

only, my wrist is hardly strong enough, as the stick is heavy. Mr Thynne, the Flag-Lieutenant, has given me a very good pair of riding-trousers, which are an endless blessing, as one wears out one's other trousers so quickly. Give my love to Mum and all the kids, and congratulate Long Kate for me on passing her exam. Tell Randy he and I will have to go hunting together next winter. Send me a line soon.—Your loving son,
NED.

LXXII.

H.M.S. *Triumph*. Coquimbo, 25th June 1888.

MY DEAR FATHER,—Thanks very much indeed for the fiver you sent me; it came in very handy, as one gets through a precious lot of money by hiring horses for riding here. We got up a grand steeple-chase here, of which I send you a rough sketch. The prize was a silver cup, which you will be glad to hear that "Master Ned" won. I can tell you that I am very pleased with myself. Eleven horses started all but one being ridden by officers of the fleet. I was third favourite at starting, the shore-going chap was first favourite. He had a beautiful horse for out here, with English blood in him, and well known as a capital jumper. He came in second, but I beat him by a hundred yards on a two-mile course. The second favourite was ridden by the First Lieutenant of the *Conquest*, and was also