LEGENDS OF HOUNDS—*continued*

hounds watching by their masters' graves, which were doubtlessly founded on truth, we cannot refrain from recording a late instance reported by the papers last autumn (1903):

"Another remarkable instance of the faithfulness of the dog to his master—the latest in the long line of recorded acts of fidelity on the part of 'man's best friend'—has occurred at Scarborough.

"Five years ago Mr. Henry Collinson, a local resident, was drowned, and his dog, an Irish terrier, was found guarding his clothes on Scarborough sands.

"When the police came to take possession of the clothing the terrier endeavoured to keep them off, and was only driven away from his post by force.

"At the funeral there was no more sincere mourner than the dog, and frequently, since then, he has been found lying on the grave of his dead master in Scarborough Cemetery.

"For a week past the faithful creature had been missing. A cemetery workman found him yesterday in a dying condition on his master's grave. It is believed that the dog ate something poisonous, and that in his dying hours he turned again to the resting-place of the master whom he loved in life and grieved to leave in death."

LIAM, *lyome*, or *lyame*, a rope made of silk or leather by which hounds were led, from O. F. *liamen*, a strap or line, Latin *ligamen*. This strap was fastened to the collar by a swivel, and both collar and liams were often very gorgeous. We read of "A lyame of white silk with collar of white vellat embrawdered with perles, the swivell of silver." "Dog collors of crymson vellat with VI lyhams of white leather." "A lieme of grene and white silke." "Three lyames and colors with tirrett of silver and quilt." (Madden, Expenses of Princess Mary.)

LIGGING, a bed, a resting-place, a lair. From O. Eng. *licgan*, *licgean*, Goth. *ligan*, lie, lie down. The ligging of the hart was what we now call his lair, spelt also layer. In our MS. it is used for the dwelling of a wild cat (p. 39).

This old expression is not entirely obsolete, but can be heard still among the country people of the northern counties of England.

LIMER, lymer; the name given to a scenting-hound which was held in a liam or leash whilst tracking the game. Limers never were any distinct breed of hounds, but, of course, some breeds produced better limers than others (De Noirmont. vol. ii. p. 350).

A dog used as a limer had to be keen on the scent, staunch on the line, not too fast, and was taught to run mute, for if the exact whereabouts of any game had to be discovered, it would have been impossible, if the hound gave tongue or challenged while on the scent. A likely hound was chosen from the kennel at an early age, G. de F. says at a year old (p. 157), and from that time accompanied his master, sleeping in his room, and being taught to obey him. He was continually taken out by his master with collar and liam and encouraged to follow the scent of hinds and of stags and other beasts, and punished should he venture to acknowledge the scent of any animal he was not being entered to, or should he open on finding or following the line.

Roy Modus instructs the apprentice to venery that *Sont bons les limiers qui point ne crient au matin* (fol. XIII. v.), and G. de F. says they should be taught to run mute early (p. 193, *Roy Modus*, f. xv.).

In England as well as on the Continent the huntsman went out in the early morning to track the game to be hunted to its lair, or den, before the pack and huntsmen came into the field. Deer, wild boar, bear and wolves were thus harboured by means of a limer. Twici makes the apprentice huntsman ask: "Now I wish to know how many of the beasts are moved by the lymer, and how many of the beasts are found by braches? Sir, all those which are chased are moved by a lymer, and all those which are hunted up (*enquillez*) are found by the braches" (Twici, p. 12; *see* Appendix: Acquillez).

Limers were not only employed when a warrantable stag was to be hunted by hounds, but a huntsman going out with his bow or cross-bow would have his brachet on a liam and let him hunt up the quarry he wished to shoot (*see* Appendix: Bercelet). Also, the day before one of the large battues for big game, the limers would be taken out to ascertain what game there was in the district to be driven.

A hound was said to carry his liam well when he just kept it at proper tension, not straining it, for that would show that he was of too eager temperament, and likely to overshoot the line; if he trailed his liam on the ground, it showed that he was slack or unwilling (D'Yauville).

The *track-dog* or *Sluit-hound* used as a limer was probably much like the modern bloodhound. A favourite hound employed for this purpose in France seems to have been a black and tan hound, something of the type we imagine the old Southern hounds to have been. The hounds of the Abbey of St. Hubert were of this type, and these were noted for supplying good limers to the royal kennels of France. Some of them were white, but the most usual colour was black and tan, and it is probable hounds of this breed were depicted in our reproductions of G. d. F.'s illuminations. They were noted for being capital scenting-hounds, staunch but not very fast. Charles IX. in his book on hunting speaks of double-nosed dogs which, he says were *chiens courans sans courre*, for dogs of this malformation were invariably used as limers, *et y sont fort bons et excellent*. He goes on to explain that although called double-nosed, these dogs have, of course, only two nostrils, but a deep slit between the

LIMER—*continued*

two, which deformity is not confined to dogs of any breed (La Chasse Royale, p. 39).

It was supposed to produce a wonderful sense of smell, but later experience taught that this exterior sign had no influence on the scenting powers of the dog (Lav. Chasse à tir, p. 138. Ark. Pointer, p. 114, 115).

The huntsman who held the limer was called the limerer, or limere, and in modern English the harbourer. Several of them would be sent out early in the morning on the day the hunt was to take place. Each of them had their own appointed district in which he was to hunt carefully for the signs of the stag and track him to his bed or lair. They were not supposed to go outside the boundaries of their "quest" into that of another huntsman, and were forbidden to cause each other any annoyance, a necessary precaution, as we read that a jealous huntsman would do all he could to prevent another from harbouring a stag, by going into his beat after he had gone with his report to the meeting, drive the harboured deer out of covert, and deface the tracks, and alter the boughs that had been broken as marks, and commit many another base trick. The stag harboured, the huntsmen with their limers repair to the place appointed for the meeting, and there make their report to the master of the hunt or to the chief personage present. A pretty picture is given us by G. de la Buigne, of King John of France sitting under a leafy oak looking at his hounds whilst he awaits the report of the harbourers; these arrive with descriptions of the slot they have seen, of the entries, of the fraying stock, the rack, and lastly present the fewmets or droppings of the stag, which they have carefully preserved in a leaf in their hunting horn. Now, says the chaplain, it is time for those who know most about such things to judge which is likely to be the biggest stag harboured, but adds he, before Kings and Princes it often happens:

> "*Que ceux qui le moins si cognoissent*
> *Plus en parle et plus en noisent.*"

It having been decided which stag should be hunted, the limerer with his hound precedes the company to the covert, where he had broken branches or otherwise left his marks as a sign to show where he had seen the slot or other traces of the stag, then putting his limer before him, but still holding him by the line, the limer hunting the scent, up to the stag's lair, roused him, the berners following with the other hounds, held in couples or hardes at a convenient distance, so as not to interfere with the work of the limer should he hesitate or hunt heel (Noirmont, vol. ii., 454; Roy Modus, XIX.; Du Fouilloux, p. 32; and Turbervile, 1611, p. 106).

As soon as the stag was "moved" the limer's work was over, but only for the time being; his master led him away, the other hounds were uncoupled and the harbourer, mounting his horse and keeping his limer with him, rode as close to the chase as he could, skirting below the wind and being careful not to cross the line, but managing to be at hand in case the stag should run in company or give the hounds the change. In this case the huntsman had to check the hounds, and wait for the harbourer and limer to come up and unravel the change, and put the pack on the right scent once more. Charles IX. is the first author, as far as I can find out, who mentions a change in this custom in France; he calls it a time robbing proceeding, and says that a pricker should be a *connoisseur* as well as the harbourer, that is, that the huntsman should be as well versed in woodcraft as the harbourers had to be, so as to be able to know by all the signs of a stag whether their hounds were on the right line or not, and thus avoid having to wait for the help of the harbourer or limerer.

The method of starting the stag with a limer was not done away with in France until the eighteenth century, although in Normandy a change had been made previously, and probably in England also. For our author says that some sportsmen even in his time, when impatient, would uncouple a few of the hounds in the covert, before the stag had been properly started by the limer, which practice he, however, was not in favour of except under the conditions he mentions (p. 95).

This uncoupling of a few older hounds in covert to start the deer, coupling them again as soon as the deer was on foot, was later called *tufting*, and is still customary in Devon and Somerset.

The limer was not rewarded with the other hounds; he received his reward from the hands of his master before or after the other hounds, and after he had bayed the head of the stag.

Le valet qui maine le limier doit garder de la curée pour donner à son limier, car il ne doit point menger en la cuirée avec autres chiens (Modus, XXIV. v.)

> "*Car à mon chien doit estre faict*
> *Le premier devoir par honneur,*
> *Cela doit savoir tout veneur*"

says Jacques de Brézé when writing of the limer with which that morning he had found his stag.

According to M. of G. they were served *after* the other hounds, but separately (p. 99).

No pack of hounds was considered complete without its limer, Roy Modus tells the apprentice: that less than twelve running hounds and a limer should not be called a pack. *Et s'il y a douze chiens courans et ung limier, et sy moins en y a, elle n'est pas dicte mute* (Roy Modus, fol. VI.).

According to the Wardrobe Accounts of Edward I., 5 Limers or *Lumar* dogs were attached to a kennel of 66 hounds (14, 15 Ed. I.), and at the close of the 15th century three limers were in the staghound kennel which was composed of forty hounds and twelve greyhounds (Harl. MS. No. 433,