



EDUCATION IN HUMANITY.

BY FRANCES POWER COBBE.

KINDNESS, or, more properly speaking, justice to animals has hitherto been taught far too much as if it were a sort of accomplishment, or finishing ornament of education. It has been treated as a superegatory virtue which may be dispensed with on occasion without incurring any serious condemnation, albeit its possession adds grace to the character—like a taste for flowers or pictures. All teaching of this kind is as futile as if we were to instruct our children not to steal because it is unbecoming to a gentleman to pick pockets, or not to drink to excess because drunkenness is undignified.

I am at a loss to know what human action constitutes a moral offence and is sinful, if it be not an offence and sinful to torture a sentient and innocent creature for our own or other's benefit. Nay, I am at a loss to imagine any offence or sin which more directly appeals to the justice of the great Lord of all for retribution.