

A SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

We are often asked if we do not undertake the protection of children from abuse. In reply, we may say that we have often done so, although it is no part of the work for which we were organized. In cases where there is no one to look after them, we have done so; but from the limited means placed at the disposal of the Society we are only able to attend to extreme instances. Are there not some gentlemen who would associate themselves for this work? It is very much required in Halifax, and cases are seen daily where such a society could exert influences for good.

Nothing appeals so forcibly to the sensibilities of the humane as injustice or cruelty inflicted upon those who are incapable of defence. It is the unanimous verdict of jurists, that no crime is more deserving of swift and righteous judgment than cruelty toward very young children, whose innocence and utter defencelessness constitute their surest protection, except in the minds of the most depraved. The entire helplessness of a child exposed to such abuse is most piteous. It has been ushered into a world of whose ways it knows nothing; it has no voice that can penetrate other ears than those within its home; no consciousness of the existence of kind hearted and sympathetic persons, and no power to do anything but suffer. Help may be within its reach; but it does not know the fact, and so it submits, in blind, enduring agony, to the misery which crushes and consumes its life.

The man who thus persecutes a child is a monster. The innocence and purity which charm other persons, and which were declared to be the model upon which the most perfect character should be formed, have no influence upon such a man; he perceives only the weakness which makes tyranny easy and safe, and so he fills with terror and despair the years that should be full of joy and gayety.

It would be the specialty of such an organization to step in and place a "shield between the hard hand and its helpless victim," and put the offender, when the circumstances warrant such a procedure, within the custody of the proper officers of the law. It would be the province of such a Society—to receive and carefully investigate cases of cruelty or neglect of children, that may come to the notice of any of our citizens. Laws already exist for the protection of children, but the police force is necessarily occupied with the gravest and most obvious cases of crime. No friendly or powerful hand is especially delegated to rescue these little ones from lives of misery and danger, place them under the shield of the law, and when natural protection has failed or has been transformed with brutality, to bring them, by order of the Court, under the merciful care of some infants or orphan home, or other sanctuary provided for the desolate and oppressed. It would be no part of its duty to interfere between parent and child, guardian and ward, master and apprentice; but only when relations of authority and of trust have been grossly violated, to make that appeal to Courts of law, which the subjects of its compassion are too young and helpless to make for themselves. This field of labor is, in many respects, a peculiar and delicate one. While its officers should faithfully undertake the investigation of any

charge of cruelty against children, it would be equally their duty to sift the evidence, to see before giving the charge the slightest publicity, that no malice lurked therein that might work harm to any person whatsoever. Surely a creature created in God's own image is as worthy of the care and attention of mankind as is the brittle creation.

S. P. C. A. INFORMATION.

We want this JOURNAL circulated throughout the length and breadth of the Province. Who will assist us by getting subscribers and members to the Society? Remember that this is not published as a commercial undertaking, but that we may be "all of one mind, having compassion one of another: love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous."

RAILWAY CONDUCTORS AGENTS.—By the kind permission of D. Pottinger, T. J. Lynsky and P. Innes, Esquires, all conductors on the Intercolonial, Western Counties, and Windsor and Annapolis Railways have been appointed agents of this Society. This will embrace the whole Province of Nova Scotia. Our agents have power to interfere in any case of cruelty that may come under their notice, and if necessary, to give into custody any person offending against the laws. In cases where it may seem desirable they will communicate by telegraph with the Secretary at Halifax, who will immediately respond. Agents will shortly (if not already in receipt of them) receive full instructions as to their duties, and may depend upon being warmly and firmly supported by the Society in any action that they may take for the proper carrying out of its objects. Members of the Parent Society and branches are requested to give all authorized agents assistance in carrying on the work, and farmers and the general public are kindly asked to remember the following, which we published last month:

Tying the Legs of Animals.—It cannot be too widely known that tying the legs of any animal or fowl is contrary law. The "Cruelty to Animals Act" says: "Whosoever beats, binds, illtreats, abuses or tortures" any animal, shall be liable to certain punishments.

Injuring Animals that Stray on to one's Property.—Until recently it was thought that the owner of land had a right to shoot, maim, or abuse an animal that was trespassing thereupon. Cutting, wounding, shooting, or injuring cattle is a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the Penitentiary, for not less than two years, nor more than fourteen. It does not matter whether the fence is good, bad, or indifferent. Trespassing animals should be impounded or an action brought for damages against the owner.

Cattle and Sheep together in Curs.—It is illegal to put cattle and sheep in cars together without a partition separating them.

Cattle and Sheep in Box Cars.—It is illegal and cruel to put sheep and cattle in box cars. The practice will be stopped. The fact that the doors are left a short distance open is not sufficient. This simply creates a current across the car. Let anyone get into either end of such a car when loaded with cattle and they will very soon get out again if not overcome by the impure air.

HOUSING CATTLE.—Farmers and others would do well to look to their winter quarters for cattle. Wintering well goes far towards summering. Warmth saves food. Failing to provide proper food and shelter is an offence against the law. Several persons were fined last winter for keeping animals in unfit places and for starving by withholding food.

NEW BRANCHES.—Truro and Kentville have formed branches of the S. P. C. A., reports of which are given in another column.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—We return thanks for "*The Humane Appeal*" published by the Ohio State S. P. C. A., "*Our Dumb Animals*" from the Boston Society, and "*The Animal World*" from the Royal Society of England. We have also received the annual report of the Newburgh, and Georgia, U. S., Societies.

FOUND GUILTY.—At the sitting of the Supreme Court, at Kentville on Monday, the 20th Oct., Walter Scott, of Avonport, King's County, was found guilty of cruelly and maliciously cutting and maiming a young heifer. The jury recommended him to mercy on account of his old age. He was prosecuted by the S. P. C. A. His conviction should prove a warning to others.

SUPREME COURT, HALIFAX, 24TH OCT.—In the case of the Queen vs. Isaac Sallis, Crawford Wallace and Lawrence Phillips, for malicious cruelty to animals, the jury retired at ten minutes to five, and returned into Court at a quarter past eight last evening. On the foreman stating to the Chief Justice that the jury could not agree, and that there was no probability of their doing so, His Lordship expressed himself to the following effect: "You are the third jury at this term in Halifax that has not had the courage to return a verdict in the face of ample evidence. You are discharged."

THE FUTURE OF THE CANADIAN CATTLE TRADE.—There is likely to be an immense business done in the cattle export trade next year. There is no appearance of the restriction which England has placed on the importation of American cattle being removed, and we now learn that that restriction may possibly be extended to sheep as well. The veterinary surgeon in charge of the Levis cattle quarantine, says the Montreal Star, is of opinion that the cattle trade next year will exceed that of all previous ones, and cattle exporters in Montreal and Toronto are said to entertain a similar opinion. The exportation of horses, too, is on the increase, while we see by the telegrams that "an enterprising dry goods firm in Quebec has commenced exporting potatoes to Europe." Then we notice that the Great Eastern is to be employed in the cattle trade between America and England; and all the indications point to these new branches of our export trade as rapidly increasing.

ST. JOHN, N. B., AND CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I., are constantly asking for the formation of a S. P. C. A. Why does not some one take the lead? We shall be pleased to give any assistance or information for the formation of such a Society.