

long after the introduction of fire-arms. Formerly, there were two sorts of bows in use amongst us; namely, the long bow, and the cross bow: they who used the long bow were called archers, in distinction from the cross-bowmen. The Artillery Company of London arose from an ancient fraternity of archers and bowmen.

Archery was in former times thought of such importance as to become the object of the legislature's care; many acts of parliament of various periods having been framed in support of it, long after it had been laid aside as a military art. These acts went so far as to compel every man, except the clergy and the judges, to practise shooting, and to have continually in his possession a bow, and at least three arrows. By other acts, the city of London was obliged to erect butts, and to keep them in repair.*

Edward III. wrote to the sheriffs, commanding them to see that the people laid aside the games they then practised, which he called dishonest and unprofitable, and to exercise themselves with bows and arrows; and, in the year 1498, many gardens were levelled and made into one field, for the use of the London archers, which is now the Artillery Ground, near Finsbury Square. In 1514, the inhabitants of Islington, Hoxton, and Shoreditch, having enclosed the fields which had been appropriated for the exercise of archery, into gardens, the citizens of London assembled in great numbers, and with spades and pick-axes levelled the banks and ditches, and restored the grounds to their former state.

Henry VIII. was particularly fond of archery, and commissioned Sir Christopher Morris, master of the ordnance, to revive the amusement, which at that time was rather drooping, by establishing a society of archers, which was called, "The Fraternity of St. George," who obtained a charter from the King, with many privileges, in which was this remarkable passage:—"That if any archer killed a man, he could not be sued, or in any way molested, if he had, before he shot, called out 'fast!' a word common at that time.

* Many places indicate by their names where the Butts were erected; as Newington Butts, Brentford Butts, &c.

A striking, and highly-graphic scene, in illustration of this, is given in one of the novels—"The Monks of Leadenhall," if we mistake not—by the author of "The Lollards, &c."

Archery was so much approved of as a bodily exercise by Bishop Latimer, that he even preached a sermon in favour of it before Edward VI. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when archery was again declining, the bow-makers petitioned the Queen for authority to put the acts of Henry VIII. in force, by which they obliged every man who had not a bow and three arrows in his possession, to provide himself accordingly.*

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

After the Restoration, archery became the general amusement. Charles II. himself took such delight in it, that he knighted a gentleman—Sir William Wood—for excelling an excellent shot. Sir William's portrait is in the possession of the Toxophilite Society: on his tomb-stone were the following lines:—

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

After the death of Charles II., the art again declined, and was confined in prac-

* The Bowyers' Company is one of the ancient companies of the city of London. A bowyer, dwelling in London, was to have always ready, fifty bows of elm, witch-hazel, or ash, well made and wrought, on pain of ten shillings for every bow wanting; and to sell them at certain prices, under the penalty of forty shillings. *Stat. 8 Eliz. c. 10.*—And parents and masters were to provide, for their sons and servants, a bow and two shafts, and cause them to exercise shooting, on pain of 6s. 8d., &c., by our ancient statutes: 12 Edward IV.; 33 Henry VIII.—By a statute of 7 Henry IV. c. 7, all heads of arrows shall be well brased, and hardened at the point with steel, on pain of forfeiture and imprisonment; and to be marked with the mark of the maker.

tice to a few counties only, till about fifty years ago, when it was revived with increased splendour throughout every part of England. Since that period between forty and fifty societies of archers have been instituted, many of which exist and continue their yearly and monthly meetings.

Independently of the benefits resulting from archery as a healthful exercise, it is certain that the human figure cannot be displayed to greater advantage than when drawing the bow. Madame Bola, formerly a celebrated opera dancer, declared, on being taught the use of the bow, that, of all the attitudes she had ever studied—and her whole life had been spent in studying attitudes—that of shooting with the long bow was the most noble and graceful she had ever seen.

A few incidental hints from Mr. Waring's Treatise, and, for the present, we have done: at a future period we may possibly find occasion to offer some illustrations of a different character.

There never was a mistaken notion more prevalent, than that the bow is too simple to require any study; but, simple as it may appear, it will be found that without a theoretical knowledge, the practical part never can be obtained, and so many inconveniences arise to a person attempting one without having acquired the other, that he soon grows disgusted, because not able to overcome it. These difficulties Mr. Waring wishes to remove, by pointing out to the learner a proper method to pursue; for, many thinking it to be so insignificant as not worth a moment's study, adopt, what their own ideas suggest, and thereby fall into such bad habits, as to break bow after bow, till at last they get disheartened from pursuing the amusement any further, and lay it aside altogether, as appearing to them trifling and childish, and in the end expensive. These, and other vexations, arise through not beginning in a proper way at first.

A lady, witnessing the performance of an unskilful archer, wonders how she can amuse herself with what she remembers was only looked upon at school as a toy; but when she beholds expert shooting, and is shewn the strength and powers of the bow, her wonder changes to the op-

posite side, and she admires with delight what she before treated with contempt.

It is the method of our best archers, as they raise the bow, to draw it three parts of the way—then pause to take aim—then draw it quite up to the head, and instantly loose, for it should not be kept upon the stretch more than a second or two, for fear of breaking. The best of bows when drawn up to the head of an arrow, are full seven-eighths towards being broken; for, pull a bow up an eighth more above the arrow's length, and it is almost impossible it should escape.

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

Only the face—for instance.

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

The heels should be about six or seven inches apart.

The head to incline a little downward over the breast.

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

The left arm, which holds the bow, must be held out quite straight, with the wrist turned in as much as possible. By this means, the bow, by being grasped only very easy, will rest firm in the hand; but if the wrist be not turned in, the strength of the bow falling upon that joint, prevents the archer from resisting the pressure of it; therefore, the bow never can be drawn up with firmness to the head of the arrow.

Remember then, that the arm be so turned in, that the string strikes it when loosed.

The bow must be held completely perpendicular.

When taking aim, the arrow is to be brought up towards the ear—not to the eye, as many suppose.

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

The arrow is carried *under the string*,

and over the bow; the arrow still held by the middle, till the pile reaches the left hand; the fore-finger of which is thrown over it, while the right hand retreats back to the nock, to look for the cock feather, which, when found, the arrow being held between the thumb and finger, is slid down the bow, and fixed upwards on that part of the string which is exactly opposite the top of the handle.

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

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

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

Ladies' bows are from twenty-four pounds to thirty-four.

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

A gentleman, on no account whatever, ought to take up a lady's bow, even with a proper arrow; for, it being made much inferior to his strength, yields so easily to his pull, that he unconsciously draws it up beyond the power the bow will bear.

It is customary on "Grand Days," particularly on the "Lady Patroness's Meeting," for the members to invite ladies, and in the evening to give a ball in the pavilion; on which occasion, the ladies, in compliment to the archers, generally form part of their dress of green.

We conclude with an excellent article of the Toxophilite Society—an article which, it is presumed, must prove generally — UNIVERSALLY — satisfactory: — *if any member marry, he shall treat the rest with a marriage-feast!*

Original Poetry.

NEW OATHS FOR LOVERS.

By Captain M'Naghten.

TO ANGELICA.

MY dear! the oaths are all so worn,
By which we lovers us'd to swear,
That now each pledge, as upwards borne,
Jove scatters midway in the air.
E'en laugh'd-at perjuries are stale,
So oft have words and plights been broken,
And constancy, become quite frail,
Its promise breaks as soon as spoken.

The reason's this—we swear by things
So very little apt to change,
That their perpetual fixture brings
Quite a desire in us to range.
There's no *renewing* vows like these,
Though the best vows need renovation,—
And we grow weary, by degrees,
Of each-old, standing protestation.
No. 81.—Vol. XIV.

If changeless things cause changeful oaths,
Love's logic (which is not a little)
Would save forswearing, which it loathes,
By choosing fleeting tests, or brittle.
The vow would thus be yearly made,
Or by the month, week, day, or hour,
According as the test might fade,—
Thus, fairest! let me try its power.

I LOVE THEE!—and I swear to love
FOR EVER!—by the moon's first quarter
By yon light cloud the hill above,
And by the last new fashion's charter:
I swear, by every snow-drop's leaf,
And by each shower that April freshens
And by an infant's depth of grief,
And by a maiden's first impressions.

And by the anger of *thy* heart,
And by the frown upon *thy* brow,
I swear my love shall not depart,
Nor ever be less warm than now.

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