

sically, he is worthless. He cannot hunt; he refuses to consider the important subject of rats, and his tail utterly refuses to respond to the misplaced affection which is lavished upon him. No man was ever made better and purer by the companionship of a Spitz. No man ever found in him the least true consolation and sympathy. He is misanthropic, malicious, and useless; and if we can truly judge a man by the dogs with whom he associates, the keeper of a Spitz is deficient in those qualities which secure the respect and love of high-toned and intelligent dogs. The public has only to be fully convinced of the dangerous character of this unattractive brute to insist upon his immediate and thorough extermination.

The facts as to the monopoly of *rabies* in which the Spitz in this climate indulges are within the reach of all. They should be made the basis of an act of the Legislature, directing the immediate slaughter of every Spitz dog in the State, and punishing, by a heavy fine, the importation of a Spitz from any other State or country. The few misguided persons who are the accomplices of this noxious beast cannot have their perverted tastes gratified at the cost of the safety of the whole community. The Spitz and the rattlesnake deserve nothing but extermination, and when the former has completely disappeared and his place has been taken by dogs full of sweetness, light, and gifted with calm, well-balanced minds, we shall hear no more of hydrophobia, and shall have no pretext for the annual St. Bartholomew dog massacre which disgraces our City every Summer.

A VENOMOUS BEAST.

There are but four venomous beasts among the *fauna* of the United States. These are the rattlesnake, the copperhead, the moccasin, and the Spitz dog, and of the four, the latter is by far the most aggressive and deadly in its hostility to man.

About a year ago THE TIMES called attention to the fact that the Spitz dog is peculiarly subject to *rabies*. It was generally known that the Spitz is ill-tempered and treacherous, but the animal's exceptional proclivity to going mad and distributing hydrophobia throughout the circle of his acquaintance had escaped the notice of naturalists. Since then every case of hydrophobia which has occurred in this City or its vicinity has resulted from the bite of a Spitz dog; and of the deaths from hydrophobia in this City alone, during the last three years, there were only two which cannot be ascribed with certainty to the all-biting Spitz. If we compare the number of reported deaths resulting during the same period of time in every part of the Union, from snake-bites, it will be found that the Spitz has slain more victims than the rattlesnake, the copperhead, and the moccasin combined.

These facts justify us in deciding without any hesitation that *rabies* in this latitude originates, in nearly all cases, in the Spitz dog. Of course, he may bite other dogs, and thus tempt them to madness, but it is safe to say that if there had been no Spitz dogs in New-York during the last three years, there would have been at the furthest not more than two cases of hydrophobia. We have about every variety of dog among our canine population; but while neither the terriers, the hunting dogs, or even the miscellaneous street curs have shown any disposition to go mad, the Spitz dogs have devoted themselves with startling energy to the work of thinning out the human race by inoculating it with hydrophobia.

Were any of our citizens to insist upon keeping pet rattlesnakes, and permitting them to run at large in the streets, the law would soon convince them of the propriety of weaning their affections from creeping things and setting them upon less dangerous pets. But the law, with what is now seen to be a glaring inconsistency, allows every man to keep a Spitz, although the bite of the latter is far more dangerous than that of the former. A rattlesnake's bite can be cured by saturating the system with whisky, but there is no cure for the bite of a rabid Spitz. The ward politician has, in this respect, an advantage over the Son of Temperance. When the fatal Spitz strikes him with his fangs, there is no remedy which can save them from a horrible death.

It is understood that the Spitz attempts to defend his conduct by asserting that he is an Arctic dog, and that our warm climate exasperates him to madness. There is this much to be said in his behalf, that he did not voluntarily immigrate to this country. Twenty years ago he was a fashionable dog, and no carriage was held to be complete which was not furnished with a Spitz dog, snarling on the front seat. In those days hydrophobia was almost unknown, but as soon as the Spitz had multiplied himself, so as to be common and worthless, hydrophobia assumed its present terrible frequency. If we had left the brute in the Arctic regions, either he would not have gone mad, or else he would have confined himself to biting the casual Esquimaux, or the infrequent Arctic explorer. Now, that he is here, the public is all before him where to bite, and he improves the opportunity by biting every eligible leg, without distinction of sex, color, or previous condition. Not only does he thus inflict an appalling amount of misery upon mankind, but he indirectly injures the character of other dogs of hitherto unsullied reputation. In the eyes of many people, who have not the privilege of an intimate acquaintance with respectable dogs, a Spitz does not differ from any other dog, and instead of perceiving that the Spitz alone is addicted to *rabies*, they assume that all dogs are equally dangerous. Thus, the hardy Scotch terrier, who is imbued with the sternest Calvinistic principles, and who would as soon adopt Sabellianism, and bark at a bust of JOHN KNOX, as go mad and bite his master, is actually classed with the degraded and wicked Spitz, and the whole dog creation is made to suffer for the sins of a single reprobate family.

There are not wanting signs that the private cup of the Spitz is nearly full. Intrinsic