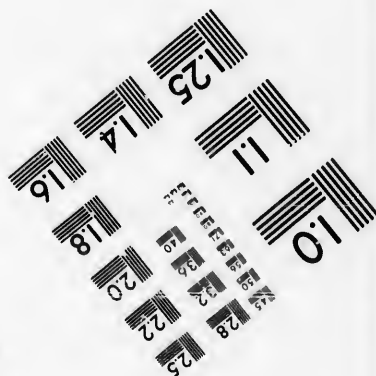
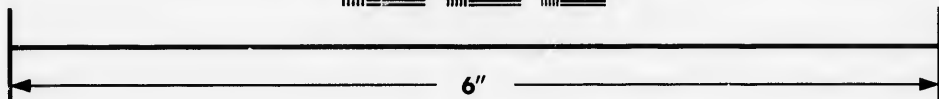
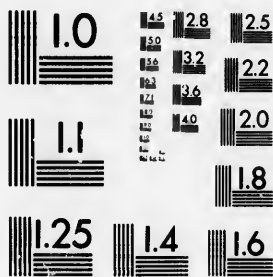


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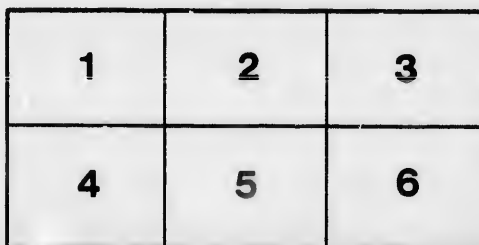
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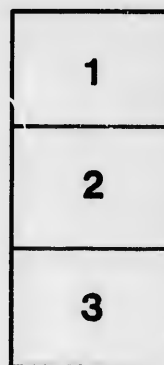
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*A. M. Taylor*

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RULES

OF THE

Montreal Archery Club,

ADOPTED 15TH MAY, 1858.

W 1  
Instructions on Archery.

MONTREAL :

Printed by J. Starks & Co., St. Francois Xavier St.

1859.

*J. M. Taylor*

**RULES**

OF THE

**Montreal Archery Club,**

ADOPTED 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 1858.

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WITH

**Instructions on Archery.**

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MONTREAL :

*Printed by J. Starke & Co., St. Francois Xavier St.*

1859.

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# RULES

OF

## The Montreal Archery Club.

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*First.*—That this Club shall be called “THE MONTREAL ARCHERY CLUB,” and shall be under the control of a “Master Archer,” six Lady Directresses, and six Gentlemen Directors, who shall have the right of Ballotting for applicants to become Members.

*Second.*—That any four of the Directresses or the Directors, presided over by the Master Archer, shall form a quorum for the transaction of business connected with the Club.

*Third.*—That the Directresses and Directors, and Master Archer, may appoint a Secretary-Treasurer from amongst their number.

*Fourth.*—Any person wishing to become a Member of this Club, shall send in his or her name and residence, to the Master Archer, to be by him submitted to the Directresses and Directors, at any Meeting for Ballot.

*Fifth.*—On the admission of each new Member, the “Master Archer” shall notify the applicant of the same, and shall request the party to remit the amount of subscription forthwith.



*Sixth.*—The entrance fee shall be ten shillings for Gentlemen; and the annual subscription, for Ladies and Gentlemen shall be ten shillings each, payable on the first day of May, of each year, and no person shall be considered a Member, until such fees be paid.

*Seventh.*—That each Member shall furnish a Bow and a Quiver of six Arrows, subject to the supervision of the "Master Archer."

*Eighth.*—That the "Costume" of the Members of this Club shall be:—*For Ladies*—A White Muslin Skirt, Jacket of rather Dark Green Silk, and White Felt Hat, bound with Green Velvet, and Green and White Feather. *For Gentlemen*—A Lincoln Green Tunic, a Belt and Pouch, and a Cap or Bonnet of Lincoln Green.

*Ninth.*—That for the proper organization of this Club, all differences which may arise during the practice, or regular Meeting days of the Club, shall be decided by the "Master Archer."

*Tenth.*—That the days of Meeting shall be Wednesday and Saturday of each week, at the hour of four of the clock in the afternoon.

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## List of Office Bearers and Members.

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### DIRECTRESSES.

MRS. W. H. BREHAUT.	MRS. J. G. MACKENZIE.
" A. M. DELISLE.	" BANNER PRICE.
" HOLLAND.	" WM. PHILLIPS.

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### DIRECTORS.

LT.-COL. ERMATINGER.	DEPT. COM.-GEN. ROUTH.
DR. THOS. W. JONES.	ASSIST. COM.-GEN. SALWAY.
THOS. MORLAND, ESQ.	CAPT. TRAHERNE, 17th Regt.

T. BREHAUT,  
M. A. & S.-T.

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### MEMBERS.

A.	C.
Auldjo, Miss	Campbell, Mrs. Major
	Coursol, Mrs. C. J.
	Carter, Mrs. Edward
	Chapman, Mrs. Henry
	Carter, Miss
B.	Campbell, Major
Bethune, Mrs. Strachan	Creighton, Mr. W. B.
Brehaut, Mr.	Coursol, Mr. C. J.
Buckland, Mrs. J. B.	Carter, Mr. Edward
Bone, Dr., 17th Regiment	
Bethune, Mr. Strachan	
Black, Mr. L. S.	
Brady, Mr. F.	
Buckland, J. B.	

## D.

Delisle, Mrs.  
 Delisle, Miss.  
 De Rocheblane, Miss  
 Dunlop, Mr.  
 Delisle, Mr. A. M.

## E.

Ermatinger, Mrs.  
 Ermatinger, Lt.-Col.  
 Earle, Captain 17th Regt.

## F.

Freer, Mrs.  
 Ferrier, Mrs. G. D.  
 Ferrier, Mr. G. D.

## G.

Gethings, Mr. J. H.  
 Greenshields, Mr. W.

## H.

Holland, Mrs.  
 Harvey, Mrs.  
 Hamilton, Mrs. Chas.  
 Handyside, Miss  
 Holland, Mr. Phillip  
 Holdsworth, Col.  
 Hamilton, Mr. Mark  
 Harvey, Mr. A. Jr.  
 Handyside, Mr. J.  
 Hunter, Mr.  
 Hamilton, Mr. Chas.

*Holland, Mr. Phillip*

## J.

Jones, Mrs. Dr.  
 Jones, Dr.

## K.

Keith, Mrs.  
 Keith, Mr.

## M. &amp; Mc.

McKenzie, Mrs. J. G.  
 McDougall, Mrs. D. L.  
 McKenzie, Mr. Gordon  
 MacDougall, Mr. D. L.  
 McCalman, Mr. A. H.  
 McKenzie, Mr. Alexander  
 McNab, Mr. P.  
 Morland, Mr. Thomas  
 Moffatt, Mr. John  
 McKay, Mr. Henry  
 Mair, Mr. David  
 Mitchell, Mr. Alexander

## O.

Ogilvy, Miss  
 Ogilvy, Mr. John

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## P.

Phillips, Mrs. William  
 Prentice, Mrs.  
 Price, Mrs.  
 Pardy, Miss  
 Pardy, Miss C.  
 Penn, Miss  
 Price, Miss  
 Phillips, Mr. William  
 Parker, Mr., 17th Regiment

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Routh, Mrs.  
 Ramsay, Miss  
 Rogers, Miss  
 Routh, Asst. Com.-Gen.  
 Rufford, Mr.  
 Ramsay, Mr. T. K.  
 Ryan, Mr. Thos.  
 Robertson, Mr. Andrew  
 Ryland, Mr. H.  
 Ramsay, Mr. W. M.

## S.

Selby, Mr. Charles  
 Salway, Ass. Com.-Gen. A.  
 Scott, Mr. Walter

## T.

Tylee, Mrs.  
 Thompson, Mrs. L. H.  
 Taylor, Miss  
 Taylor, Miss L.  
 Tyre, Miss  
 Tylee, Mr.  
 Traherne, Capt. 17th Regt.  
 Taylor, Col. R. A.  
 Thompson, Mr. L. H.  
 Travers, Capt. 17th Regt.  
 Travers, Lieut. J. C. 17th Regt.

## U.

Utterson, Lieut. 17th Regt.

## W.

Walker, Mrs. Joseph  
 Whitney, Mrs.  
 Wheeler, Mrs. Dr.  
 Willis, Mr.  
 Walker, Mr. Joseph  
 Ward, Dr. 17th Regiment  
 Williams, Capt. 17th Regt.  
 Whitney, Mr. H.  
 Wheeler, Dr.

## Y.

Young, Miss  
 Young, Mr. J. M.

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## Instructions on Archery.

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EVERY reader of the Old Testament and of Ancient History must be constantly reminded of the very great antiquity of the Bow, not only as a military weapon, but also as one used in the chase. The recent discoveries of Dr. Layard, incontestably prove that the bow was used in both these capacities by the Ægyptians and Assyrians; but no researches can throw any light on the invention or introduction of it. Poets in every age have delighted in making allusions to the Bow, and it would be an easy task to multiply instances in corroboration of this fact. Above all other people, the English have been celebrated for the use of the Bow, both as a military weapon, and as a source of amusement. The strength and skill of the Archers of this kingdom have never been surpassed. But it is not as a military weapon that we would now consider it. The introduction of gunpowder has displaced the bow in warfare; and till within the last half century the practice of Archery, as a pastime, had fallen into disuse. A re-action has, however, taken place. Archery Meetings are now held, during the summer, in all parts of the island: and it does not require many words to prove that it has become a favorite and fashionable amusement.

In Archery, theory avails but little of itself; still there is a great deal which may be advantageously collected from such works as have appeared on the subject. In the present treatise the writer does not presumptuously suppose that by following the directions laid down, any person will acquire any great amount of skill, without any early initiation, constant and painstaking practice, and a desire of excelling. There must also accompany those requisites a fondness for the art, and what Ascham calls, "an *aptness* thereunto." And after all,

few, if any, will become first-rate marksmen, who have not felt an enthusiasm for the art of shooting in early life. The steady hand and eye, the correct appreciation of distance, the intuitive knowledge (for, it becomes intuitive) of the allowance requisite for the direction of the wind, and the parabolic curve described by every projectile in long distances, all these require considerable practice and 'a zest for the object.' Not that we wish to discourage the young Archer with the remote prospect of attaining to a considerable degree of proficiency; all we would inculcate is, attention to the observation here laid down, and a determined endeavor to surmount the difficulties which necessarily accompany any new undertaking.

In the full persuasion that "Archery is an art difficult in nice performance," and of the inability of directions to impart proficiency, the following observations are addressed to the *uninitiated*, merely as suggestions with reference to the practice of that elegant and fashionable amusement. - But before we proceed to do so, there are descriptions to be made, not only of Bows and Arrows, but of the several necessary adjuncts to them.

## BOWS.

From some considerable experience we would strongly advise any person desirous of purchasing a Bow, to do so from a respectable maker, where, with little chance of obtaining one of unseasoned wood, there is always a variety of prices and *weights*; for Bows are measured by weight, as we shall presently show.

There are two description of Bows, termed "*Self*;" and "*Backed Bows*," the former made from one piece of wood; the latter of two or more pieces joined longitudinally together. Bows of either description are nearly always made with the *outside flat*; this is called the *back*, while the inside, which is called the *belly*, is made round.

As regards the manufacture of the Bow, when nearly finished it is strung and suspended by the handle at one end of a steelyard; the string is then drawn down to the length of twenty-eight inches for a gentleman's, and twenty-five inches for a lady's bow, and the weight of the Bow is indicated at

that point of the graduated scale where the *bob* (as the weight of a steel yard is called) balances; the number, which indicates the weight, is then stamped on the back of the Bow. Ladies' Bows range from twenty to thirty-two pounds, whilst gentlemen's from forty, sometimes exceed sixty pounds; but for the generality of gentlemen's from forty-seven to fifty-two may be recommended; whilst for ladies one of twenty-five pounds will be found sufficiently strong to commence with.

No directions, however, can possibly be given on the choice of a Bow, as it depends entirely on the strength of the purchaser, his height, and length of arm. It has been considered by some that the height of a man should be the length of his Bow; this rule, however, will not hold good under all cases. A man under five feet nine inches ought not to use a Bow longer than five feet ten inches, and we would not recommend one above six feet even to a life guardsman.

A Bow too strong is objectionable from causing fatigue, and from the inability of the Archer to draw the Arrow up as far as is requisite. One too weak is to be rejected, as it may easily be overdrawn, and broken, from no other cause than the application of too much strength. The proper weight, then, for the *first* Bow, is that which a person can draw somewhat *easily*, and without distortion of countenance or position. As he acquires skill in shooting, he will also find an acquisition of strength to the extent of several pounds weight.

With regard to stringing and unstringing the Bow, notwithstanding in every book on Archery there are rules and directions given which every Archer can perfectly understand, there is still so much which must be nearly unintelligible to a *novice*, that a lesson from a friend or the bow-maker will, in five minutes, accomplish more than can be conveyed by words; we shall, therefore, omit this part of instruction altogether. It may, however, be here stated, that a gentleman's Bow should be strung up six inches, and a lady's five inches and a half; that is, the string opposite the handle should be so far from the belly of the bow.

It is not necessary that a Bow should be unstrung during shooting, when, from the company being numerous, some little time will probably elapse before the Archer's turn to shoot arrives; but after the shooting is over it must be *unstrung*; and if wet, or even damp, should be wiped dry before it is put into the green baize case, which may be well protected from the ill effects of rain by a Mackintosh cover, made large enough to admit the Bow and green baize bag easily.



A piece of ribbon is generally put through the hole in the extreme end of the upper horn ; it is then passed through the eye of the bowstring and tied in a bow-knot. The object of this is to prevent the string from slipping down the upper limb of the Bow when taking it out of the case, or from coming off the lower horn altogether, as in either case the string would untwist and receive injury. It is sometimes necessary to lengthen or shorten the string ; previous to doing this the ribbon must be untied, and when the string is adjusted to the required length the ribbon brings it up to its proper place and keeps it there.

The German and Ghent strings are the only ones now used ; of these the former are rather the dearest ; but it is good economy to buy the best ; the latter, however, have long enjoyed a celebrity which they well deserve.

A new string requires lapping with silk to prevent the nock of the arrow from cutting the fibres of the hemp, or the string itself from being frayed by constantly striking the guard. Commence the operation by first stringing the Bow, then rub with shoemaker's wax about six inches of the string opposite the handle ; three pieces of stout netting silk of contrasting colors, about a yard in length, should be well waxed with beeswax ; with a firm beginning, lap these three pieces of silk round the string, drawing each turn as tightly as you think the silk will bear. A piece of floss silk, about an inch in length, should be laid along the string opposite the top of the handle, and at each alternate round made to appear by being *held up*, and the silk lapped round the string *under* it. The lapping should be carried on about an inch and a half higher than opposite the top of the handle, and there fastened off. The part may be rubbed with some beeswax, and afterwards with a piece of leather : the heat caused by the friction makes it both smooth and uniform. The entire string should occasionally be waxed and rubbed in this manner. The object in inserting the floss silk is, that there may be a distinguishing mark on which the arrow should be nocked. The best of strings will, at first, stretch a little ; consequently, the different gradations on that part of the lapping where the floss silk appears, will point out exactly the proper place for the succeeding arrow when it has been ascertained from the flight of the previous one. The space of an inch will allow for any little alterations of the string.

An Archer should always have with him, when engaged in shooting, a spare string, previously lapped, and adjusted to the length of his bow.

The method of attaching the string to the horn of the lower limb, although exceedingly simple, requires a little observation, which will be best obtained from examining the string on the Bow when purchasing it.

## ARROWS.

THE strength and length of the Bow must be the guide in selecting arrows. These, as well as Bows, are *weighed*, not by pounds, but by silver money, usually old coins which were current during the times in which Archery flourished.

Ladies' Arrows are twenty-five inches in length, and vary in weight from two shillings and threepence to three shillings and three pence. For a gentleman's bow of fifty pounds, and above that weight, and six feet long, we should recommend Arrows of twenty-eight inches, weighing from four shillings and sixpence to five shillings and sixpence; for Bows under fifty pounds, and not exceeding five feet ten inches in length, Arrows of twenty-eight inches, and from three shillings and sixpence to four shillings and sixpence each.

No rule, however, can be made for regulating the length and weight of Arrows; twenty-eight inches are long enough if drawn up to the pile, for one hundred yards, the longest distance now usually shot; and a Bow of fifty pounds will cast an arrow that length, weighing four shillings, to the opposite target with little elevation. The same observation applies to Bows of less weight; a three shillings and ninepenny arrow of twenty-eight inches is quite capable of being shot one hundred yards from a forty-eight pound Bow, if drawn up as every Arrow should be.

Arrows are now generally made of red deal or lime. It is indispensable that the wood should be thoroughly seasoned, cut with the grain, and free from knots or curls. The best and most expensive are footed with some hard wood, which not only better balances, but, by increasing their strength, renders them less likely to break off just below the *pile* (as the head of the Arrow is called), and also prevents their liability to cast.

Some persons, after shooting, place their bows with the arrows *leaning against* the wall or corner of a room; but this is very objectionable, as their specific gravity is of itself sufficient to warp them. Both should be placed in a perpendicular or horizontal position, the Bow should be hung up, and the Arrows put in a tin case or cover.

Be careful not to shoot when the grass is wet; if the moisture does not cause the feathers to come off, which it most

probably will, or at all events loosen them, the foot of the arrow, which penetrates the ground, get so saturated with wet, that it is very considerably increased in weight, and that weight not distributed throughout the Arrow, but entirely at one end.

As the flight of an Arrow depends so materially on the feathers, be particularly careful and observant of these delicate appendages; if a feather is damaged the Arrow becomes useless, and it will be in vain to put on another.

The grass should be cut very close for some distance around the Targets, otherwise the Arrows will be very apt to *snake*, as it is termed; that is, they will be so concealed under the grass as to elude even a practised eye, and may be trodden on, and thereby completely spoiled.

When an Arrow has *snaaked* do not attempt to draw it back (which would injure the feathers), but with the point of another Arrow clear away the grass which is over the feathers and as much more as you conveniently can; the Arrow may then be easily removed.

Every Archer should have his mark painted on that part of his Arrows which is just beyond the commencement of the feathers; as without this distinguishing mark, where several are shooting, much confusion arises from the Archer not knowing his own before he draws them out of the ground. In doing this great care should be taken; place your hand under the Arrow with the *outside joints of your fingers upon the ground*, and as you draw it out, turn it round with the thumb and forefinger; if in the Target, take hold of it close to the painted circle in which it may be with the *knuckles upwards*, and turn it round as you draw it out, at the same time pressing against the Target with the other hand.

The *nock* of the Arrow should be rather tight than otherwise on the string; at all events it should fit easily, not requiring any force to put it on, as that would endanger the horn splitting.

Arrows for the same distance should always be of the same length and weight; in short, exactly alike in all essential particulars; when this is not attended to, with the same elevation, there must of necessity be a difference in the flight of an Arrow so varying.

All Arrows have three feathers placed in a triangle longitudinally on that part called the *steele*, just beyond the horn which is inserted for the preservation of the nock. A very little experience will suffice to show, that of the *two only ways* in which an arrow can possibly be nocked, that is the

*proper one* which brings the feather upon the horn (and which is generally of a different colour to the other two) on the *upper* side of the string. Try the other way, and you will find that the *cock feather* as it is termed, will rub against the bow when it is discharged, and must consequently cause an aberration in its direction, independent of the injury it must sustain.

## TARGETS.

TARGETS are generally made of rye straw, which is whiter and not so coarse as that of wheat; this part is called the *bass*; upon it is sewn the *facing*, a piece of canvas, having four bands or circles painted on it round the centre, which is the *gold*; next to that is the *red* or *scarlet*; then *blue*; *black*; then *white*; outside this last is the *petticoat*, of green, merely to make the edge of this ring distinct. The diameter is four feet, consequently each ring is four inches and eight-tenths in width.

The Targets are usually, for gentlemen, placed at one hundred, eighty, and sixty yards distance from each other; and for ladies, at sixty and fifty yards. It is recommended that beginners should commence with the shortest distance, and increase it in proportion to their improvement.

Targets of different sizes may be procured ready-made with iron stands for supporting them. The legs of these are bevilled off to a narrow edge, so as to present as small a surface as possible to the Arrow; this gradually reduces the chances of their being struck.

Whatever the distance may be that you intend to shoot, you should always have two targets, one at each end, otherwise you will be tempted to shoot more than *three arrows*, which are *quite enough at one time*, before you go for them, or send a person to fetch them; whereas by having two targets, in addition to the exercise of walking from one target to the other, you give a relaxation to those muscles you have just exercised, by calling a different set into action. The centre of the gold should be four feet from the ground. The value of the different circles is generally allowed to be, for the gold, 9; red, 7; blue, 5; black, 3; and white, 1. This is according to the rules of the Toxophilite Society, and the regulations enforced by the Committee at the National Archery meetings.

Ladies' Targets differ in no other respect than in being much smaller. The only objection to their shooting at Targets four feet in diameter is, that at fifty yards, the distance generally shot by ladies, the Targets would be soon worn out by constant

piercing. Where this objection does not exist, we would recommend the large ones, as it is encouraging to beginners to get Arrows into the Target.

Where circumstances will admit of it, it is advisable to erect Butts for the purpose of practice. These are made of layers of turf; where peat can be procured it is preferable, being not only more free from stones, but also less affected by the weather. They may be made of any height within the Archer's reach, and placed opposite each other at any distance at which it is desirable to practise. A level meadow should be chosen, and it is better that the Butts should face more to the north and south, than to the east and west, as the sun in the summer evenings will be shining low in the west, and thus in the eyes of the Archer, when standing at the east Butt. The shape of them is immaterial, the object being to receive such arrows as would, after missing the Target, light on the ground. The Targets are suspended from a peg placed in the upper part of the front of the Butt.

After practising at Butts, the Archer will find considerable difference in the appearance of Targets when placed on stands; but this may easily be surmounted by a few hours practice at them, which we would recommend particularly previous to any great occasion or exhibition. Ladies especially will be induced to shoot more frequently at Butts than at the common target stands, as the necessity of stooping for the arrows is in a great measure removed; independent of which there is a very considerable saving of time as well as expenditure for arrows, the expense of erecting Butts not being equal to the prime cost of half-a-dozen; and in the country, where the use of Butts would most probably be adopted, it is not always possible to procure arrows. Where it is practicable, we would recommend that the Targets or Butts should be placed with the ground *beyond* sloping towards them; as in the summer, when the surface is dry and hard, arrows are very liable to glance along the ground for a considerable distance without *sticking* in where they alight.

In the engraving of the Butt with the fence, it must be observed that the pole in front, as well as the one behind the Butt, should be moveable. The front posts are about twenty feet apart, and it is not a difficult matter to procure a larch pole of that length, sufficiently light and strong for the purpose; or an iron chain might be substituted in its place. The side posts and rails are fixtures, and the Butt itself saves the post behind from being struck by the arrows: the chief object being to protect it from being injured by cattle, it is immaterial what description of fence is adopted.

Ivy may be encouraged to grow over the back and sides, as it supports the turf and protects it from being scorched by the summer's sun, or affected by the winter's frosts.

## THE GUARD.

THE Guard used to be formed of a piece of stout leather, which was buckled round the left arm, to prevent the string of the bow from hurting it. Now, the best sort of guard is made of patent leather, which draws on over the hand and requires neither buckles nor straps to keep it in place. Ladies' guards are still made of leather lined with silk and padded, and are buckled round the bow arm.

## THE SHOOTING GLOVE.

FORMERLY this resembled a *glove* more than it does at present; it consists now of three little leather tubes, each sewn to the three ends of a piece of leather cut into three slips, and buttoned or buckled round the wrist. It is used to save the fingers from being cut by the string. We are of opinion that the use of *two* fingers in drawing is preferable to that of *three*; *two* must divide the string more equally, and the loose is generally better. A person who draws with *two* fingers only, is seldom guilty of *holding* the bow when drawn to its greatest extent. The advocates for three fingers urge in its favour, that the use of the third finger gives a greater degree of strength. We do not deny this, but still recommend the first two fingers *only* to be used, and these kept in as straight a line as possible with the elbow.

Some beginners draw the string with the first *two* joints of the fingers *bent*, in order to keep the string from slipping off; when this is the case the *fingers alone* sustain all the strength, whereas if they are kept in nearly a straight line with the elbow, with the first joint as little bent as possible, the muscles of the body and arm may be advantageously exerted.

The second finger being longer than the first will receive a greater strain on it than the other; no more of them should be bent than will suffice to enable the Archer to maintain a firm hold on the string.

Beginners, as they commence drawing, will frequently find that the arrow will leave the bow, and after describing a segment of a circle, of which the string seems to be the centre, will fall on the ground to the left of the bow arm. This is caused by the fingers being put too far over the string, which

makes it turn *from* the bow, whereas when the fingers are put in the proper position for drawing the string, it has a tendency to twist *towards* the bow, and the nock of the arrow fitting the string participates in a like movement.

It should be observed that great care is required in selecting the *finger-stalls*, as the guards for the fingers are called. They should be of sufficient thickness to save the fingers from the effects of the string, but at the same time you ought to be able to feel the string through them; if they are *too tight* it will be impossible to draw properly with them; if *too large*, they will come off at every discharge.

The plan we have adopted in making them fit exactly is to soak them in warm water for a few minutes previous to putting them on the fingers, where they should be suffered to dry. It is also necessary to take into consideration whether they are to be worn over or without a glove, as the thinnest kid leather will make a considerable difference in the fit.

### **THE BELT.**

It is absolutely necessary to have some means of carrying the Arrows, and for this purpose a Belt which buckles round the waist has been found most convenient; from this is suspended a pouch, or tube, covered with leather, into which the points of the arrows are put; the part on which the feathers are, projecting outwards, is less liable to injury.

### **THE TASSEL.**

This is suspended from the Belt, and as its use is so apparent it is unnecessary to describe it. You will get into the habit of drawing the Arrows through the Tassel immediately they are taken from the ground, which serves to remove any dirt or dampness, and keeps the arrow to its proper weight. Nothing looks more slovenly than to see a person shooting with a great piece of dirt adhering to the point of the Arrow, independent of which the weight of the Arrow is greatly increased; and from the thickness of the dirt on the pile, the Arrow will take a wrong direction.

### **THE GREASE BOX.**

This is a little box suspended from the belt like the tassel, and contains a composition of deer's suet and pomatum, or indeed, any grease; the object of it is, to make the string slip more easily from the fingers, for which purpose a little may occas-



ionally be put on the finger stalls. We should recommend a sparing use of grease, as the effect of it is to loosen the lapping or the string.

These several articles—the guard, shooting glove, belt, tassel, and grease box—can be obtained at any Archery warehouse. The utility of the last is questionable; the others are absolutely necessary.

A tin case or cover, generally painted green, is recommended for keeping such arrows in as are not required for immediate use; being very susceptible of injury, it is highly desirable to protect them in every possible way.

### POSITION.

We have now arrived at the most important point for insuring, if not proficiency and a high state of perfection, at least grace and elegance in the art of shooting. The system we advocate is, in respect of *standing*, unlike those which are laid down in most books on Archery. We object to the young Archer being directed to stand *sideways*; in place of which, we would advise that he should stand with the *right* foot pointed directly towards the target from which he is about to shoot, the *left* at right angles with it, the heels about six or eight inches apart, the weight of the body thrown equally on both feet, the knees to be quite straight, not bent, and the whole body, neck and head to be kept in a perpendicular position.

Any person who has been accustomed to shoot in a different position will probably consider this a constrained one, and ill adapted for exerting the strength he may possess; but as this is altogether intended for beginners, we contend that *this* position may be as easily acquired as any other. The advantage it possesses, independent of appearance, is, that it more immediately calls into action and assistance the muscles of the back and breast, and, in our opinion, is the only one which enables the Archer "to lay his body in the Bow," *i. e.*, to make use of the muscles of the body. In the method of shooting which is generally recommended in the different works on Archery, the biceps muscle of the shaft-arm sustains the greatest part, if not all the effort of drawing. The shoulder-blade of the bow-arm should be drawn in towards the body, something in the position which a backboard would produce. The whole performance, difficult indeed to describe, may be attempted in the following words:—

After placing your feet in the manner already described, which will be thus, | — |, grasp the bow firmly by the han-



die, and nock the arrow upon the proper part of the string; in doing this, you will find the Bow is in a horizontal position; straighten the left arm in front of the left thigh, with the fingers of the right hand holding the arrow on the string; do not bend the left arm again, but extending it as far as possible, without altering your position, raise it up slowly, with the Bow in a perpendicular direction, *as you draw the string*, sufficiently for that degree of elevation which you calculate is proper; you will now find that there is a considerable degree of tension; let the wrist of the bow-hand be turned in towards the string, bring the shaft-hand steadily in the same direction *towards* the bottom of the ear, draw the arrow up to the pile and let it go *instantaneously*.

As the whole of the left hand which grasps the Bow is clear of the target, you would suppose that the arrow would go very much to the right of it; yet, after a few trials, you will find how necessary it is to avoid any part being in front or opposite, and when that is the case how far to the *left* of the target your arrow will fly. If the arrow does not go far enough, it is a proof that you have either not raised the bow-hand *sufficiently high*, or the drawing hand *too high*; if the arrow goes too far, it, in all probability, arises from your dropping the elbow of the drawing-arm, which necessarily elevates the point of the arrow, and is most frequently the cause of shooting over the mark.

The Archer must bear in mind that there are many points to observe in the act of shooting, of which a recapitulation may be desirable. The feet to be properly placed, the knees *not* bent, equal weight on each leg, the body, neck and head upright, the wrist *turned in*, the left arm perfectly stiff and never suffered to be bent, the elbow of the right arm to be kept up, and the string to be loosened instantly the arrow is drawn up. This last movement must be done at once, not with a jerk, neither too slow, but moderately quick. The aim is just what a boy takes with a stone which he throws at a bird, a coachman with a four-horsed whip, or a fisherman with a fly-rod; in either case the hand obeys the eye; and so in Archery, after the difficulties at the beginning are surmounted, every arrow which is shot will be found to be more and more under the control of the Archer.

If any person thinks it necessary to satisfy himself that aim with an Arrow is entirely out of the question, let him only consider that, in consequence of the width of the Bow at the handle, the Arrow leaves the string at a very different angle from what it made when drawn up, and at the time when "the best Archers pause to take their aim."

We would advise the young Archer to shoot as *low* or as near to *point blank* as he can, since the greater the elevation the less surface of the Target is presented, the Arrow has less distance to travel, and is not so likely to be blown or diverted from its course by the wind, as when shot at any considerable elevation.

Whenever the fingers get sore or tender from the action of the string over them, it is better to discontinue shooting, and give them a little time to recover; the pain arising from a blister will, most probably, prevent the Arrow being drawn up sufficiently. or properly loosed. The Archer's fingers, like the harp-players, will soon acquire a sufficient hardness to resist any ill effects from drawing.

Gentlemen who indulge in rings are recommended to remove them from their *left* hand at all events; and a cap will be found much more convenient to shoot in than a hat.

We cannot too strongly urge the necessity of the dress, both for ladies and gentlemen, being as loose and easy as possible. as any tightness prevents the free action of the arms, and consequently increases the difficulty of shooting in a proper manner.

No one but the shooter should be in front of the Target; any object within his view is calculated to distract his attention; and not a word should be spoken when any one is in the act of shooting.

Before shooting it is advisable to avoid any violent exercise, such as riding on horseback, rowing, running, or walking fast, or in short, any thing which may be calculated to render the hand unsteady; the art of shooting well is of itself sufficiently difficult, and needs not to be increased by any means that may be avoided.

We have always been of opinion that anything which was worth doing at all, was worth doing well; and surely the gratification of seeing an arrow fly properly from the Bow to the centre of the Target, is one of those achievements which merits and well repays a considerable amount of pains-taking.

We have now conducted the young beginner through the different stages of Archery. As we have before stated, we are aware that neither these nor any other written instructions are capable of imparting a high degree of perfection, without constant practice, engrafted on a correct initiation; the latter we have endeavored to render intelligible, and such as our firm conviction leads us to recommend; as to the practical part, that must alone depend on the amount of inclination to carry out our suggestions which the reader, may possess.

