

It is much to be deplored that this superb and valuable breed of dog has been allowed to fall into such a neglected and degenerate state, presumably owing to the fact of the wolf having become extinct, and consequent less care on the part of the owners in keeping the breed up to its proper form.

Although several writers have incorrectly confounded the Great Dane with the Irish Wolfhound, yet it is probable that the two breeds were not infrequently crossed; indeed, it is possible that in foreign countries the Irish Wolfhound may have degenerated into the Great Dane and other varieties, as it has into the Deerhound with us. That such was the case Buffon does more than suggest. Major Garnier, who gave the subject considerable attention at one time, rather holds to this opinion, and says "that whilst the Highland Deerhound is the most correct type, the German Boarhound has best retained the size, though at the expense of character."

These facts may possibly have influenced erroneously the opinions of some of the naturalists of the latter end of the last century, and will also account for the fact of Lord Altamont's dogs having been put forward as Irish Wolfhounds, which they certainly were not. *that is not certain as the other were just the*

The last wolf was supposed to have been killed in Ireland about 1710. Sir Walter Scott was in the habit of calling his dog "Maida" a Wolfhound, and on the death of that dog he was presented by Glengarry and Cluny MacPherson with a brace of dogs of the same character, and said:—"There is no occupation for them, as there is only one wolf near, and that is confined in a menagerie." They were both animals of gigantic size. Scott was also offered a fine Irish Wolfdog by Miss Edgeworth, but declined it, having the others.

Richardson says:—"Though I have separated the Irish Wolfdog from the Highland Deerhound and the Scottish Greyhound, I have only done so partly in conformity with

general opinion, that I have yet to correct, and partly because these dogs, though originally identical, are now unquestionably distinct in many particulars."

The former Earls of Caledon at one time owned a breed of Irish Wolfhounds, regarding which the present peer has obligingly collected the following particulars:—"The dog was in appearance between a Mastiff and Deerhound; slighter and more active than the one, more massive and stronger than the other; as tall or taller than the tallest Deerhound; rough but not long-coated; fawn, grizzly, and dun in colour: some old men on the property have mentioned a mixture of white."

It is believed that the late Lord Caledon took two of these Wolfdogs with him to the backwoods of America.

The impression of a seal belonging to the Caledon family has on it the figure of a Wolfhound which shows the tail carried with a curve upwards, as depicted in Reinagle's portrait.

A breed was also owned by the Lords O'Neil, also by Lord Castletown; but no information regarding them has been obtained, although a friend of the writer was presented, many years ago, with a bitch of the former breed which answered very much to the description given above of Lord Caledon's dogs.

The late Sir John Power, of Kilfane, Thomastown (whose dogs will be alluded to presently), was a personal friend of the writer, and knew Richardson well, and has many times affirmed that Richardson always considered the Irish Wolfhound to have been a gigantic Deerhound of enormous power.

In a very interesting letter from an American gentleman, written to a gentleman residing in England, published in the *Live Stock Journal* some months ago, he says:—"I have felt an interest in the subject for over fifty years. My father often spoke of Lord Sligo's (Altamont's) breed of dogs, and doubted their being the genuine Irish Wolfdog.