

**HINTS TO YOUNG  
SPORTSMEN; OR THE  
GUN, SADDLE, AND ROD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649295913

HINTS TO YOUNG SPORTSMEN; or the gun, saddle, and rod by John Walter

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN WALTER**

**HINTS TO YOUNG  
SPORTSMEN; OR THE  
GUN, SADDLE, AND ROD**



HINTS  
TO  
YOUNG SPORTSMEN;

OR,  
THE GUN, SADDLE, AND ROD.

---

BY  
JOHN WALTER,  
WOODLANDS, STONE, KENT.

---

Medicated by Permission to  
THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH.



---

LONDON:  
A. H. BAILY & CO., 3, ROYAL EXCHANGE BUILDINGS.

1871.

268. a. 23.



## PREFACE.

---

I HAVE often thought those who take the liberty of giving advice to others unasked for, or those who address the public in any way, ought to offer some apology, or show some good reason for so doing; the only apology I can make, or the only reason I can offer, is a hearty desire to give hints that may be useful to young sportsmen, and to say those hints are given after sixty years of experience in the field with the gun, with both fox-hounds and harriers, on the saddle, and by the streamlet's side with the fly rod; and should this little work prove beneficial in any way, it will confer a great pleasure on an old sportsman.

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114



## HINTS TO YOUNG SPORTSMEN.

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### ON THE GUN, AND THE PROPER WAY OF USING IT.

IN the first place I would most earnestly impress on the minds of all, when the gun is first taken in hand, the great care that is required in its use, and to recollect not only their own lives, but those of their companions; the happiness and welfare of families depend on the proper handling or carrying of the gun, for on these two things safety depends. I do not know of anything where a person looks more awkward and more ridiculous than carrying a gun improperly; and, on the other hand, there is even an ease and elegance in its being properly done, which is, for the most part, only acquired by constant use. I shall endeavour to point out in several ways the proper method of its being used, and also to notice the improper manner, which is too often the case even with men who have shot for years. As a great preventive to accidents always think a gun is loaded if you even know to the contrary; it will prevent a carelessness in its handling, and, though harmless, it may frequently alarm others

who are not aware of it. Never leave a gun loaded about a house unless for protection, and properly put away in a secure place. Never carry a gun loaded in a carriage, which is always liable to accidents. In walking to your shooting, which is frequently at a considerable distance, and frequently through narrow lanes, with friends or persons behind you, the most sportsmanlike method and the safest, is to rest the gun on your shoulder, the hammers nearest the back, the butt held in your left hand; in this way, the gun being crooked, the top or muzzle is pointed so high that it would be impossible to harm those behind you. I must here add this caution: be extremely careful not to let the butt slip from the hand; on the contrary, carrying a gun with the butt in the left hand, the hammers *uppermost* and *before the shoulder*, looks most awkward, and is much more like the village volunteer than a sporting man. Another way is by keeping the right elbow close to the body, bringing the hand forward, and resting the gun on the arm with the guard close to it; and for change the gun may be grasped by the hand just before the lock, and, being pointed to the ground, gives an easy appearance as well as great safety. In the field either of the methods may be used. Let it be here recollected that a person walking on the left is always in the most dangerous position, particularly if the person on the right carries his gun in the usual manner, when expecting game to rise, which is by grasping the barrel with the left hand five or six inches above the lock, the right holding the small of the

stock just below the guard, the gun crossing the body toward the left side; and, by so doing, the gun is constantly pointed towards those on the left side. When walking on the right the safest method is by carrying the gun over the right shoulder, the hammers nearest the body or before the shoulder, and the hand round the small of the stock, which not only makes those perfectly safe on the left, but, on game rising, the gun is always ready. I have no doubt by some I shall be thought over particular, but this I know, you cannot be too careful. Let these rules be practised with a gun not loaded.

Now comes the choice of a gun, and, as I feel to be addressing beginners in the sporting line, shall suppose they will have to exercise their taste. If you were to ask many, who have shot for years, you will find one shooting with a crooked gun, and shooting well; another with a very straight one, and shooting equally well. I am certain it is constant use that makes straight or crooked preferred. I must say, as it is with most things, a happy medium is best. It is my opinion that a straight gun is best; one on bringing it quickly to the shoulder, coming up to the object, or even a little over it, at once, without even looking at the gun, or, as some call it, "aiming," a word which I *detest*. One reason for preferring a straight, or even a very straight gun is, that game within shot is always rising, and it is much more likely to shoot under a bird with a crooked than with a straight one.