

# THE WOLVES AND THE DOGS.

A Fable for the Wise  
By C. VALENTINE

**I** DON'T remember whether Aesop told the fable of the pack of wolves and the ten dogs. The great Aesop being a Negro, it is quite possible that he did tell it. Any how I am going to tell it in my own way.

Once upon a time there lived among a large pack of wolves and dogs whose ancestors had been captured and taken to the forest by the ancestors of the wolves. These ten dogs were first used as slaves to some of the wolves. Later on in a war between those wolves who had dogs and those who had none and were therefore in favor of giving the dogs free choice in the matter of masters the dogs were freed. However, they were more than ever hated by the wolves, who at every opportunity set up discriminations and barriers in the way of their progress toward dog happiness. They were constantly made to understand that they were "just dogs" and not "free wolves." Only at certain times was this not so.

Whenever the wolves were at war with a neighboring pack or with some other denizens of the forest, they told the dogs that they—the dogs—were really "free wolves" and should defend the freedom of the wolves, that the country was the country of all and that it was not true as had been stated in times of peace that the country was the country of wolves and not of the dogs. And the dogs believed and fell for the gab. Then would they join the wolves in prating of "our glorious country" and the wolves would condescend to speak of us and our's, the while they sent forth the dogs to do battle with the enemy. Then was the war won and the dogs would return mangled and torn, but expecting to receive the gratitude and love of the wolves and then, then, would the dogs be told that they were 'just dogs' and returned to their former position in the country of the wolves.

This was repeated many times. The credulous dogs would always fall for the gaff and the "noble wolves" would always see to it that the dogs did not remain "free wolves" after the war was over but that they were returned to their former degraded position where in the dogs had no rights the wolves were bound to respect.

This was repeated many many times. So often, in fact, that some of the dogs began to see the light and there was talk of the dogs staying dogs all the time and not bothering to take the transition into "free wolves" in time of danger to the wolves. The most enlightened among the dogs advised that they should go to the dogs' country and help their kin there instead of staying to build up the country of the wolves and protect it in times of danger. These were at first barked down, but as "truth struck to the earth will rise again," the dogs could not quite get out of their minds this good advice.

Finally, a great, great war came about. The forest was in conflagration with the hat-

reds of the animals. The wild pigs declared they and they only would dominate the forest, that they were the only fit, the veritable chosen of the good god, Animalisus, and the pigs gathered together a huge army of snouters to turn the trick. They fell upon everything and everyone and no one was left unmolested. The wolves were finally drawn into the maelstrom and loud and fervent were their howls for the dogs to arise and repel the enemy. Now, some of the leaders of the dogs advised that the dogs should not go to fight as willingly as in the old wars, but should strike a bargain with the wolves that would safeguard in the future, their rights in the country of the wolves. But there were among the dogs some that were paid of the wolves and these dilated upon the need for continued loyalty to the wolves as, finally, they said, the wolves would out of the goodness of their wolfish hearts reward the dogs for their servile loyalty. These paid tools of the wolves calmly ignored the fact that the wolves had never rewarded the dogs for what they had done in the past. They shouted "Close Ranks! Close Ranks!" and "Bury your Grievances!" as they themselves buried in a safe place the price they had received. And so the dogs again fell for the Gaff and went forth to be mangled and torn, that the wolves might live on in security. At this instance of juvenile credulity the wolves sat back on their haunches and snickered and helped the enemy to kill and maim the dogs. This they did by refusing the dog nurses permission to go to nurse their warriors and by instructing the monkies, whom the wolves used as their artillerymen, not to give the usual barrage of coco-nuts when only the dogs went forth against the foe. But in spite of everything the dogs drove all before them and were the first to enter into the country of the enemy. And the dogs at home seeing these things, grew restless and dissatisfied and they sent word to their warriors that there would be a little fighting to do when they returned and that this fighting would be in their own cause instead of for the wolves. At this the wolves got to trembling and the paid tricksters threw a fit of denunciation of the "radical spirit." The wolves said that something must be done to curb that spirit, so they picked out the most ignorant and servile among the dogs and sent it to talk with the warriors of the dogs. It went forth, as instructed and in the company of one of the most dog-hatingest of the wolves, and it told the dog warriors that they must be "modest and unassuming" upon their return to the country of the wolves.

In the meantime, among those wolves who had remained behind in safety while the dogs went forth to fight their battles were formed Ku Klux Klans and other organizations to attend to the 'reconstruction task' of keeping the dogs in their place. These took a delight in terrorizing the females and little puppies of the dogs, and in attacking and kill-

ing any of the returned dog warriors that they came upon alone.

Then was there a great awakening among the dogs and heap much barking. Or was there an awakening? And one arose who said that the dogs should have a country of their own in which they would have the equal protection of the laws, which laws moreover would be made by dogs to suit the need and spirit of the dogs, and where opportunities would be open to all and not closed to the 'dogs simply 'because they were dogs, and where, too, little puppies could be taught to bark and dig in dog-style and not in the manner of wolves, which manner, he said, was not suited to dogs. Moreover, he said, this teaching should instruct dogs of the noble history of their breed and so make them proud to be what they were. "Then, too," he said "the dogs would fight—since fight they must in this world—for themselves, their females and their young and not for the ungrateful wolves." But was he listened to?

Well, are dogs wiser than men? And did men listen to Christ?

338

## Foreign Notes

The natives of West Africa have made such a howl against the proposed Criminal Code, that the British government has withdrawn it.

Word comes from France to the effect that the Moroccans, Algerians, Senegalese and Madagascarans, are going back home and tell their people that the white man's civilization is a bluff and that they should prepare to govern themselves.

The natives of British Guiana and West Africa are appealing to the American Negro to interest himself in commerce to the end of connecting up with them in the way of trade.

Mr. Daniel Headley, of British Guiana, is on his way to London to close a mining deal with an English company. The sum of four hundred thousand dollars is involved.

The West African Merchants Association held a big meeting recently for the purpose of outlining plans to the end of finding new markets for their products.

A Captain of the Elder Dempster Steamship Lines is in New York in interest of several African Merchants who wish to trade with the United States.

As soon as Liberia secures her loan, she will begin actively to develop her trade relations with Americans. Before the war about 90 per cent of her trade was with Germans.

The head of the Brazilian delegation to the Peace Conference is of African descent.



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