

**THE FOURTH REPORT OF THE  
ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
DISCOURAGEMENT OF DUELLING  
WITH THE REGULATIONS, AND  
LIST OF MEMBERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649197521

The fourth report of the Association for the discouragement of duelling with the regulations, and list of members by Various

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**VARIOUS**

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THE  
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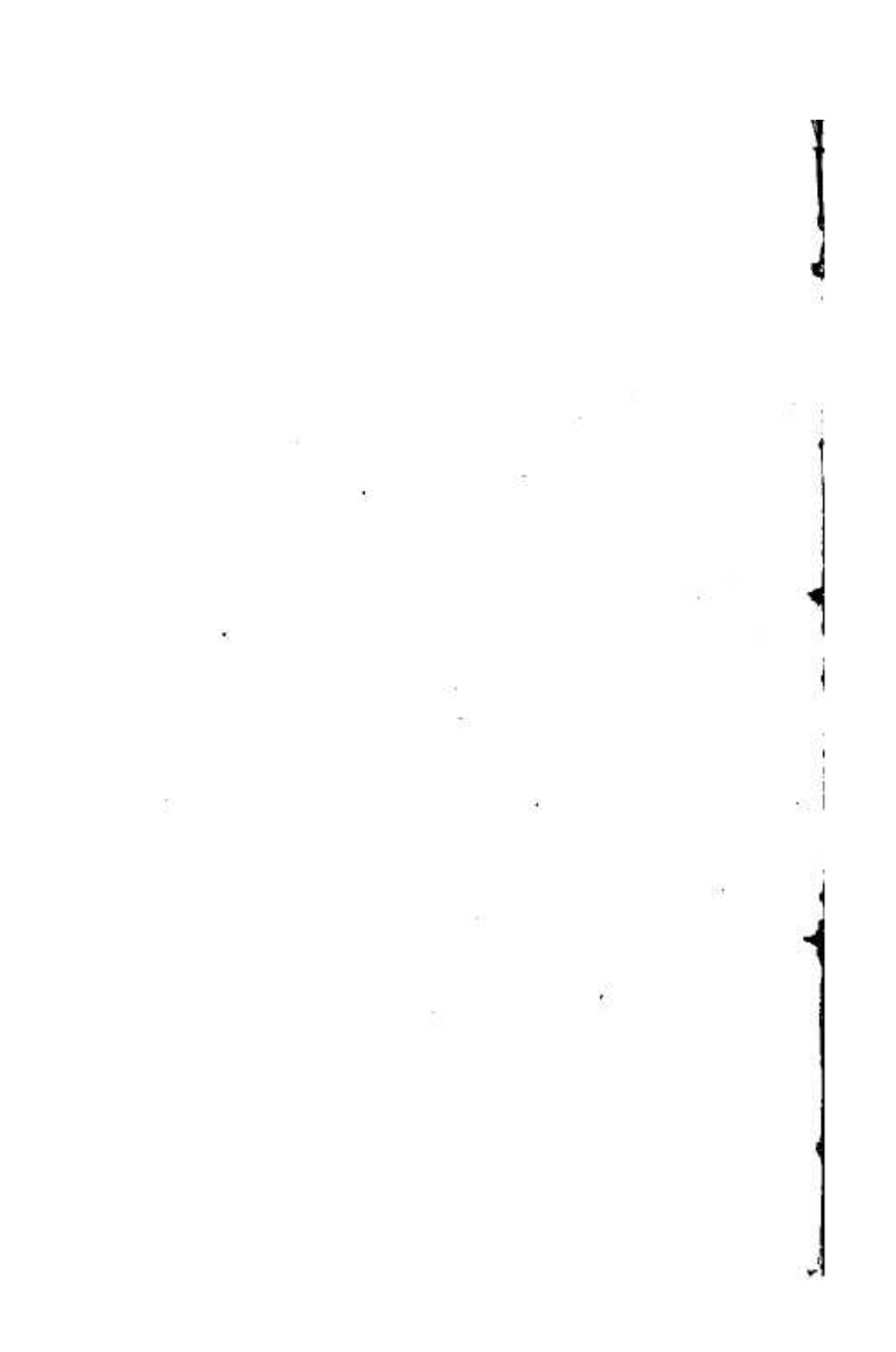
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LONDON:

WODDERSPOON, PRINTER, 16 & 17, PORTUGAL-ST.  
LINCOLN'S-INN-FIELDS.

1850.



ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE  
DISCOURAGEMENT OF DUELLING.

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 10, Hanover-square.

\* \* See a *list of the Members of the Association at the end of the Report.*



THE  
FOURTH REPORT,

&c.

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A PERIOD of nearly eight years having elapsed since the formation of this Association, it has been deemed advisable by the Committee at the present time, to issue a brief narrative of the origin, design and proceedings of the Society, as well for the information of its Members, as for more general circulation in this and other countries where its influence is likely to be useful in promoting the discontinuance of the sinful and irrational practice of Duelling.

To every reflecting mind it may well be matter of surprise, that notwithstanding the manifest opposition of Duelling as well to the express command of Almighty God and the whole spirit of Christianity, as to all laws civil and military, and to every principle of common sense, it has been allowed so long to survive the dark age that gave it birth; and that no well-sustained effort should have been made, in spite of the many tragical occurrences arising out of it, to effect its entire suppression.

The French nation during the reign of Louis XIVth did indeed honorably distinguish itself by the adoption, among many of the principal nobility, of a declaration against Duelling, which subsequently received countenance from a royal edict in 1689,\* and was followed by con-

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\* The following is a translation of the resolutions adopted by the French marshals and nobility:—"The undersigned, by the present writing, make a public declaration and protestation of refusing all kinds of challenges, and of not fighting a duel on any occasion whatever; and of rendering all kind of testimony of the detestation they have of duels, as a thing wholly contrary to reason, to the welfare and the laws of the State, and inconsistent with salvation and the Christian religion; though, without

siderable success for a time in discontinuing the practice. In this country, however, homicide after homicide occurred; and yet the law, though theoretically visiting the offence with capital punishment, has, from misdirected public feeling, been rendered impotent to suppress it. Partial efforts, from time to time, directed against the practice, or rather perhaps against a supposed abuse of the practice, have been attended with the like result; and although the secondary checks of improved education and refined manners have had their influence in rendering duels less frequent, they failed to touch the root of the matter, by disabusing the public mind of the false impression that Duelling was a necessary evil. The system of Duelling was still upheld in full force, and no small degree of moral courage was needed on the part of an individual openly to declare his dissent from its authority. Under such circumstances the sin was one of the community, and every individual was *primâ facie* implicated in it; his opinion, if suppressed, was supposed to fall in with that of the social body; and by it, those who submitted to the rules of society, uncontrolled by any higher power, were governed, and in cases of emergency became bound to give or accept a challenge.

In this state of things those individuals who upon Christian principles abhorred the practice, and would under no circumstances whatever have been parties to a duel, found themselves in the false position of living under a shelter from insult, which in heart they repudiated; while they failed in the Christian duty of giving countenance to others and especially to men younger than themselves, who might be conscientiously averse to fight a duel, and yet want moral courage to incur the odium of refusal. Under these considerations several private meetings were held in the year 1841,

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renouncing the right of repelling, by all lawful means, any injuries that shall be offered to them, according as their profession and birth shall oblige them to it—being always ready on their parts to give, with sincerity, a right understanding to those who shall conceive themselves to have some cause of resentment against them, and resolving not to give occasion to any man."

which were attended by many noblemen, officers, and civilians, with a view of devising means, in dependance on the blessing of God, for producing a change in public opinion on the subject of Duelling, for which the time had been rendered favourable, by several tragical duels of recent occurrence.

At these preliminary meetings difficulties in the way of proceeding were strongly felt; and nothing but a consciousness of the rectitude of their object, with a dependance on the Divine guidance and blessing, availed to stimulate the advocates of the undertaking to a forward movement. As a first step, however, the following resolution was unanimously adopted on the motion of Sir Robert Harry Inglis, Bart., M.P., at a private meeting held on the 13th May, 1841:—

- “ We, the undersigned, hereby form ourselves into an Association for the purpose of considering the best means of preventing, under the blessing of Almighty God, the crime of Duelling.
- “ And we request Captain Henry Hope and Mr. William Dugmore to summon us together whenever it may appear to them desirable for the above object.”

A memorandum to the above effect was signed at the Meeting, and within a short time afterwards, by a large number of noblemen, officers and civilians of high rank and character: and ultimately a General Meeting, convened by public advertisement, was held at the British Hotel, Cockspur Street, London, on the 12th February, 1842, Rear-Admiral Hawker in the Chair; when an Association was formed under the name of “ The Association for the Discouragement of Duelling,” and rules to the following effect were adopted, expressive of its character and design:—

- “ I. That the Members of this Association, under the fullest conviction that the practice of Duelling is both sinful and irrational, and alike contrary to the laws of God and man, desire, in dependance on the Divine blessing, to discountenance by their influence and example, and by such other means as may appear advisable, the continuance of a practice so dishonourable to God, so fraught with evil to mankind, and so wholly incompatible with the enlightened and responsible state of a nation professing Christianity.