

## SOME ROYAL PETS.



SPOT.

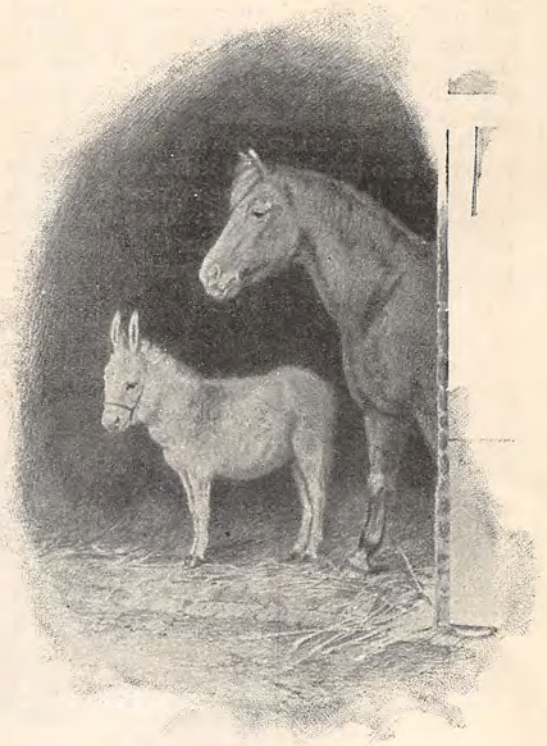
**I**F the public life of Her Majesty the Queen is exposed to the critical glare of that "fierce light" which is said "to beat upon a throne," her home life is, on the other hand, illumined by the rays of a very kindly light indeed. The Queen has herself raised the veil to admit that light by the publication of her journals, and has, time after time, given facilities to others to publish glimpses of that home-life she has established in the Royal castles which is so essentially English.

The latest instance of Her Majesty's willingness to respond to the public demand for information about herself is found in the permission she gave to Mr. Ernest M. Jessop to make pictures of her pets. It is some two or three years since the opportunity was afforded him; and, as he was given *carte blanche*, a large field of interest was opened for the occupation of his pencil. To complete the work, he made application to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to include drawings of the pets at Sandringham in the same collection. Permission being readily accorded, the result of two years' steady industry on the part of the artist was seen in the large number of silver-point drawings recently exhibited in London. It is from these that a selection has been made to illustrate this article.

The Queen has a most wonderful memory, and never forgets any of her pets; and although there are one or two, like "Spot," the fox-terrier, and "Marco," the red Spitz dog, who

accompany Her Majesty on all her travels, the larger number, who reside at the kennels and on the various farms at Windsor, are never overlooked. The keepers of the animals are liable at any moment to be asked after, or to be called upon to produce for inspection, any one of their charges.

At the Windsor kennels, situate about a mile from the Castle, there are upwards of sixty dogs of various breeds, ages, and sizes. Each one has his own residence—a little chamber from fourteen to fifteen feet square, with a neatly-tiled yard in front of about the same dimensions. A comfortable bed of clean straw, renewed every day; a tap of water in the front yard, always dripping; two good meals *per diem*; an attendant to take them for walks—how are the Royal dogs to be envied by their plebeian brethren! Opposite the kennels, and separated from them by a tiled walk—"The Queen's Walk," if you please—is a large paddock, in the centre of which is a bath wherein the animals perform their ablutions. After the bath is over, the pets adjourn to a drying tent in a corner of



NINETTE AND THE CHARGER.



THE ARTIST.  
(Drawn by Himself.)

the paddock. In another corner is a rustic summer-house railed off, and known as "the Apron-Piece," where their Royal mistress used in former days to sit and watch the animals disport themselves.

The dogs are taken out for their constitutional in two batches, and it is a curious sight to watch them, on their return, march solemnly off, each to its own particular kennel, for all the world in the manner of the occupants of a row of almshouses. One



JACQUOT.

wonders do they gossip in their doggy way about the Castle folk, and talk scandal of the Dogs-of-Honour-in-Waiting to Her Majesty—the more fortunate "Spot" and "Marco," Her Majesty's personal dog attendants? It was the latter, by the way, who figured in the picture painted by the late Mr. Burton-Barber, and exhibited at the Royal Academy a year or two back, standing upon Her Majesty's breakfast-table.

In the keeper's cottage at the kennels is a small plainly-furnished apartment, known as the "Queen's Room," the walls of which are covered with paintings by artists of note of favourite dogs now deceased. In the frame of each, protected by a glass plate, is a small piece of the coat of the departed pet. Scattered about the grounds of the Castle, too, are the graves of special favourites, each marked with a block of granite, on the top of



SANGER.

which is a marble representation of the animal commemorated.

One of the most noted of these departed pets was "Sharp," a fine collie. It was this dog's delight to detect a visitor to the Castle touching anything in the room in which he happened to be. The dog's delight, but the unhappy visitor's woe! For "Sharp" would not allow him to leave the room afterwards until the word of release was given by someone he knew.

At the Shaw Farm—established by the Prince Consort—resides the Queen's land-

steward, Mr. Tait, in whose charge are all the animals, save the horses, which are under the special care of Mr. Manning. At the stables adjoining the Castle, the first animal claiming attention is "Jessie," the Queen's favourite riding-mare, who has now attained to the ripe old age of twenty-six years, and who, it may surprise some to know, as recently as three years ago carried Her Majesty upon

Grasse by the Queen and given to the Princess Patricia of Connaught. Mr. Manning showed this couple to Mr. Jessop in answer to a question as to whether he had anything curious to let him see. "Ninette" can easily pass under the stomach of her big companion, and is a tyrannical little mistress to him, never hesitating to belabour him with her pretty hoofs if displeased. But the two



GROUP OF BASSET HOUNDS.

her broad back. "Jessie" is undoubtedly first favourite among the horses, and whenever the Queen is at Windsor is brought up to the Castle for inspection. Two other horses well on in years were presented by the late King of Italy, Victor Emmanuel. This fact will serve to show that they are far past youth, but though, as with "Jessie," their working days are ended, they spend the evening of their lives in clover.

Another special horse is the gigantic charger presented by the late Emperor Frederick to Prince Christian. He stands nearly seventeen hands high, and is bright chestnut in colour. His portrait is presented with that of his queer stable companion, "Ninette," a diminutive donkey purchased at

are quite inseparable, and when "Ninette" was brought out into the paddock for the artist's inspection the big horse charged from the loose box down upon the group of onlookers, smashing the stable bar in his course. The two were finally united again, and expressed their delight by a vigorous kicking-up of heels and other manifestations of joy. This is not the only instance in the Royal stables of incongruous pairing. The animals are allowed to choose their own companions according to disposition, and not by any means according to breed.

Yet another venerable pensioner is "Jenny," a pure white donkey, twenty-six years old; who lives in a black weather-board house, and at the time of Mr. Jessop's visit had for

her boon companion a small chestnut foal, seven or eight months old. A clear case of May and December! "Jenny's" back is as broad as two average-sized donkeys' backs, and her coat is beautifully thick and woolly. She was born at Virginia Water, and was a great favourite with the Royal children. "Jacquot" is another well-known donkey, whose duty it is to draw the Queen's chair, and who generally accompanies the Court in its peregrinations. He is a most intelligent animal, and, as Mr. Jessop informs us, "has a very great idea of good living." There are several other donkeys in the stables, among them "Tewfik," a large white Egyptian, the gift of Lord Wolseley, who purchased him in Cairo. "Tewfik" has a son, who serves as deputy in chair duty to "Jacquot."

A curiosity at Windsor may be seen in "Sanger," a most eccentric-looking little beast, presented by the well-known circus proprietor to the Queen. He was about ten months old when sketched, and has a thick buff-coloured coat, with pink eyes and long white eyelashes, and legs that seem to straggle to all points of the compass. He is in the special charge of the boy who is sketched with him.

Before leaving the Windsor pets, mention must be made of the strangest of them all—"Jack" the bison. He resides in a stable by himself, which has the usual yard in front, but is further strengthened by a brick wall about seven feet high round it. He is a ponderous beast, and attracted Mr. Jessop's attention by the noise he made walking round



JACK.

his domain. The artist asked if he could be brought out to be sketched. The attendant said, "Yes, sir; but who's to put him back again?"—a very pertinent reply, considering "Jack" weighs about a ton.

At Sandringham the kennels are arranged in very much the same manner as those at Windsor. The dogs are under the charge of Mr. Brunsdon, whose boast it is that the



PLUMPIE.

animals have all been trained by kindness ; indeed, he never carries a whip, except when in full uniform, of which it is supposed to form an item.

When the Princess is at Sandringham, she visits the kennels every day, accompanied by a keeper carrying two baskets full of bread. With her dress enveloped in a huge white apron as a protection against the paws of her friends, she proceeds to distribute the food amongst them, calling each dog by name to receive its share. Should any guests be present, they have to keep at a respectful distance from the Princess, for the dogs are very fond of her, and look upon strangers as possible sources of harm to her.

Foremost among the Sandringham dogs must be mentioned the red Chinese Chouchou "Plumpie," who is the Princess's favourite, and has been her travelling companion for many years. "Plumpie" has three children, who delight in the names of "Buz," "Fuz," and "Foxey," and who share with their parents the special favours of the Princess.

"Blackie," whose portrait we also give, is a little black Spitz dog, who turns the scale at four pounds. He was purchased by the Prince of Wales in Hamburg, and presented by him to the Princess Victoria. The group



BLACKIE.

shown on page 165 is a family party of rough Basset hounds, special favourites of the Prince. The father and mother, "Babil" and "Bijou," who sit on either side of their offspring, were given to the Prince by the

Comtesse de Paris. All four are very intelligent, and took up the positions they occupy in the drawing at the command of their keeper, sitting quite still while their portraits were taken.



HUFFY.

One of the oldest dogs at Sandringham is "Snowdrop," a pure white collie, who spends his honourable old age in the company of "Tiny," a very small curly black Spitz, under the special care of Mr. Jackson, the head-keeper.

From among the horses we have selected for illustration "Huffy," the pet driving pony of the Princess. He has the honour of drawing the "Blues Cart"—so called from being painted in the Guards' colours—in which the Princess drives about Sandringham when making her welcome calls among the tenantry.

Some years ago there was a monkey-house at Sandringham, but the occupants were not in very great favour, and were exiled. Their abode is now occupied by a number of doves and some Australian birds, who receive the special attention of the Princess.

One of the oldest pets at Sandringham is "Cockie," a white cockatoo, who for more than twenty years was ensconced in the Princess's dressing-room, but a year or two back was transferred to a cottage at the kennels, where he occupies a room generally shared with him by "Blackie." He is a queer old bird, who amuses himself by divesting his body of as many feathers as possible, apparently thinking that the clothing Nature has bestowed upon him is quite a superfluity.

ARTHUR FISH.