

CATTLE EXPORT TRAFFIC AT MONTREAL.

This constantly increasing trade is conducted most admirably in the chief city of Canada. It is under the supervision of Dr. McEachran, Veterinary Surgeon, who is a salaried Dominion Government official. He (or his deputy) inspects all cattle before they are put on board the ocean steamers, and sees that suitable accommodation is provided on these vessels for the animals.

The latter are brought alongside of the vessels by the Grand Trunk Railway Co. That company provides food, water and rest for the cattle at a sufficient number of points between the place whence they were originally put on the cars and Montreal. It is conceded on this continent that no railway company carries on the transport of cattle more satisfactorily in every respect than the line referred to just now.

As regards the accommodation for cattle on ocean steamers which sail from Montreal, it is also satisfactory. The Secretary of the Massachusetts S. P. C. A., who visited Montreal recently, told the society's officers there that that port was much ahead of Boston in this respect. A very great deal of credit, for this state of things, is due to Dr. McEachran, who has been the *honorary* Veterinary Surgeon of the Humane Society in Montreal since its inception. He is endeavoring now to induce the Dominion Government or Harbor Commissioners to acquire cattle yards and sheds fronting on wharves at the lower end of the harbor. Then, vessels having taken on board all their cargo except cattle at the upper end, would stop below, pick up the animals, and proceed seawards. The cattle would go on board in first-rate condition. If Dr. McEachran can effect what he wishes in this connection the arrangements for the shipment of cattle at Montreal will be unsurpassed anywhere. F M.

SUPREME COURT—Judge Ritchie in charging the Grand Jury in Halifax referred to the diabolical case of malicious cruelty to animals that would be brought before them, and expressed the hope that the guilty parties might be brought to justice. To cut the ears off four horses and to fire several shots into each of them was, he thought, too brutal a treatment to even contemplate in this enlightened age.

THE DYING SOLDIER'S ROLL-CALL.

A soldier lay on his dying couch during our last war, and they heard him say, "Here!" They asked him what he wanted, and he put up his hand and said, "Hush! they are calling the Roll of Heaven, and I am answering to my name;" and presently he whispered "Here!"—and he was gone.—H. W. BEECHER.

WANTED.—A smart active young man or woman as canvasser for this JOURNAL. Also a collector for the Society. Good terms to a suitable person with first-class recommendations. Apply in writing to the Secretary, John Naylor, 134 Hollis Street, Halifax, N. S.

CORRESPONDENCE

OUR HOUSEHOLD PETS.

To the Secretary of the S. P. C. A. Journal:

SIR,—I must strongly demure to the statement that the cat is a "stupid creature, evil-tempered and entirely devoid of affection." No doubt, others will be more able and willing to contradict such a mistaken idea, but I cannot forbear giving at least one instance in refutation of it. I have a cat—I hope I may still have, although it has been lost or stolen for four or five days—which will fetch and carry small articles thrown a little distance from it; and, contrary to a prevalent impression about cats it is exceedingly fond of water. After being indulged for a little while in fetching and carrying, say a bit of wood or a button, if there happens to be a dish of water standing by, Darkey will stop in its course, go up to the dish, drop in the button, shake it out again with its paw, convey it to his mouth up the side of the dish, and then bring it back to the sender. This is not the only cat which I have known to fetch and carry, although it is more unusual to find one so little averse to water. It can easily be understood that this trick is learnt simply as an amusement, and not as a matter of discipline, as in the case of a spaniel or retriever. I quite agree that the temperaments of animals are as variable as those of human beings. In the case of my cat there is hardly any doubt but that it inherited its love of water from its mother, which had a similar liking for it. So much for the stupidity of the cat. As to the evil temper, I will just say that the only irritable tempered cat I think I ever had was one which I obtained when it was advanced in years; but even its disposition was greatly modified by kindness.

Yours, etc.,

FELIX.

To the Secretary of the S. P. C. A. Journal:

SIR,—Can you inform me what the Ladies' Auxiliary is doing; and when and where do they hold their meetings? The Ladies did well when they fell into line, and better when they began their work by obtaining over \$300 to aid the Parent Society by their splendidly managed and successful garden party. But I trust that their interest will not stop here. They must be up and doing, for surely there is enough work for all. Now that the Society publishes the JOURNAL, they will be able through its columns to ventilate their side of the question, and begin the work of education. Have the schools been visited; have the clergy been spoken to on the subject of preaching sermons on kindness to animals; and have any tracts been circulated with the same object? I trust that in the next number of our JOURNAL, I may see some report of their doings.

A PARENT.

[We believe that the ladies are doing a good work every day, although unknown to most people. We often hear of cases where members of the Ladies' Auxiliary have interfered successfully for the protection of animals subjected to abuse. One lady especially is a wholesome terror to persons guilty of cruelty in her neighborhood, or whatever part of the city she may be in. We refer our correspondent to the article, "Prevention is Better than Cure," by a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary. We trust that before our next issue the ladies may have a good meeting, and that they will make use of these columns as suggested.—SEC'Y.]

To the Secretary of the S. P. C. A. Journal:

WALLERTON, Ontario, Sept. 23rd, 1879.

SIR,—When crossing from St. John, N. B., to the city of Portland, in the the State of Maine, U. S., in the Steamer "New York," on the 18th ult., the subject of the *Dutch Yoke*, as used by the farmers in the region of Chester, Nova Scotia, in working their oxen, was brought before a number of the passengers by two American gentlemen who were just then returning from a visit to that section of the country. They described the system as one of absolute cruelty to the animals, and a palpable violation of all physiological law; and a very intelligent New York farmer, of English birth, who had seen the system in use in Mexico, concurred in this opinion. These gentlemen expressed their surprise and indignation to no measured terms,—surprise that such cruelty towards dumb brutes of such proverbial docility and usefulness to man could exist in any civilized country,—and indignation at the toleration and perpetration, in Canada, of such a system of cruelty and torture. From the description of the system as given by these gentlemen, for I have never seen animals so yoked or worked myself, there can be no doubt that, in addition to its cruelty and barbarity, it involves a complete violation of natural law as regards the regulation of force and the hauling power of the ox; and the extreme cruelty of the system is further illustrated by the fact that when yoked after this system the head of the animal is so braced and fastened up that it cannot move its head either up or down or sideways, and that its body is so bound up that it cannot brush off a tormenting fly with its tail, and that the animals require and receive the constant application of the *good* to make them draw.

Having, while sojourning at Cow Bay this summer, observed notices in the Halifax papers of meetings of your Society, and being naturally jealous of the good name of our Dominion I suggested to the gentlemen in question that if they so desired, I would, as soon after my arrival home as possible, bring the matter through you under the notice of your Society. This they made me promise to do, and also to report to them results, should your Society take action in the premises or otherwise. They suggested that your Society should institute a thorough investigation of the system of the *Dutch Yoke*, in which case they said they doubted not your Society would arrive at the same conclusions they did, and further would very probably find from the very great tenacity with which the people who use that system seem to cling to it and defend it, that legislation may be necessary for its abolition.

Believing that all this is within the aim, scope and jurisdiction of your Society, and trusting that this and every other usage and custom that unnecessarily inflicts pain and suffering upon the inferior creation may feel the power and effectually experience the influence of that humane desire, intelligence and determination, to do good, embraced in the ranks, and involved in the objects of your Society.

I am, sir, with much respect,
Your obedient servant,

W. G.

[We invite correspondence on this subject.—SEC'Y.]