

backward under the grass roots, until their feathers are full of the cool earth. In wet weather they find, if possible, a heap of burnt ashes on the site of a weed fire, and dust there.

Sparrows, on the contrary, always choose road dust, the driest and finest possible. Meadow larks, also, are fond of the road, and dust there in the early morning. But they, too, have their fancy, and choose the dry gritty part, where the horses' hoofs tread.

Wild ducks, though feeding by the salt water, prefer to bathe in fresh water pools, and will fly long distances inland to running brooks and ponds, where they preen and wash themselves in the most thorough way.

But though passing so much time on the water, ducks seem to prefer a shower bath to any other, and in a heavy rain they may be seen opening their feathers and allowing the rain to soak in, after which they dress the whole surface with oil from the reservoir which we mentioned above.

Swallows and martens are likewise nice in their choice of bath water; nothing but newly fallen rain water thoroughly pleases them, and if tempted to bathe, it is generally by some shallow pool in the road, which an hour's sun will evaporate.

Cats, large and small, make the most careful toilets of any class of animals, with the exception of the opossums. The lions and tigers wash themselves in exactly the same manner as the cat, wetting the dark India rubber like ball of the fore-foot and the inner toe, and passing it over the face and behind the ears. The foot is at the same time a face sponge and brush, and the rough tongue combs the rest of the body.

Sporting dogs, which are used in mud, snow, and wet, are strangely clever and quick in cleaning and drying their coats, and it is a sure sign that a dog has been overtired, if he shows any trace of mud or dirt next morning.

Most of their toilet is done with the tongue, but they are very clever at using a brush, or the side of a haystack, as a rough towel. One small spaniel which was allowed to live in the house, was well aware that if he returned dirty he would not be admitted indoors.

About an hour before the close of the day's shooting he used to strike work, and begin to clean himself, and if urged to do more, would slip off home, and present himself neat and clean in the dining room.

One day the dog had been left at home, and his master returned and seated himself, wet, and with half-frozen drops of ice sticking to his gaiters, by the fire. Pan rose up and carefully licked off the frozen ice and snow, stopping every now and then to give an anxious look, which said as plainly as possible, "Dear me! If I don't get him clean quickly, he will be sent to lie in the stable."

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#### Very Good Indeed.

Piety is a good thing. We go to church to get it and then go home to practice it. If piety means anything at all it means being true, honest, upright, pure, gentle, patient, kind and unselfish. We have no more piety than we get into our every day practice. When our devotion is higher than our living, it counts for nothing. It is a comfortable matter to go, suppose to Holy Communion, and there and then get the elevation through faith and the peace and the joy and the blessedness. We underrate these not, though it lasts but a few minutes; but to return home and growl at the children or the servants, or the dinner, is not just the thing after the heights we have ascended. Or to go home to discuss the world and its vanities; this is a terrible descent from the Mount.

It seems as if none of us are perfect; but not to strive for it or care for it even after we have been with Christ, is not according to the beatitudes.

Men pray for holiness as if it were something apart from their everyday life, something that had nothing at all to do with their domestic, social and business relations. They sing, "Nearer, my God, to Thee," with glowing fervour, but never think that the prayer can be answered only by the uplifting of their own lives to the plane of God's requirements. Holiness is not a mere sentiment, not a vague vision of glory overhanging us like a heavenly cloud, not a rapture or an ecstasy, not something that God sends down to wrap us like a garment in its radiant folds. So if being holy means anything, it means holiness at home, and as we attend to our duties away from home.

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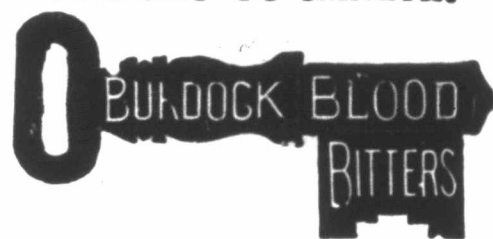
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