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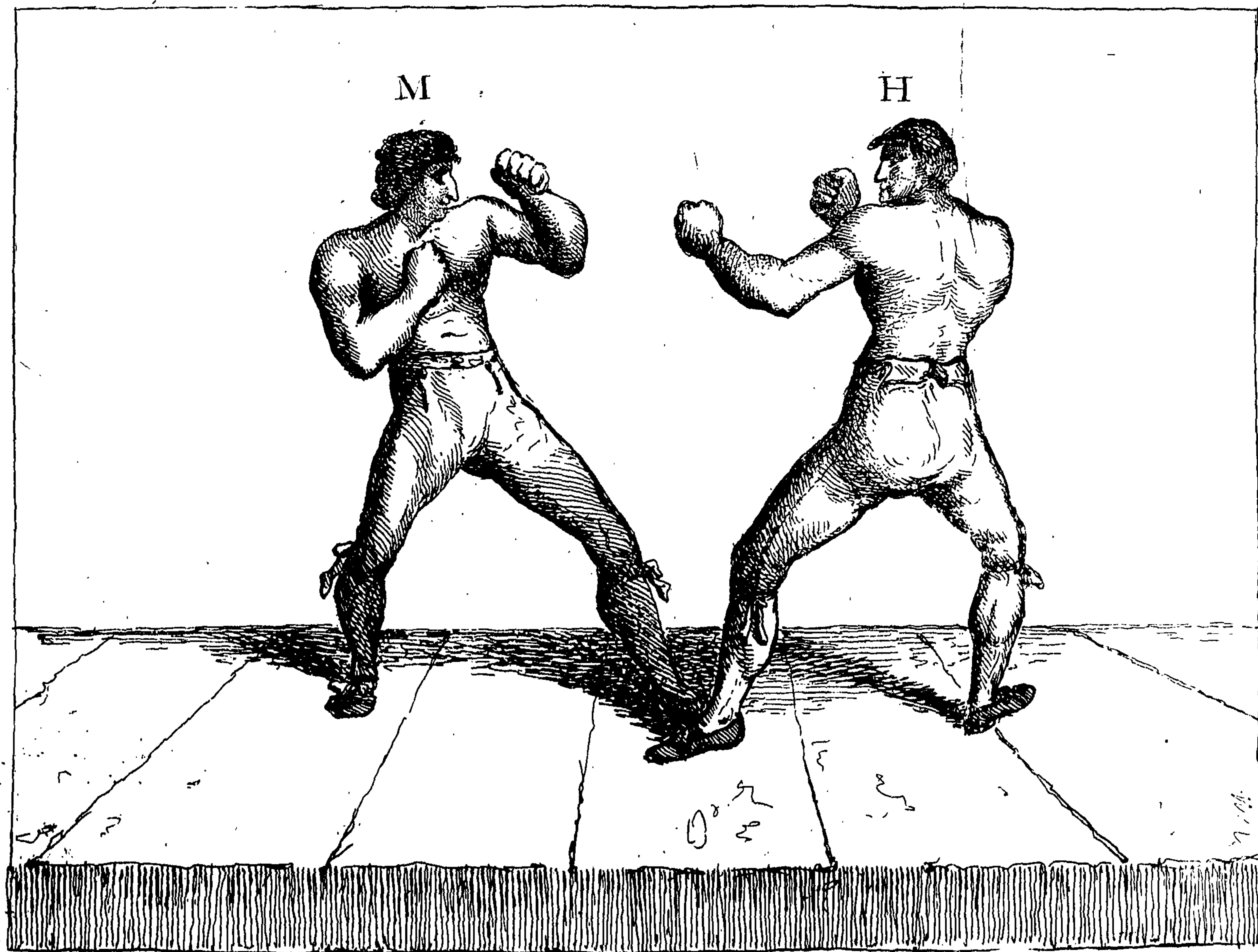
COMPLETE ART

OF

BOXING, &c.

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[ PRICE ONE SHILLING. ]



HUMPHREYS and MENDOZA *Selling-co.*

Published by M. Follingsby, N. M. near Temple Bar, Fleet Street.

A NEW EDITION CORRECTED.

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THE  
COMPLETE ART  
OF  
BOXING,  
ACCORDING TO THE  
MODERN METHOD;

WHEREIN

The whole of that Manly Accomplishment is rendered so easy and intelligent that any Person may be an entire Master of the Science in a few Days, without any other Instruction than this Book.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

THE GENERAL HISTORY OF BOXING.

CONTAINING

An Account of the most eminent Professors of that noble Art, who have flourished from its Commencement to the present Time.

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By an AMATEUR of Eminence.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for M. FOLLINGSBY, No. 4, near *Temple Bar*; and  
M. SMITH, at No. 46, both in *Fleet-Street*. 1788.

## T O T H E P U B L I C.

**T**HE following System of the Modern Art of Boxing is a complete body of practical knowledge; deduced from the practice of the most celebrated masters, viz. Messrs. BROUGHTON, SELLERS, SHILLANY, CORCORAN, TAYLOR, DOYLE, JOHNSON, HUMPHREYS, MENDOZA, TRING, DUNN, &c. &c. therefore the Public are presented with real practical knowledge of all those masters at a trifling expence, and very little application; so that the Art can be obtained by those of the most moderate capacity, in a few days, with little or no loss of time. It would come but aukward from the Author of the following Work to represent the utility of the art to the Public, when it is obvious to the most inexperienced person that the insults of inferiors would always be guarded against if a knowledge of this art was more generally understood by persons in genteel life. As many low-bred people take advantage of their betters, merely because they suppose them unacquainted with athletic exercises, and therefore too often transgress the laws of society with impunity, as few are sufficiently skilled in gymnastic science to be certain of ability to chastise such rudeness. And in order to remedy so material a want, the following Treatise will be found of the utmost consequence to the polite reader.



## I N T R O D U C T I O N.

**T**HE science of Boxing is now become so fashionable that some of the first personages in the kingdom are known to patronize it; therefore it is presumed that a regular digest of the practical part of the art, under its proper heads, will not be unacceptable to the Public. Upon that conclusion the Author of the following concise Treatise has been at the expence and labour of selecting from the actual professional talents of some of the most celebrated masters the chief points of their skill, whereby they have arrived at their justly-earned fame;—so that this little book contains, in substance, the whole of the Modern Practice of Boxing; nor can many years attendance, at any of the academies for the tuition of this art, furnish the pupil with a greater, nor yet so complete a knowledge of the practical part, as a careful reading of the following sheets, as the essence  
of

of the whole art is here presented,—whether to pursue, attack, or retreat, as well as to prepare for a pitched battle. Beside the advantages resulting from a perusal of this book (which may be done in private; and any person, though previously wholly inexperienced in the art, may be an adept in the science in a few days, so as to be prepared, upon all occasions, against the attacks of ruffians or insulting inferiors) an expence of at least five guineas is saved, together with the comfort and satisfaction of not being obliged to mix with unsuitable company, which must necessarily be the case, if a person receives instruction at an academy for Boxing. Another matter is also to be considered, that the possessors or masters of this art are, for the most part, ignorant, illiterate, unintelligent men, who are totally unacquainted with politeness or elegance of expression; so that all the initiated pugilist can have for his loss of time, great expence, and disagreeable mixing with some of the lowest and most depraved part of the community is,—a dumb art of manœuvring, without a single term of technical knowledge, either to judge for himself, or to apply to his antagonist at the most trying time of his manhood!

We offer the following Treatise (without vanity or deceit) as a complete tutor to all those who would wish to be acquainted with, or instructed in, the Modern Practice of Boxing, so that they may need no other guide than the rules here laid down to acquire a perfect knowledge of the art.

The theory might have been extended to a full-sized volume; but upon due consideration that it would only enhance the price, without being of any service to the student, and be an actual loss of time in the perusal of a prolix system, we have therefore, with due regard to the subject, comprised the whole body of the art in as little compass as possible, to come within the purchase and capacity of all ranks of people.

T H E  
C O M P L E T E   A R T  
O F  
B O X I N G.

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**T**HE first requisites necessary to be known are the postures or attitudes in advancing, attacking, closely engaging and retreating, in order to preserve the honours of the art, viz.

Upon seeing the object at the distance of about twenty yards, if in pursuit, or advancing, the pupil is to poize, by setting his hips as wide as he can, and sinking the shoulders; then suppress the cavity of the lungs by a confined breathing, so as to preserve a long wind in respiration: added to those preparations, the neck is to be sunk, and the arms raised as high as the mouth; but then extended about three quarters of their length, in a direct line from the mouth, without raising one hand higher than the other, as has been practised by some, to the ma-  
nifest



nifest disadvantage of the pugilist; for the idea of the left hand being placed to secure the heart, lungs, and stomach, by a low bending of the elbow and the clinching of the fist, is by no means to be recommended; nor is the right hand to secure the head only, by rising it to a height nearly to the eyes, as has been formerly taught in some of the schools. On the contrary, the two hands and arms are to be directed, as has been observed, and the elbows gently bent outwards; then the hands shut with all the scope imaginable, so as to brace the arms by raising the muscular vessels, and consequently strengthening the wrist, and helping to brace the nerves, which will necessarily be ruffled by the agitation of the spirits. But it is to be observed, that the fists are by no means to be closely shut, or the fingers pressed into the palm; but, on the contrary, ballooned, by admitting the air to pass in from the fist to the fourth finger, the little finger only laid close to the ball of the thumb, and is to be covered by the extension of the thumb over it, so as to place the tip of the thumb upon the first joint of it.

When thus prepared in an orderly advance, the steps of poizing are next to be attended to.

In order to this attitude in position, sink upon the left leg, and bend the knee at the same time about two inches lower than your usual height, so as to incline the right side towards your antagonist—the right foot turning out so as to be in a direction with the elbow of the right hand—the right leg, knee, and thigh, as forcibly made strong by muscular exertion as you can possibly, which is to be done by bearing on your heel, and drawing the toes under with a degree of fervour; whereby you will readily perceive the muscles of the thigh to rise in their proper place, and your joints properly secured from giving away to slipping or stumbling.—Then you advance thus:

The

The body and limbs are to be particularly carried as before directed, and by the direction from the left to the right—three steps are to be taken at each movement.

## P O S I T I O N S.

1. The Brace, (or 1st.)
2. The Throw, (or 2d.)
3. The Square, (or 3d.)

The brace, or 1st, is the advance of the right foot by a direct line towards the object of attack; which is to be done by a heavy tread and a manliness of increase in the stamp of the foot, so as to brace the knee by a firmness of gait to be prepared for any sudden attack.

The throw, or 2d, is done by the advance of the left leg about half a yard, so as to place the foot in the same direction as the position from which it was removed, and thereby gain upon the opponent in a right direction to the advantage of ground or situation, which is to be performed by a quick motion, as the next step is to be gained instantly, therefore must be attended to with all possible dispatch.

The square, or 3d, is a quick step of the right foot, to precede the left, from the second position, or the throw-in, so as to bring the right foot about two-and-twenty inches distant from the left, in such a direction, as to present the heel of the right foot to be in a line with the middle of the inside part of the left. Yet under such a balance, or poize of body, that the right foot is not more than eleven inches before the left, in proximity to the object of attack—as this exactness in poize will always ensure a steady bar point.

It is to be observed, that in the first setting positions, or attitude of advance, that the right foot should

should be but four or five inches in a direction to the object of pursuit or attack.

These steps, which are in the technical terms of this art called the bar movements, are essential points never to be omitted, and are to be first practised with exactness, before the pupil attempts to the manœuvres of the ambidexter.

The beating of time, in One—Two—Three, will help the student very much to his bar-points. But above all, his inclining his joints in bending, as herein before directed, as what has been said on that head must not in any particular be omitted.

Next thing we come to speak of, is the active business of attack, which is to be performed by a regular standard of order, divided into three general maxims, each of which is subdivided into three standing rules.

## P O S T U R E S.

### OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE MANŒUVRES;

1. The upper view.
2. The lower view.
3. The casual projection.

In the first general maxim the rules are as follow :

1. The direction of fight.
2. The inclination of the head.
3. The disposition of the guards.

When you attack give your antagonist as little time as possible to direct his aim, before you give your onset, which you must endeavour to accomplish over his guards, by a sudden inclination of your head downwards, and a long guard fixed, to deceive his ward, whereby you will be certain to give him the upper mark, which is generally understood by the temple, the eyes, or either ear, as you shall be able to use the left or right hand.

Upon



Upon his receiving your salute, he will soon no doubt assail you by a retaliating blow, which is very often a fatal stroke to your success in the contest, unless it is carefully managed by your defence. In order to this, sink into your brace (1st), or throw (2d), so as to advance either upon short or long guards before your antagonist can possibly be ready; but if in case he is hasty then he will in all probability fall short of any of your guards, and be baulked, through the art of your manœuvres: but in either of those cases you can direct your square of array, or third position, and be long or short as you shall judge necessary.

Particular observation is to be made of the direction of your opponent's eye, as you can prepare your guard accordingly; for, as in fencing, a good boxer will direct his blows by aim, which are always according to his best judgment, where your guards lay open; therefore be as wary as possible to mar his attempts, by instantaneously raising your guard, so as to meet his eye, and fall it with his direction, or vary it agreeably to his purpose.

In this general maxim the second rule immediately follows the first; namely, to observe the inclination of the head, which is for the most part productive of the aim of the arm, under the direction of the eye, which necessarily brings in the third rule of this maxim, namely, the disposition of the guards; for, from the two former rules that are passive, do the subjects of this rule become active, in directing their force; for as soon as the head inclines to any direction particularly the eyes are fixed upon the mark, and consequently the arm raised to act as the inclination prompts.

Here it will be necessary to observe the second general maxim of this art, in order to direct the pupil in the scenes of action, as also to facilitate the retention



tion of its parts under their proper heads, as in this digest is intended to be illustrated.

The second maxim consists of the lower view, which contains these rules, viz.

1. The bar movements.
2. The close-in.
3. The cross-buttock grapple.

Already we have observed the advantages of the proper use of this stand of figures in commanding the length of the guards; so that a good boxer must constantly keep an eye on the right knee of his antagonist, and whenever he finds him on the throw (2d), to attack him in that posture, as his guards must of course be disarranged, and liable to a foil-clash; or full charge, either of which implies a full scope above or below his guards.

The next rule is to guard against his closing in, if he is too powerful for your grapple, as oft times a fall will disable a good boxer; and what is worse, strain the loins so much that you presently become weak and languid, and totally discomfit you, that a breathing time is absolutely necessary, and particularly so, if your regimen in diet has not been carefully attended to.

In this matter your best way is, if you wish to avoid a close-in, vary your ground or position on the stage, but be careful that you never rest on the throw (2d position), for there your antagonist takes you in open front; however, your legs will sufficiently direct you, as the right must always precede the left, to secure your situation in attack or regular engagement.

The last observation, or rule of this maxim is, that you avoid the cross-buttock grapple, unless you are entirely master of the art; for if your opponent once raises your body to grapple you over, the fall will very probably disable you from a further attempt in subduing him; forasmuch as the shoulders and back  
are

are liable to be materially injured by such a cant of the body, which your antagonist can only accomplish when he closes you on the throw (2d posture); for otherwise you are never liable to such a dangerous hoist as this manœuvre will subject you to.

The cross-buttock grapple is performed when you and your antagonist close in with your right sides in contact, or along side each other; and is gained by a low hold of the waistband of the breeches with the right hand, and of the right shoulder with the left hand; by which you capsize your opponent, by throwing him head foremost over your right hip, and a part of your buttock, and is of all falls the worst, as all the upper forms are subject to injury by it.

We come now to treat of the third and last maxim of this art, which is the casual projection; which in its parts contain the three following rules, viz.

1. The parts of access.
2. The prowess of your opponent.
3. The advantages of ground or motion.

To accelerate your conquest it will be requisite to be so far observant in the attacks of your adversary, as to learn where your direction should be pointed.

In this particular you will readily see where your adversary's favourite blow lies; and your only way to gain your point here will be to work upon long and short postures, and to never rise your arm in vain, nor yet hasten the repetition of blows; for one blow paid home will tell for six improperly directed.

Let your left arm be your shield, and spare the right as much as you can, unless your opponent is left handed; in that case, ply his right side marks in every open you can with a full square or back handed mallet, by which you will soon disable his guard; for the right hand (although stronger in muscles) cannot bear the tanning of the left.

If



If the guards of your adversary are very high, baulk him by two or three feints at his belly; but never strike home so low, unless you come to his quarter; that is to say, under the short rib of the left side; for here, as well as at the pit of the stomach, you may unwind him, and by following your blow, sow up his talents; however, this manœuvre will lower his guard and put you into a field of new acquisition; for one blow well told to the upper tire (the head) tells better than three below; for here lies the best seat of work, and will undoubtedly serve your purpose; for a lug, a temple, a jaw, an eye, or mouth-piece, often gives the word *enough* when two dozen lower baits would have proved ineffectual to accomplish it.

By the second rule of this maxim you are to form an opinion of your adversary's skill and strength, in order to ascertain what movements are necessary to stem the torrent of his ardour; and in so doing, if you find him above or below the par of your own abilities, deal with him according to your skill in manœuvring him in various positions; for in removing an Hercules you make him vulnerable by a new statement of assault.

Here it becomes proper to enlarge on the last rule of this maxim, to take in a complete idea of your adversary's turn, whether in guards, attitudes, or general mark; for in any length of time to hold out, the odd measure of a single delye may decide the contest; therefore it is worthy your attention, for your stage walk will always enable you to advance or retreat at pleasure, and afford you a superiority over those that may be double your strength, who have not the method of boxing here treated of. Hence it will appear to every one who has any idea of defence that, discipline, reduced to general maxims and standing rules,

rules, render the air so easy and intelligent that the adventitious combatant has but a poor stake against the initiated adept; therefore sleight in this science will accomplish what strength and resolution cannot.

In close engagement or retreat the foregoing standing rules will always bear the test of action, and only admit of one observation, which is, that, in retreat, the given steps one, two, three, are always to be observed in going backwards as well as forwards.

The sinking of the spirits often betrays the champion into actions unworthy of himself, and creates fear, shame, and disgrace, where success and honour might have been depended upon. Hence it may be judged how necessary it is to keep up the animal spirits; and in order to this we shall begin with a regular process for a champion who wishes to qualify himself for a pitched battle, whereby all who would wish to be eminent in the profession may adopt as much of the method of preparation as they may judge necessary.

A champion should have ten days or a fortnight to prepare for a good battle, during which time the following regimen and exercise should be observed.

To commence his preparation with an evening's warm bath for the feet, legs, and the small of the thighs; and afterwards, as soon as he is quite cool, to wash the loins with cold spring or pump water, not omitting the face, hands, and arms; but to use no soap in any of those bathings or washings; then to retire early to rest upon a supper of runnet milk, or milk-pottage, and to eat sparingly of bread, butter, or salt.

The morning's beverage to be throughout the whole time runnet whey and hard white biscuit without feeds.

Dinner to be alternately stewed veal, (with rice) and well-fed fowls, (with a melt or two in the latter) boiled to a jelly, and no tea in the afternoon, but

B

instead



instead thereof a rusk and chocolate early in the evening, with supper as before; and as for drink throughout the preparation, it should be only red wine mingled with water—and in no wise to use either porter, table-beer, ales, or spirituous liquors, and to drink not more than a glass or two after dinner; but before dinner half a pint, or a pint mulled will do no harm, provided you have had a glass or two of strong jelly before it; but a rusk, or a crust well toasted, is necessary to eat with it, then no danger is to be feared. However, salts or acid juices are to be avoided all the time so devoted to dieting; yet lump sugar is not prohibited; but if the habit requires it, half a pint of claret mulled at night, with a good deal of lump sugar, is recommended; but neither blood letting or physic is recommended, as the cooling of the body, and strengthening the fluids, can in no wise be done if either of those coolers are used, if the patient wishes to secure his success; for, exclusive of the several things prescribed as eatables, &c. particular hours of rest and recreation are to be observed, viz.

To go to bed exactly at nine at night, and to rise at five in the morning; to breakfast at seven, rusk and wine at eleven, dine at one, chocolate at four, sup at seven; and from that hour until bed-time, to be entertained with martial music (if possible) as it will tend to enable him to form an heroic state of spirits, and make his dreams agreeable; and finally, add to his vivacity and serenity of thought; for the mind must not be ruffled or agitated, nor no painful sensation suffered to invade the conceptive faculties, but every thing conducted with harmony and liveliness.

The mornings should be spent in an early walk, first breaking the fast with a single gingerbread cut (steeped in Hollands Geneva), and the whole not to exceed a mile; and then to return very slow, to  
avoid

avoid heating the body ; and to preserve it so, lay cool at night.

The morning of engagement to eat no more than a single slice of bread, well toasted without butter, or a hard white biscuit toasted, and about a pint of best red wine mulled, with a table spoonful of brandy in it.—This to be taken an hour preceding the time of dressing.

On the stage to have your drink made up as follows :—Hollands, bitters, and fine China-orange juice, with some lump sugar dissolved, to a palatable strength, as you may be inclined to chuse it ; when, with proper knowledge of the rules laid down in this book, we doubt not but you will be a match for the first champion of the age.

Having now fulfilled our promise to the public on this head, we offer it with all due respect, hoping they may reap fruits from our labours, as our wish is to put into the hands of every man a practical instructor, to preserve him from those dangers that his prudence may judge necessary to guard against ; and in our opinion he will reap profits to atone amply for his expence and trouble in the purchase and reading of this useful Treatise.

The technical terms may seem rather harsh and discordant, and in some respects low, that are used in this art : but except we were to alter the known phrases that are in use in the modern system, we could not have given the instructions complete, without making use of those terms, which we have taken care to explain as often as they have occurred.

*End of the First Part.*

T H E

## P R E F A C E.

**T**HE Author of the foregoing Treatise, as well as of the following Compendium of History, with the greatest diffidence as to his ability, but with the most profound respect, offers this work to the public, relying on the candour and indulgence of a generous spirited people, who are ever willing to encourage science, be it on what subject it may : therefore, upon such national assurances of protection he presents this little volume as a gift, which he hopes will be found worthy of their acceptance.

Hitherto there has been but imperfect sketches of historical records, respecting the art here treated of in the second part of this book ; nor were the occurrences in any respect properly arranged, so as to afford any satisfactory knowledge of the rise and progress of this manly art ; therefore he has with some difficulty procured authentic documents, from which he has drawn the following narrative of historical facts.

He is well aware of many opposers to the general reading of this work, who, through a pretended zeal  
for



for religion and soberness of life, treat such productions with the most severe acerbity, as though it should tend to a subversion of morals, or an interpolation of the manners of the people. Notwithstanding such party prejudice of weak and inexperienced persons, who may be inclined to cavil upon such a novelty (as this work) being introduced to the public, yet he is not fearful of being deserted by the sensible and discriminating part of the community, as his efforts to afford the public a statement of an art that, until his sedulous care, had never been digested under its proper-heads, as a regular liberal science. Hence he supposes, that instructions to defend one's self against the attacks of a ruffian, will not be taken amiss; so that those who are not inclined to be adepts in athletic exercises, may, without animosity to the historiographer of this modern fashionable art, read the following history, and reserve their opinions for the author's next treatise on this subject.



P A R T . S E C O N D .

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T H E  
G E N E R A L H I S T O R Y  
O F  
B O X I N G.

**T**O trace the origin of this gymnastic exercise will necessarily oblige us to date it from the days of Nimrod, the son of Cush, who was said to be not only a mighty hunter, but dextrous in the sleight of manhood, insomuch that he was by the voice of the people proclaimed their chief leader (or prince) for his victorious arm in overcoming the son of Canaan, whereby he established his throne in Shinar, Sidon his competitor being obliged to remove from thence, with all his household; and in this contest neither champion was allowed any weapon, but were by efforts of strength and prowess in manly exercises adjudged by an umpire to which the victory was given. Hence may be inferred that each of those champions exerted their utmost endeavours in strength and agility to vanquish his antagonist, as a diadem was annexed to the fortune of the conqueror.

But

But whether those Eastern heroes fought upon a stage agreeably to our modern taste, or upon a platform, or the plain, we will not venture to determine, and only observe to our readers, that this champion, to whom we ascribe the source of this manly exercise, was the great grandson of Noah, and was born about two thousand two hundred and eighteen years before Christ's circumcision, which is asserted as a fact by that learned antiquary and historian of credit, Strabo, to whom we beg leave to refer our readers, who are curious upon this article, as it gives a greater scope to the history of this art than our modern writers were aware of, as most of those who have wrote hints on the subject date their historical facts or occurrences within the annals of the present century.

Even Captain Godfrey, who celebrated our countryman as the ambidextrian hero of the age, when he gives the palm to him, in a laconic style, by boldly asserting, that "John Broughton is the greatest  
" hero in athletic exercises that this or any other  
" nation ever produced."

Here we may be satisfied that the Captain was unacquainted with the history of the founder of the Babylonish Empire, otherwise he would not have given precedence to a yeoman of the British guards to that of such a potentate as we have just now mentioned.

Captain Godfrey, in his treatise on this art, published in the year 1742, seems inclined to think that this science (as he calls it) was first introduced into this country from Italy, as in one of his characters he sets forth, that in the days of the celebrated Whittaker, an Italian, a native of Florence, (though some say of Venice) named Gondolier, challenged all England to single combat, and was known in the Steel-yard by the name of "The Goliath of the Continent." However this Philistine did not long

wait for David, for, in a few days, Whitaker applied at the bar of Slaughter's Coffee-house, and left conditions of his proposal, addressed to the then Earl of Anglesey, who was the chief sportsman in that line in those times.

As Whitaker laid great stress upon his ability, "in bearing an extraordinary share of beating," the nobleman was induced to lay considerable bets in his favour, and accordingly sent Gondolier a challenge to fight this honest son of Vulcan, which took place soon after at Fig's booth in Paddington-fields, where cudgel and foil play (or fencing) was then practised, under the respectability of our modern polite term of an academy.

The champions met here, and on their preparing for battle the spectators were astonished at the disparity of persons, the one a Goliath indeed! the other a dapper David! The Englishmen present were all concerned for the fate of their champion, whilst the Italians, Germans, and Dutch, as well as the French and Swiss merchants, who espoused Gondolier's quarrel, were exulting in the certainty of their gains upon the victory of their champion.

The stage whereon the combatants were to exhibit their skill was without any railing, and built in the form of a parallelogram, of twenty-four feet by forty-eight, but so high that the champions and their seconds ascended by a ladder of eight steps, so that we may conclude the stage was upwards of six feet high: The Italian bruiser had by long practice reduced his knowledge to a sort of a science, by digesting the attitudes under their distinct heads; and upon the first advance of Whitaker, desired him "to beware," a phrase not understood by Whitaker; but as the latter was advancing to attack *à l'Angloise*, the tall Italian raised his Herculean arm, and, with a mighty swing, brought his clenched fist to meet in  
contact



contact with the head of the English blacksmith, which had so great an effect upon the latter, that he quickly descended from the place of action, under the legal term of a “ knock-down blow.”

Here the foreigners gave a loud huzza! to the mortification of the English auditors; but as the fallen champion had received no other injury than a surprise at the novelty of the Italian’s salute, as the fall was but a trifle compared to the headlong tumbles of this veteran, so that he mounted the stage with the greatest alacrity, at the same time shewing a surprising agility of body, as he jumped upon the stage in a standing leap, and then accosting his antagonist, gave him to understand he knew his mark (meaning his aim at the head), but that Gondolier was a stranger to his, however he should soon be acquainted with it.

Hereupon Whitaker advanced, and gave the Italian an English peg, or what the moderns term “ a dart to the mark,” *i. e.* a dig, or lunge, under the short rib, on the left side, whereby the champion of the Continent was deprived of respiration for a few minutes; and Whitaker, mending his blow, by a short arm fist to the left of the stomach, nearly opposite the seat of life, completely vanquished the foreigner, so that he gave up the contest in favour of the English champion, to the entire satisfaction of the English audience, but to the mortification of the body of the foreigners present, who, with their champion Gondolier, declared that the blows upon the body were not according to the practice of the art. However in this point they were soon overruled, as the umpire declared all standing blows to be fair.—Thus far Captain Godfrey, in his book entitled “ The Characters of the Boxers,” has aimed to give the Italians the honour of introducing this manly art into our island, whereas the-contrary is the  
the



the fact ; therefore, to omit the useless definitions of particular periods that might give rise to athletic exercises upon the Asiatic, African, or European continents, we shall content ourselves by adhering solely to the history of this art so far as it relates to our own country, and at once pronounce that this gymnastic game of ambidextrian exercise is wholly British, or at least peculiarly so, as the history of early times will clearly evince.

Let us only look back to the records of time, and observe the truly heroic discipline of the great Alfred, the British King, when it is clearly demonstrated that boxing and wrestling were part of the manual exercise of the soldiery of those times, and was practised under various manœuvres, as were comprehended under particular technical terms of art, which Leland, in his British Antiquities, particularly points out as passages to prove that the ancient Britons were a strong, robust, and manly people, inured to exercises of strength and manhood, consequently a warlike people, and might with justice be called a nation of heroes.

The same author of credit and respectable mention speaks of the successors of this great monarch down to Ironside, in the year 1017, the time of the Danish invasion, to be a hardy people ; and, during the reigns of ten succeeding monarchs, gives the natives the just and impartial appellation of veterans and heroic men.

Upon the invasion of Canute in 1018, the Danes became masters of the English nation, whom the same author makes mention of as a hardy people, and much proportioned to the natives of this isle, as being stout and robust, and given to the like exercises of manly feats.—Hence we may conclude, that the gymnastic games were not laid aside, but continued down to the Norman Conquest.

Upon

Upon the demise of Harold the II<sup>d</sup>. in 1066, William Duke of Normandy ascended the English throne, as the conqueror of this island, with a design to dispossess the Picts and Scots of the northern kingdom, which however he declined attempting to do.

Cambden, as well as other historians, has observed, upon the commencement of this reign, that the nation entered into a degeneracy, by imbibing some of the effeminate pretended refinements of the Conquerors, who were every way inferior to the conquered people, and who were only overcome by a kind of disunion on the death of their King (Harold II.) as having no leader to direct their armies; for upon the King's death several of the generals of the British soldiery forsook their posts, merely to canvass for the disposal of the crown, and were not aware of the consequences until they were surpris'd by the invaders, who soon after put all opponents to cruel deaths.

For it is a well known fact to every historiographer of this nation, that had King Harold escaped the fatal arrow by which he was slain, that William of Normandy and all his men, of every denomination, would have fallen a sacrifice to the veteran troops of the defunct monarch.

Upon the accession of this monarch to the English throne, the natives became less addicted to exploits of manhood, as has been before observed, and gave up their favourite pastimes for fore and back edges and points, which answers to the modern broad and small swords. By the exercise of the former they were enabled to form a military discipline to engage with their northern neighbours; and by the latter, with those on the south, namely, the inhabitants of Gaul and Spain, who used the long  
poignard

poignard or small sword in their methods of fighting.

During the reigns of the Norman line, England greatly degenerated; so that on the extinction of that royal line, in a period of only 105 years, the natives had become by far less manly and warlike than at any former period preceding the Conquest. However, the ancient spirit of the people revived on restoring the Saxon line; for in the days of Henry II. "The Laws of Rights," or, "The Challenger's Claim," was passed into a law by the king and the barons, at a solemn court held in a great field between Staines and Egham, wherein King John afterwards ratified the Magna Charta.

By this law the plaintiff had a right to challenge the defendant to single combat, and depended upon his success agreeably to the justice or equity of his claim, by which law the innocent were liable to fall as well as the guilty: but in these times faith had some power to influence those who professed Christianity; for in many instances, where the accused or defendant was conscious that he illegally detained the complainant or plaintiff's right, he made a solemn confession of his guilt, and peaceably yielded up to the claimant that which was his due, upon no other supposition than that his guilt would inevitably subject him to fall by the hands of his antagonist!—Query, whether our laws are now amended?—for we may question in those early days of dawning refinement, from various customs of barbarity in this land, whether there were any such beings known as pettifoggers, corrupt magistrates, or stag-witnesses. We are rather inclined to think there were none of those vile tools of modern practice, who, instead of using the excellent principles of our constitutional laws, overturn the salutary effects which would result from an honest practice in the Courts of Record, or upon  
the



the benches of Magistracy; but, alas, we have no hope!—Though perhaps when as many years have rolled through the twelve aspects as there has since the days of the Conquest, the modern practice of Quacks or Empirics in Law may be changed into a system of practice for a set of honest men!!!

But to resume our history.—Let us observe that, under the Saxon line, the English nation flourished in feats of arms; and upon the demise of Richard II. the royal line of Lancaster succeeded to the crown, which continued in the names of three Henry's, viz. the 4th, 5th, and 6th, when the royal line of York succeeded; and, during the reigns of both those houses, gymnastic exercises were in daily use; for, by the records \* of the last of the latter house, (Richard III.) it is said that he was expert at  
 “ raising the sling, drawing the bow, throwing the  
 “ javelin and dart, but particularly at manly feats  
 “ on foot and on horseback, in wielding his arm to  
 “ oppose his antagonist with a clenched fist.”—Hence we may infer that manly exercises were not accounted complete without including the ambidextrian or boxing art; by which it may be understood, that in those days the nervous system was strengthened as much as possible, as on a strong and steady arm depended a man's whole safety, whether in the field of the enemy or in the exercises of fashionable amusements.

In those days the apparent heirs to crowns did not omit this necessary and manly accomplishment, which gave a strength of body and mind by a regular exercise of it, as we find small-sized men to be by hardy exploits so inured to feats of manhood, that they acquired immortal honour when opposed to their natural enemies, as may be instanced in the last

\* In the King's library.



monarch to the union of the royal red and white roses of York and Lancaster, in the person of Richard III. for had the fight been, as Shakespear would fain make us believe between Richard and Richmond, the latter would never have mounted the throne, he afterwards usurped under the title of Henry VII. nor would the Tudors ever have been a royal family in this isle; for the little British ambidextrian hero, although he mounted a hunch back with other deformities, yet, by a constant exercise of manly exploits, he had an arm of amazing strength, as many of Richmond's best troops were witnesses.

But, as we don't wish to enter upon any other subject than the topic first announced, we shall for brevity's sake pass from thence to the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland, under James I. in 1603, and only observe, that, from that period to the accession of the House of Brunswick, the manly art of boxing declined very considerably, as in the reign of James I. the proper use of cannon was known to the British navy; for in the former reigns of Henry VIII. Edward VI. Mary I. and Elizabeth, the pitching of javelins, darts, and handspikes, was in use in sea-fights as well as in battles on land, so that manly strength was required, and sleight therefore was carefully attended to by all ranks of men.

For in the ships that attacked the Spanish Invincible Armada, (as they styled their force) in the days of Queen Elizabeth, none of the British ships mounted more than 48 guns, which were all upon one deck, and without carriages to elevate them, therefore of little service in those days, to disable an enemy's ship; so that we may naturally conclude that as we became versed in the use of fire arms we through negligence lost that excellency of art, by which our nation was distinguished for skill and heroic courage; nor were three to one of any enemy ac-  
counted

counted odds worthy of notice, until the use of fire arms became known to the European nations.

We have now in our compendious Treatise descended to the reign of George I. when fire arms were in their zenith, and almost all other weapons totally neglected; but upon being convinced that other weapons were equally useful in battle, particularly in close engagements either by sea or land, it was judged necessary to train the soldiery for both services to their use, as in the succeeding reign (Geo. II.) it was found of great utility; for in the battle of Dettengen it is acknowledged that a few troops of cavalry forced the lines of the enemy, and gave the French a total defeat by the strength of the arm joined with a broad sword; as also the bayonet of the infantry: which excellent discipline has been continued ever since, as our enemies have been convinced of by woful experience.

Now we shall recommence our history after a chasm of nearly 125 years, in which time we shall suppose one art was gaining footing whilst the other was continually losing ground; but as we have arrived at the crisis in which manhood or manliness was united with skill in arts and sciences, we shall notice the vicissitudes since that period.

Though the fashionable art of boxing has never been licensed, and affords an instance of the repugnance that may for a time subsist between the laws and the manners of a nation, it was about the year 1742 as regular an exhibition as we now see at any of the public places of amusement, the theatres only excepted. It was encouraged by the first ranks of the nobility, patronized by the first subjects in the realm, and tolerated by the magistrates!

Before the establishment of Broughton's amphitheatre, a booth was erected at Tottenham-court, in which the proprietor, George Taylor, invited the  
professors

professors of the art to display their skill, and the public to be present at its exhibition.

The bruisers then had the reward due to their prowess, in a division of the entrance money, which sometimes was an hundred or an hundred and fifty pounds.

The general mode of sharing was for two thirds to go to the winning champion, while the remaining third was the right of the loser, though sometimes by an express agreement of the parties the conqueror and the vanquished shared alike.

Although many of the public prints with a degree of asperity hold forth upon the brutality of the modern rage for manly exercises, which the Frenchified English effeminate scribblers profess to satirize—but to soar above the trifling squibs of cowardly petit maitres, let us view those heroes that exercised their skill half a century ago, and compare their days with the present period, copying the advertisements which are taken from newspapers of those times.

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*Nov. 22, 1742.*

“ THIS is to acquaint all true lovers of man-  
 “ hood, that at the Great Booth, Tottenham-court,  
 “ to-morrow, being the 23d instant, it is believed  
 “ there will be one of the most severe boxing  
 “ matches that has been fought for many years,  
 “ between Richard Hawes, backmaker, and Tho-  
 “ mas Smallwood, for 50l. The known hardiness  
 “ and intrepidity of these two men will render it  
 “ needless to say any thing in their praise.

“ Gentlemen are desired to come soon; for, as  
 “ this battle has been deferred a fortnight, at the  
 “ particular



“ particular desire of several noblemen and gentlemen, a full house is early expected.

“ There will be several bye-battles as usual; particularly one between the noted Buckhorse and Harry Grey for two guineas. And a good day’s diversion may be depended upon.”

DAILY ADVERTISER.

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*April 26, 1742.*

“ AT the Great Booth at Tottenham-Court, on Wednesday the 28th instant, will be a trial of manhood between the following champions, *viz.* Whereas I William Willis (commonly called by the name of the Fighting Quaker) having fought Mr. Smallwood about twelve months ago, and bruised and battered him more than ever he encountered before, though I had the ill-fortune to be beat by an accidental fall; the said Smallwood, flushed with the success blind Fortune had then given him, and the weak attempts of a few Irishmen and boys that have of late fought him for a minute or two, makes him think himself unconquerable: To convince him of the falsity of which, I invite him to fight me for 10l. at the time and place above-mentioned, when I doubt not but I shall prove what I have asserted, by pegs, darts, hard blows, and cross-buttocks.

“ WILLIAM WILLIS.”

“ N. B. The doors will be open at ten, and the combatants mount at twelve. There will be several bye-battles as usual, particularly one between John Divine and John Tipping for 5l. each.”



May 4, 1742.

“ AT the Booth in Tottenham-Court, to-mor-  
 “ row, May the 5th instant, will be a trial of man-  
 “ hood between the following champions, viz.  
 “ Whereas I John Francis (commonly called by the  
 “ name of the Jumping Soldier) who have always  
 “ had the reputation of a hearty fellow, and have  
 “ fought several bruisers in the street, &c. nor am  
 “ ashamed to mount the stage when my manhood  
 “ is called in question by an Irish braggadocio  
 “ bruiser, whom I fought some time ago at Totten-  
 “ ham-Court (in a bye-battle) for twelve minutes;  
 “ and though I had not the success due to my cou-  
 “ rage and ability in the art of boxing, do invite  
 “ him to fight me for two guineas, at the time and  
 “ place above mentioned, where I doubt not I shall  
 “ give him the truth of a good beating.

“ JOHN FRANCIS.”

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“ I Patrick Henly, known to every one for the  
 “ truth of a good fellow, who never refused any  
 “ one on or off the stage, and fight as often for the  
 “ diversion of gentlemen as for money, do accept  
 “ the challenge of this Jumping Jack; and shall, if  
 “ he don't take care, give him one of my bothering  
 “ blows, which will convince him of his ignorance  
 “ in the art of boxing.

“ PATRICK HENLY.”

This last advertisement appeared also in the Daily Advertiser, and is, together with the others, a curious specimen of the boasting style used by those boxers in challenging each other.

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It must not, however, be supposed that the challengers were penned by the respective parties—but of their respective principal bett holders; and afterwards embellished by the Clerk of the Booth, who was no less a man than the celebrated Theophilus Cibber, Esq.

The Tottenham-court Booth was the only stage on which these professors, or, as they were usually styled, “Masters of the Boxing Art,” displayed their prowess, till Broughton, patronised and encouraged by some of the nobility and gentry, built his amphitheatre in 1742.

George Taylor, the proprietor of the Booth, was himself a very able practitioner, and welcomed every champion who offered himself to fight, by giving him the truth of a good drubbing!

But it was not pugilists alone that distinguished themselves on these stages, nor were the contests confined to single matches, for oftentimes a battle royal was fought by four or five of a side equally matched.

Likewise, there were frequent exhibitions of skill by the professors of the broad sword and quarter-staff, as the advertisement following will give a curious example.

*Sept. 6, 1742.*

“ A T the Great Booth at Tottenham-court, on  
 “ Wednesday next the 8th instant, there will be a  
 “ severe trial of strength by the following Masters.

“ Whereas there was a severe battle fought be-  
 “ tween Mr. Johnson and Mr. M’Arty, who has  
 “ had the ill fortune to have a large piece cut out  
 “ of his head, which has so much enraged this  
 “ Hibernian hero, that he has vowed revenge—and  
 “ said he could never leave London without another  
 “ trial with the said Johnson, in which combat he

“ would either retrieve his loss, or otherwise submit  
 “ to a fate he has been a stranger to; the un-  
 “ daunted Johnson, not having the least regard to  
 “ this bold sailor’s threats, has agreed to fight him  
 “ on the following terms, viz, to begin the weapons  
 “ backward, and he that gives the most bleeding  
 “ wounds at sword, and most blows at quarter-staff,  
 “ to have the first 5l. out of the box, and the rest  
 “ to be shared as usual.

“ Attendance given at three o’clock, and the  
 “ Masters mount the stage at half after four; by the  
 “ reason the days are short.

“ To entertain the gentlemen while the house fills,  
 “ there will be a hat played for at cudgels, which  
 “ will be given to him that breaks the most heads.”

#### DAILY ADVERTISER.

In the leading circumstances of this contest a remarkable similarity subsists to that which lately took place between Johnson and Ryan.

Johnson was in his line the first champion of England, and a native of Yorkshire; so is the Johnson of the present day. He fought an Irish sailor and beat him, and in the course of the battle gave him a cut on the forehead; the very same thing was done by Johnson against Ryan in the late fight near Stains. The Irish sailor was dissatisfied with the decision of the combat and wished to fight again; which is exactly the case with Ryan. So far the parallel is exact.

The only circumstance in which the two occurrences differ are, the one was with sword and quarter-staff, the other with fists.

In the first the vanquished combatant made no charge or complaint of foul play, in the last there was a great deal of partiality, and the match was,
   
by



by the management of the seconds and by-standers, by no means fairly though decisively won.

The nobility and gentry who patronized this exercise, (and among whom were reckoned the first characters in the kingdom) having complained of the inconveniencies sustained at Tottenham-court Booth, they prevailed on Mr. Broughton, who was then rising into note as the first bruiser in London, to build a place adapted for such exhibitions. This was accordingly done in 1742, principally by subscription, behind Oxford Road.

The building was called Broughton's New Amphitheatre ; and, besides the stage for the combatants, had seats corresponding to the boxes, pit and galleries, much in the same manner with those at Astley's.

The following advertisement in the spring of 1743, announced the opening of it to the public, though several matches had been fought in it before.

*March 10, 1743.*

“ At Broughton's New Amphitheatre in Oxford  
 “ Road, the back of the late Mr. Fig's, on Tues-  
 “ day next, the 13th instant, will be exhibited  
 “ The true Art of Boxing, by the eight famed fol-  
 “ lowing men, viz. Abraham Evans, Sweep, Belos,  
 “ Glover, Roger Allen, Robert Spikes, Harry Gray,  
 “ and the Clog-maker. The above eight men are  
 “ to be brought on the stage, and to be matched  
 “ according to the approbation of the gentlemen  
 “ who shall be pleased to honour them with their  
 “ company.—Note, There will be a battle-royal  
 “ between the noted Buckhorse and seven or eight  
 “ more; after which there will be several bye-battles  
 “ by others. Gentlemen are desired to come by  
 “ times, by reason of the number of battles.

“ The doors will be open at nine, and some of  
“ the champions mount at eleven.

“ No person to pay more than a shilling.”

This undertaking of Mr. Broughton justly gave alarm to the proprietor of the Tottenham-court Booth, who immediately engaged Taylor, Stevenson, James, and Smallwood, four first-rate champions, under articles like regular performers, not to fight on any stage but his.

Mr. Broughton's advertisement was answered by the following appeal to the public:

“ To all Encouragers of the Manly Art of Boxing.

“ WHEREAS Mr. Broughton has maliciously ad-  
“ vertised several battles to be fought at his amphi-  
“ theatre, on Tuesday next, the 13th of March,  
“ in order to injure me, who am to fight Mr. Field,  
“ the same day at Tottenham-court, I think it in-  
“ cumbent on me to undeceive the public, by in-  
“ forming them the greatest part of the persons  
“ mentioned to fight there never intended any such  
“ thing, or were ever acquainted with it. Mr.  
“ Broughton has likewise inserted in his bills, that  
“ he never practised any imposition on the cham-  
“ pions who fought at his amphitheatre, and has in  
“ vain endeavoured to make it appear, which gen-  
“ tlemen will be sensible of, when an account of his  
“ actions are set forth at large in print, which will  
“ be done with all expedition.

“ And to convince Mr. Broughton that I have no  
“ disgust to his amphitheatre, I am willing to meet  
“ him there and fight him for 100l. whenever he  
“ pleases, not in the least regarding (as he expresses  
“ himself) the valour of his arm.

“ GEORGE TAYLOR.”

Mr.

Mr. Broughton, in his reply to this declaration, stated, that he had built his theatre at the express solicitation and desire of the public; that it had cost him 400l. of which 80l. only were by contribution; and that having himself been at the expence of what was required beyond that sum, he thought it but fair and reasonable that he should appropriate to himself a third part of the money collected at the door, the rest going to the champions.

All the encouragers and principal amateurs of the science gave their sanction to Broughton's cause, and in the end all the professors were obliged to come over.

Taylor and his confederates finding that their exertions could not prevent the Tottenham-court Booth from being deserted for Broughton's more commodious theatre, like the seceding actors in the Haymarket, gave up the contest, on condition that Mr. Broughton engaged to make good the loss they sustained by the forfeiture of their articles; they agreed to leave the Booth, and to fight no longer but on his stage.

Mr. Broughton now became sole manager and proprietor of the Boxing Theatre, engaged all the first performers, and raised many pupils, who were afterwards expert professors of the gymnastic art.

Among them the following were the most celebrated :

George Taylor, commonly called George the Barber, from his other profession; he was reckoned next to Broughton.

James and Smallwood, who were called by Mr. Theophilus Cibber the *deliciæ pugnacis generis*.

George Stevenson, who maintained for a long time, with doubtful success, a hard struggle with Broughton himself.



Field the sailor, who died near Tyburn turnpike in 1752, formerly a man of courage in collecting on the road between London and Hounslow.

Benjamin Boswell and Patrick Henly, who were two celebrated champions.

John Francis, commonly called the Jumping Soldier.

William Wallis, known by the name of the Fighting Quaker.

The two last named persons fought twice, and the former was always victorious.

John Smith, better known by the appellation of Buckhorse. He was not a good boxer, but famous for taking a severe drubbing.

Edward Hunt, a pupil of Broughton's, and the best man in the kingdom of his weight and inches. He fought men from all parts of England and of every size; and among them the Slaughterman, who weighed 17 stone, or 238 pounds, when he (Hunt) was no more than 9 stone, or 126 pounds, which was an odds of nearly two to one against him, however he was the victorious champion!—Here we may observe that Broughton's skill was superior to that of any other professor of the art, and as is observed in the first part of this Treatise, vastly superior to the athletic science of the present day.

Besides these, and many others who were pugilists, there was another kind of prize fighters, who practised the sword, quarter-staff, &c. who exhibited their skill on Broughton's stage.

The most famous amongst these heroes was Johnson the Yorkshireman, the next John Needs of Froome, in Somersetshire, commonly called the Green Knight.

Besides the above quarter-staff champions there were Thomas Hodgkins, who was called the Proud Salopian, and in 1746 kept a school for the exercise of  
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of the cutlafs, and William Holmes an Irifhman, who fought Johnfon twice with the broad-fword, and was beaten by him both times, but afterwards challenged the other to the naked faulchion, which Johnfon declined.

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The principal Champions at Broughton's Amphitheatre are thus defcribed by Captain Godfrey, in a publication which he gave under his name about forty years ago.

“ ADVANCE brave Broughton ! Thee I pronounce captain of the boxers ! As far as I can look back I think I ought to open the characters with him. I know none fo fit, fo able to lead up the van.—What can be ftronger than to fay that for feventeen or eighteen years he has fought every able boxer that has appeared againft him, and has never been yet beaten ? --This being the cafe we may venture to conclude from it.

“ But, not to build alone on this, let us examine further into his merits. What is it that he wants ? Has he not all that others want, and all the beft can have ? Strength equal to what is human, fkill and judgment equal to what can be acquired, undebauched wind, and a bottom fpirit never to pronounce the word *enough* ! He fights the ftick as well as moft men, and underftands a good deal of the fmall fword.

“ This practice has given him the diftinction of time and meafure beyond the reft. He ftops as regularly as the fwordfman, and carries his blows truly in the line. He fteps not back diftrufing of himfelf to ftop a blow, and fiddle in the return with  
an

an arm unaided by his body, producing but a kind of fly-flap blow, such as the pastry-cooks use to beat those insects from their tarts and cheese-cakes. No, Broughton steps bold and firmly in; bids a welcome to the coming blow; receives it with his guardian arm; then, with a general summons of his swelling muscles, and his firm body seconding his arm, and supplying it with all his weight, pours the pile-driving force upon his man.

“ That I may not be thought particular in dwelling too long on Broughton, I leave him with this assertion, that as he (I believe) will scarcely trust a battle to a warning age, I shall never think he is to be beaten till I see him beat.

“ About the time I first observed the promising hero upon the stage, his chief competitors were Pipes and Gretting. He beat them both (and I thought with ease) as often as he fought them.

“ Pipes was the neatest boxer I remember. He put in his blows about the face (which he fought at most) with surprising time and judgment. He maintained his battles for many years by his extraordinary skill against men of far superior strength.

“ Pipes was but weakly made; his appearance bespoke activity, but his hand, arms, and body, were but small; though by that acquired spring of his arm, he hit prodigious blows; and I really think, that at last when he was beat out of his championship it was more owing to his debauchery than the merit of those who beat him.

“ Gretting was a strong antagonist to Pipes. They contended hard together for some time, and were almost alternate victors.

“ Gretting had the nearest way of going to the stomach (which is what is called *the lower mark*) of any man I knew. He was a most artful boxer, stronger made than Pipes, and dealt the straightest blows.



blows. But what made Pipes a match for him was his rare bottom, spirit, and manliness, which would bear a great deal of beating, but this in my mind Gretting was not sufficiently furnished with; for, after he was beat twice together by Pipes, Hammer-smith Jack, a mere floven of a boxer, and every body that fought him afterwards, beat him.

“ I must, notwithstanding, do that justice to Gretting’s memory to confess that his debauchery very much contributed to spoil a great boxer; but yet I think he had not the bottom of the other.

“ George Taylor, known by the name of George the Barber, sprung up surprisingly. He has beat all the chief boxers but Broughton. He, I think, fought him (injudiciously) one of the first, and was obliged very soon to give out; doubtless it was a wrong step in him to commence a boxer by fighting the standing champion; for George was not then twenty years old, and Broughton was in the zenith of his age and art.

“ Since that time he has greatly distinguished himself with others. He is a strong able boxer, who with a skill extraordinary, aided by his knowledge of the small and back-sword, and a remarkable judgment in the cross-buttock fall, may contest with any.

“ But please or displease I am resolved to be ingenious in my characters. Therefore I am of opinion that he is not overstocked with that necessary ingredient for a boxer called *bottom*; and am often inclined to think, and really suspect, that blows of equal force with his too much affect him, and disconcerts his conduct.

“ Before I leave him let me do him this justice to say, that if he were unquestionable in his bottom, he would be a match for any man.

“ It

“ It will not be improper after George the Barber to introduce one Boswell, a man who wants nothing but courage to qualify him for a complete boxer.

“ He has a particular blow with his left hand at the jaw, which comes almost as hard as a horse kicks. Praise be to his power of fighting, his excellent choice of time and measure, his superior judgment in dispatching forth his executing arm! But fie upon his dastard heart, that mars it all! As I know the fellow’s abilities and his worm-dread soul, for I never saw him beat but I wished him to be beaten.

“ Though I am charmed with the idea of his power and manner of fighting, I am sick of the thought of his wanting courage. Farewell to him, with this fair acknowledgment, that if he had a true English bottom (the best fighting epithet for a man of spirit) he would carry all before him, and be a match for Broughton himself.

“ I will name two men together whom I take to be the best bottom men of the modern boxers, and they are Smallwood and George Stevenson the coachman; I saw the latter fight Broughton for forty minutes. Broughton I knew to be ill at that time; besides it was a hasty made match, and he had not that regard for his preparation as he afterwards found he should have had. But here his true bottom was proved, and his conduct shone.

“ They fought in one of the Fair-booths at Tottenham-court, railed at the end towards the pit. After thirty-five minutes, being both against the rails and scrambling for a fall, Broughton got such a lock upon him that no mathematician could have devised a better.

“ There he held him by this artificial lock, depriving him of all power of rising or falling, till he rested his head for three or four minutes on his back,  
he

he found himself recovering; then he loosed the hold, and, on setting to it again, he gave the Coachman as hard a blow as any he had given him in the whole battle, so that he could no longer stand, and his brave contending heart, though with reluctance, was forced to yield.

“ The Coachman is a most excellent marksman, he put in his blows faster than Broughton, but then one of the latter’s told for three of the former’s. Pity so much spirit did not inhabit a stronger body!

“ Smallwood is thorough game, with judgment equal to many, and superior to most. I know nothing Smallwood wants but weight to stand against any man; and I never knew him beaten since his fighting Drimmock (which was in his infancy of boxing, and when he was a mere stripling in years); but by a force so superior, that to have resisted longer would not have been courage but madness. If I were to purchase a boxer for my money, and could but purchase strength to his resolution, Smallwood should be the man.

“ James I proclaim a most charming boxer; he is delicate in his blows, and has a wrist as delightful to those who see him fight as it is sickly to those who fight against him. I acknowledge him to have the best spring of the arm of all the modern boxers; he is a complete master of the art, and as I do not know he wants a bottom, I think it is a great pity he should be beat for want of strength to stand to his man.

“ I have now gone through the characters of the most noted boxers: as I could not praise all in every article, I must offend some; but if I do not go to bed till every body is pleased my head will ach as bad as Sir Roger’s.

“ I declare that I have not had the least thought  
of



of offending, and therefore this declaration shall be my quiet draught.

“ Let me conclude with a general call to the true British spirit, which, like purest gold, has no alloy.

“ How readily would I encourage it through the most threatening dangers, or severest pains, or pledge of life itself!

“ Let us imitate the glorious example we enjoy in the saving offspring of our King and blessed guardian of our country. Him let us follow with our keen swords and warm glowing hearts, in defence of our just cause and preservation of Britain's honour.”

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Thus far have we related the memorable occurrences of this art, under the auspices of the grand master of the science, Mr. Broughton, as recorded by Captain Godfrey and others, who were distinguished for their taste in athletic exercises, which must necessarily commence the modern part of our history.—Now we shall, in as compendious a manner as is consistent with our plan, narrate the transactions upon record since that period, which comprise a term of almost forty years, by which the reader will be acquainted with every circumstance that occurred during that period; and by a comparison of the abilities with which the celebrated Broughton and his pupils were possessed, with those of the champions of the present day, be able to form an opinion which method to adopt\*, in case

\* Though much the same in theory, yet the modern practice is defective in overstepping the rules and maxims of the art, by which indiscretion many battles are lost. For Broughton held every particular of his academical mode to be indispensibly necessary in real action; therefore it may be observed he made excellent pugilists.

of an attack from an inferior, to the order of combat in the first part of this work, to which we beg leave to refer the reader.

The Broughtonian school began to decline about the year 1754, and was much neglected towards the end of the last reign; in so much, that, about the beginning of the present reign, there were not five persons of note in the art to be found, who could with any degree of propriety be said to be skilled in the science, or upon whom betts could be laid as men of integrity.

About the year 1760 several new faces appeared in public, who pretended to great skill in the science of bruising, but were, for the most part, a set of drunken, dissipated, idle fellows, and seldom gave any satisfaction to amateurs in the art, when they respectively exhibited their talents in a practical manner.

Amongst whom the following persons are only worthy of notice.

John Anderson, a corn porter, who pretended to have received his instructions from Broughton, for some time was the champion of the water-side, so far as to bully all his acquaintance in case they denied to supply him with pecuniary loans. However he was matched by a waterman of the name of Bowles, who was no proficient in the art, nor in anywise skilled in athletic exercises, unless what he acquired by his calling, for he was accounted a strong robust man, and an experienced waterman.

The challenge sent by the latter to the former was received with all the contempt imaginable by Anderson, who was that night president of a club at the Green Man in Rotherhithe, where he read aloud the "impudent scrawl," as he termed it, of the waterman, and in a haughty style proposed to inclose it in a sheet of soiled paper to the writer, with a line of advice, to be aware of a horse-whip and the tip of his

his nose : but in this bravadoing proposal he was overruled, and the club forced him to accept of the challenge, and an answer was returned as follows:

“ Mr. Bowles,

“ By the persuasion of some friends I have accepted  
 “ of your invitation to Kennington on Tuesday next,  
 “ but advise you to think of your rashness before you  
 “ repent it too late.

“ JOHN ANDERSON.”

The following advertisement appeared in the *Craftsman* and *Daily Advertiser*, in consequence of such challenge:

*April 6, 1760.*

“ In consequence of the Rotherhithe hero and the Blackfriars Bembo having agreed to shew their *Brotonian* skill on Kennington Common, where a stage is to be erected for that purpose; the Carpenter who has been at the expence and risque of the same acquaints the public that the fight is fixed for Tuesday next at one o'clock, but the gallery will be open at ten, at 1s. 6d. per head.

By this advertisement it appears that the *Brotonian* exercise was put under some restrictions, as no name appeared in the advertisement; and the words *expence* and *risque* plainly shew that the builder had some apprehensions, as also that he was to have the profits of those seats for his trouble, as neither of the combatants were possessed of a guinea in the world, and by a subscription of their friends raised 10l. as a reward for the victor.

Accordingly they fought, but as neither were possessed of abilities in the art, the fight was more the exercise of two Billingsgate or Wapping female fish dealers than of men; for short fisting, scratching, and trips, were the whole of their art, for a period of three quarters of an hour, when the Waterman was  
 declared



declared victorious, which had such an effect upon the vanquished braggadocio, that he left the kingdom in a few months afterwards, and went as an emigrant to America.

James Doyle, an Irish chairman, was another champion, but a man of no knowledge in the art, otherwise he would have been a boxer of bottom, as he wanted neither resolution or spirit for a complete boxer, which are the two principal ingredients for it.

Another countryman of his named Nicholas Grady was an excellent cudgel player, but by no means a good boxer; for, instead of attending to the manœuvres of his antagonist, he only had an eye to his own position, by which he lost that great battle on Barnet Common in September 1761, whereby his patron Mr. Dennis O'Kelly was supposed to have lost not less than a sum of six hundred pounds!

The successful champion, whose name was Perkinson, was a higgler in Fleet-Market, and, by the advantages he reaped from this bruising match, was enabled to take a Public-house in Old-street, as it was said he realized upwards of two hundred guineas by the battle.

The victor, who was a native of Barnet, was much less in stature than Grady, (who was every way a lusty man) and very light limbed, which gave occasion to the honest Hibernian to swear “ By Jafus I’ll “ double him and put him in my pocket, spindle “ shanks and all!” However in this he was mistaken, for the little Barnet poulterer (as he was called) soon made him confess his inability to such a task.

Thomas Morton, a Westmoreland man, and one O'Neal an Irishman, were the best masters and sportsmen this time afforded, for they were both men of bottom and tolerable skill, and gained the prize alternately, for O'Neal got the day at Hampstead, and Morton at Turnham Green.

Soon after these days sprung up a swarm of little  
D champions,

champions, but none better than hardy labourers or handy-craftsmen; for although most of them could bear a considerable share of beating, yet none were sufficiently skilled in the art, so as to afford any diversion, or be men upon whose heads a sum could be laid, for an artful trick about this time took place, namely, "The Shying of the Stag," as it was called; that is to say, either of the combatants were to be brought in, and the victory given to him who had the odds against him, therefore this shy fighting greatly tended to reduce the rage for manly feats of ambidextrian skill, and for some time was so little attended to by former sportsmen that nothing more than private matches were fought.

Some time after this dearth of sport Peter Corkoran "was imported," (as Mr. O'Kelly said), and challenged all competitors.

Haskins the hatter, Sellers the sawyer, Manning the butcher, and several others, were opposed to this Irish hero, but for some time he was the Broughton of the day, for he was victor over all opponents.

Shellany, Morgan, Bruce, Darts, Harding, and several others, now were champions, and revived the courage of the times, and again the art was brought into credit.

Berryman, the sailor, was also a good boxer, but by his own imprudence lost all protection, and became a prey to his extravagant turn, and died in the London hospital.

Having gone through some of the principal characters of late date, we shall conclude our history with an observation or two upon these champions who claim the attention of the present day.

First, we shall rank Mr. Thomas Johnson as the principal hero, as he stands unrivalled, and is, in our opinion, the best boxer in the kingdom, as he wants  
neither

neither skill nor courage to maintain his cause; and by fair fighting is the only successor in the athletic art to Mr. Broughton, as he stands to his man much upon the same plan as that excellent master.

Next to him we account Mr. Richard Humphreys, as the best skilled in the Modern Art of Boxing, but we must observe that these two persons use different methods in attack, engagement, and retreat; however, we shall with justice and impartiality pronounce Humphreys to be the greatest in science next to Johnson.

Mr. Michael Ryan, we think, had he been as well skilled as either of the former, would be an equal match to any man in the kingdom, be his prowess what it may; but we are sorry to say that he is by no means a man of any abilities that can entitle him to a biographical rank as a boxer.

Mr. Daniel Mendoza is, in our opinion, an excellent boxer, and in his advance is very great indeed; but in his engaging attitudes falls short of upper guards, by which he leaves his covering open to the opposer. But, without depreciating any thing from this rising champion's merit, we pronounce him to be a very good boxer, and may, with some improvement, be adequate to risk a trial with any we know of. We think it necessary to hint to him, that was he less afraid of blows than he seems to be, he would fight much better, and ensure himself greater success; for in the late contest with Humphreys, the former seemed to feel his hurts, whilst the latter was heated with spirit to retaliate; hence any flinching of bottom subjects a champion to be vanquished, and a resolution and a skillful arm can ensure almost any man of success.

Mr. Tring, Big Ben, and many others of lesser note, besides a swarm of new-comers, and rising heroes of the present day, who, if we were to be biographers



graphers as well as historians, should equally claim our attention; therefore as we have not made any such proposal, nor would it be in anywise interesting to the reader to engage his attention to read over a detail of private characters, whose occurrences would probably be altogether heterogenous to the mode we have adopted,—then, upon this conclusion, we shall pass over all further mention of the living characters of the present time, and conclude our history with a remark upon the utility of this art, notwithstanding the invidious attacks of pusillanimous coxcombs, who, we are always happy to see, receive the reward of their merit either from the genteel bendings of a cane or the beautiful callico of an horsewhip—and, agreeably to our sentiments in the preface, declare, that we are of opinion, that, instead of raising our national character to savage ferocity and cruelty, as some of our puny public prints have lately set forth, it would cultivate a manly spirit and a nobleness of sentiment, with an assurance of courage to oppose our natural enemies: was this art universally practised as a branch of liberal science, it would enable the gentlemen, artist, farmer, and tradesman, at all times to oppose the designs of the ruffian, who generally builds his success on the strength of his arm, so that many nocturnal depredators would be disappointed in their booties, and lives and property often times secured; added to this great advantage, the insults of inferiors would at all times be chastised by those who were skilled in this noble, excellent, and manly art, whereby many benefits would be insured to arise from a general knowledge of its principles.

F I N I S.

