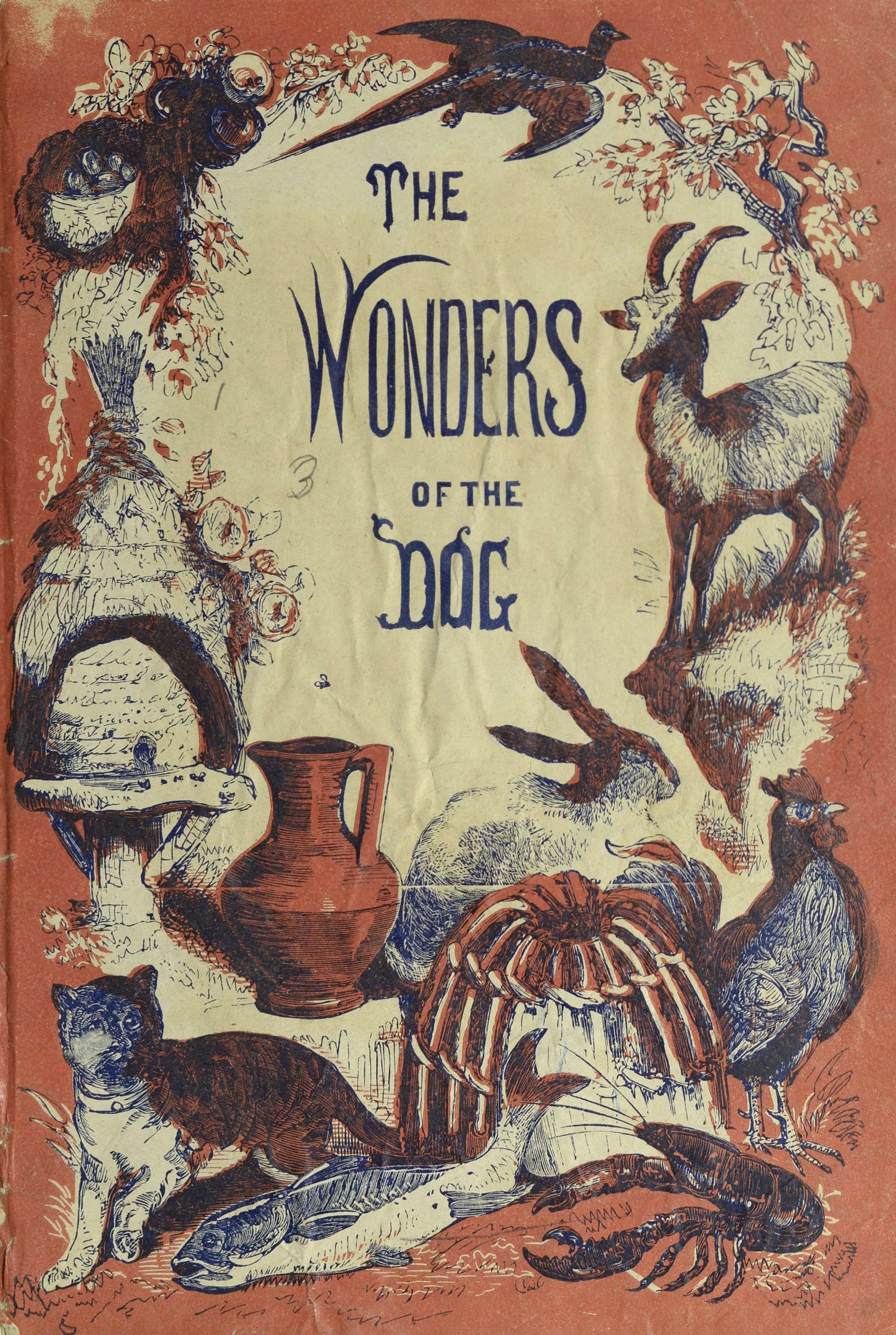


THE
WONDERS
OF THE
DOG





SPANIELS.

THERE are many varieties of spaniel. Those which you see in the picture are what we call King Charles's dogs. They are so called because King Charles the Second was very fond of little dogs, and took great pains to get as many and as pretty ones as he could, and this was the kind of spaniel he liked best.

The Water Spaniel is a large dog with long hair, generally curly, and there is another kind sometimes known as the small water spaniel, but generally called a poodle. Spaniels are used in shooting, as they may be taught to point out, to follow, or to bring back game. These last are called retrievers, and are large handsome dogs.

Spaniels are generally very faithful and affectionate. They are also good guards, and will seldom touch food which they know is not meant for them. Nay, if left in a kitchen, they have been often known to prevent cats from stealing the family dinner. Some are very intelligent, and may be taught a number of tricks. About fifty years ago, one was shown at York which would answer by signs for yes or no to different questions asked him in English, French, and Latin. Their fidelity to death is also most wonderful.

A gentleman named Wood was once travelling with despatches from Constantinople, in company with his dog, his Greek servant, and a Tartar guide, when they were attacked by banditti, about two days' journey from Constantinople, robbed, and Mr. Wood and the guide were murdered. The servant contrived to conceal himself by plunging into a river, and when the ruffians were gone, he escaped. When he returned with a party to bury his master, he found the faithful spaniel still watching and howling over the dead body. Three times was it carried to the nearest village, but each time returned to its master's grave, and on going in search of him once more, they found he had dug himself a hole in the ground that he might rest with his dear master. The young Greek, in returning with his friends to Constantinople, passed near the spot to pay a parting visit to the spaniel; he found him still there, and threw him a few loaves to keep him alive.



THE GREYHOUND.

THE English greyhound is very much the same kind of dog as the Scotch, but more slender. He is supposed to have descended from the old Irish wolf-dog, which was in olden times much celebrated for its strength and courage.

Formerly greyhounds were stronger and larger than they are now, and were used in chasing stags. We read that Queen Elizabeth was amused during her stay at Cowdray Park, the seat of Lord Montague, at Midhurst, in Sussex, by seeing sixteen deer pulled down by greyhounds. The heads of these stags, with their branching antlers, were afterwards arranged round the great dining room, which was always afterwards called the "Stag Hall."

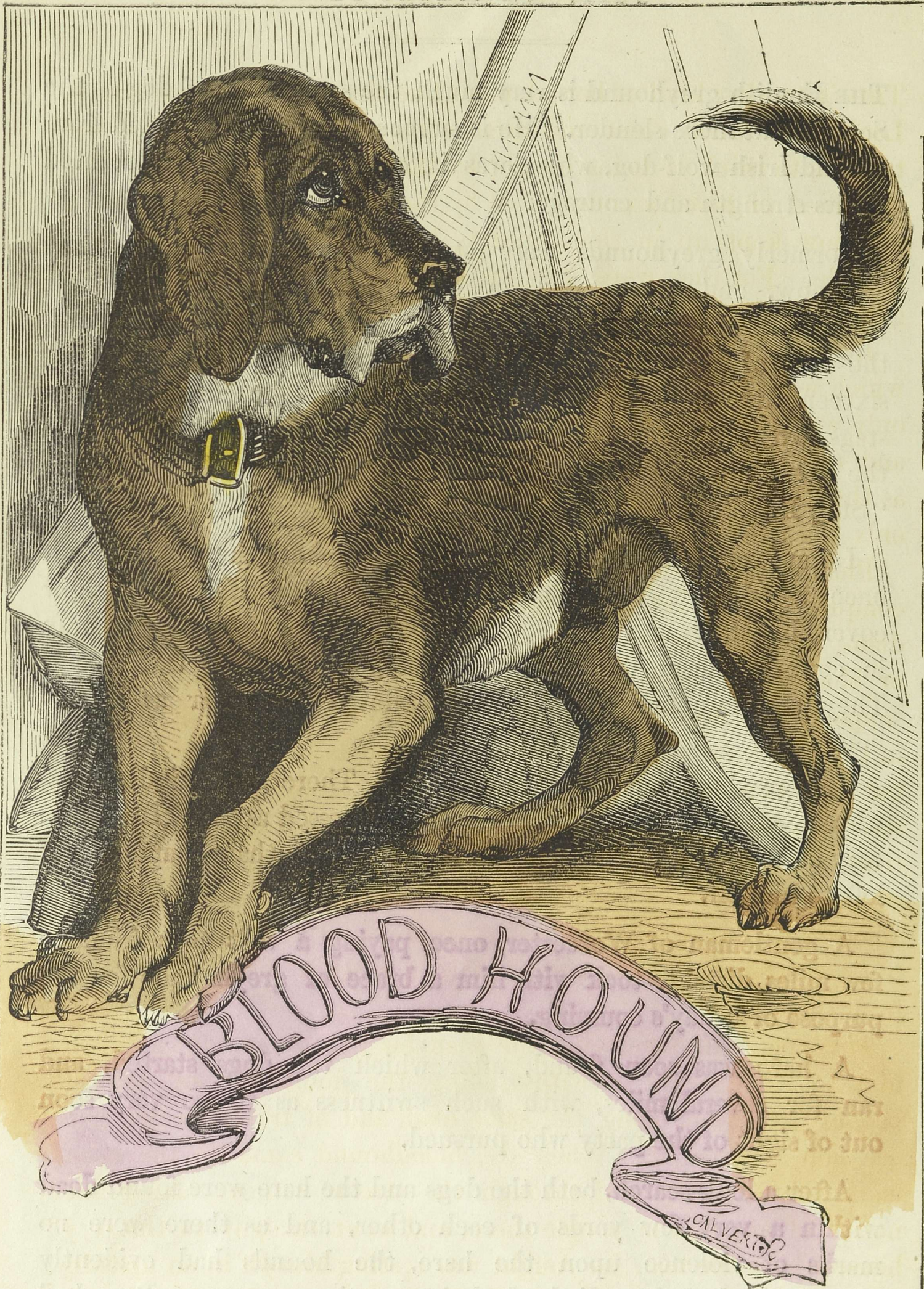
I have often seen the hall and the niches where the heads once stood, but the whole place is a beautiful ruin, now covered with ivy and wild flowers. Greyhounds now are used only in coursing hares, which they follow by sight more than scent. They are extremely swift, but cannot run so far as a fox-hound.

The greyhound is very affectionate. There is no kind of dog whose heart will beat so violently when caressed as his. He is also very ardent in the chase, and will die rather than abandon it if left to himself.

A gentleman of Worcester, once paying a visit to a friend a few miles distant, took with him a brace of greyhounds for the purpose of a day's coursing.

A hare was soon found, after which the dogs started, and ran for several miles, with such swiftness as to be very soon out of sight of the party who pursued.

After a long search, both the dogs and the hare were found dead within a very few yards of each other, and as there were no marks of violence upon the hare, the hounds had evidently not caught her, but died of their exertions, as poor Puss had done too.



THE BLOODHOUND.

THIS is another kind of hound, more like the mastiff in appearance. Look at his broad chest and great strong mouth. It makes one tremble to think of being caught by those tremendous jaws. The old breed of bloodhounds, called by the Scotch, Sleuth hounds, is not now kept up in this country, but formerly they were very terrible. For they were used in tracking not only deer or other game, but even men.

Robert Bruce was often in great danger from these dogs, which were used by his enemies to track him out, and once the only way in which he could escape was by wading far up a brook, and then climbing a tree which hung over the water. So soon as the dogs lose the scent, their skill is of no more use, for they only track by the nose.

Bloodhounds were also used by the Spaniards during the conquest of America, to hunt down the poor harmless Indians, and it is from this race of dogs that the Cuban mastiff or bloodhound, the only hound of this kind now existing, is supposed to take its origin. These Cuban dogs are used even now in Cuba to hunt down murderers or felons. And I have heard, but it seems too terrible to be true, that some of the Southern slave-owners keep these savage creatures on purpose to follow the track of runaway slaves.

A gentleman, who had one of these dogs, being anxious to know whether he was well instructed, desired one of his servants to walk to a town four miles off, and then to a market town three miles from thence.

The dog, without seeing the man he was to pursue, followed him by the scent, notwithstanding the multitude of market people that went along the same road, and of travellers that had occasion to cross it. When the bloodhound came to the cross market town, he passed through the streets without taking any notice of any of the people there, and went straight to the very house where the man he sought was resting himself in an upstairs room, to the great wonder of all who had gone after him in his pursuit.

THE HODDINGTON



THE TERRIER

GALVERT

THE TERRIER.

THERE are a great many different kinds of terrier. Those best known are the Scotch terrier, with its short legs, rough wiry hair, and long body. The English terrier is more slender, with longer legs, and a bright smooth coat of a black and tan colour. These dogs are all very sagacious, and chiefly valuable from their property of hunting underground for foxes, rats, badgers, &c. They are capital house-dogs, being watchful and brave. Abroad, terriers are used to hunt up truffles.

Indeed, the name terrier comes from the word *terra*, the earth, signifying that they are fond of burrowing. Rough terriers are much used by rat-catchers, men who go about from farm to farm bargaining to kill the vermin which infest the barns and stables. These men have also a ferret which makes its way into the rat-holes, and drives out the rats, which are instantly pounced upon and killed by the terriers, who stand watching and wagging their tails.

The terriers in the Isle of Skye are more valuable than any, and remarkable for their singular sagacity.

I was once told by a lady that she had lately lost a Skye terrier, who could do almost anything but speak. He was very fond of his master, and used to sit by him whilst he read the papers of a morning, as if sympathizing in the pleasure he must feel in making himself acquainted with the tidings of the day.

One morning, however, the gentleman had to go out early, before the papers came. They were brought in as usual, and laid in the usual place, but soon afterwards, when the lady looked for them they had disappeared, and all search for them was in vain.

Late in the evening the master returned, and when Pepper, the dog, had fawned joyously upon him, he dived under a large sofa which stood in the room, and brought out, one by one, the daily papers. He had hidden them there, that they might be safely kept for his dear master, being resolved that no one else should have a first look at them.



THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

HERE is a fine fellow, noble, brave, and generous. He is ready to go anywhere, or do anything, so that he can but please the master whom he loves. He has just brought his stick out from the river. But that is no such great hardship for Sailor, for he loves the water with all his canine heart.

In his native land, this dog is used for drawing sledges or little carriages filled with wood, fish, &c. And he is so trustworthy and sagacious that when he is fastened to a sledge with wood to be taken to the sea-shore, he will set off by himself, wait till the sledge is unladen, and then return for a fresh burden.

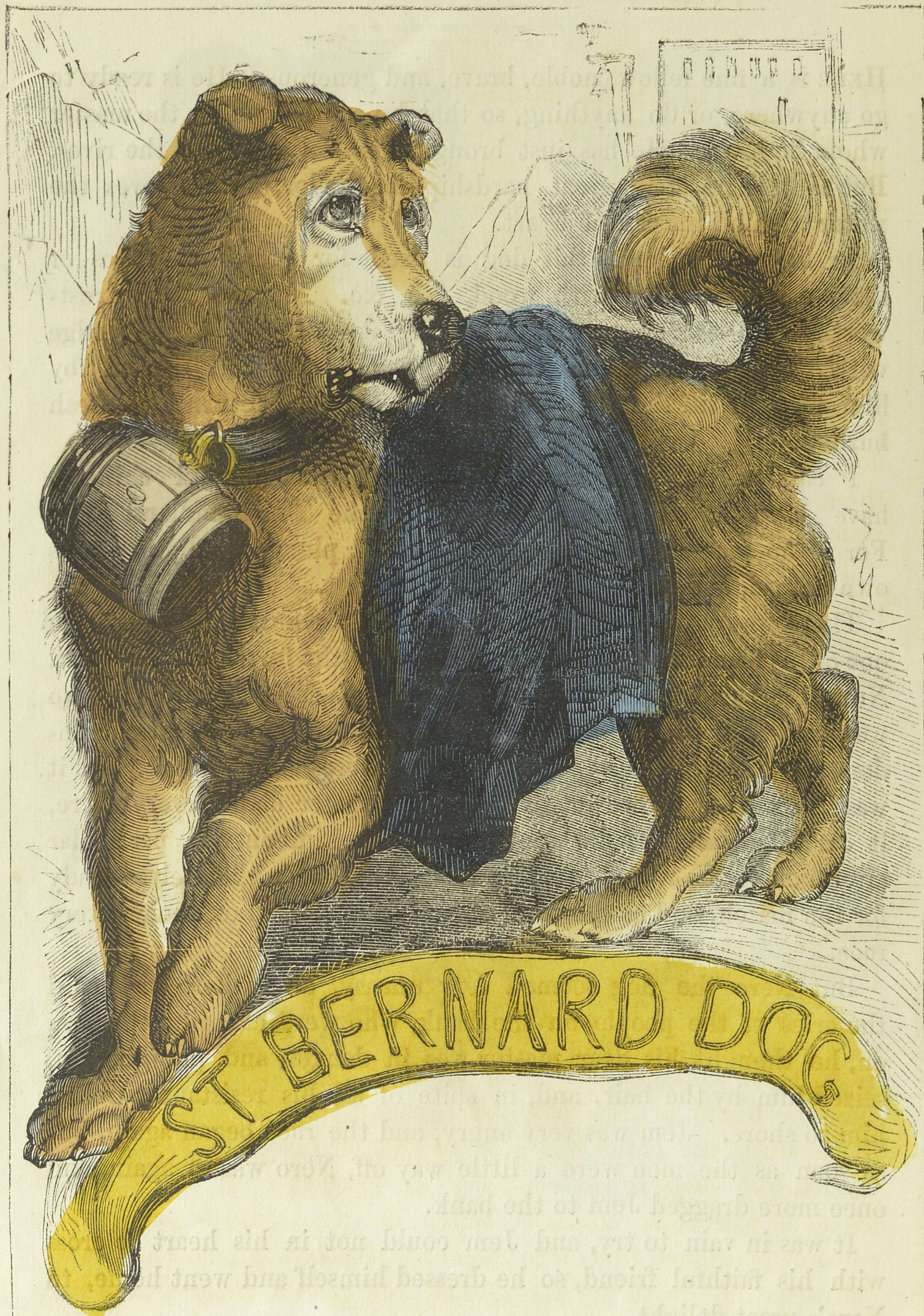
I cannot tell you how many men, women, and children have been saved from drowning by the Newfoundland dog. For if he sees any one in danger, he will plunge boldly in of his own accord, and do his best to pull them out.

There was once a boatman who offered for a wager to try with one of his friends which of them could swim the furthest and fastest. Now Jem, this boatman, had a dog, a noble black Newfoundland, who was present at the laying of this wager, but of course did not understand what his master and his friend were talking about. As it was his custom, however, to follow his master about everywhere, it came to pass that he went down with him on this particular afternoon to the river. Jem and his friend made themselves ready for the match, and at the word of command started on their watery race.

But Nero the dog seemed very uneasy, and when he heard the cries of the people on the bank, who were cheering the men on, he thought his dear master was in danger, and, plunging in, seized him by the hair, and, in spite of all his resistance, pulled him to shore. Jem was very angry, and the race began again, but as soon as the men were a little way off, Nero was in again, and once more dragged Jem to the bank.

It was in vain to try, and Jem could not in his heart be cross with his faithful friend, so he dressed himself and went home, to Nero's great delight.

THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG.

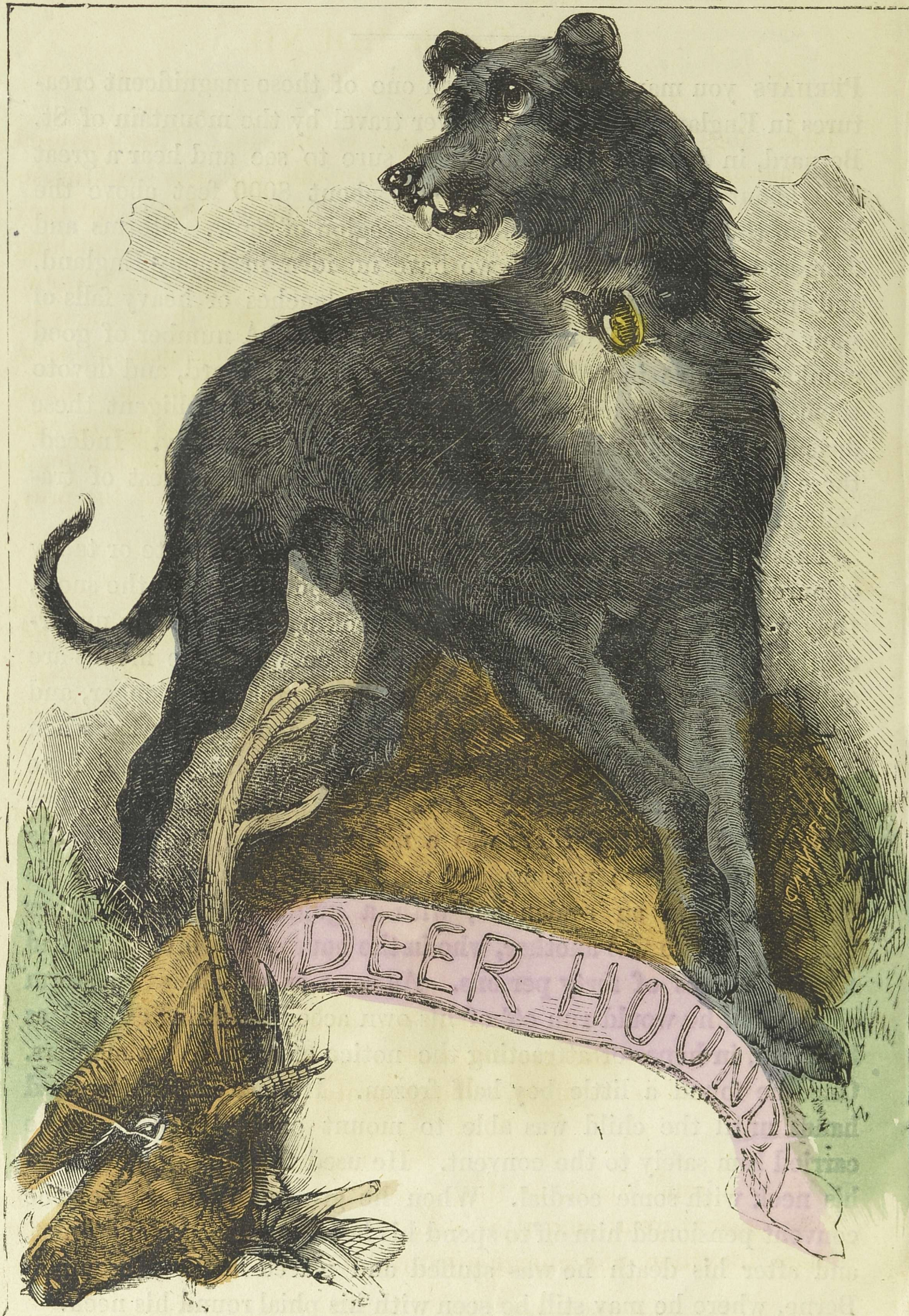


THE DOG OF ST. BERNARD.

PERHAPS you may never have seen one of these magnificent creatures in England. But if you ever travel by the mountain of St. Bernard, in Switzerland, you will be sure to see and hear a great deal about them. This mountain is about 8000 feet above the level of the sea, and in the midst of a region of snow. Storms and dangers rage there, of which we have no idea in happy England, and travellers are frequently buried in avalanches or heavy falls of snow which come rolling from the mountains. A number of good monks, who live in a convent on Mount St. Bernard, and devote themselves to the aid of travellers, seeing how intelligent these dogs are, have trained them to help in this work of mercy. Indeed, these faithful beasts will go out by themselves in quest of travellers.

These convent dogs are very large, and generally white or tabby coloured. When very young, if they are put down on the snow, they will begin to scratch it up as if looking for some one underneath it. They are so sagacious, that often when the monks are out with them, they appear to foresee the approach of danger, and will insist on leading their masters home by a different way, when it turns out that if they had returned as usual, they would have been buried by an avalanche. However, they sometimes fall victims themselves. In 1816 there was a noble dog who had saved the lives of twenty-two persons, and wore a medal in honour of his bravery, lost in an avalanche, with a guide and several other persons. There was another, who in the course of twelve years had saved the lives of forty persons. As soon as ever he saw a storm coming on, he would run off of his own accord, barking as loud as he could, in hopes of attracting the notice of some lost wanderers. Once he found a little boy half frozen. He licked his face and hands until the child was able to mount on his back, when he carried him safely to the convent. He used to carry a phial round his neck with some cordial. When he grew old, the prior of the convent pensioned him off to spend his last days in peace and quiet, and after his death he was stuffed and placed in the Museum at Berne, where he may still be seen with his phial round his neck.

THE DOG OF ST. BERNARD.



THE DEER HOUND.

THESE dogs are very fleet, strong, and courageous. They are used in chasing the stag, particularly in Scotland, for deer-stalking, as it is called. By careful training they become so tractable that they will creep amongst the wild heather with their master, crouching when he does, and scarcely pulling at the leash which holds them, though they are so eager for the chase that their hearts may be seen beating against their broad chests. But one moment too soon would risk losing the game ; so they have to crawl and creep along as close as they can get to the noble herd of wild deer grazing amongst the mountains. When near enough, their masters loose the leash in which they have held in the dogs, and, pointing out the prey, bid them rush upon it.

Away then go dogs and deer, and if they succeed in bringing him to bay, that is, if they compel him to turn and stand, which he will not do until he has little hope of escape, they will keep guard over him until their masters come up to them, taking care, if they are wise dogs, of his noble antlers, with which he could soon destroy them if they attacked him in front. When their masters come up, they direct the dogs how to seize the poor deer, who is then despatched by a hunting knife.

In England stags are often hunted just for the sake of the chase, but are taken care of at the end of the run, and restored to freedom. When terrified by the hunters and dogs behind him, the poor stag has been known to take refuge in a drawing-room. The windows, which reached to the ground, were wide open, and the poor creature bounded in as if to implore protection, which I hope was granted.

It is a cruel sport, for the terrors and sufferings of the stag must be very great, and it is said to weep great tears during the chase, like those of a human creature in distress.

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