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THE SPORTSMAN'S LITTLE



ALPHABET

Illustrated by

FRED GREY.



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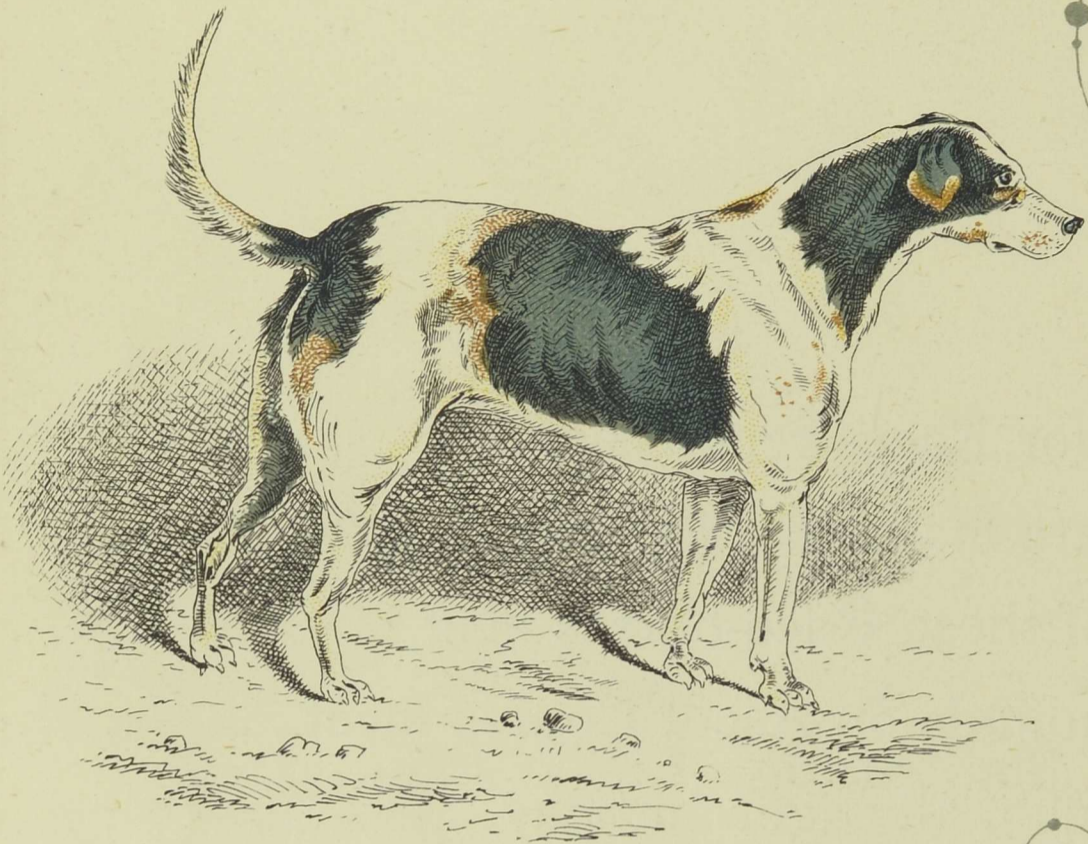
FRED^K WARNE & CO



Aa

A stands for ASCOT—for Races renowned—
Where steeds that are matchless fly over its ground.
But, sometimes, instead of these Race-horses fleet,
The Queen's Royal Staghounds on Ascot Course meet ;
And Hunters and Huntsmen, all eager and gay,
See the Stag, that is freed for the chase, bound away.

“ O'er hill and o'er valley, o'er dale and o'er down,”
They'll follow the Stag that belongs to the Crown,
Till panting it stands, when the day's sport is done,
At bay, at the close of a capital run.
But its life will be spared ; they will take it away,
To be hunted again upon some future day.



Bb

Cc

Dd



B stands for BEAUTY, the name of this Hound ;
His equal in fleetness can scarcely be found.
The pride of the Kennel, the little ones' pet—
Rejoiced when a frolic with “ Beauty ” they get.
Most faithful and honest ; brave, loving, and true ;
He sets an example, dear children, to you.

C stands for COVERT—a sheltering spot,
Well hidden and safe, that the Hunters know not.

D stands for the DEER, who its solitude love,
And through its green depths and recesses oft rove.
A murmuring stream adds a charm to the place ;
And there they forget both mankind and the chase.



Ee



E stands for EPSOM. The Races, you see.
We cannot yet tell who the winner may be.
They run for the Derby—the greatest of Races ;
The horses are put to the swiftest of paces.
Just look at the crowds who their efforts survey ;
They all are resolved to be merry to-day.

Christy Minstrels abound ; pretty Gipsies, as well,
Are ready and willing your fortune to tell.
“ ’ Krec Card,” cries one ; “ Try your luck,” shouts another.
That Monkey might well be his owner’s own brother !
The Policeman looks on, with a smile on his face,
He can’t be severe at the Derby’s famed race.



FF

GG



F stands for FISHING. By many a stream,
When soft, fleecy clouds hide the sun's brightest beam,
The Fisherman sits, while the waters glide by,
Till he feels the Fish bite at his well-mimicked fly ;
Then he draws up his line, and he welcomes alike,
As reward of his pains—Trout, Salmon, or Pike.

G stands for a GATE—a five-barred one, you see—
To clear it a difficult matter must be ;
But this Rider sits firmly—'tis easy to him,
Who over a hedge, fence, or brooklet can skim
Almost like a Swallow. The first in the field,
The palm to his horsemanship all gladly yield.



Hh

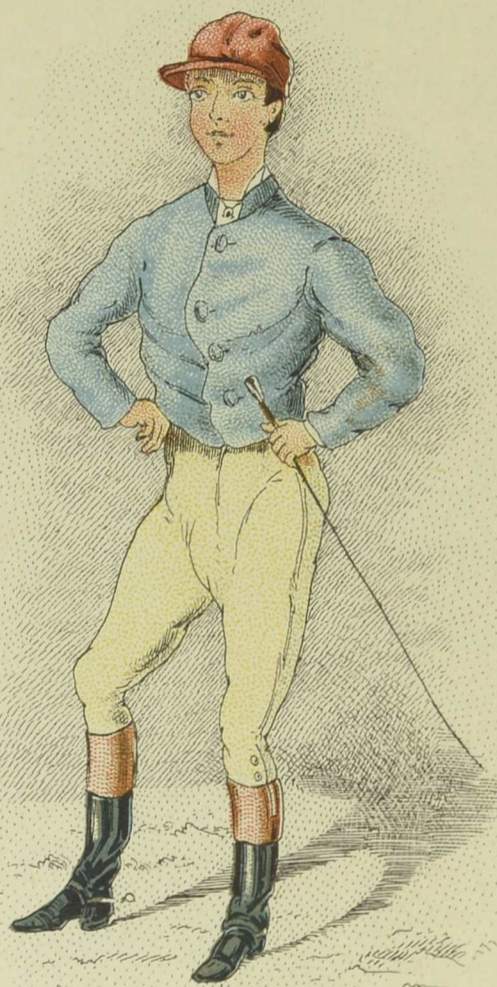
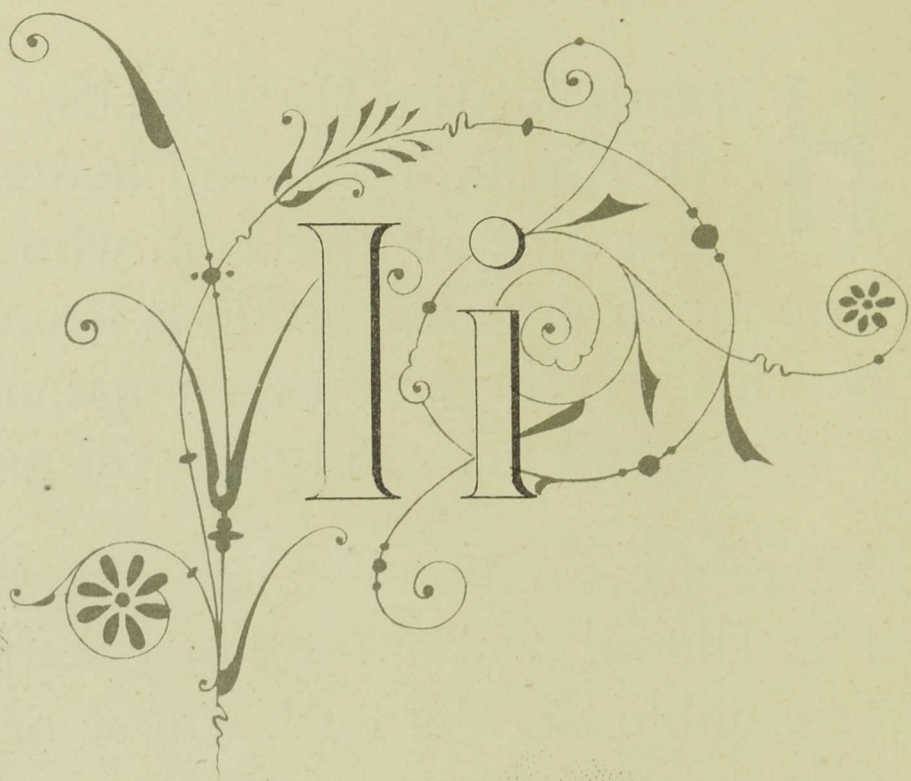
H stands for the HOUNDS. They are here in full cry ;
O'er field, ditch, and hedgerow the Hunters sweep by.
Far on toils the Fox, who tries many a wile
The much dreaded Hounds from his track to beguile ;
But his windings and turnings, all will prove vain ;
His den and his young he will ne'er see again !

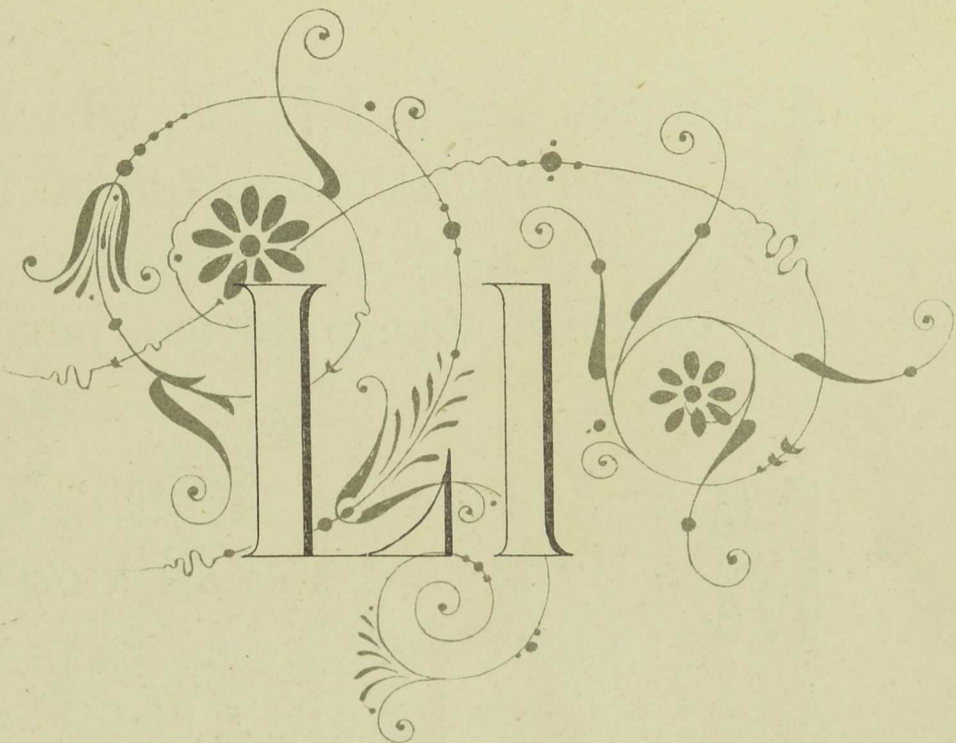
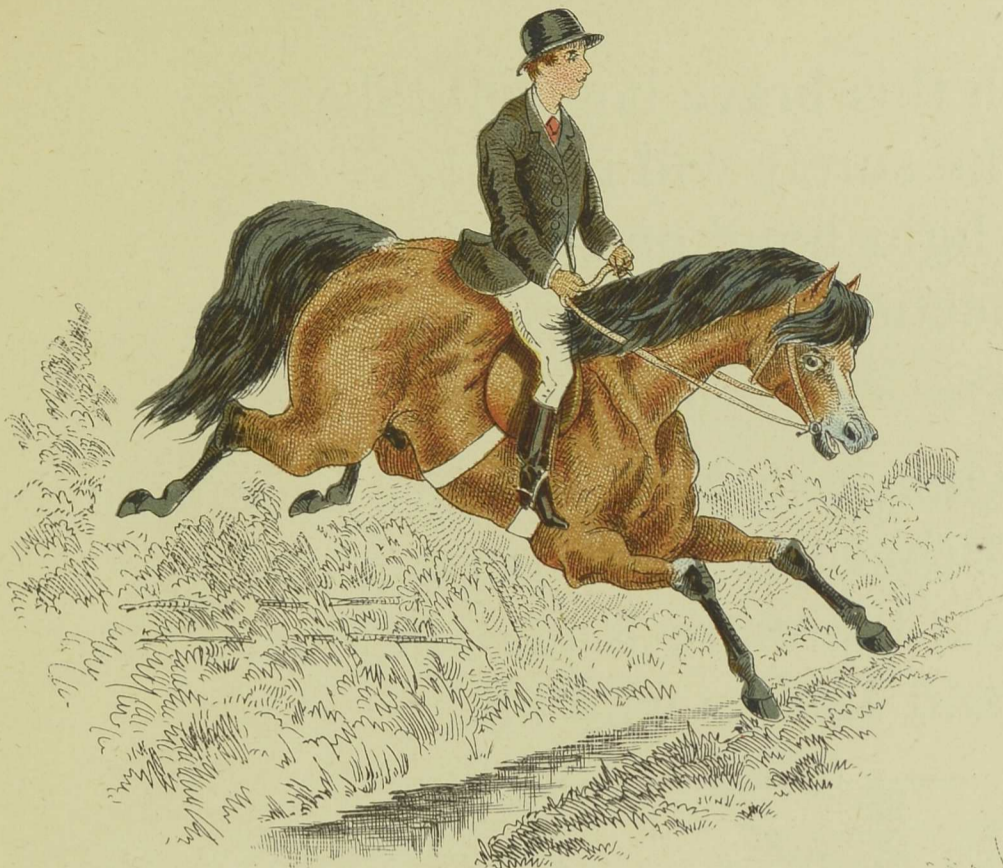
There are Foxhounds, and Staghounds, and, worst of the race,
The Bloodhound, who hangs on a man's flying trace.
The noble St. Bernard, whose name we all know,
Which seeks for the traveller lost in the snow.
The Greyhound that follows the swift little hare,
And the Wolfhound, in England, said to be rare.

I stands for an IDLER, who lingers awhile,
On hearing the Chase, at the old meadow stile ;
On the grass he casts down his slate and his books,
While on Hounds, and on Huntsmen, delighted he looks.

J stands for a JOCKEY—a smart one, you see,
A very light weight he must certainly be ;
Though young, he knows well how a race he may win ;
And be sure that his Racer the first will be in.

K stands for the KENNELS. The Hounds in them dwell ;
The Master comes often to see all is well.
The Keepers are careful good food to provide,
And in their well-being show laudable pride.





L stands for a LEAP, which this brave boy will take.
An excellent sportsman he surely will make !
Firm seat in the saddle, light hand on the rein,
Are certain, with practice, perfection to gain.

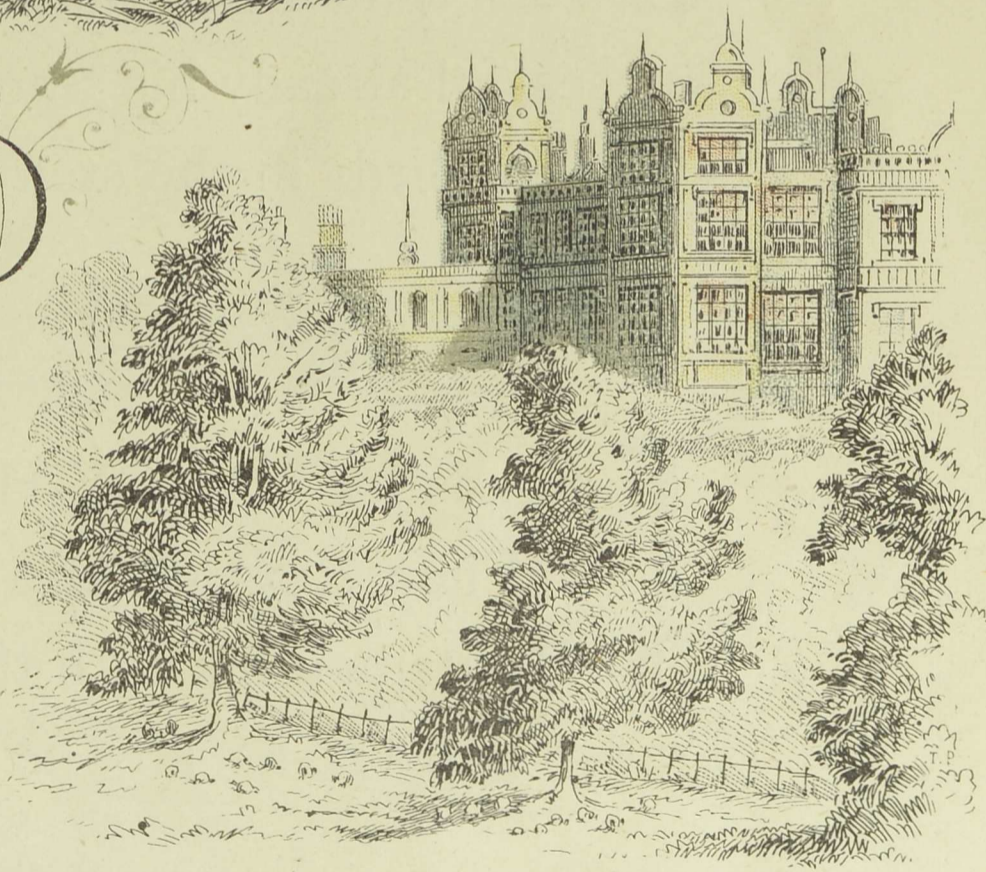
M stands for the MEET, where the Hounds have been brought.
By Hunters of all kinds that gathering is sought.
There are Riders in pink, there are Riders in blue,
And Ladies who don't Hunt, and Ladies who do.

N stands for a NAG—Farmer Bull's favourite steed.
Although in the field he may not take the lead,
Yet he'll steadily bear his stout rider all day.
He has in him what Sportsmen call plenty of " Stay."

O stands for OTTER-HUNT. Down by the Stream,
Which dances along in the Sun's early beam,
With shouting of Sportsmen, and Hounds' cheery cry,
To find the poor Otter they eagerly try.

P stands for a PONY, on which, with great glee,
Harry rides by his Father the Quorn Meet to see.
'Tis a gift from his Uncle for studying well,
And no words his pride in his Pony can tell.

Q stands for QUORN, one of England's grand houses,
Its Pack of famed Hounds oft the echo arouses.
The Meet, as we said, will be held there to-day,
And Harry will gaze on its splendid array.



R stands for RIDE, which this man cannot do,
We fear the endeavour he'll certainly rue ;
He should not at Hunting make any attempt,
He'll only meet laughter and Sportsmen's contempt.

S stands for SHOOTING. This Sportsman takes aim
At Wild Duck that out of the Bullrushes came.
Successful already his Shooting has been,
For two Birds in the stern of his boat may be seen.

T stands for TALLY-HO ! Well known the sound,
When Reynard steals slyly away o'er the ground.
The Huntsman his path through the short herbage spies,
And " Tally-ho ! Tally-ho ! " loudly he cries.

R



S

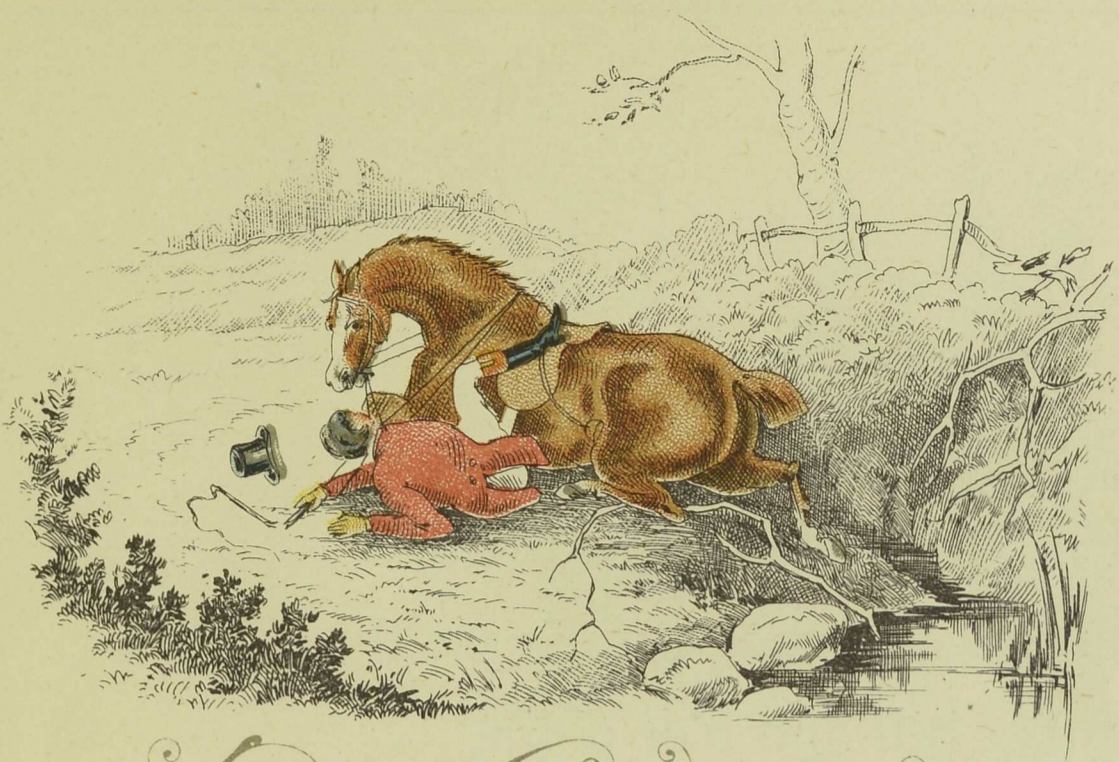
T



U stands for UGLY. An ugly fall this !
For Horse and for Rider it's greatly amiss.
I fear both are hurt, and will no more to-day,
O'er dangerous fences and hedges make way.

V stands for VARMINT—a Fox's nickname.
This one has run far since from Covert he came.
He hopes to his earth he may speedily come,
Where his Wife, Mrs. Vixen, will welcome him home.

W stands for WHOO-WHOOP ! By which Reynard's fate
Is told to the Riders who come rather late.
The run is now over ; the Hunters take breath ;
Only three, save the Huntsman, are in at the Death.



Uu

Vv

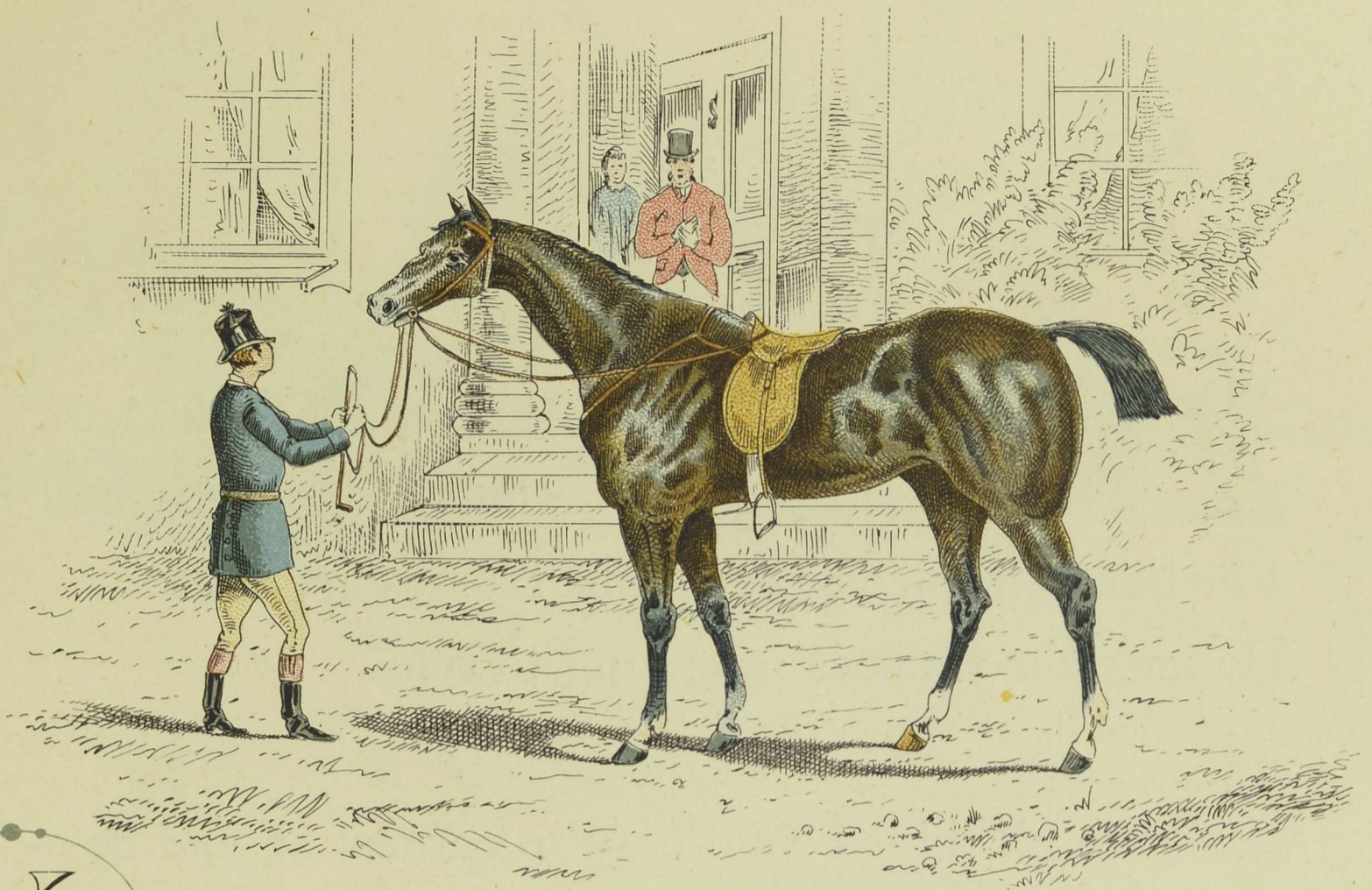
Ww



X stands for XARIFA, the pride of the Field,
A hunter to whom all, in beauty, must yield ;
She goes like the wind o'er hill and o'er plain,
And is named from a beautiful lady of Spain.

Y is a YOUTH who in Field Sports delights,
But Study and Duty for Sport never slights ;
He finds time for all ; and hard work gives a zest
To pleasures enjoyed in his moments of rest.

When Angling, he sits by the side of the Brook,
And reads there the wonders of Nature's great book.
In September, he trudges through turnips and stubble,
And a bag of good Partridges pays for his trouble.



XX

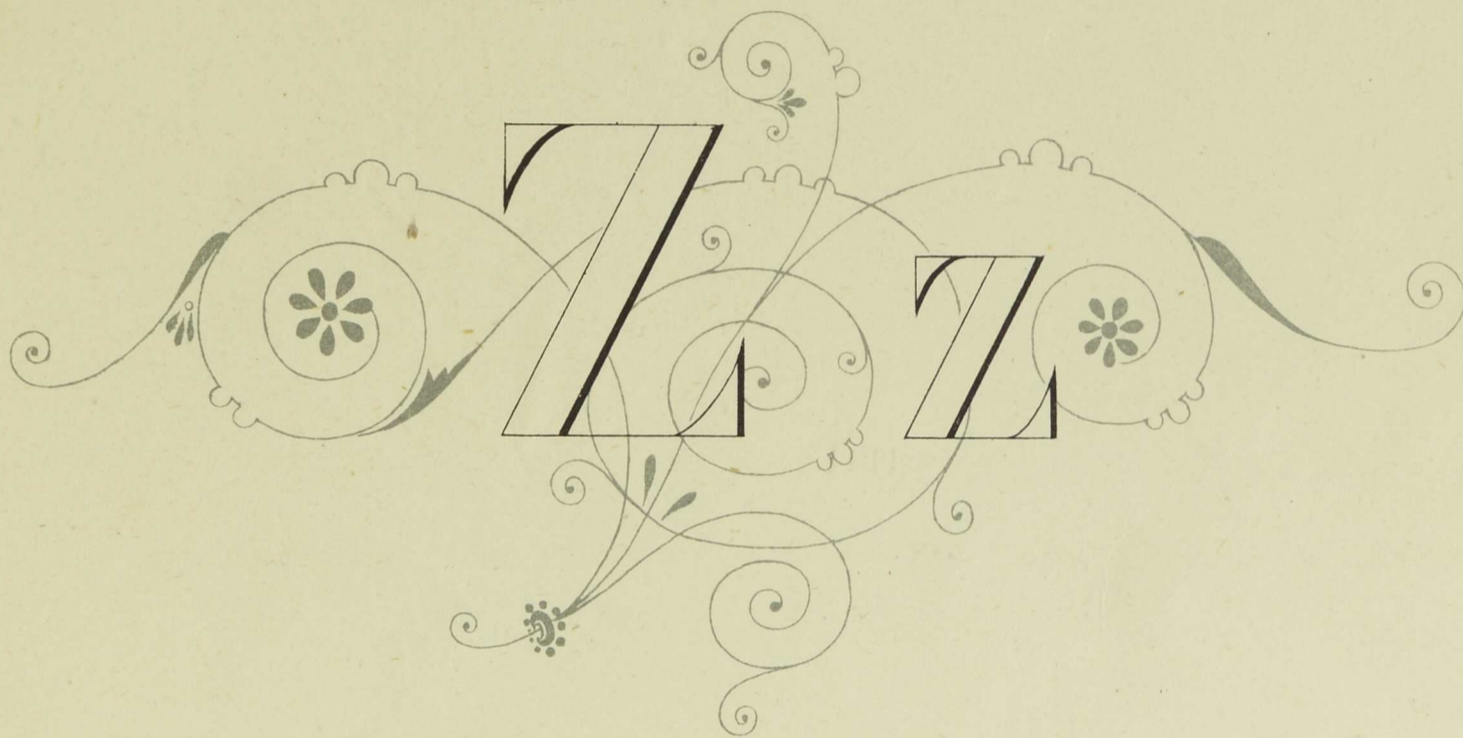
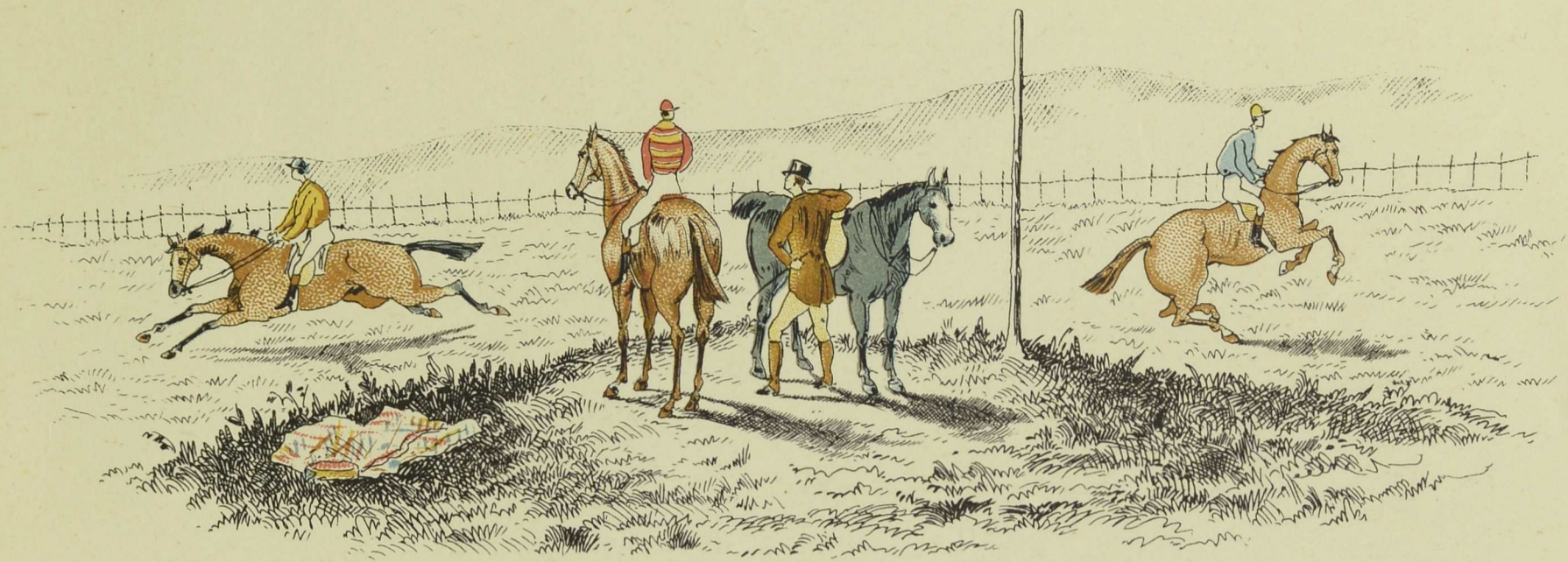


Y

Z stands for ZEALOUS. It must be confessed
These Sportsmen are zealous to do quite their best.
For next Steeplechases young Horses are tried
By amateur Jockeys intending to ride.

Well ! in all things we do, we in earnest should be—
A half-hearted lad no one wishes to see—
If you play, play with spirit ; if study, with care ;
And success, we are sure, you will meet everywhere.

And now, till we meet again, Children, adieu !
Our love and best wishes are ever with you.
Be worthy of England—the Queen of the Sea—
Then gallant and honest, we're sure you will be.



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