

**RECOLLECTIONS OF THE EARLY DAYS
OF THE VINE HUNT AND OF ITS FOUNDER
WILLIAM JOHN CHUTE, ESQ., M.P. OF
THE VINE TOGETHER WITH BRIEF NOTICES
OF THE ADJOINING HUNTS**

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Recollections of the Early Days of the Vine Hunt and of Its Founder William John Chute, Esq.,
M.P. Of the Vine Together with Brief Notices of the Adjoining Hunts by James Edward Austen-
Leigh

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JAMES EDWARD AUSTEN-LEIGH

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ETC.

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OF THE VINE

TOGETHER WITH BRIEF NOTICES OF THE ADJOINING HUNTS

BY

A SEXAGENARIAN

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1865



PREFACE.



SINCE these Letters were prepared for the press, the writer has seen the far fuller and more useful work entitled 'Sporting Reminiscences of Hampshire, by Æsop.' It may be well to state that the nearly simultaneous appearance of these two books is entirely accidental. The writers have had no communication, and are not personally known to each other. Whenever, therefore, they both state the same fact, or concur in the same opinion, they must claim to be considered as perfectly independent authorities. If there should be any points on which they may be found to differ, the reader must judge for himself, which of the two writers probably possessed the best means of ascertaining the truth on that particular point.



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RECOLLECTIONS
OF
THE VINE HUNT.

LETTER I.

NOTICES OF HUNTING IN THE LAST CENTURY.

June 1864.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—When you met me lately at Hampton Court, and asked me to supply any recollections that I might retain about the early days of the Vine Hunt, and of its popular founder, Mr. Chute, my first impression was that I could produce little or nothing to the purpose. But on further consideration I am inclined to believe that, *if such particulars are worth recording at all*, there is no one now living better qualified for the task than myself: for I was intimate with Mr. Chute from my childhood to the time of his death; I conversed much with sportsmen whose recollections went back a generation before my birth; and I lived in familiar intercourse with many masters of hounds. I dare say I am acquainted with some facts, the memory