# FOX HUNTING: A TREATISE BY THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KILREYNARD

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Fox Hunting: A Treatise by the Right Hon. the Earl of Kilreynard by C. W. Bell

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## C. W. BELL

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# FOX HUNTING:

## A TREATISE

BY THE

RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KILREYNARD.

NOW COMPILED AND ILLUSTRATED

BY

C. W. BELL.

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HORACE COX,
WINDSOR HOUSE, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, E.C.

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### PREFACE.



WHO have compiled these writings am innocent of any intention to defraud in offering them to a confiding and, I hope, forgiving section of lovers of English literature.

If anyone is to blame for their publication, it is a friend who has himself written a book and has, time after time, emerged unscathed

from a publisher's office. This friend has assured me that "Kilreynard on Fox Hunting" would have a monetary value provided that the outer coverings were made sufficiently attractive to compensate the buyer for what he is likely to find within.

To this end I have devoted the best of my days, and, with an apology to Mr. Punch's College of Arms, I leave it to the kind reader to say whether or not the result is eminently satisfactory.

The life-like portraits with which the treatise is embellished have not met with the unqualified approval of the celebrities they so strikingly represent. The danger and difficulty that an artist has to contend against in illustrating historical works of this kind can only be appreciated by those who try it.

Criticism has been not only adverse, but varied. In no single instance is a portrait admitted to be in the least like. It has even been urged that whips are not depicted in the way they should be held. So trifling a detail as the omission of spurs has excited severe comment on the part of those who are portrayed, in spite of my assurance that they are safer without them.

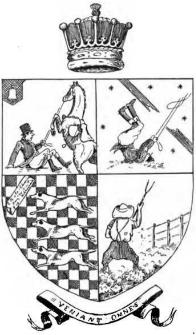
It has been hinted that when it becomes known that there is no such nobleman as the Earl of Kilreynard recorded in the Peerage, the sale of the booklet will diminish to nil.

The Earl's coronet, although merely symbolic, is an exact copy of the genuine article, which may atone for the deception as regards the mythical Earl. The Kilreynard family, I rejoice to say, is by no means extinct—on the contrary, it is full of going, and there are many to be found in the arena of sport to compete for the representation of that illustrious race.

As the kind and forbearing reader watches the charred remains of "Kilreynard on Fox Hunting" disappear up the chimney of his study, let him reflect that he has at least contributed to a good cause. The profits of the sale of this little book, if profits there be, are not destined to replenish the empty coffers of Kilreynard Castle. They will be offered to the Hunt Servants' Benefit Society instead.

C. W. B.

October, 1899.



THE KILREYNARD ARMS.

ARMS: QUARTERLY.—1st. In dexter chief on a road sloppy, a sportsman segeant and caparisoned, anathematising a horse fresnée and full of beans; emblematical of the song called "The place where the old horse shied." and, Over a bar sinister charged and fracted, a thruster taking a toss proper into a field starry. 3rd. On a field chequey, a pack of hounds courant, painstaking to the last. 4th. Out of a cabbage bed vert, a sturdy Briton rampant grasping a toss fork gory. Motto: "Let 'em all come."

# Fox Hunting.

HE origin of this scientific pursuit is so remote that it may be said to be lost in the dense mist, of antiquity, but that the sport of fox hunting existed in pre-historic ages there can be no doubt whatever, as there is no evidence, either documentary or otherwise, to prove that it did When or where the first fox was hunted and killed by hounds has never been determined by the Masters of Foxhounds' Committee. it is to be hoped that in the interests of science and morality no pains will be spared to throw light upon so important a question, and decide it for good and all. So far, every scrap of evidence that has been adduced by the various hunts in support of their claim to this distinction has been proved by the author to be utterly spurious and misleading.

There can be no question that the glacial periods of the dark ages proved most disastrous to the interests of fox hunting when we consider the discouragement that five thousand or more