

tation for half a day each, they are always fresh and in good condition), when, with sparkling eye, the old dog threw his head up, casting a look over his shoulder at me with "all right" written in his face. He moved slowly to windward, his muscles steadily stiffening as he advanced. Little hillocks and lochs of water were in his course; but mounting over the first, and plunging through the latter—

"He stopped not for brake, and he stayed not for stone;
He swam the Esk river where ford there was none;"

and after going in a straight line for about four hundred yards, his body gradually lowering, he became at length fixed as a statue. Before him, at a distance of twenty-five yards, in open ground, upon a marsh, alike, as if transfixed, sideways stood the old cock, his head inclined towards Bob, his eye fastened upon him. Near and around the old bird were from twelve to fifteen others open to our view. "There's a fine pot shot for you, Robert," said John. "Fair play is a jewel, John, and ——." Whir-r-r, bang, bang, bang, two birds fell by my first barrel and one to the second, whilst Robert had singled out the bird furthest on his side, and brought him down. As quick as thought I had the two blank cartridges out and re-loaded, three more birds rose, bang, bang, and two more fell. "That's smart work, sir," said old Robert, "I wouldn't have fired only I see'd the bird I shot was far away beyond yer reach." "All right. I'm glad you fired." "Well, sir, if I'd had a gun like that and a dog like Bob all my life, I'd have made a fortune." And my breech-loader, an excellent and well-finished piece, recently sent me by Messrs. Cogswell & Harrison, of Strand, London, was forthwith eulogized in no measured terms.

The morning was spent with good sport. "I say, Robert," said John, "if he goes on at this rate we'll want help to carry the birds before night, I have twenty." "And I have a dozen," said Robert. "Sixteen brace," said I, "and as we must get to the other tilt before night it is time we moved in that direction." We arrived there as the sun was setting, having shot some birds on the way. I then scored up a bag of 31½ brace. Our stores would no longer respond to our appetites, and as they demanded satisfaction we were bound to yield to the demand.

I resolved upon changing my plans, by not going to St. Mark's, but getting further provisions, to spend the next few days upon these grounds, so I sent out the birds to be distributed among friends, and with a replenished bread-bag, was on Tuesday again upon the Flakey Downs, having exchanged Uncle James for Mark, who, with John, made a brace of as athletic fellows as could be wished for. Our camps were now more carefully constructed, and full attention bestowed on making our lodgings snug and comfortable. Fortunately we were favoured with fine bracing weather. Each day's excursion brought new scenes before us. Sometimes mounting to the top of a high hill more lofty than its fellows, an expansive view was obtained of the surrounding country. In one direction the eye was lost in impenetrable woods; in others long ridges, generally tending north-east and