

a pleasing addition to the landscape, as they repose under the trees, or chase one another in graceful play. They associate in herds, which sometimes divide into two parties, and have obstinate battles for the possession of some favourite part of the park. Each herd has its leader, and they attack in regular order of battle. They retire and rally, and seldom give up after one defeat, but maintain the combat for days together.

They are generally tame, and will suffer people to come close to them, and become so familiar with those who treat them kindly that they will eat from their hands. At Magdalen College, Oxford, it used to be a common practice to let down a crust of bread by a string from one of the windows that overlooked the park, when the deer would speedily approach, and it was singular to see how they would take a large crust in their little mouths, and keep nibbling it until they contrived to eat the whole of it without once letting it drop.

The affection felt by deer one to another is borne out by many anecdotes, such as the following:—

A gamekeeper shot at a deer, which he hit, but did not kill. It fled into the forest, where the gamekeeper lost sight of him. Since he knew that the deer must, sooner or later, fall, he followed his track, but made a long march into the forest before he saw anything of the wounded animal. At length he heard a groaning in a thicket, and quickening his pace he saw the deer at some distance stretched on the ground. He was just going to fire a second time when two other deer ran up to the wounded one. His curiosity was excited, and he stopped to observe them without being himself seen. As soon as the wounded deer saw his friends, he moaned in a louder and more impressive note. The two others began to lick his wounds, and as long as they licked the deer was silent, for it seemed to give him relief. The gamekeeper watched this instance of kindly instinct for a while, and