

**ANNALS OF THE BILLESDON HUNT. (MR.  
FERNIE'S) 1856-1913. NOTABLE RUNS  
AND INCIDENTS OF  
THE CHASE, PROMINENT MEMBERS,  
CELEBRATED HUNTERS AND HOUNDS,  
AMUSING STORIES AND ANECDOTES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649090907

Annals of the Billesdon Hunt. (Mr. Fernie's) 1856-1913. Notable runs and incidents of the chase, prominent members, celebrated hunters and hounds, amusing stories and anecdotes by F. Palliser de Costobadie

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Cover @ 2017

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**F. PALLISER DE COSTOBADIE**

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"A LEICESTERSHIRE MAN."

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1856-1913.

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PROMINENT MEMBERS, CELEBRATED HUNTERS AND HOUNDS,  
AMUSING STORIES AND ANECDOTES.

COMPILED BY

F. PALLISER DE COSTOBADIE.

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*ILLUSTRATED WITH PORTRAITS, AND PHOTOGRAVURES OF*  
**Original Pen-and-Ink Sketches.**

LONDON:

CHAPMAN AND HALL, LIMITED.

LEICESTER:

CLARKE AND SACHELL, 5, GALLOWTREE GATE.

1914.



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BY SPECIAL PERMISSION

TO

THE MASTER, C. W. B. FERNIE, ESQUIRE ;

AND EX-MASTERS,

W. W. TAILBY, ESQUIRE,

AND

SIR BACHE CUNARD, BARONET.



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## P R E F A C E .

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IN undertaking to write the ANNALS OF THE BILLESDON HUNT, after an absence from the locality exceeding thirty years—during which I have enjoyed some sport in the provinces and more distant parts of the world—I am reminded of the fact that in the interval a new generation has come into being, and that I have 'lost touch' with persons, places and things in High Leicestershire to such an extent, as to render my task less easy of accomplishment than I had anticipated.

I am induced, therefore, to hope that the pleasure which the reader may derive from the perusal of the interesting contributions of others which enliven these pages, will incline that complacent being to regard with indulgence the deficiencies and demerits which may be found in the rest of the volume.

To the sporting Editor, upon whom the duty of reviewing the bantling may be inflicted, I would merely say that, although I have no desire to divest myself of the sole responsibility for its production, the volume should not be regarded otherwise than as an epitome of a history yet to be written, I hope without affectation, by a pen more capable of doing justice to the theme.

The non-existence of any such record must be held primarily responsible for my temerity in launching this frail bark upon the waters; it is unnecessary to emphasize that its cargo aspires neither to literary skill, still less to be regarded as an oracle in relation to the noble sport to which it is devoted. Should it serve to while away an odd half hour, possibly it may thereby justify its existence.

Although contemplated for some time, pen and ink were not actually called into requisition until last October, and although not offered as any justification for ill-construction, I may add that I have laboured under the disadvantage of

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writing to the text of a previously arranged syllabus ; while by an endeavour to publish before Christmas, sufficient time has not been allowed for the revision of phrasing or correction of grammatical errors, which, I admit, the reader is entitled to expect, and for which I willingly shoulder all blame. In mentioning a great number of persons' names, inasmuch as I have studiously endeavoured to avoid giving the slightest cause of offence, I trust I have so far succeeded.

With reference to my notes upon 'Sporting Parsons: their Philosophy of the Chase,' I should like to add, that, since going to press, they have received striking episcopal support, inasmuch as, on the 16th of November, the Archbishop of York, when dedicating a memorial window erected by the members of the York and Ainsty Hunt, to commemorate the late Rev. Charles Slingsby, who was killed last year whilst hunting, said :—

Some people might find it difficult to understand how there could be a close connection between hunting and the life of a Christian clergyman. He would be a bold man who would argue that hunting was so cruel that it was absolutely wrong. Many people would quite sincerely say that out of the cost of a short anxiety and strain, the fox won a protection which otherwise he would not enjoy for his own form of racy and characteristic country life.

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My very sincere and grateful thanks are due, in the first place, to the three (successive) Masters: W. W. Tailly, Esq., Sir Bache Cunard, Bart., and C. W. B. Fernie, Esq., for so kindly giving me access to documents relating to the Hunt, for the historic extracts from their Hunting Journals, and for their permission to dedicate the 'Annals' to them.

I desire to express my warmest thanks to Mr. H. S. Davenport, the famous sporting correspondent, for his kindness in readily consenting to look through several of my 'proofs,' as well as for his own very interesting Reminiscences. Mr. H. Mostyn Pritchard has also a distinct

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claim upon my gratitude, in good-naturedly allowing me to reproduce his original pen-and-ink sketches, as well as several graphically described runs, from his Hunting Journal.

To Sir Willoughby Maycock, for his delightful Reminiscences and the accompanying photographs, which he placed at my disposal, I am very greatly indebted; likewise to the Rev. Cave Humfrey, for his welcome contribution respecting his uncle, the famous "Parson Dove"; and to the Proprietors of "Baily's Magazine." My thanks are also due to Mrs. Maudslay, of Blaston Manor, for a particularly good photo, taken by herself, of 'Charles' Isaac and Hounds. To Viscount Churchill, and to John Sladen Wing, Esq. (eldest son of the late William Wing, the well known and highly esteemed Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Cottesmore Hunt for over a quarter-of-a-century), and to all other ladies and gentlemen who have kindly favoured me with information, photographs, &c.

The courtesy of the Proprietors of the "Leicester Journal" is hereby duly acknowledged; and any others who have done me a kindness will, I trust, consider themselves as included in this general expression of my thanks.

Lastly, my grateful thanks are as cheerfully given, as being thoroughly well deserved, to Messrs. Clarke and Satchell, for their assiduous and courteous attention to the manifold details requiring supervision in the production of the work; to which I should like to add my testimony to the painstaking care of their foreman printer, Mr. Cape, and his staff.

F. PALLISER DE COSTOBADIE.

13th December 1913.