

**SHOOTING AND FISHING IN
LOWER BRITTANY. A
COMPLETE AND PRACTICAL
GUIDE TO SPORTSMEN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649382385

Shooting and fishing in lower Brittany. A complete and practical guide to sportsmen by John Kemp

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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JOHN KEMP

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Dedicated to

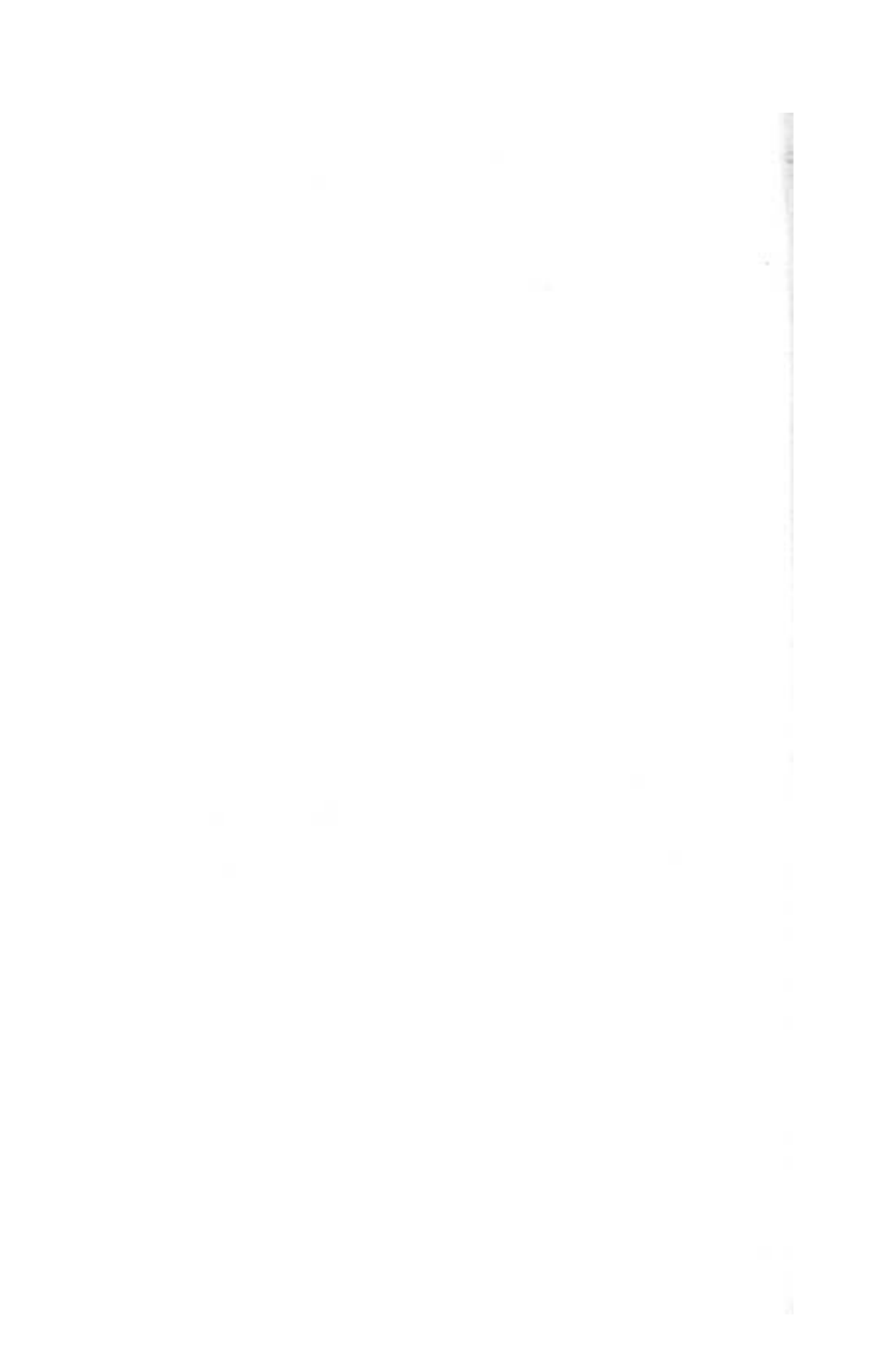
HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF HAMILTON AND BRANDON.

By his friend,

THE AUTHOR.

1811



PREFACE.

SPORTSMEN of the British Isles; the following pages are addressed to you, for the double purpose of enlightening you about a country that is almost unknown, and to induce others to go and write a "plain unvarnished tale" about the numerous sporting *terra incognitæ* that grace the map of Europe. From my own experience, I know what it is to be set down in an uncivilised country with only Murray in my hand, and gun and dog by my side, but without a scrap of knowledge of where to go for sport, or how to set about the attainment of it. The secrets of the cities of Europe are laid bare by the most accurate of guide books, and each wonder can be visited in quick succession by the stranger, so simple are the directions that the said volumes give. Why should we sportsmen not have our

books to depend upon? Why should we have only hearsay as our guide, when we wish to know something about the woodcock-shooting in Greece, the quail-shooting in Algeria, the trout-fishing in the Tyrol, or the salmon-fishing in the north of Spain? Will no sporting Murray arise, and give us a notion of where we are to make our bivouack, what barren spots we are to avoid, and what we are to *pay*? Surely there are many amongst us that would be glad to forsake the *battue*, and leave it for those whose time is of value, and who can but seldom snatch a day for the pleasures of sport. Surely there are many who are tired of paying high rents, and receiving nothing as a set-off for their investments, and who, "*auspice* sporting Murray," would be pleased at setting forth in quest of health-giving amusement in foreign lands. People, I think, only want to know beforehand that they are not starting on a positive wild goose chase, to induce them to pack up their portmanteaus and sporting paraphernalia, and try their luck.

In following out this idea, I have dwelt, im-

partially I hope, on both the agreeables and disagreeables that the sporting tourist will probably meet with in Brittany. I have endeavoured to show, how in every place there is some drawback, that will prevent its being considered perfect, and how such imperfection is to be remedied. I have also put forth that useful thing, "a list of prices," without which, in these days of mighty Mammon, no account would be considered complete. Next, I have been at pains to avoid going over the ground that other travellers have trod before me, viz., the recital of marvellous stories and legendary lore that have graced the pages of all previous books about Brittany. Many a time have I wished to plunge into details, respecting superstitious rites that I have witnessed, and to describe the curious ideas and wonderful language of *Les braves Bretons*. Often have I lingered over the old churches and monuments—some of the latter so far removed from the ordinary routes of travellers as never to have been gazed on by English eyes,—and longed to commit some description of them to paper.

Many a time have I wished to recite the wild legends that I have heard in country Inns, when ensconced in some wide chimney corner; but I have, for the most part, forborne to do so. I have always kept before my eyes the works of former travellers, and felt, like a sportsman, that I would not poach on other people's ground, or shoot where some one else had just been. So, principally confining myself to sporting intelligence, I address myself to the British public, and sincerely hope that the information contained in the following pages will answer the double purpose of enlightening people about Brittany, as well as inciting better men to "open up" the resources of other countries, as yet unknown to us.

DECEMBER 1st, 1859.

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