

# *An essay on archery*

Walter Michael Moseley



Stolhard del

Heath sc

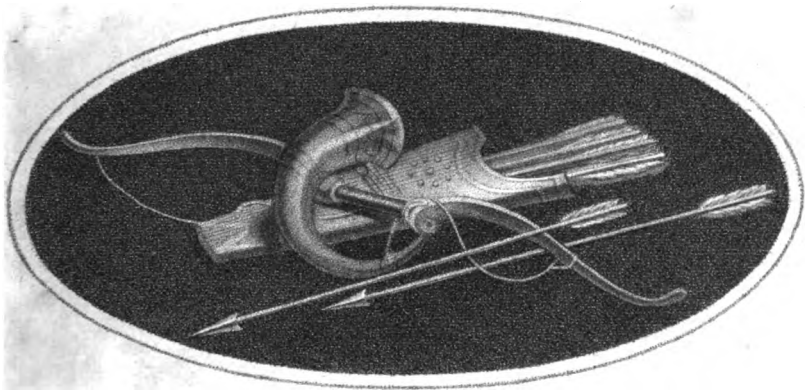
AN ESSAY  
on  
ARCHERY,

describing

*The Practice of that Art,*

in all

*AGES and NATIONS.*



WORCESTER

*Printed by T. and T. Moll  
(and sold by J. Robson London).*

AN  
ESSAY ON ARCHERY:  
DESCRIBING THE  
*PRACTICE OF THAT ART,*  
IN ALL  
AGES AND NATIONS.

BY  
*WALTER MICHAEL MOSELEY, Esq.*

---

τοξον δ'ανδρεισσι μιλησει

Πασι, μαλιστα δ'εμοι.

Arcus viris curæ erit omnibus, maximè vero mihi.

---

MDCCXCII.

1792



---

## P R E F A C E.

---

**B**EING fond of the exercise of shooting the Bow, it has often excited in me a desire of forming some knowledge with respect to Archery. The means of attaining information, however, were not obvious, as no comprehensive treatise on the subject has appeared during an interval of almost two centuries and an half. The *Toxophilus* of Ascham, published in the reign of Henry VIII. cannot be esteemed a satisfactory account of this art, as it principally regards Archery in England; and as many circumstances of importance in relation to the Bow in foreign nations are omitted. In 1544, the time in which Ascham wrote, the knowledge of the Western world was but imperfect; and although some few American histories were written previous to that æra,

a

yet

yet the jealousy of the Spanish court, studiously confined within the narrowest limits it was able, all information relating to the newly discovered continent. The manners and customs of the Eastern world were almost equally unknown, as commerce had not at that time opened a familiar intercourse with the inhabitants of this island. These sources of information, therefore, which afford an ample field for the investigation of a modern writer, with respect to Archery, could not have been enjoyed in so remote a period as that in which Ascham lived.

During the last century, two works appeared: "*The Art of Archery*," by Gervas Markham, printed in 1634; and "*Wood's Bowman's Glory*," anno 1682. The former is nothing more than an abridgement of *Ascham's Toxophilus*. The latter, as its title page expresses, is "An account of the many signal favours vouchsafed to Archers and Archery, by those renowned Monarchs, Henry VIII. James, and Charles I." It contains the charter of Henry VIII. given to the Fraternity

nity of St. George—a patent of James I. to the same Society, for the encouragement of Archery, on the accustomed grounds near London—and a renewal of the same patent by Charles I. But the principal part of this little book, is a description of a very pompous meeting, and cavalcade of Archers, under the Duke of Shoreditch, and the Worshipful Citizens of London, on the 17th of September, 1583. These two essays are at this time extremely rare, and of great value.

Finding the subject thus neglected, some scattered anecdotes which my memory had treasured up in the course of study, led me to imagine, that a new selection of facts might prove interesting; and the histories of those nations which were formerly, and which are at present in the continual custom of using the Bow, as an instrument of war,—the writings of the Greek and Roman authors, whom experience, as well as report, enabled to relate circumstances with respect to that weapon, as they found it among the nations their arms had often struggled with and subdued,—pro-

mised to yield many opportunities of collecting materials for an agreeable narrative.

As the subject itself was essentially trifling, the pursuit of the object in view seemed scarcely worth the trouble necessary to accomplish it; particularly as the facts which alone could form the basis of a plan, were to be drawn from the depths of massy folios. However, as nothing which related to my favourite diversion had ever escaped in the course of reading, without particular notice, the foundation of my scheme, by application, soon enlarged to a considerable extent.

My own curiosity was satisfied;—but having received much pleasure and instruction in completing the task prescribed to myself, I was flattered in thinking it would prove an agreeable entertainment to my fellow Archers, if I ventured to produce an Essay for their inspection.

There is a peculiar difficulty in writing on a subject little treated of by others; and whoever finds an *opportunity* of composing on a thesis under such a predicament, will soon discover many unforeseen inconveniences he has  
has

P R E F A C E.

has to struggle with. A critic of the eighteenth century will no doubt be astonished to hear me say, my subject is new; for who will imagine any branch of literature to be neglected at this day, whilst Castalio seems so abundantly to overflow its margin? This topic, however, seems to have lurked almost unseen, not only among the English, but in every part of Europe. Men formerly, perhaps, were contented with the practice of Archery; and as the art in latter ages fell into disuse, no one paid attention to the subject.

~The Asiatic nations have, however, shewn a more steady attachment to Archery; and we are told that there are many histories of that art, and Essays teaching the use of the Bow, written in the Persian language.†

As the Bow, through a series of ages, has prevailed a favourite weapon in the East, and among people whose language is highly metaphorical, it is perpetually alluded to in the Eastern compositions; and has gained a place among hieroglyphical figures. The Bow is  
said

† *Bibl. Orientale*, par d'Herbelot. *Art. Cassi.*

said to represent a king; the Arrow an ambassador. § It appears, also, from an anecdote related by Plutarch, that the coin of the Persians was formerly stamped with the figure of an Archer. For Agesilaus, being sent against Tissaphernes into Asia, by the Spartans, Tissaphernes, in order to engage the attention of that people at home, dispatched a messenger loaded with gold, to excite the other states of Greece to make war against them: and having succeeded in his design, it became necessary for the Spartans, that Agesilaus should be recalled to their assistance. As he was upon his return, he is said to have told his friends, that Artaxerxes had driven him from Asia with thirty thousand *Archers*; insinuating that he had received a bribe of Persian money. ||

The Bow, the Arrow, the Quiver, the Corytos, are not unusually to be seen on the ancient coins of Greece; and particularly on the Cretan. The Romans seldom struck the trophies

§ “ L’arc étoit chez le Moguls le symbole d’un Roi, & la fleche, celui d’un Ambassadeur & d’un Viceroy.  
*Bibl. Orientale.*

|| Plut. Artaxerxes, & Briffonius de Reg. Pers. pg. 612.



trophies of Archery on their money; the reason of which will appear in the following pages; and I am ignorant of any more modern coins, on which these insignia have been impressed.

The sculpture of the Greeks, and the fables which have descended to us in their writings, conspire to prove the high regard that people shewed from the Bow and its accompaniments. It is unnecessary, in support of this assertion, to relate the histories of Apollo, Diana, Cupid, or Hercules; the tales of Abaris,\* or of the Centaurs. Chiron, even to this day retains his place among the signs of Zodiac.

We are not entirely destitute of facts in England, from which to judge, that the Bow was highly esteemed by our ancestors. But as the arts a few ages back remained in a rude and barbarous state; and as that little skill which was attained in sculpture and painting, was chiefly employed in the decoration of religious buildings, and consequently on sacred subjects, among which allusions to Archery could have no place; we do not perceive so many

\* Boyle has investigated the story of Abaris at full length.—See his *Dict. Critique*.

many permanent traces of this ancient and bloody art transmitted to us, as might be expected, when we consider the number of ruins subsisting at this day, which were erected and ornamented at the time Archery was in its greatest vigour. The testimony of history, however, clearly demonstrates the partiality which was shewn to the Bow by our countrymen; and the value of that weapon in battle, is manifest, from the havock which the skill of our English Archers formerly spread on the continent, against the Irish, and against the Scotch.

What traces of Archery have descended to us from antiquity; and what remain at present in foreign nations, the Essay before us will display. I hasten, therefore, to my subject, and forbear to keep the reader in suspense.

I shall here, however, take occasion to observe, that had I persuaded myself to have spent more time on this juvenile production, both the language and arrangement would have been much corrected: in its present state, it is with diffidence, and with a trembling hand I hold it forth to public view.

---

*TO THE READER.*

---

AS many of the quotations contained in the following Essay, are drawn from works of which there are various editions; it may not be improper, for the sake of verifying passages, to describe those herein made use of. As my notes were collected at distant times, and without any regard to publication, my manuscript did not specify the particular editions from which the quotations were made; except in some instances wherein the books used were not my own. Remembering this omission too late, I have ventured to give a descrip-

a description of those few books, which I judged most liable to perplex the reader.

- Alexander ab Alexandro, 2 vols. 8vo. Lug. Bat.  
 Ammianus Marcellinus, fol. Gronov. 1693.  
 Arrian. Exped. and Tactics, edit. Blancardi, 2 vols.  
 8vo. 1668.  
 Briffonius de reg. Pers. Lederlini, 1710. Argentarati.  
 Busbequius, 8vo. Bafil, 1740.  
 Claudian, Gesner, 2 vols. 8vo. 1759.  
 Diodorus Siculus, Wesseling, 2 vols. fol. 1746.  
 Herodotus, H. Steph. fol. 1592.  
 Josephus, Oxford, 1720.  
 Mat. Paris, Wats, 2 vols. fol. London, 1640.  
 Pliny, Nat. Hist. Harduin, 3 vols. fol. 1723.  
 Tacitus, Elsev, 2 vols. 8vo. 1672.  
 Strabo, Casaubon, fol. Paris, 1620.  
 Vegetius, Stewechi, Lug. Bat. 1592.  
 Xenophon, Leunclav, fol. Paris, 1625.  
 Voyages de Chardin, 3 vols. 4to.  
 Gumilla, 3 vols. 12mo. 1758.  
 Charlevoix, Hist. de la Nouvelle France, 6 vols.  
 8vo. 1746.  
 Viagge de Ramusio, 3 vols. fol. 1555.

---

AN  
E S S A Y  
ON  
A R C H E R Y.

---

CHAP. I.

THE most superficial attention to History will exhibit to our view, many and extraordinary changes which have taken place in the Manners and Customs of the various People in the World. We see a part of Mankind plunged in the extreme of human debasement, while others possess the refinements of Literature, moral Excellence, and Ease.

B

The

A N E S S A Y O N

The progress of knowledge has been compared to a River, which in its course passing through a subterraneous cavern, is there for a time lost to view, but at a distance, again breaks forth, and pursues its current.

Scarce any Science, Art, or Custom, has continued in an uninterrupted course for many ages. The *Arts* of Greece and Rome which so splendidly flourished, remained but a little Time. The *Sciences* of Greece and Rome fared worse. To what degree of perfection the latter arrived, is not precisely known, but the barbarity of a few succeeding ages effaced the greater part; and it is but a short time since this Stream hath again broke forth to Light.

ARCHERY tho' more permanent than many Arts, has suffered a revolution likewise. The Bow! that weapon of remote



mote antiquity—once so destructive—so bloody—so cruel:—that weapon, by which Nations have subverted Nations—among us is now known only, as an instrument of polite amusement! Its terrors now are vanished; and a company of Archers at this Day, appear less hostile than the Gladiators of a fencing-school.

It is not an unpleasing task, to consider the circumstances which have given Cause to these changes.—It is instructive, because the Mind, in contemplating the different Scenes which different Ages have presented on the Theatre of the Globe, cannot fail to be expanded by the knowledge of human-nature; and the extent of thought must be enlarged by the variety of Actions which, every moment, would solicit the observation, through the vast Drama in View.—If we allow improvement to be in proportion to the

B 2

number

number of Ideas presented to the Mind, can we point out a subject which, when deeply considered, is better adapted to raise numerous and exalted sentiments, than this I now mention? Can we see the extremes of polished and savage characters without wonder; or can we pass without a desire to trace (however imperfectly) the intermediate links of that Chain which connects them?

We see the arts of War, as well as those which administer to our convenience and pleasure, have, in every Country, borne a near affinity with the State of Civilization. In the ruder Ages of the World, therefore, arms were simple, and the discipline of Troops imperfect; but as the understanding of Men became more and more enlightened, so the Arts of comfort and ease increased — the military regulations became more complicated

cated—weapons of various constructions and power were introduced, till, in the present advanced period, the Science of Tactics is become a deep and abstruse Study.

I shall now, in the prosecution of my subject, take a short view of the different manners of nations, and point out the several degrees of estimation the Bow has commanded in the progress of Society.

During the most distant periods of which any record has been transferred to us, mankind appear to have had much the same general character with that we have presented to our eyes among savage nations. Their manners, utensils, and arms, seem to have had a near resemblance. A philosophic mind may have pleasure in contemplating the human character in these

these several stages, and may endeavour to trace in the constitution of Man and the situation of Countries, the immediate causes which seem to influence the Mind and Habits of Mankind. A great deal has been ascribed to climate,\* but it is necessary to add the assistance of other and more forcible causes, to explain the origin, or rather the continuance of savage Life. Temperature affixes a much more permanent mark on the Figure and complexion of Men, than on the internal structure of the Mind; and while we view a particular stature and proportion of the body, in every different nation throughout the whole world, we see dispositions by no means so provincial. There are passions which all uncivilized people possess

“ \* In tracing the Globe from the Pole to the Equator, we observe a gradation in the complexion nearly in proportion to the Latitude of the Country.”—

*Smith's Essay on the Variety of Complexion, and Figure of Hum. Species: page 12.*

possess in common, and there are others peculiar to civilized Nations.

Men are represented in the most ancient histories, as leading a life little elevated above that of Brutes:—they spent their time in Hunting and Fishing, to procure subsistence:—they were very much detached, and even solitary. We read in Scripture\* that Ishmael dwelt in the Wilderness and became an Archer; from which I understand, he lived by Hunting, and killing animals with his Bow; at least it was his employment, whether for Food or Diversion is in no ways very material. The same kind of Life is mentioned by more recent Historians, as subsisting in the time they themselves lived. Herodotus makes mention of a people called Iyrcaë, inhabiting a country far to  
“ the

\* Gen. Chap. 21. V. 20.

the northward of the Palus Mæotis; which people, he says, like others near them, live by Hunting: he describes their manner thus;—“ Having climbed a Tree,  
 “ (of which there are great abundance in  
 “ that country) they there lie in wait,  
 “ till fortune direct the path of some  
 “ animal in their way. Each Man has a  
 “ dog and horse at a little distance from  
 “ this ambush, which, in order to be  
 “ more concealed are taught to lie upon  
 “ their bellies on the ground. When the  
 “ person in the Tree perceives his Game  
 “ at hand, he shoots at it with an  
 “ Arrow, and if he strike it, immediately  
 “ mounting his Horse pursues it with his  
 “ dog till taken.†

Strabo makes mention of a people in Arabia, who practise the destruction of their prey in exactly the same manner.

† Herod. Lib. 4.



ner. § Modern travellers have reported that the Chace is followed much in the same way at the present time, in Asia, Africa, and America.

In the temperate and frigid Zones necessity will oblige Men to resort to this kind of Life, and give occasion to many stratagems for the purpose of drawing Animals into their power, as the productions of the earth, during the colder season of the year, could give no succour to the hungry inhabitant—It is true that the hunting of wild beasts was not always in order to procure food; for that, indeed, in warm climates, is abundantly poured forth by the vegetable world in fruits and herbs, which afford a nourish-

C ment,

§ “ ἢν δε τις εν βαθει Ευδερα γυμνητων ανδρωνων κατοικια, τοξοις χρωμενων καλαμινοις και πιπυρακτωμενοις οϊσοις’ απο δειδρων δε, τοξευσι τα θηρια τοωλειον.

*Strabo. Lib. 16, pg. 771.*

See also Diod. Siculus, vol. 1. pg. 192—15.

ment, procured with far more ease than by the pursuit of animals ; but it was more generally followed for the sake of dress, or ornament ; uses to which skins have been applied, from the highest antiquity to the present day, among all the different people of the Old and New World. We find, from Herodotus, that the Ethiopians covered themselves with the skins of Leopards and Lions : and he says, the Scythians sewed together pieces of leather prepared from human skins, and cloathed themselves with it : and likewise, that they sometimes stripped the skin from the right hand of their vanquished enemies, and used it in ornamenting their quivers.\*

It

\* “ πολλοι δε ανδρων ιχθρων τας δεξιας χιρας νεκρων εοντων αποδαιραντες αυτοισι ονυξι, καλυπτρας των φαρετριων ποιουνται. δερμα δε ανθρωπου, και παχυ και λαμπερον, ην αρσασχειδον δεσμεατων παντων λαμπεροτατον λευκοτητιο

*Herodotus, L. 4, Pg. 277.*

It is reasonable to suppose these skins, when first applied as covering, underwent no manual operation, but were removed from the back of one brute to that of another. Such cloathing would soon become exceedingly disagreeable, by the skin getting hard and stiff, so that the body of the person wearing it would be rendered sore, by the constant exercise hunting required. A method of preparing the skin would not remain long unfought for, and experiment would soon suggest the way of preserving the flexibility. Fat from animals has been used in some countries, in order to do this; and various other processes are found efficacious, in the different places where this kind of garment is used.

The preparation of skins, it is said, introduced a very important and useful discovery—I mean the art of forming the

C 2

wool,

wool, or fur, which was separated in the dressing, into a thread by platting, twisting, and, at length, spinning:—An art whose invention has a very early station in history, and appears to have existed, in some degree, in all places. The Scripture mentions it very early\*; and the many fables of antiquity authenticate the supposition of its early origin. It is ascribed by the inhabitants of every ancient country to their founder. By the Greeks, Minerva is said to have first taught it,—and Arachne was turned into a Spider for challenging the Goddess in that art. By a kind of weaving, also, very elegant vestments are fabricated from the bark of trees, leaves, and other vegetable productions, which must excite the wonder and admiration of every one who examines them. Captain Cooke has brought to this country specimens of the ingenuity,

\* Gen. Chap. 14. V. 23.

nuity, and the exquisite workmanship some of the more refined savages of the Pacific Ocean are able to execute, without the knowledge of the Metallurgic art.

While the intellectual powers of man, however, remain little improved, the arts cannot attain any considerable degree of excellence; and hence it proceeds, that in uncultivated nations they differ but little. People situated in circumstances nearly similar, oppressed by similar wants, and unallured by artificial pleasures, continue customs and opinions, in an unvaried course, through years and centuries;—nor does the Tartar differ from the Scythian, but in name. Every one is an epitome of the whole hord, and every day the picture of a life.

This

This is not peculiar to the rude inhabitants of Asia, travellers report the Arabs to live in a manner very similar to that of the Tartars. They dwell in tents, which, as occasion requires, are transported from place to place; and as their chief care is but to subsist, they often move; and generally pursue that path where plenty invites. With these the old simile is strictly verified,—That life is a journey.\* The depths of Africa are found to comprehend people of the same kind; and in America there are others who, in most particulars, resemble the Asiatic and African races. From Hudson's Bay northward to the Pole, the Eskimaux savages inhabit an immense, and almost boundless continent. Associating in small troops, and ranging through

\* "Infestum iter vitæ."—*Lucret.*

—*Dignum vita traxit iter.*—*Claud. Theod. Panig.*



through the forests, they preserve the same manners, and the same general character of Arabs, but much inferior in understanding, and in the possession of the comforts of life. The Germans, as described by Tacitus, differed little from the people before mentioned. They had no towns, but lived in small huts, distinct, and in the depths of the forest, which at that time overspread their country, and subsisted by their bow in hunting.\*

The pastoral state seems to have succeeded that of the hunter ;† for as some animals were capable of being rendered tame by discipline and habit, this method  
of

\* “ Nullas Germanorum populis urbes habitari,  
“ satis notum est, ne pati quidem inter se junctas  
“ fedes. Colunt discreti ac diversi, ut fons,  
“ ut campus, ut nemus placuit.” — Sola in  
“ sagittis spes.”

*Tacit. Mor. Germ. Pg. 628 & 629.*

† The opinion of Lord Kaimes,—I believe.—See his Sketches.

of preserving food, by domestication, would soon be adopted, as affording a more certain resource than the chase. Indeed, a numerous society of people could not exist long unless a reservoir of food was perpetually at hand, to assist in case those who foraged were unsuccessful.

In the present time, the most barbarous nations subsist, in some measure, by this practice, particularly those which are most populous; yet there are others which still lead a life of hunting for prey, as before described, not having the arts of domestication in use, or those of agriculture.\*

In this way did the first inhabitants of the world exist; but after some ages, we find

\* It is said by Buffon, that at the time America was discovered there was no part of that continent in which the domestication of animals was practised, except in Peru and Mexico.

find, a custom of eating even human flesh, to have obtained among many nations. What could tempt men to this practice, is not very obvious; but the original cause, in some instances, perhaps, might be necessity. Another cause has been assigned by some authors, who observe, that human sacrifices have been as common as the eating of human flesh; and they suppose these sacrifices might have induced men to have eaten of the flesh from the fire, as was common in other sacrifices. These practices, however strange they may appear, have polluted the altars of almost every people under the Sun, in some period or other of their history. In America, Asia and Africa they still exist; and the testimonies of the best historians will prove them to have been in Europe before the laws of civilized society were introduced. The Romans found a race of cannibals in a part of this island; they were

D named

named the Attacotti, and are said to have lived upon human flesh:—" When they  
 " hunted the woods for prey, they at-  
 " tacked the shepherd rather than the  
 " flock, and curiously selected the most  
 " delicate parts of both males and fe-  
 " males, which they prepared for their  
 " horrid repasts."\* The Druids are said to have eaten human flesh, and to have sacrificed the prisoners taken in war, and performed the ceremony with brutish cruelty.

Similar atrocities have been common among the Scythians, the Egyptians, Chinese, Indians, Peruvians and Arabs, in the whole continent of America, and in Africa; and though authentic record is not to be found of all these people being in the perpetual practice of eating human flesh, yet they are, or were all accustomed to hu-  
 man

\* See Gibbon's History, Vol. 2, pg. 530.

man sacrifices.† In Scythia, we are told by Herodotus, every hundredth man from their prisoners of war was offered to their God, Mars. A number of piles of wood were erected, and on the top of each an old Scymeter was fixed, as an emblem of the Deity, and to this the victim was sacrificed.—Among the Egyptians this practice was common for ages.

In the Dict. Philosophique of Voltaire, we find, that that author had a conversation with some of the cannibals brought from the Mississippi. He asked

D 2

a *Lady,*

† Les Scythes, les Egyptiens, les Chinois, les Indiens, les Pheniciens, les Persans, les Grecs, les Romains, les Arabes, les Gaulois, les Germains, les Bretons, les Espagnols, les Nègres & les Juifs, ont eu anciennement la coutume d'immoler des hommes avec profusion ; s'il n'est pas possible de prouver qu'ils ont été tous Anthropophages dans leur état d'abrutissement, c'est que cet état a précédé les temps historiques, & par conséquent une nuit obscure a dérobé aux yeux de la postérité une partie de ces atrocités.

*Rich. Phil. sur les Americains; Tom I. pg. 212.*

a *Lady*, one of them, if she had ever eaten men? and she answered him, “ That  
 “ it was better to eat a dead enemy, than  
 “ let him be devoured by beasts ;—that  
 “ the conquerors deserved a preference.”\*

From these few instances we may judge what were the customs which once overspread the different nations of the earth ;—customs which seem to mark the lowest point of human debasement, and add a deeper tinge to the bloody page of history.

Among those people whose manners I have endeavoured to sketch, the Bow was the principal weapon in ~~use~~ ; and if we pause a moment to consider the imperfection of that instrument, we shall  
 have

\* See also Bib. Universelle, Vol. II. p. 384, where this horrid custom is instanced in a singularly flagrant manner.

have reason to think the want of more powerful military skill and arms, was one of the causes which, in some measure, operated in keeping mankind in that low state of civilization, they appear to have been in, during a long period of time.

While all nations had nearly the same weapons, numbers would have the advantage over the few, and this originally was, and is now the case among savage hords. But experience would prove the great effect of order and discipline, and then the advantage in favour of a disorderly multitude, would be balanced by the skill and order of a smaller number. A continual inequality, and other accidental advantages, would keep men, under these circumstances, in frequent wars; and until experience had taught the use of military manœuvres, the victory must have been sometimes on one side,

side, and sometimes on the other, as numbers or fortune determined.

Savages in early ages, we may suppose, were not always at war, they had not established armies, but fought when provoked by their neighbours. This conduct produced frequent, but not incessant battles, and, therefore, each party had an equal advantage by the practice of war, and neither would much excel the other in that art, by their greater experience. But in the course of a few ages, the success which attended some armies, was pursued with vigour, and the love of victory became a passion. It was the perpetual attention to military affairs, added to a continual habit of fighting, which gave Alexander the vast and irresistible power he possessed, over those nations who surrounded them, and who were terrified at the grandeur of an arranged multitude.



multitude. The small intestine deprivations and hostilities, the latter had been witness to, presented no splendid appearances, and they fled with precipitation at the sight. The pleasure arising from frequent victories, would prove a sufficient inducement to conquerors to proceed on new campaigns, till at length the idea of fixing a government, and defending it, would be introduced to mankind.

During these scenes of confusion, how was it possible for any spark of science to kindle? It could not be, there was no society at peace—Mr. Hume has said, “ it is impossible for the arts and sciences “ to arise at first among any people, unless that people enjoy the blessing of a “ free government;” he might have said till “ security and ease were established.” —Where a country is inhabited by discordant tribes, no free government can possibly

possibly exist, because none are secure in their possessions; and that security and ease, are favourable to the infant arts, may be concluded, in some degree, from the consideration, that in many of the Islands of the south seas, in which, by the construction of nature, mankind must be less liable to interruptions than on continents, the curious arts are brought to much higher perfection, than among any of the native inhabitants of America. On a continent, things must be essentially different. A numerous hord indeed could enjoy a kind of security, while it was surrounded only by others, smaller in number, and detached from each other. But granting they were at peace, the largest hord would be too narrow a sphere for the arts to arrive at any maturity in, as a familiarity of life and necessities would confine the ingenuity to a small field

field of Invention. It was not, therefore, till armies had subdued, and prudence secured large possessions, that the arts flourished ; and this was effected, not by a myriad of Archers, but by the regular and experienced attack of disciplined troops, possessing more improved arms. The uncertain and fluctuating state of the world is well supported by the testimony of history. We see one founding a city or settlement, and another subverting it as soon as formed ; and this state continued till, as before observed, some powers, by their superior force, were able to make their possessions durable ; and at this period we may date the introduction of the more obvious arts.—During these conflicts, it was unfortunate for those who fell, but it was otherwise with those who survived, because they were taught in a short time, by the conqueror, the art of protecting themselves from the attack of other

E powers,

powers, who before were their equals. They would imitate the arrangement of troops, and would introduce new arms, which before they were ignorant of.

Thus it is, that while a number of hords or nations possess the same arms, and none more efficacious than the bow— at the same time having that selfish and incurious mind, which most savage nations possess,—no large government can be established, or can the arts arise;— neither can there be a hope of it, till, by war, (which is, to be sure, the most expeditious,) or commerce, an intercourse be opened with nations more improved; thereby, in process of time, imperceptibly acquiring improved manners.—But the true causes which have produced these great events in the world are hidden; and, like the true sources of all that knowledge we derive from remote facts, are more and  
more

more concealed as time advances ; which, like the dark cloud that overcasts the evening, shuts up all beneath it in obscurity.

The age in which undisciplined armies fought with the Bow, the Sword and Pike, occupies an extensive period from the beginning of things. But notwithstanding some additions which were made to the military armaments, no great improvements were made till the time of the Grecian warriors ; and the formation of the Macedonian Phalanx may be looked upon as the first grand æra of Tactics.\* This we see did not take place till the minds of men were much enlightened, and when an idea of order was regarded by the army as one of the

\* See Diod. Sic. Pg. 83, No. 5. This arrangement was made by Philip, about the CV. Olympiad ; that is, 360 years before Christ.

most important advantages. The disposition of troops prior to this was but feldom regular, and sometimes the confusion of a Northern torrent prevailed.

The introduction of artillery marks the last, and most extraordinary revolution in the history of war; and has for ever erected a barrier, which will protect civilized, from the incursions of barbarous nations.

CHAP.

## C H A P. II.

---

---

I HAVE intimated that the art of war has in every age had a near affinity with the state of civilization; and have, in the first part of this Essay, endeavoured to delineate the most prominent features of Savage life, and the tactics of uncivilized countries. I shall now proceed to shew the gradual improvement of arms, and the progress various nations have made in their construction, and the skill and dexterity they have shewn in using them.

The period of time in which the Bow was invented is extremely uncertain; but it was undoubtedly one of the most ancient,

## AN ESSAY ON.

ancient, as well as the most universal of weapons used by men. Nature has given to every animal a peculiar method of protecting and defending itself from the assaults and injuries of its enemies, and in most cases, among the lower animals it proves effectual. But as there are many different ranks of beasts superior in size, agility and strength, to man, it is by skill and ingenuity that he must subdue, if he dispute the dominion of the forest with them.

Probably the earth was but a very short time inhabited before contention and battle arose, both between man and man, and man and beast. Clashing interests, without much to restrain the violence of passion, would soon make men resort to the use of arms. Those given by Nature came first into use, no doubt; but as the superior efficacy of sticks and stones



stones would not long remain unknown, these would be employed to aid the other.

A little experience would teach the advantage of a pointed weapon, rather than a blunt one, and hence the introduction of swords. These instruments, I presume, were first made of hard wood, pointed at the end, and rendered keen on the edges, as is common at this day in some parts of the world. The Indians retained this method to a period much later than this I am now speaking of, and rendered their spears and lances harder by fire:\* indeed, the practice is still continued. But there is much reason to believe, that the use of fire was not known in some of the first ages of the

\* λόγχας δὲ εφορεῖον παχίας, μίγεθ' ὡς ἑξαπήχτας. ἀκικὴ δὲ ἐκ ἰπῶν σιδηρῆν, ἀλλὰ τὸ ὄξυ αὐτῆσι πεπυρακτωμένοι τὸ αὐτὸ ἵποισι.

*Arrian Rec. Ind. pg. 556.*

the world; for there were some countries, which, till lately, were ignorant of the use of that element, and therefore the method of hardening instruments of this kind by heat, must be looked upon as an improvement which did not take place immediately.

As we suppose the principal use of these weapons, at first, to be that of procuring food and cloathing, it will be asked, how it was possible for a person, with no other assistance than a wooden sword, to accomplish the end proposed? I answer, That there are reasons which may induce us to think, that the cattle of the field were, in the early times of the world, tame, and almost without fear, as some of them appear at present, (though to be sure these are not in a state of Nature); and if so, the difficulty of killing them would be little. Some writers  
have

have supposed, that animals were originally wild, and fled the presence of man; but that having been taken when young, and used with gentleness, they became tame, and were reduced to the discipline of the shepherd. Others, as I have said, maintain that all animals were primarily tame and gregarious; and that they became wild, in consequence of the pursuit of hunters endeavouring to take them for food. There are many curious facts recorded, which tend to shew how gentle animals have been found in those parts of the world, little, or not at all inhabited. It is said by Kempler, that in the Philippine Islands the birds are so tame as to be taken in the hand. In the Falkland Islands also, the geese may be knocked down with sticks. In Arabia Felix, the foxes shew no signs of fear; and in an uninhabited island near Kamskatka, they scarcely turn out of a man's way.\*

F

It

\* See Sketches Hist. Man, Vol. I. Chap. I.

If the latter opinion be true, (and it is as probable as the former) we shall find no great difficulty in conceiving how a man armed with a wooden sword, might supply himself with food and raiment. But this could not continue long. Experience would in a short time teach the unsuspecting flock to avoid the sight of him they at first beheld with indifference; and the cries of distress, and the sight of a fellow-creature struggling in the hands of a man, would raise a dread through the whole, which soon would be increased to greater, and still greater degrees of fear. Recourse must then be had to missile weapons; and from this period, whenever it may have been, we may date the use of Bows and Arrows.

I am inclined to think mankind, before this æra, must have toiled many an unsuccessful hour amidst the woods in search of  
prey,

prey, because the contrivance of this instrument appears to be complicated, and very unlikely to have been early invented.\* If we reflect upon this circumstance, it will appear extraordinary how the idea of projecting a rod, in the manner a Bow projects the Arrow, first struck the mind of a savage.

The inventions we find among those nations, who remain nearly in the state of nature, appear in no instance I can recollect, to be the result of theory or *à priori* reasoning. Their devices are the efforts of very feeble reasoning, and are commonly deduced from some phæno-

F 2

menon

\* See *Diod. Siculus. Lib. 3, pg. 192, No. 35, and also Strabo. pg. 177. B. 16.*—Where we find that the Arabians, when unsuccessful in the chase, contented themselves with a meal of dry leather roasted.

“ πολὺ δὲ ἐστὶ παρ’ αὐτοῖς πλῆθος τῶν ἀγρίων βοῶν\* ἀπὸ δὲ τῆς τούτων, καὶ τῶν ἄλλων θηρίων κρεωφαγίας ζωσις\* ἐπὶ δὲ μηδὲν θηρεύωσι, τὰ ξηριὰ δερμάτα ἐπ’ ἀνδρακιᾶς οὐτῶστες ἐξέκονται τῇ τοιαύτῃ τροφῇ.”

menon presented to their view, among natural objects.

In order to illustrate this observation, I shall give wing to my fancy.—

It is reasonable to think mankind would never have been tempted to venture on the sea, had not curiosity, or more probably the desire of food, been the motive.—A savage (ignorant of all navigation) we will imagine, sitting on the beach endeavouring to take fish, perceives, that the further he throws his bait into the water, the greater his success. He is persuaded therefore to walk in, and still finds his good luck to increase, as he advances in the deep water.—Having proceeded to a considerable distance, and as far as safety permits him, let us suppose he sees a large fragment of wood, which in some distant country the wind has severed from  
a tree,

a tree, and the river and tide brought gently floating by his side. Curiosity, or caprice, induces him to take hold of it; and finding that he receives support, he raises himself upon it, and feels an unexpected pleasure in being carried with ease and safety to the shore. Pleased and satisfied with his adventure, he returns to his companions, who listen to his tale with surprise and admiration. He comes the next day to visit his usual fishing-place, and desiring the situation he was so successful in before, looks for his favourite tree to carry him; but in vain:—the branch is floated to some distant place. Invention now awakes.—What must he do? 'Tis obvious. He fells the tree which overshades him, and rolls it to the water's edge;—he mounts it, and regains his former station.

Thus might the knowledge of navigation be introduced into the world. A few experi-

experiments would improve it;—and the observing of shells swimming with their concave side uppermost, would lead to the idea of *bowling* the trunk, which first was used solid. The canoo, the long-boat, the man of war may have originated in this simple manner.

My intention, in this slight picture, is to shew that the discoveries found among savage people, are but the copies of something Nature has thrown before their eyes. It is not to be supposed, a race of beings so unacquainted with the properties of matter, as the barbarous nations must have been originally, could make experiments in a theoretic manner: nor would it enter the mind uninformed by example, that a tree should swim, while the smallest stone should sink, in water. The more this idea is attended to, the more it will be found to support my opinion; and it will  
prove



prove an amusing task, for any one, to follow back the customs of uncivilized nations, to their proper origin in nature.

Let us apply this reasoning to the present point in view, and endeavour to find out something among natural objects, similar to the effect of the Bow.—I know of none ; and therefore it strikes me with astonishment whenever I reflect how early this instrument was known, and how universal it became in the most ancient times we have any record of.\* But there is not so much difficulty in conceiving how it became general, as how it became in use ; for, when once invented, the materials were at hand in every country to fabricate it.

The ancients (who knew a cause for every thing) say, the Bow was introduced  
by

\* There are still a people in America unacquainted with this instrument.—See *Robertson, Vol. II. p. 176.*

by Apollo to mankind.\* Perfes, the fon of Perfeus, and Scythes, the fon of Jupiter, have the honour of the invention afcribed to them likewife. The latter is faid to have instructed the nobility of infant Greece, and to have introduced it into that country. The founder of every nation has the merit of the difcovery of the Bow afcribed to him by the inhabitants; which proves, that the true origin is not in the leaft known.†

Neither the Greek historians or poets have given any fabulous account of the means

\* See Diod. Sic. Vol. I. pg. 390.

† Sagittas, ut aliis placet, Perfeus Perfei filius primum invenit. Ex Plinio.—At Diodorus Apollini assignat. Arcus infuper fagittandique fuiſſe repertorem Apollinem ferunt. Verum Artabanus, cujus testimonium Eusebius, “*de Præparatione Evangelica*,” libro nono, citat, Moſen omnium primum bellica instrumenta inveniffe tradit, qui adhuc juvenis in Ægypto (teſte Joſepho) primam glorioſè expeditionem in Æthiopes apparaverit.

*Polyd. Vergil. Lib. 2. Ch. 11.*

means which led to the discovery of the Bow, as far as I remember; which seems to prove how little there is in nature to inspire the idea of such an effect. A Latin Poet, however, has formed a pretty fable to this purpose, and has embellished it with some beautiful similies. The discovery, he says, originated from the well-known tale of the Porcupine, who, when angry, projects his quills on those who provoke him.

\* \* \* \* \* Stat corpore toto  
 Silva minax, jaculisque rigens in prælia crescit  
 Picturata seges \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* \* \* crebris propugnat jactibus ultrò.  
 Interdum fugiens Parthorum more sequentem  
 Vulnerat. Interdum, positus velut ordine castris,  
 Terrificum densa mucronem verbèrat unda;  
 Et confanguineis hastilibus asperat armos.  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 Quid labor humanus tantum ratione sagaci  
 Proficit? Eripiunt t rucibus Gortynia capris  
 Cornua, subjectis eadem lentescere cogunt  
 Ignibus. Interdum, taurino viscere nervos,

G

Instruitur

Infruitur pinnis, ferroque armatur arundo.  
 Ecce brevis propriis munitur bellua telis,  
 Externam nec quærit opem, fert omnia secum.  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 \* \* \* \* \* quidquid procul appetit hostem  
 Hinc reor inventum: morem hinc traxisse Cydonas  
 Bellandi, Parthosque retro didicisse ferire  
 Prima sagittiferæ pecudis documenta secutos

*Claud. p. 236.*

It is impossible to look upon this as the true cause which gave rise to the Bow and Arrow, and the poet has illustrated it, as a thought, rather than as a truth. The effect of a quill projected from the back of a Porcupine, by an unseen muscular power, and the effect of a bow projecting an arrow by its expansive and elastic force, are extremely different in their nature; and the transition from the one to the other is so difficult, that we cannot imagine the latter to have been a copy of the former. The most decisive evidence against this supposition is, That the best naturalists,

naturalists confess this property ascribed to the Porcupine, to be fabulous, the animal possessing no such power at any time.

Preyious to the construction of the Bow, the knowledge of the elasticity of wood must have been acquired, (supposing the instrument not to be found out by chance) and the method of applying a string, which string must have been before in use. It is true, every twig would have pointed out the property of wood alluded to; but the question is, by what accident the string was first applied to the wood, and the arrow to the string.

It is in vain to make conjectures on this subject; the early periods of the world are hidden in such dense obscurity, that we cannot form any plausible hypothesis, to serve as an explanation.

G 2

Let

Let us, however, grant, that the Bow was soon introduced. It was known in the most distant times, and is uniformly mentioned as one of the most common, and most numerous of the weapons made use of, in the wars and conflicts related in the Mosaic History—in the battles described by Homer—and by the writers of succeeding ages in every country.

---

*Of B O W S.*

---

BOWS were first constructed probably from the rough and unformed boughs of trees; but gradual improvements would be added as men became more and more conversant with the knowledge of natural objects. The simple branch would soon  
be

be rendered more convenient by a little cutting, in order to make the curve regular on both sides the center. There is nothing mentioned in the Old Testament, that I recollect, with respect to the manner in which Bows were made. Homer, however, relates the method in which the Bow of Pandarus was fashioned.

He heard, and madly at the motion pleas'd,  
 His polish'd Bow with hasty rashness seiz'd,  
 'Twas form'd of horn, and smooth'd with artful toil,  
 A mountain goat resign'd the shining spoil,  
 Who, pierc'd long since, beneath his arrows bled,  
 The stately quarry on the cliffs lay dead,  
 And sixteen palms his brows large honours spread:  
 The workmen join'd and shap'd the bended horns,  
 And beaten gold each taper point adorns.\*



*Pope's Hom. B. iv. L. 135.*

We

\* The horns of the Gortynian Goat are often mentioned as Bows.

• • • • " Alii Gortynia lentant

Cornua."

STATIUS.

" Nec Gortyniaco calamus levis exit ab arcu."

OID MET.

We find, by Herodotus, that it was the custom of some nations to make Bows of reeds, or cane; the Bactri, † he says, used some of this kind; as did the Indi. †

The practice of using reeds, or cane, in making Bows, is at this day common in some of the eastern countries, particularly Persia and India; and, I believe, it is the method used among some of the American savages also. But these are materials not well adapted to produce a very elastic and quick weapon; and unless made strong, and difficult to draw, would have but little effect in projecting the Arrow. Indeed, this is commonly the case with almost

† Τόξα δε καλάμιναι—

*Herod. Lib. 7, pg. 463.*

† Ἰνδοὶ δὲ εἶματα μὲν ἐνδεδυκότες ἀπὸ ξυλων πεποιημέναι,  
τόξα δὲ καλάμιναι εἶχον, καὶ οὕτως καλάμινες·

*Herod. pg. 464.*



almost all the Bows made use of by savages, and those other nations who are little acquainted with the use of tools.

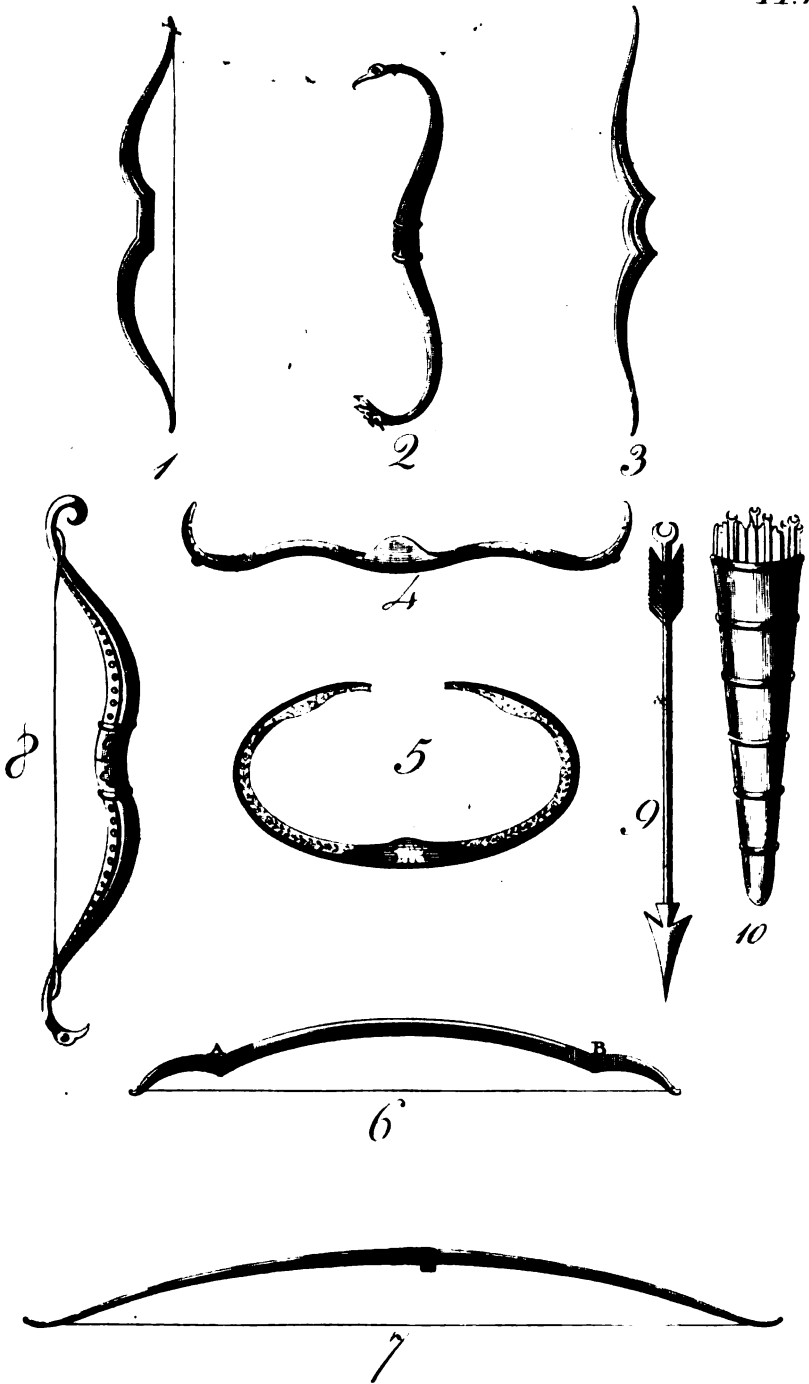
The most esteemed Bows of Persia, it is said, are made by fastening two pieces, one of horn, the other of wood, on each other, by means of catgut, which is bound tight around the two, from end to end; by which means they are kept firm together, and cannot slip when the Bow is drawn. After this the Bow is covered with the bark of a tree, which is exceedingly tough and flexible, and upon this smooth surface they paint various ornamental figures of branches, leaves, birds, and other fanciful decorations, generally intermixing gold and silver coloured pigments among the rest. They then cover the whole with a transparent varnish, which protects it from wet and damp.

In

In Persia also, Tartary, and in other parts of the eastern world, the horns of the Antelope are manufactured into Bows, many of which are very excellent weapons. They are generally much shorter than those used in this country, seldom exceeding four feet in length. The two pieces of which these instruments are made, are joined firmly in the center, and are usually ornamented with painting and gilding.—Fig. 4, Plate 1, represents a Persian Bow of this kind.

The Otaheite Bows are very long, and consist of one piece only; in the back part of which there is a groove, containing a pretty thick cord. The cord reaches the whole length, and is fastened very strongly at each end. This contrivance is found very serviceable in assisting the strength of the Bow, and acts in some measure as a spring.

The





The Eskimaux, bordering on Hudson's Bay, in North America, make use of a Bow, acting on the same principle as that of Otaheite. The wood part is about four feet, or four and an half in length, about three quarters of an inch in thickness, and two or three inches in breadth, having the same dimensions throughout. At the distance of eight or nine inches from each end, there is an abrupt curve; and on the back of this instrument there are a number of strings made of the finews of deer, drawn tight, and fastened at the indented parts A and B, (Fig. 6, Plate 1). These strings act in the same manner as the cord on the Otaheite Bow, and encrease the force of the projecting power very much. It is the custom of the savages to soak these Bows in water before using, as it contracts the finews, and makes the instrument stronger. The curves at A. and B. are made by

H

means

means of thick pieces of horn, which are fastened to the wood on the outer side the Bow; the wood being first cracked and pressed into an angle. And as the horn is in a figure fitting into this angle, and is bound tight, it confines the wood part in the curves from moving, when the Bow is made use of. This Eskimaux weapon is a very extraordinary species of the Bow, and unlike all others.

In Lapland, it is said by Scheffer, the Bows are composed of two pieces fixed together with glue, one of which is of birch, and the other of fir-tree; which, he says, on account of the resin it contains, is very proper for the making of Bows. They have a case likewise of birch, in order to prevent injuries from rain or snow. The Laplanders, in joining the two parts of their Bows, use a peculiar kind of glue, prepared from the skins  
of



diction is exceedingly common in all writings. We, in our days, have heard of people with *brazen-faces*. Not because such faces were actually made of brass, or because they were yellow, but because they possessed another property which that metal has in common with others. Bows of steel are mentioned in the book of Job, (Ch. xx. v. 24.) "The Bow of steel shall strike him through." But we are ignorant how they fashioned them.\*

The modern Bows used in England are made of several kinds of wood. Yew has been by far the longest in use, but it is not so much esteemed at present as some other kinds. The foreign woods,  
imported

\* Bows of steel tempered by skillful workmen have been tried in England, but it appears that the elasticity of metal is far more slow and sluggish than that of wood; and unless the Bow is made strong, has but little projectile effect. Metallic Bows also are of much greater weight than others of the same power.



imported into this country for the purpose of dying and cabinet making, are some of them very proper for the making of Bows, such as Fustic, Rose-wood, &c. and there is a kind which bears the name of Cocoa-tree, which answers pretty well for making strong Bows. The modern Bows are constructed of two pieces, a body part, generally of elastic, often of brittle wood, and a thin strip of Ash, Elm, or Ickery, which is firmly fixed on the back of the other. This back not only prevents the body from splitting, but at the same time renders the Bow infinitely more difficult to draw.

**CHAP.**



## C H A P. III.

---

*Of the Figure of the BOW.*

**T**HE Bows of different nations preserve a very near resemblance to each other; it is evident from the principle upon which they act, that this must be the case.

The first kind is the Apollo's Bow. It is this we generally see in the hands of the Grecian warriors, which are delineated in sculpture, and on ancient medals. The figure of it is certainly the most beautiful and picturesque of any; and perhaps  
it

it is for this reason we see it so often represented by painters and sculptors. It is composed of three different parts. The two end pieces, which act as springs, and a third, into which the other two are fixed. This third piece being between the other, is the part by which the Bow is held, when made use of. The springing parts are thick towards the middle, and taper from thence to the points where the string is fastened. These points were called *κορυνη*, and were often of gold, or silver. The springs of the Bow are curved, not unlike the horns of some of the East-Indian Goats; and as we read that the horns of animals were sometimes used for these parts of the Bow, perhaps the natural figure gave a model for the Bows which were not made of horn. But I am inclined to think, that poets and painters have made these instruments more beautiful than any Bowyer ever attempted,

attempted, both in figure and all other attributes.

Another species of this weapon is made of one regular curve, having no separation in the middle. We do not see this kind often represented in the tablets of antiquity, although of the most natural figure, and of the most simple construction. The Bows which are at present in use, and which formerly were used in England, are of this sort I mention. Bows on both these principles are used in savage nations, but the latter is the more common. The Museums, and many private collections contain Bows of each sort, which were brought to this country by the several navigators who have visited the Pacific Ocean, and the remote parts of Asia and America. The instruments of this kind made by the inhabitants of

I

Asia,

Asia, very much resemble those of America, and are often of the same materials.

The modern Bows made in three parts, are generally of elastic wood. The ends are composed of small pieces, tied together, and fixed in the handle, in the middle. Cane is often the substance employed; pieces of which are bound by a very strong kind of ligature, so as to compose very stiff, though not very elastic weapons.

The other sorts, composed of one or two parts, which go the whole length without any break, are usually much longer than the former kind. I have seen one, made of dark-coloured close-grained wood, having a piece of a different kind inserted in the back of it. This was done by means of a groove and dovetail, in the manner the slides of a common  
carpenter's

carpenter's rule are fitted in. There was no binding on it, except at the ends, and it seemed to be made with great art, but it was not strong. I do not recollect to have heard what part of the world it came from,

The Grecian Bow is said to have been made in the figure of the Sigma in their alphabet.\* The Bow used by the Scythians will pass under the same character. And as the practice of Archery was introduced from Scythia into Greece, the Bows of each, perhaps, were not very different from those of the other. I have not been able to find any particular relation in what manner the Bows used by the

I 2

Greeks,

\* La figure de l'arc est assez uniforme dans les monumens que nous restent. Il est à deux courbures, en sorte que le milieu de l'arc par où on l'empoignoit en tirant, est en ligne droite. L'arc des Grecs avoit la figure de Sigma.

*Montf. Vol. IV. pg. 68.*

Greeks were made, different from those of other nations. But by the figures on medals, and else-where, they do not appear (when strung) to have been very dissimilar to the Scythian, or Mæotian, though writers speak of a remarkable incurvation the latter had.\*

“ He went armed with a crooked Bow, after the  
“ Mæotian (or Scythian) Fashion.”

And another Poet says:—

(Minerva) aimed and shot with a Mæotian Bow,  
“ This crooked Bow the God-like Hercules,  
“ Whose Arrows, when they flew, would always kill  
“ First used.”

In both these quotations the Scythian Bow is called crooked, because it was so in a degree greater, than the Bows of other countries. This incurvation is said  
to

\* See Potter's *Archæologia*.



to be so remarkable as to represent a semi-circle, or half moon. Hence the Shepherd, in Athenæus, says Potter, being to describe the letters in the name of Theseus, and expressing each of them by some apposite resemblance, compares the third to the Scythian Bow, meaning not the more modern character  $\Sigma$ , but the ancient C, and bears the third place in ΘΗΣΕΥΣ.\*

I have consulted the plates in Montfaucon, in order to discover the difference between the Grecian and Mæotian Bows; but

\* The words in Athenæus are these:—

Γραφῆς ἡ πρώτη ἢ μεσίμφαλα κύλα  
 Ὅρθοιτε κατόνετες ἰζυγμῆνοι δύο  
 Σκυθικῶν δὲ τρίτον ἢ προσιμφορῆς

Existimant autem Viri docti tertiam hanc litteram in nomine Thesei, quæ est σῆμα ita pinxisse vetustiores Græcos, quemadmodum C latinum. Verum omnino eos errare existimo. Quamvis enim non ignorem ita hanc litteram expressam fuisse olim, in antiquioribus tamen monumentis aliter pingitur, hoc nempe modo  $\Sigma$ .

*Vossii Obs. ad Melam, pag. 412.*

but there is nothing which points out a very great dissimilarity. Among the Romans, in a combat against the Sarmatians, plate 52, vol. iv. of this work, there are some figures drawing the Bow, which Bows are infinitely more curved than any of the Scythian I have seen. Indeed, all Bows eagerly drawn, nearly form semicircles.

But let us see if a true and marked characteristic cannot be found.

The figure of a modern Tartar Bow will, I think, enable us to point out what is intended by this peculiar incurvation, and render the matter intelligible. The figure I allude to is drawn in Plate 1, Fig. 5, and is nearly the appearance of an unstrung Tartar Bow. This has a remarkable incurvation backwards, and is extremely different from any other species of  
of

of Bow.\* The ends, which in this representation are inflected, are drawn on the opposite side, when strung; and in that case the Bow does not appear very different from others. This curve backwards is the circumstance, as I imagine, which characterised the ancient Scythian Bow. Hence we may conclude, that when authors speak of the peculiarity belonging to this weapon, it is to be understood of it, the figure it presents when unstrung, and not its form as seen in the hand of one shooting.

The Bows used by the Daci, a people formerly inhabiting that country, now called Transylvania, and with whom the Romans had frequent contests, were made in a very beautiful curve, and ornamented at one end with the head of a Swan, and  
at

\* The Bow from which the drawing is taken, is of horn, and is very strong.

at the other with that of a Dragon; because these figures were the common ensigns used by that people in battle. (See Plate 1, Fig. 2.)

There is a view of one of these Dacian weapons in the hand of a warrior, pictured among a contending group in Montfaucon. The lower part of the Bow is hidden by the interposition of another figure, but the upper end is distinct, and the Swan's head clearly visible upon it. The Saxons seem to have been in the practice of ornamenting one end of their Bows in this manner also. (See Plate 1, Figure 8, a Saxon Bow, from Strutt.)

I shall take the form of the Roman Bow (See Plate 1, Fig. 1) from a statue given by Spon and Montfaucon.

This statue represents a Master of Archery, and one who instructed in the art of managing the Bow.

The

The figure is represented without cloathing to the waist, and resting the right hand on the upper end of the Bow; the lower end of which is on the ground. This statue, when found, was placed on a pedestal, bearing the following inscription:—

DM

T FLAVIO EXPEDITO  
DOCTORI SAGITTAR:  
FLAVIA EUPHROSINE  
ET ATTICA FILLIÆ  
PATRI. B M.

The Bow is a figure seldom to be seen among the arms and trophies, struck on Roman medals. The reason for which is, perhaps, that it was esteemed unworthy a place among the proper military weapons, because not used by the regular troops. The Sagittarii and Funditores were auxiliary men, and were not held in high estimation by the legions.

K

The

The Amazonian Bow does not appear to have any very particular character different from the other Bows of three pieces; in general, however, it appears of stronger make; but perhaps this may be a compliment to those ladies from the sculptors. Fig. 3, Plate 1, is a copy from one in the hand of an Amazonian woman, in Montfaucon.

The modern Long-bow is well known, and is better understood from a figure than a description. The only difference in those formerly in use, and what are at present made is, that the ancient ones were sometimes of a single piece, but the modern ones have a thin piece of Ash joined, as I have already described. Plate 1, Fig. 7, is the modern Bow strung. It may be seen, that in the middle there is a binding, in order to enable the shooter to hold the instrument steady, and at the  
same

same time to prevent the hand being hurt; our old Archers had no such defence, but held their Bows well besmeared with wax, in order to fix it in the hand.

Bows, if we believe historians and sculptors, were much stronger formerly, in some countries, than they are made at present. The figures of these instruments on ancient fragments, are always much shorter than we imagine they ought to be. Some are scarcely longer than a man's arm, and very few exceed that measure in any great degree. But the thickness of them is proportionately greater. We find, however, there were people who used Bows as long as those made in England at present. Arrian says, the Indian infantry held Bows whose length was equal to the height of him who bore it; and this standard seems

to have been approved by other nations.\* The Irish statue of Edward IV. says, “ That the Bow shall not exceed the height of a man; and that the Arrow shall be half the length of the Bow.”† The Carducian Bow was three cubits long, the Arrows two.§ Herodotus says, the Bow used by the Ethiopians was of Palm tree, not less than four cubits; and they shot with extremely long Arrows. We cannot form any exact conjecture on the degree of power these instruments possessed, as the length of a Bow has no influence in increasing the strength; rather the contrary. We must conclude they were of prodigious force, however; and the account of Xenophon, whose soldiers felt the Arrows of

\* τοξον τε ιχουσιον ισομηκες τω φορειοντι το τοξον.

*Arrian. Rev. Ind. pg. 541.*

† See Mr. Barrington’s Essay, *Archæologia.* vol. vii.

§ The cubit was about a foot and an half of our measure.



of the Carducians during the retreat of the ten thousand Greeks, corresponds with this opinion.—He says, “Here fell a brave man, Cleonymus, a Lacedæmonian, who was wounded in the side by an Arrow, that made its way both through his shield and his buff coat.”—Again,—“Here fell Bafias, an Arcadian, whose head was quite shot through by an Arrow.”\* Many other instances of the vast force with which ancient Bows threw Arrows might be produced, but it is not necessary, as the fact is well allowed.†

Some

\* This strong shooting continued among the descendants of the Carducians till the time of M. Crassus, whose soldiers, Plutarch says, were slaughtered by their Arrows in vast numbers, as no part of their armour could withstand the force of them.

*See Plut. in M. Crassus's Life.*

† We find, in the *Bib. Orient. par D'Herbelot*, “that one Arefch, le meilleur Archer de son tems tira une Fleche, que fu marquè pour être reconnue, du haut de la Montagne de Damavend jusque sur les bords du fleuve Gihon.” I suppose this wonderful man was the Eastern Robin Hood.

Some descriptions we have of Bows made use of in foreign nations, appear to be very extraordinary; and I shall quote a passage from a traveller of distinguished rank and judgment, which represents the practice of Archery in Persia, at the time the author made his residence there. "The young Persians," says he, "learn to shoot the Bow; the art of which consists in holding it firm, drawing, and letting go the string smoothly. At first they practise with a weak Bow; and afterwards, by degrees, with those which are stronger. The persons who give instructions in this art, direct the young pupils to shoot with ease and agility, in every direction, —before them, behind, on either side, elevated in the air, or low to the ground; in short, in every different posture.\*

Some

\* We are told, the Scythians could use the Bow in either hand with indifference. "Scythia autem adco

Some of their Bows are exceedingly strong; and the method they make use of to know their power, is by fastening them to a support driven into a wall, and suspending weights to the string at the point where the Arrow is placed, when going to shoot.† The strongest require five hundred pounds weight, to draw them up to the Arrow's point.§

When

adeo sagittarum studium fuit, ut dextra ac sinistra pariter jaculari, et vice in alterna in hostes mittere, sublato discrimine callerent."

*Alex. ab Alex. vol. ii.*

† We are told that Apollo, by observing the different tones given out by the string of his Bow, while trying its power by weights, discovered the notes of music, and constructed the Monochord, which he formed in the same figure as the Bow used by his sister Diana.

§ Lord Bacon says, "The Turkish Bow giveth a very forcible shoot; insomuch as it hath been known, that the Arrow hath pierced a steel target, or a piece of brass of *two inches* thick!!!"

*See Nat. Hist. Expt. 704. vol. iii.*

These seem marvelous facts; but should one dare to contradict such high authorities, it might do greater violence, perhaps, to good manners, than truth.

When the pupils can manage a common Bow, they then have another given them, which they make heavier and heavier, by means of large iron rings which are placed on the string. *Some of these Bows are an hundred weight.* The pupils draw, string and unstring their Bows, while they leap and move about: sometimes while they stand on one leg,—sometimes on their knees, or while running about; which last action makes a great and disagreeable noise by the clinking of the iron rings.

The instructors judge this exercise to be well performed, when the left hand extended at length, supports the Bow, firm and strong, without shaking; and the right draws the string, with the thumb to the ear.—In order to prevent the effects of the Bow-string, they wear a circular ring, which projects an inch within,

within, and half an inch on the outside of the thumb. It is on this rest that the string hangs when it is drawn up in shooting; and it is made of horn, ivory, or jadde, which is a kind of green alabaster. The king has some of these rings of a bone, coloured yellow and red, which grows, as it is said, like an hoop, on the head of a large bird in the island of Ceylon.

When the young Archers understand how to manage the Bow well, their first exercise is to shoot into the air as high as they can. Afterwards they shoot point-blanc. The art of doing this is not only in hitting the mark, but it is necessary also that the Arrow go firm and steady. Lastly, they learn to shoot with very heavy shafts, and with great force.\*"

L

Such

\* Voyages de le Chevalier Chardin, Tom. II.

Such is the Archery of the Persians; and such the prodigious strength of their Bows, which to us, who are unaccustomed to see such efforts of human power, seem almost incredible; and perhaps by some may be esteemed among those stories of history which merit little credit. Travellers in all ages have been reproached with exaggeration; but in some cases it would be well if their relations were judged by a train of reasoning, and not by the delusive criterion of apparent probability. But let us reflect a moment on the power of early habits, and training the body from infancy, to endure the toils of labour and fatigue;—we shall then be induced to extend our conceptions of *muscular* force to a much greater scale than at first might appear reasonable.

It is evident that in the military operations of the present day, personal valour  
and

and bodily strength are by no means so necessary as formerly. The management of the musket requires no great power;—but when the sword and javelin were the instruments commonly in use, a strong man had greatly the advantage over a weak one, which is not now the case. This was the reason why bodily strength was esteemed and cultivated of old, among the soldiery. We do not, at this day, see so many instances of muscular power, because men are trained in the gentler exercises of modern tactics, rather than the harrassing fatigues of *Campus Martius*.

If we consider the great weight of every part of the armour anciently in use, we shall be led to think, that under such an incumberance, the wearer could have but very little command over the motions of his body,—but this was far

L 2

from

from being the case. Those helmets, cuirasses and shields, which to a modern would prove insupportable, and which would gall the firmest flesh to the quick, were by the Roman veteran worn with ease through his long and toilsome campaigns. A common suit of armour, we are told, weighed about sixty pounds; but some far exceeded even that. Plutarch, in his life of Demetrius, speaking of one Alcimus, says, he wore a suit which was six score pounds; but this man was a giant in stature, and one of the strongest men in the world. Indeed, we find from history, that the usual armour of some nations was of much greater weight than that used by the Romans; but I do not pretend to say they carried it with ease and pleasure; on the contrary, Tacitus ridicules the soldiers of Gaul on that account. "They were so armed," says he, "that they were only



only able just to move, without the power of doing injury to their enemies, or the possibility of being injured by them; and if they were thrown on the ground, remained there under the pressure of their arms, without the ability of rising."\* But it was not so with the Romans: Cicero says, their arms were but as limbs, they were so accustomed to carry them.† The troops under Marius are said to have marched the distance

\* At the battle of Fornova, under Charles VIII. there were a number of Italian knights, who, though overthrown, could not be killed, on account of the thickness and strength of their armour, till broke up, like huge lobsters, by the servants and followers of the army, with large wood-cutters' axes, each man at arms having three or four men employed about him.

See *Philip de Comines*, B. 8, C. 6.

and *Grofe*, Vol. I, pg. 106.

† See Montagne's *Essays*, Tom. II. pg. 120; and Cicero *Tuscul. Lib. II.* pg. 157. "Nam scutum, gladium, galeam, in onere nostri milites non plus numerant, quam humeros, lacertos, manus: arma enim, membra militis esse dicunt.

tance of five leagues in five hours, and sometimes six, under the weight of sixty pounds of arms each.

This docility in sustaining burthens was unquestionably owing to the constant habit, and unremitting attention paid to the military discipline. Twice a-day the legions were drawn out, and performed their long and compleat exercises; nor was age, or knowledge allowed to excuse the veterans from their daily repetition of what they had completely learned. § In the midst of peace, the Roman troops familiarised themselves with the practise of war, and engaged with vigour and animation. †

What

§ It may be observed, that the arms used in exercising were double the weight of those used in action.

† See Gib. Hist. Vol. I. pg. 14.

What we have here remarked will in every part apply with exactness to the practise of Archery. An early beginning, and constant use will make a nervous arm, and increase the muscular power to a degree not to be limited.

It was on this principle the military exercises in Persia were instituted; and they appear to have been even more severe than those of the Roman legions; and therefore we may suppose, that the difficulty of shooting strong Bows was as much diminished, in the one case, as that of sustaining heavy armour, in the other.

The Cretans, who have been highly celebrated for their skill and power in the management of the Bow, were kept with the strictest care to the perpetual practise

practise of Archery; \* and there is reason to think all those nations and people who have rendered themselves expert in this art, have adopted the same mode of education.

\* Arcu quoque & sagittis plerumque Cretensibus et Cydoniis exactissima curâ milites instruebantur, sicut apud Græcos palæstra.

*Alex. ab. Alex. Vol. I. pg. 151.*

In America, according to Gumilla, the boys are not suffered to eat their victuals till they have first hit them with an Arrow from a distance.—“ Les Indiennes exercent aussi leurs enfans à tirer la flèche, ne leur donnant jamais à manger qu'ils n'ayent attrapé d'une certaine distance la viande où la fruit dont ils ont envie, avec la pointe de cette arme.”

*Gumilla, Vol. II. pg. 283.—*

*See also Charlevoix, Vol. VI. pg. 36.*

## CHAP.

## C H A P. IV.

---

**H**AVING sufficiently described the figure, and degree of power which the Bow has had in historical ages, I shall now say a few words with respect to the different ways of managing that instrument, and point out the several attitudes and postures which have been adopted and practised by various nations for that purpose.

Method, in some instances, is well known to effect what greater force cannot; and there is nothing in which this observation can be exemplified more strongly, than in shooting the Bow.

M

Every

## A N E S S A Y O N

Every person who understands the nature of Archery, will see the truth of this assertion. A simple experiment will prove it, in a very satisfactory manner. Let an Archer, who in shooting has learned to draw the Arrow to the eye or ear, draw it to his breast, and he will find, that the Bow he in the former case could draw with ease, will, in the latter, appear infinitely stronger. Mr. Barrington says, " That several years ago there was a man named Topham, who exhibited most surprising feats of strength, and who happened to be at a public-house at Islington, to which the Finsbury Archers resorted after their exercise. Topham considered the Long-bow as a play-thing only fit for a child; upon which one of the Archers laid him a bowl of punch, that he could not draw the Arrow two-thirds of its length. Topham accepted this bett, with the greatest

greatest confidence of winning; but bringing the Arrow to his breast, instead of his ear, he was great'y mortified by paying the wager, after many fruitless efforts.\*

Notwithstanding the evident disadvantage of drawing to the breast, rather than the ear, yet it seems to have been the most general practise in early periods. We know one nation is said to have derived its name from that circumstance. §

M 2

This

\* See Essay, pg. 64. Archæologia.

§ Virgines in eundem ipsis morem, non otio, neque lanificio; sed armis, equis, venationibus exercebant, iniustis infantum dexterioribus mammis, ne sagittarum jactus impediretur: unde Amazones dictæ sunt.

*Justin, Ch. IV. Lib. II. and*

*Diod. Siculus, Vol. I. pg. 156.*

The derivation of *Amazon*, from  $\alpha \mu\alpha\zeta\omicron\varsigma$ , is by no means agreed upon. This nation is said to have been a kind of nunnery, wherein a society of women lived without intercourse with other states, or with men; and

This method of drawing to the breast was continued in use for many ages ; and it was esteemed a great improvement when the Roman auxiliaries were instructed

and hence the word has admitted another origin, *αναζευ*, living together, in reference to their seclusion. That a society of women should exist alone, is impossible ; but the fact is, that the women undertook the active labours, whilst the men submitted to those usually performed by women. The ancient Egyptians according to Herodotus, had nearly the same manners ; and we need not pass our own shores to see women engaged in all the toils and labours of agriculture, as well as those of domestic employments, while the men remain idle at home.

This circumstance appears to me more unusual than unnatural ; for I cannot avoid being of opinion, that in a state of nature, the sexes differ but little in bodily power. It is so with other animals. The appearances in polished society will argue nothing contrary to the supposition, as habits of inactivity, formed by the force of custom, exhibit the abused, not the cultivated faculties of the human frame. It is with equal propriety that it might be urged, the intellectual faculties of the one sex are inferior to those of the other ; but there are few at the present day who do not perceive, that it is an unjust, though fashionable education, which enervates the mental abilities of women, and not the hand of nature. Strength and knowledge are in a great degree artificial,



structed to draw the right hand to the ear. We read in Procopius, when describing the Archers in the Roman army, "That they ride with ease, and shoot their Arrows in every direction,—to the right, the left, behind, or in the front, while in full speed;—and as they draw the Bow-string to the right ear, they drive their Arrows with such rapidity, that it is certain death to him on whom they fall; nor can the stoutest shield or helmet resist the violence of the stroke."\* On all the medals and basso-relivos which are copied by the moderns, the figures are represented as drawing the hand to the breast. There are some who may recollect the attitude which Cupid is generally pictured in when shooting, to be the same we now mention; and he was a *celebrated* Archer,

But

\* Procopius, pg. 7.—Fol,

But of the different methods that have been described in history, by which Archery has been practised, that in use among the Ethiopians, and a few other nations, is undoubtedly the most extraordinary. We read, that these people, instead of holding their Bow in the left hand, as is the usual custom, drew it by the assistance of their feet. The fact is recorded by Diodorus Siculus,\* and Strabo: the latter of whom informs us of a curious expedient of this pedestrian Archery, used by the Ethiopians in hunting Elephants. They employ, in shooting their strong Bows, three persons; two of whom support the Bow by pressing their feet against it; while a third is

\* — καθοπλιζονται δὲ αὐτῶν οἱ μὲν ἀσπίσιν ἠμοβοῦνται καὶ μικροῖς δορασίν, οἱ δὲ ἀκοντίοις ἀναγκυλοῖς. ἕτιοτε δὲ ξυλίνοις τοξοῖς τετραπήχισιν, οἷς τοξεύουσι μὲν τῷ ποδι προσβαίνοντες,

*Diod. Sic. Lib. 3.*

is engaged in drawing the string and directing the Arrow. †

Arrian reports, that the Indians shoot their Bows by the assistance of their left foot, being enabled, by this means, to draw the string very far backwards. §

Zenophon, speaking of the Carducians, says, “ They had Bows which were three cubits long, and Arrows of two cubits.

† — ἡ δὲ τοξεία δια τριῶν ἀνδρῶν συνεπιλείται, τῶν μὲν κατεχόντων τὸ τοξόν, καὶ προβεβηκότων τοῖς ποσὶ, τῷ δ' ἐλκόντος τὴν νευρᾶν.

*Strabo. Arab. Lib. 16—pg. 772.*

Alii tutiore genere, sed magis fallaci, intentos ingentes arcus defigunt humi longius. Hos præcipui viribus juvenes continent: alii connixi pari conatu contendunt, ac prætereuntibus sagittarum venabula insigunt, mox sanguinis vestigiis sequuntur.

*Plin. Lib. 8. ch. 8. pg. 439.*

§ — καὶ τῷ τῶ κατὰ ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν θέντες, καὶ τῆ ποδὶ τῆ ἀριστερῆ ἀντιβάντες, ὅπως ἐκτοξεύουσι, τὴν νευρῆν, ἐπὶ μέγα ἐπίσω ἀπαγαγόντες.

*Arrian. Rec. Ind. pg. 542.*

cubits. When they made use of these weapons, *they placed their left foot on the bottom of the Bow*, and by that method they drove their Arrows with great violence, piercing through the shields and corsets of his men; and as the Arrows were extremely large, were used by them as javelins.\*

It is recorded of the Arabians, that they used their Bows in the manner above alluded to, by the help of the foot.†

### The

\* Είλον δὲ τὰς νευράς, ὅποτε τοξιοιοιεν, πρὸς τὸ κἄτω τε τοξὸν τῆ ἀριστερῆς ποδὶ προσβαίνοντες.

*Zenophon. Exped. Cyri, p. 322. D.*

† — οἱ δὲ Ἀραβιοὶ ἀρετῇ πολλῇ τῶν ἄλλων διαφεροσιν, οἱ βέλυσιν ἀνδρομηκισὶ χρωμένοι, ἀντὶ τῶν χειρῶν τῷ ποδὶ ἐμβαινοντες εἰς τὰς νευράς, κυκλῆσι τὸ τοξόν.

*Suidas—Αραβίαι.*

*And also:—ὁ μὲν εἰς κατεχει τοξόν τῷ ποδὶ προσβεβηκίς.*

*Agatharchides—inter Geograph. Script. minores. Οἰσην, 1698. 8<sup>vo</sup>.*

The reader will perceive that the passages I have quoted in the notes are extremely indistinct and obscure; more particularly that from Arrian, from Xenophon, and from Suidas. Suidas, indeed, seems to intimate that the Arabians drew the Bow with their feet applied to the string, instead of their hands; but certainly the passage is corrupt, as the fact is impossible. Nor can I explain the sense of these several authors, unless it be understood, that one foot was made use of as a rest for the middle part of the Bow, while the string was drawn back by the hands. This appears to agree well with the expression in Arrian, “*τῷ ποδὶ ἀντιβᾶντι;*” and I have not the least doubt, but that this was originally intended by the historians, though the different mutilated texts convey the idea in a very concealed manner, as they now stand.

N

If

If we have recourse to the commentators on these passages, we shall find no ray of light thrown upon them, by which the sense becomes more conspicuous; for they, being men more conversant with books than Bows, have glided over these parts without appearing to see the impropriety of them.†

Mr. Barrington, in his Essay, inserted in the Archæologia, relates a tradition, that one Leigh, an attorney, at Wigart, in Lancashire, shot an Arrow a mile at three flights. He is reported to have sat on a stool, the middle part of his Bow being

† The passage I have quoted above from Diodorus Siculus, is thus *explained* by the notes.—“ Utebantur enim barbari illi arcubus ternum fere cubitorum; quos ut intenderent, *humi collocabant*, pedeque admoto sinistro; nervum summis viribus adducebant.” If the reader be an Archer, I will ask him, How far he imagines a Bow would carry, if placed in the situation here named? In my opinion, the Bow would fly as far as the Arrow, but in an opposite direction!

being fastened to his one foot, to have elevated that five and forty degrees, and to have drawn the string with his two hands applied to it.

I cannot avoid being of opinion, that this fact fully illustrates those before-mentioned; and conceive, that the real method practised by the nations before-named, was exactly on the principle of this curious experiment.

In the time of Henry VIII. a droll circumstance happened, which, if I understand the affair rightly, has some relation to this pedestrian Archery. I allude to this passage in Hollinhead, viz. "Now at his returning, (Henry VIII.) many hearing of his going a Maying, were desirous of seeing him shoot; for at that time his Grace shot as strong, and as great a length as any of his guard. There

came to his Grace a certain man, with Bow and Arrow, and desired his Grace to take the muster of him, and to see him shoot. The man put one foot in his bosom, and so did shoot, and shot a very good shot. Whereof not only his Grace, but all others greatly marvelled. So the King gave him a reward for so doing. Which person afterwards, of the people and the court, was called, *Foot-in-bosom.*" \*

How a man could shoot, or, indeed, how a man could put one foot into his bosom, I am at a loss to conceive. More probably this Archer must have put his knee into his bosom, and have shot his Bow by pressing it with his foot, which would in this case project forwards.

The

\* Hollinhead, vol. iii. pg. 806.



The obscurity in which all the facts relating to pedestrial Archery is enveloped, induced me to try a few experiments, and to my surprize found the posture less inconvenient than may be imagined. If a person sit, and elevate the left leg, turning the toe a little inwards, and place the middle of the Bow against his foot, at the same time pressing it with the left hand close to the shoe, to prevent it slipping, he will be able to draw a very strong Bow without much difficulty; and I have no doubt, but that by practise the art of aiming with tolerable exactness might be acquired. This circumstance affords me an additional reason to suppose the Ethiopians, Arabs, &c. shot in this posture, as I have before intimated. I cannot, however, recommend this attitude to the *Panciuti!*

Wc

We find, that anciently there with five different ways made use of by the Archers of various countries in drawing the Bow, viz. 1st. *παρὰ μαστοῦ*, (by the breast.) 2d. *παρὰ δεξιῶν ὤτων*, (by the right ear.) 3d. *παρ' ὤμων*, (by the shoulder.) 4th. *Ab Inguine*, which is said to be familiar to the Parthians.

“ *Illi vergatis jaculantur ab inguine braxis.*”

*Proper. Lih. IV. El. 2.*

“ *Vulnera seu Parthi ducentis ab inguine ferrum.*”

*Perfius. Sat. V.\**

5th. is the method wherein the foot is used instead of the hand. †

It is impossible to give a written description in what manner the body should be held, while shooting in the common way,

\* This fourth article rests on a very questionable basis, as the lines are disputed by the critics; it is intelligible with great difficulty in every sense.

† See Am. Marcel. pg. 320.

way, as it varies in almost every instance. It is much less difficult to direct what attitudes should be avoided. For there are many more ways of doing wrong than right. Ascham has delineated the several awkward and inelegant positions in which the Archers in his time shot; and as it would be impossible for me to paint them in my own language so well as he has done, I shall copy the passage.

“ All the discommodities which ill custom has grafted in Archers, can neither be quickly pulled out, nor yet soon reckoned by me, there be so many. Some shooteth his head forward, as though he would bite the marke; another stareth with his eyes, as though they should flye out; another winketh with one eye, and loketh with the other; some make a face with wrything thyr mouth and countenance so, as tho’  
they

A N E S S A Y O N

they were doing you wotte what ; another blereth oute his tongue; another byteth his lippes; another holdeth his necke awrye. In drawinge, som fet such a compasse, as though they would turne about, and blesse all the field; other heave thyr hand now up now downe, that a man cannot discerne whereat they would shoote: another waggeth the upper end of his Bow one way, the neather end another way. Another will stand pointing his shaft at the marke a good while, and by and by, he will geve him a whippe, and away, or a man witte. Another maketh such a wrestlinge with his gere, as though he were able to shoote no more as long as he lived. Another draweth softlye to the middes, and by and by it is gone you cannot know howe. Another draweth his shaft low at the breast, as though he would shoote at a roving marke, and by and by

by he listeth his arme up pricke heyght. Another maketh a wrynching with his back, as though a man pinched him behinde. Another coureth downe, and layeth out his buttockes, as though he would shoote at crowes. Another setteth forward his left legge, and draweth back with heade and shoulders, as though he pulled at a rope, or else were afrayd of the marke. Another draweth his shaft well, untill within two fingers of the heade, and then he stayeth a little, to loke at his marke, and, that done, pullith it up to the head, and lowfeth: which waye, although some excellent shooters do use, yet shurelye it is a fault, and good mennes faults are not to be folowed. Some draw to farre, some to short, some to slowlye, some to quicklye, some hold over long, some let go over sone. Some sette theyr shaft on the ground, and

○

fetcheth

fetcheth him upwarde; another pointeth up towards the skye, and so bringeth him downwards. Ones I saw a man which used a bracer on his cheke, or else he had scratched all the skinne of the one side of his face with his drawing-hande. Another I saw, which, at every shote, after the loofe, lifted up his right legge so far, that he was ever in jeopardye of faulinge. Some stampe forwarde, and some leape backward. All these faultes be eyther in the drawing, or at the loofe; with many mo, which you may easely perceyve, and so go about to avoide them. Now, afterward, when the shaft is gone, men have many faultes, which evill custome hath brought them to; and especiallye in cryinge after the shaft, and speaking wordes scarce honest for such an honest pastime."

The

It is unnecessary for me to repeat, that these faults should be avoided in learning to shoot, as they not only are extremely ungraceful, but likewise increase the difficulty of drawing the Bow

O 2

C H A P.





## C H A P. V.

---

*Of the BOW-STRING.*

THE String is one of the most material parts of the Archer's apparatus, as the safety of the Bow, in a great measure, depends on the firmness of it. The universal concussion and jar, which the fracture of the Bow-string causes in the Bow, never fails, either at the moment, to shatter it in pieces, or to raise splinters, which, getting more and more deep into the wood, as the Bow is used, at length entirely spoil and ruin the instrument. The Bows which (as it is termed)

termed) “follow the String;” that is, which bend a little inwards, are less liable to injury from the breaking of a String, than those which are in a straight position, or which bend backwards; and it is for this reason some Archers prefer the Bows of this former description.

The Bow-strings mentioned by ancient writers, seem to have been made from leather, or thongs cut from fresh hides taken from Bulls, and other kinds of animals. The phrase, *νερα βοειας* is very common in Homer.

Strings were also composed from the sinews of beasts; and on that account are termed, “*Nervus*,”—“*νην*.” It was customary, for this purpose, to select the sinews of several of those kinds of animals, remarkable for their strength or activity; such as Bulls, Lions, Stags,  
 &c.

&c. and from those particular parts of each animal in which their respective strength was conceived to lie. From Bulls, the sinews about the back and shoulders were collected; and from Stags, they took those of the legs. Large, as well as small ropes were formed of these materials, which proved of very great use, when applied to the military weapons, and the greater sized engines.

Catgut, prepared from the intestines of animals, has been made serviceable for the purpose we are now speaking of, and continues to be used at present in the eastern countries. Many of the Bowstrings of this sort, are composed of a number of small cords, going the whole length, being bound in two or three places with silk, in order to keep them together. Experience has taught the Archers, that a number of small cords  
thus

thus accumulated in one, proves much stronger than a single one of the same external dimensions. These kinds are, however, sometimes used at present, but it is probable they were more in request formerly. As this sort is similar in composition to the strings on the lyre, or harp, it is more sonorous than any other species. The Scythians, using this kind, perhaps, are said to have amused themselves at feasts, by founding their Bow-strings, and felt an extraordinary pleasure in thus having their military thoughts awakened.

The natives of America, as well as Asia, have had the method of making Bow-strings from the sinews of animals, and from the intestines. The Eskimaux Strings appear principally of the former kind.

Hair

Hair from the tails of Horses was formerly manufactured into Bow-strings, and appears to have been not an uncommon material for the purpose. The word, ἵππειον, which signifies that species of string, frequently occurs in Homer, and from thence we may infer the antiquity of the practise. This kind is taken notice of likewise by Ovid, in the following lines:—

“ At semel intentus *nervo* levis arcus *equino*

“ Vincula semper habens irrefoluta manet.”

*Epist.* 2. *L.* 21

We learn, that on pressing emergencies, even the hair from the heads of women has been formed into Bow-strings; and a temple in Rome was dedicated to Venus the Bald, on an occasion of this kind. “ Prætereundum ne quidem illud est, quod tanta fide Aquileienses contra Maximium pro Senatu fuerant,

P

rant,

rant, ut funes de capillis mulierum facerent, quum deessent nervi ad sagittas emittendas quod aliquando Romæ dicitur factum. Unde in honorem Matronarum templum Veneri calvæ, Senatus dicavit."

*Jul. Capitolinus, in Maximino.*

From an expression in Pliny, we may imagine the Orientals made use of the hair of the Camel formerly in making Strings, "Camelino arcus intendere Orientis populi fidissimum."—See *Pliny, B. 11—49—Vol. I. pg. 642.*

The most general material of which Strings are now made in England, is hemp; of which the Italian answers the best; and this substance possesses many advantages over all other sorts. Catgut is too much under the influence of heat and moisture, to prove at all times of a  
 proper

proper tenſion; but hemp and flax have not this inconvenient and diſadvantageous quality belonging to them.

An old phraſe ſays, “ It is good to have two Strings to your Bow;” and it appears to have originated from an ancient cuſtom. A paſſage in Aſcham teaches us it was practiſed in his day; and there is reaſon to think it had a much earlier exiſtence. “ In warre,” ſays he, “ if a Stringe breake, the man is loſt, and is no man; for his weapon is gone;—and although he have *two Strings put on at once*, yet he ſhall have ſmall leaſure and leſſe roome to bend his Bowe; therefore, God ſend us good ſtringers, both for warre and peace!”

A law of Charlemagne, made in the year 813, ſeems to expreſs the ſame cuſtom:—“ Et ipſe comes prævideat quo-

modo sint parati (milites)—aut arcum cum duabus cordis.\* I confess that there is another sense in this passage, different from that I put upon it; but as the custom evidently existed in ages posterior to the æra of Charlemagne, it might have originated as early as that reign.

I have an additional testimony, which appears to give weight to my conjecture on this head; and which shews this custom prevailed in the beginning of the thirteenth century. I allude to the figure delineated in Plate 2, Figure 13.

This was taken from a seal sent on a letter from Sir James Pringle, to Mr. Waring, of Leicester House, who favoured me with a copy. The letter accompanying the impression contained the

\* See Capit. Reg. Franc. a S. Baluzius, pg. 509.



the following description:—" I seal this letter with a ring, a very curious antique, —a present to me, as President of the Council of the Royal Company of Archers, from Mr. Gray, our Secretary. Which ring was found about a month ago, near or upon the field of the famous battle of Bannockburn, several hundred years ago."† This letter was dated, Edinburgh, Feb. 21, 1791.

The Bow represented in the hands of this Archer, seems to have two strings attached to it; one of which only is drawn up with the Arrow, while the other remains unemployed; and I presume this must have been the method of using the Bows, thus doubly strung.

In the East Indies, the natives use a particular sort of String, by means of  
which

† This battle was fought in the reign of Edward II.

which they shoot balls of clay, which are rendered hard. The construction of it is very similar to that generally applied to the modern Cross-bow, when used to discharge leaden bullets. It is made double, and near the ends the two pieces are bound together; but as it is necessary, in order to make a place for the ball, that these Strings should be separated in the middle, there is a small piece of cane, or wood, placed between them, at each end, to keep them at a little distance apart. The ball is placed in a cloth socket, fastened rather above the centre of the String; and when the Bow is used, the shooter takes hold of the cloth socket, and presses the ball within, by means of his finger and thumb, at the same time drawing up the String in the usual manner. On loosing, the ball is carried by the socket, and projected from it in the way the Cross-bow acts. The  
String

String is fixed on the Bow so as to drive the ball clear of the wood part, and of the hand, for if it threw it directly forwards, it would endanger both. It is said, the Indians are very expert in managing this contrivance, and are able to hit birds, and other moving objects.

Afcham mentions, that they formerly made use of two Strings in England, the large, thick String; and a sort much smaller. "The one," says he, "is safe for the Bow, but does not shoot strong; while the other is infinitely preferable in long distances, but at the same time does not direct the Arrow so true, and is sooner broken.

I am not acquainted with the several ways which were practised by the ancients in stringing their Bows; it was usual, however, I think, to hold the Bow in  
the

the left hand by the middle, and to press on the upper end with the right, at the same time slipping the String into its place, while the lower end of the weapon rested against the knee of the left leg.

There is a figure very distinctly drawn on a medal in Dr. Hunter's Museum, which represents an Archer stringing his Bow, exactly in the position I now speak of, and which is copied, Plate 2, Figure 11. It is a Cretan coin.

Ovid, speaking of Cupid going to shoot and preparing his Bow, says,

“Lunavit que genu sinuosum fortiter arcum.”

*El. 1. Lib. 1. Lin. 23.*

There is a figure in this posture drawn in Plate 24, Vol. III. of the Museo Capitolino. And another, Pl. 21, Vol. II.  
of

of the—"Antiche Statue Greche e Romane che nell'antifala della Libreria di San Marco, e in altri luoghi pubblici di Venezia si trovano."

*Fol. Two Vols. Venez. 1743.*

Q

CHAP.







10

11

12

13



## C H A P. VI.

---

*Of ARROWS.*

THE figure of the Arrow has undergone less variation than that of the Bow. As curved lines admit of more variety than straight ones. The Scythian, Indian, and Dacian Bows, have each their characteristic forms, but the head, or the feathers of an Arrow, are the only parts which can be varied materially.

The substances from which Arrows have been fabricated, have differed in almost every country. They were frequently made of reeds, as we may infer

Q 2 .

from

from the Latin word *Arundo*, signifying both an Arrow and a reed.\*

Pliny informs us, that this substance was in the highest request for the purpose we mention, and the Calamus, another species of reed, says he, hath overcome half the nations of the world, in battle. §

The

\* It is observed by one of the great Metaphysicians of the present day, that the language of mankind may furnish good evidence of opinions, (and manners he might have added) which have been early and universally entertained; and that forms contrived for expressing such, may remain in use after the opinions (and customs) which gave rise to them, have been greatly changed.—*Essay on Active Powers. pg. 18.*

Mr. Gibbon also, in Note 36, Chap. 1. says,—  
“There is room for a very interesting work, which should lay open the connexion between the languages and manners of nations.”

§ Calamis Orientis populi bella conficiunt: calamis spicula addunt irrevocabili hamo noxia. Mortem accelerant pinna addita calamis. Fitque et ex ipso telum aliud fracto in vulneribus. His armis Solem ipsum obumbrant. Propter hoc maxime serenos dies optant;

The tree called *Cornus*, was formerly much celebrated for Arrow-making, and also for the purpose of Bows,† as was the Palm-tree. But the Calamus, and particularly a sort growing anciently in a river called the Rhine,|| was valued for its weight, and the steadiness with which it resisted the currents of wind in flying. —The ancient Scythians used Fir-tree, or Deal, as Strabo relates.‡

## The

optant: odere ventos & imbres, qui inter illos pacem esse cogunt. Ac si quis Æthiopus, Ægyptum, Arabas, Indos, Scythas, Bactros, Sarmatarum tot gentes & Orientis, omniaque Parthorum regna diligentius computet, æqua ferme pars hominum in toto mundo calamis superata degit.”

*Plin. Lib. 16, Sec. 65.*

† — “Apta fretis abies, bellis accommoda cornus.”  
*Cladian.*

|| This river was not the great Rhine of Germany, but a smaller one of that name, rising in the Appenines, and flowing near Bononia, and is therefore called by Pliny, in the above passage, “Rheno Bononiensi amne.”

‡ — και ἴσους ἰλατίοις χρῆσθαι τοὺς ταυτῆ Σκυθας.

*Strabo, pg. 510.*

The modern Arrows from India, are made of cane, which being of a species very stiff, and at the same time of little weight, they fly with uncommon velocity from the Bow, and are capable of withstanding a severe blow from objects which oppose their motion.

The inhabitants of Guiana use cane for the making of Arrows, and affix an head of firm and sharp wood to them. We are told by Bancroft, that these people use Bows about five feet in length, and Arrows of about four feet, which are partly of a cane without knots. This cane part is usually about a yard long, and in the end of it is fixed a piece of hard wood, about twelve inches. This wood sometimes has a large gobular head; but if the Arrow be intended to kill, the wood part is either formed into a sharp point, bearded with notches, or  
is

is armed with a piece of iron; which metal they use since the Europeans have visited the country.\*

I have in my possession some of the kind here spoken of; and although they are of such prodigious length, (some being more than five feet) they are nevertheless extremely light. I had the curiosity to weigh one of the canes, without the head part, it measured four feet long, and was half an inch in diameter throughout, when it appeared to be only three quarters of an ounce in weight.

Afcham has enumerated fifteen sorts of wood, of which Arrows were made in England at the time he lived, viz.

“ Brazell,

\* The Arrows used by the inhabitants of Tunna island, are made of reeds, pointed with hard wood; some of them are bearded; and those for killing birds have two, three, or sometimes four points.

*Coak's Voyage, 1772—1775, Vol. II. pg. 82.*

“ Brazell, Turkie-woode, Fusticke, Sugarcheffe, Hardbeame, Byrche, Ashe, Oake, Servistree, Alder, Blackthorne, Beche, Elder, Aspe, Salow.” Of these, Aspe and Ash were preferred to the rest; the one for target shooting, the other for war.

A simple stick, without any alteration than pointing, was perhaps the first kind of Arrow used by mankind.† The hard wood found in some climates was well calculated for the purpose, as it was capable of retaining its point, tho’ forced with violence against the firmest bodies. But the use of stones appears to be one of the first inventions with respect to pointing, and there are many curious circumstances relating to this practice. The  
 class

† The Lycian Arrows, according to the description of Herodotus, appear to have been nearly of this kind, as they were not guided by feathers. See Herodotus, Lib. 7, pg. 470 :— “ και οἷς καλαμις ἄπτερος.”

class of these substances principally made use of in all nations, was the Sileceous—as common Flint, Jasper, Agate, &c.

There are the best reasons for imagining that these Arrow-heads were in use from the highest antiquity, as there is scarcely any country in which they have not been found buried in the earth. They are not uncommon in Scotland, England, and Ireland. America produces them in all its parts; and what is extraordinary, I have heard from natives, that James River, in Virginia, often throws them on its banks, during the overflowing of the waters. If this fact be true, (but I cannot vouch for it myself) it is not a bad proof, of the antiquity of the use of stone points, and the long time America has been peopled; for we must admit many ages for accident to have accumulated so great a number

R

ber

ber in the space James River occupies, even allowing the natives to kill beasts and birds, or fish from the banks, which is not their practise.

Herodotus tells us, the Æthiopians pointed their Arrows with a stone used to engrave seals with.\*

These stone-heads have been formerly called Cerauniæ, and are reported by Pliny to have fallen from Heaven in storms of thunder. Others have classed them as crystallizations, and arranged them among the natural productions of the earth. But they were in fact, the heads applied to Arrows, in the early ages of the world, and bear the most evident marks of manufacture and art. They seem to have been formed by hammering and rubbing.

Those

\* See Herodotus, pg. 464.



Those which are found in Ireland and Scotland are generally of a mixed brown-coloured flint. Though there are some in Perthshire red, which appear to have been the heads of very small Arrows. In Ireland, some of them are made of a flint, almost as pelucid as an onyx, and nearly of the same colour. Very small Arrow-heads are found in Barbadoes, made of a fissile talky stone.† Instruments and weapons, such as axes, chisels, arrow-heads, the points of darts, and lances, have been found of the same materials. Dampier formerly, and Cooke lately, discovered people who were in the practise of using these stone tools and weapons; and the Spaniards, at their first descent upon America, found no other in use among the natives of the continent, and the islands adjacent; for although the Americans had iron ore in

R 2 abundantly

† See Chambers's Dictionary.

abundance, they were ignorant of its use till taught by the Spaniards.

It is remarkable that these weapons are made with greater regularity than we might reasonably expect, considering the imperfections of the instruments which must have figured them. They are many of them formed in a manner very difficult to make without breaking, for the part is often long, and very thin. They are exceedingly sharp, and the edges frequently indented like the teeth of a saw. The Arrow-heads likewise, though found in countries the most remote from each other, are still nearly alike in figure. Those found in the parts bordering on the straits of Magellan are said, by Dr. Woodward, to resemble those of this island. He adds his reasons,—“ That different men having in view the same design, conducting their thoughts in a regular

regular manner, may come, in the pursuit, to the same conclusion; and, as in this case, hit on the same shape for a weapon of such design. But it is much more likely, that they came all from the same origin, and that the first module was brought from Babel, to the various countries whither the several colonies, sent thence, made their migrations."\* (In Plate 2, N° 4, 5, and 6, are three of these heads.)

The horns of animals have been employed for the pointing of weapons in ancient times; and as wild beasts wore no armour, and savage nations little covering, arms of this kind would be found efficacious, in the hand of the hunter, or warrior. Indeed, it is not  
an

\* See Woodward's Letters on Fossils. Let. ad. to Sir John Hoſkyns, pg. 43.

an uncommon practise at this day, among those nations ignorant in metals.†

We cannot imagine the instruments of war, before the discovery of fire, could have been pointed with metal; but the moment the art of separating that substance from the ore was known, metallic weapons would no doubt be fabricated, and introduced in battle. Arrows which usually had been pointed with horn, bone, or flint, would be covered with more permanent materials. Copper, and what was called brass, seem to have been first discovered by mankind, and accordingly these metals appear to have been first in use. Arrows and javelins were commonly

† Lord Bacon has observed what seems very extraordinary, “That an Arrow *without* an iron point will penetrate to the depth even of eight inches into a piece of wood, when shot from a Turkish Bow; while another Arrow, *having* an iron point, will not penetrate near so deep.”

See *Expt. Solitary* 704. *Nat. Hist.*

monly headed with brass, or copper, in the time of Homer, as appears from many passages in the Iliad. § Herodotus mentions a wonderful brass cup, made from the heads of Arrows. He says, a King, named Ariantas, desiring to number the people of Scythia, commanded that each person in his dominions should bring the head of an Arrow to him, under pain of death, in case any one neglected. From the heads which were collected, a cup was made, capable of holding six hundred hogheads; and the thickness of the sides of it was equal to six digits. †

The soldiers of Greece and Rome had not only their spears, javelins and arrows pointed with brass, but also their whole armour consisted of that metal. Livy says,

§ Iliad, B. 4, L. 527—B. 13. L. 607.

† Herodotus, pg. 285.

says, the shield, the busgin, the helmet, were all of brass, among the Roman Legions. ||

The ancients are reported to have been in possession of a method of indurating brass, but the process is not at this day known. The points of spears, and the other weapons, which are not unfrequently found in several parts of Europe, are proved to contain an alloy very different from that made use of in the present day. Some experiments made by Mr. Dize, and inserted in the "*Journal de Physique*," for April, 1790, have shewn that the brass of the Greeks and Romans was composed of copper, with a mixture of tin, instead of zinc; and he supposes that it was owing to this circumstance that they were rendered so hard. But I  
am

|| Clypium ocrææ, lorica, omnia ex ære, hæc ut tegumina corporis essent. Lib. 1.

am inclined to think that there was a subsequent process, to complete the tempering. Mixtures of copper with tin, are manufactured in the present times, and are particularly applied to the casting of artillery, and bells; for which last purpose the copper is to the tin, in the proportion of ten parts to one. Copper, by these alloys, is rendered hard, but brittle, as is the case with an addition of zinc. We may conjecture, therefore, that if the ancient brass was in fact so hard as it is represented to have been, that a temper was given by some process used after the metal was composed, and that it was not owing to the mixture alone. Virgil tells us, the shield made by Vulcan for Æneas, at the request of Venus, and which the goddess presented to that hero herself, was made of brass, and was hardened by plunging into water; but perhaps this idea might arise only from

S the

the making of steel from iron, and not from a common method used to prepare brass.

“ Ingentem clypeum informant, unum omnia contra  
 “ Tela Latinorum ; septenosque orbibus orbes  
 “ Impediunt. Alii ventosis follibus auras  
 “ Accipiunt redduntque : alii stridentia tingunt  
 “ Æra lacu.”

*Æneid.* 8. 447.

I need not say, that latterly, iron has been in general use for the heading of Arrows; but it may prove a more extraordinary piece of information if I say, that they have been pointed with gold and silver, and thus used in battle, even in Europe.\*

The figure of the Arrow-head has been very similar in all countries,—at least those made for the purpose of war.

They

\* See Nicetus, *Annal.* pg. 66. A. Fol. Paris.



They are represented sometimes barbed, sometimes plain and long. They are often flat, and nearly resembling the leaves of some vegetables. (Plate 2, Figures 1, 2, and 3, are taken from ancient Arrow-heads.) N° 1 and 2 were to be fixed to the wood-part by a small ferrule; but N° 3 is a triangular solid pyramid, and the upper point was driven into the end of the wood, in the same manner in which files and chissels are fastened to their handles.

These barbed sort are spoken of by Ovid, in the following verse:—

“ Et manus hamatis utraque est armata sagittis.”

The heads of these Arrows were seldom more than an inch, or an inch and an half long; but the unbarbed were longer.\*

S 2

The

\* There is a strange error in Gronovius, with respect to Arrow-heads. He tells us, that sometimes they

The Emperor Commodus is said to have used shafts, the heads of which were fashioned like an half moon:—but we have occasion in another place to speak of these.

In more recent times, we are informed, there were great variety of Arrow-heads used in war. But as figures will be better

they were three or four inches long; and quotes his authority from Statius. These are the words:—  
 “ Aliquando duobus, tribus, imo quatuor uncis armabatur; ut legere apud Statium,

“ *Aspera tergemini acies se condidit uncis.*”

But this line in Statius has no reference to the size of Arrow-heads, very much otherwise, as the context shews:

“ *Prima Tanagræum turbavit arundo Choræbum*  
 “ *Extremo galeæ, primoque in margine parmæ*  
 “ *Angusta transmissa via. Stat faucibus unda*  
 “ *Sanguinis, & sacri facies rubet igne veneni.*  
 “ *Sævius Eurytion, cui luminis orbe sinistri*  
 “ *Aspera tergemini acies se condidit uncis.*  
 “ *Ille trahens oculo,*” &c.

*Statius Thebaid. Lib. 9, L. 7*

ter understood than any verbal description, I shall refer the reader to the third Plate, which contains a variety of Arrows chiefly in use from the tenth to the fourteenth century. It will be observed, that some of these Arrows had the head fitted into the wood, and others had the wood fitted into the head. Some of them had their heads but slightly fixed on, or rather, had separate pieces of iron which applied to the Arrow, in order that, when a wound was given, the shaft alone should be drawn back, leaving the head buried in the flesh; and to render this more effectual, the iron was curved, or barbed, in various methods. (Plate 3, Figure A and B represent Arrows; and *a* and *b* the heads to be applied.)

The Turkish Arrows in the fifteenth century are reported, by Villamont, to  
have

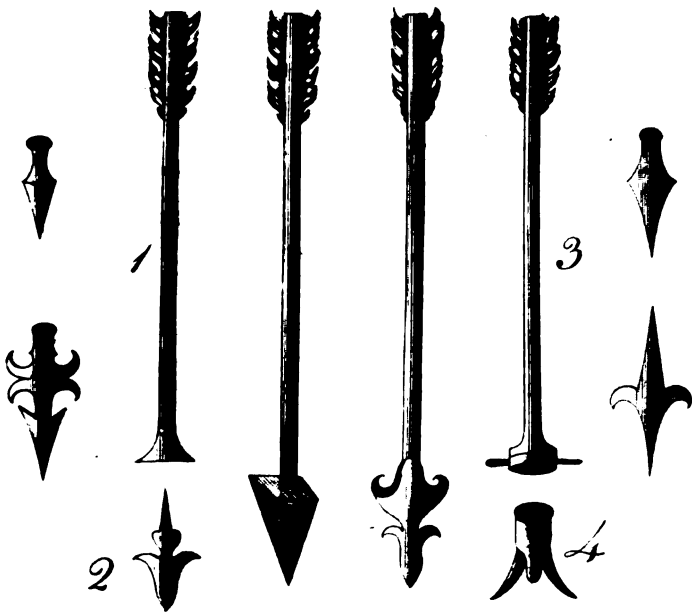
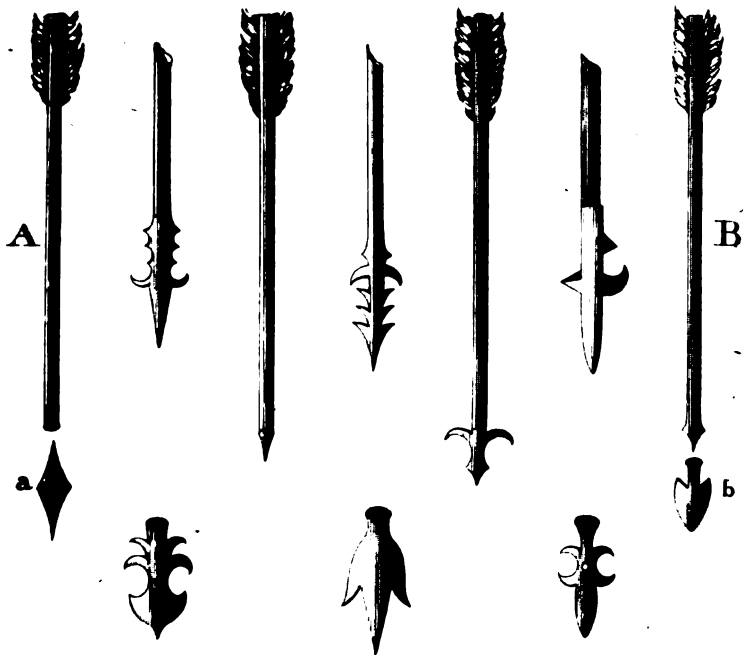
have been headed half a foot in length, and barbed.†

The Arrows used in the east at present, are armed with a flat barbed iron point, about an inch in length, which is fixed on to the cane by a short ferrule. Sometimes the heads are made in an acute pyramid, about one inch and an half long.

The common shooting Arrows in England, as they are not designed to inflict death, are not very sharply pointed. The sides of the shaft converge to an obtuse point, at the distance of an inch.

*The*

† Villamont, Voyages du. Liv. 2, pg. 213.





*The WHISTLING ARROW.*

---

THERE is a kind of Arrow which, from the construction of its head, is called the *Whistling Arrow*. There are two methods in which the heads are made. The one is by having a ball of horn perforated with holes at the end, and fastened to the Arrow, by the wood passing through it, and fitting tight. But this is not the most desirable kind; for as the perforations are liable to become choaked up, by the Arrow falling to the ground, the head must be taken off whenever the holes are thus filled; and as the horn ball does not adhere very firmly, if the Arrow penetrate the earth to any depth, it is difficult

difficult to draw it back without loosing the head. Another sort, which are usually larger, and which have a deeper tone, are made with a screw in the middle of the ball; by which means all the inconveniences attending the smaller kind are removed, as the ball is in the latter case glued firmly to the body of the Arrow, and may be drawn from the ground without danger of separating.

It is supposed these Arrows were formerly applied to some military uses, and particularly giving signals in the night. The Chinese, I have been told, have used them for this purpose in time immemorial.

How long these Arrows have been known in England is uncertain; but I have found no passage referring to them earlier than the time of Henry VIII.

In



In Hollinshed we read, " That in the year 1515, the court lying at Greenwich, the King and Queen, accompanied with many lords and ladies, rode to the high-ground of Shooter's-hill to take the open air; and as they passed by the way they espied a company of tall yemen, cloathed in green hoods, and Bows and Arrows, to the number of two hundred. Then one of them, which called himself *Robin Hood*, came to the King, desiring him to see his men shoot, and the King was content. Then he whistled, and all the two hundred shot, and loosed at once; and then he whistled again, and they likewise shot again. Their Arrows whistled by craft of their head, so that the noise was strange and great, and much pleased the King and Queen, and all the company. All these Archers were of the King's guard, and had thus apparelled themselves to make solace to the King."\*

T

From

\* See Hollinshed's Chron. Vol. III. pg. 836.

From the manner in which this story is told, we may be led to think the Whistling Arrow to have been a new thing in the beginning of the sixteenth century, and perhaps just introduced, otherwise the exhibition would have scarcely been worth performing before the King and his company.

---

**THERE** are contrivances by which small-shot and balls are discharged from the Bow, and by the assistance of a species of Arrow, (if we may venture to term it so) which is fixed on the Bow-string, by means of a perforation through one end, into which the String is passed. At the head of this rod is a tin ferrule, about three or four inches in length, and into which the shot are placed. It is usual to have a string on purpose for this kind

kind of shooting, well wrapped in the middle with silk ; and the Arrows slipped on, that the whole may be removed from the Bow at pleasure. When an apparatus thus fitted up, is discharged, the Arrow communicating the force impressed upon it by the String, to the shot, projects them with a velocity in proportion to the strength of the Bow made use of ; but as the weight of the charge and the Arrow tend in a great degree to diminish the velocity of the body emitted, we must conceive the effect much less powerful, than that of an Arrow shot from the same Bow.

In discharging balls, the same apparatus is made use of, except that instead of a tin ferrule, as in the former case, the Arrow has a weak spring on each side of the head, placed so as to press gently on the ball.

T 2

One

One invention on this principle is very extraordinary, and which I cannot omit to mention, though it appears more curious than useful.

The Bow is to be fitted up as in the preceding cases, and the Arrow as that used for discharging shot, only that this must have four tin ferrules about an inch long each, instead of a single one. These are to be placed nearly parallel, but not entirely so, as they are intended to make the charge diverge. A light silk net about four feet square, is to be prepared, having a small leaden bullet fixed on each corner: these bullets are to be put singly into each of the four tin ferrules, and in this state the whole may be carried into the field for use. On discharging the Bow, the balls are thrown out with violence, carrying the net with them,  
and

and at the same time expanding it; and should it be directed properly towards a partridge, or any other bird on the wing, the net will not fail to entangle and bring it to the ground.

**C H A P.**



## C H A P. VII.

---

*Of POISONED ARROWS.*

AMONG the various appendages which have been attached to the Arrow, the most formidable seems to be that of *poison*. We are told that a fluid is prepared, and loaded with such powerful infection, that the animal system shrinks under its effects, almost instantaneously, if it be once introduced deeper than the skin.

The vegetable and mineral poison we are acquainted with in Europe, if administered in small portions, require time to operate, and seldom produce immediate death.

death. But we shall find that in other parts of the world, nature has infused into the cells of some vegetables, so deadly a venom, that not even the wound of the most virulent serpent can equal.

Mankind probably fell victims to this poisonous juice at its first discovery; but the first use to which it was applied seems to have been the envenoming of Arrows, which were directed against wild beasts. For this purpose it was a very valuable acquisition, as the wound of an Arrow alone would seldom prove instantly mortal.

The use of poisoned arms is of high antiquity; they were common in the time of Alexander, as Justin records.\*

Virgil,

\* Cum venisset ad urbem Ambigeri regis, oppidam victum ferro audientes, sagittas veneno armant, atque ita gemino mortis vulnere hostem a muris summoventes, plurimos interficiunt.

*Justin, Lib. 12, Chap. 9.*



Virgil, in the 9th *Æneid*, celebrates  
Amycus for this art:

“ \* \* \* \* \* Inde ferarum  
“ Vastatorem Amycum, quo non felicior alter  
“ Ungere tela manu, ferrumque armare veneno.

*Æneid.* 9. 771.

The Gauls, we find by Pliny, shot poi-  
soned Arrows in hunting Stags, and  
which were made from a tree called  
Limæum. §

The poison with which part of the  
inhabitants of America arm their darts,  
is said by some to be prepared from a  
tree called Mancanilla—they add, that it  
is death to those who take in the effluvia  
of it by inspiration, and for that reason  
the old people and criminals are sent to

U gather

§ Limæum herba appellatur à Gallis, qua sagittas  
in venatue tingunt medicamento, quod venenum cer-  
varium vocant.

*Plin. B. 27, Chap. 11, pg. 433. Vol. II.*

gather the juice, protecting their nose and mouth as well as they can; but this is looked upon as a fable. †

By others it is said, the poison applied to arms is gotten from a serpent, which, when irritated, vomits a noxious liquor; and if the point of an Arrow be stained with it, the wound inflicted by that weapon will prove instantly mortal. ‡

But from whatever things these venomous ingredients are procured, it is certain the effects are often violent and dreadful. The savages in America pretend, that by compounding the liquor, into which they dip their Arrows, with a greater or less

† A similar story is told of a tree, in the island of Java, called the Upas, and of another in Makassar, which Gumilla mentions.

*See Vol. III. pg. 16. Hist. de l'Oronoque.*

‡ See *Viaggi da Ramusio*, Vol. III. pg. 155—E.—Fol.

less portion of the poisoning quality, they can cause immediate death from a wound, or protract the effect to a few days, a week, or a fortnight.

The real advantage derived from the use of poisoned Arrows in war, seems so trivial, that we may doubt whether victory was ever apparently aided by the effects of those weapons. And although Alexander and Cortes, as well as many warriors, have been exposed to these doubly-armed instruments of death, we do not find they have ever attested the double efficacy of them.\*

The natives of the east, and in America, who practise the poisoning of Arrows, employ those instruments in the hunting

U 2 of

\* It must be observed, that the use of poisoned Arrows is principally confined to the chase, and is introduced upon emergencies only in battle, among the Americans.—See Condamine, Voyage, pg. 206, and

of wild beasts. But the Arrow they use is of a very different construction from those which are usually shot from the Bow. They are simple sticks of hard wood, poisoned at the end, and are so light as to be blown through a tube, in the manner we often see boys blowing peas, or other substances, in this country.

I find the following circumstantial account of this affair in the History of Guiana, by Bancroft. The author says, "The poisoned Arrows are made of splinters of the hard and solid outer substance of the Cokarito tree, and are usually

and Bancroft's History of Guiana, pg. 306.—There is, however, an instance of the Americans having used these Arrows with great success, related in the "Viaggi da Ramusio," Vol. III. pg. 24.—A. Vasco Nunez, with 300 men, attacked a party of Indians, who immediately turned about, discharged a flight of poisoned Arrows on them, and at the first shot killed 107 of the 300 who had invaded their country.

ally about twelve inches in length, not larger in bulk than a large common knitting-needle. One end of the Arrow is formed into a sharp point, and envenomed in the poison of Woorara; round the other end is wound a roll of cotton, adapted to the cavity of the reed through which the Arrow is to be blown. The Arrow, thus decked and armed for destruction, is inserted in the hollow straight reed, several feet in length, which being directed towards the object, the Arrow is by a single blast of air from the lungs, protruded through the cavity of the reed, and flies with great swiftness and unerring certainty, the distance of thirty or forty yards, conveying speedy and inevitable death to the animal from whom it draws blood. Blowing the Arrows is the principal exercise of the Indians from their childhood, and by long use and habitude, they acquire a degree of dexterity

terity and exactness, which is inimitable by an European, and almost incredible.”

The same is practised in the East almost universally. The inhabitants of Makassar, particularly, are accustomed to poison their arms. The brother of Mr. Tavernier, (the celebrated French traveller) while in India, had a remarkable proof of the activity of this poison exhibited to him.

An Englishman residing in Makassar had in a rage, killed a subject of the king of that island, but his offence was pardoned. In consequence of which the other English, French, and Dutch inhabitants of the island, fearing lest the resentment of the natives might be exercised against them, requested the king that the person guilty of the charge, should suffer for what he had done, that

no

no future revenge might be meditated by his subjects, against the Europeans, as was sometimes the case. The king consented, and as he wished the criminal to suffer as little pain as possible, he said he himself would inflict the stroke by a poisoned Arrow. He desired the brother of Mr. Tavernier, (for he was very intimate with the king) to attend him to the execution. When the man was brought, the king asked him what part he should wound, upon which he named the great toe of the right foot. The king then took an Arrow, properly poisoned, and adapted it to the tube, and blew it with incredible exactness to the point. Two European surgeons on the spot, immediately exerted their skill, but though they amputated the part far below the wound, with quick dispatch, the man died in their hands.

All

All the kings of the eastern countries collect this poison to tinge their Arrows, and keep them ready for use during a long time. The king of Achen made a present of a dozen of these Arrows to a Mr. Coke, envoy at Bavaria, with whom Mr. Tavernier was well acquainted. One day when these gentlemen were together, they had the curiosity to try whether those weapons retained their virulence or not, as they had been kept several years unused. They shot some of them at squirrels and other animals, all of which dropt the moment they were wounded, a circumstance which sufficiently proved, not only the violence, but also the permanence of this terrible poison.\*

I cannot authenticate the violent effects of poisons applied to Arrows better, than by producing the result of some experiments

\* See Voyages de Tavernier, Vol. II.



ments which were made on the poisons of Lamas and Ticunas, brought to France by Mr. de la Condamine, from South America.†

This gentleman gave a part to Mr. Hefissant, who wished to ascertain whether the reports concerning the violent effects of these species of poison, were true or false. He accordingly began to prepare the poison in the way Mr. de la Condamine informed him the Americans did, but in his proceedings he met with two accidents, either of which might have cost him his life.

He understood that the proper method was to dissolve the poisonous substance he received, in water, and to evaporate

X

the

† Mr. De la Condamine informs us of a few experiments he tried on poisoned Arrows, during his residence at Cayenne, which he has inserted in the narrative of his voyage to the Amazon river. pg. 203.

the solution till it become thick, and dark-coloured. † He began the process, but the fumes almost deprived him of his senses, and had he not taken a large quantity of sugar dissolved in wine, which was prescribed as an antidote, he might have fallen suffocated, and lifeless on the floor of his room. §

He, however, effected the process completely at another time, and corked the  
liquid

† In the preparation of this poison, it is said, the care of the boiling is entrusted to a criminal; and at the time the person becomes suffocated by the fumes, it is concluded to be sufficiently boiled.—(See *Bancroft*, pg. 290.—*Alfo Gumilla*, Vol. III. pg. 12.)

But the Experiments of the Abbé Fontana on this kind of poison, prove the vapour to be innocent to the lungs. This author concludes the relation of his experiments in these words:—"Da tutte queste sperienze deduco che i vapori de' fumi del veleno Americano, sono innocenti, o che si futino, o che si resperino."

*Trattato del Veleno*, Vol. III. pg. 28.

§ The fumes of a charcoal fire would have this effect, independent of any other cause.

liquid in a small bottle, and locked it up. But wishing to begin his intended course of experiments, he one day took the phial containing the poison, into his hand, when in a moment the cork flew to the ceiling of the chamber, and the liquor ran streaming over his hand. In this second dilemma he consigned himself to an inevitable and speedy death. However, as there was no wound or puncture on his skin, by which the poison could penetrate to the blood, washing effectually removed the danger.||

Having escaped these misfortunes, he began his experiments on the 6th of June, 1748.

X 2

He

|| Bancroft says, in his History of Guiana, that in trying experiments with poison, he had a drop accidentally thrown into his eye, but by washing he prevented any very bad effects, though he felt pain for some time afterwards. Pg. 293.

He made a little wound about three lines\* in length, in the hinder leg of a Rabbit, and put a bit of cotton moistened in the poison of Ticunas to the place; the creature died suddenly in his hand, without giving any sign of pain, before he had time to put a bandage on, as he intended. This experiment was repeated the same day, on seven different animals, all of which died in less than a minute.—

*June 7.*—He dipped the point of a lancet into the poison, and pricked some Cats with the instrument, all of which died in less than three minutes.—

*June 8.*—He made an incision with a lancet, between the ears of a Cat, and with a pencil, put into it a drop of the poison of Ticunas, mixed with that of  
Lamas;

\* A line is 1-twelfth of an inch.

Lamas; in an instant the creature died in his hands.—

*June 9.*—He tried experiments in the same manner on fish, reptiles and insects, none of which were affected by the poison.

There are many more experiments of the same kind mentioned by Mr. Herissant, but these will clearly shew the accounts we have often read not to be fabulous. This gentleman observes also, that the animals which have been killed by the means here spoken of, are not in the least unfit for use; they may be eaten without any ill consequences. “In effect,” says he, “I have eaten Rabbits which I had killed with poison, and afterwards made several other persons eat them,

them, and not one of us perceived the smallest indisposition."\*

I could scarcely read the account of these experiments without great pain, in seeing such a number of harmless creatures sacrificed to useless curiosity; useless, because a few trials would have established the fact as firmly as a great number; and as there seemed no material difference in the operation of the poison in his numerous experiments, it is surprising how a man could delight in taking away the life of so many animals. There is one thing, perhaps, that might be urged,—they felt no pain, he says; but if the description of the circumstances which attended those who survived the  
wound

\* Gumilla relates, that the nations on the banks of the Oroonoko, eat the Monkeys they kill by poisoned Arrows.

*See Vol. III. pg. 7. Hist. de l'Oronoque.*

wound a little time, be true, it is evident they felt extreme pain.†

I perceive, in the course of the experiments he makes mention of, the following catalogue:—Six Horses, one Bear, one Eagle, one Hawk, two Wolves, one Pig, one Lamb, thirteen Rabbits, fifteen Dogs, nine Cats; and of Rats, Mice, Pole-cats and Guinea-pigs, a great number. These were poisoned to ascertain the fact; but had the gentleman possessed less curiosity, and more compassion, he

† It is reported, that wounds made by Arrows, tinged with some kinds of poison, used by the inhabitants of Brasil, which are not instantly mortal, prove extremely tormenting; and the effects are so violent, that those who are wounded appear to be almost driven to distraction with the pain.—“*Questi tirano le lor frezze con una herba cosi pestifera & velenosa, che non vi ha remedio alcuno: et quelli che ne vengono feriti, muoiono arrabiati, & fanno molti motivi & si mordono le loro proprie mani & carni, &c.*”

*Ramusio, Vol. III. pg. 83.*

he might have established his facts with equal firmness. §

It would be happy if a remedy to the effects of poison were known, which could be acknowledged effectual; but although every country, and every age, has produced to the world a specific in the case of poison, yet still there is great uncertainty in many of the prescribed cures, and in others manifest fallacy.

Pliny has enumerated several vegetable and mineral substances which were used, in order to counteract the effects of different poisons made use of in his day. But as it is impossible to understand what he intends, in some of his descriptions, and as others are nothing less than foolish charms and *nostrums*, we must esteem his information as adding nothing to our knowledge

§ See Phil. Transf. Vol. 47.



knowledge on this part of the subject. The ancients, as far as I can discover, were in possession of nothing which can be called an effectual remedy. For though there are many instances recorded, of people having made use of antidotes, there are an infinity of examples, in which those antidotes have proved useless and ineffectual. Indeed, the accounts of those who are said to have been healed by the effects of a counter-poison, are expressed in such equivocal and inaccurate language, that we are still left in ignorance as to the thing in question. Generally, the fact alone is mentioned without any explanation; and some are content to place confidence in the assertion, without further inquiry. Justin, for instance, says, that Alexander, in besieging a town, had a great number of his soldiers wounded by the poisoned Arrows of the enemy. Among others, Ptolemy

Y

was

was struck by one of these darts. Alexander was exceedingly concerned for the misfortune which had befallen his friend, and ordered a decoction of herbs to be administered to him. The potion was accordingly given, and had an immediate effect in removing the impending danger. The same medicine speedily relieved the greater part of those who had been wounded, has it had done Ptolemy.\*

But this fact will enable us to form no conclusion. The arrows by which the wounds were inflicted, might not have all been poisoned; and if those persons who were hurt by the supposed poisoned weapons, shewed any peculiar symptoms,

\* Cùm inter multos vulneratus etiam Ptolemæus esset, moriturusque jamjam videretur, per quietem regi monstrata in remedia veneni herba est, qua in potu accepta, statim periculo liberatus est, majorque pars exercitus hoc remedio servata.

*Just. Lib. 12. Ch. 10.*

symptoms, different from others, wounded by untainted arrows, it might have been occasioned by the imagination, and the *dread* of having suffered by poison. In fact, as we are ignorant of all concomitant circumstances, and as corresponding examples are equally vague; our knowledge on this head must remain exceedingly uncertain.

But let us now endeavour to find out the opinions of more modern historians and physicians.

Men exposed to particular dangers, are generally more skilled in protecting themselves, than those, who are unacquainted with similar difficulties; and accordingly travellers report, that the natives of America, and the East, have all of them, either real or pretended, antidotes for the cure of the attacks of poison.

Y 2

The

The most efficacious and valuable forts are usually kept secret from the vulgar, and from foreigners, and are in the possession of the kings and chiefs. Some of these esteemed remedies are however mentioned, a few of which I shall take notice of.

The inhabitants bordering on the river of the Amazons, in which country Mr. Condamine travelled, use sugar or the sugar cane, and regard it a grand and universal specific; but this opinion does not correspond with that, formed from experiments, made in Europe.‡

Preparations of Tobacco are found fallible, though they have been eagerly recommended by many savage nations.§

Sea-

‡ See Condamine, Voyages, and Bancroft's Hist. of Guiana, pg. 297.

§ Les premiers Espagnols qui voulurent soumettre les Carâibes, ayant souvent senti les effets de ces traits,

Sea-salt, or sea-water has been esteemed a remedy by some; and it is reported this was discovered to be a remedy by a boy who washed his wounded hand in the sea, and by that means cured the part.

The facts related of the healing of wounds by the application of human saliva, appear better authenticated, and seem to shew its beneficial effects in particular instances.

Some of the experiments on the poison of Ticunas made by Fontana shew that the noxious quality was in a small degree checked

traits, eurent recours à une infinité de contre-poisons, & s'imaginèrent enfin d'en avoir trouvé un, dans les feuilles du tabac. Cette decouverte fut annoncée en Espagne avec tant d'eclat que Philippe II. fit faire des experiences en sa présence sur des chiens, dont on frotta les plaïes avec du tabac broyé, mais l'illusion ne dura pas, & on s'apperçut bientôt que ce prétendu spécifique n'etoit pas infallible.

*Rech. sur les Amer.*

checked by the operation of the mineral acids, except by the nitrous, which had no good effects. Alkaline salt produced no change, and the only way by which the animal frame was protected, was by cutting the wounded part out instantaneously. ||

The practice of shooting poisoned Arrows decreases rapidly; and as the use of fire-arms has penetrated to the depths of the Asiatic and African continents, Archery may, perhaps, in the space of a short period, be almost laid aside among those nations who maintain an intercourse by trade and commerce with Mahometan or Christian states.

I shall close this chapter with a short account of the wonderful effects ascribed to

|| See Trattato del Veleno. Fontana. pg. 45—49.  
Vol. 3.

to the Dictamnus, an herb, growing principally in the island of Crete, and which many authors celebrate for the quality it possessed in relieving animals wounded by Arrows.

As early as the days of Aristotle, it is recorded, that the Cretan Goats, when they perceived themselves struck by an Arrow, went immediately in search of this vegetable, and behold! no sooner did they eat of it, but the Arrow, (*the intus et in cute*) fell from the wound, and they recovered!

This story of the Dictamnus is told by Aristotle himself;\* and Pliny could certainly

\* — αι εν Κρητη αιγες, όταν τοξενθῶσι, ζητῆσι το Δικταμνος, το εκει φυσμενον, όταν γαρ φαγωσιν, ευθεως εξαλλασθη τα τοξενματα

*Arist. de mirab. auscult.*

certainly not overlook a vegetable endowed with such powers.†

Cicero has mentioned it;‡ as also have Virgil;§ and Ælian, in his history.||

† Dictamnnum herbam extrahendis sagittis cervi monstravere, percussi eo telo, pastuque ejus herbæ ejecto.

*Pliny, Lib. 8, Ch. 27.*

‡ Capras autem in Creta feras, cum essent confixæ venenatis sagittis, herbam quærere quæ Dictamnus vocaretur; quam cum gustavissent, sagittas excidere dicunt è corpore.

*Cicero, Nat. Deorum, Lib. 2.*

§ Æneid 12. V. 412, et seq.

|| Ælian var. hist. Lib. 1, Ch. 10.

CHAP.



## CHAP. VIII.

---

I SHALL now speak of some other uses to which the Arrow has been applied, distinct from that of a warlike instrument; and first of

*Divination by the Arrow.*

The art of divination, which was once so common among the nations of the east, seems to have existed, partly by the aid of credulity, and partly by artifice. Men in power have by this means spoken their own will, under the mask of that of Heaven, and have led the vulgar into schemes and actions, which, without this assistance, their own authority was un-

Z able

able to effect. Hope, fear, and curiosity, three strong moving principles of the human heart, were the passions on which this practise was founded, while imitation cherished, and craft led it forward.

Divination has obtained almost universally; and some of the most interesting events which have attracted the attention of mankind, have depended on the determination of the most insignificant circumstances. By the fall of an Arrow—by the shining of a stone—even by the polish of a man's thumb-nail,\*—have nations been induced to raise war, and to involve thousands in misery and blood—Such obedience was there, to the will of rulers and of fate!

#### Arrows.

\* — uti aspicere solent in ungue pollicis manus splendente.

*Græcæ. Vol. VII.—27.*

Arrows have been in use among all people for the purpose of declaring Oracles, and even continue so at this day among some of the eastern nations. We find in scripture, that it was practised by the kings of Palestine and the surrounding countries; and records of every kind establish the antiquity of the custom.

One species of divination, and which appears very common, was that of putting a number of Arrows with inscriptions on them into a quiver, and after they had been mixed together by shaking, that which was first drawn, determined the fate of the affair in question. For this kind of augury, the ancient Arabs sometimes made use of seven Arrows, but in general, three were sufficient. These Arrows were not of the common make; they were without feathers, and were kept in the temple of some idol,

Z 2

before

before whom the omens were usually drawn.

When three Arrows were used, there were inscriptions placed on two of them, the third was left blank. On the first was written,—“*Command me Lord;*”—on the second,—“*Forbid me Lord.*”—These two with the blank one were shaken together in a quiver, when any thing of importance was in question, and if the first mentioned Arrow was drawn, it was esteemed a favourable omen—if the second was drawn, it was an inauspicious one; but if the blank one, the three were again shaken, and the ceremony repeated, till the event was either favourably or unfavourably determined.†

A similar kind of divination was practised by the Chaldæans. They inscribed  
the

† See Univ. Hist. Vol. I. pg. 360.

the names of those countries and cities, which they were about to make war against, on Arrows; and after having mixed them together, the name borne on the first drawn, was the country or city to be first attacked.‡

There was also a very mysterious custom in general use, which consisted of drawing omens from the appearance of the bright points of Arrows, by the inspection

‡ Erat mos regum Chaldæorum, ut in bellum exituri, sagittas magico ritu Astrologorum opera conficerent, urbium et gentium nomina, quos evadere volebant inscriberent, hinc commixta invicem cæco manuum assumptu, quamcunque sagittam capefferent, illius gentem vel urbem, primo armis capefferent.

*Gron. Ant. Gr. Vol. VII.—27.*

And again—

Stabit, inquit Hieron, in ipso compto, & ritu gentis suæ oraculum consulet, ut mittat sagittas suas in pharetram, & commisceat eas inscriptas, sive signatas nominibus, ut videat cujus sagitta exeat, et quam pius debeat expugnare civitatem.

*Gron. Vol. VII. ibid.*

spection of which, the magician or priest discovered the intentions of fate. We find in scripture, that this was in use among the Babylonians in the time of Nebuchadnezzar. In Ezekiel, ch. xxi. v. 21, we read, that “the King of Babylon stood at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use divination: he made his Arrows bright,—he consulted with images.”\*

The Persians made use of Arrows for another purpose. By their assistance they numbered their troops, and discovered who had fallen in battle. When they undertook a campaign, each man placed an Arrow, with his name inscribed on it,

\* Quale vero fuerit apud Babylonios divinationis genus, variant Interpretes, Quidam putant *terfisse* Babylonios, *sagittas*, vel ferrum telorum, ut splenderent, in eoque splendore, tanquam in speculo, cognovisse divinatores.

it, in a chest, or box, prepared to receive them; if after the battle, therefore, the king wished to be informed who were killed, he gave orders that each man should take the Arrow having his name upon it, from the chest, or box; and when all were drawn belonging to the survivors, those which remained shewed who were absent, or dead.†

A stratagem of war, very much in use when the towers and walls of cities consisted chiefly of wood, was effected by means of the Arrow.

Besiegers, unable to force a breach, or sap a wall, had recourse to fire, which they directed against all those parts which were combustible.

### The

† Apud Persas invaluit mos, ut profecturi in bellum, in cistam ante regis tribunal, singuli singulas sagittas immitterent, mox reversi, quisque repeteret suam ut ex remanentibus. illorum qui prælio cecidissent numerum internoscerent.

*Alex. ab Alex. Vol. I. pg. 149.*

The besieged, on the other hand, aimed their attention against the machines and engines of wood, which fire could more speedily reduce than force.

In order to begin a conflagration, the fire was attached to the body of Arrows; and this was done by several different ways. Sometimes cotton, tow, or the like substance, previously mixed with pitch, rosin, oil, or naphtha, was wrapped on the end of an Arrow, in the form of a ball; which ball, when in use, was fired, and the Arrow directed towards the wooden towers and engines of the enemy; where sticking firmly, communicated a flame to every part near it. This was used with great success in naval expeditions, §

Pliny

§ Oleo incendiario, stuppa, sulphure, bitumene obvolutæ, et ardentis sagittæ, per balistas in hostiarum navium alveos infiguntur, &c.

*Veget. pg. 117.*



Pliny mentions a sort of bitumenous substance, procured from a marsh, which was used with great advantage in the defence of towns; for when fixed to Arrows, and enflamed, it stuck to the engines, and even to the bodies of the enemy, with great force; and it was almost as easy to destroy an army by fire as by sword; for the flame raged with such violence, that water was unable to effect its extinction—it rather served to encrease the fury of it.† Indeed, several of these preparations appear to be almost unextinguishable; and the only method which seems to have proved efficacious, was that of covering the flame with earth.||

Some experienced artists had a custom of exposing oil to the action of the air, till

A a it

† Pliny, B. 2. Ch. 104.

|| See Am. Mar. & Plin. B. 2.

it became thick, like naphtha, and in that state they anointed their darts with it, several successive times, as the different coats became dry and hard. When a sufficient quantity had been put on, the Arrow was ready for use, and wanted only the contact of fire to render it doubly formidable.

Ammianus Marcellinus describes another kind of fiery Arrow called the *Malleolus*. It was constructed, he says, of cane, or reed, and at the part where the head joined to the body, there was a piece of iron open-work communicating with the middle of the Arrow, which was made hollow, and the cavity filled with combustible materials. When these Arrows were used, the substance within was enflamed, and after being shot, sticking to the object, burned with great rapidity whatever came in its way.\*

It

\* Am. Mar. Lib. 23. Ch. 4. pg. 277.

It was usual in the management of these Arrows, to use a Bow much lower strung than in other cases, lest the velocity of the motion should extinguish the burning matter.

The custom of shooting fiery Arrows seems to have been in practice among many of the early nations of the East: one instance occurs, (not to mention more) wherein Xerxes made use of it against the Athenians, as related by Herodotus.

The Falarica was another kind of Malleolus, usually constructed on a very large scale, and shot from the powerful engines. Livy describes this instrument as a long spear, to which tow and pitch were affixed at the head.†

A a 2

The

† Falarica erat Saguntinis, missile telum hastilioblongo, et cetera tereti, præterquam ad extremum, unde ferrum exstabat. Id, sicut in pilo, quadratum stuppa circumligabant, linebantque pice. Ferrum autem tres in longum habebat pedes, ut cum armis transfigere corpus posset, &c.—*Livy. Hist. L. 21. — 8.*

The savages of America also practised the shooting of fire affixed to Arrows; and I by accident, in turning over the leaves of Purchase's Pilgrimage carelessly, met with the following piece of that author's wit, which is to the purpose. He says, "The Indians of Carendies, Zeecheur, and Tiembus, assailed the town of *Good-aires*, and turned it into *good-fires*, by shooting Arrows fired at the end into it."

Fiery Arrows were used by the English formerly. They are taken notice of by Math. Paris;§ and were much esteemed in naval engagements, as well as sieges. We are informed, an Archer could shoot an ounce weight of combustible matter attached to the point of an Arrow, †twelve-score yards.

In

§ *Missimus igitur super eos spicula ignita.*

*M. Paris,*

In sea fights also, the ancient English shot glass phials filled with quicklime, in order to blind the eyes and disorder the enemy. † The reader may see, in Pl. 4, Fig. 4, the form of the bottle of lime, copied from Strutt; and the other figures represent different sorts of the Malleolus.

More modern warriors have found this stratagem to answer, even after cannon and artillery have been ineffectual. A remarkable instance of this kind happened when Charles XII. King of Sweden, with about sixty of his soldiers, resisted the whole Turkish and Tartar army, near Bender.

Charles, driven from his intrenchments, was under the necessity of seeking refuge in a house near at hand; which, however,

† Et phialas plenas calce, arcubus per parva hostilia ad modum sagittarum super hostes jaculantes,

*Mat. Paris.*

however, he saw occupied by the enemy. He entered with a few of his attendants, sword in hand, and every Turk either leaped out at the window in hopes of saving himself, or was killed on the spot.

After getting possession of this ambuscade, by killing or driving about two hundred out of it, and which was very soon accomplished, the king withstood the enemy bravely, and laid a great number lifeless by his musquetry, from the windows. The house was stormed by cannon; but happily the walls were so substantial and firm, that the stone bullets flew to pieces by striking against them; and the repulse would have been compleat, had not the Turks shot Arrows with fire on them, into the roof, the windows and the door of their fortrefs. An attack which subdued even the Iron King of Sweden !\*

By

\* See Voltaire's Hist. Charles XII.

By the assistance of the Arrow also, we find from Herodotus, that a treacherous correspondence was carried on at the siege of Potidæa, between Artabazus, the Persian general, and Timoxenus, who he wished to betray the town into his power. The historian tells us he is ignorant by what means the communication began; but that whatever information was conveyed from one to the other, was written and affixed to an Arrow, which being shot to a particular place, was there examined by the opposite party, and an answer returned by the same conveyance.†

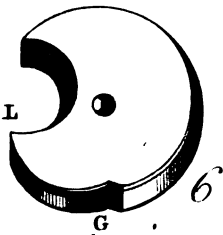
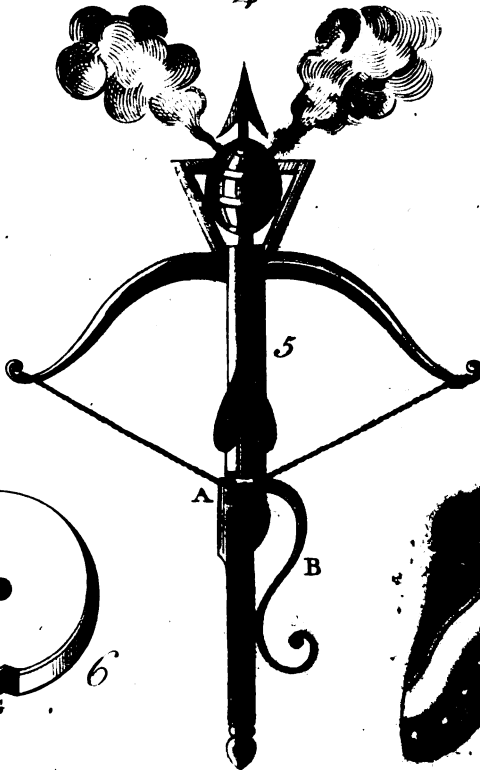
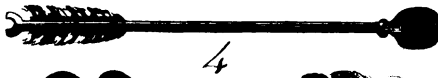
It is not very clear by what method these letters were fixed to the body of the Arrow: they appear to have been wrapped on below the notch, and are said to have acted as wings. But perhaps

† Herodotus, pg. 574.

haps the end of the Arrow might have been slit down a few inches, and the little scrolls inserted into it, in such manner that part should project on each side; they would then guide the Arrow in its passage as feathers. Children often *feather* their Arrows in this manner.

CHAP.







## C H A P. IX.

---

*Of QUIVERS.†*

ALL those nations who have made use of the Bow, have found it necessary to adopt some method of carrying their Arrows, without engaging the immediate attention of their hands. The Quiver, therefore, has been in general use; and we have reason to believe its invention speedily followed that of the Bow and Arrow. We find in Genesis, that it was a concomitant of the Bow at the

B b

time

† Pharetra. Sagittarum theca. Sic dicta, quod sit quasi φαεθ, i. e. vestimentum & tegmen vulnerantium.  
*Suidas.*

time of Isaac. “ *Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy Quiver and thy Bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison.*” This passage clearly points out the high antiquity of the instrument in Asia; and there is no reason to suppose that in the other parts of the world its invention has been much posterior to that of the Bow. We are ignorant of the form, construction and materials of which Quivers were made in the time spoken of by Moses; but the bark of trees, or the skins of animals, seem to be the things most likely to have been adopted for that purpose. Those found among savages at this day, are for the most part formed from the materials I mention. Some of them are ornamented with elegant and curious workmanship, usually composed of the teeth of wild beasts, or fish, and intermixed with shells, or feathers.

The

The Quivers of the ancient Greeks, like those of many other nations, were made of skins, or leather. They were of various forms and sizes. Sometimes round, sometimes square, open at the top, or closed with a lid; each of which kind may be perceived among figures of the Grecian warriors.\* This part of the warlike dress was carried usually on the back, the upper end of the Quiver just rising above the right shoulder. It is for this reason Diana and Apollo are represented as carrying their Arrows in this manner. There is a figure from the Justiniani Gallery, and two from that of Versailles, copied in the forty-second Plate, Vol. I. of the Ant. Expt. of Montfaucon, all of which are beautifully arrayed in the manner spoken of. These Quivers are all pictured without any covering to them; but we find from

B b 2

Homer,

\* See Pl. 2, Fig. 7, 9, and on the Medal, Fig. 12.

Homer, that the Greeks sometimes had a lid to protect their Arrows.†

By some the Quiver was used, not only as a case to convey their Arrows in, but also as a kind of *Rosary*, by which the events of every day were registered. On retiring to rest, the Scythian threw a small stone into a Quiver placed near his couch, and if he had spent the day in comfort and to his satisfaction, he chose a white pebble; but if in trouble, a black one; at death, the Quiver was reversed and the stones counted, and the person was esteemed to have spent an happy or unhappy life, in proportion as the

† τοξ' ἁμοισιν ἔχων, ἀμφηγεῖσθαι τε φαεῖται.

*Il.* 1, *L.* 45.

Claudian also speaks of these Quivers.—

“ \* \* \* \* \* Non spicula poscit

“ Iste labor; maneat clausis nunc sicca pharetris.”

*De Con. Stilick. Lib.* 3, *L.* 268.

the number of the white or black stones predominated. §

Some of the Ethiopians are reported to have made use of no Quiver, but carried their Arrows stuck round their heads like Radii—as whimsical and inconvenient a method as they could have chosen, if it was really their custom.\*

The Quiver is said to have been made by some nations from the skin of a large Serpent. †

The

§ *Suidas*.—Λευκὴ ἡμίτρα.—and also, Τῶν εἰς τὴν φαειτέραν.

\* See *Lucian*, ch. 28, pg. 505. De Saltat, and *Claudian* also, De Cons. Hon. Aug. Paneg. line 21, “Ignavas Meroë traxit de crine sagittas.”

Again—

“Venerat & parvis redimitus Nuba sagittis.”

*Pg.* 327.

Utuntur ergo Æthiopes capite pro pharetra quod fieri potuit vitta quadam diademate lattuscule & foraminibus quibusdam instructo, quibus sagittæ ut vaginis induntur qua parte habent spicula, eminent pinnæ & formant coronas radiatas.—*Gesner ad Claudian*.

† Serpentum gestant patulos pro casside rictus,  
Splendent viperæ squamosa pelle pharetræ.

*Claud. De Laud. Stil. L.* 262.

The Normans not only conveyed their Arrows by the Quiver, but used it also as a drum, to assist the clamour they usually raised at the opening of a battle.\*

The Coryto, or Corytus, was another kind of case used by many nations, in order to carry their Bows in. It appears to have been made on the same general principal as the Quiver, and I judge it to be about the same length, because in every representation, it appears to admit half the length of the Bow.

I have not been able to find any verbal description of this part of the ancient Archer's dress, nor have I ever seen one of the more modern ones.

In a figure of Tamerlane riding, which is drawn in pg. 15 Chron. Turcicorum, the

\* Deinde perstreptibus secundum morem pharetris, clamor in cælum tollitur, pugna committitur.

*Hist. Nom. Pg. 13. Paris 1619. Fol.*



the method of carrying the Corytos, with the Bow in it, when on horseback, is shewn.—It is seen on a medal belonging to Mr. L'Abbè de Fontenu, copied by Montfaucon, Pl. 25, T. 4, and in the plate at pg. 157, of Suetonius, published by Pitiscus, in quarto.—There are several of them likewise on the medals in Dr. Hunter's Museum.—See Hunter's coins by Combe, Pl. 3, F. 20. LI, 26, &c.

It is remarkable that in all the figures of this Bow-case, the Bow is represented as put into it strung. §

§ Among poetical liberties we often see that the Latin word *Corytus*, or *Corytos*, is made use of as synonymous with *Pharetra*, as in this passage from Statius,

—————“ cœlestibus implet

“ Coryton telis” ————— *Theb.* 9—720.

And also,—

“ Trux leva sonat arcus, & aspera plumis

“ Terga, Cydonœa Corytos arundine pulsat.”

*Theb. L.* 4.—68.

The same use of the word occurs in Virgil, *Æneid* X. L. 169; and Ovid, *Trist.* Lib. V. El. 7, L. 15. But  
not-

notwithstanding these passages, and many more of the same signification, the critics uniformly say the *Corytos* was the case of the Bow, and not the Quiver.—See the note on the above passage in Virgil, *Æneid* X. L. 169, in the Mafvicius Edition, Two Volumes Quarto, 1717. “*Coryti*, propriè sunt arcuum thecæ dicuntur tamen etiam sagittarum, quas & *pharctras* vocamus.”—And also Vossius’ *Lex*.

CHAP.

## C H A P. X.

---

*Of T A R G E T S.*

AT the time when wars were almost perpetual, and the hunting of wild beasts necessary, Archers could seldom be at a loss for living objects against which to direct their Arrows; but as these opportunities, in the progress of civilization, became less and less frequent, men had then recourse to stationary Targets, at which to try their skill, and exercise their art.

The heroic games instituted of old, tended effectually to preserve and cherish

C c

in

in peace, those accomplishments necessary in war; and the Palm, held out to the victorious in these combats, excited and spread that emulation and pride, from which all great efforts originate. Hence the *Arena* has ever been esteemed the school of valour and of martial virtues.

Archery, it must be confessed, did not hold any conspicuous place among these exhibitions, at least rarely. I know not, indeed, of any instance among the Greeks, though among the Romans there are several.

It does not appear, I believe, from any express assertion, that the ancient Greeks had any particular places set aside for the use of Archers; we may infer, however, that such existed, from hints to be found in the classic writers.

The

The guard of Athens consisted chiefly of Archers, as did originally the Artillery Company of London; and it is not unreasonable to suppose, there may have been a *Finsbury* in Greece, as well as in England.\*

Xenophon clearly mentions the ancient Butts;† and a line in Æschylus intimates that Archers were accustomed to shoot at them.‡

C c 2

The

\* Sagittarii, ministri publici, custodes urbis, numero mille, qui prius, quidem, in medio foro, factis illic tabernaculis, habitabant.

*B. 990, Vol. IV. Græcor. Antq.*

† — ουδε γαρ τοξενει οιμαι, εφη (ο Κυρ@) υδ' ακορτιζων  
αυθρωπων επιτρεπομεν υμιν, αλλ επι σκοπον βαλλειν ειδασκομεν.

*Cyr. Inst. Lib. 1 P. 33, E.*

In the same book we find that boys practised at the victuals they were to eat. I have observed (page 80), this was a custom in America.

‡ Ευρεσασ, ωσι τοξοτης ακρ@ σκοπων.

*Æsch. Ag. V. 637.*

The Persians of old practised at Shields formed of raw hides, or sometimes of solid wood, which their Arrows pierced without difficulty.||

With respect to the Roman manners, Vegetius tells us that there were places in which the Archers and slingers exercised, and where Butts were erected for the soldiers to aim at.

These Butts, or Targets, were sometimes single posts only, sometimes they were made of faggots, or sheaves of straw, and were usually placed at the distance of a stadium, (or about six hundred feet) from the place in which the shooter stood. §

These

|| See Brissonius de Reg. Persarum, pg 656.

§ Sagittarii vero, vel funditores, scopas, hoc est, fruticum vel straminum fascas, pro signo ponebant: ita ut sexcentos pedes removerentur à signo, ut sagittis, vel certe lapidibus ex fustibalo destinatis, signum sæpius tangerent.

*Veget. Ch. 23, B. 2.*

These exercises were regulated by particular laws, and under the inspection of masters.\* One law was similar to a privilege granted by Henry VIII. to the Finsbury Archers; I mean, an indemnification from the charge of murder, if any person shooting, should kill another passing between him and the Butt. This was enjoyed by the Roman Archers and slingers; but the Aquilian law denied the same to those who used the other weapons, such as the pilum, javelin, or plumbatum.†

The most extraordinary circumstance with respect to the objects at which Archers directed their Arrows, occurs in

an

\* See Vegetius Lib. 1, Ch. 15.

† — Si in eo campo, qui exercitationi militibus deputatus erat, aliquem læderent intempestivè transeuntem, actionem legis Aquiliæ fuisse denegatum: at contra qui data opera in eum jaculati forent, Aquilæ tenebatur.

*Veget. pg. 90.*

an old French law. I am inclined to think, that it was a custom to dress persons over with a number of shields, and to shoot at them thus clad, as Targets. In order to prevent this, Dacobert instituted a law, in the year 630, inflicting a penalty of forty shillings for each offence. †

The Butts formerly in use in this kingdom, were generally of earth; but those of straw are at present more in fashion. The latter kind possess an advantage, as they can be moved with ease to any distance fixed upon. The manufacture of them is similar to that of the common straw Bee-hives; and they are usually made about four feet and an half in diameter, that

is,

† Si quis liberum hostili manu cinxerit, quod *heri-reita* vocant, id est, cum quadraginta duobus clypeis, et sagittam in curtim projecerit, aut quodcunque telorum genus, cum quadraginta solidis componat.

*Capit. Reg. Franc. Baluzius, pg. 109.*



is, twice the length of the Arrow. The front part is covered with cloth, painted in rings of different colours, in order to mark the respective degrees of merit each Arrow is entitled to. The way in which this is done, in common, is to divide the length of the Arrow into five equal parts, and taking these divisions, as the radii of the different circles. The fifth part of twenty-seven inches, which is the length of the Arrow, is five inches  $\frac{4}{10}$ ; therefore if one foot of a pair of compasses be placed in the center of the Target, and a circle described with the distance five inches  $\frac{4}{10}$ , the first circle will be ten inches  $\frac{3}{4}$  diameter. If the foot be extended five inches  $\frac{4}{10}$  further, the next will be twenty-one inches  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and so on with the rest. When all the circles are described, that part inclosed within the circumference of the first circle, nearest the

the

the center, is usually covered with gold or silver leaf. Between the first and second circle is often a red colour, and the others varied with white, green, &c. according to the taste of the person who makes them. The surface of these coloured rings may be again subdivided into equal parts, by concentric circles at proper distances from each other. The Target, thus prepared, is fixed on a frame of wood, contrived that it may be elevated or depressed to any angle of the horizon, as the intended shots are more or less remote.

The Butts used by the Archers at Edinburgh are made on a very different principle; I mean those intended for short lengths. They are of straw, laid end-ways, and pressed hard with a screw; after which, the front is cut with a knife, in the manner hay is trussed. These are covered

covered with a little building, to protect the straw from injury, and the shooter from the rays of the sun, while drawing his Bow.

Some time since, a thought struck me, that it would be possible to contrive a method of discharging a common gun, by connecting the Target (I mean by the Target, the mark shot at in small distances) in such manner that every time the Arrow pierced it, a discharge might take place. Accordingly, I contrived and made an apparatus, which fully answered what was intended. Since my invention, (as I esteemed it,) I understand there are Targets somewhat on the same plan used in Surry; but I have never heard or seen in what manner the machinery is made. What I first used was a simple gun placed behind the Butt; to the trigger of which was fastened a  
D d weight,

weight, by a string about a foot long. This weight could be put upon a little bracket, under which a bit of wood supported it. From the Target in front was a wooden rod, moving in a tube through the Butt, and placed in such a position, that the end came exactly to the foot of the bit of wood supporting the bracket, having the lead weight on it. When the effect was to be produced, the gun was loaded, and cocked. The weight was placed on the bracket, with the support under it. Thus situated, when the Arrow struck the Target, and forced the rod a little backwards, the support was displaced, the bracket fell, and dislodged the weight, which falling, plucked the trigger of the gun, and fired it. The only difficulty I found was in making the Target, and fixing it to the rod which passed through the Butt. The most substantial way, however, appeared to

to be that of having a piece of cork cut round, and about three inches in diameter. This was fixed in a tin box, to the bottom of which was a ferrule, wherein the end of the rod was inserted. Cork is the best substance for the above purpose; because, when the Arrow strikes it, it enters, and may be pulled back without injury: but there is nothing else I know of, which can be substituted, that will not either break the Arrow, or be broken by it. On the front of the cork, a piece of pasteboard may be fixed, to render the mark more conspicuous; and three inches appears a proper size for the Target, in shooting the distance of thirty yards.



## C H A P. XI,

---

*On the English Long-Bow.*

AS the English Long-bow formerly held so distinguished a rank among the military weapons of Europe, and as many of the most important battles and conquests were obtained by the aid of English Archers; it is necessary for me to insist, at some length, on the history of the Bow in this island; were it only in compliment to the fame of our ancestors.

Whether the eulogies which have been so liberally passed on the English Archers,  
by

by English writers, be perfectly just; and whether they really were more expert in the practice of this branch of war than many of the ancient nations, I think may be disputed. The perpetual attention paid to inure youth to the practice of the Bow, by many warlike people of antiquity, was, I conceive, a much more severe discipline, than that of this country. Perhaps, indeed, our Archers might derive a superiority from their Bows being constructed on better principles, being more skillfully made, and of better materials than those used in other countries.

But leaving this point undiscussed, I shall now endeavour to trace the Bow, in this island, during the early periods in which it seems to have been known; continuing the history through the several successive ages and reigns, till the period  
in



in which that instrument was discontinued, as a military weapon, in the English army.

Having had an opportunity of consulting a fine collection of chronicle-writers, and historians, I have been induced to spare no pains in the investigation of this part of my subject. A tedious research has enabled me, however, to collect only a few solitary facts with respect to Archery in this kingdom, before the time of the Norman invasion: but these few facts, I think, will prove sufficient evidence from which to judge of the state of the Bow in the early ages.

I have been much surprized to find, that some of our historians, and particularly the more modern ones, have represented the English at the Battle of Hastings, as entirely ignorant of the effect of  
Archery ;

Archery; and speak of the astonishment with which the troops were seized, in finding death inflicted on them, whilst the enemy was far at a distance. Speed observes, that the first discharge of Arrows from the Norman army, "was a kind of fight both strange and terrible unto the English, who supposed their enemy had beene already even in the midst amongst them." Echard expresses the same sentiment in his account of the battle with William. "The fight," he says, "began with great fury, order and equal bravery on both sides; in which the English were severely gaul'd by the thick showers of Arrows from the Norman *Long-bows*, before the battle joined; which was a weapon then unused in England, and thereby the more surprizing, the wounds coming from enemies so far distant, and not suddenly to be revenged."

Hume

Hume mentions nothing of this extraordinary surprize among the English troops, neither do Mat. Paris, nor many others. Sir J. Hayward says, the use of the Bow was first brought into the land by the Normans, and that afterwards the English being trained to the practice of it, became the best shooters in the world.\*

That the English could be ignorant of the Bow at the Conquest, appears inconceivable, as both the Saxons and Danes made use of it in battle against the inhabitants of this country, for many centuries previous to that time. It is true, there is no mention made of Archers among the troops of Harold, but it does not follow that *they* were ignorant of the effect of Archery, or that the Bow was not then used in England.

E c

A t

\* See History of the Norman Kings.

At what time this instrument was first brought into the island, is uncertain; the history of our country extends with accuracy so few ages back, that it is impossible to ascertain the true æra in which the Bow was introduced.

It is pretty certain, however, that the inhabitants of Britain, did not make use of this weapon in battle, at the time Julius Cæsar first visited this country, as it is not enumerated among the arms of the natives, in the minute description of them, given by that author.

The Romans, it is probable, introduced the Bow as a military weapon into Britain, as Archers often formed a great part of their auxiliary troops. The battles between the Romans and our countrymen, as described by Cæsar, do not, however, appear to have been carried

ried

ried on by the assistance of it. But from the second book of the Commentaries, we find, that Cæsar had both Numidian and Cretan Archers in his army, when he encountered the Belgæ, in Gaul;\* and it is reasonable to suppose, that he also made use of them among his troops, when in Britain, about two years afterwards.

During the reigns which succeeded that of Julius Cæsar, and when the Romans had settled themselves on this island, Archers are frequently made mention of as part of their troops;† and it is probable, that the reinforcements often sent to the army in Britain, included many Archers,

E e 2

as

\* Numidias & Cretas, sagittarios, & funditores Baleares, subsidio oppidanis mittit.

B. H. Ch. 8. See also Ch. 11 and 19.

† — και προς τὰ ἄρματα των Γερβαρων οἱ τοξόται των Ρωμαίων ἀντηγωνίζοντο.

Dion. Cassius.—Nero, pg. 706, C.

as they would be employed with advantage against a people, to whom the use of the Bow was not familiar.

We may therefore conclude, from the authority of History, that the Romans introduced the Bow into this country; and that they continued it in use to their final departure, about the year four hundred and forty eight.‡

In North Britain, the Bow appears to have been known at least as early, as it was in the South; the works of Boethius and other historians of that country seem thus to intimate.

If the poems of Ossian may be brought as evidence with respect to the state of Archery in later times, we may perceive that they uniformly represent the Bow, as an attendant on the warrior and hunter.

We

‡ See Hume's Hist. Vol. I. pg. 13.

We learn also from some passages in these poems, that the Yew tree was then employed to form these weapons; "Go to thy cave my love till our battle cease on the field. Son of Leith, bring the Bows of our fathers! the founding quiver of Morni! Let our three warriors bend the *Yew*."§

Immediately on the Britons finding themselves deserted by the Romans, they sought assistance from the Saxons, against their enemies the Scots; who hastening to their relief, entered this island with an army, about the year four hundred and forty nine. These people are said to have used both the long and cross Bows, and we may therefore be led to conclude, that Archery was still cherished in this country by the new invaders.

During

§ Vol. I. pg. 120. See also pgs. 156, 383, - and Vol. II. 115. Ossian is supposed to have lived about three centuries after Cæsar.

During the Saxon Heptarchy, we find that Offrid, the son of Edwin, king of Northumbria, was killed by an Arrow, in a battle between the troops of that king and the united army of Mercians and Welsh, which was fought, about the year six hundred and thirty three, near Hatfield in the West riding of Yorkshire. But except this fact, little relating to the Bow appears in our annals of the Saxon æra.

The Danes, as they arrived at a later period than the Saxons, come next under our review. These warlike people were accustomed to the use of Archery in battle, and we find it often noticed in this period, by our early chronicle writers. About the year eight hundred and seventy, they became very formidable, and committed great depredations on the inhabitants of East Anglia. In one of their battles with  
the



the East Angles, they overcame their enemies, and took prisoner Edmund, king of that part of the island, whom, after insulting with many indignities, they bound to a stake, for the Danish Archers and Javelinmen to aim at; putting him to death by that cruel and ignominious expedient.\*

During the reign of Alfred, it seems probable, that Archery was much in use, both in the army of the Danes,† and in that

\* *Regem etiam ejusdem provinciae (Estangliae) sanctissimum Edmundum captum per eosdem, & ad quendam stipitem alligatum, tanquam signum ad sagittam, barbari, crudelissimi telis suis, & sagittis aggressi sunt, horrendaque crudelitate perfodientes, pro fide Christi, &c.*

*Ingulphi Hist. pg. 494.  
Anglic Rer. Script. Post. Bedam.*

† Porro Christiani pro paucitate sua in unum con-  
sum conglobati, contra sagittarium (Danorum) impe-  
tum durissimam testudinem clypeorum—prætende-  
bant.

Cumque sic invicti—ac adversariorum sagittarii  
tela sua in vacuum perdidissent.

*Ann. 870.—Chron. J. Abbatis,  
St. Pt. de Berge, Pg. 17.*

that of Alfred. I am inclined to this opinion from a passage in Asserius, who relates a curious anecdote concerning our good king. Alfred took refuge from the persecution of the Danes, at a poor cottage, where he resided unknown to his benefactors, who little imagined their roof protected a royal guest. It happened one day, says that writer, as the king sat by the fire preparing his *Bow, Arrows, and his other warlike instruments*, that the farmer's wife had placed some bread cakes upon the hearth to bake, supposing he would take care to turn them as they occasionally required. He, however, neglected to do so; and the poor woman enraged to see her cakes scorching by the heat, ran in haste to save them, and saying to the stranger, "*Thou fellow! (as Speed translates it) dost thou see the bread burne before thy face, and will not turn it? and yet art thou glad to eate it before it be*  
*half*

*half baked?*" † Bows and Arrows are here called warlike instruments, and we may with reason presume, therefore, that they were used among the other weapons in battle. Polydore Vergil confirms this supposition; for speaking of the troops of Ethelred, of which, part were commanded by his brother Alfred, he says, a great number of *Archers* were placed in the right wing of the army. ||

F f

From

† "Contigit autem die quodam, ut rustica, uxor, videlicet illius vaccari, pararet ad coquendum panes. Et ille rex sedens sic circa focum præparavit sibi *arcum* & *sagittas*, & *alia bellicorum instrumenta*. Cum vero panes ad ignem positos ardentes aspexit illa infelix mulier, festinanter currit, & amovit eos, increpans regem invictissimum et dicens: Heus homo!"

"Urere quos cernis panes, gyrare moraris,

"Cum nimium quades hos manducare calentes?"

*Affer. Ælfredi rebus gestis, pg. 9.*

|| — in dextro vero cornu, alterna parte equitum cum bene magno sagittariorum numero, et peditum flore locavit ubi ipse (Ethelred) erat.

*Polyd. Verg. Hist. Angl. pg. 98—6.*

From this time till the æra of the Norman invasion, little occurs with respect to Archery; but it is well known how successfully it was introduced by William, at the battle of Hastings.

Bows and Arrows, are spoken of at this fight, by all our historians: and the catastrophe of the battle fully proves the advantage which the invaders derived from these weapons. Many of our early writers, neglect to particularize the kind of Bow made use of by the Norman army, but John Ross, expressly says, the Long-bow was used.\* Mr. Barrington is of opinion, that the Cross-bow was the instrument principally employed in the army of William, and the passages which have occurred to my observation, seem to prove the

\* Ipse (Williclmus) usum *longorum arcuum* & sagittarum in Angliam primus inducebat, cum eis Angliam conquestione vincens.

*Chron. J. Rossi, pg. 109.*

the truth of his conjecture. From Sir John Hayward's account of William, it seems almost certain, that he himself used the Cross-bow ; but this part of my subject will be more properly deferred, till I treat on that weapon.

No circumstance worthy of observation occurs in our history, from the conquest till the time of Henry the Second, in whose reign, Archery seems to have been first carried into Ireland, by the troops of that king. Lord Lyttleton, in his history of the life of Henry, says, " it is strange that the Irish, who had much intercourse with the Welsh before Henry the Second's time, should not have learnt from that nation, who greatly excelled in Archery, that Arrows were better weapons to annoy an enemy with than stones, thrown by the hand without the help of slings,

F f 2

which

which, unless at a small distance, could have little or no effect." The same author observes,\* that "from many instances, in the course of these wars, (the wars of Henry with the Irish) it appears, that the English conquests in Ireland, were principally owing to the use of the Long bow in battle, which the Irish infantry wanted: And therefore *Giraldus Cambrensis*, in his chapter entitled, *Qualiter Hibernica gens sit expugnanda*, advises, that in all engagements with that people, Archers should be intermingled with the heavy-armed troops. †

To

\* Vol. 6. Pg. 392.

† These are his words:—In Hibernicis autem conflictibus & hoc summopere curandum, ut semper sagittarii militaribus turris mixtum adjiciantur; quatenus & lapidum (quorum ictibus graves & armatos cominus appetere solent, et indemnes agilitatis beneficio, crebris accedere vicibus et abscedere) e diverso eminus sagittis injuria propulsetur."

To shew how worthy of imitation the Welsh were, at the time of Henry II. in the use of the Bow ; I shall relate a few exploits performed by their Archers, as they are reported by Giraldus Cambrensis.

There is a particular tribe in Wales, says this ancient writer, named the Venta ; a people brave and warlike, and who far excel the other inhabitants of that country in the practice of Archery. In support of this last assertion, the following instance is recorded. During a siege, it happened, that two soldiers running in haste towards a tower, situated at a little distance from them, were attacked with a number of Arrows from the Welsh ; which being shot with prodigious violence, some penetrated through the oak doors of a portal, although they were the breadth of four fingers in thickness. The  
heads

heads of these Arrows were afterwards driven out, and preserved, in order to continue the remembrance of such extraordinary force in shooting with the bow. It happened also in a battle, at the time of William de Breufa, (as he himself relates) that a Welshman having directed an Arrow at an horse-foldier of his, who was clad in armour and had his leather coat under it; the Arrow, besides piercing the man through the hip, struck also through the saddle and mortally wounded the horse on which he sat. Another Welsh foldier, having shot an Arrow at one of his horsemen, who was covered with strong armour in the same manner as the before mentioned person, the shaft penetrated through his hip and fixed in the saddle: but what is most remarkable, is, that as the horseman drew his bridle aside in order to turn round, he received another



ther Arrow in his hip on the opposite side, which passing through it, he was firmly fastened to the saddle on both sides. §

### Nothing

§ The curious passage from which the above circumstances are taken, stands thus in the original :

“ Hoc autem mihi notabile videtur, quod gens hæc, quæ Venta gens vocatur, et Martiis conflictibus usitatissima, & strenuitatis opera laudatissima, & arte sagittandi præ ceteris Cambriæ finibus instructissima reperitur. Ad hujus autem assertionis ultimæ certitudinem exempla proponere non pigeat. In extrema Cæstri prædicti expugnatione nostris diebus perpetrata, militibus duobus in turrim cumulo terrarum aggere sitam per pontem transfugientibus, Wallenses ut ipsos a tergo percuterent, sagittas arcu mittentes portam turris illicite, palmaris fere spissitudinis transpenetrarunt, ad tantorum ictum vehementiæ perpetuam memoriam sagittis in porta ferro repercusso reservatis. Accidit & tempore Gulielmi de Breusa (ipso testante) quendam militem suum in conflictu contra Wallenses a quodam ipsorum per mediam coxam cum panno loriciæ ocriali ferro utrinque vestitam sagitta percussum esse, eadem quoque sagitta per partem illam sellæ, quæ alva vocatur, usque ad ipsum equum lethaliter transpenetrante. Alia quoque sagitta militis alterius coxam ferro similiter utrinque munitam cum panno loriciæ usque in sellam perforavit. Et cum miles ille locis equum in gyrum flecteret : alio sagittam eodem contorquente, in opposita coxa similem ictum suscepit, equo ab utraque parte firmiter affixus.”

*Itinerar. Cambriæ. Gir. Camb. Pg. 835—20.*

Nothing particularly applicable to the Long-bow (for I do not mean that Archery remains unnoticed) is to be found in our early historians, during the reigns immediately following, till that of Edward III. in whose time this weapon is supposed to have been much in use.\* Mr. Barrington entertains this opinion very reasonably, from circumstances which occurred at the battle of Crecy. The Arbalests in the hands of the Genoese, were all exposed to a violent storm, which happened just before the battle commenced. This storm falling on the strings of their Bows, relaxed them so far, as to render them incapable of proper service; while on the other hand, the English Bows were kept in their cases during the rain and were not injured. From hence Mr. Barrington concludes, the English used the Long-bow

\* I have not mentioned the death of William II. as it is uncertain whether the Long-bow or Arbalest discharged the Arrow which proved fatal to him.

bow, as that instrument was usually provided with a case, but the Cross-bow, being of so inconvenient a shape, could not be provided with such covering. Indeed this latter kind of Bow, is not said to have been even furnished with a cover, as far as I have been able to find.

The Battle of Crecy, as well as that of Poictiers, (where the Archers poured forth their Quivers in such bloody victories,\*) intimates the Bow to have been highly cultivated by the English at those times; but it was found necessary by Edward to enforce the practice of Archery during the peace which followed, as the soldiers rather attended to other amusements, than Archery.

During the reign of Richard II. little is recorded with respect to the Bow.

G g

We

\* — “innumera laxarunt cæde pharetras.”

We find, however, from Hollinhead, that a number of Archers were sent at the request of the Genoese, to assist them against the Saracens on the coast of Barbary; and that they performed some meritorious exploits with their Long-bow.†

From a passage in Stow, we find Richard II. to have had a very numerous guard of Archers; for in the year 1397, as one day the members were leaving the Parliament House, “ a great stir was made as was usual; whereupon the King’s Archers, in number four thousand, compassed the Parliament-house, thinking there had been some broil, or fighting, with their Bows bent, their Arrows notched, and drawing, ready to shoot, to the terror of all that were there: but the King coming pacified them.”‡

The

† Hollinhead, Chron. Vol. III. pg. 473.

‡ Stow, pg. 316.

The most memorable circumstance with respect to the Bow, which occurred in the reign of Henry IV. was the victory gained over the Scots near Halidownehill, in the year 1402; "where," in the words of an old historian, "the Lord Percies Archers did withall deliver their deadly Arrowes so lively, so couragiously, so grievously, that they ranne through the men of armes, bored the helmets, pierced their very swords, beat their lances to the earth, and easily shot those who were more slightly armed, through and through."§

The battle of Agincourt, which happened in the year 1415, under Henry V. is the next signal victory ascribed to the

G g 2

English

§ As a contrast to this barbarous, though energetic passage, I will quote the description of a furious Arrow, from Lucan.

"Haud unum contenta latus transire, quiescit:

"Sed pandens perque arma viam, perque ossa, relicta

"Morte, fugit: superest telo post volnera cursus."

*Pharsalia, Lib. 3.*

English Archers, who destroyed a great number of the French cavalry, by their yard-long Arrows. This, indeed, seems the last very important action in which Archery is much spoken of, and although the use of it was continued through several succeeding reigns, it at length seems to have been cultivated more as an amusement, than for real military service.\*

The

\* It is said, that James I. of Scotland, during his long confinement in England, in the beginning of the fifteenth century, was so struck with the spirit and gallantry of the English Archers, that on returning to his own country, he established Royal Companies of Bowmen in different parts of his dominions. The art of shooting with the Bow, is at present regularly practised, by numerous Societies; and the Pepingoe is annually celebrated at Kilwinning, in the west of Scotland, by the gentlemen of the neighbourhood. The Pepingoe (or Popingay, a mark formed like a parrot) is projected two or three feet from the top of the church steeple, and they shoot at it perpendicularly, resting their left foot on the base of the tower. The Royal Company of Archers at Edinburgh, consists of the principal nobility and gentry of that kingdom, to the number of eight or nine hundred members. Maitland, in his history of Edinburgh, informs us, that this Society was founded about the year 1676; and that it was crected into a

cor-

The amusement was extremely fashionable in the time of Henry VIII. and Holjinshead reports, that that prince shot as well as any of his guard.

Edward VI. is said, by Mr. Barrington, to have been fond of the exercise of Archery.‡

Charles I. appears to have amused himself in this way also, and is represented in the frontispiece of Markham's Art of Archery,

corporation by Letters Patent from Queen Anne, dated the 31st of December, 1713. As the articles by which the Society is regulated are too long to be inserted in this place, I shall extract the whole account from Maitland's history, in the Appendix; to which I refer the reader. If we may judge from the compliments of a Poet, this Society seems to have flourished with great spirit in the beginning of the present century. I allude to Allan Ramsay's works; among which there are several poems addressed to the Archers of Edinburgh, and which celebrate their skill. Among others, the Duke of Hamilton receives a few lines on his having shot an Ecl in the neck.

‡ Mr. B. refers to that Prince's manuscript journal, in the British Museum.

## Archery, (1634) in the attitude and dress of a Bowman.

During the reigns of Charles II. and James II. the amusement was continued, and the former sometimes attended at exhibitions of shooting. The Artillery Company, or Finsbury Archers, have survived even to the present time, but except in that society, the Bow, till within these ten years, was very little known in the kingdom. At present, indeed Archery gains favour, and many companies are formed, for the practice of that amusement. †

### The

† Of these Societies, I believe the following are the principal: viz.

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| The Hon. Artil. Comp. | Southampton Archers     |
| Royal Edinburgh       | Bowmen of Chiviot Chase |
| Toxophilite           | Kentish Rangers         |
| Woodmen of Arden      | Woodmen of Hornsey      |
| Royal Kentish Bowmen  | Surry Bowmen            |
| Royal British Bowmen  | Bowmen of the Border    |
| Robin Hood Bowmen     | Mercian Bowmen          |
| Loyal Archers         | Broughton Archers       |
| Yorkshire Archers     | Staffordshire Bowmen    |
| Hainault Foresters    | Trent Archers           |



The exact time in which the Bow became disused in war by the English army, perhaps, cannot be fixed. P. Daniel mentions, that Arrows were shot by the English at the Isle of Rhé, in 1627.\* Mr. Grose informs us, that in 1643, the Earl of Effex issued a precept “for stirring up all well-affected people by benevolence, towards the raising of a company of Archers for the service of the King (Charles I.) and the Parliament.” And in a pamphlet, says the same author, which was printed anno 1664, giving an account of the success of the Marquis of Montrose against the Scots, bowmen are repeatedly mentioned. One Neade, in the reign of Charles I. obtained a commission under the Great Seal, wherein, he and his son, were empowered to teach the combined management of the pike  
and

\* P. Daniel, Vol. I. Pg. 427.

and Bow, a book entitled "*The double armed man,*" shewing the proper exercise and attitudes, was written and published by William Neade, about the year 1625. It contains nothing of consequence relating to Archery, but we may judge that that art was not laid aside at this period.‡

Having related what history affords with respect to our ancient Archery, I shall now take a view of the statutes which have been formed for the regulation and encouragement of this art. Mr. Barrington has already traversed this path, and it is necessary for me to say, that his Essay has greatly facilitated the composition of this part of my subject.

Very soon after the Conquest, we find Archery to have been much cultivated,  
and

‡ See Grose's Hist. of Army, Vol. I.

and large numbers of Archers brought into the field. Even as early as the beginning of the twelfth century, a law was instituted with respect to the practice of Archery, which freed from the charge of murder, any one who in practising with Arrows or Darts, should kill a person standing near.† This I believe is the first regulation to be found in our annals, and it appears to have been overlooked by Mr. Barrington, and Mr. Grose.

Till the time of Edward III. no law seems to have passed with respect to Archery. This prince, however, found it necessary to enjoin the practice of the Bow, by two mandates during his reign; and in the reign of Richard II. an act was made to compel all servants to shoot on Sundays and Holidays.

H h

The

† “ Si quis ludo sagittandi, vel alicujus exercitii jaculo, vel hujusmodi casu aliquem occidat, reddat cum.”

*Laws of Henry I. Ch. 88. Camb. 1644. Fol.*

The 7. Henry IV. complain of the negligence of the arrow-smiths, and ordains that the heads of Arrows shall in future be well boiled and brazed, and hardened at the points with steel; under the pain of the forfeiture of all such heads otherwise manufactured, and imprisonment to the makers: All Arrow heads to be marked with the maker's name.

Henry V. ordered the Sheriffs of several counties, to procure feathers from the wings of geese, picking six from each goose.

In the time of Edward IV. an act passed, ordaining every Englishman to have a Bow of his own height, and during the same reign, Butts were ordered to be put up in every township, for the inhabitants to shoot at, on feast days, and  
if

if any neglected, the penalty of one half-penny was incurred.

The 1. Richard III. II. complains that by the seditious confederacy of Lombards using divers ports of this realm, the Bowstaves were raised to an *outrageous* price, that is to say, to eight pounds an hundred, were they were wont to be sold at forty shillings. This act therefore, provides that ten Bowstaves shall be imported with every butt of Malmsey or Tyre wines, brought by the merchants trading from Venice, into this land, under a penalty of thirteen shillings and four-pence, for every butt of the said wines, in case of neglect.

The 3. Henry VIII. 3. orders all men under the age of forty, to have Bows and Arrows, and to use shooting, some certain persons only excepted.

H h 2

The

The 33d. Henry VIII. 9. is a statute principally referring to Archery. It opens with a complaint on account of the decay of this art. It ordains that all men under sixty (except spiritual men,\* Justices, &c.) shall

\* Spiritual men seem to have been as fond of Archery formerly as any other persons. Ascham teaches us, that the bishops practised Archery in his time, and we find the following account of a bishop shooting at Utrecht.

“ L’Evêque leur montrait exemple, & après avoir sanctifié la fête par une procession, il se mêloit parmi les tireurs, & devenoit *Roi de l’Arc*, faisant voir qu’il les surpassoit autant en adresse qu’en dignité.

*Bib. Universelle.*

Another curious passage from Bishop Latimer’s sixth sermon, will shew how great an advocate for Archery he was, even in the pulpit. The Reformer preached the sermon before the King; and after condemning the vices of the age, he thus introduces the subject of Archery:—“ The arte of shutyng hath ben in tymes past much esteemed in this realme, it is a gyft of God, that he hath geven us to excell all other nacions wythall. It hath bene Goddes instrumente, whereby he hath gyven us manye victories agaynste oure enemyes. But nowe we have taken up horynge in townes, insteede of shutyng in the fyeldes. A wonderous thyng, that so excelente a gyft of God shoulde be so lyttle

shall use shooting with the Long-bow, and shall have a Bow and Arrows ready continually in their house. And that every person having a man-child, or men-children in his house, shall provide a Bow and two shafts for every such man-child being seven years old and upwards, till of the age of thirteen, in order to promote shooting. And if the young men be servants, the expence of the articles shall be abated in their wages. When  
of

lyttle esteemed. I desire you, my Lordes, even as you love honoure, and glorye of God, and intende to remove his indignacion, let there be sent fourth some proclimacion, some sharpe proclimacion, to the Justices of Peace, for they do not thyr dutyc. Justices now be no Justices; ther be many good actes made for thys matter already. Charge them upon their allegiance, that thys singular benefit of God may be practised; and that it be not turned into bollyng, and glossyng, and horing, wythin the townes; for they be negligente in exccutying these lawes of shutyng. In my tyme, my poore father was as diligent to teach me to shute, as to learne any other thyng; and so I thinke other menne dyd thyr children. He taught me howe to drawe, howe to lay my bodye in my Bowe, and not to drawe wyth strength of armes, as other nacions do, but wyth  
strength

of the age of seventeen years, the young men are to provide a Bow and four Arrows for themselves, and use shooting; and if a master or father permit his servants or children, being seventeen years of age, to lack a Bow and Arrows for the space of a month, the said master or father shall forfeit six and eight-pence for every offence. Also every servant upwards of seventeen and under sixty years of age, shall pay six and eight-pence if he be without a Bow and four Arrows for one month.

It

strength of bodye. I had my Bowes bought me according to my age and strength, as I increased in them; so my Bowes were made bigger and bigger: for men shall never shute well, excepte they be brought up in it. It is a goodly arte, a holesome kynde of exercise, and much commended in phisike. Marcilius Sicinus, in hys boke *de triplici vita* (it is a greate while sins I red hym nowe); but I remember he commendeth thys kinde of exercise, and sayth, that it wrestleth agaynste manye kyndes of diseases. In the reverence of God, let it be continued. Let a proclamacion go furth, charging the Justices of Peace, that they see such actes and statutes kept, as were made for thys purpose."

*Latimer's Sermons, Black Letter, 1549, 127<sup>o</sup>*



It is also enacted, that no person under the age of twenty-four, shall shoot at a standing mark, except it be a rover, where he may change his ground every shot, under a penalty of four-pence each shot. And no other person above twenty-four, shall shoot at any mark of eleven score yards, or under, with any prick shaft, or flight Arrow, under pain of six shillings and eight-pence every shot.

No person under seventeen shall use a Yew Bow, under a penalty of six shillings and eight-pence, unless he have lands of the value of ten pounds yearly, or have moveables of the value of forty marks.

The inhabitants of every city, town and place, are ordered by this act to erect Butts, and use shooting on holidays, and at every other convenient time.

On

On account of the greater price and excellence of Yew, it is enacted by this law, that Bowyers shall make four Bows of ordinary wood, as Elm, Ash, Wych, Hazil, &c. for every one of Yew; and on neglect they shall incur a penalty of three shillings and four-pence for every such Bow deficient.

All artificers of Bows, Arrows, &c. are by this statute obliged, on the command of the King, Lord Chancellor, &c. to go from London to inhabit any town destitute of such artificers, where they may be ordered, on the penalty of forty shillings a-day during their abode, after receiving proper notice.

Aliens are prohibited from shooting without the King's licence; and may not transport Bows into foreign countries.

Henry VIII.

Henry VIII. besides making laws in favour of Archery, in the twenty-ninth year of his reign, instituted a society for the practice of shooting, under a charter, in the name of the Fraternity of St. George. This King was also very fond of the amusement, and sometimes attended to see the Archers. It is said, that one day having fixed a meeting of them at Windsor, a person of the name of Barlow far out-shot the rest; which pleased the King so much, that he told Barlow he should be called the Duke of Shoreditch, being an inhabitant of that place. This dignity was long preserved by the Captain of the London Archers, who used to summon the officers of his several divisions, by the titles of Marquisses of Barlow, Clerkenwell, Islington, Hoxton, —Earl of Pancrafts, &c.

The king granted also to this fraternity a privilege, that if any of the members

I i

shooting

shooting at a known and accustomed Butt, having first pronounced the word **FAST**, (or stand fast) should happen to kill any person passing between the shooter and the Butt, he should not suffer, or be imprisoned.†

There are other statutes which are calculated to fix the price of Bows, the regulations in which are the following.

During the reign of Edward III. a painted Bow sold for one and six-pence, and a white or unpainted one for a shilling. By 24. Edward IV. 4. Bows of Yew were to be sold for three and four-pence. By 33. Henry VIII. 9. no Bowyer was to sell to a person between seven and fourteen years of age, any Bow for more than one shilling, and was to have Bows of  
all

† This was copied from the Roman Law, both by Henry I. and Henry VIII.

all prices, from six-pence a piece to a shilling, for persons of that age. And no Bowyer was to sell any Elk-yew Bow, for more than three shillings and four-pence.

By 8. Eliz. 10. Bows of foreign Yew were to be sold at the price of six shillings and eight-pence. A second sort at three shillings and four-pence, and a third kind at two shillings.

Arrows in the time of Edward III. were sold at one shilling and two-pence per sheaf, (each sheaf consisting of twenty four) if they had sharpened points, but if blunt headed, they were only one shilling per sheaf. The iron from which the best points were made, is said to have been that of anchor flooks.

From several statutes which have been made for the encouragement and enforcement of the practice of Archery, as well as from the complaints of our old historians of the negligence of people in exercising, it is reasonable to suppose that Archers were not then so expert as in more early periods. I should imagine from the victories in the time of Edward III. and from the encomiums passed on the Bowmen of those days, that Archery in that reign, was in its highest perfection. We are taught to believe, that the battle of Crecy, was the *chef d'œuvre* of the Long-bow, but it does not add to the honour of our Archers, when we hear that all the Bow-strings of the Genoese Arbalesters, were spoiled by rain before the battle commenced. However, the skill of king Edward's bowmen is undoubted, as there were other victories besides that of Crecy, in which the  
Archers

Archers sufficiently proved their excellence. Hollinshed, who wrote in the sixteenth century, laments the decay of Archery in his time, and praises Edward's bowmen in the following curious manner. "In times past," says he, "the chief force of England consisted in their Long-bows. But now we have in a manner generally given over that kind of artillery, and for Long-bows indeed, do practise to shoot compass for our pastime. Cutes, the Frenchman, and Rutters, deriding our new Archery in respect to their croquets, will not let in open skirmish, if any leisure serve to turn up their tails and cry, *shoote Englishmen*; and all because our strong shooting is decayed and laid in bed. But if some of our Englishmen now lived, that served King Edward III. the breach of such a varlet should have been nailed to his bum with  
an

an Arrow, and another feathered in his bowels." &c.\*

Having traced the Bow in England to the period in which it almost ceased to be a military weapon in our army, I shall now digress a moment to view the state of Archery in France.

The Bow has not always been a warlike weapon in France. Procopius says, that in the expedition of the Franks under Theodebert (A. D. 538) the troops were armed with a sword, shield, and hatchet, or rather battle-axe; they had neither Bow nor Lance. This is likewise observed by Gibbon, who I presume derived his information from the same source, though there is no reference to his authority at this part.† There are passages,

\* Hollinhead, Chron. Vol. I.—158.

† See Hist. Roman Empire, Vol. IV. Pg 199. 4to Edit.



passages, however, in the Salic Law, quoted by Father Daniel, which seem to disagree with the words of Procopius. In chapter xx. *de vulneribus*, it ordains a penalty of sixty-two pence in gold, to be required from any one who should wound another with a poisoned Arrow.|| And in chapter xxxii. (*de debilitatibus*) it assigns a pecuniary fine for any one, who should maim the second finger of another, used in drawing the Bow. § But notwithstanding these passages involve the idea of the existence of Archery, yet it is supposed the Bow was an instrument of the chase, not of war; and P. Daniel remarks, that it was sometimes used in sieges, and in entrenchments, but not in the field of battle.

In

|| Si quis alterum de sagitta toxicata percutere voluerit, &c.

§ Si secundum digitum quo sagittatur, excusserit, &c.

In the end of the sixth century, however, Archery appears to have been used; ‡ and a law of Charlemagne, made in the ninth century, directs that those armed with clubs, should discontinue them, and shoot the Bow. ||

During the intermediate reigns to that of Lewis XI. Archers were employed in the French armies; but about the year 1480, this king dismissed that part of his troops, and in their place procured Swiss infantry.\*

Archers, however, seem to have been again in use among the French armies, during the succeeding reign of Charles VIII. as Philip de Comines makes  
mention

‡ Daniel, Pg. 24. Vol. I.

|| Quod nullus in hoste baculum habeat sed arcum.  
*Capit. Rig. Franc—Baluzius, Pg. 510.*

\* Daniel, Vol. I. Pg. 252.

mention of them at the battle of Fornova, (or Fournue) at which there were many Scotch Archers.‡

During the time of Francis I. the Bow seems to have been almost entirely difused. P. Daniel fays, that in the year 1522, there was but one Arbalefter in the army, at the fight of Bico ; but this one Archer was fo expert, that an officer named Jean de Cardonne, having opened the vizor of his helmet to take breath, this man ftruck him in the unguarded part with his Arrow and killed him.†

Though the Bow was not ufed in this expedition, it was ftill practifed by the inhabitants of Gascony ; and in the reign of Francis I. was ftill introduced in battle.§

K k

Fire-

‡ See Mem. P. de Comines, B. 8. Ch. 6.

† Daniel, Vol. I.—427. § Daniel, Vol. I. 426.

Fire-arms after this time became more general, and in a short period altogether excluded the Bow and Arbalest, as war-like instruments.

The name of Archers, however, was continued to those in particular offices for some years, and even to the present day the ministers of executive justice, retain the title.

The decay of the use of the Bow, in our country, so much regretted by English writers, was attributed to two causes; first the fascination of several games and diversions to which the yeomanry were partial; and secondly, the introduction of fire-arms.

We cannot wonder that the unvaried use of the Bow, should in the process of time become irksome; and it is reasonable  
to

to suppose, that soldiers tired with war, would feel greater pleasure in trivial amusements, if new, than in the familiar practice of Archery. The natural love of variety would soon operate, so as to make compulsive laws necessary.

With respect to the second cause, the introduction of artillery; it was slow, but at length efficacious in subverting the use of the Bow in battle.

It long remained a doubt which was the most advantageous weapon, the Musket or Bow. The doubt continued more than two centuries after the use of artillery in action, and even in the time of Elizabeth, the preference was by many, given to the Bow.

Sir John Hayward, in his life of the Norman kings, (printed 1613) after  
K k 2 speaking

speaking of the effects of Archery at the battle of Hastings, compares the advantages of fire-arms, with those of the Bow and assigns four reasons for deciding in favour of the latter. "First," says he, "for that in a reasonable distance, it is of greater, both certainty and force. Secondly, for that it dischargeth faster. || Thirdly, for that more men may discharge therewith at once; for only the first ranke dischargeth the piece, neither hurt they any, but those that are in front; but with the Bow, ten or twelve rankes may discharge together, and will annoy so many rankes of the enemies. Lastly, for that the Arrow doeth strike more parts of the body; for in that it hurteth by discent; (and not only point blanke  
like

|| Mr. Grose informs us, an Archer could formerly shoot six Arrows in the time necessary to charge and discharge a musket. And I have heard a gentleman say, he himself could shoot twelve Arrows into a circle not larger than the circumference of a man's hat, at the distance of forty yards, in a minute.

like the bullet) there is no part of the body but it may strike; from the crown of the head, even to the nailing of the foot to the ground. Hereupon it followeth, that the Arrows falling so thick as hail upon the bodies of men, as less feareful of their flesh, so, more slenderly armed than in former times, must necessarily worke most disastrous effects."

An old writer (quoted by Dr. Johnson) says,

The white faith of hist'ry cannot shew,  
That e'er a musket yet could beat the Bow.

*Alleyn's Henry VII.\**

If we consider the unskilful contrivance of the musket, at the time Archery was in use in war, we shall not be surprized that the Bow remained in favour so long; indeed,

\* We may remark, that at the victory of Crecy, no part of the honour or advantage is attributed to the artillery used by Edward.

indeed in the present day, although fire-arms are much improved, there is reason to suppose the Bow would be of great service on many occasions, and particularly against cavalry.

Sir John Hayward observes, that “ a horse stroke with a bullet, if the wound be not mortal, may performe good service; but if an Arrow be fastened in the flesh, the continual stirring thereof, occasioned by the motion of himselfe, will enforce him to cast off all command, and either beare down or disorder those that are neere.” †

He proceeds to add, “ that some thought the cracke of the peice, strikes  
terror

† Virgil thus describes a wounded horse—

—ferrumque sub aure reliquit,

Quo sonipes ictu furit arduus, altaque jactat

Vulneris impatiens, arrecto pectore crura:

Volvitur ille excussus humi.

*Lib. 11,—637.*



terror into the enemy. But use, says he, will extinguish these terrors. And if it be true, which all men of action do hold, that the eye in all battailes is first overcome, then against men equally accustomed to both, the sight of a shower of Arrows is more available to victory than the cracke of the piece." †

---

AS the Arrow must necessarily be elevated in shooting to a distance, Archers may be placed in almost any position, with respect to the other parts of the army; and accordingly we find, that in both ancient and modern tactics, they have been placed in the rear, as well as  
the

† In ancient battles, when myriads of Archers were introduced, the appearance of a discharge of Arrows from the whole army, must have been inconceivably awful. How frequently do we meet with such expressions as these—*excludere diem telis—grandine ferri—*&c. There is a well known reply of Dioneses, to  
a per-

the front. Indeed contingent circumstances, such as the face of a country, whether woody or open, whether mountainous or plain, would require a varied distribution of the lines of an army.

Archers usually occupied the front, and retired between the ranks of the heavy-

a person who informed him at the battle of Thermopylæ, that the Persian army was so numerous, as to obscure the light of the sun with their Arrows, "we shall then fight in the shade, said he, and not exposed to the heat."

*Herod.—pg. 522*

We may judge also, of the immense number of Arrows expended in an engagement, from a circumstance mentioned in the Anabasis of Xenophon. The troops under the command of Clearchus, who were divided from the other part of the army, in that battle which proved fatal to Cyrus, having lost their provisions, by the enemy plundering their camp, were obliged to kill the oxen and asses which drew the baggage waggons. These animals they roasted by fires made of the Persian Arrows, and arms, which they found in prodigious numbers on the field of battle, near to the place where the camp lay.

*Xenoph.—pg. 275. A.*

heavy-armed men, as the battle joined. It was not uncommon to place them in lines, behind those of the infantry, as they could act over the heads of the preceding ranks; † for the same reason they sometimes fought behind the cavalry; but when the enemy approached, it was necessary for the horsemen to incline forwards, and cover themselves with their shields. ‡ The Emperor Leo very much disapproves of this latter method of placing Archers, as from their situation the Arrows being directed high, “they fell on the enemy,” he says, “in a position which was without effect.” It is not obvious, however, why the Arrows elevated high, should fall without effect, as the experience of ages has proved the value of distant Archery.

L 1

Matthew

† Zenophon Cyrop.—pg. 167. C.—and 226. E.

‡ Leo's Tactics.—pg. 93.

Matthew Paris and Hoveden mention, that the English Archers were mixed with the cavalry, in the time of king Stephen.

At the battle of Crecy, our Archers are said to have been placed in triangles behind the ranks; and at Poitiers they were in the wings, drawn up in the same figure, "*rangez en berse.*"--See P. Daniel.

The real advantage of Archers in war, appears, during early periods, to have been inconsiderable; they seem to be held in low estimation by Homer, and are represented as lurking behind posts and trees, in order to shoot; or under the protection of some shield, held over them by the hand of a by-stander; thus fighting in ambush, like assassins, rather than as soldiers. At this period indeed, the Archers were armed only with the Bow, without

without sword or shield; it would have been rashness therefore, for them to have entered the battle with a weapon calculated only for distant combat; and this may in some degree, plead an excuse for their seeking shelter.\*

The same idea with respect to Archers, was preserved for many centuries. The Achæans, we are told by Polybius, deemed the Bow an insidious weapon; and as they disdained to gain battles, and to extend territories by unjust practices, despising conquest bought by artifice, they resolved with the Peloponnesians, that Archery should not be used among their troops; esteeming the manly close encounter,

L l 2

counter,

\* Il. Lib. 13. L. 714. The Locrian Archers had not sword, shield, or javelin.

“ Ου γαρ ἴχον κορυθας χαλκηρεας ἰπποδασειας,

“ Ουδ’ εχον ασπιδας ευκκλης και μελινα δαρυα\*  
 “ Αλλ’ αρα τοξοισιν.”

See also Procopius, pg. 6.—Fol. Paris.

counter, as the only honourable means of victory.†

The

† See Polybius, Lib. 13.

Euripides puts the following words in dispraise of the Bow, into the mouth of Lycus, who he represents slighting the feats of Hercules.

————— “ He, with no merit, held  
 “ The fame of daring courage, that with beasts  
 “ He fought, in nought besides his prowess prov’d :  
 “ His left hand never knew to raise the shield,  
 “ Never advanc’d he nigh the spear, but held  
 “ The Bow, a coward’s weapon, and to flight  
 “ Was always prompt ; no proof of manhood, none  
 “ Of daring courage is the Bow,” —————

Amphitryon then makes answer :—

“ ————— The man array’d in arms  
 “ Is to his arms a slave, and stationed nigh  
 “ Weak hearted dastards, through their cowardise  
 “ He perishes; or should he break his spear,  
 “ What hath he to protect him from the carnage,  
 “ His valour thus disarm’d? But he that grasps  
 “ The skilful-aiming Bow, hath in his hand  
 “ One thing which much avails him, whence he sends  
 “ A thousand Arrows ’gainst the breast of others,  
 “ Himself from death defending ; and, his stand  
 “ Held distant, pours his vengeance on his foes,  
 “ Who fall by unseen wounds, himself secure,  
 “ Nor to their arms expos’d : for in the fight  
 “ This is the work of wisdom to annoy  
 “ The enemies, secure from their attack.”

*Hercules, Act I.*

I have copied the translation of Potter.

The Archers of later times, were more favourably regarded, and as they were armed with a shield, a sword, and javelins, as well as the Bow, they were not afraid to venture into the midst of the battle. †

Vegetius complains, that the Roman Archers had in his time, laid aside their armour, and were slain like cattle by the Arrows of the Goths.

Leo, in his tactics, directs that every Archer shall be clothed in an entire coat of mail, shall have a polished iron helmet,

† The Archers furnished with swords and targets, when they approached the lines of the enemy, flung their Bows behind them, and drew their swords. The Sarmatians (according to Tacitus) shot their Arrows as they advanced, and pressed their horses rapidly, till they came near enough to engage with their other weapons, at which time they threw the Bow aside. "Sarmatæ omisso arcu, quo brevius valent contis gladiisque ruerent: modo equestris prælii more, frontis et tergi vices."

*Tactus, Annal. Lib. 6.—35.*

met, ornamented on the top with a crest; a Bow rather above, than beneath the power of the shooter, having its case large and proper. Plenty of bowstrings, and a Quiver with a lid, containing thirty or forty Arrows, a javelin and a sword suspended to a belt, and also a dagger.

The English had formerly Archers both on foot, and mounted on horses; but the latter do not appear to have been very generally introduced in war, before the fourteenth century. § Lord Lyttleton says, “ I read of no Archers on horseback in the age of Henry II. unless they were comprehended under the term *servientes*, some of which were light horse-

§ “ Archers were drawn from the ycomany, and seemed to have served on foot, as attendants on the vassals who held by knight's service, and at their charge; or, sometimes, under the pay, and at the charge of the King.”

*Lyttleton's Henry II. Vol. III. pg. 90.*



horse-men : but in the time of Edward III. mention is made, in a roll of parliament, of two hundred Archers on horseback ; and in the seventh year of Richard II. the bishop of Norwich, offered to serve the king abroad with three thousand men at arms, and two thousand five hundred Archers, *well horsed and appointed*. And when Lionel Earl of Clarence (son of Edward III.) went with an army into Ireland, he carried with him thither many Archers on horseback, whose pay was six-pence a man *per diem*, 'squires in the same army, being rated at one shilling a man *per diem*, the knights at two shillings, and the baronets at four shillings. There were likewise some Archers at four-pence *per diem*, who, I presume, served on foot. The Earl of Ormonde had under him, besides his knights and 'squires, twenty *boblers* armed, and twenty not armed ;  
the

the pay of the former being six-pence a piece *per diem*, and of the latter four-pence. These *hoblers* were Irish horsemen, so called because they served on *hobbies*.\*

Montfaucon in his work, entitled, "*Les Monumens de la Monarchie*," Pl. 30, Vol. IV. has given a representation of the meeting of Henry VIII. and Francis I. on the "*field of the cloth of gold*," between Guifnes and Ardres, in France.† The kings are on horseback, followed by their respective attendants; and those of Henry are principally Archers mounted on horses, carrying their Long-bows with them.

I have not discovered, that the dress of the horse Archers, differed in any material

\* See Lyttleton's History Henry II. Vol. III. pg. 220.

† If the Reader wish to see an account of this superb affair, he will find it described in Robertson's Charles V. Vol. II.

terial point, from that worn by the foot. The latter were well fortified from the attack of swords, or Arrows, by the strength of their defensive apparel. Their limbs were guarded by a coat of mail, in which they moved at liberty, and in which they drew their Bow without restraint. They wore an helmet or skull-cap fitting close to their head, and had body-armour.

Besides the Bow, they were armed with a Target and sword, which, while they were engaging with Arrows, was suspended on the left side. They carried a Quiver containing twenty-four Arrows, sometimes on the back, and sometimes on the right side; but the Arrows used in action, were held under a belt, to which the sword was hung. § Eight of

M m

these

§ See the Frontispiece.

these Arrows were generally lighter than the rest, and were used to annoy the enemy at a great distance. We may well say, at a *great* distance, for an ancient Bow, we are told by Mr. Grose, (who quotes Nead) would throw one of these four hundred yards.||

Our Archers formerly, also, carried a leaden maul, with which the wounded were finally dispatched. This instrument

|| The force of Arrows is well instanced by a fact recorded in the Journal of Edward VI. which Mr. Grose quotes from Burnett's History of the Reformation. An hundred Archers belonging to the King's guard shot at an inch board, singly, two Arrows each, and afterwards all together. Some of these Arrows pierced through this, and into another board placed behind it, although the wood was extremely solid and firm.

An ancient Bow, says P. Daniel, Vol. II. 606, would carry further than a *Fusil*, and to the distance of 600 paces. If he means common military paces, each of which may consist of two feet, or rather more, the distance of the range may be set down as full 400 yards.

ment was known among the English and Scotch, as early as the beginning of the fourteenth century, and continued to be used by them till the middle of the sixteenth. This weapon was sometimes twenty-five pounds in weight, and had an iron hoop on each end, to prevent the lead indenting on the edges. Its handle was five feet long, and it was usually carried on the back.

It is something extraordinary, that the Laplanders have represented their great God Thor, with a Bow in one hand and a Mallet, or Maul, in the other. They say this God wounds the evil Dæmons with his Bow, and then dashes out their brains with the Maul.\*

Besides the defensive armour worn by each individual, there was an expedient

M m 2

by

\* Sheffer's History of Lapland.

by which the troops were often protected from the effects of Archery. One of the most beautiful, as well as useful manœuvres, in the ancient discipline, was calculated to ward off the missile weapons. The *Tesudo*, was in use among the Greeks, the Romans, the English, and others; and was often executed with wonderful address. According to Potter, it was formed “ when the soldiers, drawn up close together, and the hindermost ranks bowing themselves, placed their Targets above their heads; as if we suppose the first rank to stand erect, the rest to stoop lower and lower by degrees, till the last rank kneeled upon the ground; the men in front and on the sides holding their Targets before their bodies, the rest covering the heads of those that were placed before them; so that the whole body resembled a pent house, or roof covered with tile, down which the enemy’s

my's missive weapons easily glided without prejudice to the soldiers beneath."†

The formation of the Testudo is often mentioned by our old Chronicle writers, and seems to have been much used in this kingdom in early times, against the force of Arrows and Javelins. §

Our ancient Archers, as well as those of France, were accustomed, at the besieging

† "M. Antoninus adversus Parthos, qui infinitâ multitudine sagittarum exercitum ejus obrucbat, subidere suos, & testudinem facere jussit, supra quam transmissis sagittas sine militum noxa exhaustus est hostis."

*Frontini Stratagemata, pg. 159.*

According to the disposition of the Macedonian Phalanx, the men were drawn up in columns sixteen deep. Polybius tells us, that the five foremost ranks only, presented their spears, of fourteen cubits in length, to the front; while the remainder of those in the rear, inclining their pikes a little, over the shoulders of the ranks before them, defended the men beneath, from the missive weapons of the enemy.

*See Polybius, Lib. 17, pg. 26.*

§ See the Quotation from *J. de Burgo. pg. 215.*

sieging of towns, to protect themselves by a very large kind of shield, which was placed on the ground before them, and which warded off the attacks of the enemy; while they from their ambush, kept up a perpetual discharge of Arrows on those who ventured on the walls, and whilst the larger engines and battering-rams were exerting their efforts in forcing a breach. G. Britton makes mention of these large shields, as used by our King John, when attacking a town in Anjou.\*

Besides these expedients used against the attacks of an army, the old English Archers had a method of protecting them-

- \* Tunc præcedebat cum Parma Garcio, † sub qua.  
 Nil sibi formidans obfessos damnificabat.  
 Assiduè poterat nec ab illis damnificari  
 Alleribus latis dum Parma protegit ipsum.

† Garcio, is an old word for a boy,--Garçon in French: these shields were carried about by boys. See P. Daniel, Vol. I. pg. 554.



themselves from the approach of the cavalry. Each Bowman carried with him one, and sometimes two large stakes, sharpened at each end. These were placed in the earth before the lines, presenting their points on a level with the the breasts of the horses, and opposing their pursuit.†

The

† Grose, Vol. I. 149.

We find also the following passage in P. Jovius, respecting the ancient English Archery:—"Apud Anglos in sagittis unica spes et præcipua gloria, crebris victoriarum proventibus, parta est. Eas minimo digito crassiores, bicubitalesque, et hamato præfixas ferro, ingentibus ligneis arcubus intorquent: tanta vi arteque, ut ad primos præsertim ictus, squamosum thoracem aut loricam facile penetrent. His è Romana disciplina mos est, vallum gestare, et dimenso spatio protinus, ubi hostis fuerit in conspectu, in orbem se munire. Palos enim teretes utrinque ferrea cuspide præcutos in hostem vertunt. In medio autem est ferreus annulus, quo perpetua sæpe recte vincuntur. Circumvallati in hunc modum, lævo pede in ima parte palum premunt; et divaricatis cruribus, pansisque lacertis, sagittas excutiant. Interna autem sinistri brachii ossæa tabella contegunt, ne manicæ rugis recurrentis nervi impetus elidatur.

*P. Jov. Brytan. Descript. Pg. 21.*

*Inter Balei Script. Ang.*

The principal uses for which Archers were valued in battle, have been divided under the eight following heads, viz.

- 1.—To begin the fight at a distance.
- 2.—To provoke the enemy, to harrafs and draw him out of his advantageous post.
- 3.—To wound the enemy at a distance.
- 4.—To disorder the enemy as he makes his approach.
- 5.—To gall the horses.
- 6.—To cope with, and hinder efforts of the light armed troops of their antagonists.
- 7.—To scout and discover ambushes, as well as to lie in ambush themselves.
- 8.—In making speedy and sudden attempts in time of battle.||

We find from Arrian and other writers on tactics, that in ancient battles, the  
slingers,

|| Strutt, Vol. II.

slingers, a part of the auxiliary troops, directed their weapons against the wooden and small arms of the enemy, but that the principal use of the Archers was in annoying the cavalry. This part of an enemy's army, not only presented a number of large objects to aim at, but it has sometimes happened also, that a single flight of Arrows† has turned all into disorder and confusion. The horses and their riders were always in complete armour, and a discharge of Arrows some-

N n

times

† The effect produced on the eye by a number of Arrows passing through the air from one army to another, is a circumstance which, by no Poet who has sung of war, could be passed unnoticed. One might fill pages from every language with beautiful allusions to this subject.

The appearance of an Arrow on the wing, viewed on the side, is singularly interesting. Its steady movement—the curve it describes—its ascending and descending motion—its velocity, &c. are all sources of beauty which never fail to excite agreeable feelings in the mind, and even lead us to attribute active powers, for a moment, to the shaft. Weakness and strength  
are

times darkened the sky by their numbers; we must conceive therefore the immense and sudden noise these must occasion in falling on the metallic coverings which opposed them. §

The opening of a battle, accompanied with every horrid noise which could be contrived; the sound of missive weapons and the cries of the wounded, has thus excited so much terror among the horses, as effectually to overcome the discipline  
and

are well expressed by the Arrow which arrives short, or which passes far over the Target; and the different degrees of swiftness perceptible in Arrows, from Bows of various powers, immediately associate the ideas of bodily vigour and energy, in various degrees of strength. This is not fantastic—it is thus we feel pleasure from the objects in nature which surround us. Vegetables speak the language of the passions well. Does not the storm make every hedge enraged; and have we not the weeping willows? We give these mental affections.

§ *Intendunt acres arcus, amentaue torquent.  
Sternitur omne solum telis, tum scuta cavæque  
Dant sonitum flictu galeæ; pugna aspera surgit.*

and render the whole Squadron confused. In Livy, we read that the Cretan Archers compleatly routed the army of Antiochus, and turned his cavalry into flight by a storm of Arrows.

The elephants and camels which were by some nations introduced in battle, proved admirable marks for the skill of the Archers, and if their Arrows chanced to turn these animals into disorder, both the base and superstructure were usually overthrown.

We shall not wonder at the relations we hear of the furious and frantic acts these animals have committed, if we consider the excruciating pain a well directed Arrow must produce. || They were indeed well protected with armour

N n 2

on

|| See an account of the wound Zisca received by an Arrow, in Gilpin's Lives of the Reformers. Pg. 306.

on the front, but the hinder parts were more exposed; and when their heads were by any means turned from the enemy, the Arrows and Javelins being directed under their tails, inflicted mortal wounds with the severest pain.\*

Animals, however, are now no longer the objects of Archery, and as the use of fire-arms has expelled the Bow from the field, we may hope in future, to have no reason of lamenting its *cruelties*.

Before I close this chapter, I cannot forbear saying a few words with respect to modern Archery, considered as an amusement.†

The

\* ——"Sub caudis qua maximè molli cute vulnera accipiunt, fodiebant." —

*Vegetius Pg. 326.*

† Among the amusements in which the Bow has borne a part, we shall find none more extraordinary than

The value of agreeable amusements  
must be felt by all people, as the most  
important

than the following; an account of which is recorded  
in Plot's History of Staffordshire:—

“ At *Abbots*, or now rather *Pagets Bromley*, they had also within memory, a sort of sport, which they celebrated at Christmas, (in New-year, or Twelfth-day,) call'd *The Hobby-horse Dance*, from a person that carried the image of an *Horse* between his legs, made of thin boards, and in his hand a *Bow* and *Arrow*, which passing through a *hole* in the *Bow*, and stopping upon a *sholder* it had in it, he made a *snapping* noise as he drew it to and fro', keeping time with the music: with this man danced six others, carrying on their shoulders as many *Rein-deer's heads*, three of them painted *white*, and three *red*, with the *Arms* of the chief families (viz. of *Paget*, *Bagor* and *Wells*,) to whom the revenues of the town chiefly belonged, depicted on the *palms* of them, with which they danced the *Hays*, and other *Country Dances*. To this *Hobby-horse Dance*, there also belonged a *pot*, which was kept by turns, by four or five of the chief of the town, whom they called *Reeves*, who provided *cakes* and *ale* to put in this *pot*: all people who had any kindness for the good intent of the institution of the *sport*, giving hence a piece for themselves and families; and so *foreigners* too, that came to see it: with which money, (the charge of the cakes and ale being defrayed,) they not only repaired their *Church*, but kept their *Poor* too: which *charges* are not now perhaps so cheerfully borne.”

*Plot's History of Staffordshire*, pg. 430.

important advantages in society are in some degree subject to their influence. If we say health is interested and improved by Archery, it will seem a sufficient reason for its being esteemed an eligible and useful amusement; and if it can be shewn to possess some valuable qualification which do not accompany other diversions, the propriety of it will be more conspicuous.

That Archery possesses many excellences as an amusement, will require little trouble to prove. It is an exercise adapted to every age and every degree of strength, and the blood may be driven with any required velocity, by increasing or diminishing the power of the Bow made use of. It is not necessarily laborious, as it may be discontinued at the moment it becomes fatiguing; a pleasure not to be enjoyed by the hunter, who, having finished  
his



his chase, perceives that he must crown his toils with an inanimate ride of forty miles to his bed. Archery is attended with no cruelty. It sheds no innocent blood, nor does it torture harmless animals; charges which lie heavy against some other *amusements*.

It has been said a reward was formerly offered to him who could invent a new pleasure.‡ Had such a reward been held forth by the ladies of the present day, he who introduced Archery as a female exercise, would have deservedly gained the prize. It is unfortunate that there are few diversions in the open air, in which women can join with satisfaction; and as their sedentary life renders motion  
necef-

‡ Xerxes opum Regiarum ostentatione eximia, eo usque luxuria gaudebat, ut edicto præmium ei proponeret qui novum voluptatis genus reperisset."

*Val. Max. L. 9. Ch. 11.*

*See also Briffonius de reg. Pers. 148.*

necessary to health, it is to be lamented that such suitable amusements have been wanting to invite them. Archery, has, however, contributed admirably to supply this defect, and in a manner the most desirable that could be wished.

But I do not intend to sing the praises of this elegant art in their full extent. Fashion now introduces it to the world, and with far greater success than that which may probably attend my reasoning and feeble panegyrics. I subjoin a wish, however, that this fashion may be universally cultivated and approved; and may we see the time when (with Statius) it can be said,

“ Pudor est nescire sagittas.”§

§ It is a reproach to be unskilful with the Bow.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XII.

---

*On the ARBALEST.*

IN my research with regard to the Long-bow, many facts and observations relating to the Arbalest, unavoidably occurred to my notice; and as that weapon was formerly so generally employed in Europe, for several centuries, I have been induced to admit a short account of it, among those things having a connection with Archery, which it was intended this Essay should illustrate.

We are not informed at what period the Cross-bow was first introduced to the world, but it is by some said to

O o

have

have derived its origin from the Cretans; by others it is ascribed to the inhabitants of Sicily. Many varieties, on the large scale, were used in the military operations of the Greeks and Romans; and that some of those engines, called *Ballistæ*, were contrived on this principle, appears from figures on the Trajan and Antonine pillars. These, however, were exceedingly strong, and capable of emitting large javelins; but there were others of smaller dimensions, which answered the purpose of the Arbalest.

Authors disagree, in describing that engine called the Scorpion. Ammianus Marcellinus mentions, that it was the same as the Onager, an instrument used to project stones.\* Vitruvius contradicts  
this

\* As little historical extravagances are sometimes useful in enlivening a dull page, I shall here mention a few facts which are recorded concerning the vast power of these military engines, the Scorpion, Onager and

this assertion, and says, that it was smaller, and could be managed by a single person alone; and Isidorus describes it as a particular kind of Arrow.† But, however true these assertions may be, we find that Vegetius expressly says it was the same as the common Cross-bow.‡

O o 2

This

and Ballista. Ammianus Marcellinus reports, that a man was struck by a stone from a Scorpion, and was so completely shivered to atoms, that no part of his whole body could be any where perceived.—“*Adeo ut ne signa quidem totius corporis nosceretur.*”—See pg. 312.

Josephus has still more marvellous tales. A man, he tells us, standing near him on the wall of a town which was besieged, had his head taken off by a stone, which flew with it to the distance of three stadia. And as a pregnant woman was walking before the door of her house, a stone from a Ballista having struck her, it tore the infant from her body, and carried it (*squalling*) the space of half a stadium.

*Joseph. Hist. Vol. II. pg. 1720. Oxf. Edit.*

† Stewechii, Com. ad Veget.

‡ “*Scorpiones dicebant, quas nunc manubalistas vocant.*”

*Veget. L. 4. Ch. 22. § 2. 15.*

Cross-bows are called “*Scorpiones manu*” in more modern works.—See Foglieta. *Hist. Genuensium*, pg. 352.—E. in the collection of Grævius and Burman, Vol. I.

This instrument is not omitted by Montfaucon. In Pl. 79. Vol. IV. there is a representation of one which is called by Heron (a great engineer) χειροβαλλιστρα *the hand Ballista*, and is similar to the ancient Cross-bow. It is drawn as if composed of two pieces, the stock and the Bow. In the middle of the stock, which is a piece of wood, about three times as broad as thick, there is a groove, whose sides are elevated somewhat above the surface of the stock. In this groove, the Arrow is placed; and the Bow is fixed at the end of it in such a position, that the string sweeps the whole length in discharging, and catches the Arrow which is placed in it, as those modern ones do which shoot bolts. This kind is properly the Scorpion, and differs in construction from the modern Cross-bow, in the parts from whence the string is set at liberty; which will be hereafter shewed.

The

The Ballista, or Arcuballista, is said to have been introduced among the Roman weapons, about the time of Constantine, or rather before;§ but it remained among the arms of the auxiliaries, and seems to have been little esteemed by the regular troops.

Among the English, the first mention of the Cross-bow, that I have observed, is in Speed; who quotes Johannes Pomarius.\* He says of the Saxons, that their arms were long spears, broad swords, and the *Cross-bow*.† This weapon, however, does not appear to have been very much in use, till some  
years

§ Circum seculum Constantini, aut paulo ante, videtur in militiam recepti.

*Pitisci Lex.*

\* Johannes Pomarius wrote the Saxon History in the German language.—See Frefnoy, Vol. XI.

† Speed, pg. 287.

years after those people first entered our island.

It is not entirely certain what kind of Bow was used by the Normans at the defeat of Harold. Mr. Barrington supposes it to have been the Arbalest, but our old historians say little on the subject. Fabian and others mention, that Harold was wounded in the eye, but they do not speak of the kind of Arrow which gave the wound.

We may conclude, I think, almost without a doubt, that William himself shot an Arbalest. A passage in Sir J. Hayward's life of that King, says, that the conqueror "was stately and majestic in his figure; of good stature, but in strength admirable, inasmuch as no man was able to draw his Bow, which he could bend sitting upon his horse, *stretching out the string with his foot.*"

In



In order to understand this sentence clearly, it will be necessary to say a few words on the construction of Cross-bows.

These instruments being of wood, horn, or steel, were of various degrees of power; the weaker ones were bent by the hands alone; but to draw the larger and more powerful, there was a kind of stirrup affixed, into which one foot, and sometimes both feet were placed, in order to assist in moving the string. P. Daniel quotes a line from Britton, which shews that the feet were used in the manner spoken of. §

We have only to conceive, therefore, that William had a Cross-bow of this kind; and that he could, even on horse-back, bend this strong weapon, with his foot placed in the stirrup affixed to it.

An

§ “ *Ballista duplici tenfa pede missa sagitta.*”

An expression made use of by our old historian, Thorn, seems to imply the use of the Arbalest among the troops, at the battle of Hastings. He says, the Normans entered the field with drawn Bows, "*arcubus tensis.*"|| It is well known that Arbalesters frequently carried their weapons with the string drawn, and the Arrow placed ready to shoot; and indeed it became necessary in more recent times to make a law prohibiting persons from travelling on the highways with loaded Cross-bows, as passengers were much annoyed by the danger of an accidental discharge. The expression, therefore, "*with drawn Bows,*" applies with propriety to the Arbalest, and cannot be interpreted of the Long-bow.‡

I have

|| See Thorn, pg. 157.—Anglic. Script. Post Bedam.

‡ The custom of using the foot in stringing the Arbalest, may have been very ancient, perhaps, if we judge

I have not been able to discover the least hint, which enables us to judge of the kind of Bow from which the Arrow issued, that gave the fatal wound to William Rufus, while hunting on New Forest.

In the time of Henry II. we find several facts spoken of, which shew the Cross-bow to have been very common in that reign. In 1172, the conquest of Ireland was undertaken by the troops of this king; and several detachments were sent forth, in each of which Archers are particularly mentioned. The party commanded by Fitz-Stephens was first

P p

landed

judge from a circumstance mentioned by Pitiscus:—  
 “ In Burgundiæ nostro agro Alexiensi prope Arnetum repertæ sunt haud ita pridem duæ icunculæ, sive figilla argentea, unum militis quasi legionarii, pari certe habitu, veterani, barbati, & vultu retorido, hujusmodi *Arcuballistam ad pedem tendere conantis*: alterum juvenis imberbis, in linea militari monolore, & arcum tendentis. In urna vitrea sub terra inventa sunt.”

landed in Ireland, and consisted of thirty knights, sixty 'squires, and three hundred Archers.\* The English armies drove all before them; and Rapin explains this circumstance by observing, "that it is almost incredible, that the Irish, who were exceedingly numerous, should suffer themselves to be overrun by an handful of Englishmen. The reason is imputed to their great dread of the English *Cross-bow*, the use of which, till then, was unknown to them."†

Little is said of the instrument in our history from this period till about sixty years afterwards; when Richard I. was killed by an Arrow from one of them, at the siege of Chaluz.

This

\* Hume, Ch. 9.

† Rapin, Vol. I. pg. 235.

We have before observed, (pg. 219) that *Archery* was first made known to the Irish in Henry the Second's invasion.

This fact is mentioned by almost all our historians. Speed says, "that when Richard was at the siege of this castle, an Arbalester standing on the wall, and seeing his time, charged his steel Bow with a square Arrow, or Quarrel, making first prayer to God that he would direct the shot, and deliver the innocency of the besieged from oppression. Whereupon discharging it, as the king was viewing the castle, within the distance of such an engine; and the king, (upon hearing the Bow go off) stooping with his head, was mortally wounded in the left shoulder."§

When the king lay ill of his wound, says the same author, he desired the person who had shot him to be sent for. Bertram Gurdan, or Bertram de Gurdom, for that was his name, was accordingly

P p 2

brought

§ Speed, pg. 481.

brought before him; and being asked by Richard, What could induce him to do so unprovoked an injury? Bertram replied, "Thou hast killed with thy own hand, my father and my two brothers, and now thou wishest to kill me, therefore take thy revenge, whatever it be."\* Richard, however, did not shew any resentment against Bertram on this occasion, but behaved in a manner somewhat heroical. He pardoned his offence, set him at liberty, and made him a present of an hundred shillings sterling. But as soon as the king was dead, one Markadey, an officer in the king's confidence, apprehended him again, and put him to death in a most cruel manner.

It

\* See Ang. Script. Post. Bedam.—Hoveden, pg. 450.—Stow, pg. 316.—Grafton, pg. 107.

In Camden are these lines on the death of Richard :—

"Istius in morte perimit Formica Leonem  
 "Proh dolor! in tante funere mundus obit."

*Annals of Ireland,*

It is well known that Richard was expert in the management of the Cross-bow, and that he killed many persons with his own hand. Brompton, when speaking of the king's death, seems to rejoice that he met with so deserved a fate.||

It appears, that in England, Cross-bow-men were very common in the reign of Henry III. Matthew Paris says they attended the army, and generally preceded the main body of it, at the distance of a mile.\*

I per-

|| " Ipse (Richardus) siquidem hoc genus sagittandi, quod arcubalistarum dicitur, jamdudum sopitum, in usum, ut dicitur, revocavit, unde et in eo peritus plures manu propria peremit, quo et ipse postmodum in terra propria inpræmunitus, et inopinate interiit, neque enim lex ulla æquior est,

" Quam necis artifices arte perire sua."

*Brompt. pg. 1278.*

\* Balistarii quoque, eorum exercitum semper præcipiant uno ferè milliari.

*Mat. Paris, V.l. I. pg. 295. Anno 1217.*

And

I perceive nothing remarkable with respect to the Cross-bow, from this time till the reign of Edward III.† when in the year 1363, the king wrote to the sheriffs of London, on account of the decline of Archery; and ordered that “ they should cause public proclamation to be made; that every citizen, at leisure times and holidays, use in their recreations Bows and Arrows, or Pellets, or Bolts, (these Bolts were the Arrows used for Cross-bows, as will be shewn hereafter) and learn the art of shooting.”

From

And again, pg. 589—42—An. 1242,—“ Erant autem in exercitu Regis Anglorum tunc mille sexcenti milites, & viginti milia de pedestri expeditione, et septingenti Arcubalistarii.”

† In Rymer, indeed, is the following passage with respect to Cross-bow-men:—“ Liberavit quatuor hominibus ad Arma, quatuor Balistariis & quatuor sagittariis in munitione Castris de Shirburn commorantibus.”

*Reign of Edward II. See Rymer, Vol. III. pg. 211.*

And again, Vol. III. pg. 946, two hundred Cross-bow-men are spoken of, Anno 1322.



From the reign of this king, till the time of Richard II. nothing occurs worth relating, in regard to the Cross-bow in this country. It was, however, made use of at Bosworth field, 1485; and there is an Arbalest in the Lichfield Museum, which was found on the place of battle.

The succeeding king, Henry VII. was more partial to the Long-bow than the Arbalest; and in the nineteenth year of his reign, forbade the use of the latter, in order to encourage the practice of the former. § It is from this period, we may date the decline of the Cross-bow in this country, as in the following reigns it was but little in esteem. Henry VIII. indeed, instituted a society of Archers, called

§ 19th Henry VII. ch. 4.—“ No man shall shoot in a Cross-bow, without the King's licence, except he be a Lord, or have two hundred mark land.”

called the Fraternity of St. George, to encourage the practice of the Arbalest and Long-bow ; but the Arbalest appears to have been very little used : that king also, made a law which tended very much to check the use of it. Stat. 33. Ch. 6. complains that divers murders had been perpetrated by means of Cross-bows ; and that malicious and evil-minded persons carried them ready bent and charged with Quarrels, to the great annoyance of passengers on the high-ways. The act therefore restrains this custom, and ordains that those who are possessed of lands to the value of an hundred pounds per annum, shall alone use the Cross-bow ; and that they shall not ride with them on the king's high-way, nor shoot within a-quarter of a mile of any city, or market town, under a penalty for so doing.

The



pics in the end of the twelfth century, and who speaking of the age of this king, has these words:—

“ Francigenis nostris illis ignota diebus  
 “ Res erat omnino quid Balistarius arcus  
 “ Quid Ballista foret, nec habebat in agmine toto  
 “ Rex quemquam sciret armis qui talibus uti.”

The reason given for the discontinuance of the Arbalest, during the time of Philip the August, appears to be, that that weapon was prohibited, by a Canon of the second Lateran Council, holden in 1139, as *hateful to God, and unfit to be made use of among Christians.*† But although the Canon was strictly observed for some years,

† “ Artem illam mortiferam & Deo odibilem Balistariorum & Sagittariorum adversus Christianos & Catholicos exerceri de externo sub anathemate prohibemus.” — *Can.* 30.

And also, 4th Lateran Council, *Can.* 18:—“ Nullis quoque clericus rotariis aut Balistariis aut hujusmodi viis sanguinem præponatur.” This may allude to the the larger engines, but I do not imagine it does, in this case.

years, and until the commencement of the reign of Philip; it was nevertheless, soon after, revived among warlike instruments by that king; and he is supposed to have taken example from the conduct and advice of our Richard I. who brought the weapon into great repute during his expeditions on the Continent, in the time of Philip, with whom he was intimate. §

At the siege of Turin, in 1536, P. Daniel says there was but one Arbalister in the French army; but he was so expert that he killed more persons than any of those using the Harquebuses.

Q q 2

The

§ Britton says, Richard revived the Arbalest in France: the Poet introduces Atropos, one of the Destinies, as decreeing the King's death by that weapon.

“ Hic volo, non aliã Richardum morte perire:  
 “ Ut qui Francigenis Ballistæ primitus usum  
 “ Tradidit, ipse sui rem primitus experiatur;  
 “ Quamque alios docuit, in se vim sentiat artis.”

*Philip. Lib. 7.*

The fame the Genoefe have acquired by their skilful management of the Cross-bow, induced me to search the histories of that state, in order to discover the period in which it became so much in favour among them. These people are celebrated very early, for their ingenuity in contriving warlike engines, and for their matchless skill in managing them. The success which attended the Christians, at the siege of Jerusalem, in 1100, is attributed principally to the mechanical talents of the Genoese; but although a variety of arms and engines of war, such as battering-rams, towers of wood to mount the walls of cities, ballistæ, &c, are enumerated by some Italian writers, I have not, however, discovered that the Arbalest is any where expressly named. But it is reasonable to suppose this instrument was then in use among them, as they

they are said to have had all kinds of missile weapons.\*

In the beginning of the thirteenth and until the middle of the fifteenth century, Cross-bow-men are uniformly made mention of among the Genoese troops. From Justiniano we learn, that in the year 1225, twenty Arbalesters mounted on horseback, and one hundred on foot, having Bows of horn, were then employed in the army of the state. || Five hundred were sent against the Milanese, in 1245, and these unfortunate men being placed  
in

\* Tasso, in his "*Gierusalemme Liberata*," makes mention of the Arbalest, and Quarrels, which were the Arrows used for that kind of Bow:—

“ Quinci le frombe, e le *Balestre*, e gli archi.”

*Cant.*, 20.—23.

See also *Cant.* 20—63—12—4, &c.

|| “ Venti Ballestrieri a cavallo & cento Ballestrieri a piede con le Ballestre di corno.”

*Annali di Genova*, pg. 75.

in the front of the lines, were taken prisoners by the enemy; who, to revenge the havock done by their Bows, cruelly punished each with the loss of an eye, and the amputation of an arm; after which they were liberated and sent back to their native country, where they received a pension from their fellow citizens.†

The greatest number of these troops which appears to have been ever introduced into the field, was at the battle of Crecy, in 1346, in which engagement the foremost rank of the French army was composed of fifteen thousand Genoese Cross-bow-men.§

For the space of more than a century, no anecdote worthy of notice occurs,  
till

† Foglieta, Vol. I. pg. 352.—Thefaur. Hist. Ital. Gravii & Burmanni.

§ Hume, Vol. II. pg. 432.



till the period in which the Byzantine court was finally subverted by the Turks, in 1453, at which time three hundred Arbalesters, among a number of other armed men, were sent from Genoa to assist the besieged.

I shall here close my account:—And although I have with some diligence looked over the histories of the Republic, and the works relating to Genoa, which are inserted in the collections of Muratori, Grævius and Burman, I have not been able to discover either the time in which the Cross-bow was introduced into the Italian armies, or the period of its entire banishment; the two principal æras, the most valuable to record.

Arbalests were made on different principles, but the more modern form was that represented Fig. 5. Pl. 4. and which  
is

is copied from a very old book on French tactics.

In the middle of the Bow-stock at A. was inserted a small round piece of iron, Fig. 6. It was on this nut (as they termed it) that the string was held when they charged the Bow. This nut was fixed in the stock by a screw passing through its center, and on which it freely turned. The notch L. arose above the surface of the stock on its upper side, and the string was received into it when drawn up. B. Fig. 5. represents a trigger, the end of which was inserted into the notch G. Fig. 6. and prevented it from moving while the nut held the string; but on being pressed (as it turned on a pin) the end was displaced from the notch, and the nut turned round by the force of the string, which it set at liberty and projected the Arrow.

The

The Scorpion was made in a very different method, but as it was a complex instrument, a verbal description would be but indistinct. I shall refer those, therefore, who have a desire to examine its construction, to Mr. Grose's History of the Army, Vol. II. Pg. 286, where the parts are all delineated separately, and also to Montfaucon, *Antiq. Expliq.* Vol. IV. Pl. 79.†

R r

The

† There are some other kinds mentioned: concerning the peculiar figures of which I am not entirely clear. —“Balistæ a pectoribus.”—“Rectæ Balistæ, quibus istæ muchettæ propriè deputantur, sunt Balistæ, quæ Balistæ a pectoribus nuncupantur.”—“Arbalest à tour.”—“Parce qu' elle étoit bandée avec un tour.”

Vous peussiez les magoneaux  
 Voir par dessus les carneaux ;  
 Et aux Archères tout autour  
 Sont les *Arbalestes a tour.*

*See Caseneuve. Les Origines de la Langue  
 Francois. Paris, Folio 1694.*

The Arrows shot from Cross-bows were called Quarrels, or Bolts.\* They were usually headed with a large square pyramid of iron, but had sometimes other forms given to them: See Pl. 3, in which the figures on the lower parts of the plate, are of Arrows for the use of the Cross-bow. These, as well as those for Long-bows, had heads which fitted on to them occasionally, and which, when carried into the flesh, remained there. Figures 1 and 3, are the shafts of Arrows; and Figures 2 and 4, the heads to be applied to them.

Instead of feathers, the Quarrels were sometimes trimmed with plates of brass, or iron.

One

\* "Parce que le fer en étoit quarrè."—*P. Daniel.*

———Quadratæ cuspidis una

Pendit arundo.———

One species of *Quarrel*, which was called in French the *Vireton*, from its spinning round as it passed through the air, was made as our common Arrows are at present,—with the feathers set on a little curved; but it is probable that that method of placing the feathers was not in general used in the fifteenth century, the period in which the *Vireton* is most spoken of, or a particular name would have been unnecessary.

An English phrase, (as Mr. Barrington observes) originated from the use of the *Bolt*.—*I have shot my Bolt*, is a saying which intimates an attempt having been made in some way. An example of this expression occurs in Langtoft's Chronicle, § where an Essay on Stonehenge is entitled, “ *A Fool's Bolt soon shot at Stonage.*”

R 1 2

It

§ Oxford Edition, Octavo, 1725.

It was customary among those who practised with the Cross-bow to have a mark, which they called a Poppingay, formed like a Parrot, as we may suppose, and which was suspended in the air. Stow in his "*Survey of London*," says, the Cross-bow makers rented Tazel-Close, a place near Moorfields, for the purpose of exercising themselves with that weapon, at the Poppingay.† The practice has been very ancient in France, and appears from P. Daniel, to have been instituted as early as the reign of Philip I.\*

The Cross-bow, as it is capable of being managed with greater accuracy than the Long-bow, has been in all times used in the chase; and even long after the construction of the musket was highly improved, the silent discharge of the  
Arbalest,

† Stow's Survey, pg. 175.

\* Hist. de la Milice, Vol. I. pg. 379.

Arbalest, rendered it more valuable in the pursuit of timorous animals, than any other weapon.|| It was formerly, and perhaps is at present in use, for the purpose of killing deer; and gentlemen often *amuse* themselves by shooting bullets at rooks and rabbits, which some can strike with wonderful dexterity.‡ For killing birds,

|| Anciently, when the forests were preserved for the sake of hunting, an inferior officer belonging to those districts, was called "*The Bow-bearer.*" The appointment is now fallen into disuse; but the following form of the oath taken by that officer, will explain the duty with which he was entrusted:—

" I will be true man to the Master of this Forest, and to his Lieutenant; and in their absence I shall truly over-see, and true inquisition make, as well of sworn men, as unsworn, in every Bailwich, both in the North-bail and South-bail of this Forest; and of all manner of trespasss done, either to Vert or Venison, I shall truly attach, or cause to be attached, in the next Court of Attachment, there to be present, without any concealment had to my knowledge.

SO HELP ME GOD.\*

‡ No circumstance which has fallen under my observation, illustrates so well, the accuracy with which the Cross-bow was formerly shot, as the following passage

birds, there was a particular kind of Arrow, having a ball of wood at the end of it, and which was named the "*Bird-bolt.*" This Arrow had often, besides the ball, an iron point which projected before it, and with which the smaller animals were transfixed.

At present the Cross-bow is but little in use in England, but there are many places on the Continent, in which societies practise with it.

## CHAP.

passage in *Wood's Bowman's Glory*. "On March the 21st, anno 1661, four hundred Archers, with their Bows and Arrows, made a splendid and glorious show in *Hide-Parke*, with flying colours, and Cross-bows to guard them. Sir Gilbert Talbot, Bart. was their Colonel, Sir Edward Hungerford, Knight of the Bath, their Lieutenant Colonel, Mr. Donne was their Major. Great was the appearance both of the nobility, gentry, and commonalty. Several of the Archers shot near twenty score yards, within the compass of a hat, with their Cross-bows; and many of them, to the amazement of the spectators, hit the mark. There were three showers of Whistling-arrows. So great was the delight, and so pleasing the exercise, that three regiments of foot laid down their arms to come to see it."

*Bowman's Glory*, pg. 73.



## C H A P. XIII.

---

*Of SKILFUL ARCHERS.*

I Shall now lay before my readers some of the exploits of those heroes, who have individually signalized themselves as Archers.

Nations, as well as men, have been famous in antiquity, for their skill in the management of the Bow. The Cretan Archers, were early employed by the Greeks, and were extremely valued by that people. The Persians  
were

were celebrated in all ancient histories, and appear to have been very expert; trusting as much to their Arrows, as their swords. The Parthians were remarkable for their dexterity in shooting behind them, on an enemy pressing upon the rear, and whilst their horses were in full speed.\* This art, however, was by no means peculiar to the Parthians, as the Scythians§ and Sarmatians are reported to have shot in the same attitude. The inhabitants of India, and those bordering on that country, were all

\* “Parthi missilibus telis, aut sagittis assuescunt, citis cohortibus nunc occurfant, nunc terga dantes, simulata fuga.”—And Virgil also,

“Fidentemque fuga Parthum, versisque sagittis.”

§ The more modern Scythians, or Tartars, are said to be very adroit on horseback.—“Men of that country ben alle gode Archeres, and shooten righte welle, bothe men and women, als wel on hors bak, prykinge, as on fote, renninge.”

*Maudevile's Trav. pg. 301.*



battered shield, glanced every well-directed weapon aside. This was the school wherein the Roman loved to study, and which taught him to view the Archer with contempt.

Although the Legions of the Roman state were unaccustomed to the use of the Bow, † Archery was nevertheless cultivated by many private individuals. The Circus was often the scene where feats of this kind were exhibited; and even Emperors themselves were actors. Domitian and Commodus, have been particularly celebrated for their matchless excellence in managing the Bow; but at the same time we admire the skill of these performers, we must allow, how little  
in

† Romanis ipsis ab antiquo vix fuerunt sagittæ. Sed post Punicum bellum secundum creberrima in Romanis castris sagittarii, sed auxiliæres, non cives.

*Lipfius.*

in character he must appear, who acts the Archer in the Imperial purple.

It is reported of Domitian, that he would often place boys in the Circus at some distance from him, and as they held out their hands, and separated their fingers, he would shoot an Arrow through either space, without injury to the hand of him who *acted-target*.\*

The feats recorded of Commodus, are numerous; and he appears to have been one of the most expert Archers history has made mention of,

S s 2

It

\* Suetonius. Vita Domitian.

The reader will, I hope, excuse the expression, \* *acted Target*," when he recollects some of the characters in "*The Midsummer Night's Dream*:"—*Moonshine*,—*Lion*,—and a *Wall*.

" In this same interlude it doth befall,

" That I, one *Snow* by name, present a *wall*."

*Act V. Scene 2.*

It is said by Herodian,† that his hand was unerring both with the Javelin and with the Bow; and that the most experienced Parthian Archers, yielded to his superior skill.§ He would kill all kinds of animals in the Amphitheatre by way of exercise, and to shew the steadiness of his arm. But it is observed, that he, in these cases, generally preferred to shew his art, rather than his courage; as he secured himself on a place elevated beyond the reach of any attack which might have happened from his opponents. Stags, Lions, Panthers, and all species of beasts, fell without number by his hand; nor was a second Arrow necessary, for every wound proved mortal. He would strike an animal in any particular point

† Lib. 1—15.

§ “—— felix arcus, certique petitor

“Vulneris, et iustum mentiri nescius istum.”

*Claud. 4. Cons. Hon. 52.*

point he wished with the greatest accuracy, in the head, or in the heart. A Panther was sometimes let loose into the Circus, where a criminal was placed; and just as the animal was going to seize the culprit, he would drive an Arrow so opportunely, that the man should escape unhurt. An hundred Lions have been introduced at the same time upon the Arena, and with an hundred shafts he would lay them lifeless. He caused Arrows to be made with heads curved in a semicircular figure, and with these he could cut off the neck of an Ostrich running in full speed.

This feat is, perhaps, the most difficult of the whole number, the Ostrich being extremely swift of foot, and having a neck of very small magnitude. Herodian observes also, that when the Emperor amputated the head of one of these animals,  
the

the stroke severed the parts so instantaneously, that the body sometimes proceeded several paces, as if still living; the motion not being immediately checked.

Constantius was much skilled in the practice of Archery, and is said to have studied that art in his youth, under the direction of a preceptor.\*

Both the Emperor Julian† and Gratian are characterized as expert Archers. The latter

\* Neque veromanipulares solum milites, sed principes et jam juventutis, seu Imperatorum liberos, eundem quoque artem, prout de Constantio dicitur sub Doctoribus sagittariis didicisse, docebit in ejusdem Imperatoris & fratris Constantis laudatione, Libanius.

*See Cyrill. advers. Jul. pg. 109.*

This Emperor is said by others to be—"mirus artifex in sagittas——destinandi sagittas mire promptus," &c.

*See S/anhcim Obf. ad Orat. Jul. pg. 114.*

† —Maximeque perite dirigendi sagittas. *Am. Mar. L. 21. Ch. 16. and Spanh. ubi supra.*—ἵππων τε μάχαισιν, καὶ τοξὸν ἐντέθειται, καὶ βέλαι σιωπῆ τυχῆν. These were his exercises.



latter proposed to himself the actions of Commodus as examples, and like him, frequently exhibited to the public, the adroitness with which he could kill animals, running together in an enclosed place, by his Arrows. ||

An anecdote recorded of a person, whose name was Afer, has immortalized him as one of the most expert of Archers. He possessed such skill with his Bow, that as he saw Philip of Macedon among his troops, he wrote upon an Arrow which he intended to shoot at that King—" *Afer sends Philip a deadly Arrow;*" and having discharged it, struck the right eye of Philip; but although the wound was not mortal, it deprived him of sight on that side. §

A very

|| Ammianus Marcellanus, Lib. 31, Ch. 10, pg. 491.

§ Philippus Olynthum & Methonem oppugnaturus dum trajicere Sandanum fluvium vi contendit, sagitta ietas

A very extraordinary, and perhaps in war one of the most useful Archers, is spoken of by Zosimus, in his account of the battle between Constantius and Magentius, at Murfa. This soldier, whose name was Menelaus, possessed the art of shooting three Arrows from his Bow at one discharge, and with them could strike three different persons. By this skilful expedient, says the historian, he killed a great number of those who opposed him; and the enemy, it might almost be said, were defeated by a single Archer. Unfortunately, however, this valuable man at last fell by the hand of Romulus, a general of the army  
of

*istus est ab Astere Olynthio qui et dixit,*

“ *Aster lethale Philippo mittit spiculum.*”

*Philippus retro ad suas natando evasit, amisso ex eo vulnere oculo.*

*Plutarch. Parrel. pg. 307. Vol. II. Fol. Par. 1624.*

*See Justin also, Lib. 7. Ch. 6.*

of Magentius, whom he had first wounded by an Arrow.‡

The story of William Tell is perfectly known, and in the mouth of every one; I need not therefore celebrate his skill, by giving an account of the exploit he is said to have performed with his Bow.

Quintus Curtius relates, that Bessus having been condemned to death, and crucified, for the murder of Darius, his body was ordered to be guarded while on the cross, lest the birds should molest it. The office was committed to one Catenus, who was so excellent an Archer, that he could hit those animals with his Arrows.\*

T t

It

‡ See Zozimus, Lib. 2. pg. 132, Oxf. Edit. Oñavo.

\* “ Ut Alexander Oxathrem fratrem Darii, quem inter corporis custodes habebat, proprius jussit accedere; tradique Bessum ei, ut cruci adfixum mutilatis auribus naribusque, sagittis confingerent barbari; *adserarentque corpus, ut ne aves quidem contingerent.* Oxathres cetera

It appears probable that birds formerly were often killed by Arrows, as the circumstance is hinted by several authors. Diodorus Siculus, indeed, tells us, that some of the Ethiopian nations were so adroit, that they subsisted entirely on the birds they shot with their Bow.† We must

cetera sibi curæ fore pollicetur. Aves non ab alio quam a Catene posse prohibere adjicit; eximiam ejus artem cupiens ostendere. Namque adeo certo ictu destinata feriebat, ut aves quoque exciperet. Nam etsi forsitan sagittandi tam celebri usu minus admirabilis videri hæc ars possit; tamen ingens visentibus miraculum, magnoque honori Cateni fuit.

*Q. Curt. Lib. 7. Ch. 5.—40.*

A law made in France in the reign of Dacobert, anno 630, inflicted a penalty on Archers, who, shooting at birds which came to devour the dead after a battle, wounded the body on which they sat.—“ Et si ut sæpe contingat, aquilæ vel ceteræ aves cadaver repererint, & super ad lacerandum confederint, & aliquis sagittam ejecerit, & cadaver vulneraverit, et reperi- tum fuerit, cum duodecim solidis componat.”

*Capit. Reg. Franc. pg. 136.*

† — εκ ολιγοι δ' αυτων και ταῖς τοξηταις εηθληκοτες των πτηνῶν, εντοχως πολλα τοξενουσι δι' ὧν την της φυσικως ενδειαν αναπληρωσιν.

*Lib. 3. Vol. I. pg. 179.*

muſt underſtand, I imagine, in the above paſſages, that the birds which the Archers are ſaid to have killed, were flying; though that is not expreſſly mentioned. If they were fitting ſtill, and were large birds, the difficulty of hitting them at a ſhort diſtance would not be ſo great as may be ſuppoſed. Savages in America, and India, are ſaid often to kill birds; and it is common to ſee on cabinets from the Eaſt, figures of men ſhooting Arrows at them.

Some very ancient and rude pieces of ſculpture, which are copied by Stralenburg, in his *History of Siberia*, (Pl. 3 and 4,) repreſent Archers riding on horſeback, who are aiming at birds flying in many directions, low to the ground, and perpendicularly over their heads. The plates, in the voyages of Ramuſio,

T t 2

con-

contain several figures shooting at birds which are perching on trees.

Among the feats which have been recorded of Hercules, that of his killing the stymphalic birds (or swans) with his Bow, must not be omitted. This is often figured on gems and other antique pieces of sculpture.—See Tassie's Gems, No. 5750; and Spense's Polymetis, Pl. 18. Fig. 5. §

The Caribbees seem to have possessed an art in shooting their Arrows, peculiar to themselves, as appears from a circumstance which occurred to Columbus, in his second voyage. “A canoe belonging to these people, having accidentally fallen in with the fleet under his command, a vessel with a few men was sent towards it,

§ “Æripedem silvis cervam Styphalidas astris  
“Abstulit:”——

*Martial.*

it, while the other ships surrounded it in order to cut off a communication with the shore. When the persons in the canoe saw it was impossible for them to escape, they fought with great resolution and wounded many of the Spaniards, although they had Targets and other kind of armour; and even when the canoe was overset, it was with difficulty the people were taken, as they continued to defend themselves and to use their Bows with *great dexterity* while swimming in the sea."‡

From the accounts we have of the Persians, they appear to be astonishingly expert in the art of shooting the Bow; and if we believe the relations of those who have travelled in the East, (and these relations are uniform) they certainly are to be placed in the first rank of Archers.

‡ Robertson's History.

Archers. Chardin says, that the Persians in their exercises shoot the Bow with incredible accuracy; so accurate, that they will drive an Arrow into the same hole, many times successively. The Butts they use are made of sand, beaten hard into a wooden frame, the surface of which is rendered smooth before the Archers begin to practice. An Arrow shot strong against one of these Targets, will usually penetrate pretty deep, perhaps half its length; and the excellence of an Archer is the greater, in proportion as the number of shots required to drive an Arrow over head in the hole, made by the first shot, diminishes. This feat is what they generally propose to themselves, and it not unfrequently happens, that they accomplish their end.

In Persia also, they excel in shooting the Bow while on horseback; a species  
of.



of Archery we in this country are entirely ignorant of. The author above quoted (Chardin) describes the method of practising this art, as extremely curious.

A mark is placed on the top of a mast about six and twenty feet from the ground. The horseman who is prepared to shoot, rides on full speed towards the mark, and having passed it, his Bow being ready drawn, turns round and discharges his Arrow backwards. Sometimes they shoot to the right hand, and sometimes to the left, according to the direction in which they guide their horses, in respect to the mark they propose to aim at.

Our traveller speaks of this game as common in all the villages of Persia. The nobility and the kings are fond of it, and often practice. He says, that Sephy, the grandfather of the king who  
occu-

occupied the throne, at the time he made his tour, excelled in this sport; and would usually strike the Target, if not with the first Arrow, with the second he never erred.†

Mr. Tavernier had an opportunity of being present at a review of the Persian cavalry, during his residence in the East, in the year 1654. His account of the exhibition is curious, and will also enable us to judge of the degree of excellence, to which Archery was brought in that nation.

“ The

† This diversion was formerly in use among the Turks, as we find the following account given by Busbequius:—“ Mos est antiquus gentis jam a Parthis deductus, ut in equo fugam simulantes hostem temere subeuntem sagitta feriant: quod ut faciant expeditius ita consequuntur: Summam altissimæ perticæ, sive mali in plano erecti partem æreo globo indunt, quem ad malum ubi celerrimo cursu equum incitarunt, jamque nonnihil præterveffi sunt, repente conversi resupinatique equo cursum perficiente, sagittam in globum illum mittunt: ejus rei frequenti usu efficiunt, ut nullo negotio arcu in fuga verso hostem incautum figant.”

*Busbeq. pg. 200.*

“ The King,” he says, “ accompanied by his principal officers, stood on a portal to one of the royal gardens; from whence they viewed the most expert and best-looking of the troops, who were ordered to ride singly before the place where the King was stationed. The horsemen rode full speed; and as they passed, each man shot an Arrow into a turf Butt, prepared for the occasion, in sight of the king and the officers. When the review closed, the person whose Arrow stood nearest the center, was promised an increase of pay.”

“ I was at Casbin,” says Mr. Tavernier, “ at the time; and remember one horseman, who, riding in his turn, when he came before the portal, stopped his horse, and walked over the plain, contrary to the orders of the general. When he came opposite the Butt, he re-

U u

fused

fused to shoot his Arrow, and only raised his arms in the attitude of drawing the Bow. This horseman was unfortunately of a very forbidding mein; and the King, enraged to see his discipline so grossly disregarded, and by one he judged incapable of any excellence, gave immediate orders for him to be dismissed the service. His weapons and horse were taken from him on the spot; and the King's directions would have been fully executed, had not one of the generals pleaded his cause. It was represented to the King, that the cavalier, though so ill-looking, was one of the best soldiers in the whole army:—that he had fully proved his skill and courage in the sieges of Erivan and Candahar;—and that his father was among those who maintained the attack of Bagdad three times. Having heard this character, the King, at the request of the officers, commanded the  
horse

horse and arms to be restored to the cavalier, and he was ordered to take his turn in the review. He accordingly rode into the presence of the king, and turning his horse first to right, then to left, in some agitation, cried out, "Where would the King have me to shoot?" On which one of the generals answered, "At the Target where the other horsemen have shot." The cavalier shaking his head, said with a smile, "Must I direct my Arrows against a turf? I would rather point them at the enemies of my country; then would I with more pleasure shoot three Quivers full, than a single Arrow at this turf." He then, with great dignity, drew two Arrows from his Quiver, and holding one of them between his teeth, fitted the other into his Bow; when forcing his horse vigorously across the plain, till he had passed the Butt, he in the Parthian attitude, drove an Arrow

U u 2

into

into the center of the Target. Turning about, he in the same manner shot his second Arrow precisely into the hole from whence his first Arrow had been drawn.

“ The general who had before pleaded for the cavalier, now approached the king, and hoped the adroitness of that foldier had fatisfied the expectation he had raifed. At the same time feeing the cavalier at hand, and presenting him to the King, his Majesty not only expreffed admiration at his great skill, but ordered five times the propofed reward to be given him.”

The Turks are faid to have been formerly very dexterous in the management of the Bow, though at present that instrument is little ufed among them. An old writer, who refided in Constantinople  
at

at a time when Archery was cultivated, speaks highly of the feats of these people.

Boys at the age of eight years, or even seven, began to practise with the Bow, in order to render their arms strong and steady; and by the time they arrived at manhood, they could shoot with so much accuracy, as to drive an Arrow into the eye of a man, or could hit any part equally small. They could, during their practice, shoot several Arrows into a mark not larger than a die, from the distance of ten yards.

Once a year, says the author alluded to, on a particular day the Archers were used to meet on a plain, in order to try their skill in shooting to a distance; and the spot where the most remote Arrow fell, was always marked by a large stone,  
fixed

fixed up by way of commemoration. This custom had subsisted many years, and there were a great number of these stones to be seen at different distances on the plain.\* What is extraordinary in this custom is, that the Archers did not shoot their Bows standing in the usual position, but every one sat cross-legged, in the manner common to the Turks.

It must be observed, that the Bows used anciently by the Eastern nations, were much shorter than those made at this time in England; for which reason a man sitting on the ground would feel no inconvenience from the lower end of the Bow striking the earth in shooting, which would have been the case had those  
instru-

\* Stuart mentions a random shot with an Arrow, of Haffam Aga, governor of Athens, which he measured and found to be 1753 English feet, or 584 yards. See Athenian Antiq. Vol. I.



instruments been formerly as long as the modern ones. §

Hitherto I have celebrated the heroes of prose, I shall now end the whole with mentioning a few heroes of poetry.

It would be an endless task to relate all the exploits of the Bow which have been

§ “ Ex his aliquot solemnibus Paschatis (nam et ipsi suum habent pascha) in magna super Peram planicie conveniunt, ubi æqua fronte humi confidentes crucibus ita compositis ut fartorum apud nos consuetudo est (ea est enim propria Turcarum fessio) à precatatione orsi (ita sua omnia Turcæ auspicantur) inter se quis longius sagittam mittat contendunt. Agitur ea res magna modestiâ & silentio, quamvis adstante spectatorum multitudine. Arcus habent ad eam rem brevissimos, coque rigidiores, nec ulli nisi exercitatissimo flexibiles: sed et peculiare in eum usum sagittas habent. Victori linteum acu pictum, quo faciei sudorem solemus abstergere, præmium proponitur; sed multo maximum gloria. Quantum vero spatium suis sagittis transmittant, creditu difficile. Locus quo adacta est ejus sagitta, qui eo anno longissime jaculatus est, lapide signatur. Eorum lapidum jam a prisca temporibus plures extant, illis qui hodie ponuntur, multis passibus remotiores, quos

been recorded in fiction. It will be sufficient for me to select two instances, the most perfect of their kind. The first I refer to, is the story which is told of Ulysses, in the twenty-first book of the Odyssæy. The poet feigns, that Penelope, wearied by the sollicitations of her suitors during the absence of Ulysses at the Trojan war, at length forms a resolution to determine which of the lovers shall receive

quos majorum suorum metas fuisse persuasum habent: ad quorum robur & jaculandi scientiam ipsi se adspirare non posse, fateantur. In diversis vero urbis Constantinopolis vicis & quadriviis hujusmodi ludi sunt, quo non modo pueri & adolescentes, sed et provectoris ætatis homines congregantur. Scopo præest aliquis, ad quem ejus tuendi cura pertinet, qui quotidie aggerem aquâ rigat, exariturum alioqui sic ut sagittæ (quibus utuntur in ludo obtusis) figi in eo non possent. Qui quidem scopi custos assidue astans terra extractas | mundatasque sagittas jaculantibus rejectat. Quo nomine a singulis certa donatur stipe, qui ei quæstus est. Scopi frons ostioli similitudinem refert; ex quo forte usurpatum est Græcis proverbium, ut cum toto scopo aberrare aliquem significare volunt, eum jaculari contra januam, dicant."

*Basilianæ, Opera. Ep. 3.*

receive her hand. She produces a Bow which had been left with her by her husband, and thus declares her proposal:

“ Who first Ulysses' wond'rous Bow shall bend,  
 “ And thro' twelve ringlets the fleet Arrow send,  
 “ Him will I follow, and forsake my home,  
 “ For him forsake this lov'd, this wealthy dome.  
 “ Graceful she said, and bade Eumæus shew,  
 “ The rival peers the ringlets and the Bow.”

*Pope.*

Just as they had agreed to decide by this expedient, Ulysses disguised in the dress of a shepherd, returns from Troy. After several of the lovers had tried unsuccessfully, even to bend the Bow; and after some altercation concerning the propriety of allowing a man of so mean an appearance, to have any chance of gaining the prize; Ulysses takes the Bow—

“ And fitting as he was, the chord he drew,  
 “ Thro' ev'ry ringlet levelling his view;  
 “ Then notch'd the shaft, releas'd, and gave it wing: }  
 “ The whizzing Arrow vanish'd from the String, }  
 “ Sung on direct, and threaded ev'ry ring.  
 “ The solid gate its fury scarcely bounds;  
 “ Pierc'd thro' and thro', the solid gate rebounds.”

X x

Ulysses

Ulysses having gained this prize, discloses himself, and immediately puts to death those suitors to Penelope, who had taken advantage of his absence.

I give the outline of this beautiful scene with all brevity, hoping the reader will be excited to peruse the whole account in the *Odyssy* itself.

The second passage I intend to produce, is from the twenty-third book of the *Iliad*.\* Homer is describing the funeral games instituted by Achilles, in honour of Patroclus; among which a contest of the Bow is introduced.

“ Those who in skilful Archery contend,  
 “ He next invites the twanging Bow to bend :  
 “ And twice ten axes casts amidst the round,  
 “ (Ten double-edg'd, and ten that singly wound.)  
 “ The mast, which late a first-rate galley bore,  
 “ The hero fixes in the sandy shore :

“ To

\* Virgil has copied this Arching scene, with a little variation, in *Æneid* 5. L. 485.

“ To the tall top a milk-white Dove they tye,  
 “ The trembling mark at which their Arrows fly.  
 “ Whose weapon strikes yon’ fluttering bird, shall bear  
 “ These two-edg’d axes, terrible in war;  
 “ The single, he, whose shaft divides the cord.  
 “ He said : experienc’d MERION took the word;  
 “ And skilful TEUCCER : In the helm they threw  
 “ Their lots inscrib’d, and forth the latter flew.  
 “ Swift from the String the sounding Arrow flies;  
 “ But flies unblest ! No grateful sacrifice,  
 “ No firstling Lambs, unheedful ! didst thou vow,  
 “ To PHŒBUS, Patron of the Shaft and Bow.  
 “ For this, thy well-aimed Arrow turn’d aside,  
 “ Err’d from the Dove, yet cut the cord that ty’d:  
 “ A-down the main-mast fell the parted string,  
 “ And the free bird to Heav’n displays her wing;  
 “ Seas, shores and skies with loud applause refund,  
 “ And MERION eager meditates the wound.  
 “ He takes the Bow, directs the shaft above,  
 “ And following with his eye the soaring Dove,  
 “ Implores the God to speed it thro’ the skies,  
 “ With vows of firstling Lambs, and grateful sacrifice.  
 “ The Dove, in airy circles as she wheels,  
 “ Amid the cloud the piercing Arrow feels :  
 “ Quite thro’ and thro’, the point its passage found,  
 “ And at his feet fell bloody to the ground.  
 “ The wounded bird, e’er yet she breath’d her last,  
 “ With flagging wings alighted on the mast,  
 “ A moment hung, and spread her pinions there,  
 “ Then sudden dropt, and left her life in air.  
 “ From the pleas’d crowd new peals of thunder rise,  
 “ And to the ships brave MERION bears the prize.”

*Pope's Homer.*

A P P E N -



## A P P E N D I X.

---

IN the note, page 90, it is said, that in order to shoot their Bows, the Archers placed them on the ground.—The same is asserted of the Indians, in the quotation from Arrian, at page 87, of this Essay.

The parts here referred to, are extremely obscure as they stand at present; but a passage from Quintus Curtius, which I by an oversight have omitted in its proper place, in a great measure explains them. The historian says, “The Indians shoot their Bows with more labour than effect, because their Arrows, the force of which is principally on account of their lightness, are on the other hand of an unweildy load.”—“*Quippe telum, cujus in levitate vis omnis est, inbabili pondere oneratur.*” Lib. 8. Ch. 9. Having mentioned these large Arrows, he in another place tells us, “that

“ that on account of their weight, the Archer is obliged to rest his Bow upon the ground, while he adapts the Arrow to the String, and before he lifts it up to shoot.—*nec sagittarum quidem ullus erat barbaris usus: quippe longas & prægraves, nisi prius in terra statuant arcum baud satis apte & comode imponunt.*—Lib. 8. Ch. 14.” This is very different from shooting the Bow by placing it on the ground, as the before-mentioned authors intimate.

---

Of the ROYAL COMPANY of ARCHERS, in  
EDINBURGH. See pg. 229.

THE practice of Archery being greatly decayed in Scotland, divers gentlemen, in the year 1676, associated themselves to restore the same, and to obtain Letters Patent to erect a Company for that purpose: preparatory to which they drew up certain articles of the following tenor for their better regulation:—

- I. That a council, consisting of seven members of the society, be annually chosen, one  
whereof



whereof to be president, who shall make rules and constitutions for the government of the company.

II. The said council shall appoint three of the most expert Archers to hear and determine all disputes and differences which may happen to arise amongst the several members concerning Archery.

III. That the council constitute a treasurer, fiscal, clerk and officer,—one beadle; and to provide books for recording the transactions of the society.

IV. That none be suffered to practise the art of Archery within the city or suburbs of Edinburgh, but freemen of the company; and each person, before his admission, to undergo a trial, in respect to his knowledge in Archery; and if approved, by the judges appointed for such trial, shall be admitted into the freedom of the company, by a proper instrument under the seal of the society.

V. That certain persons be appointed by the company to instruct the inexperienced who desire to become members of the society, till they

they be qualified to undergo a trial, preparatory to their admission.

VI. That each person, at his being admitted a member of the society, to give a discretionary sum of money, according to his quality, for the use of the company; and that all pecuniary mulcts and amerciaments be paid to the treasurer, for the use of the society.

VII. That public Butts be erected, either at the company's expence, or by donation from the town council, for the use of the society, which strangers shall likewise have the use of without fee or reward.

VIII. That a prize be provided at the expence of the company, (if one be not given by way of a present) to be yearly shot for, to be prepared at the will and pleasure of the town council, whether a silvern Arrow, cup, or other piece of plate, and the solemnity to be observed at after the winning the said prize, to be in the said council's option.

IX. That the company, or as many of them as shall be summoned by the council to shoot, either at Butts or Rovers, for an extraordinary,

traordinary, or any public occasion, shall be sure to attend, no excuse to be admitted for absence, but sickness, or other lawful impediment.

X. That the company have proper officers, with colours and drums, under proper regulations, with all necessary accoutrements, and to be mustered once a-year, with the society's arms, or a symbol in their hats or bonnets, and to perform such exercises as the council shall please to order.

The above constitutions were not only confirmed by the Privy Council on the 6th of March, anno 1677; but the commissioner of the king's treasury, at the recommendation of the said Privy Council, gave the company the sum of twenty pounds *Sterling* to purchase the first prize to be shot for.

The company being by letters patent from Queen Anne, of the 31st December, in the year 1713, erected into a corporation by the stile and title of *The Royal Company of Archers*; applied to the Common Council of Edinburgh, for a piece of waste ground on the western side of the parliament close near *Beth's Wynd*, to

Y y

erect

erect Butts on. The said council, willing to encourage this laudable undertaking, not only granted their request, but, as a further encouragement in the year 1719, gave them the silver Arrow belonging to the city, to be annually shot for; and on the 20th of May, anno 1726, confirmed the same with additions of the following tenor.

I. That the said silver Arrow be shot for at Rovers, in the Links of Leith, on the second Monday of the month of July yearly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, if good weather; if not, to be shot for on the first fair Monday following.

II. That notice be given on the last Monday of June, and first Monday of July, of the yearly shooting for the city's Arrow, by beat of drum throughout Edinburgh.

III. That none be admitted to shoot for the said Arrow, but the members of the company, who are ready and willing to admit all qualified persons into the freedom of their company.

IV. That a spot of ground of at least thirty ells square, round each mark be set up for security of the spectators, and the Archer's  
Arrows;

Arrows; and that none but the members of the company presume to enter the same during the time of shooting, under the penalty of four pounds Scottish money.

V. He that wins the Arrow shall keep it in his possession till the first Monday of the following month of April, on his giving security to return it to the treasurer of the company, with his badge affixed thereto.

VI. That on returning the said Arrow to the treasurer by the Winter, the dean of Guild to pay him the sum of five pounds *Sterling* as the prize, in lieu thereof.

VII. That a register be kept of the times the Arrow was shot for, by whom won, the names and numbers of the Archers, who shot for it, with those of the badges or symbols appended thereto.

This Royal Company of Archers, consisting of the prime nobility, gentry, and other persons of distinction, on the yearly day of shooting, are richly apparelled in the Highland dress; and in their march through the city, form a very pompous procession, which not only attracts persons of note from the distant parts of  
Scotland

Scotland to behold the same, but many persons of distinction from the Northern parts of England resort hither on that occasion.

*Maitland's Hist. of Edinburgh. Pg. 323, Fol.*

---

Page 241. The following account of Barlow being created Duke of Shoreditch, is given in the "*Bowman's Glory*".

"This noble king (Henry VIII.) at another time keeping a Princely Court at Windsor, caused fundry matches to be made concerning shooting in the Long-bow; and to which came many principal Archers, who being in game, and the up-shot given, as all men thought, there was one *Barlo* yet remaining to shoot, being one of the king's guard; to whom the king very graciously said,—“Win them all and thou shalt be Duke over all Archers.” This *Barlo* drew his Bow, and shooting won the best. Whereat the king greatly rejoiced, commending him for his good Archery; and for that this *Barlo* did dwell in Shoreditch, the king named him *Duke of Shoreditch*.”

*Bowman's Glory. Pg. 41.*

T H E E N D,

Page 100 — of note — read — under —  
 101 — of note — read — under —  
 102 — of note — read — under —  
 103 — of note — read — under —  
 104 — of note — read — under —  
 105 — of note — read — under —  
 106 — of note — read — under —  
 107 — of note — read — under —  
 108 — of note — read — under —  
 109 — of note — read — under —  
 110 — of note — read — under —  
 111 — of note — read — under —  
 112 — of note — read — under —  
 113 — of note — read — under —  
 114 — of note — read — under —  
 115 — of note — read — under —  
 116 — of note — read — under —  
 117 — of note — read — under —  
 118 — of note — read — under —  
 119 — of note — read — under —  
 120 — of note — read — under —

E R R A T A.

| Page.        | Line.  |
|--------------|--|
| 7.           | 2.—in Note, for <i>Boyle</i> ,—read— <i>Bayle</i>  |
| 12.          | 4.—for <i>early</i> ,—read— <i>remote</i>  |
| 22.          | 20.—for <i>them</i> ,—read— <i>him</i>   |
| 24.          | 17.—for <i>where</i> ,—read— <i>were</i>   |
| 46.          | — last word of note,—read— <i>καλαμίσυς</i>  |
| 48.          | 11.—for <i>gilding</i> ,—read— <i>gilding</i>  |
| 59.          | 3.—of note,—for <i>qui</i> ,—read— <i>que</i>  |
| 67.          | 3.—for <i>Bows</i> ,—read— <i>Bow</i>  |
| 108.         | 13.—for <i>13th</i> ,—read— <i>14th century</i>  |
| 124.         | 9.—end of the line add— <i>barbed</i>  |
| 143.         | 10.—for <i>poison</i> ,—read— <i>poisons</i>   |
| 151.         | 14.—dele, and  |
| 190.         | 9.—for <i>principal</i> ,—read— <i>principle</i> , and after the paragraph, add, see <i>Pl. 2. Fig. 8.</i> and <i>10. Pl. 4. Fig. 7.</i> |
| 217.         | 21.—First line of last note,—read— <i>altera</i>   |
| 232.         | 1.—add a <i>period</i> instead of a <i>comma</i> at <i>Bow</i> .   |
| 249.         | 5.—dele— <i>entirely</i>   |
| <i>ibid.</i> | 17.—for <i>still</i> ,—read <i>sometimes</i> ; and add at the end of next line,— <i>by them.</i>   |
| 305.         | 8.—of note,—read— <i>mangoneaux.</i>   |

there was one *Barlo* yet remaining to shoot, being one of the king's guard; to whom the king very graciously said,—“ Win them all and thou shalt be Duke over all Archers.” This *Barlo* drew his Bow, and shooting won the best. Whereat the king greatly rejoiced, commending him for his good Archery; and for that this *Barlo* did dwell in Shoreditch, the king named him *Duke of Shoreditch.*”

*Bowman's Glory. Pg. 41.*

T H E E N D.



