

**THE FLYING SCUD. A  
SPORTING NOVEL; IN  
TWO VOLUMES, VOL. I**

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The Flying Scud. A Sporting Novel; In Two Volumes, Vol. I by Charles Clarke

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**CHARLES CLARKE**

**THE FLYING SCUD. A  
SPORTING NOVEL; IN  
TWO VOLUMES, VOL. I**



# THE FLYING SCUD.

A Sporting Novel.

BY THE AUTHOR

OF

"CHARLIE THORNHILL," "WHICH IS THE WINNER,"

"THE BEAUCLEES," ETC.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.



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RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.  
1867.

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# THE FLYING SCUD.

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## INTRODUCTION.

FOR the last fifty years, by almost imperceptible degrees, a passion for the turf has been developing itself among us. Nothing in the world, especially among the passions, can be regarded as an unmixed good; and, although there are many qualities and characteristics in an honest sportsman which form the basis of English nationality, they are often joined with others which fade into vices, the very reverse of that openness and

honesty which was once the boast of our countrymen.

If the turf system of this country ever dies, it will only be by burying itself beneath that load of avarice which is well-nigh stifling its best aspiration. However, while the professional speculators who pull the strings are as indifferent to the pastime, as a Poor Law guardian to the sufferings of innocent pauperism, or a sheriff's officer to the entreaties of his prey, there are many thousands of spectators who still love a thorough-bred horse for himself, and the healthy pleasure he affords them; who fail to recognise in him at first sight, the instrument of wrong, and the unconscious means of aristocratic swindling.

For this greatness of our countrymen of every class and denomination, Mr. Dion Boucicault has catered. He has provided

one of those dramatic pictures which flatter our intelligence, by reproducing what we feel to be true; and which appeal to our sympathies at the same time. It was a bold experiment, but not more bold than successful; and it is so successful, because every individual takes it, as it were, under his especial protection, and pronounces his own criticism without regard to any voice but that of his own intelligence or experience.

To Mr. Boucicault's kindness and ready permission I am indebted for the opportunity of presenting the same features of sporting life in the pages of a novel. I believe I see in his drama the foundation of a story, whose interest may be heightened by more close and careful analysis of the separate characters which he presents to you on the stage of a theatre, and though it be true