#### [CONTINUED.]

John I It a proud and happy man, he had got out if in in all all scraps, and now resolved Lide that is led means to keep his family a to you lit to be kept, and with every

A text day now thost of dressmakers from Londonat do house, and before the week ear cit, he will had oblidren were clothed 

The hand be the dw indered at first about tack and he was , but us they found all the don't hand the died on them, which was don't hand the instrumentality of Sn John Larest, it classed to be a matter of speculato the All natural in one thing and that was Mrs. John Turthfat was not only very Lautiful, but periodly well brid, mannered,

and a lady in all t spect.

John w at to work with a will, settled all his affans, my sted in a large travelling carrange, and started with his wife, children, mother in law, and mother if r the old lady would not be left behand for the Continent, intending to take a six months' tour.

They were truly a happy party, the past was pever alluded to or spok in of. John had no end of things to attend to, but his chief hlight, after his wife and children, was in assiduou ly attending to the cultivation of a

letter in his hand, after they had been away responded to. duter and la'l are to take place in a month, and they are going to wind up the season with it of bothases."

" While the letter from, John?" asked his wife.

" From Charlie Thornhill; poor fellow, h doesn't seem to get en us well, or as quality as he ought. I've an idea," he conthated, "let us go over to the ball and . 16 have; we can leave my mother and Grey with the children."

All the country were sure to tend to carry through." blin wrote a letter to the house other earnestly. "Mr. Chairman, my lords at 1 td her to have Carvier Hull in and gentlemen!" exclaimed Bluster, rising ther and he advised them by all means terple chases were to take place.

J. la. Tart! fat was prind of his wife; he regretted the way in which he had acted, ad a wardens red to make every amend trla i. te aduct; his wife was dressed as a ll a ll. tl. fir t Porisan modistes were the today shor, beautiful at all times, she ckelled thosen is som the stylish costime which thy Pretichn, men know how t make. She and her husband arrived at the Hall at the appeinted time.

# CHAPTER XXI.

### THE HUNT-DINNER.

the ard at f. v hanter a sort of funoral dirge, for it generally takes place at the close of the of our own horses which we now possess—
seaset. for men who do not race, shoot, fish, owners up, of course, and catch weights. I yield, cank to ramine themselves in any ther ways, the end of a hunting season is halled with regret.

2 danser, especially a hunt dinner, is an event. However, expecially a hunt dinner, is an event to there. "Inferrial wet blanket but the week to a new song I want to sing, to say, and I hope you will forgive me for lat can't do so tilled Mutten Chops leaves, trespassing on your time." and he is sure to sit it all out; what a gloricas that if he would only get a spill, or an parts of the table. attack fre w.

An ther again " The dinner would be at the official tally if that Charlie Gam mised to be one to their taste. 1....t 1. there: of course, he was not a single the partisans of ly for him, was a quiet one, take his own cold and stiff that he could not stir an inch. For some days Duffer was very ill, but on was the partisans of ly for him, was a quiet one, take his own cold and stiff that he could not stir an inch. For some days Duffer was very ill, but on "Here take me out," he piteously ex- the morning of the hunt-ball was himself all male he rad bashing laming with a heastly chorus, enough to crack the drums cept, you know, or show the white feather."

In form the area of the work of the music with the men, my lords and gentlethere was not a single true note in it; he men, commoned Shirkington, very slowly a oxlustification of the wing. If fellows per to challenge me to a match across country get tired of each other and want singing, for a hundred a side; as an old hand at these why the dence den't they get professionals?" kind of things—" Suc ... the I mark usually made before

and and a in t forgetting the inevitable pech maker, who is never efflis legs; but per.

Pech maker, who is never efflis legs; but per.

"An old hand at these kind of things, at lattrought d willy some inconsiderate arge?" which his most of irritation and supatories, catching him a tremendous smack with a large lump of orange-peel. It

offictive the orator is silenced for the stolate coming.

Henever there was to be a hunt-dinner dals a to thall, not jumbled up, and that the jacothe same evening, for it, which was that the men of the Wares ; H · and od the time handed custom

one made with the correct white satin hung

At the hour appoint d, dog-carts, tandems, wag netter, broughams, mail phaetons, and | main at home and mind the other horses. various other kinds of conveyances began to

Mr. C nyers was in the chair, and Lord Verriefast, now a short time married, vice. Old Mr. Thornhill, Charlie Thornhill, Sir John Forest, Captain Slyfox, Lord Lavender, and John Turtlefat, who had arrived with his wife from the Continent the previous day together and Major Bouncer Brag were amongst the guests. Charlie looked still wan and sickly, but was gradually picking up.

The dinner provided was excellent, and even that old gourmand, Colonel Downey, who had also taken to his manly bosom the widow Sprightly, allowed, as the cloth was car. removed and the wine and dessert set on the polished maliogany, for the Wareheel Hunt stuck to old fashious, that he had never set down to a better feed.

"By Gad, sir, a splendid dinner, and worthy of an emperor; and by the pace the the bottle is being pushed along, promises to be a pretty merry meeting."

expediture, funds in hand, and so forth; then was a little convivial with my friends; but her, but fast as he went she and the goblin came the usual collection for the huntsman heard and mountacle, and which his wife and whips. Then the time for the steeple. He might well ask the question, for the and wonderfully improved his appearance. chase was fixed and other minor matters, pony was non est. and wonderfully unproved his appearance. chase was fixed and other minor matters, to look here, Mona, he exclaimed one after which the Queen, and Royal Family, morning, intering the room with an open and other toasts were duly proposed and groom had, unknown to Mrs. Downey, taken

table.
"Ride, sir, you can ride no better than a heard to utter. "Although you have beaten, at least sayou said, Major Rasper over the stiffest country in England, yet I repeat you can ride no better than a tailor. Hang me, but I'll make a match with you myself if you like at these next steeplechases, that is if the committee will allow us to run-make it for a hundred if you choose."

"My good fellow," said Shirkington, "don't talk about things you know nothing of; you Mr. Lurth fat approved of the plan, she could not ride a steeplechase, so what is the and it would be a capital thing John to show use of talking about a thing you do not in-

reading for them three days before the up in considerable heat, "may I be per-terple chases were to take place." mitted to say a few words?"

" Certainly, Mr. Bluster," said the goodhumoured Convers; he saw some fun was coming, and determined not to check it as long as he could keep it within bounds.

"The fact is, gentlemen," commenced Bluster, "Mr. Duffer has publicly thought proper to say that I could not ride, to which I answered, he could ride no better than a had got it for himself. tailor."

"Bravo !" exclaimed several voices, "go it, Bluster, give him a dusting, and make the pace hot."

" I have never seen a tailor ride," continued the angry gentleman, "but I have ever understood they were bad hands across coun-THE HUST-DINNER.

A heart dinner, although looked forward to tron to Mr. Duffer. I now publicly challenge that arthough as a very jelly thing, is to him to a match at the forthcoming steeples arthough the Archanter a sort of funoral dirge, chases for a hundred guineas, to ride either am the heavier man of the two, therefore, as regards that, he will have the pull of me, but I den't min' throwing away a few pounds to insure a match. I therefore hope the committee will allew us to make use of the steeple chase ground. This, gentlemen, is all I have

"Brave, Bluster!" was shoated from all

The Wareheel men leved a sporting match - what tyke dies not? - and this match pro-

r, old fellor your kn

ad a - 1, nch vive as a tin kettle. Hang the | and pompously, throwing back his cont, and fell, n I wish he may get a cropper, have placing his hand in the most artistic oratoria., infernal c l.l. r laid up with the influenza, cal position, "Mr. Bluster has the ught pro-

> " Where, where, name?" simultaneously shouted out Colonel Downey and Major Ras-

"An old nand at these kind of timigs, continued Shirkington, still more pomponsly, and not noticing the interruption, "I consider Mr. Bluster exceedingly foolish,"

"Why foolish?" bawled out Bluster in

his turn.

"Why, sir?" returned Shirkington, looking at his late friend in a magnificent manner. " because I shall be sure to beat you." I'll stand my change of being beaten, self.

or no:

and green velvet collar, and the betton with ably devated—he was not tipsy, only very legs on the other.
W. H. H. embossed in frosted letters on it. merry and happy; he had no servant with "Ha, ha, ha!" ser anced the figure again. him, the two men he had were obliged to re-

Shirkington drove along with a huge cigar in advance of the cart, rolled together, and deposit their freights at the entrance door of in his mouth, and thinking how he would were whole again.

the Star and Garter.

'Ha, ha, ha I well struck indeed, try it when he was sent flying violently out of his again, old boy," and the figure vaulted on to seat into the hedge by the road-side; it was the horse's back. The driver ground as he pitch dark, he had no lights and could see tried to strike the gobin again, but his arm nothing.

> Finding he was unhurt, he scrambled out, ran into the road, and managed to get to his horse's head. He found he and driven into again, but as he did so the figure vanished. a nony carriage which had stopped in the road, but which had been going home the exclaimed he in the cart; "it beats cocksame way as himself.

> "Oh! blazes, here's a start!" exclaimed that's what I am; It's all bosh.
>
> voice which was not unfamiliar to Duffer's! "Whither away, whither away?" presenta voice which was not unfamiliar to Duffer's "Is a stud-groom to be druy into and ly recommenced the voices, and he saw the killed in this way, I'll write to the Commis- same weird figure tumbing beside him; and sioners of Woods and Forests, I'll write to running close behind him was a female in a Billy Glade one and Bobby Lowe, I'll take bright red cloak.
> the change out of you, whoever you may "Dash me, but that's Alice," said he in the change out of you, whoever you may

it's not Pastern.'

Before any of the toasts and speech-mak-with half-drunken gravity. "Oh. Mr. Duf-She did not take any notice, or even turn ing commonced, the affairs of the Wareheel fer, I beg your pardon, sir; the fact is I druv her lead, but kept running along. He whip-Hunt were stated by the honorable secretary: over on the quiet to see the 'unt-dinner, and ped his horse, and endeavored to overtake where the blazes is the pony?

The truth was, the worthy and illustrious the pony and carriage and driven over to the Viria fact is shortly going to be married to but of voices was heard at the sentre of the lad taken place, there with a few kindred replied the figure, giving one tremendous a solution of two open out as a governess at spirits succeeded in getting rather jovial, bound, and turning over several times in the leighty or a hundred a year, but I preferred a briving home and falling asleen on the way. The hunt-limit of the hunt-dinner where t tail r," an unmistakably angry voice was the pony had stopped whilst he had been doing his forty winks, some larkish young farmers coming along and finding him in the arms of Morpheus, had quietly unharnessed the animal, which quickly cantered off to his stable, leaving the carriage and the unconscious Mr. Pastern behind.

are gone to bed. The Colonel, I know, left in a fly an hour before I did. I'll tell you had vanished.
what, sir," he continued, "the only way "The Lord be merciful to me!" ejaculated will be for you to allow me to tie the carriage the frightened man, the perspiration running behind your cart—you pass our gate, I can from him, and his teeth chattering with then manage; I shall never get home unless fright, " what the devil is it?" you do, for it's snowing heavily."

blinding Jakes.
"All right," said Shirkington; "look sharp about it, it is deuced cold."

"Take a drop of this, sir," said Pastern, no money, and there is such a difference in producing a quart bottle of gin. "I was our stations."

bringing it home for the cook." The old har "Stations be hanged!" screamed the de-

taken a pretty good pull, which made his was made at him. "No you don't my good eyes water. "This warms the cockles of a fellow," laughed the goblin as he tumbled fellow's heart—never was colder in my life." along. "I'll stick to you for ever; marry:

"Or I either," returned Pastern, putting marry! marry?"

be bottle to his line, which he kept there for "Whither away, whither away?" chorus. the bottle to his lips, which he kept there for a second or two.

Having fastened the pony-carriage behind the cart, they wended their way slowly towards home, on arriving at Downey's cot-him and pommelled him well. tage gate, they found the pony quietly waiting there

"All right!" exclaimed the now tipsy Pastern, for the last pull at the bottle had "Master, master, for God's sake wake up!" settled him. "I can manage," and so he shouted a voice in his ear; "A is morning, did, for he got the pony and carriage in without any one being a bit the wiser.

Before Shirkington left him, however, he took another drain of Pastern's gin.

"I've got you now, you old humbug, soliloquized Shirkington; " if you come any of your insolence for the future, I'll split," and gathering the reins in his half trozen hands, he drove slowly away. The gin he deeply embedded in snow before his own had drank made him feel drowsy and sleepy, gate; and his unfortunate horse looked as if and at last he let the horse, which, fortunate hit was covered with a sheet. Duffer was so

A high tandem cart was being driven rapidly along, one dark night, in one of the wildest parts of the North Riding of York-The ground was thickly covered with snow, which was still falling heavily, and the face of the driver could not be seen, for he wraper

Whither away, whither away?" shriek

ed out a score of voices all at once.
"What the devil is that?" asked he in the cart, of hunself, as the strange sounds caught his ear. " hang me if I don't think I'm cut, had a glass too much.

"Whither away, whither away !" choras sed the voices again.

The driver peered stendinstly about, but nothing could he see.

"I know what it is," he exclaimed, " it's drinking hot grog, it's the lemon and sugar;

The head and shoulders still went on tumbling as well as the body and legs, they got

was powerless.

"Strike, strike !" shouted the demon.

The driver plucked up courage, and struck Well, I'm damned, this licks all creation, fighting into chalks, this does; I m drunk,

the cart; " what the deuce does she do here "Why, hang me," said Shirkington, "if on such a night as this? I say, hi-hero-'s not Pastern."
Alice !" he bawled out, "jump up, you will "Yes, it were, sir," replied that worthy catch your death of cold."

went faster; his cart seemed to stick in the snow, and he could not catch them.

"Ha! ha! ha!" screamed the goblin, come along, old fellow."

"You internal rescal!" roared the driver. what the devil do you do with my wife?"
"Not your wife, though she ought to be,"

"Not your wife, though I ought to be!" exclaimed the female; and, catching hold of the goblin's hand, they ran along at a tre-mendous pace, and were soon out of sight.

" It's all bosh," said the driver, blowing on his fingers to warm them; "it's all bosh. This comes of mixing your liquor, and going

driver made a grasp at the demon, but he

"All! what the devil is it?" and the This was a fact, and it was freezing hard figure scated on the horse's withers faced toas well, the snow coming down in large and wards the driver; "why don't you marry
blinding fakes.

Alice?" he asked.

" Marry her, Mr. Ghost!" tremblingly ut-

mon, "she is far better than you," and he "Ali!" exclaimed Duffer, when he had vaulted off the horse's back as a vicious cut

sed the voices again.

He in the cart felt ready to fall out of it fron fright, as a host of gobbins seized on

"Hey, what? what's all this infernal row about? Is the house on fire?" asked the driver, as he felt hunself roughly shaken.

and we have found you at the gate. You're almost frozed to death."

Shirkington woke up. "Why, yes, upon my soul! Chapman, is that you?" Yes, indeed, it is, master. You're cov-

erecd with snow; why you must have been here for hours."

Shirkington looked round : the cart was

splitting, and he felt almost dying.

With great difficulty his two servants got him out, and put him to bed.

"Dashed if the governor has not taken his gruel pretty kindly," said one of the men to the old woman who was just going to light the fire in her master's bedroom; "he's nigh was muffled up to the eyes with a huge frozen to death. I never see a gentleman more mops and brooms in my life; I shook | Sir William was a very wealthy young him for five minutes before I could wake him is baronet; good looking, generally liked, and up. Lucky I got up as I did: I thought a liberal supporter of all country pastimes, there was something wrong—another hour | The whole of the clife of the country would have cooked his goods.

would have cooked his goose; 'was the spirits as kept him alive. This comes of going to hunt dinners. I likes men who can carry their liquor, I do; dashed if the least thing does not make moster scrowed. Keep him warm, Mary, and let there be a roaring fire: he will soon come to, and be calling out for soda and brandy, or hot tea. You give him a little laced ten—that will bring him "I am not sure of that," retorted the if I'd stuck to the cold it would have been all round sooner than anything else. Now I other. "Wil you accept my challenge? yes right," and he drove on, muttering to himit is past seven o'clock.'

WON IN A CANTER, monly well and killing in a pink, had a new About eleven o'clock Mr. Shirkington Duf- the head and shor'ders and arms turnbled "Alice Lee here!" replied Shirkington, fer mounted his high tandem cart, consider- on one side of the cart, and the body and turning scarlet, "show her up, Mary. Here, give me my dressing gown.

" What on earth, Alice, brings you here?" asked Shirkington, the instant the servant left the room. "What note have you brought? who is it from?

"Oh," exclaimed the poor girl, sinking down in the chair beside the bed, "I am so miserable; there is no note, it is only an excuse of mine to see you. My mistress and Lord Verriefast are going out to dine, so I got leave to be out this evening, and bribed one of the men to drive me over. I heard you were nearly killed last night, it is all over the place how you were found in your cart this morning.

"Well, but, Alice, what did you come for?

There must be something.

"Oh! do not speak in that cold way," uttered." "I have been seen walking about with you very much lately, and it is sure to get to her Ladyship's cars; not that I have done anything wrong, but the world will not think so

"Well, let the world think so. Alice," re-

plied Shirkington, testily.
"No, that will not do," answered the companion, "you know how you have sworn you loved me, you know how time after time you've said you'll marry me, and only me; you know how you have endeavored to lead me astray, in which you have never succeeded nor ever will. You think I am not good enough to be your wife-my poor father was better off than yours once, I was educated as well as money could make me; you think because I am a servant, I have never seen better days-had not my father runed himself by over-speculating, I should have been

of a school-room. Ims you know well for I told you all; you've dallied and trifled with me till I m looked at with suspicion; oh, Shirk, do what you have promised; I will make you a true and faithful wife."
"My good girl," replied Duffer, immensely flattered, though he pretended not to be so,

"My word there will be a prettyrow when I gots home," remarked the trustworthy serving the ground in for hot grog."

I gots home," remarked the trustworthy serving the grog, answered a voice at those. Afternage is not a thing to rash into vant, "I shall be sacked for a 'undred; my his side. Turning his head, there, seated horriedly; you would be, I know, all you only chance will be that missus and master beside him, was the detestable figure. The say—you're sweetly pretty, lovely teeth, face, figure, foot, and complexion, it cannot be denied; but still I'm in no hurry for the matrimonial yoke; let us wait a little."

"I will wait as long as you like," replied the girl meekly, "but I will not meet with you again or walk about with you; I am compromised enough as it is; you think I have no feeling, but you are mistaken; much as I like you, I love my good name better. I know your character well, you are an essentially seifish person, but might grow tered the other, " because because she has out of it, you might become a different man, fond of home, and those around you; at any rate I am willing to risk it. You have money to give me the position in the world I once held; you see I am very plant and speak what I think. You will never do in grand society-way not settle down quietly in some pretty little farm? you might keep your horses and breed them too, if you liked. Look at Mr. Allsnob and his wife, how happy and comfortable they are, and you might be the same.

Shirkington lay and pondered what he should do, and then by way of turning the conversation told her of the match that was to come off between Bluster and himself, of his running into Pastern; then he took a long dreamy look at Alice. She was a wonderfully pretty and genteel looking girl, still he could not make up his mind to say he would marry her, which he knew he had promised time after time to do; he was fond of her in his way, but Duffer liked his liberty, and had mentally resolved not to part with it easily. So Alice left him in tears without anything being effected.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### THE HUNT BALL.

"Here take me out," he pitcously ex- the morning of the hunt-ball was himself aimed, "I cannot move;" his head was prain; he contemplated with delight his again; unpiated

dress pink which he was to don.
"There is not such a made coat as this," he exclaimed in ecstacy, "in the whole of Yorkshire; fits to a miracle," but he was dreadfally disgusted in the ball-room ω see young Sir William Wildman in a much better cut one, and got up by the master-hand

present. Lord and Lady Verriefast were amongst the early arrivals: the former had quite recovered the effects of his illness, as had his wife, who looked extremely well and handsome; beautifully dressed in good taste, and quiet in demeanor, she was allowed by all to be a very fascinating woman, and well worthy of the position she occupied, and that his Lordship was an exceedingly lucky man in choosing so well and judiciously as he had.

Colonel and Mrs. Downey were also