



FIG. 1.—ACCIDENT TO A STAG IN WINDSOR PARK.



FIG. 2.—FORE LEG OF STAG CAUGHT BY FORKED BRANCHES.

#### REMARKABLE ACCIDENT TO A RED DEER.

The accompanying engravings represent a curious mishap to one of the red deer in Windsor Park, the following account of which is given by Mr. Frank Buckland, in *Land and Water* :

On the 16th of January last, one of the keepers who has charge of the deer in the royal domains was going his rounds, when he suddenly came upon the scene as represented in Fig. 1. A magnificent red deer was lying on his back, with his leg tightly fixed in the forked branch of a white-thorn tree. This unfortunate animal was lying on his near or left side, with the tip of his right shoulder resting against the trunk of the tree. The chest and fore part of his body were clear of the ground, suspended by his right or off foot in the fork of the tree. Immediate examination showed the keeper exactly what we see in the engraving, Fig. 2, except that the body of the animal (in the engraving) is no longer attached to the foot. The keeper attempted to remove the foot, but found it so tightly fixed that with all his force he was quite unable to do so. The shank bone of the stag's foot was fractured and splintered diagonally. The fractured bones had made their exit by a cut through the skin, thus causing a compound comminuted fracture. The portion of the bone below this fracture—tough and strong as the red deer's shanks are—was shattered into minute fragments the size of dice. The bone was again fractured at its lower part, and the thick skin entirely lacerated through. The large sinews at the back of the bone, as well as the wire-like sinews that work the toes of the foot, were elongated and pulled out, and in fact everything was broken right off except two very slender sinews and a small portion of the skin. The total length of the portion of the deer's leg caught in the tree is seventeen inches; from the fracture to where it was torn off, eight inches. The leg was caught by the branches of the tree about four feet from the ground, and the lowest boughs carrying leaves were about nine feet from the ground. The deer was dead, and it is not known how long he had been held a prisoner by his foot.

As there were no eye-witnesses as to how this occurred to the stag, it becomes somewhat difficult to account for this extraordinary event. It is probable, however, that in consequence of the