STABLES—continued

The archer is on a wooden platform slightly raised above the ground and has just let fly his arrow which is sticking in the shoulder of a wild boar, the boar is standing in a pool of water; the chapter is headed, "How to shoot beasts at the soil or wallowing pool."

There is no mention made of raised stands in our text, but with or without such erections the position taken up by the shooters to await the game was called his standing or tryste, and a bower of branches was made, to shelter the occupant from sun and rain as well as to hide him from the game. Such arbours were called Berceau or Berceil in old French, from the word berser to shoot with a bow and arrow, they were also called ramiers and folies from rames or branches, and folia, leaves, with which they were made or disguised (Noir. iii. p. 354). It would be interesting to know if any of the so-called follies that exist in different parts of England cannot trace back their name from being originally a shooting hut built on the place of some ancient folie. Some of the old standings in various parts of the country can still be pointed out according to Shirley, and he also tells us that the earliest mention of stands that he had found was in Domesday book where they are mentioned under the name of Stabilituras in connection with Haia or hays (Shirley, PP. 12, 79, 183).

Manwood tells us that *Stable-stand* was one of four "manners in which if a man were found, in the forest, he could be arrested as a poacher or trespasser," and says: "Stablestand is where one is found at his standing ready to shoot at any Deer, or standing close by a tree with Greyhounds in his leash ready to let slip" (Man. p. 193).

Gaston says Estancs et autres mares ou marrhés (G. de F. p. 21). Stank house was a moated house. A ditch or moat filled with water was called a stank. In the account of a hunting lodge built by James v. it is said it was defended by a "draw-bridge and a greit stank of water of sixteen foot deep and thirty foot of breadth." And the lady of Lovatt who waged war on the wolves is said to have lived in a stank house (Stuart Lays, vol. ii. 230).

TACHE, or tecche, Mid. Eng. for a habit, especially a bad habit, vice, freak, caprice, behaviour, from the O. F. tache, a spot, a stain, or blemish; also a disgrace, a blot on a man's good name. In the older use it was applied both to good as well as bad qualities, as in our text.

TAW, to make hides into leather; tawer, the maker of white leather. In the 14th and early 15th centuries, in the days of the strict guilds, a sharp line was drawn between tawers and tanners, and a tawer was not allowed to tan nor a tanner to taw (Wylie, vol. iii. p. 195). No tawers were allowed to live in the Forest according to the ancient forest laws.

"If any white Tawer live in a Forest, he shall

be removed and pay a Fine, for they are the common dressers of skins of stolen deer" (Itin. Lanc. fol. 7, quoted by Manwood, p. 161).

TEAZER, or teaser, "A kind of mongrel greyhound whose business is to drive away the deer before the Greyhounds are slipt," is the definition given by Blome (p. 96). These dogs were used to hunt up the game also when the deer was to be shot with the bow. The sportsmen would be standing at their trysts or stable-stand in some alley or glade of the wood and the hounds be put into the covert or park "to tease them forth."

TRACE, foot print of deer, now called slot (see Slot). In O. F. and Ang. N. literature the word trace seems to have been used indifferently for the track of the stag, wild boar or any game (Borman notes 147, 236, 237), G. de F. expressly says that the footprint of the deer should not be called trace but voyes or piés (view or foot), yet the M. of G. in his rendering says: "of the hart ye shall say 'trace,' " so evidently that was the proper sporting term in England at the time. Roy Modus says: "of stags, of black beasts, and wolves, the trace; and of other beasts the foot" (fol. vii.) The trace of deer on hard grass, as in dew or mere impression on herbage was called the foil (Stuart, vol. ii. p. 552). Gaston uses the word "foulées" in this sense (pp. 129, 134, 135) showing again that our English sporting vocabulary was at one time identical with the French. When slot entirely superseded the word trace amongst sportsmen it is difficult to determine. Turbervile uses slot, and in the beginning of the 17th century it seems the general term for the footprint of deer (Man. p. 180; Stuart Glossary, vol. ii.; Blome, p. 76). Slot, it may be contended, is as old a word as trace, but in Mid. Eng. it was employed as a general term for a foot track or marking of any animal. The trace or slot was one of the signs of a stag, that is the mark by which an experienced huntsman could recognise the age, size and sex of the deer.

TRYST. In the language of sport was the place or stand where the hunter took up his position to await the game he wished to shoot. The game might be driven to him by hounds, or he might so place himself as to shoot as the game went to and from their lair to their pasturing (see Appendix: Stables and Stable-stand). In French it was called shooting à l'affut, from ad fustem, near the wood, because the shooter leant his back to or hid behind a tree, so that the game should not see him.

In our MS. we are told that Alaunts are good for hunting the wild boar whether it be with greyhounds, at the "tryst," or with running hounds at bay within the covert. The tryst here would be the place where a man would be stationed to slip the dogs at the wild boar as soon as he broke covert, or after the huntsman had wounded the boar with a shot from his long or cross-bow.

VELTRES, velteres, veltrai. A dog used for the chase, a hound. Probably derived from the Gaelic words ver, large or long, and traith, a step

VELTRES—continued

or course, Vertragus being the name by which, according to Arrian, the Gauls designated a swift hound (Blane, p. 52). Some etymologists give the Latin word vertere, to turn, and others the old Teutonic words, velt—rakke, a dog of the plains. But the first, which is given by M. Roger de Belloquet in his Gaelic glossary, is most likely the correct one, as Arrian especially mentions that Vertragi was the name given by the Gauls to their hounds (Noir. vol. ii. pp. 255-256). As these dogs were described by Gratius as "swifter than a thought or a feather in the wind, but that they could only take beasts already started for them, not having the sense to hunt them up from their hiding places by themselves," one may conclude they were greyhounds. The Lex Salica decreed that a fine of 15 sols of gold (equal to £60) should be paid by whosoever stole or killed a veltris porcarius, or a veltris leporarius, and other fines and punishments for the stealing of veltres appear in the old Burgundian and Germanic law codes (Noir. vol. ii. pp. 255-256; Arkwright, p. 24). The Gallo-Latin designation of veltrahis or veltris for a greyhound was transferred a short period after the days of Charlemagne to a different kind of dog. These dogs were immensely strong, with bodies "levretté" (shaped like a greyhound or hare), but with square heads and powerful jaws, and were also known under the name of Alaunts (Noir. vol. ii. p. 295). In old French literature viautres or vautres appear constantly as powerful hounds used for large and fierce game. In later days the word vautre was used for boarhounds only, and to-day in France the pack used for the chase of the boar is called the Vautrait. Du Noirmont tells us that the French boarhounds or vautres were originally crosses between Alaunts and Matins. It is these that G. de F. speaks of probably as Alans veautres and M. of G. Alauntz veuterers (p. 64). In Henry Iv.'s time (1589) the vautrait of the French Kings was composed of Dogues and Matins, and the Alaunts seem to have disappeared in name if not in breed (Noir. vol. ii. p. 299). In the metrical romances of the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries one finds veltres mentioned in the same sentence as greyhounds, showing us that the words were no longer synonymous at that period: Chiens et brachez et viautres et levriers (Aim. de Narb. Rom. ix. 517). We see also that they were held in couples: Fais encoblar los veltres et los bracos (Daurel. 357). They are also especially mentioned as being employed for boar-hunting. Meutes de chiens i fait mener et viautres por prendre sainglier (Part. de Blois, 533). In the famous Chant de Roland, the King of Marsilie sends Charlemagne an offer of rich presents as a token of peace, which offering includes bears, lions and veltres, well trained with horses, swift destriers, camels, and a thousand hawkes ready to mew.

"Urs et leuns et veltres caeignables Chevals de pris, destrier coranz aates Et cents cameilz et mils hosturs muables." (Roland's Lied, 27, 28.) In another Romance of the Charlemagne cycle, Huon de Bordeau, belonging to the end of the 12th or beginning of the 13th century, Charlemagne is represented as demanding from King Gaudise an offering of a thousand falcons, a thousand bears and a thousand viautres.

"Que il m'envoit m. espreviers mués, M. ours, m. viautres tres bien encaenés." (H. d. B. 2349, 5733.)

In the Laws of Cnut we find that velteres could be kept unmaimed within the precincts of the forest as it "did manifestly appear that there could be no harm in letting them be kept unmaimed." Velteres verò quos Langeran appellant, quia manifeste constat in ijs nihil esse periculi, cuilibet licebit sine genuiscissione eos custodire. Idem de canibus quos Ramhundt vocant (sheep dog) (Holinshed, vol. i. p. 32). We can see by this that the dogs here spoken of could not be greyhounds or boarhounds, but were probably the small Italian greyhound or a small lapdog. The men who led the greyhounds, the slippers as they are now called, retained the name of veltrars long after the name veltre had been discontinued for their charges. In the early Patent Records veltrars are constantly mentioned as being in charge of greyhounds, and later on the word is spelt feuterer or as in our MS. fewterer (see Appendix: Fewterer).

VENERY AND THE CHASE. There were five beasts classed as beasts of Venery: the hart, the hind, the hare, the boar, and the wolf. Everything that related to the chase of these animals, were it woodcraft, hunting, or the technical terms employed by hunters in respect to them, was classed under this heading. It will be noticed that the buck and the doe are not in the above list, these being reckoned as beasts of the chase. It was our first intention to have separate notes on venery and on the chase, but we found it impossible to separate accounts of the hunting of the stag and of the buck without wearisome repetition, so we decided to treat of both in one note. Although in the 14th and 15th centuries we find there were kennels of staghounds cervericii and buckhounds daemericii, still the same hounds appear to have been often used to hunt both hart and buck, as will be seen in an instance quoted later. This is also confirmed by the fact that when translating the chapter on the buck (p. 22) the Duke of York omitted that passage in which G. de F. expressly says that it is a bad change to hunt the stag with hounds which at some time or other have eaten buck.

Our rules of venery in force during the Duke of York's epoch came to us from France, for it was there that hunting was first regulated and pursued with well-defined ceremonials, and acquired a vocabulary of its own, and in France the art of venery was first considered a science. It was this art of venery in which every man of gentle birth considered it necessary to be