

THE TURF

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The Turf by Charles James Apperley (Nimrod)

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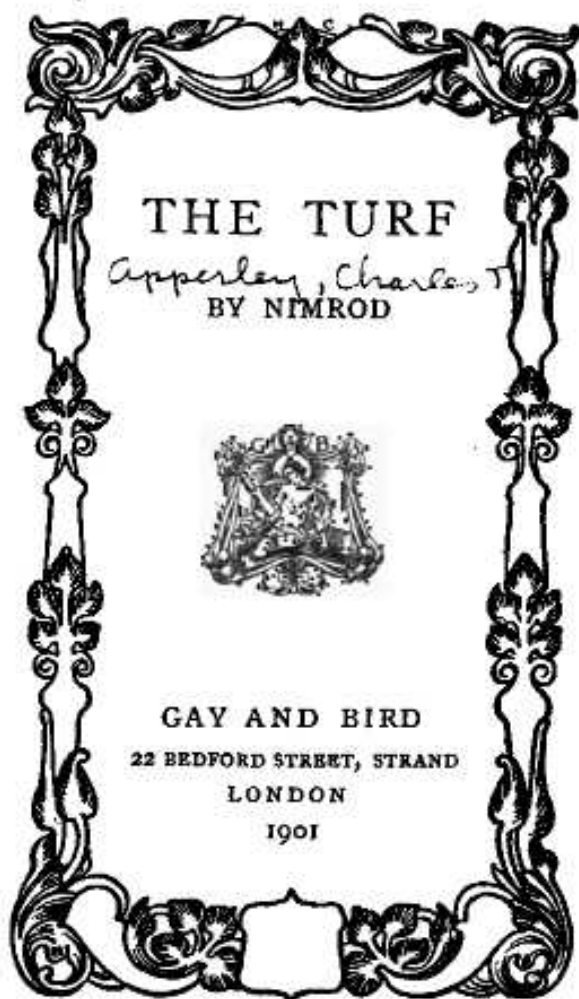
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CHARLES JAMES APPERLEY (NIMROD)

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Apperley, Charles, T.
BY NIMROD



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INTRODUCTION



AMONG the numerous English writers on the subject of Sporting, very few hold a higher position than does the writer who ultimately assumed the pseudonym of 'Nimrod.' He published about a dozen works, between the years 1831 and 1843. Some of these had previously appeared in the *Quarterly Review* and the *New Sporting Magazine*, and were unsigned. They related, generally speaking, to the Chace, the Road, and the Turf, and cognate subjects.

Charles James Apperley, for that was the real and full name of 'Nimrod,' was the second son of Thomas Apperley, Esq., of Wootton House, Gloucestershire, but is stated to have been born near Wrexham during

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1777. He received his education at Rugby. Young Apperley married early in life, and settled in Warwickshire, where he devoted himself to the pleasures of the Chace. At the age of forty-four—this was in 1821—he commenced to contribute to the *Sporting Magazine*; and in 1830 he deemed it judicious to leave the country and take up his residence in France.

'Nimrod' had now become well known to his contemporaries as a great authority on the points of both horses and hounds, and on everything connected with 'the noble science of fox-hunting'; and was generally regarded as a fairly good coachman and judge of driving, and 'had at any rate a long and practical acquaintance with the mails and stage-coaches running upon the great high roads which led to London.' His writings upon these subjects, therefore, were regarded as authoritative. The long interval of time which has elapsed since they were penned has detracted but little from their original value. The works of

'Nimrod' are held in high regard by all who are competent to judge.

The most important of 'Nimrod's' contributions to sporting literature are *The Chace*, *The Turf*, and *The Road*, and his *Life of John Mytton*. The first-mentioned work, in whole and in part, has passed through several editions, and been illustrated by H. Alken. This work was contributed, shortly after his removal to the Continent, to the *Quarterly Review*, where it appeared in three instalments, and was first published in book form in 1837 by the famous publishing house of Murray. They appeared anonymously.

The Chace was the first of this series of papers, and appeared in the periodical mentioned for March 1832, and was entitled 'English Fox-hunting.' It gives 'the famous description of an ideal run with the Quorn under Mr. Osbaldeston's mastership.'

The Road appeared in the next volume to that of *The Chace* in the *Quarterly*, and was ostensibly a review of Dr. Kitchener's