SPANIEL—*continued*

Master of Game	*Boke of St. Albans*
Raches or running-hounds.	Grehownd.
Greyhounds.	Bastard.
Alaunts.	Mengrell.
Spayniels.	Mastyfe.
Mastiff.	Lemor.
Kennettes.	Spanyell.
Herrieres.	Rachys.
Limers.	Kenettys.
(The three last-named are mentioned in the course of the book, but not treated as separate breeds by M. of G.)	Teroures, Bocheris houndes and Myddyngdogges Tryndeltayles and Prikeherid curris and small ladies popis.

That no mention is made of Spaniels in subsequent works is scarcely correct, as in the most important book on hounds that appeared in the following century, spaniels are very particularly mentioned (Dr. Caius, *De Canibus Brittanicus*). Between the Boke of St. Albans (1486) and the latter, published 1570, very little was written, at any rate in England, on sport or hounds, but we know that hawking was universal, and it is scarcely likely, that the spaniel should enjoy a popularity in France for two centuries, and no specimens of this breed find their way to our shores where all novelties were greatly prized. In France spaniels were mentioned in legislation as early as the 13th century, when St. Louis (1226–1270) granted to the burghers of La Ferté-Milon the right of hunting with greyhounds and spaniels, stick in hand, but without arms, in the forest of Villers-Cotterets (*de chasser au lèvrier et à l'épagneul, la baguette à la main.* Noir. ii. p 18.

There was such continual communication between France and England in the 14th and 15th centuries that it would have been indeed strange if this most useful dog for the then favourite and universal sport of hawking had not been brought to England long before the Duke of York's time. And what were, we may well ask, the "gentle hounds for the hawk" of which he speaks in his Prologue (p. 3) if not spaniels?

Even if spaniels had not been known in England before the second half of the 14th century they would have become widely used there about that time through the many French prisoners of high rank that were obliged to make England their temporary home. This was more particularly the case after the battle of Poitiers (1356) when King John of France, his brave young son Philip the Bold, and their sporting chaplain Gace de la Buigne (*see* p. 228) passed their time hawking while prisoners. Louis of Orleans was there, too, owner of a celebrated breed of spaniels, the name of his favourite, Doucet, having come down to posterity. The Count of Tancarville, as celebrated a falconer as he was hunter, was also one of the great French nobles that shared the King's captivity after the battle of Poitiers, while Agincourt sent a fresh batch of prisoners to the shores of England. Among these latter was the famous Charles of Orleans, who endured captivity for just a quarter of a century (1415–1440), until he was ransomed for 300,000 crowns by Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy. Could a man as fond of hawking as was Charles of Orleans resist talking on his favourite topic as he rode, under the escort of Robert Waterton (sometime Master of the King's Hart Hounds) from the castle of Windsor to the castle of Pomfret (June 1417) where he was to be placed under the guardianship of Lord Bedford? It would be the one neutral topic between the Royal prisoner and his gaoler, and it is even possible that he had his favourite spaniels with him, although we do not know for certain whether it was before or after his release that he came into possession of *Briquet* and *Baude*, the offspring of his father's famous breed, in whose praise he composed, among a great number of poems, two rondeaux.[1]

"Près là, Briquet aux pendantes oreilles
Tu scez que c'est de deduit de gibier,
Au derrenier tu auras ton loyer.
Et puis sera viande pour corneilles.
Tu ne fais pas miracles mais merveilles
Et as aide pour te bien enseigner;
Près là, Briquet aux pendantes oreilles,
Tu scez que c'est de deduit de gibier.
A toute heure diligemment traveilles,
Et en chasse vaulx autant qu'un limier,
Tu amaines, au tiltre de levrier,
Toutes bestes, et noires et vermeilles,
Près là, Briquet, aux pendantes oreilles."

(Charles d'Orleans, ed: d'Héricault, vol. ii. p. 102.)

When Briquet was old and could hunt no longer Charles wrote another graceful little epitaph in his honour (ii. p. 257):

"Laissez Baude buisonner
Le vieil Briquet se repose,
Desormais travailler n'ose,
Abayer, ne mot sonner.
On lui doit bien pardonner
Ung vieillart peut pou de chose.
Laissez Baude buisonner,
Le vieil Briquet se repose."

Then, more than a hundred years later, we have Turbervile, who, though like the Duke of York borrowed his information from foreign sources, sings the praise of the spaniel in the rhymes of his own making in his book on Falconry.

". . . . I need not blush or deeme it my disgrace
If hawkes and spanels I prefere and set in highest place. . . . .
Of spanels first I meane to speake, for they begin the glee,
Who being once uncoupled, when they feele their collers free,

[1] Charles was the grandson of Charles v. of France, and was born May 26, 1391. The heavy ransom was, it is said, paid by Philip of Burgundy as an atonement for the murder of Charles's father by Philip's father, though this murder had been previously avenged by the murder of John Duke of Burgundy in 1419. Charles was twice married previous to his captivity, first to Isabel, widow of Richard II. of England (1406). Many of his poems were composed both in French and English (G. W. Taylor, Roxburgh Club, 1827).

SPANIEL—*continued*

In roysting wise about they range, with cheerefull chappes to ground,
To see where in the champion may some lurking fowle be found
A sport to view them stirre their sternes, in hunting too and fro,
And to behold how nature doth her power in Spanels show."

(Prologue, Book of Falconrie.)

"How necessary a thing a Spaniell is to Falconrie and for those that use that pastime, keeping hawks for their pleasure and recreation, I deem no man doubteth as wel to spring and retrive a fowle being flowen to the marke, as also divers other wayes to assist and ayde falcons and Goshawkes. . . . I shall not doe amiss, nor wander over wide from my purpose, if I say somewhat of Spaniels, without the which a Falconer (specially using to flee the field) cannot be without mayme of his pastime, and impayre of his gallant glee" (pp. 362–363).

Better than the doggerel rhymes of Turbervile are the more finished verses of Arcussia, also belonging to the end of the 16th century. He had black spaniels and writes that his greatest joy was to see them at work helping his falcons.

SPAY. The usual meaning of this word (castrating females) given in all dictionaries is clearly inapplicable on this occasion (p. 98), where it undoubtedly means killing a stag with a sword, probably derived from the Italian *spada*. When the velvet was once off the antlers the stag at bay was usually despatched with the bow, for it was then dangerous to approach him close enough to do so with the sword. When achieved by bold hunters, as it occasionally was, it was accounted a feat of skill and courage.

STABLES. O. F. *establie*, a garrison, a station. Huntsmen and kennelmen with hounds in leash, whose duty it was to take up a post or stand assigned to them during the chase, were called stables. We have *Stabilitiones venationis* that are mentioned in Domesday (i. fol. 56b and fol. 252). In Ellis's introduction to Domesday he says: "*Stabilitio* meant stalling the deer. To drive the Deer and other Game from all quarters to the centre of a gradually contracted circle where they were compelled to stand, was *stabilitio*." Malmesbury, Scriptores, post Bedam, edit. 1596, p. 44, speaking of the mildness of Edward the Confessor's temper, says, "*Dum quadam vice venatum isset, et agrestis quidam Stabulata illa, quibus in casses cervi urgentur, confudisset, ille sua nobili percitus ira, per Deum, inquit, et matrem ejus tantundem tibi nocebo, si potero*" (Ellis, i. 112).

We see, however, at a later date from Twici and M. of Game that the watchers or stables they allude to were stationary—and did not drive the game as described in above.

These stations of huntsmen and hounds were placed at intervals round the quarter of the forest to be driven or hunted in with hounds to move the game, so that the hounds could be slipped at any game escaping; sometimes they were to make a noise, and thus blench or head the game back. In French such a chase was called a *Chasse à titre* (Lav. xxviii.), the word *titre* meaning net or tape, but in this case used figuratively. When the space of country which one wished to hunt over was decided upon, an imaginary circle was drawn round it and men placed on the boundaries at intervals with hunting-horns; their duty was, by sounding these, to head the deer back into the enclosure, so that it was obliged to circle within the allotted space until at last it arrived at the place where the greyhounds were posted who seldom failed to bring it to bay. This hunting is described by G. de F. (pp. 176–177). It may often have been necessary for him to place such stables when the deer were likely to take to some of the impracticable mountainous districts in his country or to run into that of his neighbours, the Seigneurs of Armagnac and d'Albret with whom he had constant feuds. The word *titre* came to mean later on the place where a relay of hounds was posted. Our M. of G. evidently placed these stations to keep the game within the boundaries so as to force it to pass the stand of the King. Twici describes these stations of huntsman using the word *establie*. "The bounds are those which are set up of archers, and of greyhounds (*lefrers et de establie*) and watchers, and on that account I have blown one moot and recheated on the hounds. You hunter, do you wish to follow the chase? Yes, if that beast should be one that is hunted up (*enquillee*), or chased I will follow it. If so it should happen that the hounds should be gone out of bounds then I wish to blow a moot and stroke after my hounds to have them back" (Twici, p. 6).

It was the duty of certain tenants to attend the King's hunts and act as part of the stable. In Hereford one person went from each house to the stand or station in the wood at the time of the survey (Gen. Introduction Domesday Ellis i. 195). From Shrewsbury the principal burgesses who had horses attended the King when he went hunting, and the sheriff sent thirty-six men on foot to the deerstand while the King remained there.

Stable-stand was the place where these *stables* were posted or "set," and the word was also used to denote the place where archers were posted to shoot at driven game. Such stands were raised platforms in some drive or on some boundary of the forest, sometimes erected between the branches of a tree, so that the sportsman could be well hidden. A good and also original woodcut of what was probably intended to represent a "stand" is in the first edition of Turbervile's "Arte of Venerie" representing Queen Elizabeth receiving her huntsman's report, but the illustration is not suitable to the subject, as this chapter does not describe the shooting of driven game from a stand, but on staghunting. Perhaps the earliest representation of a stable-stand is that given in the miniatures which decorate the pages of the various Roy Modus MSS. in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris (*see* Bibliography).