

'TWEEN THE FLAGS.



NOW at the post each steed it is pawing,  
As each jealous jockey at jockey doth glance  
Bold at its bit each horse now is gnawing,  
And now at a walk see ! they steady advance,  
Holding hard till the starter his banner shall lower ;  
Ahead now it flutters, the reddest of rags,  
'Tis down now, my boys ! and they rush to the fore  
Yet each man is mindful to ride 'Tween the Flags !

Ride wisely, each jockey, don't mind what the pace is.  
Be cool and keep straight, no rushing ahead,  
'Tis not always the swift that gain steeplechases :  
They are oft at the finish who at the first led.  
Now down is the brown, while the grey topples over ;  
Pull aside ere the scramblers down half the field drags !  
You have time, though even in mid-air you hover,  
Riding aye as you should when you ride 'Tween the Flags !

Now rouse up your horse and keep him well going ;  
Don't mind who's behind—give never a look,  
But keep his head straight and your heart o'er be throwing  
For you've got to fly over or land in the brook.  
Some are o'er, some are in, you can tell by the splashing,  
Yet sail away on and make use of your jags ;  
Get him into his stride and right onward be dashing,  
Aye minding your eye that you ride 'Tween the Flags !

You are half o'er the course, so be careful and clever,  
You are safe booked for home when over the wall ;  
And don't mind the rushers—weak horses are ever,  
Half ready at finish to flinch or to fall.  
Safe over again ! now the pace come be mending,  
And ne'er mind the horse that now faltering lags !  
One single field more, and for home you are bending,  
Going straight as one should when he rides 'Tween the Flags !

Now close by the rails for home you are steering,  
Going easy and well, with the race well in hand ;  
The last hurdle o'er, now hark to the cheering,  
Which loud greets the winner from all on the stand  
Now back to the scale—'tis all right, they are crying,  
While the groom leads away the most gallant of nags ;  
'Tis " My dear boy, well done ! " and each man's now vying  
In praising the style which you ride 'Tween the Flags !

