

GOLF

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Golf by W. T. Linskill

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W. T. LINSKILL

GOLF

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BY

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GOLF CLUB.

THIRD EDITION.

ILLUSTRATED.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

IN writing this little treatise on Golf, I have endeavoured to maintain brevity and conciseness. Doubtless in regard to the first of these qualifications I have succeeded ; but in the matter of conciseness, if there be any part of the subject on which a beginner would like any further explanation, or any further information, I should at any time be only too glad to answer him by letter.

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G O L F.

CHAPTER I.

THE HISTORY OF THE GAME.

Of the origin and history of this game little need be said. The term "golf," pronounced *goff*, is evidently derived from the German word *kolbe*, signifying a club, or the Dutch word *kolf*, of similar meaning, and implying a game which is played with club and ball. Games with club and ball are numerous, and their origin is doubtless coeval with man.

From time to time throughout the history of the world, the game of club and ball has assumed various forms. For example, cricket is none other than such a game, as also croquet, billiards, polo, and hockey, which, by the way, is sometimes called "bandy" by the rustics in some parts of the country, especially in the eastern counties.

But so far as Britain is concerned, the origin of golf must be conceded to Scotland, where, as early as March, 1457, the game was being played with such zeal as greatly to interfere with what was deemed a more popular necessity, viz. that of training in archery. Although decrees were passed that golf "*be cryit down and nocht usit*," and that "*no place be used for futeball, golfe, or other sik unprofitabill sportes*," the people gave no heed. Somehow