed by the *Roman Catholics* to be eaten on *Fast Days* and in *Lent*; and, indeed, to say the truth, must be a sufficient Mortification.

The Pintail

is less than the Wild Duck; its length is twenty-eight inches, breadth thirty-eight, and its weight twenty-four ounces.

The form of the Pintail is slender, and the neck long: bill long and black, on the sides blueish; the head, for an inch of the neck before, rusty purplish brown; nape dusky; forepart and sides of the neck white, a little mottled with dusky, the white rising upwards on each side at the back part like ribbands; part of the neck, and back, greyish white, finely barred with black; sides of the body the same, but paler; scapulars black, long, pointed, and margined with very pale cream-colour; wings pale dusky brown; across them, first a pale rufous bar, then a broad deep copper-coloured one, edged with black, and below this is a narrow one of white; the two middle tail feathers are black, and more than *three inches* longer than the rest, and end in a point; the exterior feathers of

the tail are ash-coloured; the under parts of the body are white; vent black, the sides of it white; legs and feet small and lead-coloured.

The *Female* is smaller; head and neck dusky, minutely streaked with brown, spotted with black; tail as in the *Male*, but the two middle feathers not so far elongated. The *young Males* remain of a greyish brown, not greatly unlike the plumage of the Females, until *February*, when they first gain the proper dress of their Sex.

This Species is pretty common during Winter in England, especially in severe Weather, when it is very fat; the flesh is superior in its delicate flavour to any other Wild Fowl. In the month of *February only*, these birds are found in great abundance in *Connaught*, in *Ireland*. Upon the Continent, in the Northern parts of which it breeds, it is extremely numerous. It is abundant at the Lake *Baikal*, in *Asia*, and is often seen in large flocks on the Sea-coasts of *China*, where it is caught in Snares. In *America* it is not uncommon, being plentiful at *New York*, where it is called *Blue-bill*; from thence found as far North as *Hudson's Bay*, where it is supposed to breed.

The Pochard, Red-headed Wigeon, or Dun Bird.

THIS species, like the *Pintail*, and some others, is common both to the *Old* and *New Continent*. With us frequent the *Fens*, as well as the *Coasts* and *Tide Rivers*; in which last they are taken sometimes *extremely* fat in the severest Weather. It is not ascertained whether they breed in England; but in France one has been shot in the month of *July*. Their food is small fish and shells: they are found *South* as far as *Egypt* about *Cairo*, and in *Carolina* during the Winter. They have a hissing Voice; their flight is more rapid than that of the Wild Duck, and the noise made

by their Wings is quite different; the Flocks observe no particular shape in flying, as the Duck in Triangles, but form a close body.

The Pochard is about the size of a *Wigeon*, weighs one pound twelve ounces; its length is nineteen inches; breadth, two feet and a half; the bill is broader than the *Wigeon's*, of a deep lead-colour, with a black tip; irides, orange; the head and neck deep chesnut, with a small triangular spot of white under the Centre of the lower Mandible; the lower part of the neck and breast, and upper part of the back, dusky black; scapulars and wing coverts nearest the body of a greyish white, elegantly marked with narrow lines of black; the exterior wing coverts and quills, dusky brown; secondary quill feathers regularly edged with a stripe of white; the belly, ash-coloured and brown; vent feathers, and coverts of tail, black; the tail consists of twelve short feathers of a deep grey; the legs lead-coloured. The *Female* has the head of a pale reddish brown; the breast is rather of a deeper colour; wing coverts and belly, cinereous; the back marked like that of the *Male*.

These birds are eagerly bought by the London Poulterers, under the name of *Dun Birds*, as they are deemed excellent eating: the greater part of what appear in the Markets are caught in Decoys; but the Construction and mode of Working are perfectly distinct from that wherein the other Wild Fowl are taken. A Decoy for *Dun Birds* is called a *Flight Pond*, and has Nets fastened to tall stout Poles, *twenty-eight* or *thirty feet* long: at the bottom of each Pole is a Box fixed, filled with heavy Stones, sufficient to elevate the Poles and Nets, the instant an *Iron* pin is withdrawn, which retains the Nets and Poles flat upon the Reeds, small Willow boughs, or *Furze*: withinside the Nets are small *Pens*, made of *reeds* about *three feet* high, for the reception of the Birds that strike against the Net and fall down; and such is the form and shortness of Wing in the *Pochard*, that they cannot ascend again from these little inclosures if they would; besides, the numbers which are usually knocked into these *Pens* preclude all chance of Escape from them by the Wing. A Decoy-

man will sometimes allow the haunt 'of Dun Birds to be so great, that the whole Surface of the pond shall be covered with them previous to his attempting to take one: upon such occasions he bespeaks all the Assistants he can get to complete the slaughter by breaking their Necks. When all is ready, the *Dun Birds* are roused from the Pond; and, as all Wild Fowl rise *against* the Wind, the Poles in that quarter are unpinned, and fly up with the Nets at the instant the Dun Birds begin to leave the Surface of the water, so as to meet them in their first Ascent, and are thus beat down by hundreds. At the pond of Mr. BUXTON, at *Goldanger*, in *Essex*, as many *Pochards* have been taken at one *drop* as filled a Waggon, so as to require four stout Horses to carry them away; and the lower birds in the *pens* have been known to be killed, and pressed entirely flat, from the numbers of their companions heaped up above them, by the fatal stoppage of the Poles and Nets. The few attempts made to domesticate the *Pochard* have been hitherto unsuccessful. They do tolerably well where there is plenty of water, but cannot bear walking about on hard pebbly grounds.

Shooting Wild Fowl.

To be equipt for this Sport in *severe* Weather, it is essentially requisite to be well clothed; Flannel shirt, drawers, and additional exterior and warm Garments, will not be found unpleasant to those who face the cold Winds upon the *Marshes*, or sit fixed in a *Punt* alongside the *Oozes*: thick Yarn stockings, and over them what are termed *Wads* by the Fishermen (*knit woollen* stockings that come up to the middle, and, however inelegant in their appearance, have their solid Comforts to the Wearer); and over these double defenders of the *legs*, a pair of Water-proof boots* will also be found indispensable. A Cap must be worn made of skin, instead of a

* The two following receipts for *Boots* and *Guns* I was favoured with by the late Dean of Exeter, Dr. HARWARD, who was formerly one of the best Wild Fowl shooters in the Kingdom.

Hat: the Fowl will not approach near the latter, and nothing so much or so soon *shies* them.

The *Punt Shooters* (Men who earn their livelihood in winter by attacking the Wild Fowl, *night* and *day*, according as the Tide serves) kill great numbers. The pursuit is hazardous.

Mr. GILPIN has given an interesting description of the *Wild Fowl* shooting upon the *Hampshire Coast*, and of the Escape of a *Fowler*, which will be here inserted; premising, that the danger in the *Night* is upon all *Oozes* nearly equal, if the return of the *Tide* is not *accurately* observed:—“The Coast between *Hampshire* and the *Isle of Wight* is peculiar, consisting, at *Ebb tide*, of vast muddy flats, covered with *green sea weed*: it affords the *Fowler* an opportunity of practising arts, perhaps not elsewhere resorted to. *Fowling* and *Fishing*, says Mr. G. are, indeed, on this Coast commonly the Employments of the same person. He who in

If the *Boots* are new, half a pound of *Bees Wax*, a quarter of a pound of *Resin*, and the like quantity of *Mutton Suet* or *Tallow*; boil them up together, and anoint the *Boots* well with the preparation lukewarm. Should the *Boots* have been used, *Beef Suet* is to be substituted for the *Mutton*.

Three ounces of *Black Lead*, half a pound of *Hog's Lard*, one quarter of an ounce of *Camphor*, boiled upon a slow fire; the Gun-barrels to be rubbed with this, which, after three days, is to be wiped off with a linen cloth; twice in a Winter will keep off the rust, which the Salt water is otherwise sure to be continually bringing out from the Iron.

The Fishermen use this preparation for their *Boots*:—*Bees Wax*, *Burgundy Pitch*, and *clean Turpentine*, of each two ounces; *clear rendered Tallow* four ounces; all melted together, and applied over a *weak flame* until the leather fills: the *Boots* should be perfectly *dry* before being liquored, and apply the liquor by degrees, so that one portion may be *dried in*, before another is laid on.

Old MERRY dressed his *Boots* with the following mixture; and, if new, he always wore them three or four times previous to using it:—half a pound of *Tallow*, four ounces of *Hog's Lard*; of *Turpentine*, *Bees Wax*, and *Olive Oil*, each two ounces; the whole mixed together in a pipkin, and kept stirring whilst melted: after warming the *Boots* at a fire, the preparation was laid on hot as the hand could bear it, and well rubbed in.

Summer, with his *line* or *net*, plies the Shores, when they are overflowed by the Tide; in *Winter*, with his *gun*, as evening draws on, runs up in his Boat among the little Creeks which the Tide leaves in the mud lands, and lies in patient expectation of his prey. Sea fowl usually feed by Night, when in all their multitudes they come down to graze on the Savannahs of the Shore. As the sonorous Cloud advances (for their noise in the Air resembles a pack of Hounds in full cry), the attentive *Fowler* listens which way they bend their course; perhaps he has the mortification to hear them alight at too great a distance for his Gun (though of the longest barrel) to reach them; and if he cannot edge his Boat round some winding Creek, which it is not always in his power to do, he despairs of Success that Night; perhaps, however, he is more fortunate, and has the satisfaction to hear the airy noise approach nearer, till at length the *Host* settles in some plain upon the edge of which his Boat is moored: he now, as silently as possible, primes both his pieces anew (for he is generally double-armed), and listens with all his Attention: it is so dark, that he can take no Aim, for if he could discern the Birds, they would also see him; and, being extremely timorous, would seek some other pasture. Though they march with Noise, they feed in Silence; some indistinct noises, however, if the Night be still, issue from so vast a Concourse; he directs his piece, therefore, towards the Sound, fires at a venture, and instantly catching up his other gun, discharges it where he supposes the Flock to *rise on the wing*. His gains for the Night are now decided, and he has only to gather his harvest; he immediately puts on his *mud-pattens* (flat square pieces of board which the *Fowler* ties to his feet, that he may not sink in the *Ooze*), ignorant yet of his success, and goes groping about in the dark in quest of his Booty, picking up sometimes many, and perhaps not one. So hardly does the poor *Fowler* earn a few shillings, exposed in an open Boat, during a solitary Winter Night, to the weather as it comes, *rain*, *hail*, or *snow*, on a bleak Coast, a League probably from the beach, and often liable, without great care, to be fixed in the Mud, where he would become an inevitable prey to the returning Tide. I have heard (continues Mr. G.) one of these poor Fellows say, he never takes a

Dog with him in these expeditions, because no *Dog* could bear the *cold* which he is obliged to suffer; and, after all, others frequently enjoy more from his labours than himself; for the *Tide* often throws next day, on different parts of the *Shore*, many of the *Birds* which he had killed, but could not find in the *Night*.

“ This hazardous Occupation once led a *Fowler* into singular distress; it happened too in the *Day-time*, which shews still more forcibly the *Risque* of such *nocturnal* expeditions.—Mounted on his *mud-pattens*, he was traversing one of these *oozy* plains in search of *Ducks*, and, being intent only on his game, suddenly found the *Water*, which had been accelerated by some peculiar circumstance affecting the *Tide*, had made an alarming progress around him, and he found himself completely encircled: in this desperate situation an idea struck him as the only hope of safety; he retired to that part which seemed the highest from its being yet uncovered by water, and striking the barrel of his long *Gun* deep into the *Ooze*, he resolved to hold fast by it, as well for a support as a security against the *Waves*, and to wait the *Ebbing* of the *Tide*: he had reason to believe a common *Tide* would not have flowed above his middle; but in the midst of his reasoning on the subject, the *Water* had now reached him; it rippled over his feet, it gained his knees, his waist; Button after Button was swallowed up, until at length it advanced over his *Shoulders*: with a palpitating *Heart*, he gave himself up for lost: still, however, he held fast by his *Anchor*: his *Eye* was eagerly in search of some *Boat* which might accidentally be passing, but none appeared. A *Head* upon the *surface* of the *Water*, and that sometimes covered by a *Wave*, was no *Object* to be descried from the *Land*, at the distance of *half a league*; nor could he exert any sounds of *Distress* that could be heard so far: while, as the exigence would allow, he was thus making up his mind to the terrors of certain *Destruction*, his *Attention* was called to a new object; he thought he saw the *uppermost Button* of his *Coat* begin to appear. No *Mariner* floating on a wreck could behold approaching succour with greater transport than he felt at this transient view of his

Button; but the fluctuation of the Water was such, and the turn of the Tide so slow, that it was yet some time before he durst venture to assure himself that the Button was fairly above the Level of the flood; at length a *second* Button appearing at intervals, his Sensations may rather be conceived than described, and his joy gave him Spirits and Resolution to support his situation four or five Hours longer, until the Waters had fully retired."

The danger of attacking the Wild Fowl in their small Boats is considerably increased when there is much Ice in the River, by which they sometimes get encircled, and then can only float with the Current, and are often kept two or three Tides before they can extricate themselves; and their Punt is ill calculated to sustain pressure against its Sides, which are not *twenty* inches high from the Surface of the water; in this the *Punter* by night drops down with the *tide*, or uses his *paddles* after the fowl; he knows their haunts, and takes every advantage of *Wind, Tide, Moon, &c.*; his *gun*, which carries as much as a little Cannon, is laid with the muzzle over the stem of the *Punt*, in a hitch, which regulates the line of Aim: at the bottom of the *Punt* he lies upon his belly, and gets as near the *Rout* of fowl that are upon the water as possible; when within the range of his *gun*, he rattles with his feet against the bottom of his *Punt*, and when the fowl begin to spring at this unexpected Sound, at that moment he pulls the trigger, and cuts a *lane* through their ranks; he instantly follows the direction of his shot, and gathers up those that are killed, or just expiring, for very seldom he makes it answer to row after Fowl *only wounded*; he then charges his gun, and drifts further down the River, in hopes of a second, third, and successive shots. By this mode a Man has brought home from *fourscore* to a *hundred* Wild Fowl, of various kinds, in one Night's excursion; and this will not seem an exaggerated account, when the Multitudes which, in hard frosty weather with the wind at *East* or *North-east*, haunt the *Blackwater River* are known. The numbers that are seen in their *Day* flights, and the noises of the various kinds of a *Night*, are almost beyond belief: to the Compiler, prepared as he was to behold

amazing quantities, they exhibited far beyond what he was led to expect; and to others who have seen their Throngs the astonishment has been perhaps still greater. A Punt Shooter, of the name of BOWLES, has been known to clear upwards of a Hundred pounds in a Season by his Gun; the Wild Fowl were sold to the *Higglers*, &c. at *two shillings* a Couple, one with the other: allowing his Expences to be only *Thirty* pounds, here were 2600 birds brought home; an immense destruction, when the whole period allotted for it does not much exceed *five months*. *Forty-two Wigeons* have been killed at a single shot in the *Day-time*, and the difficulty of approaching the great flocks of *fowl* in the *Light* is ten-fold. A man in whose *Punt* the Compiler was, got eighteen Wigeons at one shot, and many that were crippled*, escaped. If in the Day, or at Night, the *Punters* get a shoot at the Fowl at feed upon the *Ooze*, they tie on their *Plashes*, (similar to the *Mud-pattens* used in Hampshire,) and collect the Spoil.

The best time for this Shooting is the *first* or *second* Day's *Thaw* after a sharp Frost, and when deep *Snow* has long covered the ground; the fowl are then flying in every direction to dabble in the *fresh* water, which then appears all around inviting them. Another favourable opportunity is at the Commencement of a *frost*, with the Wind strong at *East*, and a *Sleet* or *Snow* falling; if the Guns can but be kept *dry*, there is no complaint about the using them, and the Fowl in such Weather always fly *lower* than when the Atmosphere is clear.

In the Day-shooting, upon the River below Goldanger, in Essex, at *half Ebb*, very extensive *Oozes* are dry, where grows a long Grass upon which the Wild Fowl feed; the nicety required is, so to place the *Punt* in some of the Creeks which intersect these *Oozes*, as to intercept the birds

* The large Black and White Gulls are most expert in immediately despoiling the wounded Birds, and are so determinedly ravenous, that in a very few minutes they will devour all the fleshy parts, such as the Breast, &c. of a Wild Fowl, although the Punter may be using all his Expedition to prevent them.

either in coming to their feed when the Tide recedes, or when it makes so as to cover the feeding ground, and drives them from the spot. It is *then* the Shooter has full employment for an *hour and a half*, or *two hours*; after which, the *Fowl* either get settled upon their feed beyond the reach of interruption, or, if driven from it by the Tide, they hasten to the various Decoy-ponds upon that River to repose themselves.

The Gun proper for this Amusement has no occasion to be more than *three feet eight inches* in the *barrel*, which should not weigh less than *twelve pounds*, (upon this Scale the whole *Gun* will be about *eighteen pounds* weight;) this quantity of Iron at the above length will be as capable, or more so, of throwing shot *sharp* and *distant* as a Barrel *two feet* longer. Should this heavy Mass be objected to as cumbersome to carry, let it be remembered, that *these* Guns are not meant to lie upon the Arm, or to be carried about in the Fields; the Shooter is either seated in a Boat, or upon a Marsh; in either situation the Gun does not fatigue him, since he has nothing to do but elevate it as the Wild Fowl fly over his Head; and, after firing and charging, let it again lie beside him until fresh objects require its use. Without this ponderous Substance, no Man can stand the *Recoil* of a Gun that will carry a *sufficient charge* for doing execution at great lengths, and to kill many Birds at a shoot: a common Fowling-piece may do its business well, so far as its capacity extends, but it will carry very few *pellets* of either *single* or *double Bristol* shot; the latter is generally used by the *Punters* for Day, and the former for Night shooting: the largest *B. B. patent shot* is too light for either; but even with *that*, a Gun with a common sized Bore would not carry enough to do any great execution, if a *Rout* of Fowl were ever so numerous. A convincing proof Major CARTWRIGHT has given upon this point, whilst he was upon the Coast of *Labrador*.

“ I got a shot at about forty *Eider Ducks*, pretty well *doubled up*, and killed three; also crippled five or six more, but got only one of them; for both the water and weather were so cold that my *Greyhound*, who has

learnt from the *Newfoundland* Dogs to fetch birds out of the water, would go in but once; they were a very fine shot for a *large gun*, but my double barrel has so *small a bore* that it carries no more than *fifty-two grains* of *B. B. shot*."

The same Gentleman has written various Observations he made upon the Velocity of the Flight of Wild Fowl, which shew the necessity of a *Barrel* that will bear the Explosion of an additional quantity of Gunpowder, so as to throw shot thickly and strongly to a distance, with an equal Rapidity to the *volant* object; and also how requisite it is to aim *before* Wild Fowl that are either approaching, and must be fired at almost perpendicularly; or, when *crossing* the Shooter to the right or left: the Rapidity of their Flight is such, especially if aided by a *fresh* of Wind, that considerable Allowances must be made for it. The *Lock* of a Wild Fowl Gun cannot be too good; the nicest care should be observed in *regulating* its Movements to the *utmost* degree of Quickness, and that all its Parts are at the same time perfectly safe.

"In my way thither (says Major C.) I measured the flight of the *Eider Ducks* by the following method: *viz.* on arriving off *Duck Island*, *Six miles* distant from *Henley Tickle*, I caused the people to lie on their Oars; and when I saw the Flash of the Guns, which were fired at a flock of Ducks as they passed through the latter, I observed by my Watch how long they were flying *abreast* of us. The result of very many Observations ascertained the Rate of their Flight to be *Ninety miles an hour*."

HEARNE, in speaking of the rapid Flight of Water Fowl, observes of the *Wild Swans* that, notwithstanding their Size, these Birds are so extremely swift on the Wing, when in full Feather, as to make them more difficult to shoot than almost any others, it being frequently necessary to take sight *ten or twelve feet* before their Bills. This, however, is only when they are flying *before the Wind*, in a *brisk Gale*, at which time they seldom fly at a less rate than a *Hundred Miles an hour*; but when flying

across the Wind, or *against* it, they are not able to make any great Progress. Of the *Brent Geese*, he says, that when migrating to the *South*, they generally avail themselves of a strong *North*, or *North-Westerly* Wind, which makes their Flight so swift, that when he has killed *four* or *five* at a Shot, not *one* of them fell less than from *Twenty* to *Fifty* yards from the perpendicular Spot where they were killed.

A Gentleman in the County of *Durham*, one morning in *April*, observed a flock of *Wild Geese* going *Northward*, in the line of two objects, whose Distance apart he knew to be *four miles*: by his Watch he found the exact time they were in flying this Distance; from which he calculated that if they continued to fly at the same Rate for *Twelve hours*, they would be at the *Orkneys* by *Sun-set*, which is *Twenty-five miles* an hour. But it is very unlikely that these Birds ever migrate from the *Fens* of *Cambridgeshire*, &c. to the *Orkneys*, at one Flight. Indeed, numbers of them are known to stop for several Days, both in going and returning, at the Mouth of the *Tees*, *Prestwick-Car*, the Haughs of the River *Till*, near *Wooler*, in *Northumberland*; and at some places in the *Merse*, in *Scotland*.

Having had Occasion to mention the Velocity with which the *Hooper* or *Wild Swan* flies, we may be excused for digressing into an Account of both those that are occasional Visitors, and those that are indigenous to this Country. The *Whistling* or *Wild*, is smaller than the *Mute* or *Tame Swan*, and is about five feet in length, above seven in breadth, and weighs from *fourteen* to *seventeen* pounds. The bill is three inches long, from the base to the middle of it yellowish white, and from thence to the end black; the place bare of feathers from the bill over the Eye and Eye-lids is yellow. The whole plumage in the full-grown Birds is of a pure White, and next the skin they are clothed with a thick, fine *Down*. The Legs are black. This Species are Inhabitants of the *Northern* Regions, never appearing in *England* but in hard Winters, when *Trips* of five or six are now and then seen. MARTIN says, that in *October*, *Swans* come to

Lingay, one of the Western Isles, in great numbers, and continue there till *March*. A few stay in *Mainland*, one of the Orkneys, and breed in the little Islands of the *fresh* water Lochs; but the principal part of them retire at the Approach of *Spring*, and are considered the Countryman's *Almanack*, the Inhabitants expecting a mild *Spring* when their departure is early. In Countries where they may be considered as Natives, they generally keep together in small Flocks, except in the Pairing Season, or at the setting-in of Winter; at the latter period they assemble in immense Throngs, particularly in the extensive Rivers and Lakes of the thinly inhabited Northern part of *Europe*, *Asia*, and *America*. At the Commencement of *Frost* the *Wild Swans* are said to associate in prodigious Multitudes; and thus united, to use every Effort to prevent the Water from freezing, by constantly dashing it with their extended Wings; and by this Means are enabled to remain in some favourite part of a Lake or River which abounds with food, so long as its suits their Convenience; but when the Severity of the Weather threatens to become insupportable, high in Air, in divided and diminished numbers, they shape their course in search of milder Climates; and in such Seasons they are most commonly seen in various parts of the British Isles, and in other more Southern Countries of *Europe*. In their Flight the Swans follow so closely that the *Bill* of the one lies upon the *Tail* of the other.

The great Bodies of them are, however, met with in the large Waters near *Hudson's Bay*, and those of *Kamtschatka*, *Lapland*, and *Iceland*. They are said to return to the latter place in flocks of about a Hundred at a time in the *Spring*; and also to visit that Island from the North in nearly the same manner, on their way *Southward*, in the Autumn. In *Iceland* these Birds are Objects of Chase; losing their Feathers in *August*, so as to be unable to fly, the Natives at that Season come provided with Dogs, and active Horses, capable of passing nimbly over the boggy Soil and Marshes, where they most resort. The *Swans* will puzzle a tolerably quick Horse to overtake them, but the greater numbers are caught by the *Dogs*, that are taught to seize them by the *Neck*, which causes them

to lose their balance, when they become an easy Prey. Many are likewise shot and killed with *Clubs*. The *Icelanders* compare the Voice or Cry of the *Swan* to the Notes of a *Violin*: they hear it at the Termination of their long and gloomy Winter, when the return of the *Swan* announces the return of Summer; every Note, therefore, must be melodious which presages a speedy *Thaw*, and the Release from their tedious Confinement. The Flesh is highly esteemed by the *Icelanders*, (especially that of the Young Birds,) insomuch that, Summer or Winter, no Entertainment is deemed complete without a *Swan*. Their Eggs, of which they lay *four*, and hatch them in *July*, are also considered delicious Food. The *Icelanders*, as well as the *Kamtschatdales*, and other Natives of the Northern World, dress their *Skins* with the *Down* on, sew them together, and make them into Garments of various kinds, and the covering of the *Legs* taken off whole is used for Purses, and appears not unlike *Shagrin*. The Northern American Indians employ the *Skins* in similar uses, and sometimes weave the *Down* as Barbers weave the Cauls for Wigs, and thus manufacture it into Ornamental Dresses for the principal Women of Rank, while the larger *Feathers* are formed into Caps and Plumes, to decorate the Heads of their Chiefs and Warriors. They also gather the *Feathers* and *Down* in large quantities, and barter them with the Traders of more civilized Nations.

HEARNE remarks, that there are two species of *Swans* that visit *Hudson's Bay* in Summer; only differing in Size, the Plumage of both being perfectly white, with black Bill and Legs. The smallest are more common near the Sea coast, but by no means plentiful; and are generally seen in *Pairs*, but sometimes *single*, probably owing to their Mates having been killed on their passage *North*. Both kinds usually breed on the Islands which are in Lakes; and the Eggs of the largest sort are so big that *one* of them is a sufficient Meal for a moderate Man, without Bread or any other Addition. In the interior parts of the Country, the larger *Swan* precedes every other species of Water Fowl, and in some years arrives so early as *March*, long before the Ice of the Rivers is broken up.

At these times they always frequent the open Waters of Falls and Rapids, where they are shot by the *Indians* in considerable numbers. They weigh upwards of *Thirty-four* pounds, and the lesser kind from Eighteen to Twenty-four. The Flesh of both is excellent eating; and when roasted equals in flavour young Heifer Beef: the Cygnets are extremely delicious. In their *moulting* state they are not easily taken, as their broad Feet, with the assistance of their Wings, enable them to run on the Surface of the Water as fast as an *Indian Canoe* can be paddled, and therefore they are obliged to be shot, for by *Diving* and other Expedients they render it impossible to take them by hand. It has been asserted that the *Swans* whistle or *sing* before they die; “and I have read (says Mr. H.) some elegant Descriptions of it in some of the PoETS, but have never heard any thing to confirm this account, although I have been at the Deaths of many. It is true, in serene Evenings, after Sun-set, I have known them make a noise not very unlike a French-horn, but entirely divested of every Sound that constituted Melody.” Mr. LAWSON, who Mr. PENNANT considers as no inaccurate Observer, properly enough terms the largest Swans *Trumpeters*, and the small, *Hoopers*. Some years since, when Mr. HEARNE built Cumberland House, the *Indians* killed these Birds in such numbers, that the *Down* and *Quills* might have been procured in considerable Quantities at a trifling Expence; but since the Depopulation of the Natives by the *Small Pox*, which has also driven the few Survivors to other parts of the Country, no Advantage can be derived from those Articles, although of increasing Value in England.

Mr. PENNANT, in treating of the *Whistling Swan*, notices the formation of the *Windpipe*; “but on Examination, (says Mr. H.) the *Windpipes* of both the Species found at *Hudson’s Bay* are exactly *similar*, though their *Note* is quite *different*. The Breast-bone of this Bird, (continues Mr. H.) is unlike any other I have seen, for instead of being sharp and solid like that of a *Goose*, it is broad and hollow. Into this Cavity the *Windpipe* passes from the Valve, and reaching quite down to the Abdomen, retires into the Chest, and joins the Lungs. Neither of the kind of

Swans frequenting *Hudson's Bay* are *Mute*; but the *Note* of the larger is much louder and more harsh than that of the smaller."

BUFFON is of Opinion that the *Tame* has been originally derived from the *Wild Swan*. Other Naturalists think the reverse, owing to the different Formation of the *Windpipe* in the latter, which falls into the Chest, then turns back like a *Trumpet*, and afterwards makes a *second bend* to join the *Lungs*; whereas in the former kind, the *Windpipe* enters at once into the *Lungs*, the consequence of which is, that the utmost Noise it can make is a mere *Hiss*. WILLOUGHBY says, "the *Windpipe* of the *Wild Swan* after a strange and wonderful manner enters the Breast-bone in a Cavity prepared for it, and is therein reflected, and after its Egress at the divarication is contracted into a narrow Compass by a broad and long Cartilage, then, being divided into two branches, goes on to the *Lungs*: these branches before they enter the *Lungs* are dilated, and as it were swollen out into two Cavities." In corroboration of the above, Dr. HEYSHAM adds, that the *Wild Swan* in this particular differs not only from the *Tame Swan*, but also from every other Bird. By this curious construction the *Wild Swan* is enabled to utter a loud and shrill Note, which it only does when flying or calling: its sound has been compared to that of a *Clarionet* when blown by a Novice in Music; others have likened it to the words *Whoogh, Whoogh*, which, although from a single bird is piercing and jarring to the Ear, yet is not disagreeable when heard high in Air, and it is modulated by the Winds, or when the united and varied Tones of a numerous Assemblage of them are softened by the Murmur of the Waters. It is from this Species alone that the Ancients have given the Fable of the *Swan* being endowed with the Powers of Melody. Embracing the *Pythagorean* Doctrine, the Bodies of these Birds were made the Mansions for the Souls of departed POETS; and after that, they attributed to the *Swans* themselves the same excellence of Harmony, which their Inmates possessed in a Pre-existent State. The Vulgar, not distinguishing between *Sweetness of Numbers* and *Melody of Voice*, thought that *real* which was only intended *figuratively*. The *Mute*

or *Tame Swan* never frequents the *PADUS*; "and I am almost equally certain (says Mr. PENNANT) that it was never seen on the *CAYSTER*, in *Lydia*;" each of them *Streams* celebrated by the *POETS* for the great Resort of *Swans*. The *Padus* was styled *Oloriferus*, from the numbers which frequented its Waters; and there are few of the *POETS*, either Greek or Latin, who do not make them its Inhabitants.

These Birds were by the Ancients consecrated to *Apollo* and the *Muses*. *CALLIMACHUS*, in his Hymn upon the Island of *Delos*, says,—

—————When from *Pætolus'* golden Banks
APOLLO's tuneful Songsters, snowy *Swans*,
 Steering their flight, seven times their circling course,
 Wheel round the Island, caroling mean time
 Soft Melody, the favourites of the Nine,
 Thus ushering to birth with dulcet sounds
 The God of Harmony, and hence seven strings
 Hereafter to his golden Lyre he gave;
 For ere the Eighth soft concert was began
 He sprung to Birth.

DOD's *Callimachus*, p. 115.

Upon this Idea of their being peculiarly dedicated to *APOLLO* and the *Muses* (the Deities of Harmony), the Ancients seem to have ingrafted the notion of *Swans* being endowed with a musical Voice; another Idea still more singular they annexed to this Bird, which was, that the *Swan* foretold its own End. To explain this, says Mr. PENNANT, we must consider the twofold Character of the *POET*, *Vates* and *Poeta*, which the Fable of the Transmigration continues to the Bird, or they might be supposed to derive that Faculty from *APOLLO*, their Patron Deity, the God of Prophecy and Divination. As to *Swans* being supposed to *sing* more sweetly at the Approach of Death, the Cause is beautifully explained by *PLATO*, who attributes that unusual Melody to the same sort of *Ecstasy* that good Men are sometimes said to enjoy at that awful Hour, foreseeing the Joys that are preparing for them on putting off Mortality, and which appear far superior to what they have before experienced.

The *Swan* is, with propriety, termed "the peaceful Monarch of the Lake." Conscious of his superior Strength, he suffers not even the *Eagle* to molest him. His vigorous Wing is as a Shield against all Attacks, and the blows from it are said to be so powerful as to stun or kill the fiercest of his Foes. The *Wolf* or the *Fox* may surprise him in the *Dark*, but in the *Day* their effects are fruitless. His Food, like that of the *Tame Swan*, consists of the Grasses and Weeds, and the seeds and roots of Plants which grow on the Margins of the Water; of the Myriads of Insects which skim over, float upon, or are found beneath its Surface; of Frogs, and, it is said, occasionally (but this wants confirmation) of the Inhabitants within its Bosom.

Swans are certainly detrimental to Fish from their *Dung*, when the Water upon which they are kept is *Shallow*, and no *Stream* runs into, to freshen it; and they are with some Reason believed to destroy the Spawn of *Trout* by stirring up the Gravel, and of other Fishes by rooting up the *Weeds* on which many kinds deposit their *Ova*; but of their directly *preying* on the *Spawn*, or the *small Fry* lately excluded from it, there is no positive Evidence.

The Female makes her Nest of the withered leaves and stalks of *Reeds* and *Rushes*, commonly lays five or six thick-shelled white Eggs, and sits upon them Six Weeks before they are hatched. Both *Male* and *Female* are very attentive to their Young, and will permit no Enemy to approach them. In the Winter of 1803, there were Numbers of *Wild Swans* in the Neighbourhood of *Yarmouth*, in Norfolk. Seventeen were shot by a Man in the course of One Week. They were also seen far Inland. One was shot by Colonel PARKER, at *Melford*, in Suffolk, that measured *seven feet four inches* when his Wings were extended, and *six feet four inches* from Beak to Tail: they also appeared, and many were killed, near *London*. At a Village near *Mitcham*, in Surrey, Mr. DREDGE got two out of a large flock, and with a common Fowling Piece. During the same Winter, the *Sea Eagles* were unusually abundant; several were shot

at *Yarmouth*; a pair of them measured and weighed as follows: *Female*, length, 3 feet 9 inches; extent of Wings, 8 feet; Weight, $9\frac{3}{4}$ pounds: *Male*, length, 2 feet 9 inches; extent of Wings, 7 feet 1 inch; Weight, $9\frac{1}{4}$ pounds. The *Cormorants* were also observed to be more numerous than had been known for many Years.

In speaking of this last Bird, Mr. GILPIN has thus described him. "The *Cormorant*, or *Corvorant*, is not without Beauty: his eager, steady, determined Flight, his plunging into the Waters, his wild look, as if conscious of Guilt, his bustle on being alarmed, shaking the moisture from his Feathers and dashing about till he gets fairly disengaged, are all amusing circumstances in his History: but he is a merciless Villain; supposed by Naturalists to be furnished with a greater variety of predatory Arts than any Bird that inhabits the Water. When the Tide retires, he wings his ardent flight, with strong pinions, and outstretched neck, along the Shores of the deserted River, with all the Channels and Currents of which he is better acquainted than the Mariner with his Chart. Here he commits infinite Spoil; or if he finds his Prey less plentiful in the Shallows, he is at no loss in deeper Water; he dives to the bottom, and visits the *Eel* in her Retirement, of all others his favourite Morsel. In vain the Fowler eyes him from the Bank, and takes his stand behind a Bush. The *Cormorant*, quicker sighted, knows his danger, and parries it with a glance of his Eye: if he choose not to trust his Pinions, in a moment he is *under* water, rises again in some distant part, instantly sinks a second time, and eludes the possibility of taking Aim; if a random Shot should reach him, unless it carry a weight of Metal, his sides are so well cased, and his muscular frame so robust, that he escapes mischief; if the Weather suit, he fishes dexterously at Sea; when he has filled his Maw, he retires to the ledge of some projecting Rock, where he listens to the Surges below, in dosing Contemplation, till Hunger again awakens his powers of Rapine."

To this Description of Mr. GILPIN may be added that of the use made of them by the *Chinese*, and to which they were formerly adapted in

this Country. In *China*, notwithstanding the Wildness of the *Corvorant*, it is said to have been frequently tamed, and rendered subservient to the purposes of Man by being trained to *fish*, and that some Fishermen keep many of them for that purpose, and by which they gain a livelihood. LATHAM says, "A Ring placed round the Neck hinders the Bird from swallowing; its natural Appetite joins with the will of its Master, and it instantly dives at the Word of Command; when unable to gorge down the Fish it has taken, the *Corvorant* returns to its Keeper, who secures the fish to himself. If the Fish be too big for one to manage, two Birds will act in Concert, one taking it by the Head, and the other by the Tail."

Sir GEORGE STAUNTON, in his Account of the Embassy to *China*, places the Docility of the *Corvorant* in a superior point of View, by stating, that there is no Restriction to prevent the Bird from *Gorging* the Fish he takes. "The Embassy (Sir GEORGE says), had not proceeded far on the Southern branch of the Imperial Canal, when they arrived in the vicinity of a Place where the Leut-ze or fishing Bird of *China* is bred and instructed in the art and practice of supplying his Owner with Fish in great abundance. On a large Lake close to this part of the Canal, and to the Eastward of it, are thousands of small Boats and Rafts, built entirely for this species of Fishing. On each Boat or Raft are ten or a dozen Birds, which, at a signal from the Owner, plunge into the water; and it is astonishing to see the enormous size of Fish with which they return grasped within their Bills. They appear to be so well trained, that it did not require either Ring or Cord about their Throats to prevent them from swallowing any portion of their Prey, except what the Master was pleased to return them for Encouragement and Food. The Boat used by these Fishermen is of a remarkably light make, and is often carried to the Lake, together with the fishing Birds, by the Men who are then to be supported by it."

In England, according to WILLOUGHBY, they were hood-winked in the manner of the *Falcons* till they were let off to fish, and a *leather thong*

was tied round the lower part of their Necks to prevent them from swallowing their Prey. "When they come to the River, the Hoods are taken off, and they presently dive under Water and pursue the Fish; when they have caught, they arise quickly to the Surface, and swallow the Fish, till each Bird has swallowed five or six; their Keepers then call them to the Fist, to which they readily Fly, and one after another throw up all their Booty, a little bruised with the Nip given them by their Bills. When they have done fishing, they loose the string from their Necks, leaving the passage to the Stomach free and open, and for their Reward give them part of the Fishes they have caught." WHITLOCK tells us, "That he had a Cast of Corvorants, *manned* like Hawks, which would come to Hand." He took much pleasure in them; and relates, that the best he had, was one presented to him by Mr. WOOD, Master of the *Corvorants* to CHARLES I.

BUFFON states that "*Corvorants* are educated to Fishing as Men rear up *Spaniels* or *Hawks*, and one Man can manage a Hundred. The Fisherman carries them out into a Lake, perched on the Gunnel of his Boat, where they continue tranquil, and wait his Orders with Patience. When arrived at the proper place, at the first Signal each flies a different way to fulfil the Task assigned to it. It is pleasant on this Occasion to behold with what Sagacity they portion out the Lake or Water where they are upon Duty. They hunt about, plunge, and rise to the Surface until they have seized their Prey, carrying it invariably to their Master: should it be too large for one, they give each other mutual Assistance, and by fastening on the Head and Tail carry it to the Boat together. The Boatman stretches out one of his long Oars, on which they perch, and being delivered of their Burden again fly off to pursue their Sport. When wearied, the Fisherman lets them rest for a while, but they are never fed until their Work is over. In this manner they supply a very plentiful Table with Fish; but without the Ring round the Throat they would satiate themselves and discontinue their Exertions the moment their Bellies were filled, Education alone being inadequate to reclaim their natural Gluttony."

The *Corvorant* is found in every Climate, and is sufficiently common in this Kingdom, especially the Northern part of it: it is from thirty-two inches to three feet four or five in length, and from four feet to five feet six inches in breadth, and varies in its Weight from *four* to *seven* pounds; the Bill, to the corners of the Mouth, measures five inches, and on its ridge two and three quarters: it is of a dark brown colour, and the tip of the upper Mandible is much hooked and sharp: from the base of this it is furrowed on each side nearly to the tip, without any appearance of Nostrils: the under Mandible is compressed, and covered about the gape of the Mouth with a naked yellowish Skin, extended under the chin and throat, where it hangs loose, and forms a kind of Pouch, which is capable of wide Distension, and enables the Bird to swallow Prey apparently too large to be admitted into its Gullet: the skin about the Eyes is almost naked, and of the same colour as the Pouch: the Eyes, which have a remarkably wild stare, are placed near the Bill; the irides are green; the crown of the head and neck are black; at the back part of the head the feathers are longer than the rest, and form a short crest; in some the throat is white, with a kind of stripe passing upwards behind the Eyes; in some the cheeks and throat are mixed with brown and white, and in others the head and neck are streaked with scratches of white. The middle of the belly is white, with a patch of the same colour over each thigh; all the under parts, however, together with the back and rump, are commonly of a glossy blue black, with green reflections; the shoulders, scapulars, and wing coverts, are of an orange brown, tinged and glossed with green, and each feather is bordered with shining blueish black; the secondary quills are nearly of the same colour; the coverts and the primaries are dusky. The Tail consists of fourteen stiff, dark feathers, which look as if discoloured by being dipped in mud or dirty kennel-water; the legs are thick, strong, and black, about two inches and a half long, and the *outer Toe* is more than four inches in length.

Corvorants usually assemble in Flocks on the summits and inaccessible parts of the Rocks which overhang, or are surrounded by, the Sea, upon which the Female makes her Nest of the withered Sea-tang, weeds,

sticks and grasses, which are cast on shore by the Waves. She lays four or more greenish white Eggs of the size of a Goose, but of a longer shape. In some parts, these Birds build in Trees; on the borders of the River *Don*, and the Lakes of *Russia* adjoining, they do so, placing five or six Nests, composed of sticks and roots, together on one Tree. *WILLOUGHBY* mentions their building in *Norfolk* upon Trees along with the *Heron*s, and that abundance of Nests were upon the high Trees near *Sevenhuys* in *Holland*. In *Greenland*, where it is said *Corvorants* remain throughout the year, the jugular Pouch is used by the Natives as a Bladder to float their smaller kinds of *Fishing Darts* after they are thrown; their Skins, which are very tough, are made into Garments; and their Flesh is eaten, but the Eggs are too fœtid to be tasted even by the *Greenlanders*.

At Sea or on the *Inland Lakes* *Corvorants* make terrible Havoc: from the greatest height they drop down upon the Object of pursuit, dive after it with the Rapidity of a Dart, and seize it with an almost unerring certainty; then emerging with the *Fish* across the Bill, with a kind of twirl, throw it up into the Air, and, dexterously catching it head foremost, swallow it whole.

While at rest on the Shore, commonly on the ledge of a projecting Rock, these Birds sit more or less in an erect posture, and are propped up by the stiff feathers of the Tail; and in places where they have not experienced the fatal Effects of the *Gun* have been known (however wary at other times) to sit and receive repeated shots, without offering to remove out of the danger. *Dr. HEYSHAM* relates, that about the year 1759 a *Corvorant* perched upon the Castle of *Carlisle*, and soon afterwards removed to the *Cathedral*, where it was shot at upwards of *Twenty times*, without effect; at length a person got upon the Cathedral, fired at, and killed it. Another instance was, where a flock of fifteen or twenty *Corvorants* perched, at the dusk of the Evening, in a Tree on the Banks of the River *Esk*, near *Netherby*, the Seat of Sir *JAMES GRAHAM*. A person who saw them settle, fired at random at them in the dark six or seven

times, without either killing any or frightening them away: surprized at this, he came again at day-light, and killed one, whereupon the rest took flight. At other times, while they are in a dozing and stupified state from the Effects of one of their customary Surfeits, they may be easily taken, by throwing Nets over them, or by putting a Noose round their Necks, which they avoid no further than by slipping the Head from side to side as long as they can.

Corvorants seem possessed of Energies by no means of an ordinary kind: they are of a stern, sullen Character, with a penetrating Eye and a vigorous Body; their whole Deportment shews the circumspect Plunderer, and the insatiate Glutton, rendered lazy only when the Stomach is full, and then occasionally puffing forth its foetid fumes through the croakings of their hollow voice. Such is their Portrait; and MILTON seems to have put the finishing hand to it, by making SATAN personate the *Corvorant* while he surveys, undelighted, the Beauties of PARADISE. It ought, however, to be remembered, that this Bird, like other Animals, led only by the cravings of Appetite, and directed by Instinct, fills the *Place* and pursues the *Course* assigned to it by its CREATOR.

To return to the *Swan*.—The *Tame Swan* is from four feet seven to five feet three inches in length, and from seven feet four inches to eight feet five in breadth; and weighs from twenty-five to twenty-eight pounds. The Bill is red, with black edges and tip, and differs from the *Wild Swan* in the *naked Skin* between the Bill and the Eyes being *black*, and by having a callous *black Tubercle* or *Knot* projecting from the base of the upper Mandible. The Plumage of both is of the most snowy whiteness. Nothing can exceed the Beauty and Elegance with which the *Swan* rows itself in the Water, throwing itself into numberless pleasing Attitudes, every part assuming fresh Grace with new motion, as if desirous of attracting the Admiration of the Spectator: but although the *Swan* upon his own *Element* is not only extremely graceful, but can swim upon it as fast as a Man can walk, it makes an inelegant figure on *Land*, and it is

found by experience, that the *Swan* will not thrive if kept out of the Water; confined in a Court-yard, he soon becomes dirty and spiritless.

Although possessed of Strength sufficient to insure Dominion, yet the *Swan* molests none of the other Water Birds, and is singularly social to those of his own Family, which he protects from every Insult: while employed with the Cares of the young Brood, they are exceedingly fierce, and have not unfrequently beat down, by repeated blows, Lads of fifteen or sixteen years old, and have been known by a stroke of the Wing to break a Man's Leg.

LATHAM states, that a Circumstance took place at *Pensy* in Buckinghamshire, where a Female, whilst in the act of *sitting*, observed a *Fox* swimming towards her from the opposite Shore: she instantly darted into the Water, and, having kept the Animal at bay for a considerable time with her Wings, at last succeeded in drowning him; after which, in the sight of several persons, she returned to her Nest in Triumph: but however powerful they are with their Wings, a slight blow upon the Head will kill them. The Female makes her Nest early in *February*, concealed among the rough Herbage near the Water's Edge, and lays every other Day to the amount of from six to ten large white Eggs, (the Compiler from the *Swans* he kept had three broods, amongst many others, one of which consisted of *Ten*, and the other two of *Nine* each, and which the Old ones reared,) and sits from *six* to *eight weeks* before they are hatched. The feathers of the young are *grey* during the *first* year, and the Bill for that space is of a lead colour; they do not acquire their full Plumage until the *second*, and breed the *third* Year.

It is a generally received Opinion that *Swans* are very long-lived, and there is no doubt of their being so. Traditional Accounts mention their living a *Century*, and some have protracted their Existence to *three times* that Period; incredulous as we may be to the Story, yet no one has been able to say with certainty to what Age they do attain.

In England the *Swan* is very common, not only ornamenting the Waters in the Grounds of Gentlemen, but met with upon many of the Rivers and Lakes. On the *Trent* they are in great Numbers, and in Abundance on the Salt-water Inlet of the Sea at *Abbotsbury* in Dorsetshire, belonging to the Earl of ILCHESTER: the *Swannery* has now upwards of *seven hundred* Birds, but anciently, when the Royalty belonged to the ABBOT, there were frequently more than double that number; or as some say *seven* or *Eight Thousand*, including *Hoppers*, a small species of *Swans*, who feed and range, and return home again. “In the Thirty-second of ELIZABETH, it was found that, from this Vill to the Sea, by the Isle of Portland, is an *Æstuary*, Meer or Fleet, in which the Sea ebbs and flows; and in it are 500 *Swans*; 410 white; and 90 *Cygnets*, each of the Value of *two Shillings and Sixpence*, the greater part whereof were not marked, &c. A Writ was ordered out of the Exchequer to the Sheriff, to seize all the *White Swans* not marked, who returned, he had seized 400. The Defendants pleaded, that the Meer lay in this Parish. That the ABBOTS were seized of the *Æstuary*, Banks and Soil (*solum*) in Fee; and that there was, time out of mind, a Game or Flight of *Wild Swans*, (*Volatus Cygnorum et Cygnettorum*) haunting there, which were not accustomed to be marked; and that the ABBOT and his Predecessors did breed up (*pullulent*) for the Use of the Kitchen and Hospitality, some of the lesser *Cygnets*, and used Yearly to mark them, by cutting off the Pinion of their Wings, to prevent their flying away. That 35th HENRY VIII. the KING granted it to Sir GILES STRANGWAYS, whose Grandson GILES demised it for one Year to the Defendants.” N. B. *Without Prescription*, all *White Swans* in an open River, *unmarked*, belong to the KING by Prerogative.—*Swans* are seen on the *Thames* in vast Plenty, where they are esteemed as *Royal Property*, and it is *Felony* to steal their Eggs: by this means their Increase is secured, and from that part of the *Thames* where the crowded Traffic of the Metropolis ceases, quite to its Source, they are no small Embellishment to that noble River. In COKE’s Reports, Part VII. the following appears in the Case of *Swans*:—“He who stealeth a *Swan* in an open and common River, lawfully marked, the same *Swan*

shall be hung in a House by the Beak, and he who stole it shall, in Recompence thereof, give to the Owner so much *Wheat* as may cover all the *Swan* by putting and turning the *Wheat* upon the Head of the *Swan*; until the Head of the *Swan* be covered with *Wheat*."

EDWARD the *First* swore that he would utterly exterminate the Scots Revolters under ROBERT BRUCE, and the Oath which EDWARD took on this occasion was rendered more solemn (according to the strange romantic turn of the Age) by the presence of two milk-white *Swans* with Trappings of Gold, which were brought into *Westminster Abbey* on this occasion, and had their part in the sacred Rites of the Day. Profane as this may appear, yet whoever will consult "St. PALAYE sur la Chevalerie," will find that in the Days of EDWARD, the *Peacock* and the *Pheasant* were frequently united to the greatest of BEINGS in the *Vows* made before important Enterprizes, by the most devout Knightly Warriors.

EDWARD probably had a Predilection for a *Swan*. His Grandson EDWARD III. seems to have had the same; for at the brilliant Festival which he held in 1349, to honour his new ORDER of the GARTER, his Impress was a milk-white *Swan*, with what JOSHUA BARNES calls "this daring and inviting Motto, 'Haye! Haye! the *White Swan*! by Goddes Soul, I am the Man!'"

MARGARET of ANJOU too distributed in a later age (A. D. 1459) small *Silver Swans*, the Badge of her Son Prince EDWARD, to such as favoured her Cause.

MR. HAYLEY, among his very interesting *Ballads* founded on Anecdotes relating to *Animals*, has the following beautiful one respecting the *Swan*;—

SHOOTING WILD FOWL.

KIND Heaven will oft a Lesson give
 If Mortals are inclin'd to learn;
 To shew how simplest things that live
 To Kindness make a rich return.

Though Fiction speaks of dying notes,
 Sung by the *Swan* in Death resign'd;
 Is there a Tribe, that flies or floats,
 Of Sense, or Feeling, less refin'd?

Yet simple as this Bird we deem,
 My faithful Ballad shall attest,
 One *Swan* display'd on *Thames's* stream,
 A feeling and a friendly breast.

CECILIA liv'd on *Thames's* bank,
 A young and lovely married Fair;
 To Creatures kind of every rank,
 A favourite *Swan* had own'd her care.

Her Lord a Merchant, frank and young,
 By probity was known to thrive;
 Their bliss enliven'd every Tongue,—
 They were the happiest pair alive;

For to increase their Nuptial Joy,
 And their domestic scene adorn,
 Heaven crown'd their blessings with a Boy;
 A finer babe was never born.

His sportive Life had only run
 To six short Months—how brief a date!
 When gay CECILIA's darling Son
 Was threaten'd with a deadly fate!

Her Garden had a Terrace fair,
 Beneath it full the River flow'd;
 There she enjoy'd the Evening air,
 Her favourite *Swan* there proudly row'd.

The Mother in her active arms,
 To make her Boy benignly mild,
 And nobly proof 'gainst all alarms,
 There oft would exercise her Child.

SHOOTING WILD FOWL.

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A Boat-house, by the Terrace side,
 Shelter'd a small and simple Boat :
 And sometimes half way o'er the tide
 Chain'd to its home, it us'd to float.

Here she, her Infant, and her maid,
 Sport with the *Swan*, and give it bread ;
 While her sweet Babe, of nought afraid,
 With lively transport sees it fed.

'Tis June—a sultry tempest wild
 Impends; *CECILIA* would retire,
 But checks herself, to teach her Child
 The vivid Light'ning to admire.

Her noble Mind delights to rear
 In early Fortitude, her Boy ;
 That he the Voice of *GOD* may hear,
 With Admiration's awful Joy !

While to regain the Vessel's Shed,
 Her Maid an active Pilot stands ;
 She to the Music o'er her head
 Dances the Child with dauntless hands.

But Whirlwinds rise : the Vessel reel'd—
 Heaven! the fond Parent is o'erthrown :
 Her falling head she fails to shield,
 Attentive to her Child alone.

'Tis the Tornado's ruthless blast ;
 The Mother stunn'd, the Babe it bears
 Far from her senseless frame! aghast
 The Maid in speechless horror glares !

Yet swiftly to its proper shore
 The Whirlwind now the Vessel drives,
 Where, by the elemental roar
 Alarm'd *CECILIA*'s Lord arrives.

Into the Boat behold him bound ;
 He lifts his lifeless Wife upright :
 She wakens to the Thunder's sound ;
 Her opening Eyes regain the light.

SHOOTING WILD FOWL.

"Where is my Child?" she faintly cries;
 "Where is the Child?" her Lord rejoin'd.
 Poor heart-struck SUSAN nought replies,
 The Child had vanish'd from her mind.

"My Child! my Child!" with terror's start
 She shrieks, in accents wild and shrill;
 And at her Agony of Heart
 The very Tempest's self grew still!

"Say if you saw him sink!" she cried
 Wildly to SUSAN, pale and wan:
 When quick her roving Eye descried
 The arch'd neck of her favourite *Swan*.

"My GOD! my GOD! 'tis thee I thank!"
 Exclaim'd the now exulting Fair;
 "I see him wafted to the Bank,
 "His Cradle form'd by Heavenly care!"

She spoke, and all who heard her cry
 Now saw the Babe divinely nurst;
 The extatic Sight from every Eye
 Made tears of grateful transport burst.

Between her silvery spreading Wings
 The guardian Bird had lodg'd the Child;
 And forward as her broad foot springs,
 At every stroke the Infant smil'd.

And with a Heav'n-implanted Pride,
 Superbly rowing now to Land,
 The Bird her sheltered charge denied
 To all, but to the Mother's hand.

CECILIA, feeling then no pains,
 Leans o'er the Boat's advancing end;
 And, aided by her Lord, retains
 The present of her feather'd Friend.

Now with delight the rescued Boy
 To her Maternal Bosom springs:
 The conscious *Swan* partakes their Joy,
 And claps her proud triumphant Wings.

CECILIA bends to praise and pray:
 She weeps with Joy, no longer wan;
 And still on this returning Day
 Blesses the Heaven-directed *Swan*.

In the Reign of EDWARD IV. such was the Estimation in which *Swans* were held, that no one who possessed a *Freehold* of less than the clear Yearly Value of *five Marks* was permitted to keep any, "*other than the Son of our Sovereign Lord the KING :*" nor was it merely for the Gratification of the Eye that the *Swan* was taken so much care of; it was a Bird in high Esteem among the *Old English*, and was constantly seen at all the sumptuous Feasts of that Period. The fashionable mode of dressing it was, to take off its skin and roast it; when sufficiently done, it was taken from the Fire, the skin (at least the *Tail Feathers**) again put on,

* Among other Dishes eminently distinguished in ancient Days, we find "The *Pecok Enhakyll*." This appears to be that Dish which, in all old Representations of Banquets, advances in Front, and is lifted up on high by the Bearer. No one could conceive that the Peacock, adorned with its own tufted Head, and covered with its own Feathers, could be produced to any Table as an eatable Dish. The following Receipt will, however, explain the Affair.

"For a Feste-royal, Pacokkes schol be dight on this manere. Take and flece off the skynne, "with the fedures, tayle, and the neck and the hed thereon. Then take the skynne and all the "fedures, and lay hit on a tabel abroad, and strawe thereon grounden Comyn. Then take the "Pecok and roste him, and endore hym with rawe yolkes of eggs; and when he is roasted, "take hym off, and let hym cole a whyle; and take and sowe him in hys skynne, and gylde "his combe, and so serve him forthe, with the last Cours."

From the same M.S. (preserved in the Library of the ROYAL SOCIETY) is found the following eccentric instances of Aristocracy pervading a *Book of Cookery*.

"Take conynyes par-boiled, or elles Rabets, for they are better for a Lorde:"—"and for a "gret lorde, take Squerelles instede of conynyes."—"A hole chykyn for a lorde."—"An if it "be for a lorde, put seven leches* in a dish, and make a dragge of fyne sugar."—"When he "(a pig) is roasted, lay o'rthwart hym ever a barre of silver foyle, and anoder of golde; and

* Mackrel.

and served up at the Table: but the Fashion of these days is passed away, and the Flesh of the *Old Bird* is seldom tasted; the Young, or *Cygnets*, are, however, fattened near *Norwich*, chiefly for the Tables of the *Body Corporate* of that Place. Persons who have Property in the River there, take the *Cygnets*, and send them to some Man who is employed by the Corporation, to be fed; and for his trouble he is paid about half a Guinea each. A few years since a fatted *Cygnet* was valued at a *Guinea*, but now when sold they bring a much higher Price; for it is said it takes a *Quarter of Oats* to completely fatten a *Cygnet*.

During the time of long Frosts, if going upon the *Water* or into the *Marshes*, after the *Wild Fowl*, does not suit the Shooter's convenience or choice, by attending the brooks and small rivers that are only partially frozen, *early of a Morning*, and following their Course, he may frequently find diversion, and be almost certain of meeting with *wild Ducks* searching both for *feed* and *fresh water*; he will also be equally sure to get shots, for they will not rise until he is close upon them. In extreme Severity of *Frost*, with much and permanent Snow, the *warm Springs* which do not freeze are Spots that *then* seldom fail, as the *wild Ducks* are confined to these places, in order to procure the *Aquatic herbs* growing there, and which are almost the sole food that remains for them at this inclement Season.

There was a peculiar kind of *Language* invented by Sportsmen of the middle Ages, which it was necessary for them to be acquainted with; and some of the Terms are still continued.

"serve hym soe al hole to borde of a lorde."—"For a lorde, put no brothe theretoe, but yolkes of cyeen * beten."—"Lay for a lorde in a dyshe, four trenchers," &c. &c.

Yet in spite of all this Respect, these pampered *Lords* were forced to help themselves with their Fingers. *Forks* were not known in England before the Seventeenth Century. BEN JONSON, in his "*Staple of News*," brings forward the "*Project of Forks*," as a risible Absurdity.

* Eggs.

A *Sege* of Herons and of Bitterns; an *herd* of Swans, of Cranes, and of Curlews; a *dopping* of Sheldrakes; a *spring* of Teals; a *covert* of Coots; a *gaggle* of Geese; a *badelynge* of Ducks; a *sord* or *sute* of Mallards; a *muster* of Peacocks; a *nye* or *nide* of Pheasants; a *bevy* of Quails; a *covey* of Partridges; a *congregation* of Plovers; a *flight* of Doves; a *dule* of Turkeys; a *walk* of Snipes; a *fall* of Woodcocks; a *brood* of Hens; a *building* of Rooks; a *murmuration* of Starlings; an *exaltation* of Larks; a *flight* of Swallows; a *host* of Sparrows; a *watch* of Nightingales; and a *charm* of Goldfinches.

When *Beasts* went together in Companies, there was said to be a *pride* of Lions; a *lepe* of Leopards; an *herd* of Harts, of Bucks, and of all sorts of Deer; a *bevy* of Roes; a *sloth* of Bears; a *singular* of Boars; a *sownder* of wild Swine; a *dryft* of tame Swine; a *route* of Wolves; a *harrass* of Horses; a *rag* of Colts; a *stud* of Mares; a *pace* of Asses; a *baren* of Mules; a *team* of Oxen; a *drove* of Kine; a *flock* of Sheep; a *tribe* of Goats; a *skulk* of Foxes; a *cete* of Badgers; a *richess* of Martins; a *fesyne*s of Ferrets; a *huske* or a *down* of Hares; a *nest* of Rabbits; a *clowder* of Cats, and a *kendel* of young Cats; a *shrewdness* of Apes, and a *labour* of Moles: and, when Animals were retired to Rest, a Hart was said to be *harboured*, a Buck *lodged*, a Roebuck *bedded*, a Hare *formed*, a Rabbit *set*, a Fox *kennelled*, a Martin *tree'd*, an Otter *watched*, a Badger *earthed*, a Boar *couched*; hence, to express their dislodging, they say, *unharbour* the Hart, *rouse* the Buck, *start* the Hare, *bolt* the Rabbit, *unkennel* the Fox, *untree* the Martin, *vent* the Otter, *dig* the Badger, and *rear* the Boar. Two Greyhounds were called a *brace*; three a *leash*: but two Spaniels or Harriers were called a *couple*; and three a *couple and half*; there was also a *mute* of Hounds for a number; a *litter* of Whelps, and a *cowardice* of Curs.

It is somewhat remarkable, that the above sort of Phraseology was not confined to Birds and Beasts, but extended itself to the various Ranks and Professions of Men, as the following Specimens will shew.—A *state*

of Princes; a *skulk* of Friars; a *skulk* of Thieves; an *observance* of Hermits; a *sultitie* of Serjeants; an *untruth* of Sompners; a *lying* of Pardoners; a *multipling* of Husbands; an *incredibility* of Cuckolds; a *safeguard* of Porters; a *stalk* of Foresters; a *blast* of Hunters; a *draught* of Butlers; a *temperance* of Cooks; a *melody* of Harpers; a *poverty* of Pipers; a *drunkenship* of Coblers; a *disguising* of Tailors; a *wandering* of Tinkers; a *malepertness* of Pedlars; a *fighting* of Beggars; a *rayful* (that is a netful) of Knaves; a *blush* of Boys; a *bevy* of Ladies; a *nonpatience* of Wives; a *gaggle* of Women; a *gaggle* of Geese; a *superfluity* of Nuns; and a *herd* of Harlots. It was also applied to inanimate things; as a *caste* of Bread; a *cluster* of Grapes, &c.

Such was the pointed Attention to the *Minutiae* of the Table that a *Boke of Kerving* was printed, which proves that the pleasures of good Eating must have been highly valued. *Carving*, indeed, was, in the Feudal Times, an Art in which the superior Ranks of Men were instructed. Before a person could receive the Honour of *Knighthood*, it was necessary for him to fill several subordinate Stations: among the rest, part of his *Noviciate* was passed as a *Carving Esquire*. The Terms of a *Kerver*, as taken from the above-mentioned Book, printed by *Wynkyn de Worde*, are as here followeth.

Breke that Deer. Lesche that Brawn. Rere that Goose. Lyste that Salmon. Sauce that Capon. Spoyle that Hen. Fruche that Cheken. Unbrace that Mallard. Unlace that Conye. Dismembre that Heron. Display that Crane. Dysfygure that Pecocke. Unjoint that Bitture. Untache that Curlewe. Alay that Fesande. Wynges that Partryche. Wynges that Quaile. Mynce that Plover. Thye that Pyggon. Border that Pastie. Thye that Woodcocke. Thye all manner smalle Byrdes. Tymbre that Fyer. Tyere that Egge. Chynne that Samon. Strynge that Lampreye. Splat that Pyke. Sauce that Plaiçe. Sauce that Tench. Splay that Breme. Syde that Haddock. Tuske that Barbel. Culpon that Troute. Fyne that Chevin. Trassene that Ele.

Trance that Sturgeon. Undertrounch that Porpus. Tayme that Crabbe.
Barbe that Lobster. Here endeth the goodlye terms of Kervynge.

The good *Housewifery* of former Times was also frequently, although quaintly, described in *Verse*. The following is a Specimen written near the close of the Eighth HENRY's Reign.

THE ATTENTIVE SPOUSE.

TWELVE sorts of Mete my Wyfe provides,
And bates me not a dyshe:
Foure are of Fleshe, of Fruite are foure,
The other foure of Fyshe.

For the fyrste corse, shee stores my borde
Wythe Birdes that daynties are;
And fyrste a Quayle, and next a Rayle;
A Bytter*, and a Jarre †.

Myne appetyte when cloyde with these,
Wyth Fyshe she makes it sharpe;
And brynges me next a Lumpe, a Poute ‡,
A Gugeon and a Carpe.

The second corse of Frute well served,
Fittynge wel the Seson;
A Medlar and a Hartichoke,
A Crab and a small reson.

What's hee that having soche a Wyfe,
Upon hir sholde not dote;
Who ev'ry day provides him fare
That costes him never a grote?

* A Bittern.

† Synonymous with Ruff and Reeve.

‡ A Whiting Pout.

Laws relating to Wild Fowl.

By 25 Hen. VIII. c. 11. From the first of *March* to the last day of *June* yearly, no person shall withdraw, take, destroy, or convey, any *Eggs* of WILD FOWL, from or in any Nest where they shall be laid, upon pain of Imprisonment for one Year; and to forfeit for every Egg of any *Crane* or *Bustard*, 20*d.*; of a *Bettour* or *Shovelard*, 8*d.*; and for every Egg of *Mallard*, *Teal*, or other *Wild Fowl*, (except *Crows*, *Ravens*, *Boscards*, and other Fowl not used to be eaten) 1*d.*; half to the KING, and half to him that will sue by action of debt. And Justices have a power to enquire, hear, and determine the same, as in cases of Trespass.

No person, between the last day of *May* and the last day of *August*, yearly, shall take, or cause to be taken, any wild Ducks, Mallards, Wigeons, Teals, or wild Geese, with Nets or other Engines, on pain of a year's imprisonment; and to forfeit for every fowl so taken 4*d.* And the Justices of the Peace may hear and determine the same, as in cases of Trespass. 25 Hen. VIII. c. 11.

Nevertheless, any gentleman, or any other, that may dispend *Forty Shillings* a year Freehold, may hunt and take such wild fowl, with their *Spaniels* only, without using any Net or other Engine, except the long Bow. Id.

Every person who shall shoot at, kill, or destroy, with any gun or bow, any Mallard, Duck, Teal, or Wigeon, and the same be proved by confession, or oath of two witnesses, before two Justices, shall be committed

to Gaol for three months, unless he pay to the Churchwardens, for the use of the poor, 20s. for each Fowl; or, after one month after the commitment, become bound in two sureties, in 20l. each, not to offend again. 1 J. c. 27. s. 2.

But by a subsequent Statute, if any person whatsoever (between June 1 and October 1, yearly) shall, by hays, tunnels, or other nets, drive and take any wild Duck, Teal, Wigeon, or any other Water Fowl, in any place of Resort for Wild Fowl in the *moulting season*, and shall be convicted thereof before one Justice, by the oath of one witness, he shall, for every such fowl, forfeit 5s. half to the informer, and half to the poor, by distress; rendering the overplus above the penalty and charges of distress, or be committed to the house of Correction, not exceeding one month, nor less than fourteen days, to be *whipt* and kept to *hard labour*. And the Net to be seized and destroyed in the presence of the Justice. 9 Ann. c. 25. s. 4. 10 Geo. II. c. 32. s. 10.

Opinion of an eminent Counsel taken on the following Case relating to Wild Fowl.

A Notice, of which the following is a Copy, has been inserted in the Public Papers.

“ To Gunners and Puntmen.

“ Notice is hereby given, to the above description of persons, that
 “ the several proprietors and occupiers of Decoys, on and in
 “ the neighbourhood of the River Blackwater, in this County,
 “ have entered into an Association for the purpose of Prosecut-
 “ ing such persons as shall hereafter by fowling or in any other
 “ manner, disturb the wild Fowl in or near such Decoys, or
 “ hinder or prevent their Resort thereto; and any person or

“ persons giving information of any such offender or offenders,
 “ and afterwards, by their Evidence, substantiating the *necessary*
 “ *facts*, will receive Five Guineas reward.

“ WILLIAM LAWRENCE,
 “ Solicitor to the Association.

“ Malden, 11th Sept. 1800.”

It appears, from the general form and wording of the Notice, that certain persons have entered into an Association to prosecute any persons who may in any manner disturb the wild Fowl, or hinder or prevent their resorting to the Decoys, on and in the neighbourhood of the River Blackwater; and it is supposed, from the Advertisement having been inserted at this Season of the year, that it is meant to deter, or rather prohibit, the killing of wild Fowl by the description of persons mentioned in the Notice, *out of the moulting Season*; and that it is warranted by some remote Act of Parliament, and if not, that the Proprietors and Occupiers of Decoys are seeking to establish an *exclusive property* in Birds which are *feræ naturæ*.

The Act of the 1st J. c. 27. s. 2. prohibits the shooting of wild Fowl under certain penalties; but we apprehend, as the Act was a limited one, it has expired, and given place to the various subsequent Laws and Acts which have been made and passed for the preservation of and encouraging the breed of Wild Fowl; and that the Acts of the 9th Ann. c. 25. and the 10th Geo. II. c. 32. by which persons are prohibited from driving and taking any Wild Fowl, under certain penalties, in the *moulting Season*, *viz.* by the latter Act, extended from the first of *June* to the first of *October*, are the only remaining existing Laws relative to Wild Fowl; and that the Penalties do not attach upon persons killing Wild Fowl *out of the moulting Season*; or that any Action can be maintained against any person who shall kill any Fowl *out of the moulting Season*, except for Trespass done on another's Grounds in the destruction of the Birds.

Presuming we are correct in this View, it is now submitted on the following Statement of the Gunners and Puntmens Case, with respect to their preventing the Resort of the Wild Fowl to the Decoys from the River Blackwater, how far the Owners and Occupiers of the Decoys can enter into an Association, and carry on a Prosecution against them, if they continue to do so?

The River Blackwater is an Arm of the Sea, in which the Tide ebbs and flows, and the Decoys are pits or ponds, either on the Shore, or at some little distance from the River; to which the Birds resort to Rest, when they have done feeding on the Banks or Ooze of the River. The Puntmen and Gunners, in the Winter Season, usually go in small Boats to shoot the Birds; but they do not attempt to shoot them at the Decoys, or go on shore for that purpose.

Under the Circumstances of this Case, your Opinion is requested in behalf of the Gunners and Puntmen on the following points.

FIRST. Will an action of Trespass lie against the Gunners and Puntmen for killing and taking the Wild Fowl in the River in the Winter Season, or for shooting the Wild Fowl, when on the *Wing*, whilst they are in their Boats upon the River?

I apprehend *no Action for Trespass* will lie against the Gunners or Puntmen for killing and taking the Wild Fowl in the River, or for shooting the Wild Fowl when *on the wing*, whilst they are in their Boats upon the River, because they are *feræ naturæ*, and not the *distinct Property* of any one; but if they go upon the Land of another to do the Act, they will be Trespassers in going upon such Land, and may be sued for such Trespass.

SECOND. If you are of Opinion an Action of Trespass will lie, can such Action be maintained by the Owners and Occupiers of

the Decoys, who form the Association, or will it not amount to *Maintenance of Action*; and in that case, by whom can the Action be brought?

If the Owners and Occupiers of the Decoys bring Actions in the Names of *third persons* for Trespasses, and support such Actions at their own Expence, I apprehend it would be *unlawful Maintenance*; for which an Indictment would lie, or that the party grieved might maintain an Action.

Dog.

THERE are three kinds commonly used in SHOOTING: the *Setter*, the *Pointer*, and the *Spaniel*. It is not designed in this Work to enter into minute Directions for *Breaking* them; that is a province few Gentlemen chuse to undertake, and very properly have their Dogs made to understand their Business, before they take them into the Field: however, a Method will be here concisely mentioned, and which the Experience of one, who has broke as many and as capital Dogs as any Man of his Age, in this or any other Country, always led him to adopt.

For breaking *Pointer* or *Setter*, get a *check* Collar, with a line nearly twenty yards long, peg the Dog down, and give him the *Word* (TAKE HEED! or any other,) make him drop, and let him lie a quarter of an hour, walking round, and using the Word; afterwards walk up, and give him a small piece of Cheese. Take the Dog upon a slack line, drop him, and act as above every morning for a Fortnight, until he perfectly knows the word, then hunt him at first *singly*; when on the strong *haunt* of Birds, use the word and stop him; reward him as above with a piece of Cheese, and so encourage him until he knows his Game: serve each Dog in the same way for fourteen days; then take two or three Dogs upon *check* collars, peg down one before the other, give the word, and make them back each other four Mornings successively; afterwards hunt them together.

To teach *Pointers* or *Setters* to *bring* their Game, get a Rabbit's Skin stuffed; begin by throwing it in a room, and let the Dog have a small line on his Collar; when he takes up the Skin, bring him to you with a gentle pull, with the Skin in his mouth; encourage him three or four

times, and then take the line off: when the Dog begins to enjoy it, take a small line and run it through a pulley fixt at the top of a room, tie the Rabbit Skin to one end of the line, keep the other in hand, fire a Pistol, and let the Skin drop; the Dog will soon be fond of the sport, and readily bring every head of Game that is shot. Break all the Dogs in this way, and then take two or three together into a room, fire the pistol, and order first one, and then another Dog, to bring the Skin, and they will soon be perfect.

To break a *wild* Spaniel, fasten a wide *leather strap*, about *four feet* long, to his Collar, with a Swivel; this he will tread on, and throw himself over, and will by that means soon be checked, and rendered handy and obedient. Spaniels may be taught to bring the Game by the same mode of instruction as the *Pointers* or *Setters*; there should, however, be but *one* Spaniel in a *Team* that does this; if more, they will break the Game in struggling which shall carry it.

Directions for the Breeding of Dogs, as they apply *generally*, have been already given in the 62d and subsequent pages of the First Volume; but as they will take no long time to repeat, they are here inserted. Never breed from an *old* Dog and an *old* Bitch; if one Party *must* be Aged, it had best be the *latter*; but Age on either side should be avoided if possible.

Winter Whelps of all sorts of Dogs are best, although the difficulty in rearing the produce, and the loss of the use of the Bitch for some Weeks, are strong reasons against it, in the opinion of many; but the few that survive and are reared amply recompense these Obstacles. At three or four days old, part of the *Sterns* should be twisted off, and the *Dew claws* be cut off with a sharp pair of Scissars. Puppies will soon learn to lap Milk, which will relieve the Mother; at *six weeks* old they may be separated, and should then be *Wormed*.

The Dog, to be complete in his Form, should have *round*, small *feet*; *legs* strong, straight, and muscular; the *shoulders* fall properly into the Back, not *upright*; Chest well let down; Loins good; back not too long; Elbows play finely in their action, and come *well in*; Thighs and Gaskins broad and strong*.

Many Recipes for the disorders of Dogs have been already stated; the following will, it is hoped, not *uselessly* increase the number.

For the *Distemper*, so soon as the Symptoms appear, give an ounce of *Castor-oil*, and after its operation has ceased give the following powder, mixed up with Butter into a bolus, every *two hours*, keeping the Dog warm, and supplying him frequently with warm milk or water-gruel. Should the Medicine occasion sickness or purging, the *quantity* and *frequency* of the Doses are to be abated.

Crocus metallorum finely levigated, and white antimonial powder, each six grains, and *diaphoretic calx of Antimony*, ten grains, for one dose.

It is necessary to remark, that the above dose is sufficient for a *Pointer*, or *Fox-hound*, of *six or eight months old*, and that the quantity is to be varied according to the *size* and *age* of the Dog.

Rhubarb and *jalap* mixed, as much as will lie on a Shilling, is an excellent common physic. For Dogs *foul within*, *five grains of tartar emetic*, given in a piece of hogslard. For a *Surfeit*, one ounce of *Sulphur*, and

* It is a general Remark, that the young of every sort of Dog that are most riotous, for the most part are the best. Mr. BECKFORD concurs with this Idea respecting *Foxhounds*, and tells us that a Gentleman in his neighbourhood was so thoroughly convinced of its being usually true, that he complained bitterly of a young Pointer to the Person who gave it him, because he had done *no Mischief*. Meeting however the same Person some time after, he told him, the Dog, he believed, would prove a good one at last. "How so?" replied his Friend; "it was but the other Day that you said, he was good for nothing."—"True, such was then my Opinion; but he has killed me Nineteen *Turkies* since that."

half an ounce of Antimony, mixed together; a small ball in Butter, to be given to the Dog, and the sore place well rubbed with a mixture of *white Hellebore root* powdered, and hogslard; the Dog to be kept from water if he licks the Ointment. To make the hair grow, when the *Surfeit* or sharp humour *prevents* the Wound healing, take a piece of *fresh* butter and boil in a spoon, to which add a common charge of Gunpowder; mix well, and anoint the part at Night; wash off this Ointment with *Vinegar* in the Morning: repeat this for two or three times.

For the *Red Mange*.—Two ounces of *white Hellebore* in powder, mixt in one quart of the *grounds of strong Beer*, made warm; rub the Dog well all over, and dry it in with a good fire; be careful that it does not touch his Eyes: put the Dog in a warm place, and keep him from Water *four hours* after the application.

For a Wound from *shot*. Oil of *turpentine*, oil of *Camomile* and *Aqua vite*, of each *two ounces*, and half a pint of *linseed* oil, well mixed together. A second is *Goose-grease*, melted and strained through a Sieve, and an equal quantity of best *spirits of Wine* and spirits of *Turpentine*: of the three articles, put rather most of the *Goose-grease*, which must be *fresh*, and strained quite clear and fine.

For a deep and bad Wound: Let it be washed until very clean with Milk and Water, and a Poultice of Bread and Milk laid on until a Supuration is completely formed. The Wound is then to be again washed with Milk and Water, and wiped quite dry with soft Lint; and the Wound is to be lightly covered over with *burned Alum*, and bound up with a Bandage so as to exclude the Air from the injured part as much as possible. This process for ten Days, remembering to apply clean Linen *daily*, will entirely heal it.

To dry up a Bitch's milk: take *Goose-grease* and *Rum*, equal portions, rub the *Teats* once or *twice* a day; if the case is bad, for three or four

days. Brandy and Sallad-oil, used in the same way, will have a similar effect. Some prefer warm *Vinegar* and *Brandy*.

For a Dog that has *Fits* when hunting, strike him smartly with a whip or stick until he is roused; the *Stimulus* from the *blows* will recover as well as letting Blood, and prevent a too great Effusion, which is often the case when *bled in the Field*, and hunted afterwards.

For a *Canker* in the *Ear*, boil two ounces of best *shag Tobacco* in a quart of water until *one pint* is consumed; dip the Dog's ears, as it is boiling-hot, into the tobacco-water, until two inches above the *cankered* part; repeat it *three* successive Days. To bring the Hair again, burn some *old Shoe*, and mix with a quarter of a pound of hogslard, and frequently anoint the Ears; but the readiest and best way to rid Dogs of *Cankers* is to apply the *rounding Iron*.

For a *Bite* from other Dogs, or a *cut*, *bruise*, or *sprain*: take two ounces of oil of *Origanum*, two of oil of *Swallows*, and one ounce of oil of *Thyme*; dress the wound with a few drops, or rub the bruise or sprain with it.

To destroy *Ticks*, rub the Dogs over with *Oil*. The Oil operates by stopping up their *Spiracula*, or breathing pores: a few drops of Oil poured on a Wasp so as to cover it, destroy it in a few seconds.

To break a *Sheep-biting** Dog, take some wool off a Sheep's rump, steep it in *train oil*, put it in the Dog's jaws, and sew up his mouth. For killing *Poultry*, boil a Chicken in its feathers, take it hot from the boiler

* The favourite Remedy of coupling a Dog fond of Sheep to a *Ram* had once the following Termination. The Process was recommended to, and adopted by, a Gentleman who declared his Pointer had no fault but that of running Sheep. The Adviser supplied the Ram, which was accordingly thus joined to the Dog, and they were shut up in a Stable all Night. The Master of the Ram meeting the Owner of the Dog, accosted him with—"Well, Sir, your Pointer is,

squeeze the water from and put it into his Jaws, and tie them together.

Pointers and *Setters feet*, particularly the former, are frequently chafed; their Feet should always, after being hunted, be thoroughly washed with *Salt and Water*, and, half an hour afterwards, be well rubbed with Hogslard.—The Feet well washed with *Styptic Tincture*, or with warm Alum Water made strong, and an hour afterwards Warm Beer and Butter applied to, will soon restore them.

In Cases of Bites from venomous Reptiles, what recently happened from the Application of the *Snake-stone* is a proof of its Efficacy. On the Fourteenth of August, 1806, as a Gentleman of Cumberland was shooting *Grouse* upon the Moors, he perceived one of the Dogs suddenly lame; in Half an hour the Foot and Leg were extremely enlarged, and the Swelling extended to the Shoulder and Breast, a wound was discovered to which a *Snake-stone*, brought by the Master of the Dog from the East Indies, was applied; though from the convulsed state of the Dog, it was supposed he could not recover: the Animal however gradually got better, and in two Days was perfectly well. Some Violence was required to remove the Stone, which adhered like a Leech.

The Setter

is too well known to need description: many of them are apt to be *thin* across the *Loins*; of course, in the breeding them, that Defect will be endeavoured to be rectified by the strength and proper form in *that part* of the Dog and Bitch bred from.

no doubt, from my Prescription, now the best in England." "I cannot exactly acknowledge that," replied the other; "he is in his taste for Mutton much the same, for he *killed your Ram and ate up a Shoulder!*"



THE OLD ENGLISH SETTER.

Engraved by J. G. Smith, from a painting by J. G. Smith.

Setters are said to require *much Water*, and not to endure Heat or Thirst equal to the *Pointer*; their *Noses* are undoubtedly superior, their *Feet* more durable; and, barring the above objection (on which the Compiler, sporting in a Country where Water was in plenty, is not competent to expatiate,) are to be preferred to the *Pointer*. Very excellent Dogs have been the produce between the Setter and Pointer; probably a Cross might be so obtained as to greatly improve both Kinds. The Setter, as well as the Pointer, possesses much Intellect: from the different services in which the Dog is employed, we perceive his intelligence makes two sorts of progress; the one is derived from the Instruction that is bestowed upon him, that is, from the habits to which we form him by means of Caresses and Punishments: the other is ascribable to the Experience of the Animal himself; to the Impressions made on him by the facts that pass under his notice, and the Sensations he derives from his own feelings: but both are in proportion to their wants, and the degree of interest that excites his Attention. If, for example, a *Partridge* is wounded, and an old experienced Dog comes upon the *Trace*, he will pursue it; nor will the *Voice* or *Threats* of his Master produce any effect: he knows that he serves him by his Disobedience, and the Caresses that succeed upon the Bird's being *caught* soon tell him that he did right to disobey. The practice of intelligent Sportsmen therefore is, to instruct *young* Dogs, and leave the *old* ones to themselves*.

* I once had a Pointer that would always go round close to the Hedges of a field before he would quarter his ground: the Dog was sensible that he most frequently found his Game in the course of this Circuit, and therefore very naturally took the readiest road to discover it. A Setter, to whom I had shot for three Seasons, once left me when shooting in a Country distant from home, and returned to the Inn which we had set out from that Morning. I had fired seven or eight times without dropping a Bird, and have no doubt but my want of skill occasioned *Sancho's* distaste; for, after riding back to the Inn, to which he had returned, and again taking him into the field, he soon gave me an opportunity of regaining his Confidence, and for seventeen successive shots not a Bird was missed. A perfect reconciliation was the consequence.

Of the *Stoutness* of the Setter, the late Mr. ELWES mentioned a decisive proof to a friend, assuring him, that a Setter of the breed for which Mr. E. was so famous, in following him to London, hunted all the Fields adjoining the Road through a distance of 60 miles.

The late Doctor HUGH SMITH related the following tale of a Setter, and from which he maintained that a Bitch and Dog may fall passionately in Love with each other:—As the Doctor was travelling from *Midhurst* into *Hampshire*, the Dogs, as usual in Country places, ran out barking as he was passing through a Village, and amongst them he observed a little ugly *Cur*, that was particularly eager to ingratiate himself with a *Setter* Bitch that accompanied the Doctor: whilst stopping to water his Horse, he remarked how amorous the *Cur* continued, and how courteous the *Setter* seemed to her Admirer.—Provoked to see a Creature of *Dido's* high blood so obsequious to such mean addresses, the Doctor drew one of his pistols and shot the *Cur*; he then had the Bitch carried on horseback for several miles: from that day, however, she lost her Appetite, eat little or nothing, had no inclination to go abroad with her Master, or attend to his call; but seemed to pine like a Creature in Love, and express sensible Concern for the loss of her Gallant. *Partridge* Season came, but *Dido* had no *Nose*. Some time after, she was coupled to a *Setter* of great Excellence, which with no small difficulty had been procured to have a Breed from, and all the Caution that even the Doctor himself could take was strictly exerted, that the Whelps might be pure and unmixed; yet not a puppy did *Dido* bring forth but what was the picture and colour of the *Cur*, that he had so many Months before destroyed. The Doctor fumed, and, had he not *personally* paid such attention to preserve the intercourse uncontaminated, would have suspected that some Negligence had occasioned this disappointment; but his Views were in many subsequent Litters also defeated, for *Dido* never produced a Whelp which was not exactly similar to the unfortunate *Cur*, who was her first and murdered Lover.



SPANISH POINTER.

Published by J. Smith, 10, Strand, London.



THE POINTER.

Portrait of a dog of the name of the Pointer, from a drawing by J. G. Smith.



PLUTO (no. 1110).

The following instance of the Force of Imagination in the Brute Creation happened in Gloucestershire, 1759. A Gentleman had a small black Female Spaniel that by some Accident had one of her hind Legs broke when pregnant. When she littered, one of the Whelps had a hind Leg broke, the Limb was contracted, a perfect Callus formed, and in every thing resembling the Leg of the Dam.

The following Bond, given for *Breaking* of a *Setter*, shews the price of such Labour upwards of a *Century* ago, and the nature of the Contract to perform it.

“ *Ribbesford, Oct. 7, 1685.*

“ I JOHN HARRIS, of Willdon, in the parish of Hastlebury, in the county of Worcester, Yeoman, for and in Consideration of *ten shillings* of lawful English money this day received of HENRY HERBERT, of Ribbesford, in the said County, Esq. and of *thirty shillings* more of like money by him promised to be hereafter pay'd me, doe hereby covenant and promise to and with the said HENRY HERBERT, his exōrs and admōrs, that I will, from the day of the date hereof, untill the first day of March next, well and sufficiently mayntayne and keepe a Spanill Bitch named *Quaud*, this day deleivered into my Custody by the said HENRY HERBERT, and will, before the said first day of March next, fully and effectually traine up and teach the said Bitch to Sitt Partridges, Pheasants, and other Game, as well and exactly as the best sitting Dogges usually sett the same. And the said Bitch, so trayned and taught, shall and will dilivere to the said HENRY HERBERT, or whom he shall appoint to receive her, att his house in Ribbesford aforesaid, on the first day of March next. And if at any time after the said Bitch shall, for want of use or practice, or ōrwise, forgett to sett Game as aforesaid, I will at my costes and charges mayntayne her for a Month, or longer, as often as need shall require, to trayne up and teach her to sett Game as aforesaid, and shall and will fully

and effectually teach her to sett Game as well and exactly as is above mentyon'd.

“ Witnesse my hand and seale the day and year first above written,
JOHN HARRIS, his ✕ Mark.

“ Sealed and delivered in presence of
H. PAYNE, his ✕ Mark *.”

The *Setters*, as well as the *Springing Spaniels*, are subject, when *old*, to a disorder in the Head, which causes an offensive running from the *Ears*: it is a Disease brought on by *Age*, and increases with it; and for which the Compiler, who has been told, and has tried a Variety of Remedies, never found *one* that could cure or alleviate.

Pointers

are Dogs of *foreign* Extraction, and to our Ancestors were unknown: at present they are of such various Sorts, and some good of each, that Sportsmen form different opinions of their Superiority; those most generally approved are of a middle size, well made, light and strong. A *small* Pointer, though excellent, can be of little service in thick, high *Stubble*, strong *Turnips*, or *Heath*; and the Feet of a large heavy Dog will soon be flayed by hunting, in carrying his own Weight.

* The *Setter* was always of considerable Value. JOHN DUDLEY, *Duke of Northumberland*, was the first that broke a Setting Dog to the *Net*, about the Year 1555.

Mr. THORNHILL describes the *Irish Setter* (termed *English Spaniels*) as bringing very high prices when of peculiar Breeds. The Colours of these choice sorts are deep *Chesnut and White*, or all *Red*, with the *Nose*, and *Roof* of the *Mouth*, *black*. He mentions a Gentleman in the North of Ireland who once gave to his Tenant for a Dog and Bitch of this kind, the Renewal of a Lease of a Farm for 999 Years, which, had the Lease expired, would have cleared to the Landlord above Two Hundred and Fifty Pounds per Annum.

The *Spanish Pointer* was the Origin of this Species of Dog, which possesses all the Gravity of his Nation, both in the solemnity of his appearance, and the slowness of his motions; his Nose is very delicate; but the pace he goes at is ill calculated for any Country but where *Game* is most abundant. A Cross from the *Spaniard* with the *Setter*, or *Fox-hound*, has often succeeded: other intermixtures from the *Issue* of this *first* Cross have also answered the Sportsman's wishes, and procured him capital diversion. The most remarkable Dog of this Class, not only as to the price he sold for, but likewise for the *singular mode* of finding his Game, was *Dash*, a Dog belonging to Colonel THORNTON; he had a close cross from the *Fox-hound*, and was sold to the late Sir RICHARD SYMONS for one hundred and sixty pounds worth of *Champaign* and *Burgundy*, which had been bought at the *French Ambassador's* sale, a *hogshead* of *Claret*, an elegant *Gun*, and a *Pointer*; with a stipulation, that if any Accident befel the Dog, that might render him unfit for hunting, he was to be returned to the Colonel, at the price of *Fifty Guineas*. The extraordinary style of *Dash's* ranging upon the *Moors*, and his superior manner of finding; and which, when hunting in Inclosures for *Partridges*, shewed an Instinct almost incredible, by constantly going up to the Birds without any *previous* quartering of the ground*, added to his steadiness in *backing* other Dogs, rendered him by far the best *Pointer* that perhaps was ever bred.

* The following is an extraordinary proof of the exquisite Sense of Smelling that the *Truffle* Dog possesses. In the Summer of 1802, a Gentleman walked with a Person who is a professed *Truffle* hunter: his Dog found in the Park at Ambresbury, the Seat of the Duke of QUEENSBERRY, many *Truffles*; and as he continued his hunting, the Dog, to the great surprize of his Owner and the Gentleman who accompanied him, suddenly leaped over the Hedge which surrounded that part of the Park, and ran with the utmost Precipitation across the Field (which was a distance of at least *One Hundred Yards*,) to a Hedge opposite; where, under a *Beech* Tree, he found and brought in his Mouth to his Master, as the *Truffle* Dogs are taught to do, a *Truffle* of uncommon Size, and which weighed twelve ounces and a half.

In Italy, the usual Method employed for the finding of *Truffles* or Subterraneous *Mushrooms*, called by the Italians, *Tartufali*, and in Latin, *Tuberra Terræ*, is by tying a Cord to the hind Leg of a *Pig*, and driving him, observing where he begins to root, which instantly discovers the *Truffle*.

Dash, of whom the Engraving is here given, had the misfortune to break his leg, and was sent to Colonel T. who paid the Fifty Guineas, according to the Agreement, and considered him in that state a great acquisition as a Stallion to breed from.

The Dog and Bitch represented in the Engraving were the property of Colonel THORNTON. *Pluto*, although a very capital *Pointer*, was celebrated for his pursuit of *Deer*, when encouraged to follow them. Many outlying *Deer* were taken, from this Dog's hunting them, after very long Chases. As a proof of both his and the Bitch's steadiness as *Pointers*, they kept their *Point* when Mr. GILPIN took the Sketch from which the Picture was painted, upwards of *one hour and a quarter*.

Spaniels

have already been described as to their proper Form, &c.; and those of Mr. HOARE's which have been noticed as super-eminent, were from a Sort possessed by the old Marquis of GRANBY.

The Spaniel is a dog whose Breed seems to have been particularly attended to in various Countries: in that about *Naples* all Game is brought down by the Gun, or taken in the Net; and they possess a kind of Spaniel, so excellent, that the KING has taken pains to increase their Breed *. For its Fidelity, the Spaniel has acquired the notice of another Crowned Head. The chief *Order* of DENMARK, (now called the *Order* of the *Elephant*) was instituted in memory of a Spaniel named *Wild-brat*, who had shewed Attachment to the Monarch, when deserted by

* Of our own Monarchs, CHARLES the *Second* was famous for a particular Breed, and came generally accompanied to the Council Board with a favourite *Spaniel*. His Successor JAMES the *Second* had a similar Attachment; and it is reported of him by BISHOP BURNET, that being once in a dangerous Storm at Sea, and obliged to quit the Ship in order to save his Life, he vociferated with impassioned Accents, as his principal Concern, "Save the *Dogs* and Colonel CHURCHILL!"

his Subjects: the *Motto* to this *Order* was, (and which still remains,) *Wild-brat was faithful.*

A Circumstance noted in the early part of the English History, and connected with the same Country as the foregoing Anecdote, may be added, and which proves that one of the Landings of the *Danes* in England was occasioned by the Sagacity and Affection of a *Spaniel*. *LODEBROCH*, of the Blood Royal of *DENMARK*, and Father to *HUMBAR* and *HUBBA*, being in a Boat with his *Hawks* and his *Dog*, was, by an unexpected Storm, driven on the Coast of *Norfolk*, where being discovered, and suspected as a Spy, he was brought to *EDMUND*, at that time KING of the *East Angles*. Making himself known, he was treated with great Hospitality by the Monarch, and particularly so, on account of his dexterous skill in *Hawking* and *Hunting*. The KING's *Falconer* grew jealous of this Attention; and, lest it should lessen his Merit in his Royal Master's Opinion, and so deprive him of his Place, had the Treachery to waylay *LODEBROCH*, and murder him; and concealed the Body amongst some Bushes. He was presently missed at Court, and the KING manifested great Impatience to know what was become of him; when his Dog, who had staid in the Wood by the Corpse of his Master till Famine forced him thence, came and fawned on the KING, and enticed him to follow him. The Body was found; and, by a chain of Evidence, the Murderer was discovered. As a just Punishment, he was placed alone in *LODEBROCH*'s Boat, and committed to the mercy of the Sea, which bore him to the very Shore the PRINCE had quitted. The Boat was recognised, and the assassin, to avoid the Torture, falsely confessed that *LODEBROCH* had been put to Death by the Order of *EDMUND*; which Account so exasperated the *DANES*, that, to revenge his Murder, they invaded *ENGLAND*.

Of the Spaniel's Affection there are various other Stories recorded: *Two* are here inserted; the one happening in this Country, the other in *France*.

The Gamekeeper of the Rev. Mr. CORSELLIS had reared a Spaniel, and which was his constant Attendant, both by night and day: whenever *Old Daniel* appeared, *DASH* was close beside him; and the Dog was of infinite use in his *nocturnal* excursions. The Game at that Season he never regarded, although in the Day-time no Spaniel would find it in a better style, or in greater quantity; but at Night, if a strange foot had entered any of the Coverts, *Dash*, by a significant *whine*, informed his Master that the Enemy were abroad; and many *Poachers* have been detected and caught from this singular intelligence. After many years friendly Connexion, *Old Daniel* was seized with a Disease, which terminated in a Consumption and his Death: whilst the slow but fatal progress of his disorder allowed him to crawl about, *Dash*, as usual, followed his footsteps; and when Nature was still further exhausted, and he took to his Bed, at the foot of it unwearily attended the faithful Animal; and when he died, the Dog would not quit the Body, but lay upon the Bed by its side. It was with difficulty he was tempted to eat any food; and although, after the Burial, he was taken to the Hall, and caressed with all the tenderness which so fond an Attachment naturally called forth, he took every opportunity to steal back to the Room in the Cottage where his old Master breathed his last: here he would remain for Hours; from thence he daily visited his Grave, and at the end of *fourteen days*, notwithstanding every kindness and attention shewn him, he died literally *broken-hearted*.

“ A few days before the Overthrow of ROBESPIERRE, a revolutionary Tribunal had condemned Monsieur R. an ancient Magistrate, and a most estimable Man, on a pretence of finding him guilty of a Conspiracy. Monsieur R. had a water Spaniel, at that time about twelve years old, which had been brought up by him, and had scarcely ever quitted his Side. Monsieur R. was cast into Prison, and in the silence of a living Tomb he was left to pine in thought, under the iron scourge of the Tyrant; who, if he extended Life to those whom his Wantonness had proscribed, even until Death became a *Prayer*; it was only to tantalize them with the

Blessing of Murder, when he imagined he could more effectually torture them with the *Curse* of Existence.

“ This faithful Dog, however, was with him when he was first seized, but was not suffered to enter the Prison: he took refuge with a Neighbour of his late Master’s. But, that Posterity may judge clearly of the Times in which Frenchmen existed at *that* Period, it must be added, that this Man received the poor Dog tremblingly, and in secret, lest his Humanity for his *Friend’s dog* should bring him to the Scaffold. Every day, at the same hour, the Dog returned to the door of the Prison, but was still refused admittance. He, however, uniformly passed some time there. Such unremitting Fidelity at last won even on the *Porter of a Prison*, and the Dog was at length allowed to enter. The joy of both Master and Dog was mutual; it was difficult to separate them; but the honest Jailor, fearing for himself, carried the Dog out of the Prison. The next morning, however, he again came back, and once on each Day afterward was regularly admitted by the humane Jailor. When the day of receiving Sentence arrived, notwithstanding the Guards, which *jealous Power*, conscious of its *Deserts*, stations around, the Dog penetrated into the Hall, and couched himself between the legs of the unhappy Man, whom he was about to lose for ever.

“ The fatal hour of Execution arrives; the Doors open; his Dog receives him at the threshold! his faithful Dog *alone*, even under the eye of the Tyrant, dared to own a dying Friend! He clings to his hand undaunted. ‘ Alas! that hand will never more be spread upon thy head, poor Dog!’ exclaimed the condemned. The Axe falls! but the tender Adherent cannot leave the Body; the Earth receives it, and the Mourner spreads himself on the Grave, where he passed the first Night, the next day, and the second night: the Neighbour, meantime, unhappy at not seeing the Dog, and guessing the Asylum he had chosen, steals forth by Night, and finding him, caresses and brings him back. The good Man tries every way that kindness could devise to make him eat; but, in a

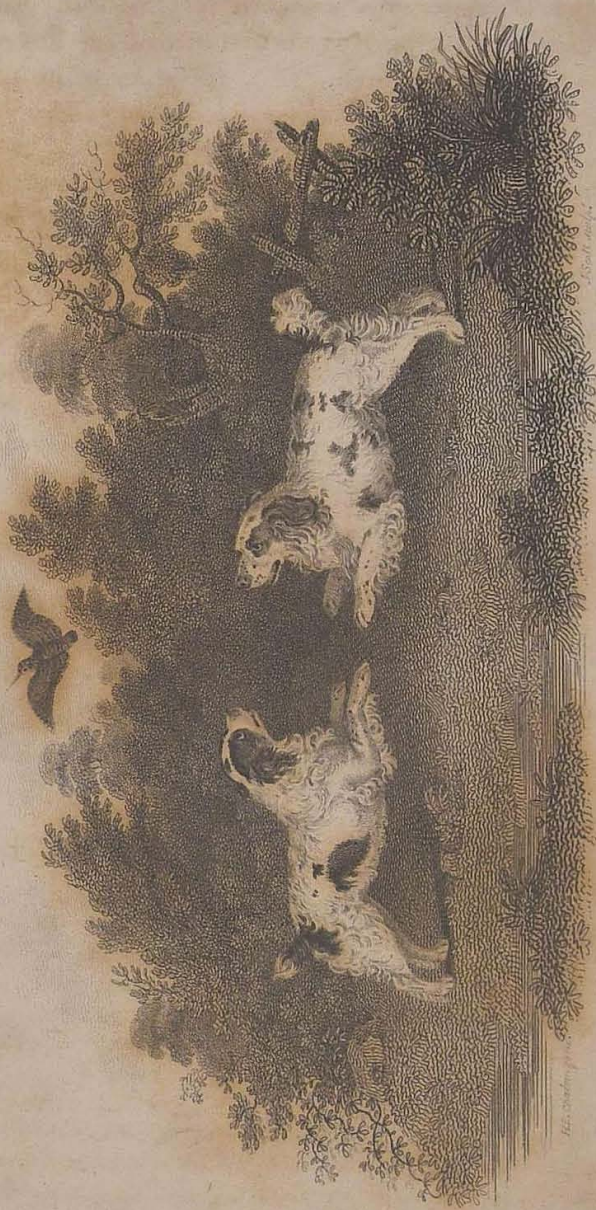
short time, the Dog escaping, regained his favourite place. Every morning, for *three months*, the Mourner returned to his Protector merely to receive his food, and then returned to the *Ashes* of his dead Master! and each Day he was more sad, more meagre, and more languishing.

“ His Protector at length endeavoured to wean him: he tied him; but what Manacle is there that can *ultimately* triumph over Nature? He broke or bit through his Bonds; again returned to the Grave, and never quitted it more. It was in vain that all kind means were used to bring him back. Even the humane Jailor assisted to take him food, but he would eat no longer: for *four-and-twenty hours* he was absolutely observed to employ—Oh, Force of genuine Love!—his weakened limbs in digging up the Earth that separated him from the Being he had served. Affection gave him Strength; but his Efforts were too vehement for his powers: his whole Frame became convulsed; he shrieked in his Struggles; his attached and generous Heart gave way, and he ceased to breathe, with his last look turned upon the Grave, as if he knew he had found, and again should be permitted to associate with his Master; and that his

“ Faithful Dog should bear him Company*.”

The following lines were written as a trifling Memorial to one of the best *Spaniels* that ever existed.

* During the late Troubles in *Ireland*, the Attachment of his *Dog* recovered, after being buried, a Rebel, named CHARLES DAVIS, of *Enniscorthy*, a glazier, “ who, after having subsisted on the Body of a *Cock* for four days, in a loathsome Hole where he was concealed, was discovered in the Act of running away from his lurking place, and brought to *Vinegar Hill*, where he was shot through the *Body* and one of his *Arms*, and violently struck on several parts of the *Head* with a *Pike*, which however did not penetrate into the *Brain*, and was thrown into a Grave on his Back, with a heap of Earth and Stones over him. His faithful *Dog* having scraped away the Covering from his Face, and cleaned it by licking off the Blood, he returned to Life, after an Interment of *Twelve Hours*, and was in the Year 1805 living in perfect *Health*!”



SPANIELS.

At the request of the Hon. the Secretary of the War Office.

WELL hast thou earn'd this little space,
 Which barely marks the Turf is heav'd ;
 For, truest of a faithful Race,
 Thy Voice its master ne'er deceiv'd.

Whilst busy ranging hill and dale,
 The Pheasant crouch'd from danger nigh,
 'Till warmer felt the scented gale,
 Thou forc'd the brilliant prey to fly.

Alike the Woodcock's dreary haunt
 Thou knew to find amidst the shade;
 Ne'er did thy tongue *redoubled* chaunt,
 But, *mark!* quick echo'd through the glade.

Rest then assur'd that Mortals can
 Draw moral from thy story here ;—
 Happy, if so employ'd the span
 Of active life, within their sphere.

For search the meddling World around,
 Few do their proper parts sustain ;
 How rare the instance to be found
 Of Truth amongst the motley Train !

The subjoined Epitaph, which was selected from many that were composed on the Event by the different Members of the *Beef-Steak Club*, was written by Mr. JOHN WALSON, upon a *Spaniel* Bitch that had formerly strayed into Drury-lane Theatre, and fixed upon Mr. BEARD as her Master and Protector : she was constantly at his heels, and attended him on the Stage in the CHARACTER of HAWTHORN.

BENEATH this Turf a Female lies,
 That once the boast of Fame was ;
 Have Patience, Reader, if you're wise,
 You'll then know what her Name was.

In days of Youth (be censure blind)
 To Men she would be creeping ;
 When, 'mongst the many, one prov'd kind,
 And took her into—keeping.

THE SPANIEL.

Then to the Stage she bent her way,
Where more applauded none was;
She gain'd new Lovers ev'ry day,
But constant still to—one was.

By Players, Poets, Peers address'd,
Nor Bribe nor Flatt'ry mov'd her;
And though by all the Men caress'd,
Yet all the Women lov'd her.

Some kind Remembrance then bestow
Upon the peaceful Sleeper;
Her name was PHILLIS, you must know,
One HAWTHORN was her Keeper.

Laws respecting Dogs.

DUTY ON DOGS.

By 36 Geo. III. c. 124. a duty was imposed upon Dogs, which, by 38 Geo. III. c. 41. is repealed, and the following duty granted in lieu thereof.

For every greyhound, hound, pointer, setting-dog, spaniel, lurcher, or terrier, and for every dog, of whatever description or denomination, where *two* or more are kept, shall be paid 6s. each. And by 42 Geo. III. c. 37. an additional duty of 4s. making the *total Charge* 10s.

And for every Dog not of the above description, where *one* dog shall be kept, 4s. And by 42 Geo. III. c. 37. an additional duty of 2s. making the *total Charge* 6s.

No Dog to be liable to the duty until *six months* old.

If any person be desirous to compound for any number of *Hounds*, and giving notice to the Collector of his intention, shall pay 24*l.* within thirty days after the 5th April, yearly, he shall not be liable to be assessed for any Hound by him kept.

STATUTES RELATING TO DOGS.

By 5 Ann. c. 14. s. 4. it is enacted, That if any person not qualified shall keep or use any greyhound, setting-dogs, hays, lurchers, tunnels, or any other engines, to kill and destroy game, they shall, on conviction *, forfeit 5*l.* to be levied by distress†; and for want of distress, the offender shall be sent to the house of correction for *three* months for the *first* offence, and for every after offence *four* months.

By this act, Justices and Lords of Manors are empowered to take away any *Dogs*, &c. from such unqualified persons; as may Gamekeepers, or any other persons, by *Warrant*.

Stealing Dogs is not Felony. But by 10 Geo. III. c. 18. s. 2, 3, 4, STEALING any Dog whatsoever from the Owner, or any person entrusted, or selling, buying, receiving, harbouring, detaining, or keeping any such, *knowing the same to be stolen*, for the first offence, shall forfeit, not exceeding 30*l.* nor less than 20*l.* with all charges, &c. immediately, or be committed to the common Gaol, or house of Correction, not exceeding *twelve* calendar months, nor less than *six*.

BURN (title *Dogs*) expresses some doubt whether upon this Statute it is penal to steal a *Bitch*; a Question which we believe has never yet been argued in a Court of Law. The same Writer adds likewise some

* The Statute for the preservation of Game, contrary to all other *Penal* Statutes, seems but in few instances *expressly* to limit the *time* of Information. By 26 Geo. III. the Informer must *inform* and *prosecute* within Six months from the offence, or the *whole penalty* goes to the KING. By 8 Geo. III. c. 19. the proceedings against Offenders on the Statutes for the preservation of Game must be before the End of the *next term after the offence*.

† Goods distrained for penalties under the Game laws are not *repleviable*. 1 Stra. 567.

very judicious remarks respecting the Penalties, and the Clause concerning the Appeal.

ADJUDGED CASES.

The Statute 5 Ann. being a *penal* Act, must be construed *strictly*, and will not, therefore, extend, by any *equitable* construction, to *other* Dogs besides those *enumerated*.

Nov. 1780. *Johnson v. Overall*. The Declaration stated, that the Defendant discharged a certain Gun loaded with gunpowder and bullets, and shot *a certain dog* of the plaintiff. The defence was, that only *four* sorts of Dogs are in Law of any *Value*, and those *specified*. Dog in the Declaration not specified, and therefore did not appear of any Value.—Plaintiff nonsuited.

Hooker v. Wilks. This was an action of Debt, on 8 Geo. I. c. 19. for the penalty of 30*l.* for using a Hound to destroy the Game; and, after a Verdict for the plaintiff, the judgment was arrested; for 5 Ann. c. 14. has not the word *Hound*, and the words *other engines*, come after *nets*, &c. and are applicable only to *inanimate* things. And this being a *penal* Law, cannot be extended. The Statute 22 and 23 Car. II. c. 25. has indeed general words, *or any other Dogs to destroy Game*; but this is not a conviction on that Statute*. 2 Stra. 1126.

Though the using *a dog*, and *a gun*, are both separately penal, yet

* But, although this Statute has those *general* words, it is impossible to convict any offender under it in any Penalty, because *none* is thereby given. The Act does not declare that no person shall keep or use any greyhound, &c. or *any other dogs to destroy Game*; but the general words are found in the *enacting* clause, which gives authority to Lords of Manors to appoint Gamekeepers to search the House of any person suspected to have any greyhounds, setting-dogs, ferrets, coney-dogs, or *other Dogs to destroy HARES OR CONIES*. No *Penalty* can therefore be recovered under 5 Ann. against those who keep any Dog *not mentioned* in that Statute.

per Lord KENYON, *Chief Justice*, if a person go out with a Gun and Dog on the same day, he is subject to but *one* penalty. 7 Term Rep. 152.

To an action of Trespass for killing Plaintiff's Dog, the Defendant may plead, that the Dog chased the Rabbits in his Warren, or the Deer in his Park; but not that he chased a Hare into Defendant's land. 2 *Morg.* 265.

A Dog is such a Creature as a Man may have a Property in, and an Action has been brought for taking a Hound, and the Plaintiff recovered. The like of a bloodhound, greyhound, and lurcher.

In an Action of Debt upon the Statute 5 Ann. for keeping and using a Dog to kill Game, it is necessary to shew what Dog it was, that it may appear whether it was any of the *Dogs described by the Act*. *Reason v. Lisle*, 2 Com. 576.

King v. Filer. Conviction on 5 Ann. for keeping a *Lurcher* to destroy Game, not being qualified. Mr. EYRE excepted, that it was not shewn *he made use* of the Dog to destroy Game; and it may be only kept for a Gentleman who was *qualified*, it being common to put Dogs out in that manner.—By THE COURT, the Statute is in the *disjunctive*, keep *or* use; so that the bare *keeping* a Lurcher is an Offence; and so it was determined in the case of *King v. King*, which was a conviction for keeping a Gun; and it was not doubted by the Court, whether the keeping was not enough to be shewn; but the only Question they made was, whether a Gun was such an Engine as is within the Statute; and in that case a Difference was taken as to keeping a Dog, which could only be to *destroy* Game, and the keeping a Gun, which a Man might do for the defence of his House.—The Conviction was confirmed.

This Decision was further confirmed by the case of the KING v.

Hartley, E. 22 Geo. III. in which Lord MANSFIELD said—In this Act there are two offences described, a Keeping and a Using; and the Legislature means *that there may be a Keeping to destroy, which is not of necessity to be proved by a Using for that purpose*. If it were so, it would be tautologous; for such Evidence would be a proving of the Offence. The Keeping therefore of a thing prohibited being an Offence under the Act, it is necessarily *prima facie* evidence of a keeping for the *purpose prohibited*; and it is incumbent on the Defendant to shew that it was kept for *another* purpose; as, in the present Case, that it is a house-dog, a favourite dog, or a particular species of greyhound. *Caldecott's Cases*, 175.

If a person hunt upon the Ground of another, such other person cannot justify killing of his Dogs; as appears by 2 Roll. Abr. 567. But this has been over-ruled; and in the case of *Wadhurst v. Damme*, Cro. Jac. 44. it was held, that a Warrener may justify killing a mastiff Dog in the Warren pursuing the Conies, to prevent his destroying. So, if a Dog run after Deer in a Park. 3 *Lev.* 28.

It is no justification in Trespass for killing a Mastiff, that *he run violently upon the Defendant's dog and bit him*; but the Defendant should state further, that *he could not otherwise separate the Mastiff from his dog*. 1 *Saund.* 84.

There are four species of Dogs, *viz.* a Mastiff, a Hound, (which comprehends *greyhound, bloodhound, &c.*) a Spaniel, and a Tumbler. 7 Co. 18. a. Cro. Eliz. 125. And *Trover* or Trespass lies for them. Cro. Eliz. 125.

And a Man may justify an Assault in *defence* of his Dog. *Ibid.*

And delivery of a Dog will be a good consideration for an *assumpsit*. *Ibid.* Owen. 93.

A lost* dog may be recovered by an action of *Trover*, without paying the Expences of his *Keep*. 1 Black. Rep. 1117.

An action will lie for keeping a Dog *accustomed* to bite Sheep, and which has killed Sheep belonging to the Plaintiff; but in such case it must be proved, that the Defendant knew he used to bite Sheep; and evidence of *two* instances is sufficient, or perhaps a single *one*. Dyer, 236.

And if the Owner having knowledge of his Dog biting Sheep, the Dog injures Animals of another kind, as, by biting a Horse, this too is actionable; for the *former* mischief was sufficient *notice* to the Owner to have induced him to take proper precaution. 1 Raym. 110.

It having been once made known to the Owner that his Dog bit a Man, he appears to be answerable for a *subsequent* mischief, though the person bitten had given some *accidental* occasion for it, as by treading on

* The underwritten Advertisement for the Recovery of a lost Dog, and which recently appeared, is a most choice Specimen for engaging the notice of *Finders* of such *Stray* Articles.

“Whereas *Humphry Blewrick* has lost his Dog from *Andover*, a Friday last; and whereas he was at whome just afore the London Waggon came out; his Measter thinks he have followed the Waggoner to Town, as he was mortally fond of un.—He was a Devil after ony kind o’ Game, and the only Dog o’ the World after a Rat or a Fitchet.—He could set a most ony thing; knew how to quarter his ground, and to carry his Head in the rite place.—He is sumthing between the Pineteer and Tarrier breed; and if any body has ta’en him, and will bring him down to *Andover*, or to any of the West Country Bargemen at *Queenhithe*, there shall be no more zed about the matter, and perhaps sumthing to drink in the bargain.”

The Discovery of a lost Dog was, in 1803, attended with the following extraordinary Circumstances. About fifteen Years preceding, Lady *GUILDFORD* lost a favourite Spaniel in *Bushy Park*, which she first advertised with a Reward of five, and afterwards of Ten Guineas, without Success. In the Spring of the above year, one of the Labourers, grubbing up some old Pollards, found the Skeleton of the Dog, with the Brass Collar round his Neck; and below it the Skeletons of two *Hares*, which it is supposed he had pursued into the Tree, and from whence neither of the Animals could extricate itself.

the Dog's foot; for it was owing to his not hanging the Dog on the first Notice. And the safety of the KING's Subjects ought not afterwards to be endangered. 2 Stra. 1263.

If a Dog chases Sheep, &c. without setting on, or Notice before to the Master, an action *does not lie*. Dyer, 25, b. 29. a.

Nor is the Owner answerable for the *first* mischief done by a Dog, or other tame Animal. Buller, N. P. 77.

Pigeon Shooting

is more fashionably followed in the Counties of *Bucks, Berks, Hants*, and *Surry*, than in any other parts of *England*.

As a mode of Shooting to bet large Sums of Money upon, it is, perhaps, the least objectionable, since every Shooter has an equal chance as to the distance from whence the Bird is sprung, but it certainly is not the *exact* Shooting that a *Sportsman* will ever try or fancy as an Amusement; besides, the Mind that *thinks at all*, must feel a Repugnance at the idea of first confining, and then setting at liberty, *hundreds of domestic* Animals doomed to instant death; or, what is worse, to languish under wounds that in the end prove mortal. This Representation, and it is by no means overcharged, peremptorily checks any opinion of that Man's *Humanity*, who indulges largely with his Gun in this species of Slaughter: there is no Excuse for the wanton barbarity of it; indeed the practice warrants a Remark that has, perhaps, been fastidiously made against the Cruelty of Shooting *in general*, by certain Philosophers, who, although they never take the Field in Person against *Hares, Pheasants*, or *Partridges*, receive them with great Complacency from their Sporting Friends; or buy them of *Poachers*. I believe, however, there is no Precedent of half a dozen Pigeons killed from the *Trap* having been forwarded as a Present, or that they would have proved acceptable to Palates so nicely versed in the Flavour of Game, and which they are so well disposed to go every length to indulge.

The Shooting of *Pigeons* and of *Game* is so widely different, that a person may almost always strike his Bird from the *Box*, that scarcely ever makes shift to hit it when rising from the *Bush*, unless a *Pointer*

ascertains to an inch from what spot he may expect the Bird to spring. No method is so advantageous in learning to shoot well, as acquiring it by practising at Game: the Pigeon from the *Trap* glides off in Silence, and not a *Nerve* is discomposed by the smallest alarm; but in the *Field*, where the *Partridge* or *Pheasant* rises with all the Vigour of an Animal exerting his powers to preserve Life and Liberty, the consequent sound of their Pinions in their ascent into the Air, and which is always attended with considerable Noise, will perhaps longer create more of that Trepidation (which, when possessed even in a trifling degree, effectually deters from Steadiness in shooting) than if the Shooter had never accustomed himself to fire at objects whose flight is so dissimilar.

Many young Shooters exercise their skill at *Swallows**, *Swifts*, and

* It has been remarked that in the Month of *October*, on the Coast between *Orford-ness* and *Yarmouth*, *Swallows* assemble in Swarms, covering the Church leads, and the naked Branches of Trees. They are then preparing to quit this Country, and are evidently *Wind-bound*, for they will abide till the Wind veers to the *North-West*, or some other favourable point, which if it happens to do in the *Night*, not a single *Swallow* is seen in the *Morning*. This being the nearest land to the opposite Shore, Instinct has shewn them the Spot from whence their Migration can most speedily be performed to those places where their Food continues in equal Abundance to what they found with us during the *Summer*.

There are various instances on Record, and which bear strong marks of Veracity, of *Swallows* having been taken out of *Water*, and being so far recovered by *Warmth* as to fly about for a short space; but the Celebrated JOHN HUNTER informs us, "that he had dissected many *Swallows*, but found nothing in them different from other Birds, as to the Organs of Respiration," and therefore concludes that it is highly absurd to suppose that *terrestrial* Animals can remain any long time *under Water* without being drowned.

"If," says Mr. WHITE, in his History of *Selborne*, "I ever saw any thing like actual Migration, it was on *Michaelmas Day*, 1768. I was travelling, and out early; at first there was a vast Fog, but by the time I was got seven or eight miles from home, towards the Coast, the Sun broke out into a delicate warm Day. We were on a large Heath or Common, and I could discover, as the Mist broke away, great Numbers of *Swallows* clustering on the stunted Shrubs and Bushes, as if they had roosted there all Night. As soon as the Air became clear and pleasant they all were on the Wing at once; and by a placid and easy Flight proceeded on Southward, towards the Sea. After this I did not see any more Flocks, only now and then a Straggler.

Martins; but the *Flight* of these birds is so irregular, and unlike *that* of every Bird which the *Sportsman* pursues, that even a certainty of killing *them*, (which, by the way, a despicable *bad shot* may acquire a knack of doing, by seizing a particular Moment when they are just upon the *Turn*, and are for an instant *stationary*,) does not at all forward their Dexterity in bringing down any Species of *Game*. Beside the *inefficacy* of this practice, it is destroying a very useful Race of Birds, which entirely feed whilst on the wing, and relieve us from innumerable noxious Insects, that annually infest the Air of this Country. Whoever contemplates the Myriads of Insects that sport in the Sun-beams of a Summer Evening, will soon be convinced to what a degree our Atmosphere would be choaked with them was it not for the friendly Interposition of the *Swallow* Tribe. Such *would-be* Marksmen should recollect, that these Birds are

“I cannot agree with those persons who assert that the *Swallow* kind disappear some and some gradually, as they come: for the Bulk of them seem to withdraw at once; only a few Stragglers stay behind; and they, there is the greatest reason to believe, never leave this Island. *Swallows* seem to lay themselves up, and to come forth in a warm *Day*, as *Bats* do continually of a Warm *Evening*, after they have disappeared for *Weeks*. A very respectable Gentleman assured me that, as he was walking with some friends under *Merton Wall*, on a remarkably hot Noon, either in the last Week of *December* or the first Week in *January*, he espied three or four *Swallows* huddled together on the moulding of one of the Windows of that College. I have frequently observed that *Swallows* are seen *later* at *Oxford* than elsewhere: Is it owing to the Massy Buildings of that place, to the many Waters round it, or to what Else?

“When,” continues Mr. W. “last Autumn in a Morning I used to see the *Swallows* and *Martins* clustering on the Chimnies and Thatch of the Neighbouring Cottages, I could not help being touched with a secret Delight, mixed with some degree of Mortification: with Delight, in noting with how much Ardour and Punctuality these poor little Birds obey the strong Impulse towards *Migration* or *Hiding*, imprinted on their Minds by their great CREATOR: and with some degree of Mortification, when I reflected that, after all our Inquiries, we are not yet certain to what Regions they do migrate; and are still further embarrassed to find that some do not actually migrate at all.

“Amusive Birds! say where your hid Retreat,
When the Frost rages, and the Tempests beat?
Whence your Return, by such nice Instinct led,
When Spring, soft Season, lifts her bloomy head?
Such baffled Searches mock Man’s prying pride;
The GOD of NATURE is your secret Guide!”

only seen during the *breeding* Months in *Summer**, and that by shooting the Old ones the *Nestlings* in consequence perish. Minute observers calculate, that *one* of these Birds destroys daily, hundreds of *gnats*, *flies*, *moths*, and other Insects, parents of the swarms of Gnats and Caterpillars that strip our *Gardens*, and commit such waste upon *Vegetation* in general; and further, let them call to mind, that these Birds were sent for a great and salutary purpose, and that their forbearance to annoy them is not only demanded upon the score of common *Humanity*, but also from the extreme usefulness of this inoffensive part of the feathered Creation; and that they should be considered as little Messengers of Providence, and as Instruments without whose assistance the *Plough* and the *Spade* would often be ineffectually employed. In almost every Village in *America* these Birds are held in the same sort of veneration the *Egyptians* shew to the *Ibis* of the Nile: the Villagers place small square Boxes, some of them prettily adorned and painted, to induce these Strangers to sojourn and peaceably enjoy their Months of Incubation. The late Dr. FRANKLIN used to say

Be kind to the Swallow,
And Profit will follow.

* The following lines on the *Swallow* are perhaps sufficiently descriptive to warrant their appearance here.

Gay Herald of the rosy Spring!
Returning now on rapid Wing,
Low to sweep the Lake or Stream,
Or bask beneath the sunny Beam;
Oh! haste thee, while the softest Show'rs
Are vegetating Nature's flow'rs,
To animate the Insect brood
And cater thus thy flitt'ring food;
Oh come, and wantonly partake
Of ev'ry Banquet Sol can make:
For when exhausted is the Store,
I know thou'lt tarry here no more,
But quickly hie to other Skies,
For newer Feasts on choicer Flies!

Pigeons are in *Persia* a subject of the *GAME* Laws: to be entitled to the Privilege of killing a wild *Pigeon*, it is necessary to be a *Mussulman*; and *TAVERNIER* has informed us, that *Christians* have frequently become *Mahometans*, to entitle them to this Qualification of killing *Game*: he also observes that their *Dung* is used to smoke *Melons*.

Corn is much destroyed by *Pigeons*, and the greatest quantity of them kept in *England* is about *Retford*, in *Nottinghamshire*. *HARTLIB*, in his "*Legacy of Husbandry*," calculates, that there were in his time *Twenty-six thousand* *Pigeon-houses* in *England**, and allowing *five hundred pair* to each dove-cote, and *four bushels yearly* to be consumed or destroyed by each pair, it makes the whole of the *Corn* lost to be no less than *thirteen millions of bushels annually*: it is, however, but just to say, that it has been found that *Pigeons*, like most other animals, persecuted for real or supposed Mischief, are at the same time of use, as they consume the Seeds of *Weeds*, and also the *Insects* which are most injurious to *Farmers*. The following Circumstance will shew the essential service which *Birds* render to *Man*, and both of these proscribed Species feed exactly like the *Pigeon*:—Some years since, a *Prussian* Noble revived in his territories an ancient Law, which imposed on the *Peasants* an annual Tribute of a certain number of *Sparrows heads* and *Rooks feet*, or a sum of *Money* in lieu of them. As his design was well intended, he required the Tribute to be paid *in kind*. Soon the *Rooks* dared not to follow the plough-share, and the whole race of *Sparrows* was exterminated in several Villages. It was not long before the *Inhabitants* felt the inconvenience of this payment; *Caterpillars* of

So Man's frail Friends with him remain,
While Summer richly decks his plain;
But as his Winter's blasts come on,
Like you,—they instantly are gone!

* *Dr. POCOCKE* mentions the frequency of *Pigeon Houses* in *Egypt*; adding, that the *Pigeon House* is reckoned a great part of the Estate of the *Husbandman*; and the common Proverb in those parts, is, "that a *Man* who has a *Pigeon-house* need not be careful about the Disposal of his *Daughter*."

every kind devoured the Leaves of the trees, and all the Garden vegetables, for some years successively. The Clergymen of the different places attributed this to the destruction of the Birds, and the Nobleman was alike convinced; the Tribute was abolished, and *Sparrows* were brought into some Villages, from which they had been entirely extirpated; and their return was found to be a speedy and complete Remedy, as the ground was quickly cleared of the Insects* that had been so mischievous.

The *Starling* is a great Enemy to *Pigeons*, by sucking their Eggs†, and even destroying their young. In October 1800, seven hundred and eighty *Starlings* were taken in one Night in a Dove-cote belonging to Mr. SLATER, of *Chalton*, near *Lincoln*.

* It has been calculated that a single pair of the common *Sparrows*, whilst their young are in the Nest, destroy on an average above three thousand Caterpillars every Week.

A Traveller who resided in SPAIN at the time the *Yellow Fever* was raging there, asserts, that of all the Birds, the *Sparrow* alone had fled the Houses infected with that Contagion. Even the choicest Food was incapable of enticing them to such Houses, they left it untouched. On the Contrary, other Birds, not possessing the same Instinct, perished. The Stay or the Return of *Sparrows* to a House, was therefore the surest Sign that it was free from the *Yellow Fever*.

† *Pigeons* seldom or never lay more than two Eggs at a time, yet PLINY observes from one pair the increase in four years may be 14,760. LINNÆUS computes the number at more than 18,000. They sit from fourteen to seventeen Days before the young are hatched, and it is for the most part remarked that one proves a *Male*, the other a *Female*. The Cock and Hen incubate by turns, and feed their young by bringing up the Grain, &c. they have taken into their Crop, after being there macerated. The Rapidity of the *Pigeon* on Wing is wonderful. LITHGOW assures us, that a *Pigeon* will carry a Letter from *Babylon* to *Aleppo*, which to Man is usually a *Thirty Days* Journey, in *Forty-eight Hours*. Some years since an Experiment was tried with a *Carrier Pigeon*, from *Bury*, in *Suffolk*, to *Bishopsgate Street*, when the Bird flew the distance (*seventy-two miles*) in two Hours and a half, or upwards of *Twenty-eight Miles* and a half in an Hour.

In 1803, a further Trial to ascertain the Velocity of the *Pigeon's* Flight was made by a Gentleman near Manchester Square, who sent a *Pigeon* to *Salisbury*, with Directions for its being released, with a Billet round its Neck, precisely at *Twelve o'Clock* the Day following. The Bird arrived at seven Minutes past *Three*, a Distance of *Eighty-three Miles* in three Hours. and seven Minutes, or at the Rate of *Twenty-six Miles per Hour*.

The Management of Pigeons has been recently and fully treated of. After recommending the *Harvest* Flight of Pigeons as the most proper for the purpose of Stock, from being the *strongest* to withstand the Winter Season, the Author of the "Experienced Farmer" gives the following Directions:—"In regard to feeding them it is only deemed needful between *Seed-time* and *Harvest*, when it should be done by *three* or *four* o'clock in the morning; if fed much later they will keep hovering about Home, and be prevented from taking their necessary Exercise. If fed the year round *Pigeons* will not breed nearly so well as if forced to seek their own Food; for they pick up in Fields what is pleasant and healthy to them, and from the beginning of *Harvest* to the end of *Seed-time* they find plenty. They may be fed with *Tares*, *Grain*, or Seeds of any kind. Be cautious of not letting the *First flight* fly to increase the Stock, but let every one of them be taken; as these will come in what is called *Benting-time*, that is, *between* *Seed-time* and *Harvest*. It is then that *Pigeons* are the scarcest; and many of the young ones would pine to Death through *weakness* during that period. At the latter end of every Flight, care should be taken to destroy all those Eggs that are not laid in a proper time. The proper time for the Spring flight is in April and May. After the *Harvest* flight, cold weather comes on, which injures the old Pigeon much if she sits late; and the young will be good for nothing if hatched. It is very necessary to pay attention to cleanliness in the management of a Dove-cote. Before Breeding-time the Holes ought to be carefully examined and cleaned; for if any of the young die in the Holes in Summer, they become putrid, and emit a disagreeable and unwholesome stench, which is very injurious. *Pigeons* are tenacious of their Nests, (as appears from the conduct of the Wood-pigeon, which will breed for years in the same Tree,) and the *Female* forsakes it with regret; but, unable to endure the filth and stench of her dead Offspring, she is obliged to quit the Eggs she laid for a second Brood, and the prime of the Season is lost.

"Every Summer, immediately after the First flight, the Nests should

be all cleaned out, and the Dung totally taken away: but remember to do this business early in the *morning*. The remaining Eggs ought also to be destroyed, and a perfectly clear Habitation made for the Harvest flight. It is advised "never to go into a Dove-cote later than *mid-day*, but as soon in the *morning* as convenient. Whatever repairs are necessary, either to the Building or to the Nests, should be done before Noon: for if you disturb the Pigeons in the afternoon, they will not rest contentedly the whole of the *Night*, and the greatest part, perhaps, will not enter the Cote until the next day; and, if in Breeding-time, either a number of Eggs may be spoiled, or several *young ones* starved to death."

Pigeons are supposed to be more productive from the Breeds being crossed; in proof of which a few *tame Pigeons* were put into a Dove-cote, and the consequence was, that an earlier and more numerous hatch of young was produced than in any of the neighbouring Cotes.

The Opening for the Entrance of the Pigeons should always have a *Southern Aspect*, as they delight in a Sunny situation; and they ought not to be too large: the common size is much larger than necessary.

To entice *Pigeons* to remain, a *Salt-cat* composed of *Loam*, *old Rubbish*, and *Salt*, will so effectually answer the purpose, as to *decoy* the Birds from other places to the Dove-cote where laid, and is therefore held to be Illegal.

In *Pigeon Shooting*, the most wonderful Performance was by Mr. RICHARD TOOMER, (the person who is before mentioned as having broke the *Sow* to stand Game,) who for a considerable Wager shot *six* Pigeons out of *ten* with a *single ball*.

Of this extraordinary Man's, and his brother EDWARD's, Excellence in Shooting, the following Facts are most decisive Evidence: They have been known to shoot at *Pigeons* from the *Trap* with their *Rifles* and a single Ball, and to kill *Eight* Birds out of *Twelve*, shooting *alternately*,

and one of the *Pigeons* that did not drop had its Leg carried off by the Ball. They have likewise with a single ball struck *twice* out of *four* shots a Cricket-ball thrown into the *Air*; and Mr. R. TOOMER, near *Hartford Bridge*, with his Gun loaded with Shot, hit the Ball *Twelve* times *successively* betwixt the Wickets, when bowled by HARRIS, one of the sharpest Bowlers in England. *This* he himself considered a very good performance. So thoroughly was shooting both with Gun and Pistols reduced to a Science by the two Brothers, that numbers of Gentlemen became their Pupils, and received Instruction from them: nor was their Knowledge confined merely to the use and effect of the *Gun*; in *Hunting* and *Fishing* they were equally well experienced. To Mr. R. TOOMER's Activity and Resolution in securing some of the most desperate *Deer-stealers* and *Poachers* that infested the *New Forest*, the Noblemen and Gentlemen concerned in the Preservation of the Deer and Game in that District, can bear abundant Testimony.

The Exploits which Mr. R. TOOMER performed in Shooting with such apparent Ease soon convinced the Persons who saw them that they were done *methodically*; and this was completely ascertained, by his frequently suffering himself to be blinded with a double Handkerchief over his Eyes, after having taken his *Aim*, and then to fire and hit a small Object. Some little time previous to his Death, he went to *Moyles Court*, near *Ringwood*, for a Day's *Rook-shooting*; he made some trifling Bet with Mr. MIST that he killed more Birds with his *Rifle* and a *single ball* than Mr. MIST did with his *Fowling-piece* and *shot*. The number of Shots was limited to *twenty*. Mr. T. killed *every* shot, Mr. M. *nineteen*, and who expressed his surprize at the Event, remarking that, as the Trees were very lofty, Mr. T.'s Eye-sight must be superior to that of others. Mr. T.'s answer was, "I will convince you, my Friend, there is not such wonderful Eye-sight required, and that what you have seen is not so difficult as you imagine:" he selected a *Rook*, levelled his *Rifle*, and then desired Mr. MIST to tie a handkerchief over his Eyes, so that he was in perfect Darkness: after this was done he fired, and brought down the Bird; he reloaded, and repeated this a *second time* with the same effect, to the Astonishment of many Spec-

tators. Mr. T. was satisfied that Birds might be readily killed *Flying* with a single Ball, if the *Lock* to the Gun was not too large, and the Spring so tempered that the *Main-spring* and that of the *Hammer* acted in concert, and that the *Fire* was emitted freely, and the Explosion of course be instantaneous at the stroke of the *Flint*. In improving *Gunpowder* as to its *Quickness* in firing, Mr. TOOMER, after visiting different Powder-mills, and trying Experiments in various parts of the process whilst making, had completely succeeded; the Secret now remains in the Family, and a considerable advantage is made of the sale of the *Powder so prepared*: but it was not *Fire-arms exclusively* that Mr. T. was so expertly versed in; the *Air-gun* had from him received many Improvements: he has killed Fifty brace of Bucks in one Season with his *Air-gun*, and was busied in adding to its further utility at the time *when* he died, which was at the early Age of Thirty-seven years, extremely lamented by all who knew him.

A singular Proof of Skill in Pigeon Shooting was effected by Mr. ELLIOT, at *Rudgwick*, in *Sussex*, who undertook to kill *fifty Pigeons* at fifty shots; it was decided at *Tillington*, near *Petworth*, and, notwithstanding the wind was high, he killed *forty-five*: it was allowed he *hit* every Bird, and that he would have succeeded but for the above Circumstance. He had but *one Gun*, the Touch-hole of which fairly melted.

In March 1801, a Match for One Thousand Guineas was shot at *Wrotham*, in *Kent*. MESSRS. BARTON and MYERS, against the Honourable T. COVENTRY and ROBINSON the Cricketer: each had *Twelve* shots, and the Pigeons went from the *Trap* at *Eighteen* yards only; the result was:

MYERS, *three* killed dead, *three* pinioned, *two* slightly wounded, but did not fall, *four* missed; *six*.

BARTON, *two* killed, *four* pinioned, *four* wounded, *two* missed; *six*. Total, *Twelve* Birds.

PIGEON SHOOTING.

ROBINSON, *five* killed, *two* pinioned, *three* wounded, *two* missed; *seven*.

HON. T. COVENTRY, *one* killed, *two* pinioned, *three* wounded, *six* missed; *three*. Total, *Ten* Birds.

At a Match of Pigeon Shooting 15th January, 1805, at the Bush, Farnham, Surrey, C. FOSTER, Esq. undertook, for a considerable wager, to shoot *Eighteen* Birds out of *Twenty*; the Bets were in favour of the Birds, but Mr. F. killed his *Twenty* Birds, together with one as a trial.

In July a match was decided on Finchley Common between F. Moss, Esq. and Mr. HANSON, a Yeoman of Herts, to shoot at *fifteen* Pigeons each. Mr. Moss missed his *first*, *fifth*, and *fifteenth* Bird, and his Competitor his *second*, *eleventh*, and *thirteenth*: they proceeded by continuing to fire until one of them missed, which was the case in Mr. M.'s *fourth* fire; his Opponent killed his Bird, and won the wager.

The match between MORETON, the celebrated shot, and Mr. G. KEATES, of Abingdon, in Berkshire, to shoot at twenty-one *Pigeons* each, took place the 2d of July, 1806, at Child's Hill, near Hampstead, for *one hundred guineas*. Notwithstanding the celebrity of MORETON, Bets were five to four on Mr. KEATES. The bounds were *one hundred yards* for the bird to fall in.

THE MATCH.

Shots.	MORETON.	KEATES.
1	killed	hit.
2	hit	killed.
3	killed	hit—fell 8 yards out of bounds.
4	missed	killed.
5	killed	killed.
6	killed	killed.
7	killed	killed.
8	killed	killed.

Shots.	MORETON.	KEATES.
9	missed	killed.
10	missed	killed.
11	killed	killed.
12	missed	missed.
13	killed	killed.
14	hit	killed.
15	killed	killed.
16	killed	killed.
17	killed	killed.
18	hit	killed.
19	killed	killed.
20	missed	killed.
21	missed	hit, and died out of bounds.

It will be seen that the Match was decided at *eighteen* shots, but the Competitors shot at the number of birds to decide the *bettings*.

The odds were two to one against MORETON after the tenth fire, three to one after the twelfth fire, four to one at the fourteenth, and ten to one at the sixteenth.

After the matches were over, a Challenge was given—three, four, or five gentlemen of *Berkshire*, at *Pigeon* shooting, against the same number of any County in England.

At one of the best attended and oldest established *Pigeon Clubs*, the first Marksmen, who perhaps one Day will bring down every Bird they fire at, yet upon an Average of *three Years* Shooting, do not (except in few instances indeed) *kill* more shots than they *miss*. It is to be remembered, that for the *shot* to be registered in the Club-book the *Pigeon* must *drop* within a certain Space*.

* As shots in the Field at *Game*, Mr. JENKINS, near Petworth, Sussex, and COTTINGHAM, who was formerly Gamekeeper to Lord ROUS, are perhaps the best. The *former* has killed *twenty brace* of Partridges in a day at *forty* shots, without selecting the shots, but took them fairly as they happened; and in four Days shooting has never missed. The *latter* I was out

In the History of all the great Slaughters in *Shooting*, not more than *half* (if so many) *shots* have been killed. Bad Marksmen may keep the Balance even, in these large Regal parties; and the Variety which obtains in almost every Man's Shooting, during the course of a Season, seldom allows a *greater proportion* of Game killed, when the shots are made *fairly*, and as they promiscuously arise.

In FRANCE, Game formerly were so numerous, that, according to Mr. YOUNG, "there was in the open fields about *Montgeron*, upon an Average, a *Covey of Birds* in every *two acres*, besides favourite Spots, in which they much more abounded." The last Day which the unfortunate LOUIS XVI. enjoyed in the Field, he himself shot *five hundred and seventy-two* head of Game in *eight hours*. It is not mentioned how many he *missed*.

The Feats of a Royal Party from VIENNA, in the *Bohemian* territories, A. D. 1753, beginning 29th August, and continuing for *twenty* Days, is a curious Record of slaughtered Game; it contains Columns specifying the Names of the *Twenty-three Sportsmen* and *Women*, with the number and kinds of Game killed (commencing with Stags, Roebucks, Boars, Foxes, &c.) The EMPEROR himself had the greatest number of shots, viz. 9794; of which 978 were in one Day. S. A. R. la Princesse CHARLOTTE was in the Field every Day; on one of which she fired 889 times. Total of Shots, 116,231—Game killed, 47,950. Far short of *half*.

In 1788, a Company of *Ten* persons in *Bohemia* fired in two Days 12,090 shots, when only 3,650 pieces of Game were killed, which does not amount to *one third*.

The following, although a Narrative of abundant *Sport*, cannot boast with, when he killed in two Days *forty-three* successive shots, (many of them in *Covert*,) at Partridge, Pheasant, Woodcock, and Hare; and his Style of Shooting, when open and he could give Time, was most regularly deliberate.

either the *Skill* or *Success* of the generality of *Shooting* Anecdotes; it was related in 1784, by a Person engaged in the Performance. "On the day before one of the *annual* parties at CLUMBER broke up, two Sets went out, each consisting of *three* Persons, and a Bet was laid which should kill most Game. It was computed that, on an Average, each Man of the *six* got *Sixty* shots; total 360. The winning Triumvirate killed THREE Birds! The Shooters were, Lord LINCOLN, Gen. PHILIPS, Captain (afterwards General) LASCELLES, Rev. Mr. LASCELLES, Mr. COTTON, and Lieut. Col. STRICKLAND. Here the Game had a complete Triumph over their Adversaries.

The Ring-Dove, or Wood-Pigeon,

is the largest Species in England, weighing about twenty ounces, and is too well known to need particular description as to its Plumage.

The major part of them, in respect to this Kingdom, are Emigrants, departing elsewhere at the latter end of the Year, and returning early in the Spring. In the beginning of Winter they assemble in large Flocks, and leave off their plaintive *Cooing*, which they commence in *March*, when they pair: they chiefly inhabit the Woods, and build on the tops of trees, making a large, loose, and flat Nest with dry sticks and bents; they breed twice in the Year, first in *April*; the *second* Brood appears most numerous in *August*: they seldom lay more than *two* Eggs, larger, but alike in colour to other *Pigeons*, and sit fourteen Days before the young are hatched. They are said to be a long-lived Bird, even so far as Fifty Years.

Mr. WHITE, in his History of Selborne, says, "I have consulted a Sportsman, now in his Seventy-eighth year, who told me that *Fifty* or *Sixty* years back, when the *Beechen* woods were much more extensive than at present, the number of *Wood Pigeons* was astonishing; that he has often killed near twenty in a Day; and that with a long Wild-fowl

piece he has shot seven or eight at a time on the Wing as they came wheeling over his head: he moreover adds, which I was not aware of, that often there were among them little parties of small *Blue Doves*, which he calls *Rockiers*. The Food of these numberless Emigrants was *Beech-mast*, *Acorns*, and particularly *Barley*, which they collected in the Stubbles. But of late years, since the vast increase of *Turnips*, that Vegetable has furnished a great part of their Support in *hard Weather*; and the holes they pick in these Roots are supposed to greatly damage the Crop. From the *Turnips* their Flesh has contracted a rancidness which occasions them at this Season to be rejected by the nicer Epicures, who before thought them a delicate Dish. They were shot not only as they were feeding in the Fields, and especially during Snows, but also at the close of the Evening, by Men who lay in Ambush among the Woods and Groves to kill them as they came to *roost*. In the Winter of 1779, we had in *Selborne High-wood* about a hundred of these Doves; but in former times the Flocks were so numerous, not only with us, but all the District round, that on Mornings and Evenings they traversed the Air, like Rooks, in Strings, reaching for a Mile together. When they thus rendezvoused here by Thousands, if they happened to be *suddenly* roused from their *Roost-trees*, on an Evening,

‘ Their rising all at once was like the Sound

‘ Of Thunder heard remote.’——

It will by no means (continues Mr. W.) be foreign to the present purpose to add, that I had a Relation in this Neighbourhood who made it a practice, whenever he could procure the Eggs of a *Ring-Dove*, to place them under Pigeons that were sitting in his own Dove-cote; hoping thereby, if he could bring about a Coalition, to enlarge his Breed, and teach his own Pigeons to beat out into the Woods and to support themselves by *Beech-Mast*, &c.: the Plan was plausible, but something always interrupted the Success; for though the Birds were usually hatched, and sometimes grew to half their Size, yet none ever arrived at Maturity. I myself, (says Mr. W.) have seen these Foundlings in their Nest displaying a

strange Ferocity of Nature, so as scarcely to bear to be looked at, and snapping with their Bills by way of Menace. In short, they always died, perhaps for want of proper Sustenance: but the Owner thought that by their fierce and wild Demeanour they frightened their Foster-Mothers, and so were starved."

Mr. MONTAGUE was at considerable pains and Expence to domesticate the *Wood-pigeon*, and notwithstanding he so far familiarized them within doors as to have them become very troublesome, yet he never could obtain a Breed, either from themselves or with the tame Pigeon. Two bred up together with a Male Pigeon were so docile as to eat out of the hand; but as they shewed no sign of breeding in the Spring, they were in the Month of *June* suffered to take their Liberty, by opening the Window of the Room wherein they were confined. It was supposed, that the Pigeon might induce them to return to their usual place of Abode, either for *Food* or to *roost*; but they from that Moment returned to their *natural* Habits, and nothing more was seen of them, although the *Pigeon* remained. This Gentleman bred up a curious Assemblage of Birds, which lived together in perfect Amity; consisting of a common *Pigeon*, a *Ring-Dove*, a *White Owl*, and a *Sparrow Hawk*; and the *Ring-Dove* was Master of the whole Collection.

Wood-Pigeons are excellent eating, and make a Pie superior to any of their own Species, or perhaps any other Bird; and even when they feed on *Turnips*, by putting a piece of crumb of Bread within side of them, the disagreeable Taste will be absorbed by it. They are also extremely useful in *Coverts* that are made *Preserves* for *Pheasants*, by immediately, if any person enters them after they have *roosted*, quitting the trees upon which they had settled for the Night, and flying about in great Commotion: the Gamekeepers know how to profit by this sort of Intelligence, in their search after the Intruders.

The *Poachers*, who were in the habit of using *Air-guns* to destroy the

Pheasants in the *Preserves*, were principally known to be in the *Coverts* by these Birds being unsettled. The Air-guns made no Noise, and the Operators preferred the *boisterous, rainy* Nights when the *Moon* was nearly at the full; the Wet did not in the least affect the discharge of these Implements, and the *Keepers* knew a *common* Gun could not be effectually employed in such tempestuous weather; beside, the Report caused immediate Alarm, and frequent Detection. Vast numbers of *Pheasants* were carried off, before this Practice was discovered.

Rooks,

although pertaining to no sort of Game, yet the Custom of shooting them being adopted by many Gentlemen who use the *Cross Bow* * for that purpose, and since upon the proper Regulation of this Instrument the whole of its Execution depends, Directions are therefore here given to render it useful.

Cross Bows employed formerly as weapons in War, and also to kill Animals in the field, (where great nicety of Vision was required to find those sorts of Game that kept upon the Ground, for the Cross Bow was always used at *motionless* Objects,) were of somewhat the same Shape as those of the present Day, at least those that now throw what is termed a *Bolt*. The *Bullet Bows* are of modern and much neater Construction, and their Accuracy, when once *set*, is astonishing: the *splitting* a ball upon the Edge of a Knife, however extraordinary it may sound, is to be performed by a *Novice*, at a distance from *fifteen* to *twenty* yards: and

* The late Mr. TYSSEN was partial to an *Air-Gun* for shooting *Rooks*, *Rabbits*, &c. and was using one at *Donyland Park*, in Essex, when the screw of the Valve gave way as the Servant was pumping the Air into it: the *Copper* ball fortunately took such a direction, that no one was hurt; but, in passing through the Trees, it cut off some considerable branches. This Accident staggered his Confidence in the security of their *Principle*, and, from the best-informed persons he consulted upon the subject, he was convinced there was no Certainty of their being safe; and he wisely relinquished the *Air-Gun*, with all its asserted superlative properties.

the Ball will be thrown with the same *unerring* Certainty for fifty times successively.

RICHARD CŒUR DE LION added the *Cross-bow* to the Military Weapons then in Use. And the Monarch received his Death wound from one of these new Implements, which he had himself introduced. RICHARD had in vain demanded a Treasure found by the Viscomte de LIMOGES, his Vassal. A part only being offered, the KING surrounded the Recusant in his Castle of *Chaluz*, in Normandy, and from wanton Fierceness refused all terms to the Besieged. It chanced that a Dart from a *Cross-bow* found its way to the Shoulder of the pityless CŒUR DE LION; and, from want of proper Chirurgical Treatment, occasioned first a Gangrene, and, in Consequence, Death. The Castle had been taken whilst the KING was *yet alive*, and its Defenders put to the Sword, or Executed, except BERTRAM DE GOURDON, the known *Author* of the Wound. "Why did you aim that Shaft at me?" said the expiring Monarch. "Because," said the Prisoner, "you had slain my *Father* and *Brother*, and because you meant to hang *me* and *my Comrades!*" Conscious of the Solidity of these Reasons, the dying Hero employed his latest Breath in ordering GOURDON to be set at liberty *without Ransom*. This *generous Command* was not obeyed; and, painful to relate, this Avenger of his Family was flayed alive, by Order of the brutal General of the *Foreign Mercenaries* that RICHARD had in his Army.

WILLIAM BRITO, a French Poet, accuses RICHARD of introducing the *Cross-bow* to the Wars in France; he exults in his Sufferings, and his Verses are thus translated:

See with what Justice RICHARD's doom'd to yield
To that base Arm he taught our French to wield!
'Twas right that he who wing'd the barbed Steel
The first Experience of its Force should feel!

Notwithstanding the Aversion that obtained against the early Practice of the *Cross-bow*, and which is hereafter noticed, surely at the present

Period, when every means for annoying an Enemy is resorted to, the *Cross-bow* might be revived, and successfully employed.

RIFLES were formerly never thought of as Engines to be used in our Armies, yet they are now rendered most destructive, by the Improvement in their formation; and, indeed, the Effects of the *Cross-bow* were deemed so fatal and cruel, that its use was forbidden by the *second Lateran Council*, in 1139, under the Penalty of an *Anathema*; and which Prohibition was enforced by Pope INNOCENT III. Nor did the Example of the Decease of RICHARD, whose death was considered as a Judgment from Heaven, inflicted upon him for his Impiety in first using the *Cross-bow*, prevent the Instrument from keeping its footing in our Armies, even so late as 1572, when Queen ELIZABETH, in a Treaty with King CHARLES IX. of *France*, engaged to furnish him with Six Thousand Men, part of them armed with *Long-bows*, and part with *Cross-bows*. And in the Attack made by the *English* on the Isle of Rhee, A. D. 1627, some *Cross-bow Men* were in that Army; these were dressed, and otherwise armed, much in the same manner as the *Archers*, and like them were frequently mounted on Horseback.

The Pay of a private *Archer*, in the fifteenth Century, was *Sixpence* per Diem; a Sum fully equal (every thing considered) to *five modern Shillings*. Archers were covered round the Body in a manner which left their Limbs quite at Liberty: a *Brigandine* of *Mail* (which was a Jacket or Apron of Leather or Linen, plated over *Scale* fashion, with thin pieces of *Steel*. From the Irregularities of the light-armed Men, who wore these Defences, the name of '*Brigand*,' became infamous :) sometimes hung before them as an Apron.

CHAUCER thus describes the Dress, &c. of an *Archer*.

And he was cladde in cote and hode of grene,
A Shefe of Pecoockes arwes bryghte and clene
Under his belt he bore ful thriftily,
Well couth he dresse his takel Yewmanly.

His Arwes drouped not with fetheres lowe,
 And in his hand he bare a mighty bowe.
 A Not-hed haddè he, with broune visage,
 Of wood-craft couth he wel al the usàge.
 Upon his arme he had a gai bracèr,
 And by his side a sworde and à bokelèr;
 And on the othere side a gai daggere
 Harneised wel, and sharp as pointe of spere;
 A Christofre on his breste of silken shene
 An horne he bare, the baudrike was of grene. &c.

The following Description of an ARCHER, his *Bow*, and *Accoutrements*, was written in the time of ELIZABETH.

ARCHERS, OR LONG BOWS.

“Captens and Officers should be skilfull of that most noble Weapon; and to see that their Soldiers, according to their draught and Strength, have good Bowes, well nocked, well strynged, everie stryng whippe in their nocke, and in the myddes rubbed with wax, braser, and Shutting glove; some spare Stringes trymed as aforesaid; every Man one Shefe of Arrowes, with a case of Leather, defensible against the Rayne, and in the same fower and twentie Arrowes, whereof Eight of them should be lighter than the residue, to gall or astoyne the Enemye with the hailshot of light Arrowes, before they shall come within the danger of their Harquebuss shot. Let everye Man have a Brigandine, or a little cote of plate, a Skull or hufkyn, a mawle of Lead, of five foot in lengthe, and a Pike, and the same hanging by his Girdle, with a hook and a Dagger; being thus furnished, teach them by musters to march, shoote, and retire, keepinge their faces uppon the Enemys. Sum tyme put them into great nowmbers as to Battell apperteyneth, and thus use them often times practiced, till they be perfecte; ffor those Men in Battell, ne skimish can not be spared. None other Weapon maye compare with the same noble Weapon.”

The ‘Men at Arms,’ or (as FROISSART calls them frequently) ‘Lances,’

were the Strength of the Army. They were fenced like *Lobsters*; even the joints of their Armour were defended by Plates. To kill a Man thus Armed was the Work of six or seven Men, even after he was prostrate. The Man at Arms seldom mounted on horse, unless to join in Pursuit.

Cross-bows were formerly of two kinds; some were termed *Latches*, the others *Prodds*; the *Bow* was commonly of *Steel*, though sometimes of *Wood* or *Horn*; the lesser Bows were bent with the Hand, by means of a small *Steel Lever*, called the *Goat's Foot*, from its being cloven on that side which rested on the *Cross-bow* and cord; the *larger* were bent with one or both feet put into a kind of *Stirrup*; some were also bent with a Machine called a *Moulinet*. These Weapons not only discharged *Arrows*, but also Darts, named *Quarreaux*, from their heads, which were square Pyramids of Iron, corruptly-nominated *Quarrels*; these were sometimes *feathered* (as the term was) with *Wood* or *Brass*. *Cross-bows* also shot *stones* or *leaden Balls*, and would kill *point blank* between Forty and Sixty yards, and if elevated, Six, Seven, or even Eight score yards.

Monsieur WILLIAM DE BELLAY, in his Instructions for the Wars, translated by PAUL IVE, and published A.D. 1589, when speaking of the comparative Execution done by the *Cross-bow* and the *Harquebusse*, prefers the readiness with which the shooting of the *former* can be managed beyond that of the *latter*, and says, "if the Parties engaged are as near as may be, there would be more slain by the *Cross-bow* Men than by *twice* as many of the *Harquebusiers*; and this I will prove by *one Crosse-bow Man* that was at *Thurin*, when the Lord Marshall of *Annibault* was Governor there, who, in five or six Skirmishes, did kill or hurt more of our Enemies than *five* or *six* of the best *Harquebusiers* did during the *whole* time of the Siege."

A RECORD, printed in RYMER's *Fœdera*, of the Third of EDWARD II. recites that *Cross-bows*, *Bauder*, and *Quarrells*, were purchased for the Garrison of *Sherborne Castle*: each *Cross-bow* at three Shillings and eight-

pence; each *Bauder* at one Shilling and sixpence; and every Hundred of *Quarrells* at one Shilling and sixpence.

The Excellency of the *Cross-bow* was the great exactness of its *point blank* shooting; *Cross-bow Men* being much more certain of hitting their Mark than *Archers* with the *Long-bow*: but on the other hand it would not carry so far, nor could be so often discharged in the same Space of Time. But the make of the present *Cross-bow* is so improved, that a Man can load and discharge with very great Ease and Quickness. The Apparatus now employed for putting on a new String, spare Screws for the Lock, and also allowing six or eight pounds of Bullets, would be far less cumbersome to a Man than the weight of the common Musket and its Appendages; and when once regulated, the *Cross-bow* will throw a Ball to its Object with the most fatal Effect.

DIRECTIONS IN THE USE OF THE CROSS-BOW.

When shooting where the Trees are lofty, try the Bow at *fourteen* yards upon a *level*, stopping all the Holes in the Sight but *one*; if it shoots *too high*, raise the *Bead* higher on the *Fork*; if *too low*, the contrary: should it carry to the *right*, turn the *Bead* round to the *right*; if to the *left*, the contrary.

When the Ball does not come within the notches of the *Fork*, open another hole in the Sight; if it shoots too high, open one lower; if too low, the reverse.

Should the Spring *within* the Lock happen to fail, take care to place the *open* part of the new one toward the *Butt end* of the Bow; if it be put in the wrong end forward, the Bow will be useless.

Never keep the Bow long in full Tension, rather shoot the ball waste.

If the *String* frets or unravels, close up the defective places with Bees-wax.

Care is necessary to hold the Bow steady in charging; if let slip whilst drawing up the *String*, it will assuredly break the *Stock*, and probably the *Lath* and *String* at the same time.

The minute Description of *Rooks* is needless; they may always be known from the *Carrion Crow* by their being in *Flocks*, whereas the *Crows* go only in *Pairs*; and also by the *white** colour of the Bill, and from their being *bare* of Feathers upon that part in which the *Crow* is well clothed: and this Distinction arises from the *former* thrusting the Bill into the Earth continually after the *noxious worms* and *Erucae* of Insects, (especially the *Chafer Beetle* †,) on which they feed; they likewise eat all sorts of Grain ‡, to some inconvenience perhaps of the Husbandman,

* These Birds, and also *Crows*, are often found *White* or *pie*d; an accident which Mr. PENNANT remarks more frequently happens to Birds whose Plumage is naturally *black* than to any others.

Mr. WHITE mentions two *Milk-white Rooks*, which were taken in one Nest; and the Booby of a Carter who took them threw them down from the Tree, and not being able to fly they were killed. Their *bills, legs, feet, and claws*, as well as the *Feathers*, were of a pure White.

In 1805 a young Rook was taken out of a Nest in a Rookery belonging to Mr. DUNNINGTON, at Thorganly, near York, in every respect perfect, but completely white: the other Young of this brood were black.

† These insects appear in hot Weather in most formidable numbers, disrobing the Fields and Trees of their Verdure, Blossoms, and Fruit, spreading Desolation wherever they go. In 1747 whole Meadows and Corn-fields were destroyed by them in *Suffolk*. The Decrease of Rookeries in that County was thought to be the Occasion of it; and the Farmers both in *Suffolk* and *Norfolk* found it their Interest to encourage the Breed of *Rooks*, which extirpated this species of Beetle, and are perhaps against its latent and rapid Mischief the most material Protection.

‡ To keep *Rooks* from Corn—Take a Quart of *Train Oil*, as much *Turpentine*, and three quarters of a Pound of *bruised Gunpowder*; boil them together, and when hot, dip pieces of Rag in the Mixture, and fix them on sticks in the Fields. *Four* are sufficient for an *Acre*.

yet, instead of being proscribed, the Farmer should treat them as friends, who clear his ground from *Grubs* and *Caterpillars*, that in some Seasons destroy all crops of Corn by feeding on its Roots.

The manners of the *Rook* are singular: Mr. CAPEL LOFFT, in speaking of this Bird, says, "I confess myself solicitous for the Safety and kind Treatment of the *Rook*: we have two which were lamed by being blown down in a Storm (a Calamity which destroys great numbers almost every Spring). One of them is perfectly domesticated; the other is yet more remarkable, since, although enjoying his natural Liberty completely, he recognises, even in his Flights at a Distance from the House, his adoptive Home, his Human Friends and early Protectors. The *Rook* (continues Mr. L.) is certainly a beautiful and sensible Bird, possessing great Confidence, and being very much attached."

Rooks are gregarious: being sometimes seen in numbers so as almost to darken the Air in their flight, which they regularly perform Morning and Evening, except in the *breeding* time, when the daily attendance of both *Male* and *Female* is required for incubation, or feeding the young; and it is observed they do both alternately. They begin to build in March; one bringing Materials, while the other watches the Nest, lest it should be plundered by its Brethren.

New comers into a Rookery are always attacked, and frequently driven away by the Old Inhabitants; their half-built Nests torn to pieces, and the unfortunate Strangers forced to recommence their labours in some more peaceful situation. Of this an Instance occurred at Newcastle, in 1783, when a pair of *Rooks*, after an unsuccessful Trial to establish themselves in a Rookery not far from the Exchange, were compelled to abandon the attempt and take refuge on the Spire of that Building; and although constantly interrupted by other *Rooks*, they built their Nest on the top of the Vane, and brought forth their Young, undisturbed by the Noise of the Populace below them: the Nest and its Contents were consequently

whirled about with every Change of the Wind; notwithstanding, they returned, and for nine successive Years built their Nest on the same place, soon after which the Spire was taken down. A Copper-plate of the Size of a *Watch-paper*, with a representation of the Spire and Nest, was engraved to commemorate the Circumstance, and as many Copies sold as produced the Engraver Ten Pounds. A circumstance in part similar happened at Bow Church, Cheapside, in 1805, when a Rook built its Nest on the Back of the *Dragon*, which serves as a Vane to that Building. A remarkable Instance of Rooks repelling any Intrusion upon their breeding Places, happened at *Dallam Tower* in Westmoreland, the Seat of Mr. WILSON: adjoining to the Park were two Groves, one of which for many Years had been resorted to by a Number of *Hérons*; the other was as large a *Rookery* as any in the Country. Without any disputes, the two Tribes had long lived as near Neighbours: in the Spring of 1775 the Trees occupied by the *Hérons*, consisting of very fine Old Oaks, were cut down, and the Young Brood perished by the fall of the Timber. The *Old Hérons* set about preparing new Habitations in order to breed again; and as there were no Trees lofty enough but in the *Rookery*, there they resolved to effect a Settlement. The *Rooks* made an obstinate Resistance: in the course of the Contest many of the *Rooks*, and some of their Antagonists, were killed. The *Hérons* at last succeeded, built their Nests, and brought out their Young. The next Season similar struggles took place, which terminated like the former, by the Victory of the *Hérons*. Since that time Peace seems to have been agreed upon between them: the *Rooks* have relinquished possession of that part of the Grove which the *Hérons* occupy, and to those Trees they confine themselves; and the two Communities live together in as much Harmony as they did before their Quarrel.

Between the *Rook* and the *Raven* there appears a wonderful Antipathy. Mr. MARKWICK says, that in 1778, so soon as a Raven had built her Nest in a Tree adjoining to a very numerous *Rookery*, all the *Rooks* immediately forsook the Spot, and have not returned to build there since.

At the Bishop of CHICHESTER's Rookery, at Broomham, near Hastings, upon a *Raven's* building her Nest in one of the Trees, the *Rooks* left the place; they however returned to their Haunts in the following Autumn, and built their Nests there the succeeding Year. It is no very difficult Task to account for this Antipathy: the *Raven* will scarcely suffer any Bird whatever to come within a quarter of a Mile of its Nest, being extremely fierce in defending it; besides the *Raven* seizes the young *Rooks* from their Nests to feed its own: this, at Mr. SEYMER's, at Harford, in Dorsetshire; Mr. LAMBERT was Eye-witness to, and there was no rest in the *Rookery* night or day till one of the Old *Ravens* and the Young Ones were destroyed.

Of the Perseverance of the *Raven* in the Act of *Incubation*, Mr. WHITE has related the following Anecdote. In a Grove, near *Selborne*, stood an *Oak*, which, though tall and shapely on the whole, bulged out into a large Excrescence about the Middle of the Stem. On this Tree a pair of *Ravens* had fixed their Residence for such a Series of Years that the *Oak* was distinguished by the Title of "*the Raven Tree.*" Many were the attempts of the neighbouring Youths, and each was ambitious to get at this *Egry*; but when they arrived at the Swelling, it jutted out in their way, and was so far beyond their Grasp, that the most daring Lads were awed, and acknowledged the Undertaking to be too hazardous. The *Ravens* built on, Nest upon Nest, in perfect security, till the fatal Day came in which the Wood was to be levelled. This was in the Month of *February*, when those Birds usually sit. The Saw was applied to the Butt; the Wedges were inserted into the Opening; the Woods echoed to the heavy blows of the Beetle or Mallet; the Tree nodded to its Fall; but still the *Raven* sat on. At last, when it gave way, the *Bird* was flung from her Nest; and, though her Parental Affection deserved a better Fate, was whipped down by the Twigs, which brought her dead to the Ground.

Rooks lay five or six eggs, of a pale green colour, marked with small

brownish spots. After the breeding Season, Rooks forsake their *nest-trees*, going to roost elsewhere; but return to them in *August*, and again in October, when they repair their Nests. The young Birds are very good when skinned, steeped in Milk, and afterwards put into a Pie; and variety of decisions in their favour have been given by *accurate* Judges, who have loudly extolled the Goodness of the *Pigeons* they have supposed themselves to have been eating: others have declared it impossible not to distinguish the Rankness of the *Rook*, however *highly seasoned*, from the fine Flavour of the *Pigeon*.

Mr. GILPIN, in speaking of this Bird, says, “Of all the feathered Inhabitants of the *FOREST*, I should have thought its Scenes in all respects the best adapted to the *Rook*; here he might build his habitation, and rear his young, far from the prying eyes of Men; here also he might indulge his *social* temper without limits, and enlarge his aerial Town from wood to wood: but he has no such ideas. I cannot learn that he ever thought of forming a Settlement in the *Forest*; which is the more extraordinary, as he is in fact a Lover of its Scenes, and rejoices in them at all times but in the *breeding Season*, when one should imagine he stood most in need of their Shelter. At that time he seems sedulously to court the faithless Habitations of Men, through what propensity or instinct of Nature the Naturalist is at a loss to determine. After his Family is reared, and he has carried off in safety such of his Progeny as have escaped the arts of Men and Boys, he retires every Evening at a late Hour, during the *Autumn* and *Winter* months, to the closest Coverts of the Forest, having spent the Day in the open fields and inclosures in quest of Food. His late retreat to the Forest is characteristic of the near approach of Night.

Retiring from the Downs, where all day long
They pick their scanty fare, a black'ning train
Of loitering *Rooks* thick urge their weary flight,
And seek the shelter of the Grove.—

“But in his Economy,” continues Mr. G. “there is something extra-

ordinary. Although the *Forest* is his Winter Habitation, (if I may call that his Habitation which, like other Vagrants, he uses only as a place to sleep in,) he generally every Day visits his Nursery, keeping up the idea of a Family, which he begins to make provision for very early in the Spring. Among all the Sounds of Animal Nature, few are more pleasing than the *Cawing of Rooks*. The *Rook* has but two or three Notes, and when he attempts a *Solo* we cannot praise his Song; but when he performs in *Concert*, which is his chief delight, these Notes, although rough in themselves, being mixed and intermixed with those of the Multitude, have all their sharp edges worn off, and become harmonious, especially when softened in the Air, where the Bird chiefly exhibits. You have this Music in perfection," says Mr. G. "when the whole Colony is raised by the discharge of a Gun."

In noticing the *acquired Knowledge of Animals*, Dr. DARWIN has remarked, that "this Knowledge is most nicely understood by the *Rooks*, who build, as it were, Cities over our heads; they evidently distinguish that the Danger is greater when a Man is armed with a Gun. Every one, (says the Doctor,) has seen this who in the Spring of the Year has walked under a *Rookery*, with a Gun in his hand: the Inhabitants of the Trees rise on their wings, and scream to the Young to shrink into the Nest from the sight of the Enemy. The Vulgar, observing this Circumstance so uniformly to occur, assert that *Rooks* can smell *Gunpowder*."

The nice Sense of Smelling which one Class of the *Crow** tribe possesses, HEARNE has thus mentioned in his Account of the *Raven*. "Its Faculty of Scent must be very acute; for in the coldest of the *Winter Days*, at *Hudson's Bay*, when every kind of *Effluvia* is almost instantaneously destroyed by the *Frost*, Buffalos and other Beasts have been killed

* The Turkey Buzzard or *Carrion Crow* of JAMAICA is esteemed of so much Consequence in cleaning the Country from putrefying *Animal Substances*, that its Life is protected by a *Law of the Island*.

where not one of these Birds was seen; but in a few hours Scores of them would gather about the Spot to pick up the Offal and Blood."

Mr. WHITE, in his History of *Selborne*, speaking of the Evening manœuvres of *Rooks* in the Autumn, remarks, "that just before Dusk they return in long strings from the foraging of the Day, and rendezvous by thousands over *Selborne Down*, where they wheel round, and dive in a playful manner in the Air, exerting their Voices; which, being softened by the distance, becomes a pleasing Murmur, engaging to the Imagination, and not unlike the Cry of a pack of Hounds in hollow echoing Woods. When this Ceremony is over, with the *last gleam* of light they retire for the Night to the deep Beech woods of *Tisted* and *Ropley*. We remember, says Mr. W. a little Girl, who, as she was going to Bed, used to observe, on such an Occurrence, in the true spirit of *Physico-Theology*, that the Rooks were saying their Prayers; and yet this Child was much too young to be aware that the Scriptures have said of the DEITY—that "*He feedeth the Ravens who call upon him.*"

MACPHERSON, in his *Annals of Commerce*, recites a curious Use to which *Crows*, and probably many other Birds, (indeed we read of NOAH'S *Dove*) were put, when Navigation was in its earliest infancy.

"*Amgrim Jonas* tells us, that when FLOK, a famous *Norwegian* Navigator, was going to set out from *Shetland* for *Iceland*, then called *Gardarholm*, he took on board some *Crows*, because the *Mariner's Compass* was not yet in Use. When he thought he had made a considerable progress, he threw up one of his *Crows*, which, seeing Land *astern*, flew to it; whence FLOK, concluding that he was nearer to *Shetland* (perhaps rather *Faroe*) than any other Land, kept on his Course for some time, and then sent out another *Crow*, which, seeing no Land at all, returned to the *Vessel*. At last, having run the greatest part of his Way, a third *Crow* was sent out, which, seeing Land *a-head*, immediately flew for it; and FLOK, fol-

lowing his Guide, fell in with the East end of the Island. Such was the simple mode of *steering* their Course, practised by these bold Navigators of the stormy *Northern Ocean*.—The ancient Natives of Taprobané (CEYLON) used the same expedient when skimming along the tranquil surface of the *Indian Ocean*."

Of the Ominous Character attributed to this Bird a singular instance is mentioned in SAUER's Account of BILLING's *Expedition* to the *Northern parts of Russia*. In getting one of the Ships out of the Dock where she had been repaired at *Yatutsk*, owing to a heavy swell right on Shore, the Vessel struck and was lost: the Loss of this Ship had been foretold by the superstitious Inhabitants of the Town, from the following Circumstance:—In the Spring of the Year, a Flight of *Crows* were fighting in the Air, and making a dreadful noise. One of them was killed by the rest, and fell upon the Deck of this Ship; the whole Swarm immediately descended, and entirely devoured the vanquished Bird, leaving no other Vestiges than the Feathers behind. This very remarkable Occurrence, which was related by all our Officers, Workmen, and Inhabitants, happened, says Mr. S. while I was at *Yatutsk*.

The Heron.

THIS Bird having been alluded to in the account of the Rook, we may here be allowed to give some Description of it.

The *Heron* is mentioned by BUFFON as exhibiting the picture of Wretchedness, Anxiety, and Indigence, condemned to struggle perpetually with Misery and Want, and sickened by the restless Cravings of a famished Appetite. However this ingenious Naturalist may have faithfully portrayed the Appearance of the *Heron*, yet others are not inclined to adopt his Sentiments in describing its Habits and Manners, or to agree with him in Opinion, that it is one of the most wretched of Animated Beings. It is probable that it suffers no more than other Birds, many

Species of which employ equal Attention in looking for their Prey; and it is not unlikely that the *Heron* derives *Pleasure* from it, instead of *Pain*. This Bird, however, is of a Melancholy deportment, and will in the most severe Weather stand motionless for Hours together in the Water, fixed to a Spot, in Appearance like the Stump of a Tree, waiting for its Food, which consists of Frogs, Water-Newts, Eels and other kinds of Fish, of which Herons are great Destroyers: (LATHAM states having seen a Fish of ten inches long taken out of the Stomach of one, others are mentioned to have had *Seventeen Carps* at once found within them:) and they are also said to devour Field-Mice.

The *Heron* traverses the Country to a great Distance in quest of some convenient or favourite *Fishing Spot*, and in its Aërial Journeys soars to a great height, to which the Eye is directed by its harsh Cry, uttered from time to time while on the Wing. In flying it draws the Head between the Shoulders, and the Legs being stretched out seem, like the longer Tails of some Birds, to serve the office of a *Rudder*. The Motion of their Wings is heavy and flagging, and yet they get forward at a swifter Rate than could be imagined.

The *Heron* is remarkably light in proportion to its Bulk, scarcely weighing three pounds and a half. The Body is very small, and always lean; and the skin a very trifle thicker than what is called *Gold-beater's skin*. It must be capable of bearing long Abstinence, since its Food, which is *Fish* and *Frogs*, is not always to be procured. It commits great Devastation in our Ponds; but being unprovided with Webs. to *Swim*, Nature has furnished it with very long Legs to *wade* after its Prey. It perches and builds in Trees like *Rooks*: at *Cressi Hall*, near *Gosberton*, in *Lincolnshire*, I have counted, says Mr. PENNANT, above *Eighty Nests* in one Tree. They sometimes build in company with many others in *high Cliffs* over the Sea, and sometimes place their Nests very numerous among the *Reeds*. At *Tollesbury*, in *Essex*, vast numbers used to build in the latter Situation. The Nest is made of Sticks, and lined with Wool or

Feathers, in which the *Female* lays five or six large Eggs of a pale green Colour. During Incubation, the *Male* passes much of its time perched by the *Female*. They desert their Nests during *Winter*, excepting in *February*, when they resort to and repair them. The Young may be easily tamed; but when Old Birds are captured they will refuse Nourishment, and shortly pine away. The Compiler kept three or four which he brought from the *Tollesbury* Marshes, and from what he saw of their Voraciousness, the Account in the *Gentleman's Recreation* of a tame one eating Fifty small *Roach* and *Dace* one Day with another, is not exaggerated. Their Mode of Fishing is performed with a certainty that seldom misses the Object; and the Fish, which in the Pond where he watched their Motions were *Small Carp*, the Birds generally seized crossways, and with a Jerk of their long Necks, threw them up into the Air in such a manner, as in their fall to catch and swallow them Head-foremost.

The *Heron* was formerly in this Country a Bird of Game; *Heron Hawking* being so favourite a Diversion of our Ancestors, that Laws were enacted for the Preservation of the Species; and the Person who destroyed their Eggs was liable to the Penalty of *Twenty Shillings* for each offence. Not to know the *Hawk* from the *Heronshaw*, was an old Proverb, taken originally from this Amusement; but in course of time it was absurdly corrupted to, "He does not know a *Hawk* from a *Hand-saw*," and served to express great Ignorance in any Science. The *Heron* was formerly much esteemed, and made a favourite Dish at the Tables of the Great, and was valued at the same rate as a *Pheasant* or a *Peacock*. It is said to be long lived: by Mr. KEYSLER's account it may exceed *Sixty Years*; and from an Instance of one that was lately taken in *Holland* by a Hawk belonging to the *STADTHOLDER*, its Longevity is again confirmed, the Bird having a Silver Plate fastened to one Leg, with an Inscription, importing it had been before struck by the *ELECTOR* of *COLOGNE*'s Hawks, in 1735.

The *Male* is a most elegant Bird: the length, three feet three; the

breadth five feet four inches; the Bill six inches long, very strong and pointed; the edges thin and rough; the colour dusky above, yellow beneath; nostrils linear; the irides of a deep yellow; orbits and space between them and the bill covered with a bare greenish skin. The forehead and crown white; sides of it, and over the eye, black; the hind part of the head adorned with a loose pendant Crest of black feathers elegantly waving with the Wind, two in particular being eight inches in length; these are used as Ornaments in the *East*, and bear a considerable price: this Appendage is found only in *Males* of a full Age, or perhaps very old Birds: the upper part of the neck is of a pure white, and the coverts of the wings of a light grey; the back clad only with down, covered with the Scapulars; the fore part of the neck white, spotted with a double row of black; the feathers are white, long, narrow, unwebbed, falling loosely over the breast; the Scapulars of the same texture, grey streaked with white; the ridge of the wing white, primaries and bastard wing black; along the sides beneath the wings is a bed of black feathers, very long, soft, and beautiful, in old times used as Egrets for the Hair, or Ornaments to the *Caps of Knights of the Garter*; the breast, belly, and thighs, white; the last dashed with yellow. The tail consists of twelve short cinereous feathers; the legs are of a dirty green; the toes long, the claws short, the inner edge of the middle claw finely serrated.

The Head of the *Female* is grey: it wants the long Crest, having only a short plume of dusky feathers; above the breast the feathers are short; the scapulars grey and webbed; the sides grey. This has been supposed to be a distinct Species from the former, but later observations prove them to be the same. There is scarcely a place, either in the *Old World* or the *New*, where the *Heron* has not been met with, as we may trace from the Relations of numberless Voyagers; yet few talk of its Migrations. M. EKMARCK, indeed, mentions the disappearing of the whole of the *Heron* Tribe from *Sweden*, in *Autumn*: and this Species is said to be seen in *New York* only from *May* until *October*.

THE Continuation of the subject of Shooting naturally introduces the important Articles of *Ammunition* and *the Gun*. The great and useful Progress that has of late years been made by the WORKMEN of this Country, has rendered a prolix account of the *last* less requisite than before these successful Effects of their Labours. The minute Course of their Art, from *forging* to *finishing the Barrel* or the *Lock*, has little occasion to be *now* copiously treated of. We shall, however, notice what the Gun was when *originally* introduced, and some recent Improvements will also be mentioned.

Gunpowder.

THE first *Fire* that was used in War occasioned as great, if not a more considerable Alarm, than that caused by the explosion of Gunpowder. It was called the *Greek Fire*, and is said to have been discovered in very ancient times. It was the Invention of CALLINICUS, an Architect of *Heliopolis* or *Balbeck*, who left the service of a CALIPH, and brought the important Arcanum to Constantinople in the Reign of CONSTANTINE PAGONATUS. That EMPEROR forbade the Art of making it to be communicated to any Strangers or others, except his Subjects, and the Secret was long preserved: it was, however, at length known among the Nations confederated with the *Byzantines*. It is supposed to have been compounded of the Gum of the *Pine* and other *resinous* Trees, reduced to Powder with *Brimstone*, to which were added *Naptha* and other *Bitumens*, and, according to some, the *Water* of a Fountain in the East, which had the Property to amalgamate with these Combustibles, and to render them more inflammable; but this last Article seems hardly possible to have been included, as in that case it could have been only made where *that Water* was to be had, whereas it was in use both all over *Asia* and in *Europe*. ANNA COMENA says it was composed of *Bitumen*, *Sulphur*, and *Naptha*.

The *Greek Fire* was employed, A. D. 883, by NICETAS, the High-Admiral of the Eastern Empire, who was sent by the *Saracens* of *Crete* with a Navy to assault *Constantinople*: he attacked and utterly defeated them, burning Twenty of their Ships by "the *Greek Fire*."

PROCOPIUS, in his History of the *Goths*, calls it "MEDEA'S Oil,"

considering it as an infernal Composition prepared by that Sorceress. It is said to have been known in *China*, A. D. 917, *Three Hundred* years after CONSTANTINE PAGONATUS, under the Name of the "*Oil of the cruel Fire*;" and was carried thither by the *Kitan* Tartars, who had it from the KING of OU. This wonderful and destructive Mixture twice preserved the Métropolis of the *Eastern* ROMANS from the Infidel Armaments. The *Greek Fire* is much spoken of in all the Histories of the HOLY WARS, as being frequently employed with Success by the *Saracens* against the *Christians*. During the *Crusades*, and in the Reign of RICHARD Cœur de Lion, we shall find it struck with Dismay the most intrepid *Christian Knights*, until a Method of extinguishing it was discovered by the *French*. By the following Description of it, given by JOINVILLE, who was an Eye-witness, it has somewhat the Appearance of one of the *Iron Rockets*, still used in India: He says it was thrown from the bottom of a Machine called a *Petrary*, and that it came forward as large as a Barrel of Verjuice, with a tail of *Fire* issuing from it as big as a great *Sword*, making a Noise in its passage like *Thunder*, and seeming like a *Dragon* flying through the Air; and, from the great quantity of *Fire* it threw out, giving such a light, that one might see in the Camp as if it had been Day. Such was the Terror it occasioned among the Commanders of ST. LOUIS's Army, that GAUTIER DE CARIEL, an experienced and valiant Knight, gave it as his Advice, that so often as it was thrown they should all prostrate themselves on their Elbows and Knees, and beseech the LORD to deliver them from that Danger, against which he alone could protect them: this Counsel was adopted and practised; besides which, the KING being in Bed in his Tent, as often as he was informed that the *Greek Fire* was thrown, raised himself in his Bed, and with uplifted hands thus besought the LORD, "GOOD LORD GOD, preserve my People!" But the great Terrors it occasioned, the Effects of *this Fire* do not seem to justify, as a mode had been found of *quenching* it. We are told, some of their *Castellated Cats*, (a covered Shed occasionally fixed on Wheels, and which had *Crenelles* and *Chinks*, from whence the *Archers* could discharge their Arrows; it was used for covering Soldiers employed in filling up the

Ditch, preparing the way for the moveable Tower, or mining the Wall; sometimes under the Cover of this Machine the Besiegers worked a small kind of *Ram*,) were set on fire, but the Flames were extinguished. The *Greek Fire* was thrown *thrice* in the Night from the *Petrary*, and *four times* from a large *Cross-bow*: the Blaze lighted by this Composition was inextinguishable by Water. GEOFFRY DE VINESAUF, who accompanied RICHARD I. to the Crusade, says of it, "With a pernicious Stench and livid Flame it consumes even *Flint* and *Iron*, nor could it be extinguished by *Water*; but by sprinkling *Sand* upon it the Violence of it may be abated, and *Vinegar* poured upon it will put it out." To these some add *Urine*, and even *Oil*.

The following is a Translation of some ancient Lines, descriptive of the general Opinion of its Properties :

" May the Fiend fly away with this odious *Greek Fire*!

" Not *Water* to quench it, but *Sand* we require ;

" Then *Vinegar's* Acid its influence must lend us,

" And *Lye* in its turn too must help to defend us.

" The *Pagans* alone by this Pest are protected,

" 'Gainst the Christians alone are its perils directed :

" By the *Pagans* 'tis armed by most foul Incantation.

" Oh! save us, kind SAVIOUR, from such Conflagration!"

From other Descriptions it appears, this Composition was of an unctuous and viscid Nature, sticking to the Objects against which it was directed. In *Land* Engagements and *Sieges*, it was projected by the *Machines* of the Times, and *at Sea* by *Hand*, enclosed in Vessels or Phials, in which it was also kept and transported; it was likewise sometimes fastened to the heads of Arrows: *Sea-Water*, instead of quenching, seemed to give it new Violence and Activity.

Both Parties used the *Greek Fire* at the Siege of ACRE, A. D. 1190, (a Place not only celebrated for the Prodigies of Valour performed by

RICHARD I. which made the Infidels tremble at his Name; and it was even a saying of the *Saracens* to their skittish Horses, "What do you start at? do you think that you see KING RICHARD?" But also, in 1799, upwards of Six Hundred Years from the former Siege, it was again defended by another English Hero, our gallant Countryman Sir SYDNEY SMITH, who, with a very small Body of British Seamen and Natives, gained to themselves immortal Honour by protecting it against the reiterated attacks of the Flower of the French Armies, commanded by BUONAPARTE in Person :) and *Father DANIEL* says, "This *Wild-fire* was not only used in Sieges, but even in Battles, and that PHILIP AUGUSTUS, King of France, having found a quantity of it ready prepared in ACRE, brought it with him to France, and employed it at the Siege of Dieppe, for burning the English Vessels in that Harbour. At several other Sieges in France, it was also used; and an Engineer, named GAUBERT, a Native of Manté, acquired the Art of making it, which, luckily for Mankind, has been since lost." A Composition something of the same Nature was some years since invented by a *Chymist* in this Country, and who has an Annual Allowance so long as it shall remain a Secret; our Government being unwilling to increase the Destruction and Cruelty of War: a like Discovery was made formerly in France or Holland, and for the like Reason suppressed. It was supposed that this was what Earl STANHOPE referred to, when he said in the House of Lords, "That the French were not only in Possession of a Secret respecting this unquenchable Fire, but meant to practise it against our Navy to its certain Destruction." Notwithstanding they do not appear to be fond of coming close enough to our Fire of *common Gunpowder*, to enable them to apply any of this supposed more destructive Material.

Greek Fire was used long after the Introduction of FIRE ARMS, particularly in Sieges. When the Bishop of NORWICH besieged Ypres, A. D. 1383, the Garrison is said, by WALSINGHAM, to have defended themselves so well with Stones, Arrows, Lances, *Greek Fire*, and certain engines called *Guns*, that they obliged the English to raise the Siege with such Precipitation, that they left behind them their *great Guns*, which were of

inestimable Value. A great part of that Army was soon after besieged in the Town of *Burburgh* by the French, who threw such quantities of *Greek Fire* into it, that they burned a third part of the Town, and obliged the English to capitulate.

Although the Invention of GUNPOWDER with its application to Fire-Arms may be ranked among the most important Discoveries, yet the Date of that Invention, with the *Name* of the Person to whom Mankind are indebted for it, are both equally unknown. From the Number slain in Engagements previous to its Introduction, *what*, at first view of its fatal Effects, might be deemed an additional and severe Scourge, has rather proved beneficial to the Human Race, by reducing the Destruction of the Species in Battle within narrower Limits. Formerly, when Men engaged *Hand to Hand*, they were so intermingled, that the only Criterion of Victory was, the having no more of the Enemy to kill: the Duration of Sieges * has also been considerably shortened since the use of *Gunpowder* and *Artillery*, by which the Lives of many Millions have been saved, who would otherwise have perished by Hardships or Disease, commonly in Sieges more fatal than the Sword, and in providing Man with increased power over the *Animal World*, and thus multiplying the Catalogue of his Food; the Advantages derived from Gunpowder are *Eminent*.

The common Story respecting the Invention of *Gunpowder* and *Artillery* is thus related: About the year 1320, one BARTHOLDUS SCHWARTZ, a German Monk, and Student in *Alchemy* (a pursuit then much in

* A numerous Train of *Artillery*, with a few barrels of this wonderful Powder deposited in a *Mine*, soon batter and throw down the strongest Walls; and indeed the greatest Effects towards a Victory and Capitulation are brought about as much by the Terror occasioned by the Noise of the Cannon, as the real Mischief or Slaughter, few Men having sufficient Firmness to stand their dreadful Thunder; and it is undoubtedly a Fact that many a *Battle* or *Town* is won, more by the flight of those who are terrified at the Sound of the *Artillery*, than from the actual loss of those killed or wounded by them.—At Gibraltar, on the memorable 13th of September, 1782, the Casualties amounted only to 16 Officers and Men killed, and 68 wounded; a loss so trifling, as to be scarcely credible, that such a quantity of Fire, in almost all its destructive Modes of Action, should not have produced greater Effect with respect to the loss of Men.

Fashion,) having in the Course of his Experiments mixed *Saltpetre*, *Sulphur*, and *Charcoal* in a Mortar, and partly covered it with a Stone, it somehow took fire, and blew the Stone to a considerable Distance; thus, by one Accident, furnishing the hints for making *Gunpowder*, its force, and a piece of Ordnance for using it; and it is worthy of Observation, that *Stones* are said to have been thrown from *Mortars* long before *point blank* Shooting was attempted: possibly this Story may be true; but it does not at all follow from thence, that *Gunpowder* was not *before known*, the same Discovery having been frequently made by different Persons engaged in the same Study.

Many Modern Writers carry the Invention of *Gunpowder*, and even its Application to *Artillery*, back to very remote Antiquity. The ingenious Translator of the *Gentoo Laws* finds *Fire-Arms*, *Gunpowder*, and *Cannon*, mentioned in that Code, supposed at least coeval with *MOSES*. "It will no doubt (says he) strike the Reader with Wonder, to be informed of a Prohibition of *Fire-arms*, discovered in Records of such unfathomable Antiquity; and he will probably from hence renew the Suspicion which has long been deemed absurd, that *ALEXANDER the GREAT* did absolutely meet with some Weapons of that kind in *India*, as a passage in *QUINTUS CURTIUS* seems to ascertain: *Gunpowder* has been known in *China* as well as *Hindustan* far beyond all periods of Investigation." There is also, says *MR. GROSE*, the following ancient Testimony to this Point in *GREY'S Gunnery*, printed, A. D. 1731. In the Life of *APPOLONIUS TYANÆUS*, written by *PHILOSTRATUS*, about Fifteen hundred Years ago, there is the following Passage concerning a People of India, called *Oxydracæ*:—"These truly wise Men dwelt between the Rivers *Hyphasis* and *Ganges*; their Country *ALEXANDER the Great* never entered, deterred not by fear of the Inhabitants, but, as I suppose, by Religious considerations, for had he passed the *Hyphasis* he might doubtless have made himself Master of the Country all round them; but their Cities he could never have taken, though he had led a Thousand as brave as *ACHILLES*, or three Thousand such as *AJAX*, to the Assault, for they come not out into the Field to fight those who attack them, but these holy Men, beloved by the Gods, over-

throw their Enemies with Tempests, and Thunderbolts shot from their Walls. It is said, that the Egyptian HERCULES and BACCHUS, when they over-ran *India*, invaded this People also; and having prepared Warlike Engines, attempted to conquer them; they made no shew of Resistance, but upon the Enemies near approach to their Cities, they were repulsed with Storms of Lightning and Thunderbolts, hurled upon them from above."

ROBERT NORTON, in a Folio Book entitled the *Gunner*, London, 1664, states, that UFFANO reporteth "that the Invention and Use, as well of *Ordnance* as of *Gunnepowder*, was in the *Eighty-fifth* Yeare of our LORD made known and practised in the great and ingenious Kingdom of *China*; and that in the Maretyme Provinces thereof, there yet remain certaine peaces of Ordnance, both of Iron and Brasse, with the Memory of their Yeares of founding engraved upon them, and the Armes of King VITEY, who he saith was the Inventor."

Our Countryman, Friar BACON, whose Works were written at Oxford about the year 1270, *Fifty years* before the supposed Invention by SCHWARTZ, has expressly named the *Ingredients* of *Gunpowder* as a well-known Composition used for Recreation, and describes it as producing a *Noise* like Thunder, and *Flashes* like Lightning, but more terrible than those produced by Nature, and adds, this might be applied to the Destruction of an Enemy by Sea and Land: BACON acquired this Composition from a Treatise on *Artificial Fireworks* written by one MARCUS GRÆCUS; the Manuscript is still extant, and is quoted by the Reverend Mr. DUTENS in order to prove that *Gunpowder* was known to the Ancients; the Composition therein prescribed is, two pounds of *Charcoal*, one pound of *Sulphur*, and six pounds of *Saltpetre*, well pounded and mixed together in a Stone mortar; this is a better Mixture for Powder than many in late use.

Bishop WATSON in his Chemical Essays, remarks, that the History of the *Discovery* of Gunpowder is involved in much obscurity; the most

ancient Authors differing from each other in their Accounts of this matter; and many of them confounding two distinct Enquiries:—viz. the Discovery of the *Composition* of *Gunpowder*; and the Discovery of finding out the *means* of applying it to the *Purposes of War*.

Father KIRCHER affirms that without Controversy we ought to attribute the Invention of *Gunpowder* to BARTHOLD SCHWARTZ, or *Barthold the Black*, a Monk of Goslar in Germany, and a profound *Alchymist*. This Man having mixed together with a medical View *Nitre*, *Sulphur*, and *Charcoal*, a Spark accidentally fell upon the Mixture, blew up the Pot in which it was contained, and caused a dreadful Explosion. The Monk, astonished at the Event, made several repetitions of the Experiment, and thereby fully obtained the Nature of Gunpowder in the Year 1354. KIRCHER gives us also, out of a very old *German* Book which he professes to have read, a *Monkish* account of the *first use* which SCHWARTZ made of his Gunpowder; he employed it to frighten some Robbers from their Haunts in the Woods.

SEBASTIAN MUNSTER says, that he was well informed by a very eminent Physician that the DANES used Guns in *Naval Engagements*, A. D. 1354, and that a Chymist called SCHWARTZ was the *first* Inventor of them. PONTANUS, the *Danish* Historian, accedes to this Opinion.

POLYDORE VERGIL, who died in 1555, attributes the Discovery of Gunpowder to some very ignoble *German*, whose Name he wishes might never be handed down to Posterity. He further informs us that this *German* invented also an *Iron Tube*, and taught the *Venetians* the use of *Guns* A. D. 1380. This, continues Dr. WATSON, is the common Account of the Discovery of Gunpowder: its truth however is rendered doubtful by what follows:

The Battle of CRESSY was fought 1346, and an Historian who lived at that time is quoted by SPONDANUS as affirming, that the *English* greatly

increased the Confusion the French had been thrown into, by discharging upon them from their *Canon, hot iron Bullets*. Three years before the Battle of *Cressy*, the *Moors* were besieged by the *Spaniards* in the City of *Algeziras*; and we learn from MARIANA the Spanish Historian, "that the besieged did great harm among the Christians with *Iron Bullets* they shot." The same Author adds, "This is the *first time* we find any mention of *Gunpowder* and *Ball* in our Histories." The Earls of DERBY and SALISBURY are mentioned by MARIANA as having assisted at the Siege of *Algeziras*, and as they returned to England in the latter end of the year 1343, it is not an improbable Conjecture, that, having been Witnesses of the Havoc occasioned by the *Moorish* Fire-arms, they brought the Secret from Spain into England, and introduced the Use of Artillery into the English Army at the Battle of *Cressy*.

It was to cover the disgrace of the French Arms that EDWARD was alleged to have used Gunpowder, and to which was owing his Success. This Advantage the French might have resorted to, and fought the English by the same Means; for Father DANIEL cites a Record preserved in the Chamber of Accounts at *Paris*, to prove that the *French had, and used, Cannon* in the year 1338. The Charge in the Treasurer of War's Account in the above Year was as follows: "To HENRY DE FAUMACHON for *Powder* and other things necessary for the *Cannons* which were before *Puy Guillaume*."—N. B. *Puy Guillaume* was a Castle in *Auvergne*. It is to be remarked that neither FROISSART nor any one of the many Historians who have described the Battle of *Cressy* has noticed the Employment of the Artillery there, except VILANI, an Italian Author.

The Use of *Guns* in Spain, Anno 1343, is proof sufficient either that SCHWARTZ was not the Inventor of *Gunpowder*, or that KIRCHER and others are mistaken in fixing his Discovery so late as the year 1354. There is reason, notwithstanding, to believe that both *Gunpowder* and *Guns* were known in *Germany* at least Forty years before the period assigned by the *Spanish* Historian for their *first Introduction* into Spain.

In the Armory at *Amberg* in the Palatinate of *BAVARIA*, there is a Piece of Ordnance, on which is inscribed the year 1303. This is the earliest Account I have yet met with of the certain Use of *Gunpowder* in War; and it seems probable enough, as the POPE and the Duke of *BAVARIA* are thought to have been the first Princes who made *Saltpetre* in *EUROPE*. It ought not, however, says Dr. WATSON, to be concealed from the Reader, that CAMERARIUS quotes a *Danish* Historian as relating, that CHRISTOPHER, KING of the *Danes*, was killed in Battle by the Stroke of a *Gun*, A. D. 1280. Upon examining the Passage quoted, it is only said that CHRISTOPHER the SON of KING WALDEMAR was killed in the beginning of an Engagement by a *Gun*, a Warlike Instrument then lately discovered. Now it appears, that WALDEMAR, *Christopher's* Father, did not succeed to the Crown of Denmark until 1332, and that his Son was killed in a *Naval* Engagement several Years afterwards, probably about the time stated by MUNSTER for the earliest use of *Gunpowder* in *DENMARK*.

There are Passages in the History of the *English* Wars, which assert the Employment of *Artillery* antecedent to the above Periods. For instance, if we are to credit JOHN BARBOUR, Archdeacon of *Aberdeen*, EDWARD III. had *Artillery* in his Campaign against the *Scots*, A. D. 1327, and which were described as

———"Craky's of War,
"That they before heard never."

In 1339, at the Siege of *Stirling*, the *Scots* used *Battering Cannon*, which had certainly been sent by their *French* Allies. At the Siege of *Calais* in 1347, "*Gunners* and *Artillers*" appear in a MS. List of the *English* Troops in the HARLEIAN Collection. The Earl of PEMBROKE, who commanded a British Fleet A. D. 1372, was taken prisoner by a *Spanish* Squadron superior in Numbers, and which were (perhaps for the first time) provided with *Cannon*. Indeed we are shewn that more than half a Century afterwards the *English* Ships of War had very few Guns, seldom more than two, and those not mounted so as to be altered occasion-

ally in their Direction, a Circumstance, the Motion of the *Sea* considered, which must have rendered them of little Service.

In 1378 is the first Authentic mention of the lately-invented Instruments of Death to be found; for then, RICHARD II. sent to *Brest* great Quantities of “*Saltpetre, Sulphur, and Charcoal*, together with two greater and two lesser Engines called *Cannons*, and 6,000 stone Bullets.” JOHN OF GAUNT, who had the command of the Army, attempted to take *St. Maloes*, but was baffled by the Conduct of the Great DU GUESCLIN, although, it is said, he had a Train of 400 *Battering Cannon* playing upon the Town.

The Flemings in 1382 had a most dreadful Piece of Ordnance:—“It was (says FROISSART) *fifty* feet long, and threw wonderfully large Stones. Its Report was heard *five leagues* by Day and *ten* by Night; and its Noise was so immense, that one would have thought that all the Devils in Hell had a Share in it.”

In 1418 *Iron Balls* were not used for Cannon in *England*, since in RYMER there is an Order from KING HENRY V. to the Clerk of the Ordnance, and JOHN BONET, a Mason of *Maidstone* in Kent, to cut 7,000 *Stone Shot* in the Stone-quarries there; but there is reason to believe that the *French* had at that time *Iron Balls* in common use, since at the Attack of *Cherbourg*, towards the close of the year 1418, the Duke of GLOUCESTER, who commanded the Besiegers, was much annoyed by *Red-hot Balls* fired from the Town: a very singular Occurrence, the State of Artillery at that period being considered.

In 1428 the valiant and dreaded Earl of SALISBURY fell by a *Cannon* Shot at the Siege of *Orleans*, and was, according to CAMDEN, the first *English Gentleman* “ever slain thereby.” SALISBURY was reconnoitring the Town from a high Tower on the Bridge, when the Son of the Master Gunner of *Orleans* pointed a *Cannon* at the Window and slew him;

the Ball carried away one of his Eyes and his Cheek, and mortally wounded Sir THOMAS GARGRAVE.

At the Siege of *Belgrade* by the Turks A. D. 1437, they were repulsed by the help of *Gunpowder*, then used for the *first time* in that part of *Europe*. But the extreme Awkwardness in the early Construction of *Cannon*, and the great Cost of *Gunpowder*, may fairly account for the Preference still given to the *Old Engines* for discharging *Stones*. Two Pieces of Artillery used at *Dieppe* in 1442, as represented by PERE MONTFAUCON, seem ill calculated for Service; nor does there appear throughout the *Century* any contrivance to *elevate* or *depress* the Pieces; a Deficiency which must have rendered them comparatively useless*. It certainly was not for want of *Bulk* that the Artillery of the Age failed in becoming respectable. We are told by MONSTRETEL of a Piece of Ordnance which sent a Ball weighing 500lbs from the *Bastile* at *Paris* to *Charenton* in 1478. The *Cannon* too used by MAHOMET II. at the Siege of *Constantinople* were immense both in *Bulk* and in *Power*. On the other hand, there was the *Culverin* (a kind of light Artillery, sometimes carried by *one*, and sometimes by *two* Men,) and which was used by the *Switzers* at the Battle of *Morat*, where 10,000 of them were so armed. *This Weapon* (an entirely different Instrument from the long *Cannons* formerly named *Coulouverines* or *Culverins*) seems to have been the Parent of the *Musquet*, and was placed on

* EDWARD IV. had *Field Pieces* when he defeated Sir ROBERT WELLS at Stamford 1469, and which was the first time they were employed by an English Army. "The KING (says LELAND) sparkled the Enemie with his Ordnance, slew many of the Commons, and thereby gained the Victory."—At the Battle of *Flodden*, 1513, the Scots were much superior in Ordnance: BORTHWIC, an Engineer of Eminence, had the Direction of it. LEWIS of France had sent him to JAMES with a large Present of *Brass Cannon*, on each side of which was inscribed "*Machina sum Scoto BORTHWIC fabricata Roberto.*" This valuable Train of Artillery fell into the Hands of the Earl of SURREY after the Battle of *Flodden*, together with seven "*faire Culverines*," called the *Seven Sisters*. To his successful General, HENRY restored his Father's Patrimony, the Dukedom of NORFOLK; and this Honorable Addition to his Arms; that he was permitted to bear on the bend of his *Arms*, the upper half of a Red Lion, painted as in the Arms of SCOTLAND, with the Mouth pierced through with an Arrow.

a *Rest* to be discharged. But to return to the more immediate History of *Gunpowder*, we find from CAMDEN, in his Life of QUEEN ELIZABETH, that she was the *first* that procured *Gunpowder* to be *made in England*, that she might not *pray* and *pay* for it also to her Neighbours. At first, *Gunpowder* was not *corned*, but remained in its *mealed* state; it was then called *Serpentine Powder*. In several Accounts of Military Stores during the Reigns of EDWARD VI. and ELIZABETH, there are large Quantities of *Serpentine Powder*.

The following *Porportions* of the *Ingredients* for making *Gunpowder* is given by PETER WHITEHORNE, in a Book imprinted at London by W. Williamson, Anno 1573.—

“ The first Invention and oldest manner in making *Serpentine Poudor* or *Poudor* for *Ordinaunce*.

1. Saltpeter 1 part, Brimstone 1 part, Coles 1 part.

The next Practis of making Poudor for Ordinaunce.

2. Saltpeter 3 parts, Brimstone 3 parts, Coles 3 parts.

Poudor for Ordinaunce of a newer making.

3. Saltpeter 10 partes, Brimstone 3 partes, Coles 3 partes.

Poudor for Ordinaunce not so olde.

4. Saltpeter 12 partes, Brimstone 3 partes, Coles 2 partes.

Poudor for Ordinaunce not verie olde.

5. Saltpeter 9 partes, Brimstone 2 partes, Coles 3 partes.

Poudor used of late daies for Handgunnes.

6. Saltpeter 4 partes, Brimstone 1 parte, Coles 1 parte.

Powder for Ordinaunce used not long agon.

7. Saltpeter 20 partes, Brimstone 3 partes, Coles 10 partes.

Powder for Ordinaunce used of latter daies.

8. Saltpeter 100 partes, Brimstone 10 partes, Coles 26 partes.

Grosse Powder of a newer sorte.

9. Saltpeter 100 partes, Brimstone 20 partes, Coles 37 partes.

Grosse Powder of a newer making.

10. Saltpeter 2 partes, Brimstone 1 parte, Coles 1 parte.

Harkabus Powder of a newer making.

11. Saltpeter 3 partes, Brimstone 1 parte, Coles of Willow Sticks 1 parte.

Fine Powder of newer making.

12. Saltpeter, often refined, 5 partes, Brimstone 1 parte, Coles of young Hazel Sticks 1 parte.

Grosse Powder of newer making.

13. Saltpeter refined 3 partes, Brimstone 1 parte, Willow Coles 2 partes.

Powder of newer making.

14. Saltpeter 10 partes, Brimstone 2 partes, Willow Coles 3 partes.

Harkabus Powder, used nowe a dayes.

15. Saltpeter very often refined 10 partes, Brimstone 1 parte, Coles made of Hazell Twigges, with the Barke pilled, 1 parte.

Handgun Powder of a newer making.

16. Saltpeter refined 27 partes, Brimstone 3 partes, Coles of Hazel having their Rinds pilled off 3 partes.

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Handgun Pouder of a stronger and of a newer making.

17. Saltpeter refined 7 partes, Brimstone 1 parte, Coles of young Hazell 1 parte.

Finer and stronger Handgun Pouder.

18. Saltpeter diverse times refined 7 partes, Brimstone 1 parte, Coles of young Hazell Twiggess, having their Rinds pulled off, 1 parte.

Grosse Pouder used nowe a dayes.

19. Saltpeter 4 partes, Brimstone 1 parte, Willow Coles 1 parte.

Grosse Pouder used nowe adayes.

20. Saltpeter 20 partes, Brimstone 4 partes, Willow Coles 5 partes.

Hande Gun Pouder used nowe adaies.

21. Saltpeter refined drie 48 partes, Brimstone cetrine 7 partes, Hasell Coles 2 partes.

Hande Gun Pouder used nowe adaies.

22. Saltpeter refined 18 partes, Brimstone 2 partes, Hasell Coles 3 partes."

NYE, in his Treatise on Fireworks, gives the Proportions as hereunder, with the Dates when they were used.

The making of Gunpowder after the most ancient Manner :—

Anno 1380. *Saltpeter, Brimstone, Charcoal*, equal parts.

Anno 1410. Saltpeter 3 parts, Brimstone 2 parts, Charcoal 2 parts.

Anno 1480. Saltpeter 8 parts, Brimstone 3 parts, Charcoal 3 parts.

Anno 1520. The making best Powder, Saltpetre 4 parts, Charcoal 1 part, Brimstone 1 part.

Anno 1647. The best sort now made, Saltpeter 6 parts, Brimstone 1 part, Charcoal 1 part.

The *Musket* Powder is now commonly made of Saltpeter 5 parts, Brimstone 1 part, Charcoal 1 part.

The Cannon Powder, Saltpeter 4 parts, 1 part Charcoal, 1 part Brimstone.

The Bishop of LLANDAFF, in his Essay on the Composition and Analysis of *Gunpowder*, states, “ that in the Proportion in which they are combined, the manner of mixing, the Goodness of the Ingredients, and the Drying of the Powder after being made, its Strength and Excellency consists. *Saltpetre*, in its crude state, whether it be brought from the *East Indies* or made in *Europe*, is generally, if not universally, mixed with a greater or less portion of *Common Salt*: now a small portion of *common Salt* injures the Goodness of a large quantity of *Gunpowder*; hence the very *finest Saltpetre* becomes necessary to be used in its formation. The *purest Sulphur* is that sold in the Shops under the Name of Flowers of Sulphur; but the *Roll Sulphur* being much cheaper than the former, and being also of a great degree of Purity, it is the only sort which is used in the Manufacturing of *Gunpowder*. With relation to the *Charcoal*, it has been for the most part believed that the *Coal* from *soft* and *light* Woods was better adapted than the *hard* and *heavy* ones to the making of *Gunpowder*: thus EVELYN says of the *Hazel*, that ‘ it made one of the best *Coals* used for *Gunpowder*, being very fine and light, till they found *Alder* to be more fit.’ An Eminent *French* Chemist (M. BAUME) has shewn from actual Experiment, that this Opinion in favour of *Coal* from *light* Woods is ill founded: he affirms, that Powder made from *Lime-tree* *Coal*, or even from the *Coal* of the *Pith* of *Alder-tree*, is in no respect preferable to that made from the *Coal* of the *hardest* Woods, such as *Guaiaicum* and *Oak*. This remark, if confirmed by future Experience, may be of service, as it is not always in the power of *Gunpowder* Makers to procure a sufficient quantity of the *Coal* of *soft* Wood.

“ The Mixture of the Materials of which Gunpowder is made should be as intimate and uniform as possible ; for in whatever manner the *Explosion* may be accounted for, it is certain that the *three Ingredients* are necessary to produce it. In order to procure this accurate Mixture, the Ingredients are previously reduced into *coarse* powders, and afterwards ground and pounded together, till the Powder becomes exceedingly fine ; and when that is done the *Gunpowder* is made. But as *Gunpowder*, in the state of an impalpable *Dust* would be inconvenient in its use, it has been customary to reduce it into *Grains*, by forcing it, when moistened with Water, through *Sieves* of various Sizes.

“ The Necessity of a complete Mixture of the Materials, in order to have good *Gunpowder*, is sensibly felt, when such as has been *dried*, after being accidentally wetted, is used. There may be the same Weight of the Powder after drying that there was before it was *wetted* ; but its *Strength* is greatly diminished, on account of the *Mixture* of the Ingredients being less perfect. This Diminution of Strength proceeds from the Water having dissolved a portion of the *Saltpetre*, (the other *two* Ingredients not being soluble in Water ;) for upon *drying* the Powder the *dissolved Saltpetre* will be crystallized in Particles much larger than those were which entered into the Composition of the *Gunpowder*, and thus the Mixture will be less intimate and uniform than it was before the *Wetting*. This Wetting of Gunpowder is often occasioned by the mere Moisture of the Atmosphere. Great complaints were made concerning the badness of the Gunpowder used by the English, in their Engagement with the French Fleet off Grenada, in July 1779 ; the *French* having done much damage to the Masts and Rigging of the English, when the English shot would not *reach* them. When this matter was inquired into by the House of Commons, it appeared that the Powder had been injured by the Dampness of the Atmosphere ; it had concreted into large Lumps, in the middle of which the Saltpetre was visible to the naked Eye. If the Wetting of *Gunpowder* has been considerable, it is rendered wholly unfit for use ; but if no foreign Substance has been mixed with it, except *fresh*

water, it may be made into *good* Gunpowder again, by being properly pounded and granulated. If the Wetting has been occasioned by *salt-water*, and that to any great degree, the *Sea Salt* upon drying the Powder will remain mixed with it, and may so far vitiate its quality that it can never be used again in the Form of Gunpowder. However, as by Solution in Water, and subsequent Crystallization, the most valuable part of the Gunpowder, namely, the *Saltpetre*, may be extracted, and in its original Purity, even from Powder that has been wetted by *Sea-water*, or otherwise spoiled, the saving damaged Powder is a matter of National Economy, and deservedly attended to in the *Elaboratory* at WOOLWICH.

“The Proportions,” continues Dr. WATSON, “in which the Ingredients of *Gunpowder* are combined together are not the same in different Nations, nor in different Works of the same Nation, even for Powder destined to the same Use. It is difficult to obtain from the Makers of Gunpowder any information upon this Subject: their backwardness arises not so much from any of them fancying themselves possessed of the best possible *Proportion*, as from an Affectation of *Mystery*, common to most Manufacturers, and an Apprehension of discovering to the World that they *do not use so much Saltpetre as they ought to do*, or as their Competitors in Trade *really do use*. *Saltpetre* is not only a much dearer Commodity than either *Sulphur* or *Charcoal*, but it enters also in a much greater Proportion into the Composition of *Gunpowder* than *both* those Materials taken together; hence there is a great *Temptation* to *lessen* the quantity of the *Saltpetre*, and to *augment* that of the other Ingredients; and the Fraud is not easily detected, since Gunpowder, which will explode *readily* and *loudly*, may be made with very different Quantities of *Saltpetre*.

“BAPTISTA PORTA died in the Year 1515: he gives three different Proportions for the making of *Gunpowder*, according as it was required to be

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of different Strength, the Quantities of the several Ingredients contained in One hundred pounds weight of each sort of Powder.

WEAK.	STRONG.	STRONGEST.
Saltpetre $66\frac{2}{3}lb.$. .	$75lb.$. .	$80lb.$
Sulphur $16\frac{2}{3}$. .	$12\frac{1}{2}$. .	10
Charcoal $16\frac{2}{3}$. .	$12\frac{1}{2}$. .	10
<hr/> 100	<hr/> 100	<hr/> 100

“ It is somewhat remarkable that in these three powders the *Sulphur* and *Charcoal* are used in equal Quantities. CARDAN died about Sixty Years after BAPTISTA PORTA, and during that Interval the Proportions of Ingredients of *Gunpowder* seem to have undergone a great Change. CARDAN's Proportions are expressed as follows :

GREAT GUNS.	MIDDLE SIZED.	SMALL.
Saltpetre $50lb.$. .	$66\frac{2}{3}lb.$. .	$83\frac{1}{3}lb.$
Sulphur $16\frac{2}{3}$. .	$13\frac{1}{2}$. .	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Charcoal $33\frac{1}{3}$. .	20 . .	$8\frac{1}{2}$
<hr/> 100	<hr/> 100	<hr/> 100

“ For great and middle sized Guns, we see a much greater proportion of *Charcoal* than of *Sulphur* was here used: at present it is in most places the Reverse; or at least the *Charcoal* no where exceeds the *Sulphur*. The Proportions *were* as under, for the best kind of *Gunpowder* in England, France, Sweden, Poland, and Italy.

ENGLAND.	FRANCE.	SWEDEN.	POLAND.	ITALY.
Saltpetre 75 .	75 .	75 .	80 .	$76\frac{1}{2}$
Sulphur 15 .	$9\frac{1}{2}$.	16 .	12 .	$12\frac{1}{2}$
Charcoal 10 .	$15\frac{1}{2}$.	9 .	8 .	$12\frac{1}{2}$
<hr/> * 100	<hr/> 100	<hr/> 100	<hr/> 100	<hr/> $101\frac{1}{2}$

* These were said to be the Proportions of Government Powder.

“Several Experiments have been made in France to ascertain the exact Proportions of the several Ingredients which would produce the strongest possible Powder, and the Result has been in favour of

Saltpetre	.	.	80 <i>lb</i> .
Charcoal	.	.	15
Sulphur	.	.	5

And from hence it appears that in a certain Weight of *Saltpetre* the Powder would produce the greatest Effect when the weight of the *Charcoal* was to that of the *Sulphur* as *three to one*. On the other hand, Experiments are produced from which it is to be concluded that in a certain Weight of *Saltpetre* the best Powder is made when the *Sulphur* is to the *Charcoal* in the Proportion of *two to one*. From these different Accounts it seems as if the Problem of determining the very best possible Proportion was not yet solved.

“In drying *Gunpowder*, after it is reduced into Grains, there are two things to be avoided, too much and too little Heat. If the Heat is too great, a part of the *Sulphur* will be driven off, and thus the Proportions of the Ingredients being changed, the Goodness of the Powder, so far as it depends upon that Proportion, will be injured. In order to see what quantity of *Sulphur* might be separated by a degree of Heat not sufficient to explode it, I took,” says Dr. WATSON, “*twenty-four grains* of the Powder marked FF in the Shops, and placing it on a piece of polished *Copper*, I heated the *Copper* by holding it over the flame of a Candle; the *Gunpowder* soon sent forth a strong Sulphureous Vapour, and when it had been dried so long that no more Fume or smell could be distinguished, the Residue weighed *Nineteen grains*, the loss amounted to *five Grains*. The Remainder did not explode by a Spark like *Gunpowder*, but like a mixture of *Saltpetre* and *Charcoal*, and it really was nothing else, all the *Sulphur* having been dissipated. *Gunpowder* was formerly dried by being exposed to the Heat of the *Sun*; and this method still obtains in France,

and in some other Countries: afterwards a way was invented of exposing it to a Heat equal to that of *boiling water*; at present it is most generally in England dried in Stoves heated by great Iron Pots; with any tolerable degree of Caution, no Danger of Explosion need be apprehended from this Method. All the *watery* part of the Gunpowder may be evaporated by a degree of Heat greatly less than that in which Gunpowder explodes, that degree of Heat having been ascertained by some late Experiments to be about the *Six hundredth* degree on FAHRENHEIT's Scale, in which the Heat of *boiling Water* is fixed at *two hundred and twelve*. There is more danger of evaporating a part of the *Sulphur* in this mode of drying Gunpowder than when it is dried by Exposure to the *Sun*.

“ The Necessity of freeing Gunpowder from all its Moisture is obvious from the following Experiment, which was made some Years ago before the Royal Society. A Quantity of Gunpowder was taken out of a Barrel and dried with a Heat equal to that in which Water boils, a Piece of Ordnance was charged with a certain weight of this dried powder, and the Distance to which it threw a Ball was marked. The same Piece was charged with an equal weight of the same kind of Powder, taken out of the same Barrel, but *not dried*, and it threw an equal Ball only to *one half* the distance. This Effect of Moisture is so sensible, that some Officers have affirmed that they have seen Barrels of Gunpowder which was good in the Morning, but which became (by attracting, probably, the Humidity of the Air) entirely spoiled in the Evening. To keep the Powder dry, by preventing the Access of the Air, it has been proposed to line the Barrels with *Tin foil*, or with thin sheets of *Lead*, as Tea-boxes are lined. Would it not be possible,” asks Dr. WATSON, “ to preserve Powder free from Moisture, and from the loss of a part of its *Sulphur* in hot Climates, by keeping it in glazed earthen Bottles, or in Bottles made of Copper or Tin, well corked? The Disposition to attract the Humidity of the Air varies in different Sorts of Powder; it is the least in that which is made from the purest *Saltpetre*. Pure *Saltpetre*, which

has been dried as Gunpowder is dried, does not become heavier by Exposure to the Atmosphere; at least, so far as my Experiments have informed me, not amounting to above one Seventy-second part of its Weight. I rather think," continues Dr. WATSON, "that it does not acquire any increase of Weight; however, in order to judge with more certainty concerning the Effect of *Sea salt* when mixed with *Saltpetre*, in attracting the Humidity of the Air, I made the following Experiment: Five parts of *pure Saltpetre* in powder were exposed for a *Month* to a moist Atmosphere, but I did not observe that the *Saltpetre* had gained the least Increase of Weight; for the same length of time, and in the same place, I exposed *four* parts of *Saltpetre* mixed with one of *common Salt*, and this mixture had attracted so much moisture that it was in a State of Fluidity."

Having quoted at much length from the Bishop of LLANDAFF's Essays respecting *Gunpowder*, we trust we shall be excused for extracting from the same Work what he has mentioned relating to the Weight and Materials of what are termed *Brass Cannon*, as cast at *Woolwich*; and also for stating the Account of an Improvement that was made in 1791, and which attained both the certainty of hitting the Object and a great *Saving* in the Expenditure of *Gunpowder*, but which from some curious Circumstances was never adopted.

" Artillery was used from the time of EDWARD III. and purchased from Abroad by all our successive KINGS; it seems, however, extremely strange, that none of our Workmen attempted to cast Cannon till the Reign of HENRY VIII. when in 1521, according to STOWE, (CAMDEN says 1535,) Great *Brass Ordnance*, as *Cannons* and *Culverines*, were first cast in *England* by one JOHN OWEN, they formerly having been made in other Countries. Whether this man did not succeed, or died before 1543, is not mentioned; but in that Year STOWE remarks, the KING employed two *Aliens* as his *Gunfounders*, viz. PETER BAWD, a Frenchman, and a

Maker of Great Ordnance; and PETER VAN COLLEN, a Gunsmith. It has been remarked of QUEEN ELIZABETH, that she left more *Brass Ordnance* at her *Death* than she found of *Iron* on her Accession to the Throne. This must not be understood as if *Gun-Metal* was in her time chiefly made of *Brass*; for the Term *Brass* was sometimes used to denote *Copper*, and sometimes a Composition of *Iron*, *Copper*, and *Calamine*, was called *Brass*; and we at this day commonly speak of *Brass Cannon*, though *Brass* does not enter into the Composition used for the Casting of Cannon. ALDROVANDUS informs us, that one hundred pounds weight of *Copper*, with Twelve of *Tin*, made *Gun-Metal*; that if, instead of *twelve*, *twenty* pounds weight of *Tin* were used, it made *Bell-Metal*. The Workmen were accustomed to call this Composition Metal or *Bronze*, according as a greater or a less proportion of *Tin* had been employed: some Individuals, he says, for the sake of Cheapness, used *Brass* or *Lead* in the room of *Tin*, and thus formed a kind of *Bronze* for various Works. The Metal of which the Ancients cast their *Statues*, was by PLINY said to be composed in the following Manner. They first melted a quantity of *Copper*; into this melted Copper they put a third of its weight of *Old Copper*, which had been long in use; and to every hundred pounds weight they added twelve pounds and a half of a mixture of equal parts of *Lead* and *Tin*.

“*Woolwich*, I believe, (continues Dr. WATSON,) is the only place in *England* where there is a Foundry for the casting of *Brass Cannon*. The Metallic Composition there used consists of *Copper* and *Tin*. The proportion in which these two Metals are combined is not always the same, because the Copper is not always of equal Purity, and the *finest* Copper requires the *most* Tin; they seldom use more than *twelve* or less than *eight* parts of *Tin* to every hundred weight of *Copper*. This Mixture is sold before Casting for *Seventy-five Pounds* a Ton, and Government pays for Casting it *Sixty pounds* a Ton. The Guns of the *East-India Company* are less ornamented than those of Government; on that and other accounts

they are Cast for *Forty pounds* a Ton. The Weights of the Brass Ordnance as cast at Woolwich, and now in use, are as follows:

	C.	q.	lb.
42 Pounders	61	2	10
24	51	0	0
12	29	0	0
6	19	0	0

These were on Board the ROYAL GEORGE, but had been removed, I believe, before she was lost.

BATTERING CANNON.	C.	q.	lb.
42 Pounders	61	2	10
32	55	2	10
24	51	0	0
18	48	0	0
12	29	0	0
6	19	0	0

FIELD PIECES.	C.	q.	lb.
24 Pounders	16	3	13
12	8	3	8
6	4	3	10
3	2	3	10

HOWITZERS.	C.	q.	lb.
10 Inches	31	2	16
8	12	1	16
5½	4	0	18

MORTARS, (<i>Land Service</i>).	C.	q.	lb.
13 Inches	25	0	0
10	10	2	8
8	4	0	10
5	1	1	0
4¾	0	3	0

MORTARS, (<i>Sea Service</i>).	C.	q.	lb.
13 Inches	81	1	8
10	32	3	7

“ In casting these pieces of Cannon, they generally make the thickness of the *Sides* near the *Muzzle* half the Diameter of the *Shot*, and at the *Touch-hole* or charging Cylinder *three fourths* of the Diameter. *Brass Cannon* are much dearer than those made of Iron, and have this disadvantage, that at the time of Explosion the report is so much louder as to occasion a tingling in the Ears of Persons on Shipboard, which for a time takes away the Faculty of *Hearing*. *Cannon* might be cast of Copper alone, but the mixture of Tin and Copper is harder and denser, and less liable to *rust* than pure Copper is, and upon these accounts it is preferable to Copper. *Tin* melts with a small degree of heat; *Copper* requires a

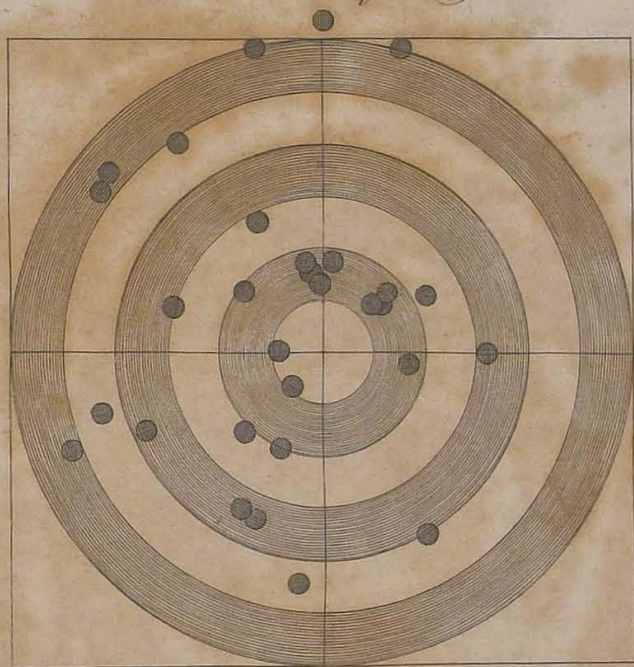
very great heat to melt it: Copper and Tin mixed melts much easier than *pure* Copper; and upon this account also a *Mixture* of Copper and Tin is preferred to *pure* Copper, not only for the Casting of *Cannon* but of Statues, &c.; for *pure* Copper, in running through the various parts of the Moulds, would lose so much of its *Heat* as to *Set* before it ought to do."

The Improvement before alluded to, consisted in the *Rifling* of Cannon, and the use of a *Cup* made of *Alder*, or any *soft* Wood so turned as partially to receive the Ball. This kept it steady on its passage through the Calibre of the Piece; acting also as a *circular Wedge*, which stopped the Windage, and into the soft wood of the *Cup* the Threads of the Rifles were indented, and the Iron Ball was thus prevented from injuring the Sides of a brass Gun by grazing them, and the thick bottom of the Cup also served as *Wadding* to the Cartridge.

In speaking of *Rifled* Barrels, Mr. ROBINS has the following remarks: "It is sufficiently obvious that whatever tends to diminish the Friction of *Rifles* renders them more complete, and consequently the less the *Rifles* are *indented*, provided they are sufficiently so, to keep the bullet from turning round in the Barrel, the better they are: the Bullet ought likewise to be no larger than to be just pressed by the *Rifles*, for the easier the Bullet moves in the Barrel, supposing it not to shift its position, the more violent and accurate will be its Flight; and to render this last article still more perfect, it is necessary that the *Sweep* of the *Rifles* should in every part be exactly parallel to each other; for then, after the Bullet is once put in Motion, it will slide out of the Barrel without any shake, and with a much smaller *Friction* than if the *Threads* of the *Rifles* have not all of them the same degree of Incurvation. *Foreigners** are so exact in this, that they try

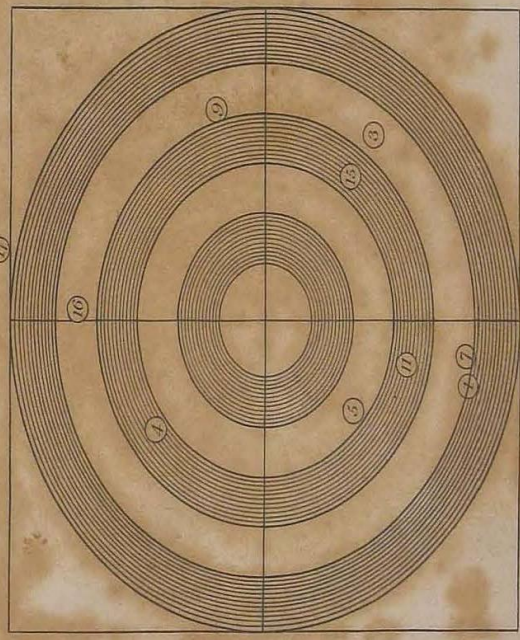
* KOTZEBUE, in his Travels through ITALY, witnessed at *Innsbruck* the Dexterity of the *Tyrolese* Sharp-Shooters. He says, that of *ten* or *twelve* shots, *eight* at least entered the *Bull's-Eye*, not a single one missed the Target; and the Man whose business it was to mark the place where the Ball had struck was so certain of no One's shooting wide of the Mark, that he has often continued standing near it during the Firings.

30 Rounds from two Medium 6 Pounders
loaded with M^r Joseph Mantons Patent Caps.
with 1^{lb} Powder distance of Target 330 Yards
in the presence of his Grace the Duke of Richmond.
Woolwich May 28. 1791.



Target 9 feet Square.

18 Rounds from a Medium 6 Pounded
 loaded in the usual way. & 1/2 lb Powder
 distance of Target 330 Yards Feb'y 2 & 3. 1791.
 This Gun was laid in the most accurate
 manner, with various Experiments by
 the Field Officers at Woolwich.



AB - N^o 13 grazed short 2 1/2 Feet
 D^o 18 D^o 3 1/2 Feet square.
 Target 9 Feet square.

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their Pieces by pouring melted lead into the Barrel, and letting it cool, they thus procure a leaden Cylinder of perhaps two or three Diameters in length, exactly fitted; if this, being gently pushed by the Rammer, will pass from one end of the Barrel to the other, without any sensible strain, they pronounce the *Rifles* regularly finished; but if it any where sticks or moves hard, the Piece is esteemed defective. From the Nature of *Rifles* it is plain, (continues Mr. R.) that they can *only* be made use of with *Leaden Bullets*, and consequently cannot be adapted to the adjusting of the Motion of either *Shells* or *Cannon Bullets*." Such was his Opinion, although he allows from the same Principle whence *Rifles* derive their Perfection other Artifices may be deduced for regulating the Flight of those more ponderous Bodies. On some of these Methods he speaks with confidence, as having proceeded very far in their Completion; and predicts that "whatever State shall thoroughly comprehend the Nature and Advantages of *Rifled Barrel Pieces*, and shall introduce into their Armies their general Use, will by this means acquire a Superiority equal to any thing that has been performed by the Excellence of any kind of Arms, and little short of the Effects which we read to have been formerly produced by the first Inventors of Fire-arms."

Such were the Sentiments of Mr. ROBINS respecting the Success which must attend those Armies that carried *Artillery* into Action upon the improved Plan of throwing their Shot *accurately*, either by *Rifling*, or by some other Process which acted upon similar Principles.

It may here be naturally asked, *Why* the above Improvement was not called into Practice? and nothing can more properly explain the Reason than mentioning the Circumstances that arose from this ingenious Discovery.

Mr. JOSEPH MANTON, of Davis-street, was the Inventor of the above Alterations by the *Rifling*, and confining the Shot fired from *Cannon* by the afore-mentioned *Wooden Cup*, whereby the striking the Object was

rendered almost certain. By soaking these *Cups* in water, *Red-hot Shot* might also be employed; neither did the *Rifling* enlarge the *Bore*, so that the *present Shot* might be used the same as *before* the *Guns* were *rifled*. In the Year 1790 Mr. M. applied for a *PATENT* for the *Rifling and improved Loading of Cannon*, and his Majesty had signed the necessary *Warrant* for its passing, when the Duke of *RICHMOND*, then Master General of the Ordnance, wrote to, and desired to see him. His Grace, when waited upon, was anxious to know the Nature of his Inventions; and upon the Duke's giving his Honour that he would take no Advantage of the Communication, Mr. M. explained the Principle of the Cup, and the manner of its Action, and which his Grace thought would be of infinite Importance to Government, and wished to see some Trial of it at Woolwich, where a number of Experiments were accordingly tried before his Grace, who was so highly pleased with the Accuracy of the Firing, (*vide the Plate*,) that he requested to be informed what M. would take for his Improvements. M. replied, that he could not give an immediate answer; and he afterwards desired his Attorney to get the *PATENT* passed. This was stopped in the late Lord *MELVILLE*'s Office, (at that time Secretary of State,) by the Duke of *RICHMOND* stating that Government meant to purchase the Invention: and M. finding it impossible to get his *PATENT*, although before it was in a State of Forwardness, and there was no Demur to it, saw the Duke of *RICHMOND*, who offered him *Five Hundred Pounds* for his Improvements. M. said he would sooner make his Grace or Government a Present of them, than take a Sum that would not reimburse his Expences: to this the Duke remarked, "if he did not choose to take *that Sum*, he might get the *PATENT* as he could." After much loss of Time in attending Mr. *DUNDAS*'s Office, and finding that neither his Patent nor any Reward was likely to be obtained, Mr. M. went to Goodwood and agreed to take the *Five Hundred Pounds*, provided he should also have the Contract for supplying Government with the *Cups*, and have the *Rifling* of their *Cannon*, which his Grace assented to; but M. soon received a Letter with the Inclosures, viz. Extract from Major *BLOMEFIELD*'s answer to a Letter wrote by the Duke of *RICHMOND* to him on

the 5th September 1791, and a short Note from his Grace to M. These Letters were to the following purport.

“ *SIR,*

GOODWOOD, 5th Sept. 1791.

“ MR. MANTON has lately been at Goodwood, and has agreed to accept of Five Hundred Pounds for his Invention of the Cup, and the manner of rifling his Guns; and as he was desirous of a final Answer, I judged that the Experiments already made had sufficiently ascertained the utility of these Inventions to allow him that Sum on account of the Ordnance, and to let him do as he pleases about taking out a Patent to secure his Invention from other People. He is also to have the Contract for making the Cups and rifling the Guns, but it is to be at such price as can be afforded to be done by other Persons.

“ I shall be much obliged to you to consider what Guns, or other Pieces of Ordnance, this invention of rifling can be with advantage applied to, and at what price the several sorts ought to be done by a Person who should contract for it.

“ I will also beg of you to send me such particular descriptions of the Rifle and of the Cups to be entered in the Agreement, as may fully secure to Government for this Reward the utility of every part of Mr. Manton's Invention. With respect to what further Experiments you may judge necessary for ascertaining the utility of this Invention, and any improvements that may be made thereon, Mr. Manton may be required to attend them, and give all the Information in his power relative thereto, in consideration of the above reward; but I judge, that being possessed of the Invention, we can ourselves try what Improvements may be made in it.

“ I have the honour, &c.

(Signed)

RICHMOND.”

To Major Blomefield.

From his Grace the Duke of Richmond, to Mr. Joseph Manton.

“ SIR,

GOODWOOD, 15th Sept. 1791.

“ INCLOSED I send you an Extract of a Letter I have received from Major Blomefield of the Royal Artillery, by which you will see that the first step to be taken is for you to allow Major Blomefield the free use of the Gun you have rifled, and to shew him your Apparatus for rifling Guns, and acquaint him of your manner of using it.

“ I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

RICHMOND, &c.”

The *Extract* was as follows :

“ I HAVE the honour of your Grace's Letter of the 5th instant concerning Mr. Manton's inventions, and shall, upon his making known to me the nature of his Apparatus for rifling, and the manner of using it, order some of our most skilful Workmen to estimate the expence attending that Operation, which I shall report to your Grace, describing at same time the Machinery, in order to secure to Government the exclusive advantages arising from it, should its principle appear to be new.

“ With regard to Mr. Manton's Cups, as they have been constructed at the Royal Laboratory, and will probably be supplied by that Department, your Grace will receive the most satisfactory Information respecting their Construction, and of the Price at which they can be made, from the Officer under whose direction the work is carried on.

"As your Grace has been pleased to order Mr. Manton so liberal a Reward, I presume he can no longer have any Objection to our being allowed the free use of the Gun which he has rifled, nor to our being supplied with the Cups which your Grace ordered upon the Field Officer's recommendation, which will enable us to form a more decided Opinion upon this Subject, and also lead to a Determination what pieces it may be adviseable to rifle for further Experiments."

Mr. MANTON finding that the Duke of RICHMOND wished to get every thing into the Hands of the Ordnance previous to paying or giving Security for the Payment of the 500*l.*, or signing the Contract for his supplying the Cups and rifling the Cannon, wrote for Answer:—

"LONDON, *Sept.* 23, 1791.

"MY LORD DUKE,

"I HOPE your Grace will forgive my taking so much Time to reply to your Grace's Letter of the 15th Instant, which I have very maturely considered, and am under no Doubt that my Inventions for rifling and loading Cannon must be of the utmost Importance to Government; and humbly think that I ought to be benefited in some Degree of Proportion to the Advantages that Government will derive from them. If a Patent is not taken out, the Secret may be reserved to Government, and I am ready to make a complete Discovery, and assign my Right in the Inventions for a valuable Consideration. Whether that Consideration should be a specific Sum, or an annual Allowance for directing the Operations of rifling, and a Contract for supplying the Cups at the Prices given in, I must submit to your Grace's Consideration.

"But, until something is settled respecting my Reward for Inventions that must prove of such great Worth and Utility in the Ordnance Depart-

ment, I hope your Grace will not be displeased, if I decline giving any further Information relative to my Cups: for upon the critical Formation of them depends the true Direction of the Shot. And I am much hurt to find that some Cups have already been made in the Laboratory at Woolwich in Imitation of mine, which for want of that critical Formation are liable to disgrace my Invention. The Principles of the Machine for rifling Cannons, and the Mode of using it, I must also beg Leave to retain in my own Breast for the present. Nor can I, with any Propriety, or Justice to myself, consent that the Gun I have rifled should be used, or the Cups made at the Laboratory at Woolwich. And I rely upon your Grace's Honour that no undue Advantages are taken of the open Manner in which I have acted in this Business.

" I have the Honour to be,

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's most obedient,

and very humble Servant,

JOSEPH MANTON."

Here the matter closed with the Duke of RICHMOND. It is to be regretted that so valuable a Discovery should have remained lost to this Country, involved as it has been in War almost ever since the above Period. The Annoyance which Artillery worked in this manner must be to an Enemy, requires but an Examination of the *Targets*, to satisfy the most obstinate and incredulous of its decided Superiority and Usefulness; and the *Saving* in the Powder is of singular moment, especially when it is proved, that the Balls from the *rifled* Gun, or even with a *plain* Gun

loaded with the *Cups*, penetrated farther into the *Butt* than a Gun loaded in the common way with *One third more Powder*. The Expence of the *Shot* is likewise to be taken into the Account: every Ball that misses its object is absolute *Waste*, and the *Target* again forcibly recommends the Practice of the *Cup* and the *Rifle*.

No Account of the Consumption of *Gunpowder* or *Shot* has perhaps been during any *Siege* so accurately taken as by Colonel DRINKWATER, in the famous Attack and Defence of GIBRALTAR.

The Number of *Rounds* fired by the GARRISON, from 12th of September, 1779, to 3d of February, 1783:

	200,600 <i>Rounds</i> of Shot, Shells, Grape, Carcasses, and light Balls.
British Gun-Boats	. 4,728
Total,	205,328 <i>Rounds</i> .

Fired by the ENEMY, from 12th of April, 1781, to 2d of February, 1783:

	244,104 <i>Rounds</i> , all of a heavy nature.
Spanish Gun-Boats	. 14,283 Shot and Shells.
Total,	258,387 <i>Rounds</i> .

The memorable Day of the grand Assault, the SPANIARDS had 300 Pieces of heavy Ordnance in play: the GARRISON fired from Eighty Cannon, Seven Mortars, and Nine Howitzers in Opposition. Upwards of 8,300 *Rounds* (more than half of which were *hot shot*,) and 716 Barrels of Powder were expended by our Artillery.

The GARRISON during the Siege consumed very near *Eight Thousand* Barrels of Powder; and the number of Ordnance damaged and destroyed, amounted to *Fifty-three*. Supposing *One Third* of the Powder used in the illustrious Defence of this Fortress could have been saved, the Barrels of Powder would have amounted to 2666 $\frac{1}{3}$, and the Value, at *Five pounds per Barrel*, £.13,342 10 0.

The number of Barrels of Powder expended by the ENEMY could never be ascertained, nor what Ordnance were destroyed.

How much the Reduction of *One Third* of the Powder used in the very large Trains of Field Artillery, &c. that were employed upon the CONTINENT during the last War, which commenced in 1793, would amount to in *Specie* cannot probably be acquired: the *Sum* must be enormous. There is now, however, some Chance of this *saving*, yet *efficacious* Mode, of using Artillery being adopted, as the Earl of CHATHAM, the present Master-General of the Ordnance, has supplied Mr. M. with two *Six Pounders*; one is *rifled*, and he has constructed a *Carriage*, on which, when the Gun is once fixed and brought to bear upon an Object, the Gun will not require to have its position altered for a great number of *Rounds*; a Circumstance that must be highly beneficial in firing upon an Enemy's Lines, or to annoy Workmen during the *Night*, that may be forming new Batteries or other Works.

To return to the Description of Gunpowder, as it more immediately interests the Sportsman, and to whose Success in the Field it is so essential, that its Goodness should be the chief Concern in his shooting Equipment.

The way to chuse *Powder* is, to lay the various Sorts upon *white* paper, rub them with the finger upon it, and that which leaves a *reddish, fox-coloured brown tint* on the Paper is the *strongest*.

Powder which leaves a *red* residuum in the *Pan* is also good.

The following method of increasing the Force* of Gunpowder *one-*

* Divers conceits have prevailed at different periods respecting the strengthening of *Gunpowder* by the addition of various Substances, such as to every pound of *Brimstone*, an Ounce of *Mercury*, or to every pound of *Saltpetre*, a quarter of an Ounce of *Sal ammoniac*; to sprinkle the Powder with *Brandy* or *Spirits of Wine*. WARD has the following Receipt to make a Gun shoot half as far again as its usual distance, with the same quantity of Powder; this is effected,

third in proportion to its original Goodness was discovered by a Physician of *Fogano*, in *Tuscany*, whose name was FRANCESCO.

To every *pound* of Powder add *four ounces* of *quick Lime*, fresh, and well pulverised; let the whole be shaken until the Mixture is perfect, and afterwards kept for use in a close stopped Vessel. To the *Chymist* is left to decide upon what principle the *Lime* acts in strengthening the *Powder*: the Experiment is said to be certain. It is necessary to add, that the *Powder* used in *priming* must be *unmixed* with *Lime*. Without artificially augmenting the *Strength* of Gunpowder, that made by Messrs. PIGOU and ANDREWS will be found *excellent*; and it is to be feared, if a Gentleman cannot kill with the above, no *Chymical* Preparation will much assist his Endeavours.

To obviate the danger of the *Powder* being inflamed and communicated to that in the *Flask* whilst *loading*, have a *brass top* made to go over that which *screws* on to the *Flask*, and which the opening of the Spring supplies from it; by putting the *charge* of Powder into the *detached* brass covering, and *from that* pouring it into the barrel; should there be any *Tow*, after cleaning and flashing off some Powder, or after discharging, any *Wadding* remaining *on fire* within, (which last may happen when *Paper*, but never can when *Hat* or *Leather* wadding is used), the whole of the *Powder* that can explode will be the *single charge* in the brass Covering. A small stroke of the *But* of the Gun after the Powder is put into the Barrel, (which should be held as *perpendicular* as possible), will shake down many grains that might otherwise adhere to the Sides, and be

he says, "by taking of *White case-pepper* of the soundest cornes, and steep them twenty-four hours in strong *aqua vitæ*, and after being taken out and dried in the Sunne, so that they may not damp the Powder; then charging the Piece with the usual charge of Powder, you must take so many of these *Pepper-cornes* as will cover the circumference of the Bore, and being put down close with the stick to the Powder; then putting next to the Pepper the Bullet, this being tryed at any marke, it shall be sensibly found to convey the Bullet with a *Violence* farre beyond the accustomed shooting, and being charged without this Ingredient, the Bullet shall not come little more than half the Way."

bruised by pressing down the Wadding. It is scarcely necessary to mention, that *Powder* should be kept *very dry*. That which is good does not readily imbibe Moisture, and Powder quickly getting damp from an Exposure to the Air is perhaps the best evidence of its being composed of bad Materials; and damp Powder renders the Barrel speedily foul, from the tardy and incomplete Mode of its Explosion.

Many serious Accidents have occurred from Explosions of Powder in the Flask. The one recorded by a Baronet, who, with a most benevolent Intention, has published rules for the management of Guns, under the title of "*Cautions to young Sportsmen*," will be mentioned, and also some further Extracts from his Work; in the full Persuasion that he wishes the *Hints* he has drawn up should be as universally imparted as possible.

In March, 1799, Sir JOHN SWINBURNE, having flashed off his Gun, which was single barrell'd, with a *patent* antichambered Breech, proceeded to the Dog-kennel: in his opinion, at least five minutes must have elapsed before he began to load; having primed, he poured the Charge from the top of the flask into the barrel, when the whole of the Gunpowder in a Copper flask*, which contained nearly a pound, instantly exploded. A large piece of Copper struck the right Eye, and injured the bone above, so that it continued to exfoliate for two Years. The *Lock* remained at half bent, and it cannot be doubted that some *Tow* which had been left in the barrel or chamber continued on fire from the time of flashing off, and occasioned the Misfortune.

In every Instance but one, where the *particulars* have been ascertained, of the numerous Accidents of the above description, the Explosion has happened upon the *second* time of pouring Powder into the barrel on that Day; which is strong Evidence of the Cause here suggested.

* At Mr. RAWLINS' Sale of *English Antiquities*, among other Lots, HENRY VIII.'s *Powder Horn*, noticed by GROSE, sold for £8. 15. 0.

Shot

is an article worthy the Sportsman's care: it is by some deemed important that the size of the Shot be *proportioned* not only to the peculiar species of Game, but also to the Season of the Year in which it is pursued. Birds have their *feathers*, and Hares their *fur*, thicker in *Winter* than in *Autumn*; consequently require a larger Shot, or a shorter Distance for either to be penetrated by them.

The number of *Pellets* in an *ounce*, and also in a *charge* for a *double barrel Gun* of the numbers 4, 5, 6, and 7, both of *common* and *patent* Shot, are here noted; to these are added, those of *mixed Shot*, which an Uncle of the Compiler's, who was allowed to be one of the best Marks-men of his time; after minute trials, and mature experience, preferred to every other kind: *Gamekeepers* frequently use it, and many persons in this Class are in the Habit of trying and knowing *what Shot* will do most Execution, and are Men who generally draw their reflexions and remarks from actual and successful Experiment. It is true, they do not write a Treatise upon the subject, yet, from killing *Game* and *Animals* at *all times*, are at least as likely to form a just Decision as *Gentlemen*, who for the most part only use their Guns three months at the *Commencement* of the Season. The numbers of Shot proper to be mixt together for general use are, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

	Grains.
One oz. of No. 4, <i>common</i> shot, contains	166
Charge for double gun	317
One do. of <i>patent</i> , No. 4, contains	202
Charge for ditto	375. Differ. 58 gr.
One oz. of No. 5, <i>common</i> shot, contains	230
Charge for ditto	437
One do. of <i>patent</i> , No. 5, contains	271
Charge for ditto	512. Differ. 75 gr.

SHOT.

	Grains.
One oz. of No. 6, <i>common</i> shot, contains	300
Charge for double gun	554
One do. of <i>patent</i> No. 6, contains	327
Charge for ditto	630. Differ. 76 gr.
One oz. of No. 7, <i>common</i> shot, contains	363
Charge for ditto	708
One do. of <i>patent</i> , No. 7, contains	388
Charge for ditto	757 Differ. 49 gr.

MIXED SHOT.

One oz. of No. 4, 5, 6, <i>common</i> shot, contains	232
Charge for ditto	434
One do. of <i>patent</i> , 4, 5, 6, contains	263
Charge for ditto	493. Differ. 59 gr.
One oz. of No. 5, 6, 7, contains	297
Charge for ditto	582
One do. of <i>patent</i> , 5, 6, 7, contains	330
Charge for ditto	599. Differ. 17 gr.

The *smallest* Shot above noticed will kill at *forty* yards; the Velocity of a charge of No. 7 being equal to one of No. 3 at that distance: and since small Shot fly thicker than large, in proportion to its size, and as there are many parts about the *Body* of a Bird wherein a pellet of No. 7 will affect its Vitality equal to a pellet of No. 2, the Chances by using the former are multiplied in the Marksman's favour; for it is the *number*, and not the *magnitude* of the particles, that kills on the spot; and if Sportsmen would be persuaded to use No. 5 and 6 in *Grouse* and *Partridge*, and No. 7 in *Woodcock* Shooting, instead of No. 3 and 4; and No. 4 and 5 for *Black Game* and *Pheasants*, instead of No. 2 and 3, they would bring home *one-third* more Game, and not destroy *one head* more than usual. They who prefer *large* Shot, and accustom themselves to fire at great Distances, leave nearly as many languishing in the Field, as immediately fall; whereas, those that use *small* Shot, and shoot fair, fill their Bag with little spoil or waste beyond what they take with them *from* the Field.

To an old Gamekeeper of the Compiler's he has often put the Question, why he was so partial to *small Shot*? (for he generally used No. 6 and 7 mixed), and his Reply was, "Sir, they go between the Feathers like *pins and needles*; whilst the large Shot you use as often *glance off* as penetrate them."

It is no uncommon thing to see a Shooter strike a considerable quantity of *Feathers* out of a Bird which he declares must die, and that if his Shot had been *larger* he should have brought it down: with this Idea, he provides himself with heavier Shot, and expects to be more successful: in this he is sure to be disappointed; for, perhaps, the occasion of his before only *feathering* the Bird, was, because the *Shot* were too *large*, and a *single grain* had grazed the Bird without drawing blood; for if a Pellet strikes a Bird full, and enters the *Flesh*, the *Feathers* are carried in with it, and seldom any seen floating in the Air: on the contrary, a Shot passing close to the skin of a Bird without *entering it*, the Feathers are stript from that part, and from the Profusion left behind it is averred to be hard struck.

It is a Fact stated to have been determined by repeated Observation, that a Bird killed with *Patent* shot will turn *green* twenty-four hours *sooner* than one killed at the same time with the *common Shot*; and this accelerated Putrefaction is said to arise from the quantity of *Copperas* used in preparing the *Lead* for this particular Manufacture.

In making Shot by the common Method, the *Cullender* through which the Metal passes in a fluid state is placed within four or five feet of the Water, to receive and condense the fluid globules of *Lead*; and not being at a sufficient distance to admit of its consolidating before it touches the *Water*, each *Grain*, which otherwise would have been perfectly round, receives a *compression* on that part which first comes in contact with the water, and forms a slight *Concavity*; and this invariably in every *Grain*, more or less, according to the Heat of the Metal. In the Bristol *Patent*

Shot, invented by WATTS, this is obviated by the distance it has to fall, by which means it is consolidated before it touches the Water, and the Height is regulated by the size of the shot, of which the largest is found to cool sufficiently in the time it is descending about *One hundred and forty feet*: the smaller sizes in a much less distance.

The *Patent milled Shot* is said to be made by cutting *sheet Lead* with a peculiar Instrument into *cubical* Shapes, after which it is put into a hollow *Iron Cylinder*, which is so fixed as to turn upon its Axis in a horizontal position, by which means the continual Friction of these *Dice* against each other, and against the sides of the Cylinder, renders them perfectly *spherical*: by this method *common Shot* might be made more orbicular, as *Bullets* are for the use of the Army. Which of the two *Patent Shots* has a claim to Pre-eminence is difficult to determine, unless they were passed through the same *Sieve*, and their specific Gravity accurately ascertained.

The proportion of *Powder* and *Shot* will be perhaps more accurately known from the *Recoil* of the Gun than by any other Criterion: and according to the Weight of a Fowling Piece the stronger or weaker will be the *Recoil*, and which is increased by any thing retarding the passage of the Shot, such as by ramming down the Charge with unnecessary Force, or by the foulness of the Barrel caused by frequent Firings. A straight stocked Gun will also *recoil* more than one with a proper Curvature. A Gun ought to be felt, or the Charge is not duly apportioned, and will seldom require more than *one-third* of Shot beyond the measure used of the best Powder, to be so. Different opinions, however, are entertained respecting the *quantum* of the Charge; and, although Proverbs are generally true, or at least possess some portion of Truth, yet nothing is less founded on rational principles than that old adage, "*Sparing of Powder, and liberal of Shot*;" a Saying too often in the *practice*, as well as the *memory* of Sportsmen: the consequence is, that the Force of the Powder cannot throw the superfluous weight to the proper distance; and from

this languid impulse, the resistance of the Air soon causes their fall to the Earth, and the few grains which by chance reach the Mark will produce but little Effect. The Wild-Fowl shooters, who fire at great lengths, always load their Pieces with *equal quantities* of Powder and Shot.

It is by no means recommended to pursue the unqualified plan of loading adopted by the *random* Shooters of this Class, who are many of them Farmers servants, and whose guns are never discharged, or cleaned, from one hard Frost until the next; they are in general from *five to six feet* long in the Barrel, and, with all the accumulated *rust*, a fellow comes to the *Sea wall*, determined to do execution, so far as a profusion of Powder and Shot can forward it. The Compiler chanced, at separate times, to be within seventy yards of two *Gunners* who met with trifling Accidents: the *one*, after a report that would have served as a morning or evening Gun to any Camp in Christendom, bawled out to a brother Fowler at some distance, “*Jem, I’ve lost half my Barrel, and d—n her, I only put in four pipes of each!*” The *other* blew off his *Lock*, of which he could never discover the least trace, and it fortunately left him uninjured; yet he was grumbling for an hour after, at its quitting the *Stock* upon the Explosion of such a *slight* Charge, declaring, “as he had a Soul to be saved, he had only put into the Barrel what measured *three hands and a half, Wadding included.*”

The worthy Baronet before alluded to mentions his measuring the Charge in a Wild-fowl shooter’s Gun, which was the height of *eleven fingers*; and the reason assigned for this enormous load was, “*Sir, I likes to give my Gun a belly full.*” He likewise notices a Restriction at the foot of an Advertisement for Pigeon shooting at *Billing-bear Warren-house*: “*N. B. No person to be allowed to load with more than four ounces of Shot.*” A Gamekeeper who smiled, and thought it a *fair allowance*, being interrogated as to the weight of Shot he himself used, answered, “that he divided *one pound into five charges.*” He also states, that a Friend, seeing his Keeper equipping himself for a Pigeon Match, had the curiosity to examine the Charge, and expressed his surprise at finding it

rather less than usual: “*Oh, Sir!* replied the Keeper, *I have only put in the POWDER yet.*”

Wadding.

OPINIONS are as various upon this Article as the Materials of which it is composed.

The Compiler ventures to give his decision in favour of *Leather*, (that which is termed Roundings at the Leather-cutters,) which should be of a moderate thickness, and fitted to the bore of a Gun by a *Punch*; this keeps the Barrel *clearer* after repeated discharges, and, from its stiff, spongy nature, so fills the Calibre, that the Shot are carried *closer* and *sharper* with this Wadding than with *Card*, *Pasteboard*, *Cloth*, *Tow*, *Moss*, *Brown Paper*, or any other Substance whatever. The next to be preferred is *Hat*. The *top* of the *Ramrod* should be sufficiently *broad* to prevent any *punched Wadding* that may be used from turning in the Barrel. With *Leather* or *Hat*, no accident can happen from the Wadding taking *fire* either *in* or *out* of the Barrel.

The Experiments made by the famous M. LE CLERC to ascertain the degree of *Recoil* from the different Positions of the *Touch-holes* in Guns, proved at the same time the superiority of *Hat* over *Card Paper Wadding*. The mean of the Shot *striking* the Mark from *four* Discharges of each sort being *Forty-five* of the *former*, and of the *latter Twenty-eight*; and *Leather*, from various Trials made by the Compiler, is preferable even to the *Hat Wadding*.

Musquet.

CONSIDERING the Musquet as the original Implement from whence the present Fowling Piece took its Rise, we shall here mention the Mode of its early Make and Use.

The first Hand-guns known in this Kingdom was when EDWARD IV. A. D. 1471 landed at *Ravenspurg* in Yorkshire, who brought with him, among other Forces, three hundred *Flemings*, armed with "Hange-gunnes." This is Fifty years before the Date generally assigned for their Introduction; Mr. ANDERSON, the Rev. Mr. LAMB, and divers other Writers, placing that Event in 1521 at the Siege of *Berwick*, where they were called *Hand-cannon*.

The *Hand-gun* used in England was a short Piece, as appears from the Statute of the *Thirty-third* of HENRY VIII., whereby it was enacted "that no *Hand-gun* should be used of less Dimensions than *one yard* in length, Gun and Stock included." The *Haque-but*, or *Hag-but*, was a still shorter Piece; by the above Statute, it might not be under *three quarters of a yard* long, Gun and Stock included as before. This Piece is supposed by some Writers to have been called a *Haque-but*, from its Butt-end being *hooked* or bent like those now used; the Stock of the *Hand-gun* being nearly *straight*. There were also Guns called *Demi-haques*, either from being less in size, or from having the Butts less *curved*, and likewise a sort of *Pistol* named a *Dag*. The *Harquebuss* is by FAUCHET derived from the Italian *Arca Bouza*, or the Bow with the Hole; and is the most ancient Arm mounted on a *Stock*. It does not appear that Harquebusses were originally of any particular *Length* or *Bore*. All the kinds of *Fire-arms* were at first fired with a *Match*, and afterwards some of them with the *Wheel-Lock*. The *former*, by a Spring, let down a burning Match upon the priming in the Pan, and the *latter* was a Contrivance for exciting Sparks of *Fire* by the Friction of a notched Wheel of *Steel*, which grated against a *Flint*; these *Wheels* were wound up with an Instrument called a *Spanner*. The *Balls* were carried in a Bag or Purse, the Powder in a *Horn* or *Flask*, and the Priming, which was of a finer Sort of *mealed* Powder, in a *Touch-box*: this Powder was termed *Serpentine*, from the part of the *Match-lock* that held the Match, denominated the *Serpentine*. The *Petronel*, or *Poitrinal*, according to FAUCHET, was the Medium between the *Harquebuss* and the *Pistol*. NICOT in his Dictionary defines it, as a Species of

Harquebuss shorter than the *Musquet*, but of a greater Calibre, which, on account of its weight, was carried on a large Bauldrick, worn across the Shoulders like a Sash, and when fired was rested on the Breast of the Person who used it. In the Estimate of an Army made in 1620, Petronells with Fire-locks, Flasks, Touch-boxes, and Cases, are charged at *one pound eight shillings* each.

The following directions (from many others respecting the choice and use of different Weapons) are extracted from a Military Treatise written A. D. 1619 :—" He that loves the saftie of his owne person, and delights in the goodness and beautie of a Peece, let him alwayes make choice of one that is double breeched, and if it be possible a *Myllan* Peece, for they be of tough and perfect temper, light, square, and bigge of breech, and very strong where the powder doth lie, and where the violent force of the Fire doth consist, and notwithstanding thinne at the end. Our English Peeces approach very neare unto them in goodnesse and beautie, (their heaviness only excepted,) so that they be made on purpose, and not one of those common Sale Peeces with round barrells, whereunto a beaten Souldier will have great respect, and choose rather to pay double money for a good Peece, than to spare his Peece, and endanger himself.

" One of the greatest helps consist in Pouder and Match: for a Souldier must ever buy his powder sharpe in *taste*, well incorporate with *Saltpeter*, and not full of *Coole-dust*. Let him accustome to drie his Pouder, if he can, in the Sunne, first sprinkled over with *Aquæ Vitæ*, or strong *Claret* Wine. Let him make his Tutch-powder, being finely sarsed and sifted, with quick-pale, which is to be bought at the Pouder makers or Apothecaries; and let his match be boiled in ashes-lie and powder, that it will both burne well, carrie a long coale, and that will not break off with the touch of his finger. The preparations will at the first touch give fire, and procure a violent, speedy, and thundring discharge. Some use *Brimstone* finely powdred in their Tutch powder, but that furs and stops up your breech and Tutch-hole.

“ The *Bullet* of a Souldier’s Peece must be of a just bignesse with the mouth of the same, so that falling in smoothly it may drive down, and close up the mouth of the powder. NOTE, that after his Peece is very hoate: let the Souldier if he can, give somewhat of a lesse charge, for feare of bursting his Peece, unlesse he have good Triall thereof. If the Stock of his peece be crooked, he ought to place the end just before his left Pappe; if long and straight as the *Spaniards* use them, then upon the point of his right Shoulder, using a stately upright pace in discharge. It is not in vaine to advertise him, that in Skirmish he must hold his Peece betwixt his thumbe and the ends of his fingers, which I account a sure meane, betwixt griping of the Barrel, and laying the same onely upon his foremost finger and thumbe; for the one is ever dangerous, and the other altogether unsteady.

“ I judge it likewise most convenient for him, to take hold of his Peece with his left hand in that part of the wood (wherein the Barrel lies) there, as the Peece is of much equal balance; although some accustome themselves to hold it just under the Cocke, by reason whereof he shall be inforced to change his hand if he charge out of a Flaske, into the midst of the Peece, to bring down the mouth to his Flaske, which is great delay and hindrance in Skirmish. So to conclude, he that means to be accompted a forward and perfect goode Shot, by continual exercise must be so ready, that in all particular points touching his Peece, powder, match, bullets, and the use of them, that he neither be to seeke, nor grow amazed in the furious rage of Bellona’s fiery Skirmishes, her sudden surprises and bloody slaughter, of dangerous assaults, of cruel Battailes.

“ The MUSQUET is to be used in all respects like unto the Hargabuse, save that in respect it carries a double Bullet, and is much more weightie. The Souldier useth a staffe breast-high, in the one end a pike to pitch on the ground, and in the other an iron forke to reste his Peece upon, and a hoale a little beneath the same in the staffe: whereunto he doth adde a string, which tied and wrapped about his wrest, yealdes him commodity

to traine his Forke or Staffe after him, whilst he in Skirmish doth charge his *Musquet* afresh with Powder and Bullet."

The *MUSQUET* was a heavier kind of Harquebuss, carrying also a larger ball, and probably introduced owing to the trivial Execution done by Pieces of small Calibre. Sir THOMAS KELLIE, in his *Art Militaire*, published Anno 1621, says the Barrel of a *Musquet* should be four feet in length, the Bore capable of receiving bullets *twelve* whereof weigh a pound, (some ancient ones carried balls of *ten* to the pound.) *Musquets* were so heavy as to require a Fork, called a *Rest*, to support them when presented in order to fire. These *Rests* were of different lengths, according to the Heights of the Men who were to use them; they were shod with sharp iron ferrules, for sticking them in the Ground; and even on the march, when the *Musquet* was shouldered, carried in the Right-hand, or hung upon it by means of a string or loop tied under the Head. Sometimes the *Rests* were armed with a contrivance termed a *Swine's* feather, which was a sort of Sword blade, or Tuck, that issued from the staff of the *Rest* at the head; this being placed before the *Musqueteers* when loading, served, like the Stakes placed before the *Archers*, to keep off the Cavalry: these preceded the use of the *Bayonet*, the Invention of which originated in the Soldiers sticking the Handles of their *Daggers* into the Muzzles of their Pieces, when they had discharged *all their Ammunition*. Father DANIEL says, the regular Introduction of Bayonets took place in France about the Year 1671, and that the first *Corps* armed with them was the Regiment of Fusileers, raised *that Year*. The term *Bayonet* was derived from these Weapons being first made at BAYONNE; they were called by the *French* Bayonets à *Manche*, or Bayonets with *Handles*; there are many of them in the small Armory in the Tower of London. The modern Implements are termed Bayonets à *Douille*, or Bayonets with *Sockets*: at what Time the mode of fixing the *Bayonet*, so as not to prevent loading and firing with it fixed, was adopted in England, is not exactly known.

If BRANTOME is to be credited, it was the Duke D'ALVA who first

brought *Musquets* into Use in the Armies, when, during the Reign of PHILIP II. he went to take upon him the Government of the Low Countries, in the Year 1567; but that only means he brought them more into Fashion than they were till that Time, and that until then they were rarely used, at least in the *Field*. The Spaniards of the time of PHILIP II. caused their *Musquets* to be made of a very great *Calibre*, and such that a strong and vigorous Foot soldier might carry; but they were so heavy that they could not be presented without the aid of Staves shod with Iron, with a Fork at the Top, as a prop to sustain the end of the *Musquet*: they not only employed them in Battles, but in *Sieges*, to fire over the Walls; and by the Size of their Balls made terrible wounds at a great Distance. *Musquets* were fired with Match-locks; and *Musqueteers* of the Reigns of JAMES* and CHARLES I. carried their Powder in little wooden, tin, or leather cylindric Boxes, each containing *one* charge. Twelve of these, fixed to a Belt worn over the Shoulder, were called *Bandealers*. This contrivance seems to have been borrowed from the DUTCH, or *Walloons*. To prevent the *Matches* from being seen in the *Night*, small tubes of Tin or Copper, pierced full of holes, were invented, it is said, by a Prince of ORANGE, probably Prince MAURICE: they are described by WALHUYSEN. "It is necessary," says he, "that every *Musqueteer* knows how to carry his *Match dry* in moist or rainy Weather, that is, in his *Pocket*, or in his *Hat*, by putting the lighted *Match between* his Head and his Hat; or by some other means to guard it from the Weather. The *Musqueteer* should also have a little Tin Tube, of about a foot long, big enough to admit a *Match*, and full of holes, that he may not be discovered by his *Match* when he stands *Centinel*, or goes on any Expedition." This was the Origin of the *Match-boxes* worn till lately by our *Grenadiers*.

In the Estimate for a Royal Army in 1620, a *Musquet*, with *Bandealers* and Rest, is valued at *one pound and eightpence*; and by the Council

* JOHN BINGHAM, in his 'Notes to Ælian's Tactics,' intimates that in this Reign there was little Improvement in the Construction of *Fire Arms*; for he writes, that 'in Raine, Snowe, Fogges, or when the Enemy hath gayned the Wynd, *Muskets* have but small Use.'

of War in the *Seventh* of CHARLES I. *Eighteen Shillings and tenpence*, thus made out.

	s.	d.
For a new <i>Musquet</i> , with Mould, Worm, and Scowrer	15	6
For a <i>Musquet Rest</i>	0	10
For a new <i>Bandeeler</i> , with twelve Charges, a Primer, a priming Wire, a Bullet-bag, and a Strap or Belt of two inches in breadth	2	6
	<hr/>	
	18	10

The *CALIVER* was a lighter kind of *Musquet*, with a Match-lock, and was made to be fired without a *Rest*. PECKE, in his *Desiderata Curiosa*, has preserved the Price of a *Caliver*, and its *Accoutrements*, as paid in QUEEN ELIZABETH's time by the Sheriff of Lancashire, Anno 1584, for the Use of Recruits raised for the Irish Service; which was, the *Caliver*, furnished with Flaske, Touche-box, Laces, and Moulds, *Thirteen shillings and sixpence*. In an Estimate made, Eighteenth JAMES I. Anno 1620, of the Expences of a Royal Army of Thirty Thousand Men, intended to be sent into the Palatinate, a *Caliver* with *Bandealers* is valued at *fourteen shillings and tenpence*.

A. D. 1629 CHARLES I. caused a Survey to be made of all the Armour, Arms, and Ammunition in the *Tower of London*, the several *Forts* and *Castles* throughout the Kingdom, and also on board the different *Ships of War*: and in the Seventh year of his Reign appointed Commissioners, consisting of a number of experienced Armourers, Gun, Pike, and *Bandeeler* makers, to travel throughout *England* and *Wales*, to survey, prove, repair, and put the Armour and Weapons of the *Militia* into a State fit for Service. He also took Measures for bringing about an *Uniformity* in the Size and fashion of the *Armour* and *Arms*, a Circumstance never before attended to; the want of which must have been productive of many Inconveniences. He at the same time settled the Prices for making and repairing the different Pieces of a *Suit of Armour*, for both Horse and Foot; the Rates to be charged for the several parts of a *Musquet*, *Pistol*, &c.

and for a *Pike* and *Bandelee*; and ordered the Production of the Arms to the Commissioners to be proved and stamped with the A and Crown, being the *Hall Mark* for the Company of Workmen Armourers of London.

The Armour and Weapons directed to be worn by the Militia after the Restoration, are thus described in the Statute of the *Thirteenth* and *Fourteenth* of CHARLES II.—“The Arms, *offensive* and *defensive*, with the Furniture for Horse, are to be as followeth: the *Defensive* Arms a back, breast, and pot, and the *Breast* and *Pot* to be *Pistol* proof: the *Offensive* Arms a Sword, and a Case of Pistols, the barrels whereof are not to be under fourteen inches in length. For the *Foot*, a Musqueteer is to have a *Musquet*, (as the *Rest* is not here mentioned, it is probable they were then laid aside,) the barril whereof is not to be under three foot in length, and the Gauge of the Bore to be for *twelve* bullets to the pound; a Collar of *Bandelee*s with a Sword. Provided that all Muster-Masters shall for the present admit and allow of any *Musquets* already made which will bear a bullet of *fourteen* to the pound, but no *Musquets* which henceforth shall be made are to be allowed of, but such as are of the Gauge of *twelve* bullets to the pound. A *Pikeman* is to be armed with a *Pike* made of *Ash*, not under *Sixteen feet* in length, the head and foot included, with a Back, breast, head-piece, and Sword*. Provided that those already made not under

* The Price of the *Pikeman's Armour* and *Pike*, as established by the Council of War, *Seventh* of CHARLES I.

PRICE OF THE ARMOUR.

	£.	s.	d.
The Breast . . .	0	5	6
The Back . . .	0	4	6
The Tassets . . .	0	5	0
The combed head-piece lyned	0	4	6
The Gorget lyned . . .	0	2	6

Total 1 2 0

PRICE OF THE PIKE.

	£.	s.	d.
The Staffe . . .	0	2	6
The Head . . .	0	1	8
Socket and colouring . . .	0	0	4
Total	0	4	6

If the Breast, Back, and Tassets be lyned with *red Leather*, the Price will be 1*l.* 4*s.*

fifteen foot should be admitted, but all in future to be sixteen feet long." In the short reign of JAMES II. the first step was taken towards the Abolition of the use of *Pikes* in England, by the Practice of sticking the *Dagger* into the *Muzzle* of the *Musquet*, in order to protect the *Musqueteers* from being charged by the *Horse* immediately after they had fired. This Manœuvre, which was adopted by the French about 1671, and taken from them into our Service some years after, was confined to the *Grenadiers* only, and was the *Origin* of the BAYONET. In a book of Exercise for the *Horse*, *Dragoons*, and *Foot*, printed by Authority Anno 1728, the *Bayonet* of the present fashion is described.

The following Anecdote respecting that Weapon is mentioned to have happened in one of the Campaigns of KING WILLIAM the *Third*, in Flanders. In an Engagement there were three French Regiments whose *Bayonets* were made to fix after the present method, (a Contrivance then unknown in the British Army;) one of them advanced against the *Twenty-fifth* Regiment with fixed *Bayonets*; Lieutenant Colonel MAXWELL, who commanded it, ordered his Men to screw their *Bayonets* into their *Muzzles* to receive them, thinking they meant to decide the Affair *Point to Point*; but to his great surprise, when they came within a proper distance, the French threw in a heavy Fire, which for a moment staggered his People, who by no means expected such a Greeting, not conceiving it possible they could fire with *fixed* Bayonets; the *British Regiment*, nevertheless, recovered itself, charged, and drove the Enemy out of the Line. Notwithstanding this Instance of the Utility of the *Socket Bayonet*, it seems that the *Old* Bayonets underwent a mutation or *two* before they arrived at their present form: one of them was a couple of *Rings* fixed into their Handle, for the purpose of receiving the *Muzzle* of the Piece, like the *Socket* now in use, by which means the Soldier was enabled both to *fire* and *load* his Musket without *unfixing* his Bayonet.

The Introduction of the Bayonet naturally procured the Dismission of the *Pike*, which, with the Exchange of the *Match-lock* for the *Snap-*

lance, the original Name of the present *Lock*, took place about the third or fourth Year of the Reign of WILLIAM III. This Exchange seems not to have been made all at once, but by Degrees, wherefore an exact period for that Alteration cannot be assigned.

The Improvements in the Make and Form of the *Musquet* have been since progressive. The Price now paid by *Government* for them, with *Bayonet* and Scabbard complete, is *One pound sixteen shillings* each; and those provided for the East-India Company's Troops are at *two shillings* less; but, as a well-informed Writer has observed, "It is unfortunate that most of the Demands of *Government* for these Implements are supplied by *Contract* with Persons who have nothing to do with the *Making* or *Preparing* the Objects in Question; and the Fact is, that the *Original Contractor* lets it to another, reserving a *Profit* to himself; and it so proceeds to a *third*, and sometimes to a *fourth*, before it gets into the *Maker's* hands; the Consequence of which is, the Value of the *Musquet* contracted for must be much beneath that of the Pattern delivered, especially as this Article in particular will bear an apparent *similar* Perfection, when in Reality it is *far inferior*.

In the *Barrels* there is not, indeed, much Deceit, supposing them duly proved; but in the *Lock* there are certainly very great Defects, and those too of the utmost moment, as on that depends the *Firing*. It is no uncommon thing after a Field-day of a Battalion, to find one fifth or sixth part of the *Musquets* remain undischarged, many of which did not fire from the first, (a circumstance which has produced some fatal Accidents in our *Volunteer Corps*.) This is a material Concern, for if we have a *Nominal Force* of *Ten Thousand Men* in Action, and only *Eight Thousand* of them are of Use from the *Unserviceable* state of the Arms they carry, it certainly requires immediate attention to obviate so ruinous a Deficiency, and probably the surest means would be to prevent any Contract from falling into the hands of *Deputy Contractors*, thereby deterring the *real Maker* from receiving the Price allowed by *Government*, and who cannot

give a *Lock* the Labour it ought to have bestowed upon it unless he obtains a Profit for his Work. If the Manufacturer was the *Bona Fide* Contractor he would have no Excuse for his neglect, should the Mechanism of the different parts of the *Lock* not act in concert and properly with each other.

With respect to the Barrels of the Soldier's Musquet, they certainly might be shortened *three* or *four* inches; and by not much decreasing their Weight, (supposing them to be kept of the same *sized Bore*,) would still retain all their real utility. They would be more handy; and if it should be urged that *long* Pieces are necessary in a *Charge*, (which, by the way, the *Charged* seldom wait to receive,) surely what is curtailed in the *Barrel* might be added to the *Bayonet*. It has also been recommended to reduce the Calibre so as to admit of no larger a ball than those of *Seventeen* or *Eighteen* to the pound: an additional Substance might thus be thrown towards the *Breech* without too much weakening the fore-part of the *Barrel*, and which would also be rendered less top-heavy. *Musquets* so formed might be fired with *two* balls without an unpleasant Recoil; and would carry *two* equally true as when charged with a Single Ball, and of course the Execution in a Field of Battle would be two-fold. It is well known that part of the AMERICAN Army used *four* balls, made up into a Cartridge; *One* nearly the size of the Bore, the other *Three* were so small as to make only that Diameter when *laterally* in contact with each other; and their Effects were most severely felt.

Barrels of Guns.

HAVING so largely digressed in tracing the Origin of those Fire-Arms from whence the *Fowling Piece*, which now supplies to us so ample a Source of Amusement, must have been derived; we shall now speak of Guns as made in later Days, and where the Artists of other Countries, as well as our own, have progressively laboured to render them complete.

And first of GUN BARRELS, which were formerly considered to be manufactured in SPAIN in a manner superior to those of any other Country.

The *Spanish Iron* (especially that of *Biscay*) was supposed to be in its Quality the best in *Europe*; and the Spaniards possessed the reputation of forging and boring their Barrels with more Care than other Nations. Almost all the Barrels made at *Madrid* were and are composed of the old Shoes of Mules and Horses collected for the purpose. Some idea may be formed of the very great Purity to which the Iron is brought in the course of the Operation, when it is known, that to make a *Barrel*, which, rough from the *Forge*, weighs only from *six* to *seven* pounds, they employ a Mass of *Mule shoe* Iron, weighing from *forty* to *forty-five* pounds; so that from *thirty-four* to *thirty-eight* pounds are lost in the heatings and hammerings it undergoes, before it is forged into a *Barrel*. The *Barrels* are welded longitudinally, and, like the *English* twisted Barrels, are made in five or six detached portions, which are afterwards welded one to the end of another, two of them forming the Breech, or reinforced part of the *Barrel*.

Of the *Spanish* Barrels, those only that were or are made in the Capital are accounted truly valuable; in consequence of which, many have been made in *Catalonia*, and other places in *Spain*, with the Names and Marks of the *Madrid* Gunsmiths surreptitiously put upon them; they are also counterfeited at *Munich*, *Prague*, *Liege*, &c. and a person must be a very good Judge not to be deceived by these *spurious Barrels*.

There are still some who retain extravagant Opinions respecting *Spanish* Barrels; those made by *Artists* who have been dead many Years are most sought after by the Curious, and bear the highest Price; though perhaps this Preference has no better foundation than the common *Prejudice* in favour of the productions of remote Ages or distant Countries. The *Barrels* of *NICHOLAS BIZ*, who was famous at *Madrid* in the beginning of the last Century, and died in 1724, sell for *forty-three pounds fifteen shillings*

*sterling**: those made in the *early* part of his Life are most esteemed. The *Barrels* of JUAN BELER and JUAN FERNANDEZ, contemporaries of NICHOLAS BIZ, are not less prized in France.

Of the Artists now or lately living at *Madrid*, the most celebrated are, FRANCISCO LOPEZ, SALVADOR CENARRO, and MIGULE ZEGUARRA, Gunsmiths to the King; ISEDORO SOLER, and JUAN DE SOTO, are also in great repute. The *Barrels* of these modern Workmen sell for something more than *thirteen pounds sterling*, which is the price paid for those made for the King and Royal Family. They are proved with a *Treble Charge* of the *best powder*, and a *Quadruple* one of *swan* or *deer shot*. The manufacture of *Barrels* is not at *Madrid*, or throughout all *Spain*, a *separate Branch* of the Gunmaking business, as in *this* and most other Countries, but the same Workman makes and finishes *every part* of the Piece.

A modern writer, speaking of *Spanish Barrels*, says the *true* ones are made of *Iron* which has been worn and beaten for a long time, as *heads of nails* in the *shoes* of *Mules*, who travel with a slow and incessant pace along the hard roads; but that a very *small Proportion* of the great quantity of the *Spanish Barrels* which are sold in all parts of *Europe* can have this Advantage, (this, from the above description of the *weight lost in forging*, is rendered more certain.) He adds, the *Corsican Iron* has a Toughness nearly equal to that of the prepared *Iron of Spain*, renowned over all the World; and the metal of the *Corsican Barrels*, which are now well made, is little inferior to the generality of *Spanish* ones.

* Col. THORNTON in his *French Tour*, says, at the Manufactory of Fire-Arms at *Versailles*, the Fabrication of *Pistols* at *Ten Thousand Livres* or £400 Sterling, and of *Guns* at *Fifty Thousand Livres* or £2000 Sterling, was mentioned as no uncommon thing: when Col. T. expressed his doubt of working up the above Articles to such a Value, he was told the Manufactory was under the Patronage of the FIRST CONSUL, and that he frequently ordered the most costly Pieces as Presents for Foreign Princes, or General Officers. One Gun was produced which was then completing for the CONSUL at the Price of *Eight hundred Guineas*. The Colonel allows this Sum to be great; but at the same time, fortunately recollects a *Fowling Piece* being presented to him by the late MARQUIS of ROCKINGHAM, which cost his Lordship *Four hundred Guineas*, in CONSEQUENCE of Col. T. having killed a SPARROW, which had perched on the top of WENTWORTH-HOUSE.

There perhaps is nothing, says a Brother Sportsman, in which Persons have more Faith, than in the Excellence of their own Gun. The distance it kills, and the Closeness of its throwing the Shot, are inconceivable; striking a Card with ten or twenty grains of shot at Sixty yards is nothing uncommon, and the merits of the Shooter and his Gun bid defiance to Rivalship. It is no easy matter to change the Opinion of such Persons respecting their Guns; but when a Gun is said to be sure at three or four-score Yards, the Measure may be safely asserted to be of the Proprietor's own making. The Circumstance of knocking down a Partridge at Eighty Yards may happen, but very few Barrels, of those that are generally used for the Shooting Birds on Wing, will throw shot compact enough to be certain of killing at Fifty Yards: One or two grains of shot are not sufficient so to strike a Bird as to bring it to the ground; for when stript of its Feathers, a Partridge is a much smaller Object than it appears to be, and possesses many parts not vital. Those who expect light Barrels of three feet, or three feet six, to throw shot close enough to ensure a small Object at Fifty or Sixty Yards, will be exceedingly mistaken. It is the Weight of Iron properly disposed in a Barrel that can alone produce such an Effect*, and in double Guns the stoutness of the Barrels is indispensable if the Shooter has any regard to his own Safety, for in light double Barrel Pieces the firing of the one will invariably loosen the Charge in the other Barrel, and should the Shot be shaken, so as to leave the Powder a few inches, and the second barrel be fired with the Muzzle pointing downwards, most likely it bursts. Respecting the length of Barrels there were formerly variety of Opinions. It now seems to be the general Sentiment that a long Barrel is not only inconvenient, but useless as to any superior Execution. Mr. ROBINS proved this satisfactorily. He says, "Gunpowder fired in any Space acts nearly in the same manner as a quantity of Air would do which was condensed a thousand times more than the common

* So well apprised are the best Gunmakers of this, that they now recommend a Weight of Metal in the Barrel, and which a very few years since they used to denounce as a needless Incumbrance.

Air we breathe ; and which, in that condensed State, filled the *same* Space that was taken up by the *unfired* Powder. Hence it follows that the Pressure of the Powder on the Bullet grows perpetually *weaker* and *weaker* as the Bullet is farther impelled before it : for as the Bullet is impelled *forwards*, the inflamed Powder takes up more room, and consequently its *Elasticity* is lessened. So that, for instance, if the Charge of Powder in a *Twenty-four* Pounder takes up *one foot* of the *Cylinder* before it is fired, and the whole length of the *Cylinder* be *nine feet* ; then when the Ball arrives at the mouth of the Piece the Powder extends through *nine times* the Space it did at first ; and of course exerts but *one ninth* of its *original Pressure* ; and the *longer* the Piece is in proportion to the extent of the Charge, the *more* is the Action of the Powder diminished." In experiments also made by Mr. ROBINS, with the most minute Precision, between Barrels composed of intermediate lengths from *Twenty-eight* to *Forty* inches, and nearly of the same Calibre ; and when these Trials were made, both by firing the Piece from the Shoulder, and likewise from a firm Block at the same distance, and with *equal Weights* of the same Powder and Shot, and to avoid every possibility of *Error*, the *Quires of Paper* at which they were fired were fixed on *Planks* instead of against a *Wall* : the result was, that the shot pierced an equal number of *Sheets*, whether fired from a Barrel 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, or 40 Inches in *length*. To go still further, Mr. R. procured two Barrels of the same *Calibre*, the one *Thirty-three*, the other *Sixty-six* Inches long ; by repeatedly firing them in the same manner as the others were, at different Distances, from *Forty-five* to *One Hundred* yards, the Effect was always similar ; namely, that the Barrel of *thirty-three* inches drove the Shot through *as much Paper* as that of *Sixty-six* Inches. These Trials afford a decisive Testimony in favour of *SHORT Barrels*.

Barrels, it has been asserted, are forged from *Steel*, lighter, safer, and to shoot stronger than all others ; but an *Artist* (Mr. FULLER) whose superior excellence renders him a very competent Judge, and whose practice it is—not to dupe his Customers, has declared that he has wrought a great deal of *Spanish Iron*, has forged Barrels from *old Scythes*, from *Wire*,

Needles, and many other articles suggested by the *whim* of his Employers; has made *Barrels* with a lining of *Steel*, and formed others with a double spiral of *Iron* and *Steel* alternately: yet so far as he can determine from these numerous Trials, the *stub Iron* wrought into a *twisted Barrel* is superior to every other. Wherever *Steel* was used, he found that the *Barrel* neither welded nor bored so perfectly as when composed of *Iron* alone.

The Cost of a prime stub-nail twisted Barrel, as it comes from the *Forgers*, is *one Guinea*; when fitted in the best manner, with Gold touch-hole, and ready for use, the price is advanced to *seven* or *eight* Guineas; and there is great reason to believe, that NICHOLAS BIZ never delivered from his Manufactory *better* Barrels, although he charged upwards of *five times* the sum for them.

The first object in a Fowling-piece is *Safety*. Gunsmiths *prove* their *Barrels* whilst in their *rough* state, and this is done with the idea that if they burst, the Expence of further workmanship is saved; the consequence is, that a single Barrel, weighing nearly *five pounds*, is reduced to *three pounds* nine or ten ounces: this Reduction is confined to the Workman, who, if careless or in haste, may take it from the *Breech*, or that part of the Barrel where the greatest Strength is requisite; and when the Barrels are laid together, and the *Rib* soldered on, it is impossible to discover whether the *filing* has been too deep. The Barrels undergo no *second Proof*, and thus the Gun too often becomes a *masqued Battery* to him who shoots with it.

So many *Barrels* have burst, and occasioned permanent misfortunes, after having sustained the Ordeal of the *Company's* or *Tower* proving-house, and received their *Marks**, as a pledge of their *Safety*, as evidently

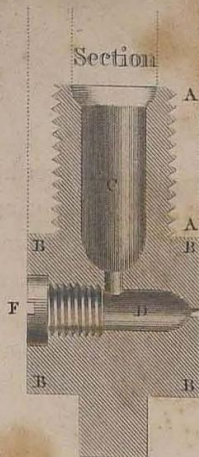
* Of the *Proof Mark*, a ludicrous story is mentioned of a Gunsmith in Dublin, who sent home a Gun to his Employer, with an assurance of its Goodness, and also of its *Safety*, from the *Proof Stamp* that appeared on the Barrel. To the Gentleman's utter astonishment, a few days after, when he meant to try his Gun, there was one trifling Article neglected in its completion—there was no *Touch-hole*.

to shew that a Barrel may bear that *one shock*, and still be very unworthy to be put into the hands of any one. The only mode of ascertaining whether a *Barrel* is perfectly secure is, by *Water-proving*, after it returns from the *Proof-House*, and has apparently withstood that of *Fire*. This is practised but by one Maker in London, Mr. JOSEPH MANTON; and the very many faulty Barrels which he has discovered by this Method, and uniformly rejected, has enabled him to assert, what perhaps no one in the Trade can do but himself, that no *Barrel* of his has ever been known to *burst*.

The *Breeching* of Barrels has of late years received many improvements from different Artists. A sketch of two is here given in one Plate. The lower certainly shoots with the greater Strength; and the reason Mr. N.'s *Breech* does not throw shot so strong as Mr. M.'s, is owing to the charge of powder lying so *long* and *narrow* in the *Chamber C* that it cannot explode at once, and the *Pan* being at so great a distance from the Centre, and having such a long communication as the *antichamber D*, and so many corners to turn, that the *shot* are moved half way up the Barrel before receiving the whole Force of the *powder*; it likewise is not so easily cleaned, as the cleaning *rod* cannot go into the chamber C, where *Tow* may be forced into and lodge; and from which that serious Accident proceeds of fire remaining in the Barrel, and communicating to the powder in the Flask, after the *first* discharge.

A further Utility in Mr. M.'s Breeching is, that the metal being filed away brings the *Pan* much nearer the *Centre hole* or tube; the length and width of which to best answer the purpose, Mr. M. has tried many and various experiments to ascertain. The intention of this *centre hole* or tube is, to throw the fire direct through the *middle* of the Charge, which lies in the *Barrel short* and *broad*; by which means an instantaneous Explosion takes place, and the *shot* momentarily, and at once, receive the whole force of the *Powder*.

HENRY NOCK'S, PATENT BREECHING.



- AA The Screw to fit the Barrel.
 C The centre hole or Chamber.
 D The Anti Chamber.
 F A Screw adapted to reach the Anti Chamber.
 B B B B The outside circumference may be made into any convenient shape.



The advantages arising from this new contrived Breeching, are that the shot are thrown in a more perfect direction and with greater velocity, that the Barrel is much less subject to grow partially foul; that Guns, upon this new principle, after having been fired twenty or thirty times, lose very little of their force, in comparison with those of the old construction; that they are safer, and go off more instantaneously.

B. The additional expense of a new Gun, with the Patent Breeching, will be one guinea; the same Breeching may be put to old Guns, of any maker, for two guineas, with a Gold Touchhole three guineas; provided the Barrels are well constructed and will stand the proof.

JOSEPH MANTON'S, PATENT BREECHING.



- C The tube or centre hole.
 B The back screw for the convenience of countersinking the Touchhole.
 P P The part of the Breech which is filed away to admit the Lock nearer the centre.



The advantages derived from this improved Breeching are that the whole charge of Powder is exploded, consequently Guns on this Principle shoot much stronger, and will fire often without cleaning than any other. The Locks of a double Gun are brought nearer together, by which the cocking of the left Lock is rendered more convenient. In cleaning the Barrel, the rod goes down to the bottom of the Breech, and in wiping it dry, forces the Air through the Tube in the Centre, with such Violence, that no damp or Oil can be left behind.

The common mode of joining double Barrels is to file half the Substance of each Barrel away in the middle, so that the connection between the two Barrels is only half the Substance of one Barrel, and is soldered together with grain Tin and Lead, it is therefore no wonder so many double Guns burst.

M^r Manton's improvement to double Guns is by placing two sound Barrels together, which gives them all the Solidity at the Breech that is needful, and which entirely removes the Danger, without widening the Locks, nor has there been an instance of one of these Guns bursting.

In cleaning these Barrels, the rod goes down to the bottom of the *Breech*, and in wiping it dry forces the Air through the *Tube* or centre with such violence, that no Damp can be left behind. By Mr. M.'s plan the Locks are not only brought nearer together, and rendered more convenient, but at the same time the utmost Strength required may be introduced at the *Breech*. The common Mode of joining double Barrels is, to file *half* the substance of each Barrel away in the middle, so that the *Partition* between the two Barrels has only *half* the Solidity of *one* Barrel, and is soldered together with grain-tin and lead. It is no great wonder Guns so constructed should burst; but by this improvement of Mr. M.'s, two *round* Barrels are placed together, without filing at the *Breech*, for the purpose of narrowing the Space between the Locks.

The same Artist has recently discovered a new Substance for *Touch-holes*, harder and more lasting than *Gold*, and which is free from the Objection that many Sportsmen have to *Touch-holes* made of that Metal, which is not always proof against the violent Action of the Fire, but, from its Softness and ready Fusibility, some Barrels will blow away a part of the Touch-hole, and the *Pan* will be frequently gilt in the Direction of the Fire from the Vent, and appear as if a piece of Gold had been rubbed forcibly against it. What he has substituted, and found to answer his utmost Expectations, is *PLATINA*, which unites in itself all the Properties of *Gold*, together with a Durability against the Force of Fire which *Gold* could never be made uniformly to resist.

Mr. JOHN MANTON, of Dover-street, has shewn great skill not only in framing an Engine to cut his Barrels mathematically true, and by which all Irregularity in the *Filing* is prevented, but also by a new mode of *Breeching*, which he affixes to them after Proving. The ANNEXED PLATE exhibits the nature of his Invention; and one principal Advantage derived from it is, that the *Breech* being screwed on the *Outside* instead of the *Inside* of the Barrel, considerably strengthens it in that part. The Hoop or Female screw, being connected with the solid body of the *Breech*, ope-

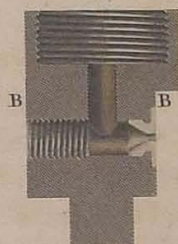
rates in a certain degree to check the Expansion, which, according to the common and general Mode of forming Double Guns, cannot be made thick enough to prevent too great an expansion, where the *Breech-pin* screws in *within*, unless by rendering them extremely clumsy. The bottom of this *Breeching* is flat, which admits the spreading of the Charge of *Powder*, and brings it close to the Touch-Hole; of course it not only explodes quicker, but is not subject to flash in the Pan, or hang fire, and the *whole* Charge is consumed at the instant. Double Barrels upon this Principle cannot be reduced at the *Breech* by the destructive Impulse of the *File*, which renders them ever unsafe. *These* are two perfect and secure Barrels totally independent of each other, and, from their Performances in the hands of some of the first Sportsmen, are said to kill at great Distances, and likewise to maintain their Shooting for a very long time without *Cleaning*, in a most extraordinary manner. The Method in which both the MANTONS bore their Barrels has given them a deserved Pre-eminence, and there is good ground for believing that without being at the Expence which these ARTISTS have, in the Construction of Instruments with which their Barrels are bored, it is impossible to obtain that Accuracy which the Process requires; the *Bits*, when screwed round the Barrels by the Strength of a *Man's Arm* only, must be liable to variation from the Nature of the Power employed in the Execution; a *mechanical* Force alone, and that acts upon Principles secure from those Changes, can draw a *Cylinder* so perfect as what is done at their respective Manufactories. It is far from my Intention to advance that no other Gunmakers can produce good Guns; I am confining myself to general and comparative Excellence, and have no fear in asserting, that in trying *twenty* Barrels from either of these Makers, as they are promiscuously *first bored* by them, and an equal number from those bored by any other, the result in favour of my Assertion will be most decisive.

With respect to the *Locks*, the Genius and Industry of the English Workmen having already brought them to such elegance and perfection, there is scarcely any thing further to be hoped for or required. Mr.

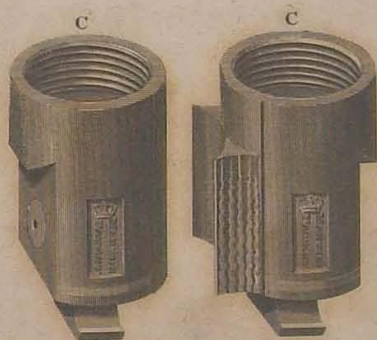
JOHN MANTON *Patent Breeching*



AA. Bottom of Breech.



BB. Section of Breech.



CC. Hoop or Female Screw.

JOSEPH MANTON has, however, produced a *Hammer* which completely prevents Guns from hanging fire. These improved Hammers (which are described in the Plate) may be added to Guns already in use, and they are of so simple although durable Construction as to need no repair.

Mr. JOSEPH MANTON has likewise obtained his Majesty's Patent for an ELEVATED TOP-PIECE for *Double Guns*, by means of which, the Shot are thrown more full upon the Object, and the fault of Guns in shooting *beneath the Mark* is completely remedied.

Many unsuccessful Attempts have been made to render Locks *Water-proof*, but perhaps the *Nitre* in the Powder is an insuperable Obstacle; and that no other metal than pure *Gold* can resist the moisture which a damp Atmosphere creates, and which will pervade the *pores* of *Iron*, however forged. One Artist has taken out a Patent, for an Invention by which the Cost of half a dozen Flints may be saved in as many Seasons; it is a clumsy unsightly Appendage, and reminds us of SMOLLET's Mechanic, who made a machine for cutting *Cabbages*, by which an extra dish of delicious *Sprouts* might be procured, but unfortunately it was so cumbrous and complex, that it required *two Horses* to move it. As to its stated usefulness in preventing Accidents, by taking off the *top* of the *cock* and *flint*, it is a far preferable Custom never to bring a Gun that is *charged* into a House *at all*.

A few Directions relating to the keeping the Gun in a state proper for Use may find a place here.

A Fowling-piece should not be fired more than *twenty* times without being washed; a Barrel, *when foul*, neither discharges so readily, nor carries the shot so far or so rapidly as when *clean*. The *flint*, *pan*, and *hammer*, should be well wiped after each fire, and a *feather* introduced into the *Touch-hole*: this greatly contributes to the quick firing, by taking away all Humidity that may be contracted there, if the Gun has been delayed

to be recharged, which should, if possible, be avoided, for a Damp then arises that retains the *powder* at the *sides*, and hinders its falling to the *bottom* of the Barrel: besides, *Powder* will imbibe moisture from the *Air*; it is therefore an additional advantage to load whilst the *Barrel* is warm from the *preceding* Discharge, by which some part of the Dampness may be evaporated. The use of the Feather is also some guard against all remains of a *fusée* of wet or bruised powder.

Flints should never be worn close, or even *attempted* to be fired with any great number of times. The value of a new one is not *equal* to the Vexation that *missing fire* ever occasions. Should it happen, which it ought very seldom to do, that a Gun is laid up *charged*, a *fresh priming* is absolutely necessary, before the Piece is again used.

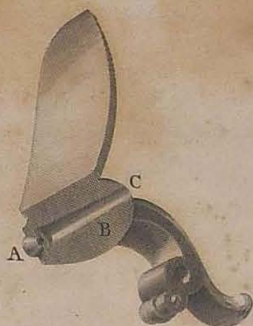
Gunmakers generally apply *Hot* water to clean the Barrels if much *leaded*, and afterwards finish with *cold*; but *Cold water* is best, and the *Tow* being strewed over with *Steel filings* will better remove the *lead*, and at the same time do no injury to the inside polish of the Barrel.

Every Shooter should have the *Breeches* of his *Guns* taken out at least *twice* a Year. To undo them without springing the Barrels, let him use *Tallow* and *Wax* mixed, and anoint the *threads*, steeping the Barrels in *warm* water *before trying* to unscrew them: any Fault may be easily discovered by thus inspecting the *Barrels*.

The last, but probably the most Essential, are the hints for the safe Management of Guns in the *Field*: in the Hope and with the Design of impressing a greater degree of Caution, they are presented to the Reader's Attention.

In the reign of CHARLES the First no person shot *flying*: what is now termed *Poaching* was the Gentleman's Recreation; and so late as within *Sixty years* an Individual who exercised the Art of Shooting Birds on the

Patent Hammers JOSEPH MANTON.



- A The part next the Touch-hole, hollowed out and perforated with a small Hole, so as to let the Air pass through, but not the Powder.
- B The Seat of the Hammer grooved out from the Perforation to the Edge C so as to let the Air, but not the Powder out of the Pan.

The Improvement is, that the Powder in the Barrel by the Air being allowed to pass, is forced into the perforated Receiver A, so that the Touch-hole is always full of Powder by which means the Flashing or hanging Fire is prevented.

Wing was considered as performing something extraordinary, and many persons requested to attend his Excursions, that they might be Eye-witnesses of it. Since that period the practice has been more common, and is at present almost universal; so that *Lads of sixteen* bring down their Birds with all due accuracy. To prescribe any extensive Rules for the attainment of this Art may now be deemed superfluous, and therefore they will be reduced into a very narrow Compass.

In *Shooting*, it is to be ever remembered, that the *Hand* is to obey the *Eye*, and not the *Eye* be subservient to the *Hand*. Both Eyes should be open, and the Object fired at, the instant the Muzzle of the Gun is brought up, and fairly bears upon it; the Sight becomes weakened by a protracted look along the barrel at a Bird, and it is for this reason that Birds which spring at the Marksman's feet, and fly off horizontally, are frequently missed; his keeping the Aim upon them so long fatigues the *Eye*, and the *Finger* does not obey the *Eye* so readily as when employed at a *first Glance*. It is not here meant that a Bird is to be blown to atoms so soon as it tops the Stubble, but that a Marksman is first to make himself a thorough judge of *Distance*: with that knowledge in *open shooting*, he will never put the Gun to his Shoulder until the Bird has flown a proper length, and then fire the instant the Sight of it is caught.

To kill Birds flying cross either to the right or left, allowance must be made by the Shooter both for the distance he is from them, the strength of the *Bird*, and also the Velocity of the object itself. The motion of a *Partridge*, for instance, in November, will be greatly accelerated to what it was two Months before. Practice alone can teach these *Minutiæ*, which if fixed at any given space, or attempted to be uniformly regulated upon *Paper*, might lead the Marksman erroneously in the *Field*.

It may however be mentioned that in a cross shot to the *Right*, the Difficulty is very much increased if the right Leg is *first* when the Bird rises; the Gun cannot then be brought but a very trifle beyond a straight

line to the *Right*, and frequently Gentlemen stand with their Feet *thirty* inches apart when in the act of Firing, a Position that effectually prevents their bringing their Gun to bear upon a *crossing* Object. When Dogs point, or when Game has been marked and expected to spring, the Walk should be with short and easy Steps; the Body can then be easily turned upon the Legs, as if on a *Pivot*, and the Bird commanded even if it should fly quite round the Sportsman.

The science of Aiming *accurately* will be of little service, except the Gun is held steady from all *starting* or *flinching* in the Action of firing; it is to small purpose to traverse the Gun with the celerity of a Bird flying rapidly in a transverse direction, if the person suspends *that motion* when he touches the Trigger to pull it. In this interlapse between the beginning of the *pull* and the *appulse* of the *shot* to *five and thirty* or *forty* yards distance, (be the pull and stroke of the Cock as short, and the Fire as quick as possible,) any Bird of game will, in a serene day, gain progressively in its flight above *two yards*, and with a rough Wind considerably more. *Quickness of sight* and *steady Aiming* will never constitute a Marksman, unless the *motion* of the Gun corresponds with them, and receives no Check whilst in the act of drawing the Trigger.

Should *different* Guns be employed, the Shooter should have all the *Locks* made, if possible, to require *exactly* the same pull to bring them to action; there is nothing deceives or disconcerts him more than shooting one day with a *stiff*, and the next with an *easy* going Lock: the Transition from that which goes off with a *slight* to that where a *hard* touch is necessary will often cause the most *expert* to miss his Bird.

Always hold the Gun with the *left hand* close to the *Guard*, (and *not forward* upon the Barrel to strongly grasp it near the entrance of the *ram-rod*, notwithstanding it has been so strenuously recommended:) all the requisite steadiness in *taking aim*, and *even of motion*, in traversing the flight of a Bird, can be obtained by thus holding the *heaviest* pieces;

and, in case of a Barrel's *bursting*, the *Certainty* of having a Hand or Arm shattered by *grasping the barrel* is reduced to a *Chance* of escaping the Effects of such an Accident, by placing the Hand *close to the Guard* beneath it*.

With *double Guns* a danger arises from the Shooter who fires but *one* barrel, and kills his Bird, forgetting to *uncock* the other previous to his re-loading that which has been discharged: to obviate this, let him invariably *uncock* the *second* barrel before he sets the *Butt* of the Gun upon the Ground; a sense of *Self-preservation* will soon render this habitual; and a Man who is so *Absent* or so *Eager* as to disregard this Practice, had better confine himself to the carrying a *Cane* instead of a *Gun*.

After discharging one Barrel, be careful to secure with the *Ramrod* the Wadding of the other, which from the *Recoil* usually becomes loose: this is not only needful to prevent the *Shot* from falling out, but is an Act of Safety, lest there should be a Space *between* the Shot and Wadding, that will endanger the barrel: it likewise prevents Mistakes in *loading*; and no objection can be made to it, but the accidental fall of a *shot* into the *loaded*, whilst pouring them into the *fired* barrel, and which may occasion some trouble in withdrawing the *Ramrod*; in such a case, turn the muzzle into the hand, and keep the *Ramrod* home upon the Charge, and the *stray* shot will easily be extricated.

When *uncocking* a Gun, never remove the Thumb from the Cock until after having let it pass down beyond the *half bent*, and gently raised it again, the Sound of the *Sear* is heard catching the *Tumbler*.

* In September, 1806, Mr. BANISTER lost the Top of three Fingers, and the Thumb and other parts of the Hand were much torn by the Bursting of his Gun. He had unfortunately placed his hand *forward* upon the Barrel: it is hoped the Misfortune to this Gentleman may operate forcibly against so dangerous a practice; for with the Hand in that position, should any Barrel burst, it is next to a Miracle but the party is dreadfully wounded, whereas by the hand being kept *close to the Guard*, there have been numberless Cases where Barrels have flown to pieces, without Injury to the Persons who held them.

Carrying the Gun in a safe Position, and well securing the *Lock*, are the first Articles a *young Sportsman* should learn, and never cease to regard: the result of neglecting other Observances is, generally, no more than *missing* the object; but Carelessness in the handling, or position of the Gun, are too frequently attended with the most melancholy Catastrophes: however *Probabilities* may be calculated from, a proper attention to the *Muzzle* prevents the *Possibility* of Mischief from one source. When a Keeper of the Earl of CHESTERFIELD's was preparing for the Field in January 1789, and stooping to buckle on his Spur, as he sat with his Gun resting on his knee, and the Muzzle close to his Cheek, it seemed *Impossible* that a part of the *Lock* should break at that particular point of time; but his instantaneous Death was the terrible effect of his not having guarded against what was *Possible*. The Muzzle of the Gun pointing obliquely *upwards* between the *left Elbow* and *left Cheek*, if the piece fires ever so often by Accident, can never do harm; and from this Position it may be presented with more *Ease*, *Expedition*, and *Correctness*, than from any other.

Beware of the Muzzle of the Gun being kept hanging *downwards*; when so carried, the *Shot* is apt to force its way from the *Powder*, especially in *clean* barrels: if it happens that a space of *sixteen* or *eighteen inches* is thus obtained, and the Gun fired with its point below the *Horizon*, it is ten to one but the Barrel *bursts*. There are other perilous consequences besides those that generally accompany the disruption of a barrel, for the *Men*, *Horses*, and *Dogs*, are in perpetual danger of being shot, when a Gun is carried in the beforementioned *pendent* manner.

In shooting with a Stranger, who perhaps keeps his Gun *cocked*, and the Muzzle usually pointed to the left, plead for the *right-hand* station, and that you cannot hit a Bird flying to the *left*; with a Gamekeeper, take the right hand without Ceremony. In getting over a Fence, constantly endeavour to go *last*, notwithstanding the usual assurance of, *My dear Sir, I am always remarkably careful*: and if a person beats *Bushes*

with a cocked Gun, get out of his Company *as a Shooter*, with all possible Expedition.

Recollect, both in the *House** and in the *Field*, always to consider a Gun *as loaded*, and never suffer it to be pointed for a *Moment* towards any *Human Being*.

Never display Skill by firing close to the *Head* of either Man or Beast, whether a *Companion's* or a favourite *Pointer's*. A story is told of two persons shooting together, when one of them, an Exhibiter in this way, put several shots into his Friend's *Arm*, who made suitable *Outcries*. In the course of the Day the Compliment was returned, with Interest, by the wounded Man,—“ You're a pretty Fellow (exclaimed the Man last hit) to be so vociferous about my shooting you this Morning; why d—n me, I

* At Dr. BENNET's, Vicar of Chapel-en-le-Frith, a person in 1803 left his Gun loaded. A Servant Girl, unconscious of its being charged, presented it in a sportive Manner at another Girl, and instantly shot her dead. The unintentional Author of this Accident was so affected that she has remained in a melancholy State ever since. This is one selected out of the too numerous and fatal Effects from wantonly handling *Fire-arms*: and it ought to be recollected, that should any *previous Quarrel* between the Parties be brought forward, the Laws of the Country may bring the unhappy Survivor to an ignominious End.

Two recent Instances, (which are mentioned with the wish of increasing the Caution necessary to be observed in all Cases where fire-arms are handled,) occurred in August and September, 1806; the first where the Son of Mr. TURKIN at Taunton, a young Gentleman about Seventeen Years old, had fired one of the Barrels of his double-barrelled Gun, and returned to the House, thoughtless of the other being loaded, it accidentally went off, and the Contents were lodged in the Arm and Side of his Sister, a most amiable Girl, two years older than himself; and although every Assistance was immediately procured, a few hours terminated her Existence.—The latter was in the County of Bucks, when Mr. PINCOTT, a Hop-factor at Clapton, was shot in the following manner: He went out Shooting with a Gentleman at whose House he was visiting; having occasion to get over a *Hedge* during their Diversion, the Deceased, who was a Man of Agility, first passed over, and in order to assist his Friend, gave him the *Butt end* of the Piece to help him up the Bank: the Gun discharged, and lodged its Contents in the Body of Mr. P. who immediately expired. *This* is a Practice very frequently adopted; but it is to be hoped this Accident will operate so as to show the Danger, and to prevent its being ever again resorted to.

have half your Charge now in my *Leg*.”—“ Very likely, (replied the other, coolly,) but I killed my *Hare*, and your *Bird* was missed.”

In shooting *alone* with a double Gun, it frequently occurs, that the Attention is taken up by a *wounded* Bird, and the Opportunity of a *second* shot is neglected; or, upon a second Bird being shot at, the first is lost, although, if observed, it might have been easily retrieved. In company, the *Marker* to a double Gun should keep his Eye on the *first* Bird if wounded, and leave the *second* to the *shooter* himself.

The Marker should however recollect that the *harder* a Bird is hit, especially at long Distances, when only one or two Grains have taken place, the less visible signs of it are observed, unless the Bird drops the Legs, or instantly *towers*; for which reason the *Marker's* Eye should be kept on the Bird so far as it can be seen: it frequently happens, that a Bird falls *dead*, four or five hundred yards from the place where first struck, and is as frequently lost for want of proper Attention to its Flight. When a Bird is seen to *drop its Legs* at the instant of firing, and fly off in an undulated Motion, or *tower* to a great height, both these are certain Signs of Death, and are generally occasioned by a Contusion on the *Vertebræ*; for if the Spine is injured, *Paralysis* ensues. If the Brain is contused, the Bird *towers*, but the *Legs* are not *pendent*.

Instructions for shooting at Partridges have been so poetically and ably given that they are here inserted.

“ As glory more than gain allures the brave
To dare the combat loud, or louder wave;
So the ambition of the Sportsman lies
More in the certain shot than bleeding prize:
While *Poachers*, mindful of the festal hour,
Among the Covey random slaughter pour;
And as their number press the crimsoned ground,
Regardless reck not of the secret wound,
Which borne away, the wretched victims lie,
'Mid silent shades, to languish and to die.

O let *your* breast such selfish views disclaim,
And scorn the Triumph of a casual aim!
Disdain such rapine, of your Skill be proud,
One *object* singling from the scattering Crowd!"

PYE*.

With *Rifle* Barrels the compiler has had no practice; he was once a tolerable shot with a *Pistol*; the Construction of the latter Implement is now, perhaps unfortunately, at the height of Perfection. The three best shots in *England*, probably in *Europe*, are the Duke of HAMILTON, Lord JOHN CAMPBELL, and Sir JOHN LEICESTER. In firing both *Rifles* and *Pistols*, the Place should be well adapted, and admit no *Chance* of a Ball's flying off to do Mischief. As an Instance of the fatal consequences of a *stray* Ball, one of the BURRELL Family lies buried in *Beckingham* Churchyard, who was killed by the Servant discharging a *Horse-pistol* at the Stables, which shot him through the Head in the Dining-room, at the distance of *Three hundred and seventeen yards*.

The foregoing are *salutary* Cautions: what follows are *ludicrous* Comments, which may apply, and have a proper Tendency, if perused by *would-be* Shooters, every where too abundant.

Let the Gun be stocked to the Muzzle, and heavy as possible, observing in particular that the Touch-hole be large: should the *Lock* go off when *Half-cocked*, so much the better, it saves trouble, and is always prepared for Action. A *bright* barrel is more conspicuous in the Field, and handsomer over the Fireplace at home, than a dull brown piece of Iron. The shot-belt should be capable of holding *twenty* pounds at least; it is impossible to define what Quantity may be wanted. As to the article of *Dress*,

* A Bet some time since was made between P. MACKENZIE, Esq. of *Southampton*, and two Brother Sportsmen, "that the former Gentleman did not kill *one brace of Partridges*, every Day (Sundays excepted) for *Six Weeks* in succession from the *first* Day of September, 1805." This was determined on Saturday the *twelfth* of October, when Mr. M. completed his Engagement, which is looked upon by *Amateurs* as one of the most uncommon Field Exploits that has been performed for many Years.

opinions are much divided; one Gentleman has insisted upon *Green* in the early part of the Season, and in Winter *dark Grey*, or some colour resembling that of a *dead leaf*, except during *Snow*, when a *white* habit is indispensable: however, leaving the Colour to the fancy of the Wearer, the Coat should be made with *long Skirts*; it will then enable the Lock of the Gun to be covered, and the priming defended from the effect of Rain: a *cocked Hat* will also be proper, as it causes no obstruction to the Sight, and preserves Uniformity.

In the choice of *Dogs* there are various Fancies, but that species of the *Spaniel* called the *Spitalfields Hie-away* is to be preferred, as he will hunt every kennel as well as ditch, and runs over much ground; a few half-grown puppies will be also serviceable, as they will not keep close to the heel, but, by continually frisking and yelping, will assuredly disturb every thing that has Life. The moment the Trigger is drawn, both Eyes should be shut; the priming cannot then hurt them, and they can be opened time enough to see where the Game falls. Hammer the *Flint* with the back of a knife after every discharge (when the Gun is reloaded,) to prevent its missing fire; and let the point of the Gun be *presented to a Companion*, if possible; and in stopping upon any occasion, always put the Muzzle under the Arm for a support, as well as to prevent Wet from running down the Barrel.

If a party of *Three* go together in a Carriage, be sure that two barrels of the Guns appear at least a quarter of a Yard from the *side* Windows, and the third in *front*; all the people that are *passed* must then know they are Shooters. Be careful in hastily firing at any Dog for *standing still*; a famous *City Sportsman* once did so, and the same shot that disabled *Ponto*, disturbed the Partridges. But still more laughable than the foregoing is the *Deed* underneath recited, and which, if there be such things as *ESQUIRES* who understand *LATIN*, and *Sporting PARSONS* who have not forgotten it, they will smile at.

" *In flammas et in armâ feror.*"

ARMA VIRUMQUE *cano*, qui primo Sole bo-peeping,
Jam nunc cum tabby Nox languet to button her eye-lids,
Cum Pointers aut Spaniels campos sylvasque pererrat—

Vos mihi *Brontothesi*, over Arms small and great dominantes,
Date Spurs to dull Poet qui *dog-latin* Carmina condit—
Artibus atque novis audax dum SPORTSMEN I follow,
Per Stubbles et Turnips et tot discrimina rerum,
Dum PARTRIDGE with popping terrificare minantur,
(Pauci namque valent a Feather tangere plumbo)
Carmina si hang fire discharge them bag-piping APOLLO.

TE quoque, Magne CLEATOR*, te memorande precamur—
Jam nunc thy Fame gallops super Garamantas et Indos,
Nam NABOBS nil nisi de Brimstone et Charcoal loquuntur,
Horrifiphizque TIPPOO sulphurea sustinet arma—
—Induit ecce SHOOTER Tuncam made of neat marble Drugget;
Quæ benè conveniens defluxit to th' waistband of Breeches.
Nunc *paper* et *powder*, et *silices*, popp'd in the side pocket,
Immemor haud *Shot-bag* graditur committatus two Pointers,
Mellorian retinens tormentum dextra bi-barrel'd.

En! stat *staunch* DINGO haud aliter quam steady Guidepost,
Proximus atque PERO perstat se ponere juxta—
With Gun cock'd and levell'd, et lævo lumine clauso,
Nunc Avicida resolves haud double-strong parcere Powder.

Vos teneri *Yelpers*†, vos grandævique parentes,
Nunc palsy-pate JOVE orate to dress to the left-hand,
Et VENERI tip the wink, like a shot to skim down ab alto
Mingere per touch-hole totamque madescere *priming*.—

Nunc lugete dui nunc SPORTSMEN planjite palmas
Infandum flebili Musâ renovante dolorem—
Exsilit ecce LEPUS from *Box* cum Thistles operto—
Bang bellow'd both barrels—heu! pronus sternitur each Dog—
Et PUSS in th' interim trips away sub tegmine Thorn-bush.

The Compiler here closes his Labours. On the various Topics which he has undertaken to treat, he has endeavoured to direct the Attention to

* Author of the ingenious "Essay on Shooting."

† Young Partridges.

whatever he thought of sufficient importance to repay, or of tendency to *amuse* it. In selecting this Information he found his Work grow upon him, and it has, in consequence, been considerably augmented.—Some particulars, which he did not design originally to touch upon, he afterwards found to be so intimately blended with the main purport of the Book that the total Omission of them would have left it defective.

In the most common Pursuits, as well as in the most complicate Science, there is a certain *previous* Knowledge requisite to enable us to prosecute them with Facility and Success. Without some such Knowledge even the Pastimes of the Field will rarely compensate the time and trouble expended upon them. This Knowledge it has been the Compiler's aim to impart. His instructions have been drawn from Writers of the greatest merit. Whenever he has ventured to differ or to doubt, he has done so from the teachings of actual Experiment; opportunities of Intercourse he has enjoyed with the best Judges; his own means of Intelligence have been considerable; and the Implements he has himself recommended have undergone repeated and successful Trials.

Where Hunting, and the pursuit of Game, form the sole Employment of a People, it tends naturally, and almost inevitably, to give a coarseness and rusticity to the Character; but there is no danger of this in *modern* Times. Such Recreations, on the contrary, may serve to temper the polished Effeminacy of the Age, and to prevent its degenerating into a too soft and artificial Urbanity. The Magistrates in the Greek Republics encouraged a taste for *Music* among the Citizens, as contributing by its Harmony to allay the Ferocity inspired by *gymnastic* and *military* Exercises. In *modern* Europe there is more need of Caution, lest all the more boisterous and manly Diversions should be exploded, and there be nothing left to counteract the emasculating tendency of our *luxurious* and *fashionable* Manners.

Of the Laws made for the protection of Game we have before spoken.

Much has been, at various times, said, respecting the Severity of great landed Proprietors towards their humble Tenantry; and Examples of *individual* Oppression have been adduced in proof of the Complaint alleged. It is too true that Men invested with Power do not always use it with Discretion: we are but too apt to be more attentive to our own Pleasure, than our Neighbour's Peace; but still, we believe, that the Instances of the extreme Exertion of the *Power* involved in the exclusive right to kill Game have been greatly exaggerated. It is indeed to be regretted that in any, even in a single Case, the Game Laws should be perverted from the rational objects which occasioned their Introduction; should any such Instances arise by an adherence to the *Letter*, they can never occur without an Infringement of their *Principle*. Those who derive a peculiar advantage by any Legislative Ordinance ought to be careful so to employ it, as not to harass the *excepted* part of their Fellow-subjects. It is the particular Duty of such persons to act with an eye to the *true* Spirit and Intention of the Laws which regulate the pursuit of Game: and to remember, that, although they reserve to them an *exclusive* Participation of *Rural Sports*, they confer no Right to infringe the Privileges, or interrupt the Happiness, of even the humblest Classes of the State.

Of the Subject itself, which has engaged the Compiler's Researches, he has only thus much to remark: The Diversions of the Field have been not seldom regarded, as the Resources of vigorous *Idleness* and intellectual *Vacancy*; they have been condemned, as unconnected with that dignified Activity of Mind, which explores the tracks of Science, and extends the Empire of Reason. But must every Amusement be renounced, which does not contribute to expand our Understanding?

" In Parts superior what Advantage lies?

Tell (if you can) what is it to be wise?

'Tis but to know how little can be known;

To see all others' Faults, and feel our own.

Painful Pre-eminence! yourself to view

Above Life's Weakness and its Comforts too.

Pleasures are ever in our Hands or Eyes ;
 And when in Act they cease, in Prospect rise :
 The Bliss of Man (could Pride that Blessing find)
 Is not to act or think, beyond Mankind.
 Fix'd to no Spot is Happiness sincere ;
 'Tis no where to be found, or every where.
 Some place the Bliss in Action, some in Ease ;
 Those call it Pleasure, and Contentment these.
 Who thus define it, say they more or less
 Than this, that Happiness is Happiness ?"

POPE.

" We can give no Account whatever of our Pleasures in the simple and original Perception ; and, even when physical sensations are assumed, we can seldom account for them in the secondary and complicated shapes in which they take the name of *Diversions*. I never yet," says this Writer, (the much-lamented Dr. PALEY,) " met with a *Sportsman* who could tell me in what the *Sport* consisted ; who could resolve it into its Principle, and state that Principle. I have been," continues he, " a great follower of FISHING myself, and in its chearful Solitude have passed some of the happiest Hours of a sufficiently happy Life ; but to this moment I could never trace out the *Source* of the Pleasure which it afforded me.

" The '*quantum in rebus inane*,' whether applied to our Amusements or to our graver Pursuits, (to which, in Truth, it sometimes equally belongs,) is always an unjust Complaint. If Trifles engage, and if Trifles make us happy, the true Reflection suggested by the Experiment, is upon the tendency of Nature to Gratification and Enjoyment ; which is, in other Words, the Goodness of its AUTHOR towards his sensitive Creation."—Such were the Sentiments of a Man, now, unfortunately, no more ; whose Memory as an enlightened Scholar will be long revered ; as a firm Defender of the Christian Religion, perhaps no one has by his Writings more advanced its best Interests, or communicated such convincing Evidences of its Truth.

It is a cynical and sickly Philosophy which would decry any Re-

creation which neither pollutes the Manners nor hurts the Mind. The Pursuits of the Sportsman lure us from the smoke of Cities to the healthful breezes of the Forest, and the animating enjoyments of the Field; neither is it true that they are so closely allied to *Stupefaction*, as some Censors would persuade us. The Man of moral feeling and lively fancy, may, in the midst of such Pursuits, indulge them to the utmost. The observing and relishing the Works of Nature, is in fact to excite a fresh Cause for adoring the great CREATOR, for reposing an implicit Confidence in his Wisdom, for revering his awful Omnipotence.

See through this Air, this Ocean, and this Earth,
 All Matter quick and bursting into Birth.
 Thus then to Man the voice of Nature spake:
 Go! from the Creatures thy Instructions take;
 Learn from the Birds what Food the Thickets yield;
 Learn from the Beasts the Physic of the Field;
 Thy Arts of building from the Bee receive;
 Learn of the Mole to plough, the Worm to weave;
 Learn of the little Nautilus to sail,
 Spread the thin Oar, and catch the driving Gale.

POPE.

“There is no one,” says the eloquent ZIMMERMAN, “who may not, by quietly traversing the Mountains with his Gun, learn to feel how much the great Scenes of Nature will influence the Heart, when assisted by the Powers of Imagination.

“—————The Men
 Whom Nature's works can charm, with God himself
 Hold converse; grow familiar, Day by Day,
 With his Conceptions, act upon his Plan,
 And form to his the Relish of their Souls.”

AKENSIDE.

The sight of an agreeable Landscape, the various points of view which the spacious Plains afford, the freshness of the Zephyrs, the beauty of the Sky, and the Appetite which a long Chase procures, will give energy to Health, and make every new Step seem too short. The privation of every

object that can recal the Idea of Dependance accompanied by domestic Comfort, wholesome Exercises, and useful Occupations, will add vigour to Thought, and inebriate the Heart with the most delicious Sensations."

ETERNAL POWER ! from whom these blessings flow,
Teach me still more to wonder, more to know :
Seed-time and *Harvest* let me see again ;
Wander the *leaf-strown* Wood, the frozen Plain :
Let the first Flower, Corn-waving Field, Plain, Tree,
Here round my Home, still lift my Soul to THEE !
And let me ever, 'midst thy Bounties, raise
An humble note of Thankfulness and Praise.

BLOOMFIELD.

THE END.

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