



J U L Y .

## DEER STALKING.

W. SCROPE, Esq., one of the best deer-stalkers in the world, and quite the best writer about deer-stalking, says—

“Your consummate deer-stalker should not only be able to run like an antelope, and breathe like the trade-winds, but should also be enriched with various other undeniable qualifications. As, for instance, he should be able to run in a stooping position, at a greyhound pace, with his back parallel to the ground, and his face within an inch of it, for miles together. He should take a singular pleasure in threading the seams of a bog, or in gliding down a burn, *ventre à terre*, like that insinuating animal the eel,—accomplished he should be in skillfully squeezing his clothes after this operation, to make all comfortable. Strong and pliant in the ankle, he should most indubitably be; since, in running swiftly down precipices, picturesquely adorned with sharp-edged, angular, vindictive stones, his feet will, unadvisedly, get into awkward cavities and curious positions:—thus, if his legs are devoid of the faculty of breaking, so much the better,—he has an evident advantage over the fragile man. He should rejoice in wading through torrents, and be able to stand firmly on water-worn stones, unconscious of the action of the current; or if, by fickle fortune, the waves should be too powerful for him, when he loses his balance, and goes floating away upon his back (for if he has any tact, or sense of the picturesque, it is presumed he will fall backwards), he should raise his rifle aloft in the air, Marmion fashion, lest his powder should get wet, and his day's sport come suddenly to an end. A few weeks' practice in the tilt will make him quite *au fait* at this. We would recommend him to try the thing in a spout, during a refreshing north wind, which is adverse to deer-stalking; thus no day will be lost pending his education. To swim he should not be able, because there would be no merit in saving himself by such a paltry subterfuge; neither should he permit himself to be drowned, because we have an affection for him, and moreover it is very cowardly to die.

“As to mental endowments, your sportsman should have the qualifications of an Ulysses and a Philidor combined. Wary and circumspect, never going rashly to work, but surveying all his ground accurately before he commences operations, and previously calculating all his chances both of success and failure. Patience under suspense and disappointment, calm and unruffled in moments of intense interest, whether fortune seems to smile or frown on his exertions; and if his bosom must throb at such times, when hopes and fears by turns assail it, he should at all events keep such sensations under rigid control, not suffering them to interfere with his equanimity, or to disturb the coolness and self-possession which at such moments are more than ever necessary to his operations.

“That Deer-Stalking is a chase,” says Mr. Scrope, “which throws all other field-sports in the back ground, and, indeed, makes them appear wholly insignificant, no one, who has been initiated in it will attempt to deny. The beautiful motions of the deer, his picturesque and noble appearance, his sagacity, and the skillful generalship which can alone insure success in the pursuit of him, keep the mind in a state of pleasurable excitement.” Yet, with all this excitement, the fall of the noble animal recalls the lament—

“Magnificent creature! to reach thee I strain  
Through forest and glen, o'er mountain and plain;  
Yet, now thou art fallen, thy fate I deplore,  
And lament that the reign of thy greatness is o'er.”

THE HON. T. LIDDELL.

The localities of Deer-stalking are principally confined to the Highlands

of Scotland, consequently they embrace some of the most interesting scenery imaginable. The Highlands are nominally divided into the West and the North. The former owns the shires of Dumbarton, Argyle, Bute, and part of Perth; the latter comprehends the counties of Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, &c. In early times, the red deer and roe particularly abounded. Since, increased population, and the attention paid to local agriculture, have reclaimed much of the ground, and appropriated it to the culture of cattle, particularly to rearing of sheep. There, however, still remain the Highland forests, which, being the property of persons of rank and wealth, are yet preserved for the accommodation of wild game, but particularly of red deer. It is common to call all the vast tracts which form the natural range of the red deer, by the name of forest; but the reader must not consider these as a continuous tract of vast woods; on the contrary, many of these so-called forests are entirely destitute of wood, except occasionally, scattered patches of brushwood. Ancient chronicles, however, assure us that many of them, in bygone days, were thickly wooded, although their other features were those of rocky heights, of vast extent and wildness, abruptly terminating in morasses, which frequently ended on the bank of some expansive loch.

## CRICKET.

THIS truly English game of strength and activity is now in its zenith, and all the cricket clubs are open for the season. Formerly, cricket was almost confined to the southern counties: Kent, Sussex, and Surrey, more especially, have always been famous for skill in it. Of late years it has spread a good deal in the northern quarter of the island; there is scarcely a county in England without its regularly established cricket club; and in Scotland, where, a few years back, cricket was altogether unknown, it is now making a surprising advance.

The rules of cricket are, at once, too well known, and too complicated, to be here explained: they are subject to variations, at the pleasure of the Marylebone club, which meets at Lord's cricket ground, St. John's Wood. The laws and decisions of that society are recognised by cricket players in general, in the same way that the authority of the jockey club is held definitive, in questions relating to horse racing. Corrected laws were issued by the society in May, 1844. Cricket is played almost exclusively by the British, who have carried it into many parts of the world, where the climate seems little suited to the exertion which it requires: as, for example, in Bengal.

To one intimate with the country, and, therefore, fond of rural enjoyment, July offers two very peculiar sources of pleasure. It is the season of hay-making, and of sheep-shearing, both of which operations still retain much of the gaiety of ancient festivals. Shakspeare and Drayton have poetically described the recreations of our ancestors at these rural feasts; and a writer of more recent date, Dyer, has made “The Fleeca” the subject of a beautiful and patriotic poem.

## ANGLING.

IN July trout, dace, flounders, eels, bleak, minnows, pike, barbel, gudgeons, and roach, afford good sport. Bream and carp spawn.

In July, August, and September, the fly-fishing lists are very scanty; in the first-named month, the red ant; in the second, the whirling blue; and in the last, the willow fly, are the only novelties; they continue in use till the conclusion of the fishing season.