

belonged to the famous Hamilton Rowan; but of this I am not certain. As wolves disappeared in Ireland the dogs gradually fell away also. They were expensive to keep, and from the fifteenth century the diet of the people gradually changed from being almost exclusively animal to being purely vegetable. Thus there was no food to preserve the size and power of the dogs. The race of red deer also became extinct, except in the mountains of Kerry, where a few wandered; but under the care of Lord Kenmare and Mr. Herbert, and their successors, have developed into noble breeds without a cross. Thus there was no inducement to extenuate the old powerful dog into the swifter but sparer Deerhound, and the few specimens that remained preserved the original characteristics; while in Scotland the cause that preserved the race from extinction tended to change its qualities and older heroic proportions into the modern Deerhound."

"My idea was that by selection, avoiding in-breeding, and proper feeding the old characteristics might in some generations be somewhat recovered. The colours were dark brindle, bluish-grey, and fawn. The bitch was usually lower, and therefore looked stouter than the dog; indeed, she was so in proportion. Distemper was my great difficulty; but the wider cross got over this much better than the close breed, as might be expected. They were stouter than Deerhounds. They are affectionate dogs rather than intelligent; but I had one which was more remarkable for character than any dog I ever saw. He had a kind of moral force among other dogs that made them yield to him without fighting, though stronger in appearance. He cared for nobody but me, though others fed him more frequently, and his attachment was very extraordinary. His hair would bristle over his back towards the head when he was angry, and he would walk quietly up to his enemy's face, whether dog or man, with a determination that neither could face."

Two of these dogs were given to a lady who resided in the Isle of Wight. The writer has their photographs. The dog is stouter and wider in head than any Deerhound; but they have a strong look of that dog. Mr. Baker's breed would appear to have been larger dogs than either of the other strains. The bitch that came to the writer stood twenty-eight inches, and some of the dogs were said to stand thirty-one and thirty-two inches, very powerful animals, and thoroughly rough.

Lord Derby, grandfather of the present lord, bred Irish Wolfhounds of evidently much the same character as the strains just alluded to. One of them is thus described by a gentleman who often saw her, and to whom was given one of her puppies by a Deerhound dog:—"She was a dark brindle brown, the coat of long wiry hair, the build heavier and head more massive than that of the Deerhound, the hair on the head thicker and lying flatter than that of the Deerhound, ears rather larger than those of a Deerhound, though lying close to the head." This dog was bred about thirty years ago.

From her some very large dogs were bred by a Deerhound; some of the descendants were nearly black. A very fine female of this breed was owned by a Mr. Lascelles many years ago. A gentleman who often saw her said to the writer:—"You have quite converted me respecting the Irish Wolfhound being a rough-coated dog. The one I mentioned to you, which belonging to Mr. Lascelles, had—and which he always said was one of the last of the pure breed—certainly come quite up to your description. She was very large for a female, and of very noble appearance. She always lived in the drawing-room, and was always rather dangerous to strangers. Mr. Lascelles never would breed from her, as he could not meet with a male worthy of such a mate."

A dog was bred from the Ballytobin bitch above alluded to, before she came into the possession of the writer, by a