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EDUCATE THE CHILDREN.

One great object in our Society is the education of the children of our City and Province into a habitual attitude of kindness to the lower orders of creation. If, as we frequently find, the perpetration of cruel acts to helpless animals by persons who have attained to years of maturity are the results of thoughtlessness, much more is it so in children who, unless educated, do not seem to understand that animals can possibly suffer pain.

Few school boys have any conception of the torture experienced by a fly whose wings or legs have been thoughtlessly torn off in mere wantonness, or by a beetle or butterfly pinned against a desk or wall. Did they know that if a member of their own bodies was torn off or a sword run through them the agony would only equal that of the poor insect, they would have a better appreciation of the terrible suffering endured by their hapless victim.

The writer now remembers with a shudder the many boyish acts of cruelty done in childhood. Not that we were more cruel or more thoughtless than hundreds of other school boys, but as everybody's sins sooner or later surely find them out, our sins of commission now stand out vividly before the memory.

It is not often that the punishment for hideous acts come as swiftly to the perpetrator as it did in the case of the boy who impaled a live frog and who died within a few hours with the sight of the frog's eyes fairly eating out his life, but who can think of the drumming on the sculpin or the notching of the tail of the perch, both of which can almost daily be seen on our wharves, without a sigh of regret at having done the same in early days? So the stoning of frogs in a pond, the pelting or maiming of cats and dogs, and many other thoughtless acts of boyhood, are apt to embitter the memories of the considerate man in after life.

A great responsibility rests on parents and those responsible for the up-bringing of children with regard to these matters. Boys and girls at school and in the household should be carefully taught that the Great Creator has endowed the lower animals with feeling, and sensibility to pains and suffering, and that any acts of cruelty against any of God's creatures must be hateful to Him and deserving of that punishment which sooner or later overtakes all who transgress His laws.

On the other hand our children could be imbued early with the idea of shewing kindness not only to their friends and playmates but also even to the worms that crawl beneath their feet. One of the loveliest sights on earth is to see children acting with thoughtful consideration and attention to birds and animals. How much better is it to see little ruddy-faced girls and boys feeding the swans and ducks in the ponds of our peerless Public Garden than to see the rude gamins pelting them with stones.

Then let every parent and school teacher who reads this paper endeavor as opportunity offers to inculcate to the children of our country lessons of thoughtfulness and kindness to all of God's creatures, no matter how useless

they may seem to us, and in every way to impress upon rising generations the hatefulness of acting with cruelty to anything which by the fiat of the Great Creator has an equal right with ourselves to immunity from all unnecessary pain or suffering.

"IT'S ONLY A HOBBY."

How often we hear this said of the work of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; and yet might it not be said of any good work? What has covered the face of the earth with schools, and missions, and churches, but an interest in the welfare of their fellow creatures, urging on benevolent men in the pursuit of a "hobby"?

The more hobbies of this kind that men grow enthusiastic over, the better; would that many more were open to the charge! Would any man at the present day deliberately accuse any denomination of Christians who send missionaries to the heathen of fanaticism on that account? And yet the charge would be almost as unfair as to ridicule the effort to provide kindness to the brute creation as a hobby.

The truth is that a countless army of horses, cattle, sheep, birds and other animals which are subject to man endure dreadful pain and suffering through his cruelty or thoughtlessness. The Creator, when he bestowed the gift of life on these animals, intended that they should enjoy the gift; they have as much right to their lives and their happiness as man has to his. Why then, should ridicule attack the effort, however humble, to aid in promoting the intentions of our common Creator? Rather should it be esteemed an honor and privilege to be fellow-workers with Him in so uprighteous a cause. This, at any rate, is our faith; and we intend to raise our voices, and promote in every way in our power the beneficial work of a Society which has had the courage to undertake it.

We are satisfied that in many cases suffering is caused to animals simply from want of thought. Practices have come down to us from our ancestors, such for example as the use of bearing-reins on horses, which we continue until our attention is called to the cruelty and utter uselessness of the custom; and just as this practice is fast disappearing under the influence of the growing conviction of its true character, so will multitudes of other equally reprehensible customs disappear.

Who can look on a horse gambolling in a pasture in the exuberance of his delight when freed from the restraints of his daily work, without some emotions of pleasure? Then why not reduce the restraints and consequent suffering to a minimum? No nobler animal than the horse in all the brute creation exists, and he has been made subject to man, to whom he is of incalculable value. Then let us alleviate his necessary bondage by every means in our power, and reward his invaluable services by gentle and humane treatment.

There is not a class of the lower animals under the dominion of man to which the same considerations do not apply.

The objects of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals are not confined to any one class or species, but embrace, so far as their means will permit, every variety.

Is it too much to hope that under the influence of the more widely diffused light on these subjects, as the Society extends its opera-

tions, a more humane spirit towards the helpless dumb brutes will be disseminated, and that some day no such thing as a prosecution for cruelty will be heard of because universal kindness will prevail?

THERE IS YET ROOM.

On looking over the pages of the excellent paper "The Humane Appeal," (for the receipt of which we beg to return thanks), published by the Ohio State S. P. C. A., we came across the above heading, and being struck with the similarity of position of the two societies, thought that we could not do better than reproduce the article. If our readers will simply alter in their mind's eye the words "Union," "State," and "Ohio," to "Dominion," "Province," and "Halifax," they will find the remarks perfectly applicable to this Society.

"If the good people of this city can be influenced to feel that the work of protecting animals from cruel treatment is for the good of the entire community; that it works out great results which are manifest, in a reduced number of cruel assaults, and attempts at killing men, as well as prevents much useless and unnecessary suffering among the dependent and helpless: If these facts can be fixed in the minds of the readers, so that they will give thoughts to them, now and then, seed will have been planted that will bear good fruit in the noble and benevolent hearts of the people. It is very interesting to notice the work done in large cities by kindred societies.

"They have the same cases, same offences, with the same leaven of cowardice and cruelty that has been thrown up time and again in this city. In some places they, no doubt, suffer from indifference and neglect, and have the same seasons of famine and depression that are experienced here, but on the average, a great work has been and is being done, a work that was not thought of a few years ago, and men and women are pushing this branch of benevolence and philanthropy with great zeal in a number of the larger cities of the Union. It is important to the renown of the State of Ohio, that it should not fail in so essential a work; and this may be considered as an invitation to all "who love mercy" to take interest in, to join with, to contribute, to share the labors, to criticise the work, to welcome zealous enthusiasts in their cause. There is plenty of room for new societies, for new presidents, secretaries, directors, members. There is place for money, influence, example, preaching, teaching, writing; for advice, re-monstrance and persuasion. Come, then, and join the Ohio S. P. C. A. Come and help to establish Branch or Auxiliary Societies; come and place your name on the record as opposed to cruelty inflicted upon the dumb animals that have no voice and no privilege of appeal from such treatment. The S. P. C. A. has been at work through six years of hard and dull times, which have restrained its growth and usefulness, and delayed its progress; but now the better days are at hand, there should be some effort made to render permanent this organization.

"There are many worthy, noble charities well sustained, but the list would be maimed, yea, would lack a right hand without the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Come, there is yet room for new members, for new zeal, and for far more enthusiasm."