

# LORD WILLIAM BERESFORD, V.C.

SOME MEMORIES OF A FAMOUS  
SPORTSMAN, SOLDIER AND WIT

BY

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WITH APPRECIATIONS BY

THE EARL OF CROMER &  
ADMIRAL LORD BERESFORD

38 ILLUSTRATIONS, ALSO REPRODUC-  
TIONS OF THE SIGNATURES OF THOSE  
PRESENT AT THE FAMOUS FAREWELL  
DINNER AT CALCUTTA

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## CHAPTER VIII

### LORD RIPON LEAVES INDIA

Arrangements for Entertaining Visitors—Lord de Grey's Shooting—  
A Good-looking Staff—A Fancy Ball—The Baby cries—Lord  
William Feeds the Infant—Singing Quadrilles—Pig-sticking—  
The Tent Club and Its Members—A Case of Mistaken Identity  
—The Reputation Match—Lord William Resolves to Give Up  
Racing—Lord Ripon's Farewell

**D**URING Lord Ripon's time in India a number of people came out from home to stay with him, some wishing to combine a visit to their friends with shooting, pig-sticking and globe-trotting. This kept Lord William busy, as he had to make all the arrangements for their comfort, and where they were to stay, when the Viceregal Lodge was full, which was generally the case. Occasionally he turned out of his own house for guests, searched for suitable bungalows for others, making everybody comfortable and yet without the least apparent effort. Rajahs were communicated with, and shoots arranged; horses were found to suit the various riders, chosen in accordance to their prowess, programmes made out for each day, and printed instructions sent on ahead, so that all was in readiness at each halting place, carriages, horses, servants, food, sport and all the heart of man could desire.

The happy relations existing between Lord

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William and the Native Princes made this easier for him than it might have been for many.

The present Marquess of Ripon, then Lord de Grey, came to stay with his father, and was anxious to have some big game shooting. He is, as every-



## GAME KILLED FROM 1867 TO 1891.

Date	Manx rats	Fight	Buffals	Sambur	Pig	Deer	Red Deer	Grouse	Pardalines	Partridge	Woodcock	Suise	Wild Duck	Black Game	Capercaillie	Hoop	Partridge	Various	Total
1867							8	265	1,179	741	20	22	10			719	934	115	4,013
1868							35	201	1,418	1,601	28	67	23			690	543	113	4,719
1869							35	135	1,659	1,131	26	133	37			547	443	122	4,568
1870							21	498	2,309	2,117	36	53	30			893	626	137	6,660
1871							55	1,408	1,598	1,889	50	244	42			1,093	341	225	6,945
1872							38	1,498	2,063	2,835	27	60	31			1,108	756	235	8,671
1873							25	248	2,417	3,050	95	263	85			1,027	450	591	8,251
1874						3	5	90	2,878	2,345	229	462	131	5	4	1,200	332	1,200	8,854
1875							3	287	2,882	3,225	176	461	208			1,376	576	743	9,937
1876							3	1,554	3,394	4,110	30	25	37			1,248	890	266	11,557
1877						2	4	2,032	2,359	4,235	35	45	33	11	11	1,496	1,044	309	11,616
1878						4	9	1,669	3,378	4,679	43	44	55	5	6	2,152	667	503	13,214
1879							4	1,344	630	3,140	132	92	62	9	11	1,125	287	215	7,051
1880		9	6	18	31	73	12	1,131	682	534	9	47	54	26	5	501	141	408	3,684
1881							5	1,566	3,465	5,014	26	14	43			1,058	797	166	12,154
1882	2	2	6	1	66	104	10	3,025	2,123	2,370	14	21	44			464	1,122	117	9,491
1883							5	2,896	1,845	6,119	157	84	155			918	1,386	319	13,884
1884							10	3,073	3,523	4,347	134	70	70			713	1,896	453	14,289
1885							5	2,015	2,788	4,620	104	23	31			589	2,547	108	12,830
1886							20	1,989	1,463	3,383	105	87	72			357	786	349	8,611
1887							37	2,258	3,785	3,387	104	3	12			415	2,328	237	12,586
1888							4	3,060	853	5,072	31	151	10			307	1,523	85	11,096
1889							5	3,081	5,751	6,182	100	109	14	38	8	1,747	1,069	135	18,238
1890								2,006	7,002	6,498	172	105	28			1,446	1,120	123	18,500
1891								2,277	1,699	5,794	34	13				711	406	271	11,205
	2	11	12	19	97	186	378	39,606	43,163	88,715	1,917	2,698	1,317	94	45	23,840	22,980	7,513	252,626

LORD DE GREY'S GAME CARD FROM 1867-91

body knows, one of the best shots in England. His game card from 1867 to 1891 gives some idea of his skill and the sport provided. I think the years 1880 and 1882 were the years he was shooting in India.

Amongst others who came out were Lord and Lady Wenlock, Lady Charles Beresford, and later



GROUP AT BARRACKPORE ON THE LAWN

*Left to right. Standing:* Lady Downe (the late); Mr. Primrose (now Right Hon. Sir Henry), Lord Alwyne Compton (the late); Dr. Anderson (Viceroy's Medical attendant); (next figure not known to author); Lord Deane, 17th Lancers; possibly Sir Maurice Fitzgerald; but uncertain; Capt. Poe, I believe; Lord William Beresford. *Seated:* Lord Ripon, H.R.H. Duchess of Connaught, H.R.H. Duke of Connaught, Lady Ripon. *On ground:* Capt. Rochfort (now Sir Alex., Governor of Jersey), Capt. the Hon. Charles Harbord (now Lord Suffield)

their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

Lord William found a pleasant bungalow, not far from the Viceregal Lodge, for Lady Wenlock, while her husband was away shooting, and she spent a good deal of time sketching. Being of an artistic temperament she delighted in the scenery and colouring, finding endless opportunities to practise her art—plenty of work for her brush. Yet at times the colouring is so superb it defies all efforts of speech or brush.

Picture the hill-sides one blaze of rhododendrons, sheets of them leading down to green valleys, where after the rains maidenhair ferns and wild orchids cling lovingly to the branches of the trees, on the ground, carpets of little white flowers resembling our lily of the valley, but lacking its scent, in the distance blue mountains, behind these purple mountains, behind these again snowclad peaks, a brilliant sun shining over all, framing pictures that remain in memory for life, and yet there are times when the very splendour of it seizes us with a limitless despair. In these few beautiful moments when the sun, symbol of deity in the East, is bidding us good-night, changing all round from rose to red, orange to turquoise, leaving a tiny twilight, and the day is gone, hidden away behind a mist of grey. And we think—but no, we will not think, we will go dress for the “Poggle Khana” or fools’ dance, as the natives call a fancy dress ball. But of these more later.

I wish to introduce my readers to a group of people taken about this time. All the men are

members of the Viceregal Staff. Lady Wenlock is in the centre, handsome Lord Alwyne Compton (died in 1911) is seen sitting behind her ; he was one of the A.D.C.'s. When not on duty he had an affection for a brown velveteen coat and yellow button-hole, which suited him exceedingly well, his hair, eyes and skin, being almost Italian looking. Lord William, Military Secretary, is on Lady Wenlock's left, and beside him sits Lady Charles Beresford, his sister-in-law. Then comes Mr. Primrose, Private Secretary to the Viceroy (now the Right Hon. Sir Henry Primrose). On the extreme left is Capt. St. Quinten, another good looking young man, who was a favourite A.D.C. in the viceregal household. Sitting at Lady Charles Beresford's feet is Capt. Clough Taylor, who hailed from the same county as the Ripons, he also was A.D.C. His wife, Lady Elizabeth Clough Taylor (died in 1896) is sitting on Lady Wenlock's right. Behind her stands the Hon. Miss Lawley. Sitting at Lady Elizabeth's feet is Capt. Muir, A.D.C. (now Colonel) and Commander of the Body Guard. In the arm-chair below Miss Lawley is the Hon. Charles Harbord, A.D.C. (now Lord Suffield), and next to him Capt. Rochfort, A.D.C. (now Sir Alex. Rochfort, Governor of Jersey).

It will be observed their Excellencies liked good looking men on their staff.

Now I am anxious to tell you about the fancy dress balls.

Some of the dresses worn in India on these occasions are marvellous, people out there seem to take much greater pains to do the thing properly, and there have been many anxious moments in