

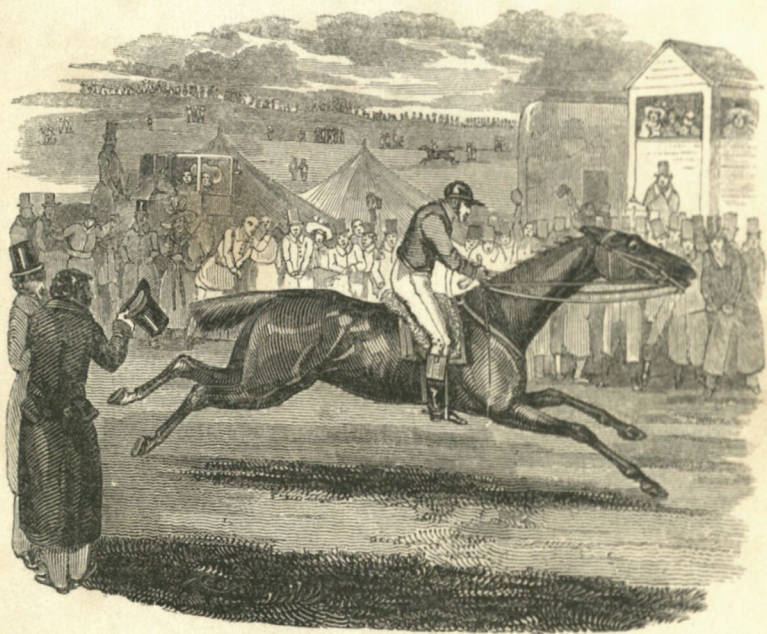


PIERCE EGAN'S
BOOK OF SPORTS,
AND
MIRROR OF LIFE:

EMBRACING
THE TURF, THE CHASE, THE RING, AND THE STAGE

INTERSPERSED WITH
ORIGINAL MEMOIRS OF SPORTING MEN, ETC.

HOMO SUM, HUMANI NIL À ME ALIENUM PUTO.—TERENCE.



DEDICATED TO
GEORGE OSBALDESTON, Esq.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR T. T. AND J. TEGG, 73, CHEAPSIDE;
AND R. GRIFFIN AND CO. GLASGOW.

1832.

Drake

Let's go to the Races

PIERCE EGAN'S BOOK OF SPORTS.

No. I.]

[Price Three Pence.



THE SWELL DRAGSMAN OF "THE AGE."

With spirits gay we mount the box, the tits up to the traces,
Our elbows square, all so prime, dash off to Epsom Races:
With Buxton bit, bridoon so trim, three chestnuts and a grey,
Well couple up, my leaders there! Ya! hip! we bowl away.

It may, perhaps, be necessary to observe, in commencing the "BOOK OF SPORTS," that to "START well" is one of the greatest objects in life; in fact, a good *start*, as the Stewards assert, backed by the knowing or experienced sort of folks at Epsom, Ascot, and Doncaster races, is half-way towards winning the gold cup; therefore, the Editor of the BOOK OF SPORTS is most anxious to obtain the *START*; or, in other words, that he

may be enabled to get over the ground like nothing else but a "good one," and also to arrive at the winning-post with ease, in style, and to a certainty:

Hark forward, my boys, see the game it's in view:
we, therefore, hope that our vehicle on the Road of Life will be found compact, firm, and "all right," and composed of the best materials; that our cattle will prove them-

PIERCE EGAN'S BOOK OF SPORTS.

No. II.]

[Price Three Pence.



MIRABILE DICTU! SHAVING A HORSE!!!

"The longer we live," it is said, "the more we shall see;" but, in opposition to the above old adage, the quibblers assert, "there is nothing new under the Sun.!" But we most decidedly enter our protest against this doctrine, and the 'TALE, or *Circumstance*,' we are about to unfold, will enable us to show that we have quite a NEW FEATURE in the history of our times, to lay before the public.

It is true, that we have heard of the mighty doings of the Flying Childers; the Phenomenon Trotting Mare; the out-and-out Tom Thumb; and the celebrated Eclipse. We have also seen Mr. Ducrow perform his unrivalled feats with his wonderful cattle; in fact, every thing connected with horses, has excited our attention, from the high-mettled racer down to the crib-biters, roarers, jibbers, and Rosinantes of all descriptions; but, most certainly, we

never, before the present instance, heard of in our lives, since we first saw the day-light,— a HORSE BEING SHAVED!!! But, without any further remarks upon the subject, as facts are stubborn things and speak for themselves, we shall content ourselves with

A round, unvarnish'd tale!

It must be admitted as one of the most extraordinary circumstances in the year 1831; nay more, as a capital 'wind-up' to that eventful period; then thus it is:—

COURT OF CONSCIENCE!

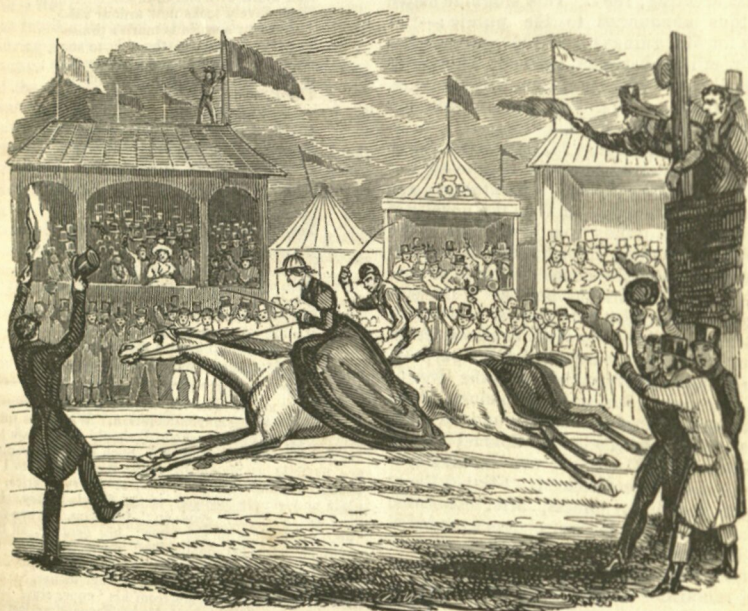
FIELD, a (*Barbatie*), versus WELLS, *Gent.*

The above personages did not employ counsel to assist them in this knotty affair; but preferred, as the best mode of saving expenses,

PIERCE EGAN'S BOOK OF SPORTS.

No. IX.]

[Price Three Pence.



*The Gallant and Spirited Race, at Knavesmire, in Yorkshire,
For 500gs. and 1000gs. bye—4 miles—between*

THE LATE COL. THORNTON'S LADY AND MR. FLINT.

See the Course throng'd with gazers and lots of "Old Rakes"—
To view the 'beautiful Heroine' start for the stakes,
With handkerchiefs waving, the spectators all clap,
Half dressed like a jockey, with her whip and her cap,
With spirits like fire, behold her mount the gay *prad*,
And the cheers and the smiles make her heart light
and glad;
And Mrs. Thornton's 'the favorite' through thick and
through thin,
And the SWELLS and the *Jockeys* all bet that she'll
win!

THE *Annals of the Turf* do not contain such
another extraordinary circumstance as the
above match; indeed, it stands *alone* in the
9.

Sporting World, not only as a most singular
contest, but as a lasting monument of FEMALE
INTREPIDITY. Mrs. Thornton, it should seem,
was 'as much attached to the Sports of the
Field, as her husband, the late Colonel
Thornton; she had also a great passion for
horse exercise, and, like Miss *Pond*, of former
celebrity, she would try her skill and nerve
in racing. The families of the Colonel and
Mr. Flint lived upon terms of the greatest
intimacy, the two ladies being sisters.—
During one of their equestrian excursions in
Thornville park, a conversation took place

PIERCE EGAN'S BOOK OF SPORTS.

No. X.]

[Price Three Pence.



THE COCKPIT.

No sooner were the doubtful people set,
The match made up, and all that would had bet,
But strait the skilful judges of the play
Brought forth their sharp-heel'd warriors, and they
Were both in linen bags, as if 'twere meet
Before they died to have their *winding sheet*!
Into the Pit they're brought, and being there
Upon the stage, the Norfolk Chanticleer
Looks stoutly at his ne'er before seen foe,
And like a *challenger* began to crow !

THE ORIGIN AND ANTIQUITY OF COCKING.

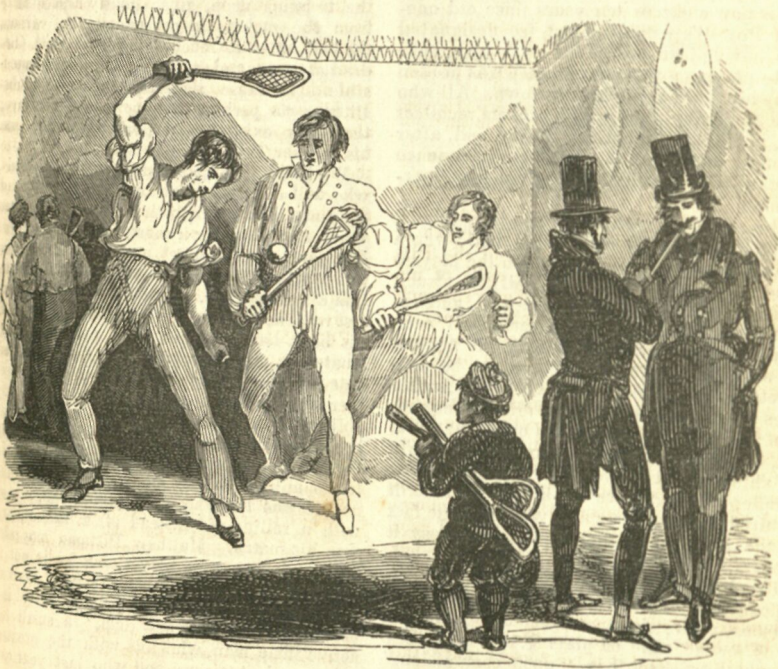
This is so evidently of Grecian original,
that the inhabitants of Delos and Tanagra
were lovers of this sport at a very early

period, when several cities of Greece were
eminent for their magnanimous breed of
chickens. It was adopted by the Romans
about 471 years before the christian era ; or,
according to some authors, immediately after

PIERCE EGAN'S BOOK OF SPORTS.

No. XV.]

[Price Three Pence.



THE GAME OF RACKETS:

*One of the most healthful Exercises connected with BRITISH SPORTS ;
and the principal Amusement for confined debtors in the
FLEET and KING'S BENCH Prisons :*

Disguise thyself as thou wilt, still, SLAVERY, thou art a bitter draught ; and, though thousands, in all ages, have been made to drink of thee, thou art no less bitter on that account ! But it is thou, LIBERTY, thrice sweet and gracious goddess, whom all in public or in private worship, whose taste is grateful and ever will be so—till NATURE herself shall change : no tint of words can spot thy snowy mantle, nor chemic power turn thy sceptre into iron : with thee to smile upon him as he eats his crust, the Swain is more happy than his Monarch !

BRavo, STERNE ! We revere thy memory for the above beautiful sentence, which must ever be viewed as a kind of Legacy left to Posterity, never to lose sight of the advantages and happiness attendant on Liberty. But to the

point—the GAME OF RACKETS is a truly pleasing Sport ; not only for the spirit and amusement which it affords to the mind, but the good results which the constitution derives from such active exercise ; there is no game,

PIERCE EGAN'S BOOK OF SPORTS.

No. XVII.]

[Price Three Pence.



OLD ENGLISH RUSTIC SPORTS:

"We ought to take care," animatedly observed *Sergeant Best*, now *LORD WYNFORD*, "to preserve our NATIONAL HABITS, MANNERS, and CUSTOMS. From the union of these has arisen our national spirit, our love of independence, of justice, and of our country—THE TRUE AND ONLY SOURCES OF ALL OUR GREATNESS AND ALL OUR HAPPINESS. Wakes and their amusements are amongst the customs, and are the fruits of our liberty. He who would destroy them, would make a change in our manners and habits, the extent of which we cannot see, and for the consequences of which no good man would choose to answer."

THE above sentences are so truly English-like, in our humble opinion, that they cannot be too often repeated; neither can they be too animatedly impressed upon the minds of all those persons holding official situations, more especially country magistrates. We feel quite assured those individuals who love their country, and who also wish to see the inhabitants of it living contented and happy under a go-

vernment where such rational and pleasant principles of liberty are recognized and patriotically encouraged, that the old British Rustic Sports will never want supporters. The minds of the middling and lower classes of society must be relieved from the cares and fatigue of business; relaxation at times is positively necessary, both for the body as well as the senses, in order to create fresh vigour