Tobogganing on crooked runs

Gibson Harry
Caesar in Difficulties
TOBOGGANING

ON CROOKED RUNS

BY THE

HON. HARRY GIBSON

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

F. DE B. STRICKLAND AND 'LADY-TOBOGGANER'

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PREFACE

Most of us have our hobbies. For some time the toboggan and how to use it has been mine. I am afraid that, like other horses, my hobby is not altogether free from vice. In the past he has occasionally been guilty of boring. This time he seems to have taken the bit between his teeth and fairly bolted, and I must ride him to as good a finish as I may.

Tobogganing on crooked runs is a sport which is steadily increasing in popularity year by year; but it is a sport without a literature. With the exception of the past numbers of the ‘Alpine Post,’ which are not accessible to most people, there is no place to which tobogganers can turn for information about their
favourite sport. This book is an attempt to supply the deficiency; to show how the sport has gradually developed into its present form, and to give an answer to the many questions about runs, toboggans, and methods of riding which new-comers are constrained to ask each year.

I take this opportunity of thanking most heartily the many tobogganers who have assisted me in my work with contributions, information, or criticism; and I would particularly mention Messrs. Bulpett and Freeman. Without the information given me by these gentlemen, much of the early history of the sport must have been omitted. To Mr. Strickland I am also under the greatest obligations. He has placed the pages of the ‘Alpine Post’ unreservedly at my disposal, both for information and for illustrations; and he has also assisted me with a chapter on the tobogganing of the last two years. For the chapter
on the difficult question of ladies’ riding and equipment I am equally indebted to a lady who prefers to remain anonymous under the nom de plume of ‘Lady-Tobogganer.’ My best thanks are also due to Mrs. Main and Mr. L. Eisner for the photographs from which many of my illustrations are taken.

But for the greater part of this attempt I am myself responsible, and I do not wish in any way to shirk anything which that responsibility may involve. Of the difficulties of writing clear and practical hints to beginners no one, perhaps, is so well aware as the writer. But I welcome criticism. For if my views are sound, criticism can but strengthen me; if I have fallen into error, those who point out my mistakes will have a claim upon my gratitude in helping forward the best interests of the sport I have learnt to love.

HARRY GIBSON.

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