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The Bloodhound as He is.

And though the villain 'scape a while, he feels Slow vengeance, like a bloodhound, at his heels. —Swift.

Poetically dramatic as this quotation is, it misrepresents the true character of the bloodhound, a dog singularly free from any sinister quality, for between the bloodhound of fiction and the bloodhound of fact there is the usual difference of observation. It is important to emphasize this matter, because to the entire world, almost, the bloodhound is a ferocious animal—bloodthirsty, wolfish, ready to tear a man limb from limb.

Dr. Louis H. Knox, whose Imperial Bloodhound Kennels, at Danbury, Conn., have supplied the police officials of every state in the union, undertook to devote a day to convincing me that these man trailing monsters are the princes of their race.

Since the days of William the Conqueror the bloodhound has been a man-trailer, but continuous inbreeding has so weakened his stability and resistibility to disease that in 1894 the English Bloodhound Club of America was organized to improve and encourage the breed in America, and to assist in establishing its more general use in connection with the detective service of the country.

Of course, these facts are known to breeders, like Dr. Knox, or T. L. Winchell, or Lewis B. Strang, and one or two others, but to the general public the bloodhound is a monster who will kill any man he is sent to trail. This is the impression of the good people who live in Danbury, and Dr. Knox, being a man who would rather agree than disagree, has painted on the outside of the kennels a bloodhound, of fierce and threatening mien, under which is printed in large letters, 'Bloodhound — Danger — Beware.' But, then, people in Danbury have become so used to the unexpected from the doctor that, compared to previous thrills he has given them, the bloodhounds are tame meat. Only a year or so ago Dr. Knox used to lead a lion around the streets of Danbury on a leash, till the town authorities, more timid of themselves than the doctor's fate, objected. For a long while his favorite pet in his consultation office was a leopard, and it was a common thing for him to let a lion swing him to sleep in a hammock.

Any creature that raises its young at the breast can be educated,' says the doctor, and he was the first man to effect a public reconciliation between the lion and the lamb. About one man in a million is a natural 'ani-

mal man,' and this exceptional thing is Dr. Knox; but he is no showman so he sold his wild animal, that he had himself trained, and went in for bloodhounds.

'In that book you will find the addresses of men who have bought my dogs,' he said, and as I skimmed over the pages I read the august roster of the marshals and constables of all the Western and Southern States.

'You see, the law in the Western and Southern States compels a man who is appointed a marshal or a constable to own two bloodhounds for police service,' said the doctor, 'and as a three-months old pup costs about a hundred dollars, if I can keep the pups alive long enough to sell 'em, the business is pretty good.'

'Are they so difficult to raise?' 'If a man could raise every puppy he breeds he couldn't carry the money he would make; but there is no dog so sensitive, so susceptible to distemper, so tender, as a bloodhound.'

'And yet he can tear a man limb from limb?'

'That's what you'd think from reading books like 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and other highly-colored fiction. Why, the bloodhound has a friendship for man so intense that the victim he quarries or tracks to earth is fondled with caresses and never molested, unless the dog is specially trained to do him injury. His only duty is to investigate, not to execute. When I take you out to the kennels they'll make more fuss over you than they will over me. They'll leap all over you, if you'll let them, because they'll be so tickled to see you. They're the cleverest dogs you ever saw.'

'But can they be trained to kill a man?'

'You might spoil the temper of an angel if you began before its wings were out. You can take a bloodhound and treat him so that he will hate the sight of a man. You can make an unnatural man by worrying him. I'll show you how it's done when we get to the kennels. The bloodhound is only used as a man trailer, and the constable who goes with him does the rest.'

'The dogs are not let loose upon the trail?'

'No; there is a little body harness that is put on a bloodhound before he takes the trail, and the marshal or constable has a leash attached to it, and goes with the dog every step of the way. You see, if they were allowed to run loose the fugitive might throw him a piece of poisoned meat, and a bloodhound is a very valuable dog.'

It seemed incredible. A bloodhound sensitive, tender, affectionate, gentle!

'You mustn't forget, however, that he does the work,' said the doctor, dryly, reading my surprise with a twinkle of amusement in his eyes; 'he is the only reliable man-trailer known. A fox-hound will follow a scent, so long as it is not crossed by any other fox, in which case he goes after the last, not the first, scent; but a bloodhound will dig his nose to the ground, and if he becomes confused or at all uncertain he will trot back to the starting point and begin over again, if it takes a lifetime. They never fail, and they never tire of the chase.'

'How do you make him start?'

'Just say, "Go find him," and he's off, not with a rush, but a slow, even, loping gait, with that deep-throated, thunderous bark, that booms through the woods and hills like the warning cry of a lost soul. Of course, the escaping criminal knows nothing of the true nature of the dog on his trail, and the tenor of his bark is something that frightens any one. Then when the bloodhound reaches the end of his chase, he gets almost hysterical, he foams at the mouth, and his eyes are red and bloodshot, and he fairly leaps into your arms—with joy.'

'There is really nothing of the wolf in a

bloodhound?'

'No, sir.'

'But every dog, we are told, was originally a wolf!'

'I don't believe it, and yet I know something about animals, wild and civilized, and I believe in Darwin's theory so far as humans are concerned; but as between the ape and the man, so between the bloodhound and the wolf—there is a missing link. Can you explain the reasons that stamp their impress of blood upon an aristocrat, for instance and a common breed of man?'

'This dog derives his name from the earliest understanding of man's respect for ancestral blood. He was called the bloodhound to distinguish him from the foxhound and other hounds that the hunting of wild boars inspired, meaning the hound of pure blood, as we now speak of a blooded horse.'

'But the bloodhound that hunted negroes in the South used to pull their men down?'

'The hounds that were used for this purpose for a long while in the Southern States were trained to do this, but they were not pure bloodhounds, but out-crosses of the bloodhound. Those were trained slave-hunting hounds. It would be absolutely impossible to train a bloodhound to do this. It is entirely against his nature. It is the custom to trail a bloodhound on a perfect stranger to the dog, but when he has overtaken him, and ascertained that the man was the object of pursuit, he manifests no further interest in him.'

In a three-acre field of thick grass, enclosed by a high wire fence, with an additional second fencing about five feet beyond the first, running parallel with the road, we found the man-trailers. This latter fence was there to prevent the intrusion or approach of other dogs that might introduce distemper or other dangerous disease to which bloodhounds are specially susceptible. When I say that a bloodhound weighs about 100 pounds, and stands about three feet high, you can realize what a full pack of these animals in full cry after you would mean to the uninitiated. The doctor handed me a whip, taking one himself, as he unlatched a gate in the fence. 'If you don't have something like that in your hand they'll paw your clothes off,' he said.

The whip may have been necessary, for the bloodhound makes your acquaintance unceremoniously, effusively, but with a violent lashing of his big tail and a friendliness in his enthusiasm that no one can mistake. After the first excitement of 'nosing a new scent' is over they trot away in all directions, quite oblivious of the presence of any one.

After we had walked once around the field, 'Magician,' the prize bloodhound of the world, took up the trail, and, with his deep-throated voice, followed our scent eagerly back to the barns.

'There isn't any dog as suitable for a pet as a bloodhound,' said Dr. Knox. 'The only thing that's made them unpopular is the people who read and write fiction.'

'The negro of the South believes the fiction?'

'Of course, and almost every one else is afraid of these dogs.'

'How do you train them to trail a man?'

'A thoroughbred bloodhound is born trained. All the breeder does is to encourage the pup. He will hide himself and let the dog find him, rewarding him with a piece of meat at the end of the trail. A dog two years old is ready for business.'

It would be well if the constables and marshals of the United States who use bloodhounds in their police service could see the regal care that is given them at their home kennels. Each dog has his own box stall. He is housed and provided for and groomed like a blooded horse.

A rare brood of ducks is kept for the sole purpose of giving him fresh duck eggs, and the very choicest of meat is served to him separately in his own stall, that there may be no confusion of manners over the food. In winter the temperature is kept at a fixed degree in the kennels themselves, although a bloodhound is not more sensitive to climatic changes than other dogs; but Dr. Knox allows all animals he has human comfort.—New York 'World.'

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For the year ended Dec. 31st, 1905.

Standing as at Dec. 31st, 1905:

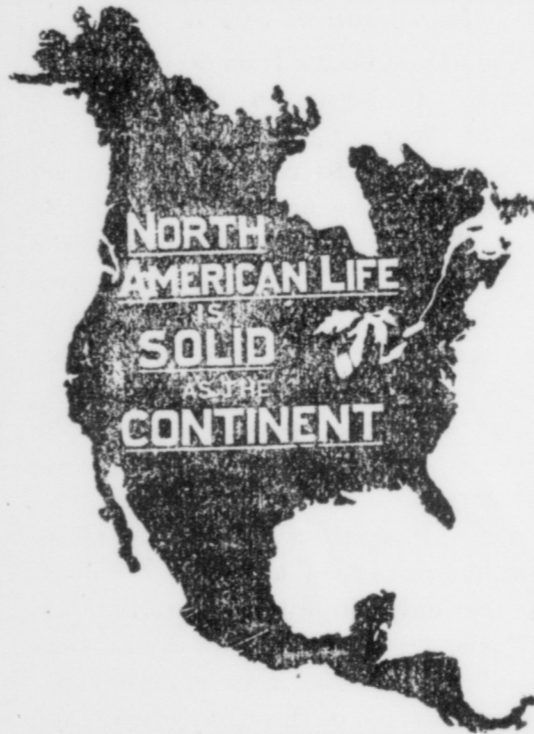
Insurance in force.....	837,827,606.00
Income.....	1,663,854.13
Assets.....	6,958,013.66
Net Surplus.....	570,010.43

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NOTICE OF TENDERS.

Tenders for the extension of The Andover Water System according to plans and specifications to be seen at the office of Carter & Elliott, Andover, N. B., will be received by the undersigned up to July 23rd proximo.

C. H. ELLIOTT,
Secretary to The Andover Water Com.
Andover, N. B., June 29th, 1906. July 1, 31.

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