

a private horse, and a noted jumper. However, he had a fall over one of the fences, and came in last. As you see by the sketch, there are twelve jumps, and as we went round the course twice it made twenty-four. My horse was just one I had hired a few days before, at a Chilian livery stable, when I just practised him at jumping a bit. The first hurdle, filled up with brushwood, was where the second favourite collapsed. The first jump of all was a ditch about four feet broad, and a hedge beyond it, and we finished up by coming over it in the opposite direction. At the wall into the little enclosure my horse refused twice, but I managed to get him over it the third time, and the second time round he took it quite easily. Mr Thynne, the Flag-Lieutenant, is a great blessing to the ship, as he gets up everything in this way, both polo and paper-chases. I suppose we shall be home in November, and I think it would be a good plan to send me out a suit of plain clothes to meet me at Madeira, as the things I have now will be in rags by that time, and I should not be able to land in England with them. I hope you will have a good horse about that time, as I have got awfully fond of riding lately, and I think I have improved a bit. It is expected that we shall leave here in about a week's time for about ten days. On the evening after the steeple-chase I dined with the admiral. I have not got the cup yet, as it is being engraved. It is going to cost about three pounds ten shillings, so it ought to be a very nice one. I was awfully sold the other day. I was just starting for a day's shooting with some other officers, when I was taken