

is constant as old Time. Her friendship for the pony, Alice, is quite beautiful, and Alice warmly returns her affections.

The sad times of Alice's life are when cruel man's necessities deprive her of the company of Jenny. She refuses to eat until her dear companion returns, and I have often thought that Jenny's irregularities may partly be traced to her disgust at the interruption of their sweet intercourse. If a 'temple to friendship' should ever be built in the unclassical grounds of the present writer's abode, it will certainly be in memory of the friendship of Alice and Jane, the devoted pony and donkey.

There is another phase of animal life which has not yet been explored. I mean their reverence and dutiful attachment; and this is by no means confined to the higher kind of animals, such as dogs and horses. If Louise Michel is to be believed (a writer who, whatever her faults may be, is worthy of admiration for her great love of God's creatures), rats possess this quality in a very remarkable degree. She was released from the prison of St. Lazare, where she had been sent for seditious conduct, in January, 1856. During her imprisonment she taught her three cats to live happily with the shoals of rats which came to her to be fed. The mother rats, when they had weaned their young, used to bring them to her to be fed, and lay them at her feet, as if imploring her protection. But the most extraordinary part of the story is the reverence and dutiful affection alluded to above, and which is almost too wonderful to be

believed. She observed a number of aged, toothless rats. These were helped to eat by the young rats, who chewed the crusts which were thrown to them, thus making them soft for the old ones. Woe to any greedy young rat who took his food before the old ones; he was immediately pounced upon and punished by the others.

But we may descend still lower in the scale of creation, if we wish to find genuine affection. Sir John Lubbock relates a touching story of a wasp which he succeeded in taming and attaching to himself. He brought it from Italy, and carried it on his finger during the railway journey. He was anxious to see whether it would live during the whole of the winter, but, after months of tender care, it died in February. Sir John fancied he could perceive a tender look of farewell as the wasp closed its eyes, and we are not prepared to say that this is impossible, for they who spend much time with animals have a quickness of perception which seems almost miraculous to those who cannot give so much time and intelligence to the investigation of their habits.

At any rate, we may rest assured that animal life has a vast field for every one who will take the trouble to explore and observe, and if each one of us would, at once, set down a memorandum of anything curious which may happen within our ken, others much cleverer than ourselves may make good use of it; but to do this we must treat every creature so kindly that it will not be afraid of us.

ELIZABETH HARCOURT MITCHELL.

—o—o—o—

Anecdote of Martin Luther.

ARATHER apt anecdote is told of Martin Luther. One not personally known to Luther introduced himself as a teacher of the pure faith.

'Well,' said Luther, 'let me see your credentials; by what bishop have you been authorised and sent forth?'

'By no bishop,' was the response. 'I am appointed and sent by God.'

'That may be better,' said Luther; 'then you can give me the evidence with which God always furnishes His extraordinary messengers. Work a miracle. God sends to us His teachers in only these two ways; ordinarily teachers are sent by God's bishops, others prove their authority by the exhibition of miraculous powers.'