

As to calibre, sportsmen of the Western are much at variance with those of the Eastern world, the former preferring the small bullet of thirty-two, forty, or even fifty, to the pound, while their East-Indian brethren are as strongly in favour of the large ball, running from sixteen to twelve, or even eight only to the pound. The reason of this discrepancy I fancy is this, that the difficulty of obtaining good powder is much greater in the West than in the East; for, the larger the ball, the greater the necessity for superior powder.* For my own part, I should be inclined to select a size carrying from twenty-four to sixteen to the pound.

In your choice of knives, do not be induced to encumber yourself with any thick-bladed, highly-illuminated cutlery of the German *jäger* fashion: they are very handsome to look at, when hung up over a chimney-piece, but very ineffective in the field, wearying and blistering the hands, and splintering against the bones of any large animal. The best knife for hunting purposes, in my opinion, is a good, plain, wooden-handled butcher-knife: let the handle be long, and the blade thin.

In horses, your great object should be to combine the greatest hardiness with the highest courage. A thorough-

* By increasing your charge beyond a certain quantity you do not increase the force. No more powder will ignite than is sufficient to cover the bullet if it is placed on a table and powder poured gently over it until it is concealed. If you hear your ball strike the object fired at, it is a pretty sure indication of deficiency of force, either in the quantity or the quality of the powder.