



THE KENNELS WITH THE KEEPER AND SOME OF THE QUEEN'S DOGS.

## THE QUEEN'S PET DOGS.

By ERNEST M. JESSOP.

ILLUSTRATED BY THE WRITER.

EVN in the earliest records of English history do we read of our Royal families' affection for the canine race. Before the Norman Conquest shall the antiquarian find mention of the dogs of Alfred the Great, and other of the Anglo-Saxon kings. To the Conquest we owe the introduction of many varieties of dogs

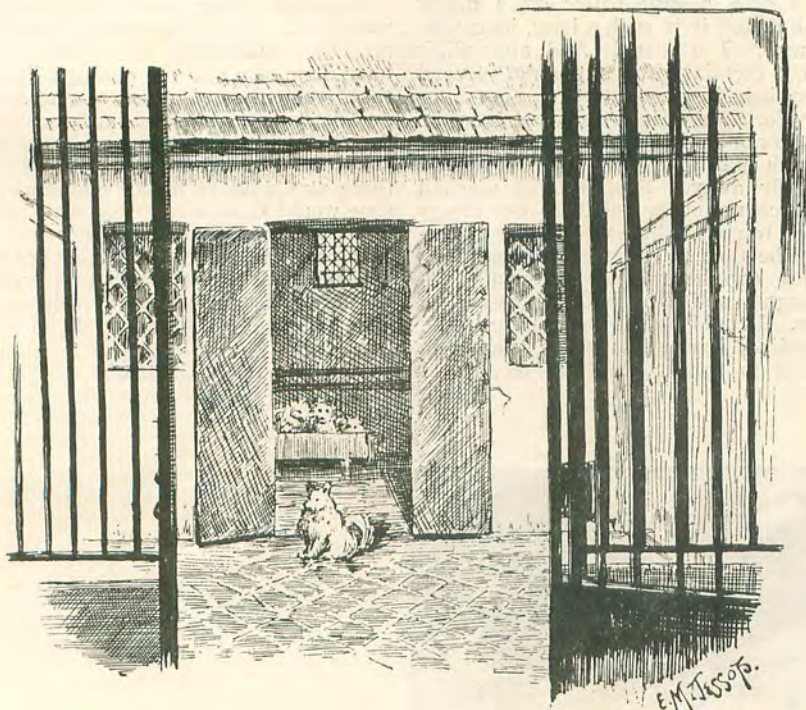
which now take rank as purely British breeds. Among these one may mention as of undoubtedly French descent, the bloodhound, the harrier, and the otter-hound, while many more doubtless owe their present form to the admixture of foreign blood. But we find our Royal personages exporters as well as importers

of dogs; for instance, Edward II., when Prince of Wales, sent to Louis of France some Welsh harriers. Froissart relates a most unhappy anecdote of time-serving on the part of a greyhound belonging to Richard II. "And it was informed me, Kyng Richard had a Grayhounde called Mathe, who always waited upon the Kyng, and woulde knowe no one else. For whensoever the Kyng did ryde, he that kept the Grayhounde did let hym loose, and he wolde streyght runne to the Kyng and fawne upon hym, and leape with his fore fete upon the Kyng's shoulders. And as the Kyng and the Erle of Derby talked togyder in the court, the Grayhounde, who was wont to leape upon the Kyng, left the Kyng, and came to the Erle of Derby, Duke of Lancaster, and made to hym the same friendly countenance and chere as he was wont to do to the Kyng.

"The Duke, who knew not the Grayhounde, demanded of the Kyng what the Grayhounde would do? 'Cosyn,' quod the Kyng, 'it is a great good token to you, and an evil sygne to me.' 'Sir, how know ye that?' quod the Duke. 'I know it well,' quod the Kyng; 'the Grayhounde maketh you chere this daye as Kyng of England, as ye shall be, and I shall be deposed; the Grayhounde hath this knowledge naturally, therefore take hym to you; he will follow you and forsake me.' The Duke understood well those words, and cheryshed the Grayhounde, who woulde never after followe Kyng Richard, but followed the Duke of Lancaster." History shows us that the "Grayhounde" was but too true a prophet.

The records of Windsor teem with allusions to the sporting instincts and fondness for dogs of Henry VIII., but the following regulation made for the Royal household shows that he believed in their being kept in their proper place.

"Noc Doggs to be kept in Court. The

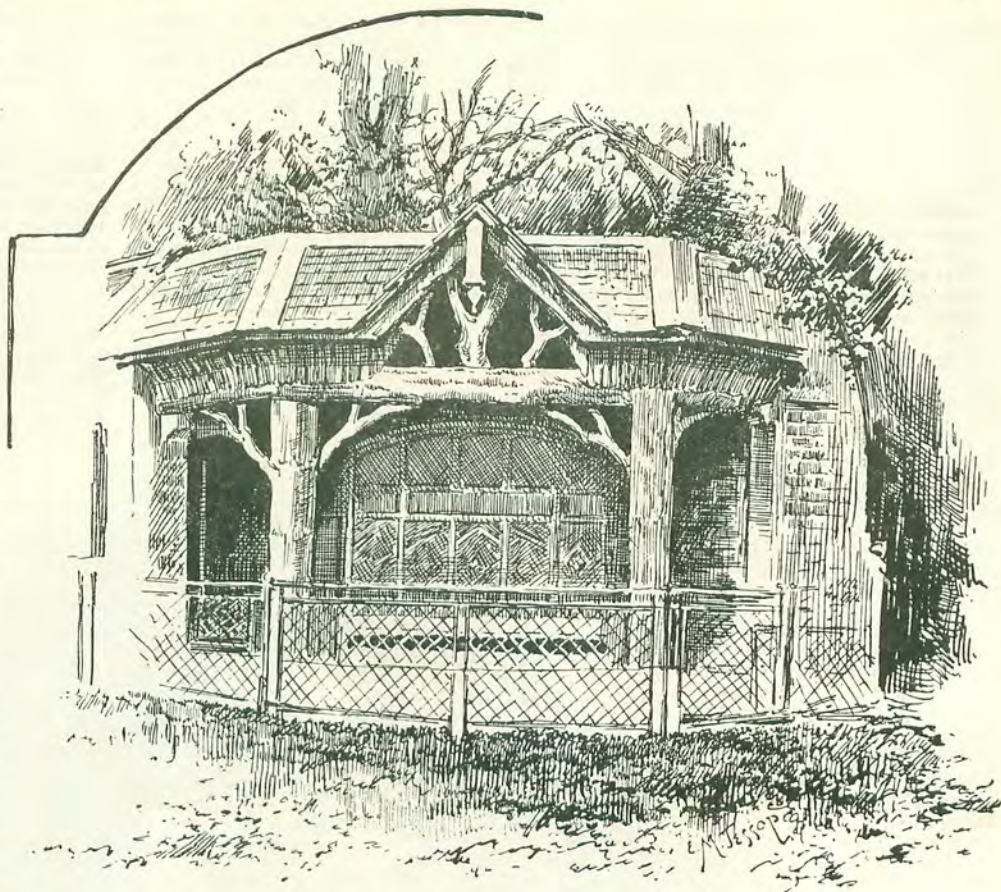


INTERIOR OF A COMPARTMENT IN KENNELS.

King's heignes also straightlie forbiddeth and inhibiteth that noe person, whatsoever they be, presume to keepe anie greyhounds, mastives, hounds, or other doggs in the Court, then some small spanylls for ladyes or others: nor bring anye into the same except it be by the King's or Queen's commandment. But the said greyhounds and doggs to be kept in Kennell and other meete places out of court as is convenient, so as the premisses duelic observed, and the house abroad, may be sweete, wholesome, cleane, and well furnished, as to a prince's house and state doth apperteyne." Practically the same regulations are still in force at the Royal palaces in our own times.

This King also seems to have anticipated our modern dog laws, as we find him paying an account to one William Fforde for "colars and mosulles."

In the inventory of Henry's effects at Windsor, we find "Two Greyhounds colars of crimson velvett and cloth of gold, lacking torettes," besides many others including one of white velvet "embroudered with perles, the swivils of silver." This kind of collar even surpasses the present luxurious age. Jesse, whose interesting researches into these historical facts are so well known, mentions a painting at Woburn Abbey of Henry's successor, Queen Mary, and her consort Phillip, in which are portrayed two small white dogs with long ears, pointed noses, and collars surrounded by bells. Good Queen Bess again was a notable lover of dogs and the chase. Gervase Markham mentions particularly her "Mitten Beagles" which he says were small enough to be carried in a man's glove. A pathetic anecdote is related of the favourite little dog of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, which after its mistress's execution could only be removed by force from the body of its beloved owner, the shock of whose death it only survived for two days. Never was known a more doggy monarch than James I. His favourite Buckingham was familiarly known as his "dog Steenie," and his queen as his "deare littil Beagill." As Mr. Krehl some years since in a most interesting article in *The Stock-keeper* remarks, the aforesaid "deere littil Beagill" once put His Majesty's tenderness to a severe test, for when shooting at a deer, she missed the mark and killed "Jewell the King's most principall and speciall hound." However, the monarch was easily pacified, and to prove to the Queen that "he should love her ever the worse,"



THE QUEEN'S SEAT IN THE "APRON PIECE."



GINA.

sent her a "diamond worth £2,000 as a legacie from his dead dogge." Of Charles II.'s dogs we shall always possess a memorial in the shape of the King Charles spaniel. On the return of the King from Holland in 1660, Pepys mentions in his diary, "I went (from the ship) and Mr. Mansell, and one of the King's footmen, and a dog that the King loved, in a boat by ourselves." Evelyn also tells us that "he (the King) took great delight in having a number of little spaniels follow him and lie in his bed-chamber." Indeed, his fondness for these little creatures was such that rewards were constantly being offered for the King's dogs stolen or strayed from Whitehall. I have no space in this paper to go further into the history of our Royal families' affection for dogs, but must at once return to the subject of our title, to commence

which a short description of the homes of our Queen's dogs is advisable. The pretty little group of buildings in the Frogmore Road, known as the kennels, owe their inception, in common with so many improvements on the Windsor estate, to the late Prince Consort. They consist of a comfortable cottage for the keeper, in which at my first visit were residing Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Brown, apartments for assistants, of which the principal for many years has been that well-known judge of dogs, Hill, who practically has charge of the kennels, under Mr. Tait, the Queen's land steward, a small suite of rooms known as the Queen's Cottage, for Her Majesty's accommodation (now under the charge of Mrs. D'Albertanson, the widow of a very old and faithful servant), and the range of kennels. The Queen's Verandah (which bears the date 1841), a covered walk much used in bygone days, runs the whole length of the kennels, and divides them from the playgrounds for the dogs, which consist of three paddocks on the opposite side. The kennels are of substantial construction, enclosed and divided by iron railings set in brickwork. Each kennel is twenty feet long by twelve wide, divided into a sleeping apartment and a yard. The sleeping rooms are tiled in white and fitted with hot-water pipes. The yards are paved as is also the "verandah" with red and blue tiles. In every yard is a self-filling water trough supplied from the Castle reservoirs in Windsor Forest. The dogs' beds are of wood placed some eighteen inches above the floor, and the bedding is always clean straw. In bad weather the verandah can be shut off with iron gates for the dogs to enjoy exercise without fear of catching cold. Everywhere throughout the kennels one notices water taps and gratings which greatly facilitate their prevailing cleanliness.

At the Frogmore Road end of the verandah is the "Apron Piece," which consists of an apron-shaped space railed off from the paddocks to show the dogs to Her Majesty or her friends, who, for purposes of inspection, occupy a pretty, rustic summer-house (connected by a private door with the Queen's cottage) which is separated by yet another rail from the "Apron Piece." At the other end of the verandah are the two kitchens and the hospital, which latter is divided into three tiny wards. There are three paddocks, known as the Collie Court, the Spitz Court, and the Umbrella Court, this last taking its name from an umbrella-shaped structure of wood under which the dogs go for shade in the hot weather after taking their bath. The bath itself, which is also in this court, consists of a small, oblong pond sunk in the ground and lined with small pebbles set in cement. There is a slope at either end, so that the dogs can run into the water, swim through, and walk out at the other end. Some puppy kennels (by far the prettiest sight in the collection) stand on the far side of the paddocks, while on the other side of the range of buildings,

away from the ordinary kennels, is a second and smaller range used for visitors or isolation purposes. There are usually in the kennels from fifty to sixty dogs. No fixed rule is observed as to the separation of the breeds. Notice is taken as to which dogs agree best together, and these are allowed to live in the same kennels. Thus one may see in one compartment two or three collies, a Spitz, and a Dachshund; in the next half-a-dozen beautiful little cream Spitzes and a black-faced pug, then a few Skye terriers, a couple of pugs and an Irish terrier, and so on throughout the row of kennels. Of late years the breeds best represented are the collie and the tan-coloured Spitz.

Every dog in the kennels is exercised twice daily—morning and afternoon—the small dogs to the number of about thirty, first going for a run with Hill and on their return being followed

There is also a register or pedigree book kept which has stamped on its cover "Dogs in the Home Park Kennel at Windsor Castle." Its pages have separate divisions for "Name," "When born," "When and whence procured," "Sex," "Parents," "Puppies," and "Remarks." The earliest date in the book is 1860. All the names of the dogs are invariably chosen by Her Majesty. It was a long time before the Queen could be induced to let her favourites be placed on view at dog shows, but of late years they have been many times exhibited and have always been high up in the prize lists. There is one stipulation invariably made by Her Majesty before exhibiting her dogs. This is, that under no circumstances are they to be left at a show all night. They must be taken in the morning and brought back to their proper homes each night by their keepers. This instance of thoughtfulness

might well be imitated by exhibitors of lesser degree, who must know how misery entailed on dogs by a two or three nights' separation from their friends and usual surroundings.

Of the breeds of dogs which are Her Majesty's special favourites, one ought surely first to mention, if only from their dainty beauty, the "Spitz" variety. These are usually known as "Toy Poms," a description that is utterly erroneous, as very few of the varieties have anything to do with Pomerania. All over the Continent they are known as "Spitz" dogs, and as all those now at Windsor are descended from parents bred in Florence and purchased there by Her Majesty in 1888, it is at once seen that the name of "Italian Spitz" given to them by the Queen is absolutely correct. Perhaps the best known of this breed as a royal pet is



SPOT—ALWAYS WITH THE QUEEN.

by the large ones; and, as Pepys would have put the matter, a mighty pretty sight it is on the return of the dogs to see each one without telling walk straight to its own compartment, never making a mistake as to its domicile. Feeding time for the whole establishment is four o'clock in the afternoon, but during very cold weather the dogs get a little dry biscuit in the morning. The food which is prepared in the kennel kitchen consists of soaked biscuits, vegetables, bullock's head, and sometimes a little other meat. Oatmeal is also added to this very Irish stew, which is all boiled up together.

The whole establishment is conducted on the strictest of business principles. Not a biscuit can be ordered unless on the proper printed form. A requisition book of duplicate order forms is kept. Each form when properly filled up has to be submitted to, and signed by, the Master of the Household before it is forwarded to the tradesman from whom the articles are required.

Marco, who has passed all his life "in the house" according to the Windsor stud-book—that is to say, he always accompanies the Queen and occupies the high and honourable position of chief pet. Never was dog more often painted, photographed or described. From the pages of the fanciers' papers to the walls of the Royal Academy, his pretty little face has looked forth with bright dark eyes on thousands of admirers. He is a model of what his race should be: some twelve pounds in weight, in colour ranging from buff to rich red, with a lovely neck frill, a tightly curled tail, and the most beautiful small sharp ears. His latest companion, also "in the house," is "Turi," who is nearly all white, but with lemon-coloured tips to her ears, black eyes and a black nose. A most aristocratic-looking little lady is Turi, with seemingly a high sense of her own importance. Whether it was because she took a great fancy to me I do not know, but to my mind never a more beautiful little

dog could be seen than Gina, who won two first prizes when exhibited at the Agricultural Hall in 1891. She has the loveliest and softest of lemon-tinged coats, and only weighs  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. She very strongly objected to my photographer, considering the sharp click of his shutter as most objectionable, and getting in quite a passion with him for using it; but when her own chair was brought into the garden, she sat most placidly and listened to all I had to say while I made a sketch of her, giving me a little lick at the finish to express her sense of the difference between artist and photographer, although the latter contrived to make his peace through the medium of some small lumps of sugar before leaving.

Beppo, a relation of Gina, looks on at all this with most intelligent countenance, and seemingly does not care, providing he is noticed, which of us takes his portrait; but Alfeo, a most delightful little pet and a special favourite of the Queen, evidently thinks when he is posed that nothing less than murder is intended and at once subsides into a helpless and hopeless ball of fluff, of which it is impossible to make any sort of intelligible picture. And so to the next favourite breed, which, as a matter of fact, anticipated the position of the Spitzes by many years. This is the Collie breed, a fine specimen of which is so charmingly mentioned by the Queen in her diary, *More Leaves from the Journal of My Life in the Highlands*. "My favourite Collie, Noble, is always downstairs when we take our meals, and was so good, Brown making him lie on a chair or couch, and he never attempted to come down without permission, and even held a piece of cake in his mouth without eating it, till told he might. He is the most 'biddable' dog I ever saw, and so affectionate and kind; if he thinks you are not pleased with him, he puts out his paws and begs in such an affectionate way." The Collie, Noble, was the fourth of his name owned by the Queen. He was presented by Lady Charles-Ker in 1872 and died in 1887. There is yet another Noble (No. 6) still living at the Kennels. In the same way Her Majesty has owned several Collies which have in succession borne the name of Sharp. The favourite of these was No. 2, whose record in the Windsor Kennel Register is: "Sharp. In the house always till 1874, then left at the Kennels during the Queen's absence in Scotland, and from 1875 only in the house when the Queen was at Windsor Castle, and since August, 1877, lived entirely at the Kennels, where he died November 17th, 1879." Sharp's tomb is on the slopes near the Queen's private apartments surmounted by a recumbent statue of himself engaged as in life in guarding the Queen's glove. It is still related of this dog that he was greatly attached to the late Mr. John Brown, whose room he jealously guarded. If by chance any person entered during Mr. Brown's absence, he was not allowed to leave until his return, and under no circumstances must anything be taken from the room while "Sharp" was on guard. A housemaid once picked up some little article with the intention of putting it on the table, and the dog, although he knew her well, would not allow her to leave the room until its owner returned. A favourite Collie of recent years is Darnley II., a beautiful black and tan with a grand white ruff. He has a peculiar habit inherited from his father, so Hill tells us, of "grinning" when pleased. He has been several times exhibited, and has a long prize list attached to his name. The special Collie "in the house," and the Queen's companion for many years past, is a black and tan (of

the Duchess of Roxburghe's breed) named Roy.

No notice of the Queen's dogs would be complete without a mention of Spot, a fox terrier, who for many years was the inseparable companion of Her Majesty. When I last saw him some few years since, he was full of years and of honours, but just as lively and jolly as his race usually are. He was a big, strong white dog, with a lemon-marked head, and of a most affectionate and obedient, or, as the Queen phrases it, "biddable" disposition. He was brought from Norwich in 1880, so must ere this have paid the debt of nature. Lightly rest the turf over his faithful head! What lover of dogs does not feel a pang when he sees advancing age lessening the gaiety of the dear little friend, and realises that the all too short life is drawing to an end? There is no space here to describe in detail the many other varieties of our Queen's dogs—the Irish terriers, the Dachs dogs (as they are always called at Windsor), the pugs with their quaint little supercilious looks and ways, the dear little Skyes (surely the most intelligent and homely of the doggy race!), and the pure white collies, of which last but few are left, etc., etc. The Skye was always a pet breed with Her Majesty. One may still see on the slopes at Windsor a small broken column of white marble which stands on a granite pedestal and bears the inscription:

HERE IS BURIED  
DANDIE DINMONT,  
FOR 15½ YEARS  
THE FAITHFUL AND FAVOURITE  
SKYE TERRIER OF  
QUEEN VICTORIA.  
DIED JAN. 3, 1858, AGED 19 YEARS.

The best representative of the breed now at Windsor is Rona II., who, when younger, was a most invaluable assistant to me in my portrait-taking. She seemed to quite understand what was wanted, and not alone to reassure the other small dogs as to my intentions, but actually to show them how to pose themselves for the brush or the camera.

But now a visit to Her Majesty's own little sitting-room in the "Queen's Cottage" must close our all too short description. The room itself is but small, with oak beams showing on the ceiling, and furniture of Gothic design, mainly consisting of comfortable chairs and foot-rests, with a couple of small tables suited to afternoon tea. The curtains, carpet and upholstery are of a warm Royal red, of the pattern specially made for Her Majesty which is used throughout the Castle. The unique feature of the room is the number of doggy portraits which literally cover the walls. They are mainly framed in oak, and in many of the frames a small niche is cut which contains, carefully covered with glass, a small piece of the hair of the dead favourite whose portrait the frame contains. Here shall you see many curiosities in dogs drawn and painted by the first animal artists of their time. Many are there by the late Burton Barber, who so beautifully represented Marco with the Queen's breakfast equipage, which picture was on view but a few years since at the Royal Academy. Here, too, is the mysterious "Looty" painted by W. Keyl in 1861. The portrait is described on the frame as life size, which is as nearly as possible eight inches in height. Looty is called in the records a "Chinese Spaniel" and described as very small; but in these degenerate days her breed is practically unknown. She rather (in her portrait) resembles the modern Jap spaniel with large brown eyes, a

black snub nose and a white body with lemon markings. Yet again one must notice Morley's portrait of Eos, the lovely greyhound who was for so many years the favourite and companion of the late Prince Consort, and whose marble presentment lies stretched at her master's feet in the beautiful memorial chapel which contains his tomb. In Martin's *Life of the Prince Consort* appears an extract from a letter of the Prince written to the Dowager Duchess of Coburg the day after the death of Eos. "You will share my sorrow at this loss. She was a singularly clever creature, and had been for eleven years faithfully devoted to me. How many recollections are linked with her! She was my companion from my fourteenth to my twenty-fifth year, a symbol, therefore, of the best and fairest section of my life." Another fine portrait signed, T. M. Toy, 1845, is that of Cabbas, a Pyrenean sheep-dog, to whom tradition awards the unenviable distinction of having been the only dog that ever bit Her Majesty. Yet another picture, which was copied in the always interesting *Ladies' Kennel Journal*, is that of Bout, "a Cashmere dog" of enormous size which was sent by Lord Hardinge from India in 1847. His portrait represents him as bearing an absolutely remarkable likeness to the present Prime Minister. Some of the finest drawings in the room are those by Gourlay Steel, R.S.A., who, as might be expected, particularly excels in his collie portraits. But our time is limited even among such an interesting collection, and we have yet to look at a few of the many little tombs which lie scattered about in various parts of the park. Of these perhaps the most notable are the two small bronze statues standing on granite blocks in the Mausoleum grounds at Frogmore. The one is to the memory of a Dachs dog and its inscription reads:—

BOY.

DIED FEB. 20TH, 1862.  
AGED 15 YEARS.

THE FAVOURITE AND FAITHFUL DOG OF  
THE QUEEN AND PRINCE CONSORT.

While the other commemorates his playmate:—

BOZ,

THE FAVOURITE SCOTTISH TERRIER OF  
THE DUCHESS OF KENT, TO WHOM  
HE HAD BEEN GIVEN IN 1857  
BY THE QUEEN AND PRINCE CONSORT.  
ON MARCH 16TH, 1861, HE WAS TAKEN  
BACK, AND FROM THAT TIME  
TILL HE DIED, OCTOBER 26TH, 1864,  
REMAINED THE FAITHFUL DOG  
OF THE QUEEN.

Another sad episode in the history of the kennels was the decease after a very short residence of the two pretty little greyhounds "Dainty" and "Bische," the favourite dogs of the late Emperor Frederick of Germany, which were sent to the Queen after His Majesty's untimely death. In conclusion one may mention that of the numerous puppies which see the light first in the Queen's kennels, the overplus are all given by Her Majesty's special consent to friends or old servants. Not one goes to an unknown home, and more graceful yet, not a puppy may be destroyed, however unattractive in appearance. The ugly ducklings lead the same happy lives with the beautiful swans under the beneficent rule of the kindest and greatest lady our times have known. In her still numerous visits to her kennels she will inquire for every dog by its name, and she owns not one, from the oldest to the youngest, which does not know and love her.





BEPP0—ONE OF THE SPITZ DOGS.



MARCO.