creatures of the forest and the mountain can best and most permanently be preserved. Even in the United States the enactment and observance of such laws has brought about a marked increase in the game of certain localities, as, for instance, New England, during the past thirty years; while in the Yellowstone Park the elk, deer, antelope, and mountain sheep, and, strangest of all, the bear, are not merely preserved in all their wild freedom, but, by living unmolested, have grown to show a confidence in man and a tameness in his presence such as elsewhere can be found only in regions where he has been hitherto unknown.

The chase is the best of all national pastimes, and this none the less because, like every other pastime, it is a mere source of weakness if carried on in an unhealthy manner, or to an excessive degree, or under over-artificial conditions. Every vigorous game, from football to polo, if allowed to become more than a game, and if serious work is sacrificed to its enjoyment, is of course noxious. From the days when Trajan in his letters to Pliny spoke with such hearty contempt of the Greek over-devotion to athletics, every keen thinker has realised that vigorous sports are only good in their proper place. But in their proper place they are very good indeed. The conditions of modern life are highly artificial and too often tend to a softening of fibre, physical and moral. It is a good thing for a man to be forced to show self-reliance, resourcefulness in emergency, willingness to endure fatigue and hunger, and at need to face risk. Hunting is praiseworthy very much in proportion as it tends to develop these qualities. Mr. Baillie-Grohman, to whom most English-speaking lovers of sport owe their chief knowledge of the feats in bygone time of the great hunters of continental Europe, has himself followed in its most manly forms this, the manliest of sports. He has hunted the bear, the wapiti, and the mountain ram in the wildest regions of the Rockies, and, also by fair stalking, the chamois and the red deer in the Alps. Whoever habitually follows mountain game in such fashion must necessarily develop qualities which it is a good thing for any nation to see brought out in its sons. Such sport is as far removed as possible from that in which the main object is to make huge bags at small cost of effort, and with the maximum of ease, no good quality save marksmanship being required. Laying stress upon the mere quantity of game killed, and the publication of the record of slaughter, are sure signs of unhealthy decadence in sportsmanship. As far as possible the true hunter, the true lover of big game and of life in the wilderness, must be ever ready to show his own power to shift for himself. The greater his dependence upon others for his sport the less he deserves to take high rank in the brotherhood of rifle, horse, and hound. There was a very attractive side to the hunting of the great mediæval lords, carried on with an elaborate equipment and stately ceremonial, especially as there was an element of danger in coming to close quarters with the quarry at bay; but after all, no form of hunting has ever surpassed in attractiveness the life of the wilderness wanderer of our own time—the man who with simple equipment, and trusting to his own qualities of head, heart and hand, has penetrated to the uttermost regions of the earth, and single-handed slain alike the wariest and the grimmest of the creatures of the waste.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

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CONTENTS

LITTOR	CAT	AND LITERARY NOTES :-					Page
Th	Auth	horship of "The Master of Game"					xvii
Th	e Choi	ice of the Manuscript of "The Master of Game".					xxvi
Gas	eton de	e Foix ("Gaston Phoebus") and his book					xxix
The	e MS	616 of "Gaston Phoebus"					xxxvii
Th	e Mini	iatures of MS. 616 here reproduced					xl
En	olish F	Hunting in the Middle Ages					xlvi
	~	BOOKS CONSULTED					
THE TEXTS: ANCIENT AND MODERN:-							
		The Prologue					3
,,		Of the hare and of her nature					
,,		Of the hart and his nature					
,,	4.	Of the buck and of his nature		•			22
,,	5.	Of the roe and of his nature		,			24
,,	6.	Of the wild boar and of his nature					27
,,	7.	Of the wolf and of his nature					31
,,	8.	Of the fox and of his nature					36
,,	9.	Of the badger and of his nature					38
,,	10.	Of the wild cat and its nature					39
"	11.	The otter and his nature	•				40
"	12.	Of the manner and habits and conditions of hounds					42
,,	13.	Of sicknesses of hounds and of their corruptions					47
,,	14.	Of running hounds and of their nature					58
,,	15.	Of greyhounds and of their nature					62
"		Of alauntes and of their nature					
"		Of spaniels and of their nature					
,,		Of the mastiff and of his nature					
"		What manner and condition a good hunter should ha					
,,		How the kennel for the hounds and the couples	for	the rac	ches a	and	
		the ropes for the lymer should be made .					70
,,	21.	How the hounds should be led out to scombre .					71
"	22.	How a hunter's horn should be driven				1*	72
"	23.	How a man should lead his groom in quest for to know	ah	art by l	is tra	ice	73