

**BLAIR ATHOL: A  
NOVEL, IN THREE  
VOLUMES, VOL. I**

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Blair Athol: A Novel, In Three Volumes, Vol. I by Blinkhoolie

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**BLINKHOLIE**

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NOVEL, IN THREE  
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BLAIR ATHOL.

VOL. I.



# BLAIR ATHOL

3 Nobel

By "BLINKHOLIE,"

AUTHOR OF

"THE TALE OF A HORSE," "HIDDEN TALENT," ETC.

*IN THREE VOLUMES.*

VOL. I.

LONDON:  
CHAPMAN & HALL, LIMITED, 11, HENRIETTA ST.,  
COVENT GARDEN.

1881.

CLAY & BOND STREET.

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TO

Edelyn Roscawen,

SIXTH

VISCOUNT FALMOUTH,

THE ENGLISH THOROUGHBRED HORSES'S BEST FRIEND,

IN WHOM IS PERSONIFIED

"SPORT"

PURE AND DISTINCT

FROM "GAMBLING" ON THE TURF,

THIS BOOK

IS, WITH PERMISSION, DEDICATED,

IN TOKEN OF

THE SINCERE ADMIRATION AND RESPECT OF

THE AUTHOR.

NOV 16 1951

SLOCUM



## P R E F A C E .

A FEW words as to the object of this novel, for it has a very definite object, although, of course, it must depend for success upon such intrinsic merit as it by chance possesses. Blair Athol is specially chosen as the type of a horse that may raise better feelings in men's minds than those of mere money speculation.

Love of horses for their own sake, and of sport for its own sake, is chiefly needed to keep the English turf pure, and to make racing a national benefit.

The object—and no novel was ever worse for having a good object—is to show in these pages, however feebly, that the love of a good horse, so far from being hurtful, may even serve to keep a man straight in life, and certainly in the racing world; while a gambling spirit, not elevated by the pure ideal of sport, brings ruin on those who are swayed by it, no matter in what phase of existence. The race for wealth chokes all delicacy of sentiment, and deadens the brightness of old-fashioned honour. But much that seems fanciful, or even fantastic to those who look on everything from a hard, business-like