

It may be taken then, that a "Royal head," is a very vague idea, and simply means a magnificent head of horns. There is a foolish notion afloat, that a deer produces one spike for every year of its age, but what I have already stated is pretty nearly correct. You may also often see one horn with a spike less than the other. But there is no accounting for irregularities of this sort. All we can do is to accept facts. Again, the size of a deer has very little to do with the size of the horns. The largest deer I ever shot was a two year old, a spike buck, that weighed 212 lbs., and the largest and finest antlers were on a buck of 157 lbs., both clean meat, *i. e.*, skin, &c., removed. I cannot account for it but it is true, that spike bucks are generally very much larger than other deer. For my own part I think it a pity to shoot deer in the rutting season, but the custom seems to obtain all over America. I would rather have a venison steak in the end of July, or beginning of August, than at any other season. The flesh is then very juicy and tender, and the full richness of the game is there. The animal has fully recovered from its winter's starvation, is plump and solid, with the new flesh well made, but it has not yet begun to lay on its autumnal layers of fat.

In Europe deer stalking begins on the 5th of July, and formerly it commenced in Ontario on the first of August. What practical use is there in putting it back to the first of September. The idea of destroying or "slaughtering" fawns in August is silly. Fawns are then quite able to take care of themselves; besides they are difficult to see and shoot on account of their colour and the thick foliage. Would it not be really more for the benefit of sportsmen to drop hunting on the first November, to allow the deer to rut in peace, and to commence stalking on the first of August. All other game are protected in the breeding season: why not deer? Another mode of hunting, I never practiced, was using hounds. This I look on as miserable pot-hunting, and the deer, when so driven by these brutes, are either exterminated on their run-ways, or chased from the section of country so hunted. How different a sport is stalking or still-hunting, which requires all the skill of the true sportsman to come on the deer, and then fairly bag his game by his own exertions. I have always been opposed to hounding and see no "sport" in hiding behind a cover and shooting down the poor animals that are bounding away for dear life. I mention a fact, that at the last revision of the Ontario Game Act, using hounds in hunting deer was nearly pro-

hibited, and I wish it was. In Michigan, hunting deer with hounds has been totally prohibited, and not one pound of venison can be taken out of the State. Some American butchers came to Muskoka last year and killed and sent a large number of deer to their markets. Canadian Sportsmen should rise and protest against such destruction and unmanly slaughter. Will some other brothers of the gentle craft give us their opinions of these matters, not excluding "carpet" sportsmen. In conclusion, I may remark, that a "Royal head" was a term applied to the full-grown antlers of the Red deer of Scotland, which may yet be found in both England and in the wilds of Connemara, in Ireland, and it had twelve tines or spikes on both horns. Sir Walter Scott often mentions them, and in the "Fortunes of Nigel," a characteristic description may be found. King James the First, said he could die happy when he killed a buck with "twelve tines." I do not see how our common deer can have their horns compared at all to those of the majestic Red Deer of the Highlands. The Wapiti, or American stag, *Cervus Canadensis*, approaches very nearly to the Red Deer, and there is a great comparison between stag's horns and a common deer's. I cannot see how the term "Royal" can be applied to the Virginian deer's antlers, with any propriety.

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Lucknow, June 23rd, 1881.

P.S.—One of your Correspondents, "Hammerless Greener," in your late issue amused me very much by a sly fling in a P. S., about my shooting robins. I do not retract one word I said about robins, otherwise, American Fieldfares, being a very dainty dish. Now, if "Hammerless Greener" is man enough to put his name to it, and write sensible remarks against a dish so much esteemed in the neighboring republic, I shall be glad to read gentlemanlike reasons of dissent, which would be preferable to a boyish sneer.

J. H. G.

NOTE.—We publish Dr. Garnier's opinions on deer's heads, although we cannot exactly agree with him. Doctors will differ, and it is possible that there are sportsmen who are not doctors who will disagree with his conclusions as to what constitutes a "Royal or King Buck." We have made the growth of deer horns a study for years; so did the late