

AMERICAN SETTER "LARK." (FROM A STUDY BY J. M. TRACY; BY PERMISSION OF C. KLACKNER.)

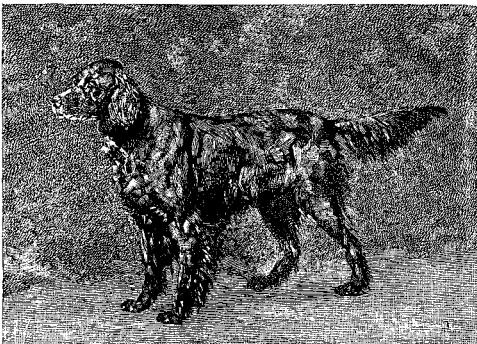
a series of tricks; it consists rather in developing such natural qualities as it is desirable to preserve, and in eradicating or checking those that are undesirable. Many good and bad characteristics are inherited alike, and they assert themselves without regard to their usefulness; these the trainer must mold to suit his taste. Sometimes certain desirable qualities lie dormant, but the trainer must rouse them. In addition to those qualities which are fashioned from the instincts, certain accomplishments must be taught, but they must be so blended with those which are the outgrowth of special inheritance, that the dog shall not only know what he is required

to do, and how to do it, but that when properly done he as well as the sportsman will be pleased. Thus proper performance becomes simply an expression of his new nature.

C. B. Whitford.

THE GORDON SETTER.

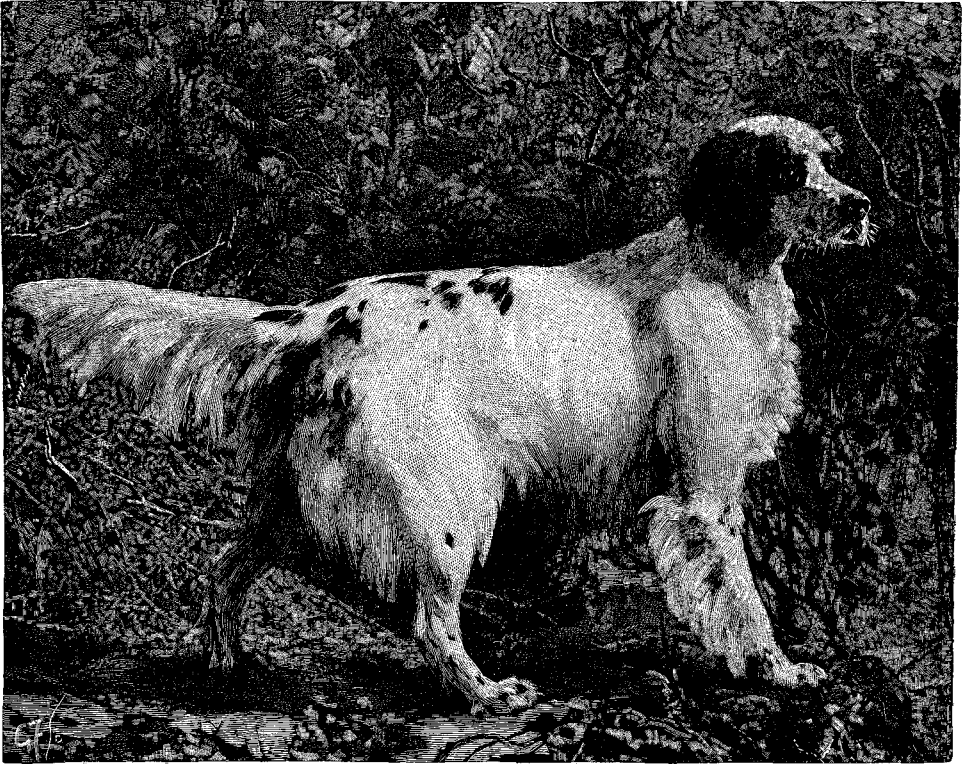
THE origin of the Gordon setter is obscure. He first became prominent as a field-dog eighty-five years ago, or more, at the castle of the Duke of Gordon, from whom he derives his name. But for this nobleman we should probably never have known nor perpetuated this *ne plus ultra* of setters. The color of the Gordon setter, as seen at Gordon Castle, was undoubtedly black-and-tan, and black, white, and tan. Many of the best-bred dogs throw in their litters pups with white toes — one or two — and frills. A litter without some white is rare. Many black-and-tan setters we see have not a drop of Gordon blood in their veins; nevertheless they are erroneously given the name of this famous strain. A pure Gordon can be told by a well-authenticated pedigree. To quote from a well-recognized authority, the Gordon setter should trace back to "Duke of Gordon's 'Regent,' old 'Bang,' old 'Dan,' or to Mr.



GORDON SETTER "GROUSE." (FROM A STUDY BY J. M. TRACY.)

Coke's 'Fan,' for the latter [Mr. Coke] and the Duke bred from the same stock. This is ample warrant for purity of lineage." In many respects the Gordon should resemble the English setter. The head of the former, however, should be a shade heavier and wider; nose moderately long and wide; no fullness under the eyes; nose should be wide and large in the openings, end of the nose to be a good black; ears, longer than those of the English setter, must be set low and lie close to the cheeks. The eyes must be full of animation,

sportsman. The coat should be soft, flat, and straight, not so long as that of the English setter, in color a rich plum-black, and very glossy. The tan markings should be a rich sienna, and should show on lips, cheeks, throat, over the eyes, under side of ear, on fore-legs nearly to the elbows, on the hind-legs to the stifles, and on under side of flag, but not running into his long hair. The Gordon setter should not stand at the shoulder higher than twenty-four, or twenty-four and a half, inches. I prefer even under the former size for



AMERICAN SETTER "GROUSEALE." (FROM A PAINTING BY J. M. TRACY; BY PERMISSION OF C. KLACKNER.)

of a rich color, between brown and gold; the neck must be clean and racy. He should have deep, sloping shoulder-blades, a narrow deep chest with racy front. Beware of stooping hind-quarters; they show weakness and want of pace; they must be as strong as or stronger than the fore-quarters. He should have moderately well-bent stifles. I prefer a cat-foot, well filled in with hair between the pads. The stern should be carried very nearly straight. The flag should be shorter than that of the English setter, of graceful form; flat and scanty, tapering to nothing at the end. The Gordon setter should display much character. His outline must be good and taking at a glance to the eye of the

my shooting. In weight he should not exceed forty-five or fifty-five pounds. I prefer one rather under than over forty-five. Nothing is gained by breeding him up to the immense size seen at the bench shows. Such dogs as I describe will be with you afield for a week, with all the hard work you can give them. The Gordon setter is of the most affectionate disposition, easy to teach, of excellent memory, as steady at his work in the early autumn as at the last of the season. In natural qualities I know of no setter or pointer surpassing him. When well broken he is the pride of his master. I have bred, broken, and shot over this breed in all parts of America, on snipe, woodcock, prairie-chicken, and the best of them all—the

quail. After many years of hard hunting I know whereof I speak. In nose, endurance, stanchness, obedience, and speed—I have tried all—I know of none better. At work he is naturally a high-headed dog, seeking for the body-scent. When the weather is such as to require it, he is able to take the foot-scent as well. His instinct leads him to know where to look for game, without racing over every foot of ground, as is the habit of many other breeds of setters. He does his work in a business-like manner, not as if he were racing here and tearing there in quest of the spirit of some departed bird. Such a Gordon setter is rarely seen at the shows; but many such are owned by prominent sportsmen in this country, who, like myself, keep them for their own shooting, and care naught for public exhibitions.

Harry Malcolm.

THE AMERICAN SETTER.

WHILE a fondness for the dog has always characterized our people, a kind of odium attached to dog-fanciers until a few years ago. The austere Puritan of New England, stern in the practice as well as the precepts of his religion, forswore even the most innocent amusements. No hunting was permitted for the simple pleasure it afforded. As a help to a lean larder the chase might be indulged in, but the moment it became a thing of pleasure or enjoyment, that instant it was to be discouraged. If perchance a man allowed his love for dog and gun to overcome the repressive ideas of his earlier training, he became as it were a "cast-off," a good-for-nothing "ne'er-do-well," to whom was ascribed a repugnance to honest labor in order to account for the vagabondage of his desires.

As population grew, the native New Englander migrated to other States, and carried with him all the peculiar convictions and beliefs in which he had been reared. Chief among them was the dislike, I may even say hatred, with which he regarded field sports and the time wasted in their pursuit; and the feeling, though misplaced, was at least an honest one. It served for years, however, to cast an aspersion upon those who loved the sports of the field, and who found intense enjoyment in following a well-trained hunting dog, whether setter or pointer. Under such a state of public feeling, the history of the setter of this country is, at best, but little better than a remembrance.

It is true, a few families of setter blood have been carefully bred, and by judicious crossing and selection have obtained somewhat of notoriety; but these representatives have been

few in number—scarce a half dozen; and probably not two of this half dozen can give a recorded family history of a quarter of a century. Among the best known breeders I would refer to Theo. Morford of Newton, William Grummon of Lyons Farms, and Justus von Lengerke of Hoboken, all in New Jersey; the Harrises of Providence, R. I., the late Paul Mead of Brooklyn, N. Y., E. H. Lathrop of Springfield, Mass., and Samuel Scranton, of Rhode Island.

Despite the repression I have mentioned, the love of hunting always existed and importations of good dogs were continually being made from the older countries. As a matter of course, the chief source from which these importations came was England. Communication with the different seaports of Great Britain was slow, but easy, through the different lines of packet-ships. Although travel was then difficult, it was much indulged in; and if the travelers happened to be fond of dog and gun, or had left friends at home who were, it followed as a natural sequence that a brace of setters was the most acceptable thing that could be brought back either as a remembrance of the trip or as a gift to those at home. Owing to the reasons I have spoken of, this constant refreshing of our setter blood was but little heard of beyond those directly interested. Upon arrival this blood was crossed upon what was now by acclimation native blood, and the result was a few familiar families of natives which soon stood preëminent in the sportsmen's world. Probably the best known and most widely heralded of all these dogs was the brace of black-and-tans presented to Daniel Webster by Lord Ashburton, and which were well known to all visitors at Marshfield. These dogs passed afterward into the possession of that most genial of New Yorkers, the late N. B. Blunt, and from them came some of the best setters of our vicinity.

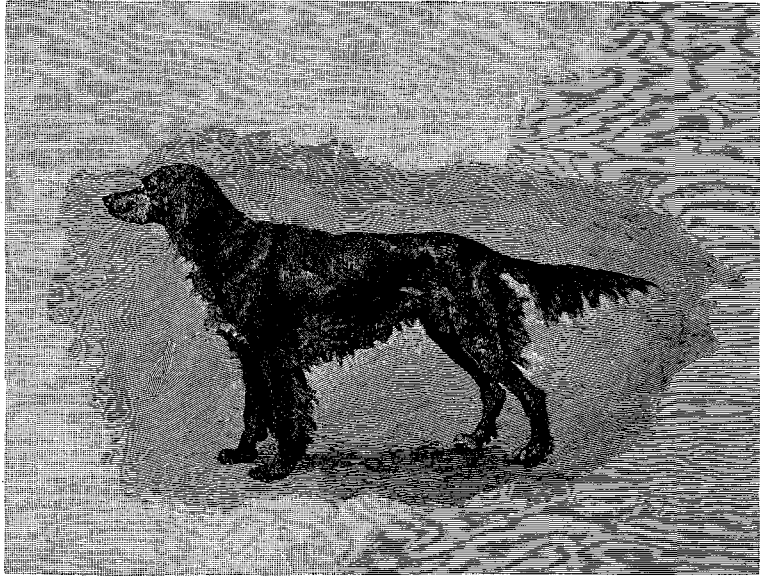
The late N. C. Harris, of Providence, Rhode Island, captain of one of our finest packet-ships plying between New York and Liverpool, seldom made a trip without bringing home one or more dogs of undoubted worth. Coming of a family the members of which were ardently devoted to field sports, with the means and leisure to gratify the taste, no wonder the desire was followed to the full. Those I name are but a few among the many, and are mentioned merely to impress the fact that good dogs have been a favorite importation for many years, although that importation was but tame and insignificant in comparison with the number of good, bad, and indifferent, in the last decade.

The natural outcome of this continued

crossing was the breeding of many magnificent field-dogs, that achieved but little more than local renown, since there were in those days no journals willing to herald the achievements of a hunting dog.

Chief among the great setters of the day

that preserves its characteristics better when transported to other countries. An Irish setter is an Irish setter the world over, and for speed, endurance, pluck, intelligence, and nose has no superior. He is ever ready for his work, free and open-hearted in his ways, and



IRISH SETTER "LOU." (FROM A STUDY BY J. M. TRACY.)

is Grousedale (see illustration, page 118). In his veins the tides of native and foreign blood meet. He is from Waters's Grouse, and Daisy Dale, and is a little over the medium size; in color orange and white, the latter color predominating. In shape Grousedale is about all that can be desired, his every action denoting speed and power. His head is a pleasant one, while his eyes, dark and lustrous, show the wonderful intelligence for which the animal is noted. He first became well known to sportsmen at the inaugural meeting of the Eastern Field Trials Club, at Robins Island, Peconic Bay, December, 1879. His numerous victories since that time are a matter of record. I doubt if a better field-dog has ever been seen in this country, or a better broken and more intelligent setter.

Jacob Pentz.

THE IRISH SETTER.

THE Irish setter is without doubt one of the oldest of the setter breeds, and a descendant of the brown or liver-colored setting spaniel of four centuries ago.

He has been zealously guarded in certain Irish families for generations, and there is today no breed with stronger characteristics, or

has the faculty of adapting himself to every climate and all kinds of game, while his rich-colored coat and affectionate nature make him a pleasing companion when not required in the field. He is free from lumber, but has plenty of bone and muscle, and that energy which is his greatest fault in the minds of some, who seem to forget that without it there is never superiority. He stands a little higher than either the English or the Gordon setter, and is very bloodlike in appearance. His head is long, lean, narrow, high over the forehead and prominent at the occiput; the muzzle of good length, the lips deep, but not heavy like the hound's.

His ears, set low and lightly feathered, extend nearly to the nose, which may be a dark flesh in color, though a dark brown is preferable. His eyes, a hazel or deep brown, are soft and gentle in expression.

His neck is long, lean, clearly defined where it joins the head, and set well into a pair of sloping shoulders; the elbows well let down, the front legs straight, the feet firm and well clothed with hair to protect the soles. His chest is deep, loin arched and powerful; his stifles are well bent, and thighs broad and muscular. His hips are rather ragged, but they denote great power. His tail is nearly straight, gayly carried, and provided with a comb-like