

thus: "Wife, I have long been thinking over a problem which I think we must try and solve. I find that our children do not know the first thing about our domestic animals from actual knowledge. They have looked at pictures of dogs in books and seen them running the street, but any one dog they have never really known. Now you would not like these boys to grow up ignorant of all other human beings except ourselves, yet we are letting them pass a period of their lives when they are naturally most inclined to observe, ignorant of that creature which has been to man in every age of the world, a companion, a helper, an educator, a most faithful friend. Beside some knowledge of animal life is essential to anyone who claims to have received in the least degree a liberal education, such as we wish our children to get; and in the city I know of no way in which they can get it better than by watching the development of a nice dog from his puppyhood to his maturity."

"Wife" has been brought up in the city and in complete ignorance of dogs, except as she has seen them run the streets, get gathered in by the dog-catcher or railed about by those who have kept a dog in such a way that it became a nuisance. So "Wife" replies in such a strain as this: "Oh, John, for goodness sake now don't go and get one of those miserable puppies. Why it was only the other day that Mrs. ——— was telling me how they had to send away that puppy her husband brought home, why he was the greatest nuisance; he would pull at the mats, run up stairs and down, and at last they had to have their parlor carpet taken up and cleaned!"

"But did not the children like him?"