

beautiful work of art, in a handsome frame, measuring 30x22 inches, has been sent out to the Ladies' Committee, by the order of Lord Aberdare, and will be offered for essay competition at a later date, notice of which will be duly given through the medium of this paper.

COM.

St. John, N. B.

That the lower orders of creation suffer, there can be no doubt. I recollect reading not long since an incident in the life of Cuvier. He was watching a pair of swallows. The male was seized by a hawk. He shot the hawk, and wounded the swallow. He dressed the wound with all possible tenderness, and replaced it in its nest, while the hen fluttered sadly around, uttering cries of distress, and for three days left the nest only for food. Three days after the male was wounded it died. From that time the hen refused food. She died five days after her mate.

I know one of the best women of Massachusetts, who, some years ago, to shame her husband for speaking hastily and improperly, answered the call of her little canary bird, (to which she had never before spoken an unkind word), in a violent and angry tone. Within five minutes there was a fluttering in the cage, and when she got to it the bird was dead. I was told at New Orleans, winter before last, by a personal friend of Mrs. Hendricks, widow of the former Vice-President of the United States, that Mrs. Hendricks once killed a favorite mocking-bird in the same way. Other similar cases I have seen reported in various publications. There can be no doubt that great suffering can be caused to many of the lower animals simply by the tones of the human voice.

Concerning the importance of birds to agriculture, what Horace Greeley once wrote is literally true:

"The boy who robs a bird's nest is robbing the farmer of part of his crops. The farmer might as well consent that a strolling ruffian should shoot his horses or his cattle as his birds."

Agassiz believed that there is a future life for the lower animals as well as for us. He died in that belief. It is the belief, in some form, of the majority of the human race. Some two hundred volumes or thereabouts have been written on the subject. John Wesley, Jeremy Taylor, Bishop Butler, Coleridge, Lamartine, and many of the leading clergy of the past and present, have held and do hold this belief. Agassiz taught his pupils to kill fish by a blow on the back of the head as soon as they were caught, that they might not suffer before dying. President Lincoln, walking with a friend one day, stopped and put his hand down through the bushes. "What do you find there, Mr. Lincoln?" said the friend. "Why,"

answered Mr. Lincoln, "here is a little bird fallen out of its nest, and I am trying to put it back again."

"Thanks to my stars," says the celebrated Dr. Channing, "I can say I have never killed a bird. I would not crush the meanest insect that crawls upon the ground. They have the same right to live as I have: they received it from the same Father, and I will not mar the works of God by wanton cruelty."

"I saw a little spotted turtle," wrote Theodore Parker, "sunning itself in the shallow water. I lifted the stick in my hand to kill it; for though I had never killed any creature, yet I had seen other boys, out of sport, destroy birds, squirrels, and the like, and I had a disposition to follow their example. But all at once something checked my little arm, and a voice within me said, clear and loud, 'It is wrong.' I held my uplifted stick in wonder at the new emotion, till the turtle vanished from sight. I hastened home and told the tale to my mother, and asked what it was that told me that it was wrong. She wiped a tear from her eye, and, taking me in her arms said, 'Some men call it conscience, but I prefer to call it the voice of God in the soul of man. If you will listen and obey it, it will speak clearer and clearer, and always guide you right: but if you turn a deaf ear or disobey, then it will fade out little by little, and leave you in the dark without a guide. Your life, my son, depends on heeding that little voice.'"

From Waterton's "Wanderings in South America," I take the following:

## TO TAXIDERMISTS.

If by my instructions you should be enabled to procure specimens from foreign parts, in better preservation than usual, so that the naturalist may have it in his power to give a more perfect description of them than has hitherto been the case, it will please me much.

But should they unfortunately tend to cause a wanton expense of life; should they tempt you to shoot the pretty songsters warbling near your door, or destroy the mother as she is sitting on her nest to warm her little ones, or kill the father as he is bringing a mouthful of food for their support, oh, then, deep indeed will be my regret that I ever wrote them.

In conclusion, it is not for me to decide for others. Every one must judge for himself or herself what is their duty in regard to the destruction of any of these lower forms of life which God has created. But whether He cares for His lower as well as human creatures, and how far He will hold us responsible for our treatment of them, are questions worthy the consideration of every human being who believes in God and immortality.—Geo. T. Angell, Pres. Mass. S. P. C. A., in *Swiss Cross*.

To prepare us for complete living is the function which education has to discharge.—Herbert Spencer.