But whatever might have been the immediate result if the resolution taken at Derby had been different, or whatever might be the cause of the failure of the rebellion of 1745, it must be matter of thankful rejoicing to us that the events of the time issued as they did. Any other result, besides leading to confiscation of property and the ruin of many an ancient English house, might have continued the Jacobite struggle, and have divided the country to the present day. In such a case all our institutions must have wanted consolidation, the constitution would have remained unsettled, jealousy and distrust would have retarded our national and social progress, and a different fate might have awaited the country than that which we now enjoy under the peaceful rule of Queen Victoria.

II.—An Account of the Tilting-ground at Gawsworth, Cheshire.

By Joseph Mayer, Esq., F.S.A., Honorary Curator.

It has been observed that "all the learning in the world, if it stops short and rests on particulars, never will become knowledge." At the same time it should be added, that to arrive at this result, can only be done by studying of many parts, each separate in itself, and then having thrown the whole together, considering the result. I hope therefore that the following remarks will be considered only as one of the steps towards a better knowledge of the sports and pastimes of our forefathers.

In the hundred and deanery of Macclesfield lies, about three miles S.W. from Macclesfield, the village of Gawsworth, in the Doomsday survey called "Govesurde." It is a township of itself, divided into five parts, called Tidnor-end, Shallow-end, Stubbs-end, Mill-end, and Woodhouse-end.

"The manor was given by Randal de Meschines, Earl of Chester, in the twelfth century, to Hugh son of Bigod, who took the name of Gawsworth; his daughter Lucy brought it to the Orrebies, the heiress of which family, Isabel, married Thomas Fitton in the reign of Edward I. Sir Edward Fitton, their descendant, was created a Baronet in the year 1617; and his

Plan of Tilting Ground, at
GAWSWORTH, CHESHIRE.

Vicarage
Rev^d Ed^d Massey, Curate

to Macclesfield

New Buildings
Rev^d Henry Stanford
Mr S. Bullock, Sub. Steward to E. of Harrington

LOWER LAKE

LAKE

UPPER LAKE

to Congleton

Church

Door

Miss Robinson's House

Oathouse

Gate

Wicket

220 Yds.

62 Yds.

MOUND

12 feet above level
Rivulet

40 Yds.

Rivulet running into Lake

MOUND

Wall

3 rows of seats

Latterly used as tilting Pt.

57 Yds.

25 Yds.

Mound

48 Yds.

Wall

Joseph Mayer, Delt.

Entrance

Door

25 Yds.

Mound

48 Yds.

Wall

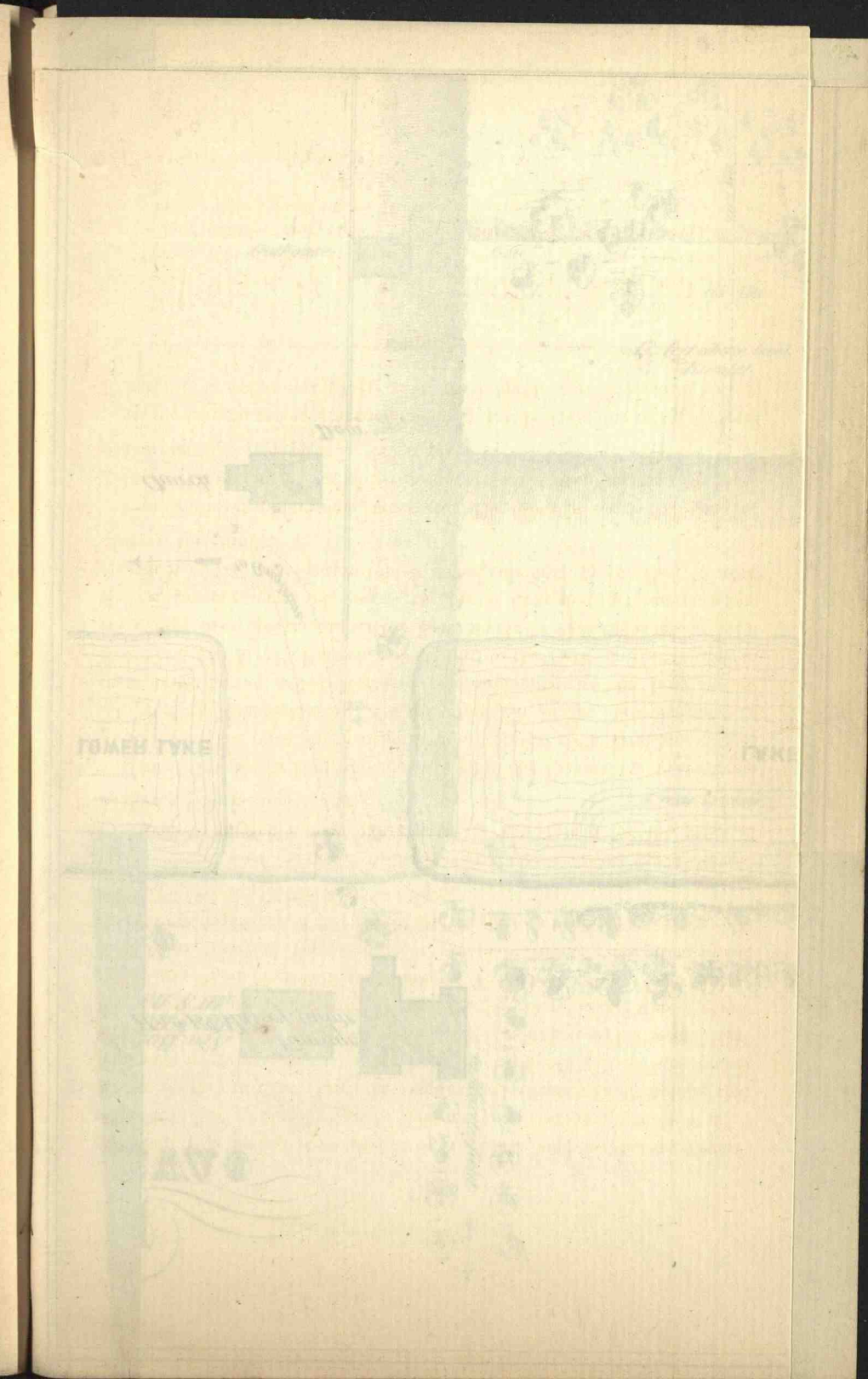
100 Yards.

From a Sketch by

JOSEPH MAYER.

LIVERPOOL.

G. J. Poore Lith^r Liverpool.



grandson, who died in 1643, gave it by will to his nephew, Charles Gerard, afterwards Earl of Macclesfield.* The niece and presumptive heiress of Fitton Gerard, the last Earl, having married Charles Lord Mohun, that nobleman became possessed, under Lord Macclesfield's will, of this manor and other estates in Cheshire, which he bequeathed to his second wife. Gawsworth is now the property of the Earl of Harrington, whose grandfather, the Right Hon. William Stanhope, Vice-Chamberlain of the Household, having married Anne Griffith, one of Lady Mohun's daughters by her first husband, purchased this manor and Bosley, in 1727, of the trustees of his wife's marriage settlement."—Lysons.

This manor was held of the Aldfords and their successors the Ardernes, by service of finding a foot-soldier with an haubergeon for the ward of Aldford Castle in time of war.

Part of Gawsworth Hall, the ancient seat of the Fittons, was taken down in 1808, and the remaining portion is now occupied as a farm-house, and inhabited by Miss Robinson. On the other side of the lakes is a modern plain brick house, called New-buildings, inhabited by the Rev. Henry Standford, and Mr. S. Bullock, sub-steward to the Earl of Harrington, in which are also apartments for the Earl, should he visit the estates. At a short distance, towards the end of the Lower Lake, is the Vicarage, a fine specimen of the Elizabethan timber house, inhabited by the Rev. Edward Massey, the Curate.

The Church is a handsome structure. The tower is about the time of Edward III, on one side of which are the arms of Fitton impaling Bechton, which marriage took place in that reign.

In the Church are several monuments of the Fittons, one of Sir Edward Fitton, the first Baronet, who died in 1619, another of Sir Edward Fitton,

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* "On the death of Sir Edward Fitton, his four sisters, Penelope wife of Sir Charles Gerard, Knt., Mary wife of Sir John Brereton, Knt., Jane wife of Thomas Minshull, Esq. and Frances wife of Henry Mainwaring, Esq., entered on his estates as co-heirs; but after a long litigation, were ejected by Mr. William Fitton, son of Alexander, second surviving son of Sir Edward Fitton, Treasurer of Ireland, who claimed under a deed of Sir Edward Fitton, the last Baronet, in favour of his nephew, Charles Gerard, was brought forward and established."

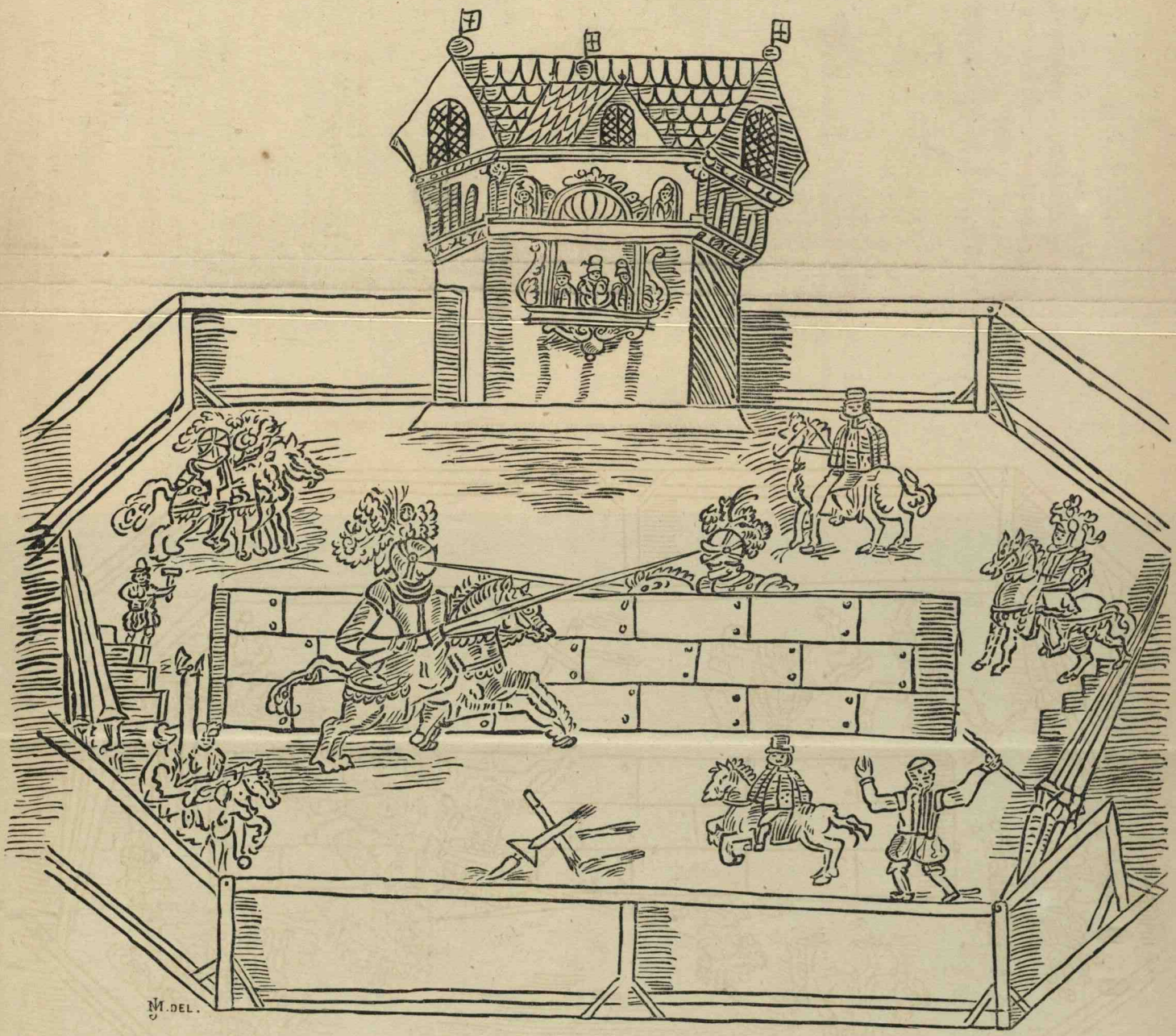
Bart., who was a very active officer in the army of King Charles, and having raised a regiment of foot for the king was appointed Colonel, and at the battles of Edge Hill, Banbury, Brentford, and Reading, and at the siege of Bristol, at which place, after the taking of the city by Prince Rupert, he was left in garrison, and died of consumption in 1643. He was buried at Gawsworth, under a tomb, on which are figures, in armour, of himself and his lady. There are memorials also for Sir Edward Fitton, great grandfather of the first Baronet, who married a co-heiress of Sir Richard Harbottle, and Francis Fitton, Esq., who married Catherine, Countess dowager of Northumberland, who was one of the four daughters and co-heirs of John Nevil, Lord Latimer; married first to Henry Earl of Northumberland, who died in 1583, and afterwards in 1588 to Francis Fitton, Esq.: she died in 1596, as is seen from an inscription on a portrait of Francis Fitton at Gawsworth Hall.

I have given the foregoing account of Gawsworth that we may see the honourable alliances, and the chivalrous feeling which long existed in the family of the Ffyttons, and from which probably arose the Tilting-ground to which I wish to draw your attention.

It is situated immediately in front of the Parish Church, being separated from the Church-yard by a high wall, with a doorway which leads to a raised mound, about eight feet above the level of the surrounding ground. Having ascended on this side, you descend on the other side of it into a level space of about 200 yards in length, by 65 yards in breadth, surrounded on three of its sides by the embankment or mound, which is near 16 yards wide. Within this space I shall presume that the Lists were arranged, the Barriers raised, and the regular Tilting took place; the spectators standing on the embankments outside. At the end of this long flat is a raised circular mound with a base of nearly 25 yards square, on which was enclosed the booth where the Queen of Beauty sat, surrounded by her attendants, overlooking the whole field; before whom the successful competitor was heralded, and from whose fair hands he received the guerdon of his prowess

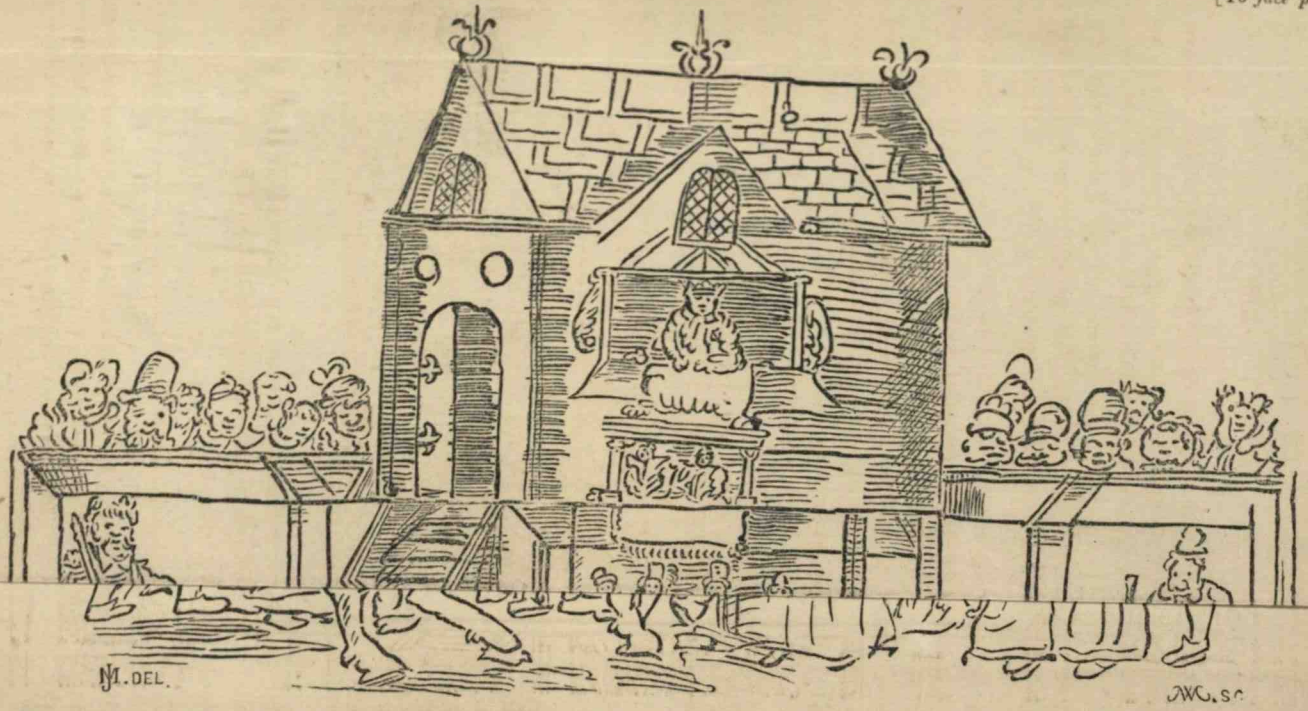
Immediately at the end of the large Tilt-yard is a smaller piece of ground, about 47 yards long, and running across it. It is surrounded by three rows of seats, cut out of the bank, on two sides of it, and one row on the side

[*To face page* 202.



Fac-simile of a Pen-and-ink Sketch in the Har. MSS., No. 69, fo. 19, Brit. Mus.

[*To face page* 203.



The above Wood-cut is copied from a Pen Sketch in the Harlean Collection in the British Museum, shewing two Combatants, clad in mail, attended by their Esquires, the Barrier Keepers with their staves, the King in his pavilion, his attendants below, and the people outside the palings.

nearest the throne of the Queen of Beauty, to enable her to have a better view of the games performed here. These, I incline to think, were chiefly battles by single combat with the sword, quarter-staff, wrestling, and such like; and probably here the mummers played, and the ballads for which Cheshire was so famous in the 15th and 16th centuries were sung, as being better adapted for hearing than any other part of the field.

On the opposite or east side of the ground is another mound, of the same length as that which surrounds the great lists, and at the end is a raised earth work, corresponding to the lady's mound before-named, which are separated from the western works by a stream of water, flowing through the middle of the field where the games were played in which the people generally were allowed to participate, such as races, foot-ball, leap-frog, and prison-bars.* After passing the old Hall, with its picturesque half-timbered black-and-white front, the stream empties itself into a large artificial lake or pond, where the water games took place, of which I have given a copy of a sketch from Strutt's Sports and Pastimes, shewing a Water-joust.

The water from the lake runs into two others which adjoin it by a narrow neck of land, but of which the most westerly one is now dry, the embankment having been cut away.

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* The Cheshire men were very famous at this game, and the writer has often heard his grandfather relate the feats they did in falling, that is, when running after a man from the opposite bar and coming near to him they would throw themselves out to endeavour

[*To face page* 203.

The above Wood-cut is copied from a Pen Sketch in the Harlean Collection in the British Museum, shewing two Combatants, clad in mail, attended by their Esquires, the Barrier Keepers with their staves, the King in his pavilion, his attendants below, and the people outside the palings.

The whole of the earth works are surrounded by a strong brick wall, nearly ten feet high, as denoted in the accompanying lithographed plan.

Having witnessed the appearance of the ground as it existed in the spring of last year, when, being on one of my walking tours, I discovered it, and finding no description of it in any of the county historians, nor yet in any local tradition, I was induced to lay a plan of it before the members of the British Archæological Association, on their visit to Liverpool, during their holding the Congress at Chester, in the summer of last year, with hopes of procuring some information on the subject. In that, however, I have been disappointed. It therefore only remains for me to lay before you what scanty materials remain to us, indicative of such places having existed, of which the one we are investigating is perhaps the most perfect, if not the only one remaining entire, in England.

That we owe much to our forefathers, in the days of chivalry, all will, I think, admit; as they were the means of softening the manners of men in those semibarbarous times, and raised the situation of English females far above those of the rest of Europe, giving them a share in the councils of their lords and husbands; besides, the respect in which they were held, and the sure punishment of those who dared to molest them, enabled the mothers to devote so much time to domestic affairs and the education of their children; whilst the virgins had each their "trew-knight," who was bound by his order to protect her or any other damsel who might be insulted, or in any way harmed by the ruffianly conduct of unprincipled men, and by him she was esteemed as the paragon of beauty and of virtue, supplying the place of a tutelar saint, to whom he paid his vows and addressed himself in the time of peril, and the thought of whom inspired him with valour and incited him to acts of heroism, that he might find favour in her eyes.

In Harrington's Nugæ Antiquæ is a document entitled "The Ordinances,

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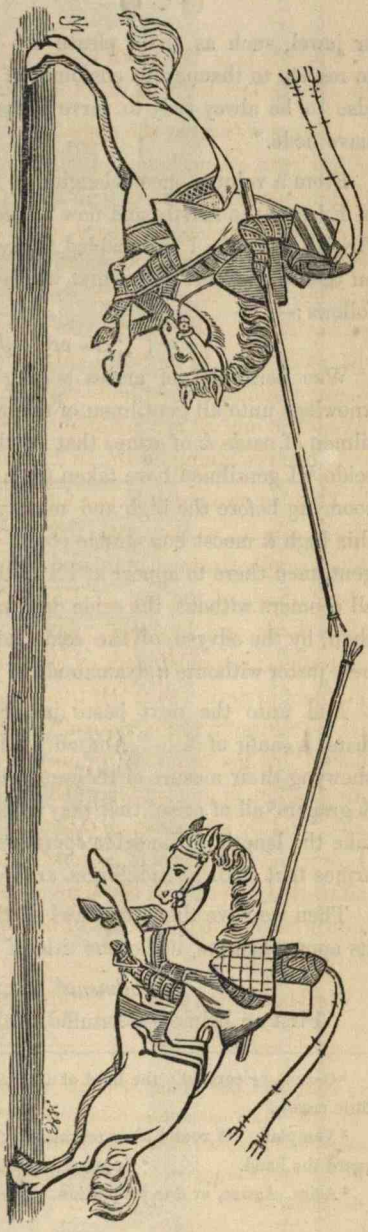
to touch him, and sliding along the ground on their shoulder would make a fall of 22 to 25 feet. This was during the contests between Staffordshire and Cheshire men that took place in Trentham Park, near Newcastle-under-Lyne, where they were annually invited by the first Marquis of Stafford, who sat as umpire, and was himself a good runner in the game.

Statutes, and Rules, made by John Lord Tiptofte, Earl of Worcester, Constable of England, anno sexto Edwardi quarti: to be observed or kept in all manner of Justes of Pecis Royal within this realme of England." And Mr. Douce, F.S.A., in his remarks on this, says, "I have indeed very little doubt that *Justes of peaces, or pecis*, signify nothing more than those *peaceable* justs or tiltings that were performed for the amusement of the ladies and other spectators; and in which the successful knights received some prize or reward from the hand of a fair and courteous damsel, and in the Latin of the middle ages were called "Hastiludia pacifica." They were performed with pointless lances or coronels, and were used in opposition to the real and sanguinary justs or tournaments, denominated "Joustes à outrance," or as Froissart calls them, "Joustes mortelles et à champ."



In Caxton's epilogue to "The Book of the Ordre of Chyvalry or Knyghthode," he exclaims, "I wold it pleasyd our soveyrayne Lord that twyes or thryes in a yere, or at lest ones, he wold do crye *Justes of pees*, to thende that every knyght shold have hors and harneys, and also the use and craft of a knyght, and also to tornoye one ageynste one, or ij ageynst ij, and the best to have a prys, a dyamond

or jewel, such as shold please the prynce. Thys shold cause gentylmen to resorte to thauncyent customes of chyvalry, to grete fame renomee, and also to be alwey redy to serve theyr prynce whan he shalle calle them or have nede."

From a volume once belonging to Sir John Paston Knight, in the reign of Edward the fourth, and now in the Lansdowne collection of MSS. in the British Museum, I am enabled to give the whole of the ceremonial observed on these occasions. And first we have the proclamation of the Justs, as follows:—

"*To cry a Justes of Peas.*

Wee herawldes of armes beryng sheeldes of devise, here we yeve in knowlege unto all gentilmen of name and of armys, that there bee VI gentilmen of name & of armes that for the grete desire & woorship that the seide VI gentilmen have taken upon them to bee the third day of May next coomyng before the high and mighty redowtid ladyes & gentilwoomen in this high & moost honourable court. And in their presence the seide sixe gentilmen there to appeer at IX of the clok bofore noone, & to juste ayenst all coomers without, the seide day, unto VI of the clok at aftir noone. And then, by the advyse of the seide ladyes & gentilwoomen, to yeve unto the best juster withoute a dyamaunde of XL li.

And unto the next beste juster a rubie of XX li. & to the thrid wele juster a saufir of X li. And on the seide day there beyng officers of armys shewyng their mesure of theire speris garneste, that is cornall,[1] vamplate,[2] & grapers[3] all of acise[4] that they shall just with. And that the comers may take the length of the seide speris with the avise of the seide officers of armes that shall be indifferent unto all parties unto the seide day."

Then we have the particulars of the armour for horse and man, and all its appurtenances, under the title of

"*Abilments*[5] *for the Justus of Pees.*

First an helme wele stuffid, with a creste of his devise.

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[1] Cornal, or coronel; the head of a tilting lance, so called from its resemblance to a little crown.

[2] Vamplate. A round plate or shield of iron, fixed at the end of the tilting lance, to guard the hand. [3] Grapers. Hooks for the tilting lances. *Fr.* Agrafes.

[4] Acise. Assize, or due proportion. [5] Abilments. Armour or harness; habiliments.

[*To face page* 206.

PREPARATION FOR A TOURNAMENT.

From an Illumination to a Manuscript Romance in the Royal Library, entitled ST. GRAAL, written in the thirteenth century, representing the entry of the two Chief Barons into the Lists at the commencement of a Tournament, the King at Arms holding the Banners of the Combatants, and the Minstrels playing at the back of each.

A peire of plates, and thritty gyders.[6]
An haustement[7] for the body with sleevis.
A botton with a tresse[8] in the plates.
A shelde coovirde with his devise.
A rerebrake[9] with a roule of lethir wele stuffid.
A maynefere[10] with a ryngge.
A rerebrace. A moton.[11]
A vambrace,[12] and a gaynpayne,[13] and two brickettes.[14]
And two dozen tresses, and VI vamplates.
And XII grapers, and XII cornallys, and XL sperys.
And an armerer with hamour and pynsons.[15]
And nailes with a bickorne.[16]
A good courster,[17] and new shodd, with a softe bitte.
Aud a grete halter for the reyne of the bridell.
A sadill wele stuffid, and a peire of jambus.[18]
And iij double girthis with double bocles.
And a double singull[19] with doubul bokuls.
And a rayne of lethir hungry tied fro the hors hede unto the girthis beeneth betwene the ferthir bouse[20] of the hors for renasshyng.[21]
A rynnyng patael.[22] A croper of lethir hungrye.[23]
A trapper[24] for the courster, & two servaunts on horsbak wele beseene.
And VI servauntes on foote all in oon sute."

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[6] Gyders? [7] Haustement. A stiff under garment to keep the body straight and erect.
[8] Tresse. Clasp. *Fr.*
[9] Rerebrake. Armour for the hind part of the arm. *Fr.* Arriere-bras.
[10] Maynefere. Armour for the horse's neck. [11] Moton?
[12] Vambrace Armour for the front of the arm. *Fr.* Avant-bras.
[13] Gaynpayne. This was the ancient name of the sword used at tournaments, from the *Fr.* Gagne-pain. The term continued in use to a late period, either for a sword or musket, as the symbol of the soldier's profession, by which *he got his bread.*
[14] Brickettes. A breast-plate. *Fr.* Brichet. [15] Pynsons. Pincers.
[16] Bickorne. An anvil with a bickern or beak iron. [17] Courster. Courser.
[18] Jambes. Armour for the legs. [19] Stingull. Cingle, or horse-girth.
[20] Bouse. Perhaps a boss, or round plate of metal, used to adorn the horse. [21] Renasshyng.
[22] Patrel. Harness or armour for the horse's neck. *Fr.* Poitrel. But here it means breast-leather. [23] Lethir Hungrye. Hungary leather. [24] Trapper. Trappings.

Next follows a description of

"*The commynge into the felde.*

The VI gentilmen must come into the felde unhernsyd, & their helmys borne before them, & their servaunts on horsbak, beryng aither of them a spere garneste, that is the seide VI speris which the seid VI servaunts shall ride before them into the felde; & as the seide VI gentilmen be coomyn before the ladyes & gentilwoomen. Than shall be sent an herowde of armys up unto the ladyes & gentilwoomen seying in this wise; high & mighty redoutyd & right worchyfull ladyes & gentilwoomen, theis VI gentilmen ben come into your presence & recomaunde them all unto your gode grace in as lowly wise as they can, besechyng you for to geve unto [the] iij best justers without a diamonde, & a rubie, & a saufir unto them that ye thenk best can deserve it. Then this message is doon. Then the VI gentilmen goth into the tellws[25] & doth on their helmys. And when the herawldis krye *à lostell*, *à lostell*,[26] then shall all the VI gentilmen within unhelme them before the seide ladyes, & and make their obeisance, & goo home unto their logging & and chaunge the . . .[27]"

"*Nowe be coomyn the gentilwoomen without into the presence of the ladies,*

Then comys foorth a lady by the avise of all the ladyes and gentilwoomen, & yevis the diamonde unto the best juster withoute, saying on this wise, Sir theis ladyes & gentilwomen thank you for your disporte & grete labour that ye have this day in their presence. And the saide ladyes and gentilwomen seyen that ye have best just this day. Therefor the seide ladyes & gentilwomen geven you this diamounde & send you much worshup & joy of your lady. Thus shall be doon with the rubie, & with the saufre, unto the othir two next the best justers. This doon, than shall the heraude of

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[25] Tellws. Tilt-house?

[26] Lostell. The cry of the heralds to the combatants, that they should return to their dwellings. The historian Halle, speaking of the tournaments held at Guisnes for the amusement of Henry VIII. and Francis I. says, "Then began a new encounter hard and sore, many of them bare graat strokes of the Kinges, to their honor: when these bendes were delivered the heraldes cryed *a lostel*, and the princes then disarmed, and went to lodgynge."

[27] The transcriber seems to have left this part unfinished.

armys stonde up all an high, & shall sey withall an high voice, John hath wele justid, Ric. hath justid bettir, and Thomas hath justid best of all.

Than shall hee that the diamount is geve unto take a lady by the hande, & begynne the daunce. And whan the ladyes have dauncid as long as them liketh, than spyce wyne and drynk, and than avoide."

And here terminates the ceremonial that relates to the Justs in question. The following documents from the same volume, likewise connected with single combats, are not less curious, in their way, than the preceding.

"*How a Man shal be armede at his ease when he shall fight on Foote.*

He shall have noone sherte upon him, but a doublet of ffustian lynid with satin, kut full of holis; the doublet must be streightly bounde there y^e^ poynts must be sett aboute the grete of the arme, and the best before and behynde, & the gussets of mail must be sowid unto the doublet into the bought[28] of the arme and under the arme, the armyng poynts must be made of fyne twyne such as men make streengs for crosbowis, and they must be trussid small and poyntid as points; also they must be waxid with cordeners wax, & then they will neither recche[29] ne breke; also a peir hosen of stamyn[30] single, and a peir short bulworks of thyn blanket to put aboute his knees for chawfyng of his leg harneis; also a peire of shone of thyk cordewayne, and they must be fret with small whipcorde, iij knotts upon a corde, and iij cordis must be faste sowed unto y^e^ [31] of the shoo & fyne cordis in the myddil of the sole of the same shoo, and that there bee betwene the frettis[32] of the hele and the frettis of the myddill of the shoo the space of iij fyngers."

"*To arme a Man.*

First ye must set on sabatynes[33] and tye them upon the shoo with small poynts that will breke, and than Griffus;[34] and than Quysshews;[35] and than the breche of maile; and than towletts;[36] than the breste; than the vam-

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[28] Bought of tharme. The bending of the arm. [29] Recche. Stretch.

[30] Stamyn. Or tamine, *Fr.* a sort of stuff. [31] So in MS.

[32] Frettis. Ornaments of the fillet kind. [33] Sabatynes. Slippers or clogs?

[34] Griffus. Greaves, armour for the legs.

[35] Quysshews. Cuissis, *Fr.* Armour for the thighs.

[36] Towletts, Q. Toilettes *Fr.?* Small pieces of linen for stuffing the armour.

brace; than the rerebrace; than the cloovis;[37] and than hong his dagger upon the right side; than his short swerde, on his left side in a rounde ring, all nakid to pull it oute lightly; than put his cote upon his bak, and than his basenet[38] pynned upon two grete staples before the breste, with a double bocle behynde upon the bak, for to make the bacenet sit juste; and than his long swerde in his hande; than his pensell[39] in his honde, poyntid of Seynt George, or of our Lady, to blisse him with as he goth towardis the felde, and in the felde."

"*The Day that the Appellaunt and the Defendaunt shall Fight, what they shall have with them into the feelde.*

A tent must be pight[40] in the felde,
Also a chaire,
Also a basyn,
Also VI loves of bred,
Also VI galons of wyne,
Also a messe of mete, fleshe or fishe,
Also a borde & a peir trestils to ete on his mete and his drynk,
Also a bord cloth,
Also a knyf to kut his mete,
Also a cupp to drynk in,
Also a glas with a drynke made,
Also a dozen trisses of armyng poyntes,
Also an hamour, pynsons, & a by-corne,
Also a dozen of smale nailes,
Also a long swerd, & a short, & a dagger,
Also a kerchief to hele[41] y^e^ visour of his basnet,
Also a pensel to bere in his hande of his avowrye."[42]

Considering the extracts I have just read, I have come to the conclusion that the tilting-ground referred to in my sketch can be no other than for a "Justes a peas," erected by one of the Ffyttons for the amusement of the inhabitants of the County of Chester, which was for several centuries prior to 1650 famous for its sports and pastimes. At these some of the most eminent men of the times assisted, and they were carried on at great charges to the community.

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[37] Cloovis. Gloves, gauntlets?

[38] Basenet. A light helmet or head-piece shaped like a bason.

[39] Pensell. A small pennon or flag.

[40] Pight. Pitched.

[41] Hele. Cover.

[42] Avowrye. Cognizance, badge, distinction.