

Let us find out the cause of the trouble, and to be perfectly fair we will ask the dogs themselves. So one day when they are assembled we put the question: Why do you not bark as usual? They all look very glum for a few moments, and no one seems inclined to answer. But, being pressed for a reply, one of them rather sulkily answers that a certain dog amongst them has been barking in such a manner as greatly displeased all the others, and that therefore they had gradually ceased barking altogether.

We press for a more definite reply, and want to know what it is that makes the one dog's barking disagreeable. Well, it is answered, he does not bark like the rest of us. We had great peace and quietness in our meetings until this dog began to bark in this new tone of voice, and with such a different meaning, and from that day we have been in trouble, and we are even afraid he will break up our meetings altogether, which will be a great pity, for barking used to make us feel so good, we could even shed tears in our meetings at times, and some would even lie down on the floor and roll for joy.

Our curiosity is so much aroused that we determine to sift this matter to the bottom, and find out *exactly* how this strange dog barks.

So, on pressing for a still more definite answer, we are told that "The head and front of this dog's offending is this, viz.: He has indicated to us by very animated and apparently joyous barking that he has learned just how to please his master every day, every hour of the day; yea, and he even has the presumption to say every moment of the hour.

We enquire whether this is not the whole business and duty of an orthodox dog, and are answered in the affirmative.

We ask why all dogs do not do this simple plain duty, and get no very definite answer, save that they have tried and failed, and that therefore they suppose all others must fail to the end of time.

We are not yet satisfied, and enquire if any of the dogs present know by what means this one professes to have found ability to please his master.

A number of them answer at once

that he professes to succeed by the very simple method of obeying his master's voice at all times, and that only—never suffering himself to obey any other voice, no matter how loud and commanding it may be.

It seems clear to us that this method ought to succeed, and we so express ourselves, but for some unaccountable reason the dogs do not agree with us.

We enquire whether dogs are not supposed to know the voice of their master, and they are compelled to admit that the poorest kind of a dog should know that much. That even a silly sheep knows the voice of the shepherd.

We ask whether their master ever asks them to do anything which they are not able to perform, and they are compelled to admit again that the master has never been known to do such a thing.

We further enquire whether any of them can prove this offending dog guilty of displeasing his master since he made this high profession. They answer that they cannot.

We then suggest, that seeing this dog must be either right or wrong, they had better be consistent in their treatment of him. If he is wrong in his barking, there is all the greater reason why they should bark in a proper manner, so that the erring one may be set right, and if he is right they should make all haste to follow his example.

In any case we insist that whilst they can prove nothing against the character of the supposed offender, he should be treated in a kind brotherly way by them all, seeing it would be a very serious offence to injure one who *might* be pleasing his master, even though he was only a little dog.

But they all declared they could not do that; that, on the contrary, they had decided in this matter to follow the example of the greatest *bull* dog in the world (perhaps because some of his decisions were called bulls), and fasten an opprobrious name upon the unlucky dog who dared to bark differently from themselves. They would call him A HERETIC.

We ask whether calling harsh names is likely to reclaim the (supposed) erring one, and are told that they do not do it