

A HISTORY
of
THE MEYNELL HOUNDS
AND COUNTRY

1780 TO 1901

by

J. L. Randall.



VOLUME II.

London.

Sampson Low, Marston and Company, Ltd.

1901.

CHAPTER IX.

SPORT IN THE EIGHTIES—CAPTAIN HOLLAND—GOOD RUN FROM SHIRLEY PARK—MR. E. A. J. MAYNARD—GOOD DAY FROM WALTON—THE GREEN COVERT AT EGGINTON—MR. CHANDOS-POLE'S PRIVATE PACK—MR. HAMAR BASS BECOMES JOINT-MASTER.

1884-1885.

THE subscriptions this year were £3410 18s., and compensations for damage absorbed £519 16s. 9d.

There were no changes in the staff. Mr. Chandos-Pole brought Downpatrick into the country. The new names in the subscription list were Captain Ames (from Lichfield), R. H. Dalton, E. Devas, W. F. Felton, Lord Henry Nevill, F. W. Peacock, and Herbert Woltan.

Captain and Mrs. H. C. Holland came to Marchington Hall, where they stayed till 1895, with the exception of one year, 1887-88, when they were at Cross Hayes, Hoar Cross. From 1895-97 they lived at their own house, the Upwoods, Doveridge, a farm which was purchased from Lord Waterpark, and the house added to and improved. In 1897, Captain Holland having been appointed Chief Constable of Derbyshire, they moved to The Knoll, Findern, Captain Lloyd of the First Life Guards and Mrs. Lloyd coming to the Upwoods for two seasons.

Captain Holland was educated at Eton and at Radley, and began hunting as a boy with the North Cotswold, of which his father was at one time Master. But Lord Coventry was the first Master he remembers. He joined the 8th, and subsequently the 15th Hussars, seeing his

fair share of active service—in 1879–80 in the Afghan war, in 1881 against the Boers, and again in 1882 in the Egyptian campaign, in which he was severely wounded. He would have been a cavalry officer after the Duke of Wellington's own heart, for that great commander said that hunting men made the best, and Captain Holland has never let the grass grow under his feet in this respect. He has hunted with no end of different packs, including the Calpe and Pan hounds, but still the Meynell have never failed to hold his affections. Half a season or so in Yorkshire was enough for him in recent years, and back he came to his old love, to which he has remained constant ever since, with the exception of one year, 1891–92, when he and Mrs. Holland went round the world, having a turn at big game shooting in Assam, in company with Sir Peter Walker, the late Hon. Sidney Parker, and Mr. Firman—by no means the least enjoyable part of the trip.

Between the flags, too, and in point-to-point races he had a fair measure of success, winning the Meynell Hunt Point-to-Point, which finished at Sutton, on Grey Heron, in March, 1891. Nine started. The next year he was second on him over the severe course, which finished at Tomlinson's corner, when so many came to grief. Sir Peter Walker's mare, ridden by Mr. W. H. Walker, which he had beaten the year before, turned the tables on him this time, but it is a question whether it ought to have been so. He also won the Natal Grand Military Steeplechase on Sir Garnet, a Cape horse, beating the late Lord St. Vincent (afterwards killed in Egypt) by a short head, and he was riding a hot favourite, an English thoroughbred horse. There is no better heavy-weight in the Meynell country to-day than Captain Holland. *A propos* of horses, most people think that Jumbo, who carried him so well from 1887–91, and the above-mentioned Grey Heron, were his best. But the keen, hard-pulling chestnut, Bolivar, is also a champion amongst weight-carriers, while the dun horse, Don Juan, for which Mr. Fort gave something like two hundred and fifty guineas, was very bad to beat. *On*