

the respectable dogs persevered in doing their whole duty as law-abiding dogs, the City authorities were criminally negligent in punishing the law-breakers. No official dog-catchers were appointed, and not an unlicensed dog was arrested. At first it was said that Mr. BERGH was endeavoring to ascertain in what way unlicensed dogs would prefer to be killed, and that the authorities were awaiting his report. Of course, a kind-hearted, unsuspecting gentleman like Mr. BERGH was no match for unscrupulous and impudent street dogs. No matter whether he offered them suffocation by carbonic acid gas, drowning by water, or general distribution through the atmosphere by dynamite, they drooped their hypocritical tails, and asserted that they could not, with any self-respect consent to be put to death in any such way. Mr. BERGH was far too delicate to urge upon the dogs any proposal which they had rejected, and he is still believed to be devising some method of capital punishment which they will accept as completely satisfactory. Meanwhile, no action has been taken by the authorities, and if they intend to wait until Mr. BERGH comes to some agreement with the dogs, none will be taken.

The result of this criminal delay is now painfully apparent. The lawless dogs, grown confident by prolonged immunity, are bolder than ever. Men, women, and children are waylaid and bitten in open day, and in our chief thoroughfares. Even street puppies of tender years attack the legs of small boys with a premature viciousness which is in the highest degree revolting. The licensed dogs, finding that the only apparent result of the license ordinance has been to induce them to submit to the annoyance of dragging human beings with them wherever they go, have gradually dropped those inconvenient appendages, and now walk the streets alone. Thus the law is brought into universal contempt, and the conviction has become general among dogs of all classes that men may be capable of passing judicious laws, but that they are totally unfit to execute them.

This state of things cannot be permitted. Our City Government long ago fell into utter contempt among intelligent men, but it must not be allowed to incur the contempt of dogs. The ordinance must be enforced, if only in order to show the Spitz that he is not more powerful than the City Government, and to assure the respectable dogs that this law-abiding spirit is thoroughly appreciated. There can be no difficulty in securing the requisite number of dog-catchers among the politicians who have been disappointed in the application for foreign diplomatic appointments, and there can no longer be any excuse for waiting for Mr. BERGH to bring forward a plan for killing dogs in a way that will completely meet their views. It is not very long since an eminent murderer—Mr. JACK REYNOLDS—was hanged because he had defiantly expressed the opinion that “hanging was played out.” The Spitz openly expresses the same view as to dog-killing, and bites whom and where he will without the slightest fear of punishment. Shall we hang the estimable murderer and let the unspeakable Spitz go free? Unless we are ready to do this we must act with promptness, and exterminate every unlicensed dog.

THE DOG LAW.

Several weeks ago our City authorities came to the conclusion that the promiscuous biting of the public by mad dogs was an undesirable thing. They thereupon passed an ordinance in the nature of a license law. This ordinance provided that no dog should be permitted to ply his trade in the streets of New-York unless he was accompanied by a human being connected with the dog's collar by a stout string, and unless he took out a license to bite upon the narrow premises included within the length of the string. All unlicensed dogs and all dogs not provided with human beings and connecting strings were to be arrested by official dog-catchers and punished with death.

As soon as this ordinance was published the law-abiding dogs hastened to comply with its provisions. The leading dogs of the City set the example with commendable promptness, and the large and respectable middle-class of dogs, including such well-known families as the setters, pointers, and terriers, were not slow to follow it. Their licenses, neatly engraved upon nickel-plated cards and attached to their collars, were worn with evident pride, and in most cases they displayed a fair amount of good taste in the selection of the human beings whom they employed to accompany them in public. They carefully abstained from illegal biting, and seemed perfectly satisfied with such legs as came upon their lawful premises, together with the family legs to be found at their respective residences. This admirable behavior was the more creditable since it met with the sneers and rude opposition of the vicious and degraded dogs. The loathsome Spitz made it a point to openly insult licensed dogs wherever he met them, and the less depraved but even more ignorant yellow dog was always ready to mob the wearer of a nickel license card. While the licensed dogs themselves never condescended to explain of the insults to which they were exposed, they resented in a proper manner any open violence. It is, however, difficult for the ablest dog to destroy a muscular Spitz when he himself has a human being in charge. Thus it happened that when a licensed dog was attacked by a canine ruffian, the accompanying human being usually became inextricably entangled with his string, fell on both dogs, and was bitten until his trousers resembled a dissected map of the Turkish Empire. This led to a general reluctance on the part of men to hire themselves out as canine companions, and the licensed dogs soon found it difficult to provide themselves with human beings whenever they appeared upon the street.

While, in spite of these discouragements,