

**REMINISCENCES OF THE LATE
THOMAS ASSHETON SMITH,
ESQ. OR, THE PURSUITS OF AN
ENGLISH COUNTRY GENTLEMAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649690312

Reminiscences of the Late Thomas Assheton Smith, Esq. Or, the Pursuits of an English Country Gentleman by Sir John E. Eardley Wilmot

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SIR JOHN E. EARDLEY WILMOT

**REMINISCENCES OF THE LATE
THOMAS ASSHETON SMITH,
ESQ. OR, THE PURSUITS OF AN
ENGLISH COUNTRY GENTLEMAN**



Thomas Appleton Smith

REMINISCENCES,
OF THE LATE
THOMAS ASSHETON SMITH, ESQ.

OR, THE
PURSUIITS OF AN ENGLISH COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

BY
SIR JOHN E. EARDLEY WILMOT, BART.

A NEW AND REVISED EDITION,
WITH PORTRAIT AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS.

LONDON:
ROUTLEDGE, WARNE, & ROUTLEDGE,
FARRINGTON STREET.

1862.

ADVERTISEMENT TO THE THIRD EDITION.

IN consequence of the continued demand for a new edition of this Memoir of a noble-hearted Englishman—"the foremost man" in the hunting-field for a period of more than half a century—at a price that shall place it within the reach of all who take an interest in the chase, it is now re-issued in a more popular form.

The compiler of the "Reminiscences" has gladly availed himself of the opportunity thus afforded him of rendering the work somewhat more worthy of public approval, not only by careful revision of the text, but by weaving the greater part of the originally bulky Appendix into the main fabric of the Memoir. This improvement, indeed, he had fully intended to effect when the second edition was called for, but he was obliged to postpone it in consequence of the delay which it would have occasioned in the publication.

He is indebted to Mr. E. S. MORGAN for his able assistance in preparing the present edition for the press.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE, *June*, 1862.

PREFACE.

AFTER the death of Mr. Assheton Smith, his Widow entertained a strong desire to rescue his character from the reflections which had been cast upon it by one of the leading journals. Feeling that justice had not been done him, she requested the author, who may rather be called the compiler, of the following narrative, to draw up a Memoir.

For this purpose, she authorized him to ask permission of the Editor of the *Field* to make use of the able and interesting articles which from time to time appeared in that publication, descriptive of the life and pursuits of Mr. Assheton Smith, and which she considered gave the best and most accurate representation of the character and qualities of her husband. This being willingly accorded, the author promised his assistance, and had many conversations with her on the subject of the Memoir, in which she evinced the deepest interest. In fact, it appeared almost wholly to occupy her thoughts during the few months she lived after the death of Mr. Smith.

Only a short time before she died, but when as yet her illness had not assumed an alarming aspect, the author went expressly to Torquay by her desire, to receive her instruc-

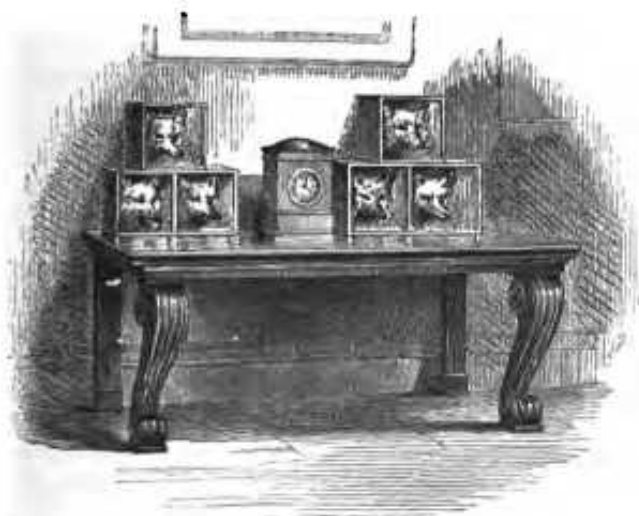
tions respecting it ; but on his arrival she was too ill to see him and he never afterwards saw her again. Some letters and memoranda in her own writing, showing how anxious she was for the realisation of her wishes, have been delivered to him since her death, by one of her nearest relatives, who was with her during her last illness. He has therefore undertaken the task as a solemn duty committed to him, to be discharged as zealously as if her life had been spared, but with sincere regret that she has not been allowed to witness its performance.

In endeavouring faithfully to record what materials he has been able to collect, respecting the life and character of one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of British sportsmen, he has had much gratification in being able, from his personal knowledge of him, to pay this humble tribute to his nobler qualities as a man and as a Christian.

The text of the articles in the *Field* has been incorporated into the following pages, not always word for word, or in the order in which the anecdotes appeared, but as they blended best with the current of the narrative. The author returns his grateful acknowledgments to several friends of the late Mr. Asheton Smith for authentic particulars respecting him ; and for their kind assistance in a labour rendered somewhat arduous, in consequence of the very long period of time which has elapsed since Mr. Smith was in the zenith of his reputation as a rider and master of hounds. His thanks are especially due to the Rev. Henry Fowle, of Chute Lodge, near Andover, who lived with Mr. and Mrs. Smith for many years on the most intimate terms of friendship, and heard many of the raciest and most characteristic anecdotes from the mouth of the gallant sportsman himself.

The genealogical account of the ancestors of the Tedworth family has been derived from Mr. William Craven, of Clifton, to whom the author also expresses his obligations.

BATH, *December*, 1859.



HALL TABLE AT TEDWORTH HOUSE.