

stated to have been superior in size to the others, so if the argument was of any real worth, we can only gather from it that the dogs would have ranged from 31 to 34 inches in height, which is probable enough.

From the general tenour of the accounts we have of this dog's dimensions and appearance, it is certainly to be gathered that he was of considerably greater stature than any known race of dogs now existing, and apparently more than equal to the destruction of a wolf.

It is an incontestable fact that the domestic dog, when used for the pursuit of ferocious animals, should be larger and apparently more powerful than his quarry if he is expected to take and overcome him single-handed, as the fierce nature, roving habits, and food of the wild animal render him more than a match for his domesticated enemy, if of only equal size and stature. We know that the Russian Wolfhounds (certainly very soft-hearted dogs), though equal in stature to the wolf, will not attack him single-handed—and wisely too, for they would certainly be worsted in the combat. The Irish Wolfdog, being used for both the capture and despatch of the wolf, would necessarily have been of Greyhound conformation, besides being of enormous power. When caught, a heavy dog, such as a Mastiff, would be equal to the destruction of a wolf, but to obtain a dog with Greyhound speed and the strength of the Mastiff, it stands to reason that his stature should considerably exceed that of the Mastiff—one of our tallest as well as most powerful breeds. The usual height of the Mastiff is thirty inches; and, arguing as above, we may reasonably conclude that to obtain the requisite combination of speed and power, a height of at least thirty-three inches would have been reached, though we are told by several writers that he exceeded that height considerably, as will have been seen. The subject of the Irish Wolfhound was revived in the New York paper called the *Country* about March, 1878, and some interesting facts were related by a lady of the

name of Fremont regarding two dogs of this breed that had been imported to Fort Snelling—as a present to a Mr. Sibley—from England about 1838. They appear to have been of a brindle colour, and were much larger and heavier than the Deerhound, while equally quick in their motions; the coat described as short-haired. Others have been seen at intervals in the United States.

In a subsequent article on the same subject in the New York *Country* it is written:—"It is absurd to give as a reason for the indifference and apathy through which such a breed has been allowed to die out or its perpetuity to be endangered, that in the extermination of his particular foe—the wolf—his occupation was gone. A noble animal of this character should never have been permitted to waste away while curs of the lowest degree are petted and pampered and carefully provided for. In this country particularly the Irish Wolfdog could be made of special service. Here he would find in the chase and extermination of the wolf a wide field for his prowess and courage. On the western bounds of civilisation he would be invaluable for the purpose of hunting, his keen sight and scent rendering him superior to many breeds now in use, and as a companion and friend of man his fidelity and devotion have never been called in question. All the testimony which comes down to us agrees as to his sagacity, courage, strength, speed, and size, although in this last point we perceive there is a difference of opinion. Even allowing that he attained a height of from thirty-two to thirty-five inches, he is taller than any breed now living, although the early accounts published of him state he was from three to four feet high."

It has been suggested by a gentleman well known as a great fancier of dogs that the dog in use in Spain for taking wolves is identical with the old Irish Wolfdog; but the specimen brought over from Spain by him would at once undeceive us, as he is, to all appearance, a Great Dane of light stamp—possibly crossed with the Wolfdog of the Pyrenees.