

nearly three times the length for height. If any of the advocates for this style of dog thinks he has one that will hunt for two hours in Woodcock cover during the fine September days without giving out, I am prepared to put up, (— — — — —) that he cannot win under one of our present judges at any of our shows.

My object in writing is not to run down any ones dog nor to crack up my own, for I have none worth speaking of, but to get the opinion of the Spaniel fanciers, if the present style of Cocker is not deteriorating the breed, and reducing them to a small Field Spaniel, if so, why should we not make the prizes at our shows for Field Spaniels under 28 lbs. and over 28, and give up the Cocker classes, as I have not seen a dog that has taken a prize lately except Mr. Nelles' Brant that has the Cocker qualities, and even he, to my mind, is on the long side. By the way, Ottis Fellows has a good little dog in Silk, which might be taken as a model except in coat. Let the Spaniel men speak.

Yours truly,

J. S. NIVEN.

London, April 17, 1889.

## *Editor Kennel Gazette:—*

As an amateur breeder of Setters and Cocker Spaniel dogs which I have been keeping for the last twenty-five years, for my own personal use, for Snipe, Wood Cock and Partridge shooting, I give you my experience of our true English Cocker Spaniel in comparison to the cut you gave us of Moonstone in your February number, you at the same time ask for the views of fanciers, but I think the opinion of a keen sportsman would also be acceptable. I refer now to Moonstone, the rage at present is trying to introduce something new in dogs and poultry, etc., and destroying the beauty, symmetry

and usefulness of our pure bred Cocker Spaniel seems to have led to the destruction of their usefulness, and the good qualities required in a good sporting dog, such as the Cocker, for our rough woods where the Partridge and Wood Cock are to be found. No better Cocker Spaniel can be found than the old English Spaniel, they are of various colors, and are intelligent, good water dogs, quick, lively and very active, and as hardy as a seal in cold water. Where would Moonstone be in our tangled briars and rough brakes and glades of which our sporting grounds abound, with his short turnspit legs and long back and his belly trailing on the ground, he would not be a fit dog for our forests. Again as a retriever of game in the marshes where are tangled ledges and grass all matted and twisted, with his short legs he would be useless. The Clumber Spaniel has gone out from these faults, his short legs and long body and weight made him too laggy, and impossible for him to beat round stumps and trees lively, and gay and spry as our pure bred Cocker can do. Again, his short legs and long body are anything but beautiful and useful. Give me our thorough-bred Cockers by all means for sport, beauty and usefulness before these new crosses continually growing up composed of Turnspit, Clumber and Daschunde.

Our Sussex Cocker Spaniel is of various colors, liver and white, red, red and white, black and white, and all such colors, there is also a good Cocker called the Marlborough kept by the Duke of Marlborough, all red and white.

CHAS. HUGHES,

Montreal.

March 28, 1889.

## TO MR. CHARLESWORTH.

## *Editor Kennel Gazette:—*

In the February issue of the KENNEL GAZETTE you referred to Black Graff

as probably the sire of more prize winning Cockers than any other stud dog in Canada. We had not intended to notice your statement, presuming you were only a novice in the fancy, and had been imposed on by the owner of the dog in question. However, in your last issue, Mr. Charlesworth assumes all responsibility in the matter, but drags a herring across the trail by offering to exhibit six of the get of Black Graff, at the first bench show. We fail to see what this has to do with the assertion first made. We claim that our Obo, Jr., A.K.R. 1481, has sired more winners than any other Cocker in Canada, not excepting Black Graff. If Mr. C. does not think so, all that he has to do is to name the amount he is willing to wager, and deposit a forfeit with the proprietor of the GAZETTE, when we will endeavor to enlighten him.

RIDEAU KENNELS,

492 Besserer St.,

Ottawa.

22nd April, 1889.

## CANINE SMUGGLERS.

A Carbineer of the Customs at Condè sur l'Escant Département du Nord, says a Spanish contemporary, fired at and killed a dog of enormous size, as it was crossing the Belgian frontier, in the act of smuggling cigars into French territory. The cigars were concealed in a very ingenious manner. The body of the dog, from the haunches to the breast, was closely shorn, whilst in the other parts the hair was left to grow its natural length. The bare space was covered with a sort of leather cuirass covered with wool, resembling the rest of the dog's hair in color and general appearance, and containing several hundred cigars.

The smugglers of this district are admirably assisted in their nefarious trade by the sagacity and endurance of four-footed accomplices, on the training of which the utmost care is bestowed. Thus, for instance, to inspire