

**HOW I BECAME A
SPORTSMAN: BEING
EARLY REMINISCENCES OF
A VETERAN SPORTSMAN**

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How I Became a Sportsman: Being Early Reminiscences of a Veteran Sportsman by Avon & Vereker M. Hamilton

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AVON & VEREKER M. HAMILTON

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Reppd.

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BEING EARLY REMINISCENCES OF A
VETERAN SPORTSMAN.

BY
AVON.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY
VEREKER M. HAMILTON.



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CLAY AND TAYLOR, PRINTERS,
BUNGAY, SUFFOLK.

DEDICATED

BY PERMISSION TO

Colonel W. C. B. Perry Keene,

TRINITY HOUSE, WILTS.

MY DEAR SIR,

IN asking your permission to dedicate my little book to you, I did so on three grounds: first, that I know you to have been a thorough sportsman for nearly half a century. It is not every man who is equally at home across country, with the gun, and the fishing-rod; but I know that I may say so of yourself without a particle of flattery.

The man who could forge his way to the front over the walls of the Cotswolds, or the strongly-fenced and deep clay of the far-famed Braydon country, on a "Jovial," or creep, and have the best of it, on a mule, who could *do all but climb a tree*, needs no pen of mine to proclaim a fox-hunter.

Of your quickness in killing a *cock* I might quote an instance, and your zeal as a fisherman

is proved by keeping a tame pike to remind you that there are as good fish in the (sea or river) as ever came out of it.

My next ground was, that some of the incidents I have attempted to narrate may serve to remind you of a good specimen of a country gentleman and sportsman, a mutual friend (who is now, alas ! no more), with whom we have enjoyed many happy days' sport.

My last ground was, that I have had the honour to serve with you in the "Tented Field," and I look back with pleasure to past days under your command.

I feel that what I have written of my early experiences as a sportsman are scarcely worthy of being published, but *ce que j'en escrit est pour une curiosité, qui plaira possiblement a aucuns est non possiblement aux autres.*

Allow me then to thank you for so kindly allowing me to dedicate my book to you, and with feelings of great regard for yourself and your family, to subscribe myself by my "*Nom de Plume,*" which I adopted many years since from having, whilst hunting, plumbed the depths of the river from which I took it, three times in one season.

Yours faithfully,

"AVON."

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