THE GAME OF PALLONE, FROM ITS ORIGIN TO THE PRESENT DAY, HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED

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BY

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY W. REYNOLDS.

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1865.

INTRODUCTION.

EVERY Englishman takes an interest in athletic games; whether it be the Turf, the Chase, or Cricket, the attraction is the same.

The game of Pallone, which forms the subject of the following work, is not much known in England.

It is with a view to bring this noble game, which is still played in many cities of Italy, more prominently before the English public, that I have undertaken the present treatise.

A. L. F.

LONDON, *June*, 1865.

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PALLONE.

At a time when the revival of active and manly games and sports excites such attention in England, it may not be out of place to introduce to the acquaintance of the amateurs and promoters of games, a knowledge of one which, for centuries past, has been practised in Italy, under the name of Pallone, or Great Ball, and which has held as high a position relatively to all the other games of the country, as the game of cricket does at the present day in England.

As everything concerning the welfare of that classic country has for the last few years enlisted a lively sympathy in England, I am led to hope that this feeling will secure a cordial encouragement to my purpose. This purpose is, to write a short sketch of the game, to trace its high antiquity, to describe the arena or locality in which it is played, and the instruments used. In a country where so great veneration is entertained for everything that is old, the high antiquity alone of this game ought to entitle it to a hearty welcome. Though no Latin author, that I am aware of, gives a detailed account of Pallone, still allusions are made