The sheriff of each county where the forests and parks were situated was commanded to pay the huntsmen's wages as well as to defray the keep of the hounds. He had, further, to furnish them with salt and barrels for the venison, and usually also had to provide the carriage of the same to the royal residence for which it was destined. We find in the public records from King John down to Henry IV. numerous instances of the King's huntsmen thus acting as purveyors of venison. (See Appendix: Hunt Officials.)

In the fifteenth century game was becoming scarcer, civil strife and the wars with France militating against such large outlays being made for the hunting establishments, and we find less about such frequent hunting expeditions to distant forests, although even as late as Henry VIII. and Henry VIII. we hear of hounds travelling long distances, and being taken to their destination in covered carts.

The sport described in the last chapter of the Master of Game of "the ordinance and manner of hunting when the King would hunt in the forest or in the park for ye hart with bows and grey hounds and stable," more resembled the German drives within enclosures of stretched canvas, "Lappen" or Sewells, pailings or stations of huntsmen and hounds placed at short distances from one another taking the place of nets or other boundaries. This was a kindred sport to that of our Saxon forefathers when hunting with the aid of hayes. (See Appendix: Snares.)

In the reign of Henry VIII. we find the ideas on sport have undergone a change. It is no longer hunter's craft or woodcraft that is held up as the ideal. Sir Thomas Eliot, writing in 1531, speaks of the chase as a means of obtaining exercise and showing prowess, and he recommends a reward at the close of the day's sport that would undoubtedly be most distasteful to any Englishman of the present day. "In the hunting of redde dere and fallow, mought be a great parte of semblable exercise used by noble men specially in forestis which be spaciouse if they wolde use but fewe nombre of houndes onely to harborowe or rouse the game, and by their yorning to gyue knowledge whiche way it fleeth, the remnant of the disporte to be pursuying with javelins and other waipons in manner of warre. And to them which in this hunting do shewe most prowesse and activuytie, a garland or some other lyke token to be gyen in signe of victorie and with a joyfull maner to be broughte in the presence of him that is chiefe in the company then to receive condigne prayse for their good endeavour." ("The Boke named the Governour," i. 143.)

This is indeed far removed from the spirit which animated the early Norman veneurs!

In Queen Elizabeth's day and after we read little of the great stag being harboured in his forest haunts, but being seen in the park herd he was singled out by means of hounds, who "teased him forth," or even by a sportsman on horseback riding after him, and thus severing him from the herd. Coursing and shooting within parks was the most favoured sport in this Queen's reign, and wild-deer hunting was completely neglected, at least at Court.

It is true that in the "Arte of Venerie or Hunting," supposed to have been compiled by George Turbervile in 1575-6, we have many chapters devoted to stag-hunting, but these were taken bodily from one of the greatest of the old French classics on the subject, *i.e.*, Jacques Du Fouilloux's Venerie, and the translator's only original account of sport is that of coursing, which he declares we in England held in higher estimation than was accorded to it in France.

In the beginning of the seventeenth century sportsmen galloped after the deer in parks, sword in hand, or sometimes even with lassoes tried to capture the stag with the largest antlers (Memoires de Vieilleville, vol. i.).

James I., it is true, tried to resuscitate the ancient art of venery, and caused French masters in the art to be sent to him by Henry IV. of France for this purpose. In the chase of at least one beast of venery, i.e., the hare, the Frenchmen found that they could learn more from the English than they could teach them (de Noirmont ii. 380). But stags no longer tenanted our forest in large numbers, game was getting scarce, and in spite of yearly importation of stags and hinds from France under James I., the conditions had passed away under which large herds of wild red deer could exist in England.

But we have wandered more than two centuries from the time at which our "Master of the

Game "was written, although the seeds were then already laid for the coursing, shooting and stabbing of deer in parks, first by the large amount of land that had been allowed to be imparked wherein the owners could have sport as above described, when they had not the right to hunt in wherein the owners could have sport as above described, when they had not the right to hunt in the adjoining forests or chases. Secondly, the large royal drives, as described by the Duke of York, were the precursors of those that Queen Bess enjoyed, and that this sport was viewed with favour at Court we can well fancy, for as Turbervile remarked "recreation is therein to be found that the tords and payne" (p. 250).

without unmeasurable toyle and payne (p. 250).

This rage for coursing and shooting never obtained to such a degree in France, nor did it ever there succeed in ousting the sport of wild-deer hunting. One generation of huntsmen after another studied l'art de venerie, and employed the same terms and the same ceremonials for over 600 years with but slight and immaterial alterations. That the face of the country ridden over was changing by the disappearance of some of the immense forests, that the hounds became faster, and that lime by the disappearance of some of the immense forests, that altered none of the principles of the sport, hounds no longer started the stag, were changes that altered none of the principles of the sport, and it is for this reason that we can get a truer idea of our Norman venery from studying the old French works on hunting, and even their present methods, than we can by contemplating the sport of English Courts of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Previous to this period we have but the scantiest literature relating to hunting in England, as a glance at the Bibliography at the end of this volume will show; in fact, there are only two small treatises, one by Twici of the fourteenth century, and the Boke of St. Albans of the last quarter of the fifteenth century, neither of which throw nearly as much light on our subject as does the "Master of Game," which has been treated all these centuries with such complete neglect, not a single printer or publisher deeming it worthy of type.

More details on ancient venery will be found in the Appendices.