

Intelligence of Dogs.

In the ADVANCE of 18th ult., a number of instances of sagacity and proofs of reasoning powers in cats were given from a scientific exchange. The following in relation to dogs will be equally as interesting:

A small English terrier belonging to a friend has been taught to ring for the servant. To test if the dog knew why it rang the bell, he was told to do so whilst the girl was in the room. The little fellow looked up in the most intelligent manner at the person giving the order (his master or mistress, I forget which) then at the servant, and refused to obey although the order was repeated more than once. The servant left the room, and a few minutes afterwards the dog rang the bell immediately on being told to do so.

Having shot a hare so slightly as to make it a long chase for the dog (a young one) I watched the retriever follow the hare over the open hills of Aberdeenshire for upwards of two miles until the chase was lost to view under a stone dyke. In a few moments the dog was observed to carry something in his mouth with which he disappeared over the dyke into a turnip field. "He has killed the hare and he is too tired to bring it back, so he is burying it," quoth the keeper, "we shall come up with it in the evening." The day's sport over, we made for the dog's burying ground, but the retriever, if you please, knew nothing about it; and careered wildly about in every direction except the right one. The keeper, Henry Ledingham, of Tarland, Aboyne, having a remarkable gift of spotting fallen game, actually put his foot on the very spot among the turnips where the burial had occurred. After immense affection of surprise the retriever was forced to unearth the hare. The hare, however, was a rotten old carcass of a hare, with no eyes and teeth, that the retriever had picked up and buried to save himself the pains of following the live hare. Perfectly conscious of his misdeed the dog had given evidence of abstract reasoning in each stage of the transaction.

The little river in the neighbourhood of Caracas had risen, in consequence of heavy rains, and with rather considerable swiftness, in a certain place where it is crossed by a road, when it was forced by a countryman sitting on his mule cart. His dog swam after him, but was taken down by the current and carried back to the bank. Then, after a moment's hesitation, the animal ran some distance up the bank, jumped into the water, and managed to reach the other side just where the road emerged from the river, acting thus precisely as a boatman might have done in similar circumstances.

About thirteen years ago a now deceased medical man residing near Edinburgh, possessed a favorite called "Cheviot" by name. The incident I am about to relate, I may mention, was related to me by the son of the gentleman in question, both father and son, along with a perfectly disinterested party, having corroborated the facts. The provost of the burgh in which "Cheviot's" master lived having ordered that all dogs be muzzled, during the "dog-days," the dog's owner and the members of the family spoke in the dog's hearing, in no measured terms of the cruelty of the provost's order. But the end of the "dog days" came, and "Cheviot's" muzzle was removed. On the afternoon of the day of liberation, the provost called on "Cheviot's" master, to say that in the morning he had heard a dog whining at his front door. The provost opened the door; "Cheviot" was in waiting, his muzzle in his mouth. One look at the provost, and the muzzle was dropped at his feet, "Cheviot" scampering off in the highest glee, as if delighted to have had the opportunity of laying the cause of his grievance at the door of his enemy.

My retriever, some four or five years old, whilst bearing an implacable enmity to felines at large, had struck up a close friendship with a household cat, which from kittenhood had been associated with him. For sanitary reasons the cat was condemned to die. According to the orthodox method, puss was placed in a sack weighted with stones, and carried to the sea, "Keeper" the dog, following in the wake of the procession. The cat was duly thrown into the sea, "Keeper" waited to see if it would rise, but on seeing no signs of his feline friend, he at once dived for the sack, and landed it at an adjacent pier. Being met by the excutioners and diving that puss was yet in danger, "Keeper" re-entered the water, sack in mouth, and swam across the bay to a point of safety, and landed his burden. Puss was spared in deference to "Keeper's" anxiety.

I have found an example of extreme selfishness in a mongrel dog, who for some years before the death of an old, deaf and blind companion, was accustomed to proceed to his resting place, and bark in his ear to warn him of the presence near at hand of the milk which the kindly hand of the mistress of the house was accustomed to place for the delectation of both. This proceeding was repeated day by day, with unvarying regularity, and in its nature suggests strongly that the exercise of self-denial amidst the obvious temptation of an easy acquiescence of luxury, has to be placed to the credit account of the canine race.

The picturesque little station at Hawkesbury Lane, between Nunceaton and Coventry, has for some time past been the home of a fox terrier known as Pincher, an animal possessing almost human intelligence. Pincher trained by its owner, Mr. Instone to do so, would listen with marvellous patience and acuteness for the signal intimating that a train was approaching the station, and then, almost with the speed of lightning, rush to the signal-box, and seizing the bell between its teeth, shake it heartily, and thus apprise the waiting passengers of the train's approach. His task accomplished, he would descend the steps leading from the box, proudly wagging his tail, and ready and willing, apparently, for any duty he might be called upon to perform. Often

as a train was leaving the station, Pincher would run beside it for about a hundred yards, as though acting under the impression that the engine-driver would be unable to obtain the necessary impetus without his assistance. On Sunday evening last Pincher's career was brought to an untimely end, but he died as a dog of his attainments and renown, "in harness." Soon after seven o'clock on the evening named, two trains entered the station at one and the same time, (Pincher having previously rang the bell) one going towards Homenton, the other in the contrary direction. Actuated by some motive or other—probably to see what was going on at the other side of the line—the dog darted under the carriages of the latter train, and one of the wheels passed over his neck, death being instantaneous.

An Essay on Fish. Fish may be divided into classes—codfish and fresh fish. The propriety of dividing them into classes will be at once apparent when we reflect that they are usually found in schools. The mackerel is not exactly a codfish; but he comes so much nearer being a codfish than a fresh fish that he is for the present classed with the former. Fish exist in sizes to suit the purchaser, from minnows to whales—which are not fish strictly speaking. Neither is the alligator a fish; but if we attempt to tell what are not fish, this article will far exceed its intended limits. The herring is not absolutely a fish; he is a suggestion of departed fish. But the strongest suggestion of departed fish are smelt. The herring sustains the same relations to the finny tribe as the Egyptian mummy to the human race. Fish are caught by measures and sold by weight—that is, they are caught by the gill and sold by the pound. But they are sometimes caught by weight—wait till you get a bite. Contentment is the chief respite to the successful fisherman. Surveyors are apt to be good fishermen because their lines and angles are apt to be all right. The mermaid and fishwoman may also be mentioned in this connection. The former is a good illustration of what is meant by the ideal, and the latter as fitly represents the real. Many land animals are reproduced in the sea. Thus we have the dogfish, the catfish, sea-lions and sea-horses, but no sealions. None of the above have hind legs. Any manner of mule without hind legs would be a conspicuous failure. It may not be out of place to mention Jonah in this connection. He was not a fish, but was once included among the inhabitants of the deep. There has been much dispute as to the name of the fish that swallowed the gentleman above mentioned, some persons argue that the throat of a whale is not large enough to swallow a man. This objection seems to be inconsequential. Jonah might have been in a smaller mull than other men. Moreover, it is certain that he was cast over before being swallowed; cast over the rail of the vessel. There has been much speculation, as to the cause of Jonah's expulsion from the whale's interior, but the theory most generally accepted is that he soured on the whale's stomach. He was very fortunate in reaching land, since he had no pilot. If he had taken a pilot with him into the stomach of the whale he would have selected Panchucos Pilate as the proper man. Jonah was the first man who retired from the Department of the Interior, and Delano was the last one. The codfish is the great source of all salt. In this respect Lot's wife was nowhere; however it would be well to remember Lot's wife. The saline qualities of the codfish permeate and percolate the vasty deep and make the ocean as salt as himself. Weighed in his own scales, he is found wanting—wanting considerable freshening. He is by nature quite social, his principal recreation being balls—fish-balls. The codfish was worshipped by the Greeks; but he is only half as well treated by the inhabitants of Cape Cod—he is simply shipped. Hence the difference between the Greeks and the inhabitants of Cape Cod. Small fish are usually harmless, but parents can't be too careful about permitting their children to play where large fish abound, as it is an established fact that the big fish frequently eat up the little ones. The jelly fish, is the best understood of all the finny tribe, because being translucent, it is easy to see through him. The greatest number of fish is eaten on Friday and the next greatest number on Saturday, because those that are left over are warmed up for Saturday's breakfast. Argumentative persons are fond of stating that it is grammatical to say that five leaves and three fishes were ate, since five and three were always eight. They should be treated with silent contempt. Fish are provided with air-bladders, so that they can rise from the depth of the sea by simply filling their bladders with air. If anyone is disposed to ask where they get the air for such inflation let him understand in advance that this article is not intended for the solution of petty conundrums. There are many interesting remarks about fish which might be mentioned, but the foregoing facts may be considered as fish-ail.

Story with a moral from the Detroit Free Press: Old Mr. Hazlett of Oregon thought he was going to die, and in order that his heirs should have nothing to quarrel over he burned up \$22,000 in greenbacks. He didn't die after all, and now when the heirs see him sawing wood to earn his bread they naturally feel they are ahead of him. FRENCH NEWSPAPER:—A good woman, after the death of her husband, had married the brother of the departed. She preserved, nevertheless, in her dining room a picture of her first spouse. One day a guest at the table, noticing the portrait, asked her if it was a member of her family. "Yes," replied the lady frankly, "it is the portrait of my poor brother-in-law."

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