RACHES—continued

Middle Ages were small hounds, sometimes entirely white, but generally white with black markings. Sometimes they were mottled (bracet mautré). One description of a braces corant says this hound was as white as a nut, with black ears, a black mark on the right flank and flecked with black (Blancadin, 1271; Perc. 17555, and 22585; Tristan M. 1475, 2261; Tyolet, 332).

Braches were used in numbers for stag and boar hunting (Bangert, p. 173), and also singly, to accompany their master when he went with long- or cross-bow in to the forest to shoot, to find and put up the game for him (see bercelet). Tristan's name in the old legends is always associated with that of his white brachet Husdent or Hudan, and there is a description of this brachet being trained by Tristan to hunt silently, well given by the old Minnesänger, Gottfried von Strassburg. It describes how Tristan and Isolde having fled from King Mark's court to the forest they go in search of game

"Mit Heudan ihrem Hunde,
Der sonst mit stummen Munde
Nicht war gewohnt zu jagen,
Nun aber in Kurzen Tagen
Von Tristan hatte gelernt die Birsch
So auf das Thier als auf den Hirsch,
Nach jeder art von Wilde,
Durch Wald und durch Gefilde
So dass er auf der Fährte lief,
Und doch nicht anschlug oder rief."

"T. und Is.," Kurz., p. 433.

The brachet was also used for tracking wounded game. Roy Modus says that if an archer wounded a deer he was to call for his bracquet: Il doit huer un long mot, pour avoir le braquet qui sieut le sang (fol. liv. v.)

In the early days in England we find that braches were used to hunt up such smaller game as was not unharboured or dislodged by the limer. Twici says: "Sire, touz ceaus qe sunt enchaces, sunt meuz de lymer. E tous ceaus enquillez sunt trovez de brachez" (see Appendix: Acquillez) i.e., All beasts that are enchased are moved by a limer, and all those that are hunted up are found by braches (Twici, p. 2 and 12). Raches are mentioned in the "Boke of St. Albans" among the "Dyvers manere of houndes," and the apprentice to venery is told he should speak of "A mute of houndes, a kenell of rachys." He is also informed that the hart, the buck and the boar should be started by a limer, and that all "other bestes that huntyd shall be sought for and found by Ratches so free." John Hardyng in his Chronicle, speaking of an inroad into Scotland by Edward IV., in whose reign he was yet living, said, "And take Kennetes and Ratches with you and seeke oute all the forest with houndes and hornes as Kynge Edwarde with the long shanks dide." In the "Squyer of Low degree" we read that the huntsman came with his bugles "and seven score raches at his rechase."

Wace in his "Roman dou Rou," in which he writes of Henry II. or Stag's Foot as he calls this

master of venery and woodcraft, says that when this King wished to shoot he took braches with him;

> "Et s'il voleit aler berser Brachez faiseit asez mener." "Rom. du Rou," vol. ii. p. 366.

In ancient land tenures of this King's reign we find vassals keeping braches as a service to their feudal lord. Henry II. enfeoffed one Boscher, his servant, with the manor of Bericote in the county of Warwick by the service of keeping a white young brache (brachetam) with red ears to be delivered to the King at the year's end, and then to receive another to breed up, and have half a quarter of bran.—Hugh Pantulf, in the same reign held Stanforde, in Hereford by gift of the King, by service of one brachet We also find foxhounds called sometimes "brachettis wulpericiis."

King John granted a licence to Richard Godsfeld and his heirs to have eight brachetos et unum leporarium, in the royal forest of Essex to take hares, foxes, and wild cats. In Henry III.'s reign (1216-1272) Peter de Mundevil held three oxgangs at Angortby, Lancaster, by service of a brachet of one colour (unius berachat unius coloris); Humfrey de Monte held Whitfield, Derbyshire, by bringing unum bracketum for the King to hunt ad cervum et bissam et damum at damam, that is at stag, hind, buck, and doe (Jesse, pp. 22, 38, 39). Edward I. sent his yeoman Henry le Hart to Ireland to purchase brachets for stag hunting (brachettis cervericiis) in 1275 (Close Rolls, 3 Ed. I.). In more modern times the word brach was used to denote bitch, in O. F. brachet was the dog, braichete bitch (Dolopathus 9381). Shakespeare uses the word sometimes for a dog and at others for a bitch, coupling it in the latter case with "lady."

"I had rather hear Lady, my brach, howl in Irish."

"Huntsman I charge thee, tender well my hounds, Brach Merriman—the poor cur is embossed."

In this latter case it is evidently used for a dog as well as in the following lines:

(Shrew, Introduction, Sc. i.)

"Mastiff, greyhound, mongrel grim,
Hound or spaniel, brach or lym."

(King Lear., Act iii. sc. 6.)

Dr. Caius speaking of "The dogge called a Bloudhounde" says that some of this sort in England be called brache, in Scottish, rache: "The cause hereof resteth in the shee sex and not in the generall kinde, for we Englishmen call bytches belonging to the hunting kinde of dogges by the tearme above mencioned" (Englishe Dogges, p. 7). But it was not until the 17th century that Brach was in use solely as "a mannerly name for all bitch Hounds." In Cox's Gentleman's Recreation published 1674, we get the information that in England and in Scotland there were two kinds of hunting dogs: "The first kind is called ane Rache and is a scenting

RACHES—continued

creature both of wild Beasts, and Birds, and Fishes also which lie hid among the rocks, the female hereof in England is called a brache. (Ed. 1686, p. 28.) This latter employment of the word has misled many into the error of thinking that raches and braches always denoted bitch hounds, and caused some confusion even to the learned commentators of Shakespeare.

RESEEYUOUR; the word the most approaching this to be found in any dictionary is under the head of receiver, M. E. receyvour, one who, or that which receives. The reseeyuours were most likely those greyhounds who received the game, i.e., pulled it down after it had been chased. We see in our text that teasers and reseeyuours are mentioned together (p. 112). The former were light, swift greyhounds, these were probably slipped first and the latter (Shirley MS. spells resteynours) were the heavy greyhounds slipped last and capable of pulling down a big stag. De Noirmont tells us: On découple d'abord les levriers les plus vites pour le pousser el le mettre hors d'haleine, puis les plus grands et les plus pesants qui le portaient bas. Ces derniers étaient surnommés receveours ou receveurs (ii. p. 462, and G. de F. p. 177).

RELAYS. In the early days of venery the whole pack was not allowed to hunt at the commencement of the chase. After the stag had been started from his lair by a limer, some hounds were uncoupled and laid on, the rest being divided off into relays which were posted in charge of one or more berners along the probable line of the stag and were uncoupled when the hunted stag and the hounds already chasing him had passed. There were usually three relays, and two to four couples the usual number in each relay, though the number of couples depended, of course, on the size of the hunting establishment and the number of hounds in the kennel. G. de F. calls these relays simply, premiere, seconde and tierce. M. of G. calls the first lot of hounds uncoupled the "finders" (p. 94), though this seems rather a misnomer as the harbourer with his limer (see limer) found and started the deer. The vauntchase for the first relay, and the "midel" speak for themselves, but we have little clue to the origin of parfitieres for the third relay. Were they so called because they perfected or completed the chase, or because they were some of the staunchest hounds who could be depended upon to follow the parfit, i.e., the right line of the stag or animal hunted? (see Appendix: Parfet). Old authorities seem to have

differed in opinion as to whether the staunchest and slowest hounds should have been put in the first cry or in the last. Roy Modus instructs the huntsman to uncouple the oldest and wisest hounds first, for, he says, if one lets the younger

and swiftest hounds go first they are more likely to overshoot the line and take the change. But G. de F. and all the later authorities in France were for putting the swiftest and youngest hounds in the first lot, and keeping the older and slower hounds back as being surer to follow and hunt a tired stag well, or a stained and cold scent, and also better able to hold a stag at bay. (Roy M. fol. xvi.; G. de F. p. 178; Lav. Chasse à Courre, pp. 297-8.)

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There must have been some exceptions to this rule as Noirmont tells us that when the brother of the King went to hunt at St. Germain (March 1685) with the hounds of M. de Fürstemberg he was astonished to see that the relays were given "al'anvers," i.e., the older hounds first and the faster ones in the last relay. This procedure was very successful and M. de Fürstemberg took the seven stags he ran that season.<sup>1</sup>

To return to more ancient history, in the Book of St. Albans we read of the *Vauntlay*, relay, and allay. The first was the name given to hounds if they were uncoupled and thrown off between the pack and the beast pursued, the relay were the hounds uncoupled after the hounds already hunting had passed by; the allay is held:

"Till all the houndes that be behynd be cum therto Than let thyn houndes all to geder goo That is called an allay."

Instructions concerning when relays should be given, always warn the berner not to let slip the couples till some of the surest hounds have passed on the scent, and till he be sure that the stag they are hunting is the right one and not a substitute, i.e., one frightened and put up by the hunted stag. M. of G. is careful also to say: "Take care that thou vauntlay not" (p. 96).

The first time the actual number of relays is mentioned with the names given to each in old French sporting literature is in Salnove's book (1655). The first hounds uucoupled when the stag was afoot were called the "Meute d'attaque," the first relay the "vieille meutte," and the second the seconde vieille or merely the second. The third was called the relay "des six chiens" sometimes. Salnove says there would be still another called the "relais volant"—the flying relay. The valet de chien or berner in charge of the latter had to be on the look-out in case the stag did not go in the direction the others were posted. He had to keep his hounds near the chase and be ready to give the relay when wanted. In the older French works we read of two and three relays but never more. The relay of "six hounds" did not, as its name would lead one to suppose, consist of six hounds but of two, four or as many as sixteen couples according to the strength of the pack. Lavallée in his "Chasse a Courre" suggests an explanation of the name.

Relays were customary, we know, as early as the beginning of the fourteenth century, and although one force" some of the hounds were kept in reserve. In the romance of G. de Loherain we read of fifteen varlets for holding relays (quinze vallés pour relais tenir).