

LYRA VENATICA: A COLLECTION OF HUNTING SONGS

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Lyra Venatica: A Collection of Hunting Songs by John Sherard Reeve

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JOHN SHERARD REEVE

**LYRA VENATICA: A
COLLECTION OF
HUNTING SONGS**

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A COLLECTION BY JOHN SHERARD REEVE, LATE 1ST
(OR GRENADIER) REGIMENT OF FOOTGUARDS, AND HIS
FATHER, COLONEL JOHN REEVE (LATE OF THE SAME
REGIMENT), WHO DIED JANUARY 2ND, 1897, AGED 74,
AND TO WHOSE MEMORY THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED.

Yes, let us think of him who's gone!
Of him whose hunting days are done,
And whom the hounds of fate have run
 To earth at last.
Above him now the grasses grow,
And round his grave the night winds blow
 With biting blast.

LYRA VENATICA

A COLLECTION OF HUNTING SONGS
COMPILED BY JOHN SHERARD REEVE

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1906

PREFACE.

THIS small collection lays claim to no further merit than that, with three or four exceptions, it contains nothing which has been published in such a collection before. I have taken all trouble possible to find out about each song—some of which, however, are very old. Should the above claim prove to be mistaken, or should anything be published herein unadvisedly or incorrectly, I sincerely apologise to those concerned.

At least half were collected by my father, just as they happened to take his fancy, and I thought it was a pity these should remain in oblivion. Should they give as much pleasure to those few whom I think they may interest, as they have to myself, my trouble will be amply repaid. In conclusion, I must thank those who have so willingly assisted me with information, many of whom were kind enough to send me fresh songs, and thus increase this small volume and its interest. More especially am I indebted to Mrs. Chaworth Musters, Isabella Marchioness of Exeter, Colonel Greenhill Gardyne (late Coldstream Guards), Major Longstaffe, Mrs. Cracroft-Amcotts, R. F. K. Gooch, Esq., and Mr. Sam Hills.

J. S. R.

Leadenham House, 1906.

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LYRA VENATICA

HARK! in the distance I hear a view holloa,
Now see the hounds streaming across the green grass,
Where is the man who refuses to follow,
Be he riding a hunter or striding an ass?

Then keep his head straight, looking ever before you,
And fly o'er life's fences both hearty and strong;
That they who come after may say that they saw you
In front all the way, in a run straight and long.

And when you draw near the deep brook in the valley,
Just press with your knees and take hold of his head;
The less you will like it the longer you tarry,
We follow behind to the land of the dead.