

**DOG STORIES FROM THE "SPECTATOR":
BEING ANECDOTES OF THE
INTELLIGENCE, REASONING POWER,
AFFECTION AND SYMPATHY OF DOGS,
SELECTED FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE
COLUMNS OF "THE SPECTATOR"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649564187

Dog Stories from The "Spectator": Being Anecdotes of the Intelligence, Reasoning Power, Affection and Sympathy of Dogs, Selected from the Correspondence Columns Of "The Spectator" by Various

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VARIOUS

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DOG STORIES

FROM THE "SPECTATOR"

[not the 18th C. periodical]

BEING ANECDOTES OF THE INTELLIGENCE, REASON-
ING POWER, AFFECTION AND SYMPATHY OF
DOGS, SELECTED FROM THE CORRESPON-
DENCE COLUMNS OF "THE SPECTATOR"

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

J. ST. LOE STRACHEY

NEW YORK: MACMILLAN AND CO.
MDCCCXCV

16446.37



"Sir, to leave things out of a book,
merely because people tell you they
will not be believed, is meanness."
(Dr. Johnson.)

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CONTENTS.

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| INTRODUCTION | 7 |
| SYLLOGISTIC DOGS | 15 |
| THE REASONING POWER OF DOGS | 49 |
| EMOTION AND SENTIMENT IN DOGS | 99 |
| DOGS AND THE ARTS | 119 |
| DOG FRIENDSHIPS | 131 |
| CURIOUS HABITS OF DOGS | 155 |
| THE SENSE OF HUMOUR AND CUNNING IN DOGS | 165 |
| USEFUL DOGS | 177 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 193 |

INTRODUCTION.



I.

THE following Dog Stories are taken from the pages of the *Spectator*, with the permission of the editors and proprietors. It was suggested to me by Mr. Fisher Unwin that the many strange and pleasant stories of dogs which from time to time are sent to the *Spectator* by its correspondents would, if put together, form a volume of no little entertainment for all who love dogs, or are interested in stories of animal intelligence. Up till now the *Spectator* dog stories, after the week of their publication, have practically been inaccessible to the general reader ; for he is a bold man who will attack a bound volume of a newspaper in search of amusement. Though I at once agreed that the suggested

book would be a very readable one, and likely to please dog-lovers all the world over, I did not, till the selection was nearly made, realise how much the stories gain by being grouped together. A single story of a clever dog may amuse, but it is liable to be put aside as an accident, a coincidence, a purely exceptional circumstance which proves nothing. If, however, instead of a single story we have half a dozen illustrating the same form of intelligence, the value of the evidence is enormously increased, and a collection of dog stories may become of very great value in determining such questions as the power of dogs to act on reason as well as on instinct, or their ability to understand human language. The solution of these problems is, I cannot help thinking, materially advanced by the stories in the present book. Take, again, the group of stories which I have labelled Purchasing Dogs. One sample of this kind might, as I have noted above, be put off as a case of imperfect observation, or as a curious coincidence; but when we

get a whole group of stories it becomes very difficult to doubt that dogs may learn the first principles of the science of exchange. The Italian dog (page 59) which did the narrator a service by fetching him cigars, demanded payment in the shape of a penny, and then used that penny by exchanging it for a loaf, was far advanced in the practice of Political Economy. He not only understood and acted on an implied contract, but realised the great fact at the back of the currency. "What are guineas," said Horne Tooke, "but tickets for sheep and oxen!" The Italian dog did not, like a savage, say, "What is the use of copper to me, I cannot eat it?" Instead, he perceived that the piece of copper was a ticket for bread. It should be noted too that this dog, the dog called Hardy (page 57) and others, were able to distinguish between the pieces of copper given them. Again, the Glasgow story (page 53) shows that a dog can learn to realise that a halfpenny will buy not merely one thing but several things—in fact, that the great advantage of