

McNeill, in his article on the Irish Wolfhound, written 1838, says:—"Whatever may have been the origin of the name, there is little doubt as to the antiquity of a species of dog in this country (Ireland), bearing a great resemblance in many points to the Greyhound of the present day, and passing under that name, though evidently a larger, nobler, and more courageous animal."

He goes on to argue that "from the rough and uncultivated state of the country, and the nature of the game that was then the object of the chase—viz., deer of all sorts, wolves, and foxes—that the dogs would be of a larger, fiercer, and more shaggy description than the Greyhounds of the present day."

From the "Museum of Animated Nature," published in 1842—45, the following account of the Irish Wolfdog is taken:—"In Scotland and Ireland there existed in very ancient times a noble breed of Greyhounds used for the chase of the wolf and deer, which appears to us to be the pure source of our present breed. It is quite as possible that the Mâtin is a modification of the ancient Greyhound of Europe—represented by the Irish Greyhound or Wolfdog—as that it is the source of that fine breed, as Buffon supposes. Few, we believe, of the old Irish Greyhound exist."

From the very interesting book entitled "Anecdotes of Dogs," by E. Jesse, published 1846, the following is gleaned:—"A certain degree of romance attaches to the Irish Wolfdog, but so contradictory are the accounts handed down that it is difficult to do justice to him."

"The dog flourished at the time of early kings of Ireland, and, with harp and shamrock, is regarded as one of the national emblems of the country."

"A gentleman of ancient family (whose name it is unnecessary to mention, from his having been engaged in the troubles which agitated Ireland about forty years ago) went into a coffee-room at Dublin during that period, accompanied by a noble Wolfdog, supposed to be one of the last of the

breed. There was only one other gentleman in the room, whom seeing, the dog, went up to him, and he began to notice him. His owner, in considerable alarm, begged him to desist, as the dog was fierce and never would let a stranger touch him. The gentleman resumed his seat, when the dog came to him and showed signs of the greatest pleasure at being noticed, and allowed himself to be fondled. His owner could not disguise his astonishment. 'You are the only person,' he said, 'whom that dog would ever allow to touch him without showing resentment. May I beg the favour of your name?'—mentioning his own at the same time. The stranger announced it: he was the last of his race—one of the most noble and ancient in Ireland, and descended from one of its kings. 'I do not wonder,' said the owner of the dog, 'at the homage the animal has paid you. He recognises in you the descendant of one of our most ancient races of gentlemen, to whom this breed of dog almost exclusively belonged, and the peculiar instinct he possesses has now been shown in a manner which cannot be mistaken by me, who am so well acquainted with the ferocity this dog has hitherto shown to all strangers.'"

? 1812 1812 In a poem written by Mrs Catherine Phillips, about 1812, the character of the Irish Wolfhound is well portrayed, and proves the estimation in which he was held.

"Behold this creature's form and state;
Him nature surely did create
That to the world might be exprest
What mien there can be in a beast.
More nobleness of form and mind
Than in the lion we can find;
Yea, this heroic beast doth seem
In majesty to rival him.
Yet he vouchsafes to men to show
His service and submission too.
And here we a distinction have:
That brute is fierce—the dog is brave;
He hath himself so well subdued
That hunger cannot make him rude;