

"Oh, yes, they were in ecstasies over him. They preferred him to all their toys. They used to examine him from nose to tail, and when he was not about they played dog with each other."

"Did they seem to understand him?"

"Well, I do not know much about puppies, but those children seem to have known just how that puppy felt, if I may judge by their talk."

"Well, wife, surely you do not want our children to grow up utterly ignorant of all animal life."

"Oh, they can amuse themselves with toy dogs, horses, and such like."

"Wife, listen while I read you this which I clipped from a paper the other evening. I do not know who wrote it, but I do know that it is true, and as I sat thinking over my own boyhood when you were long fast asleep the other night I read this and resolved to discuss the matter seriously with you. 'Where will you find a man always grateful, always affectionate, never selfish, pushing the abnegation of self to the utmost limits of possibility, forgetful of injuries, and mindful only of benefits received? Seek him not; it would be a useless task; but take the first dog you meet, and from the moment he adopts you as his master, you will find in him all these qualities. He will love you without calculation. His greatest happiness will be to be near you; and should you be reduced to beg your bread, not only will he aid you, but he will not abandon you to follow a king to his palace. Your friends may quit you in misfortune, but your dog will remain; he will die at your feet; or, if you depart before him on the great voyage will accompany you to your last abode.'"

After reading this they both sat silent for some