

THE AMATEUR POACHER

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649045433

The Amateur Poacher by Richard Jefferies

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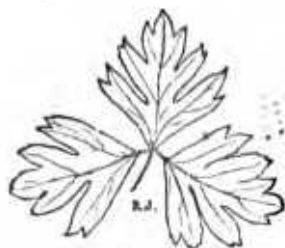
**THE AMATEUR
POACHER**

THE
AMATEUR POACHER

BY
RICHARD JEFFERIES

AUTHOR OF
'THE GAMEKEEPER AT HOME' 'WILD LIFE IN A SOUTHERN COUNTY'
'GREENS FERNE FARM' 'HODGE AND HIS MASTERS'

NEW EDITION



LONDON
SMITH, ELDER, & CO., 15 WATERLOO PLACE

1856
1857

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THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
74117
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1897.

NOV 19 1917
JULIAN
WHEELER

PREFACE

THE following pages are arranged somewhat in the order of time, beginning with the first gun, and attempts at shooting. Then come the fields, the first hills, and woods explored, often without a gun, or any thought of destruction : and next the poachers, and other odd characters observed at their work. Perhaps the idea of shooting with a matchlock, or wheel-lock, might, if put in practice, at least afford some little novelty.

R. J.

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the same time, the fact that the β phase is not observed in the β -phase region of the phase diagram (Fig. 1) is not surprising. The β phase is not observed in the β -phase region of the phase diagram because the β phase is not stable in this region.

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CHAPTER I

THE FIRST GUN

THEY burned the old gun that used to stand in the dark corner up in the garret, close to the stuffed fox that always grinned so fiercely. Perhaps the reason why he seemed in such a ghastly rage was that he did not come by his death fairly. Otherwise his pelt would not have been so perfect. And why else was he put away up there out of sight?—and so magnificent a brush as he had too. But there he stood, and mounted guard over the old flintlock that was so powerful a magnet to us in those days. Though to go up there alone was no slight trial of moral courage after listening to the horrible tales of the carters in the stable, or the old women who used to

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