

A few notes on cruelty to animals; on the inadequacy of penal law; on general hospitals for animals; &c.; &c.; &c; / By R. Fletcher.

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FLETCHER
ON
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Sept. 59, 1913

Presentation copy
for the author

1463

With the author's
best regards

FEW NOTES

ON

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS;

ON THE

INADEQUACY OF PENAL LAW;

ON

GENERAL HOSPITALS FOR ANIMALS;

&c. &c. &c.

BY R. FLETCHER, Esq.,

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Author of "Medico-Chirurgical Notes," and of "The Influence of the Troubled Mind upon
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Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

LONDON:

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1846.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS;

IN ADEQUACY OF PENAL LAW.

GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR ANIMALS.

LONDON:

Printed by W. Clowes and Sons, 14, Charing Cross.



QUALITY TO ANIMALS

TO THE RIGHT REVEREND

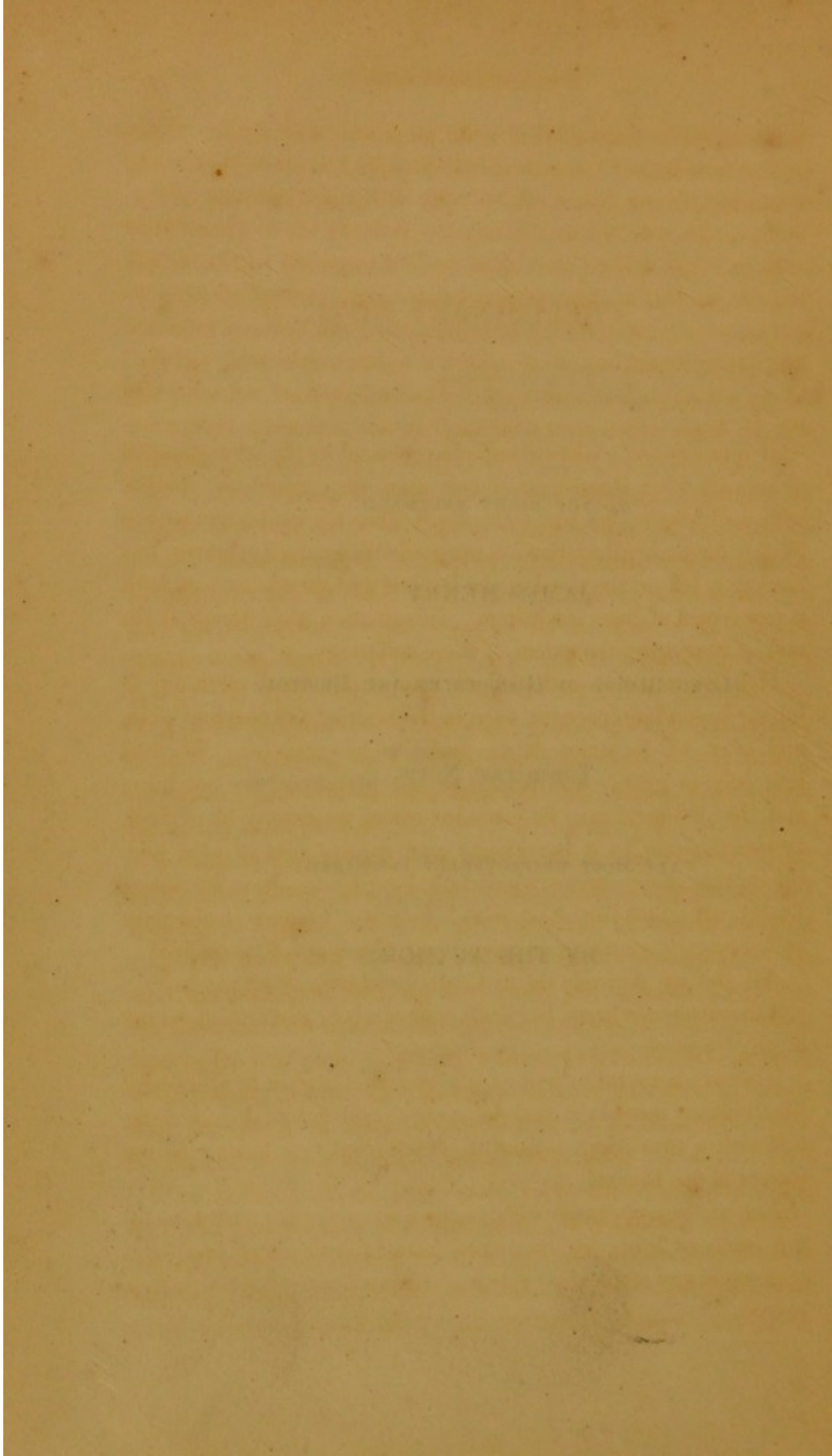
JAMES HENRY,

LORD BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL,

THESE FEW NOTES

ARE MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY THE AUTHOR.



PRELIMINARY NOTE.

THE quantity and variety of suffering endured by the lower creation of animals when domesticated with man, have struck the Author with awful force, but more especially since his connection with a Society for their alleviation: a mingled feeling of pity, horror, and anxiety is left on the mind at the hapless and certain fate of such a vast crowd of innocent beings. Imagination itself droops at the task of measuring the extent of these sufferings.

Helpless as he is guileless, we compel the dumb creature to labour beyond his strength, even in the hour of sickness and pain, and, often, till he drops on the scene of his miseries. We feed him only to gratify our avarice or our pleasures: we eat him; and, that the meal may be more luxurious, we cruelly bleed him, even to faintness, in a horrid way, and deprive him of food long before that hour arrives which will happily terminate his woes: finally, when that hour has arrived, he is put to death in the most barbarous and revolting manner, if not sometimes flayed alive!

All this we daringly do to God's creatures, of whose feelings and characters we know but little, and of whose destination we are wholly ignorant.

There is a moral as well as a physical character to all animal life, however humble it may be,—enveloped indeed in obscurity, and with a mysterious solemnity, which must ever belong to the secrets of the Eternal.

Let us then approach with caution the unknown character of the brute, as being an emanation from Himself; and treat with tenderness and respect the helpless creatures derived from such a source.

The sensitive and reflecting mind is daily shocked at their cruel fate, the injustice and apparent uselessness of their sufferings.

We, however, know but little of the moral world ; yet, from what we see in the physical—of the skill and wisdom of the great Author of the universe, it is probable that useless suffering does not exist in nature, that not one degree more is inflicted than is necessary to effect the great objects of the creation.

What these objects are is unknown to us, and it is folly and presumption for short-sighted and insignificant beings as we are to attempt to penetrate the motives and reveal the views of the Eternal.

It is the fashion, however, to assume immediate and never-varying benevolence to be the exclusive source of all His conduct towards His creatures. Ultimately and elsewhere, we may reverently presume, we shall have proof that divine benevolence was from the beginning a main object of the creation. But if benevolence exemplified by its object, happiness, be not found on earth, it is evident that acting on such an assumption would injure the cause of the helpless dumb creatures. There would be no occasion to exert ourselves in their behalf, who stood not in need of our assistance. But we feel more than we reason, reason less than we ought, and think least of all.

A little reflection will shew, that benevolence intended by an Omnipotent Being must necessarily terminate in happiness ; but as complete happiness does not exist on earth, in man or brute, it is clear it never was intended. Thus, though the miseries of the latter are usually inflicted by the former, yet, it is not always so. Far from man, his natural scourge, the brute is not always happy. Even in the wild prairie, basking in the sun, and with the enjoyment of full liberty, he lives either in constant fear of slaughter, or he fills other animals with the same dread that he himself experiences. He pursues to destroy, and is himself destroyed.

Man suffers with the poor brute. He comes into the world with pain, and goes out of it with pain. Earthquakes, shipwreck, war, and pestilence destroy the lives, and welfare, and happiness of thousands, with such profusion as to induce a belief that the Creator places no value on earthly life, but perhaps views it as a stage for

intellectual and moral culture, or as a source for carrying on those mighty processes of opening germs for new wonders, of which the human mind, however gifted even with the most brilliant imagination, can have but a faint conception.

But in this moral government, will the claim to justice of the poor brute, the victim of man, and possessed of feeling like ourselves, be overlooked, while his tyrant only is remembered?

Without ultimate compensation, life to him can be no blessing, excessive misery no proof of a benevolent origin. Man is the chief cause of his deplorable misery.

But God made the man, who could not inflict them, without the foreknowledge and permission of his Maker.

There is no doubt, therefore, but that in the end, the helpless being will have justice done to him by the great Author of all.

Some writers on this subject take a different view, and either allege or infer, that all the compensation the poor animal will receive for a life of torture, he receives here, that is, no further compensation is required, for he is already the subject of practical benevolence, or, in other words, happy. In truth, however, he is thought very little of, and is never dreamt of being worthy to be included in God's government, much in the same way as, thirty years ago, he was thought to be too insignificant to be legislated for. But, thanks be to the great Author of all, better and more enlightened views are advancing, when the interest and feelings of every sentient being that holds life will not be forgotten, nor all be merged in those of his proud and selfish master. Except in a few sunny days of the morning of life, and almost as soon as he becomes the slave of man's avarice and pleasures, the life of the domestic and labouring animal is generally that of misery. Its spring is short and deceitful; its summer, uninterrupted slavery, cold, and cheerless; its winter, long and bitter, a series of every kind of cruelty, neglect, and scorn, closed by a death of murderous and disgusting violence!

But what say the advocates for exclusive benevolence on earth, who affect presumptuously to have discovered the designs of the Eternal? One of these learned gentlemen has declared that the least painful, and therefore the most benevolent, way of keeping

down a redundant population among animals, is a violent death performed on each other—"twenty strokes sent home in one instant with their fangs to the sources of life, and it is all over." Most likely this would be sufficient.

But possibly it did not occur to him, that the Almighty Source of all things could have terminated life without any pain or violence, even without the pain of mind revealed by the shriek of agony in that last and horrid moment which immediately precedes its violent extinction—if in His wisdom he had thought proper so to do, or if the conferring of worldly happiness had been His main object.

Another celebrates the exquisite delight of clouds of young shrimps who forsake the bosom of their mother the wide deep, and go bounding and romping into the air for their amusement; but the worthy Doctor forgot to observe, in his eagerness to describe the happiness of this world, that the water was already boiling and waiting their return, which would speedily stop their gambols and terminate their aerial excursions and ecstatic movements for ever.

A third says, "To the mind which looks not to general results in the economy of nature, the earth may seem to present a scene of perpetual warfare and incessant carnage: but a more enlarged view resolves every individual case of evil or suffering into an example of subserviency to the general good."

This would indeed be sacrificing a part to save the remainder. But how can the poor brute rest satisfied under his miseries by these reasonings of philosophers? Besides, exclusive benevolence in the Deity, or desire to confer happiness on earth, would look to individual results, or private happiness, as well as to general results. Nevertheless, it would be very handsome of these individual cases of evil thus nobly to give up all for the general good, especially if their consent to the measure were previously obtained.

These theories of benevolence may be illustrated by a little scene.

The sleek coated and highly fed gentleman's coach horse may look at an omnibus, cab, or nightman's horse, which, lame, in pain, or with a diseased heart ready to break, comes in and goes out of the stable incessantly, slowly but certainly being murdered, and thus accost him:—"Well! you are indeed in a wretched plight, in

constant pain in your lame, diseased, and worn out legs, and yet perpetually flogged to make you keep them—no surgeon, no relief, no hospital, as for the poor man; and, from your unceasingly going in and out of the stable, no time for rest, and if you have a mouthful of hay, no time to eat it; but be comforted, you have the felicity of suffering for the good of others, that is, *for the general results*; and when you are no longer able to work for your master, you will have an old rusty sword kindly and unexpectedly run through your body, it being decided by philosophers, that a sudden and violent death is the most benevolent method of terminating life! After this last and only act of kindness of your master, he will sell your skin, and that body, worn out in his service to add to his pleasures or his riches, he will give, not to its resting-place the grave—no such place being provided for the most valued servant of man—but to his dogs. Thus he will shew his gratitude to you, and thus you yourself will be an example that ‘life is the greatest blessing that any creature can receive.’”

It must, however, be in another stage, and not in this. Falsely concluding that dumb creatures are already happy, is not likely to increase our attention to their wants, or our energy in protecting such helpless beings from violence and ill-usage.

Neither is the current and erroneous belief likely to benefit them—that they have no feeling, no mind, but are in fact a living mass of something made for our use, with which we may take any liberties we please, wear out with incessant labour, beat unmercifully, and ultimately starve!—the fate of many a horse, which, from loss of strength, becomes useless as old age approaches.

To elevate is to serve the dumb creature. Now when we reflect that the mind of man is only superior to the mind of a dog, because his memory obeys his will, and that this difference may arise from some minute circumstance in his organization, he has nothing very particular to be proud of, nor any very great reason why he should lord it with so high a hand over his humble, though often more amiable, companion in life.

This remark corresponds with the foregoing view, which refers our innocent and inferior fellow-creatures ultimately to the justice and protection of their Maker for compensation, and is certainly

consistent with His mighty and illimitable power, as exemplified in the vast scenery of the moral and physical world, where nothing is too small or too great for His justice, and where, probably, the proud, to be reformed, will be reduced, and the meek and humble sufferer will be raised, to be comforted. How noble is the prospect it unfolds, how soothing and cheering the belief, that the humblest atom of sentient being, which has ministered painfully to the mighty mysteries of the creation, will not go unrewarded by the great Master of Life!

Reader, watch closely thy feelings as they arise from the contemplation of His works. Even the air teems with instruction,—through the imagination, if thou wilt have it so, for grace travels by a thousand roads;—it teaches, from the gentle melody of the breeze as it sighs mournfully through the foliage, softening the heart to melancholy and the forgiveness of injuries, to the more startling, unearthly sounds of the storm as it raves among the trees of the distant forest—a strange, mysterious, and solemn sound, which thou wouldst do well to take as the voice of the Eternal, warning to justice and mercy to all thy fellow-creatures, *but especially to those who have no help in themselves.*

The storm gusts have passed away; all is hushed save the distant low of the cattle, the tinkling of the sheep bell, and the trembling bleat of the tender and affectionate lamb, as the poor wanderer by its mother's side gathers its last meal—happily unconscious of the horrors of to-morrow, or the dreadful secrets of the slaughter-house.

The greatest cruelty of all that could be inflicted upon thousands of dumb creatures, in immediate connection with man, would be the gift of Life, were compensation not to follow. Why not prevent the necessity of this, by imitating the ways of God, to do justice and loving-mercy to these humble beings?

If men enact laws to protect each other, who, with a voice and understanding, have, to a great extent, the power of protecting themselves, it becomes doubly necessary they should legislate, if possible, with more care and anxiety, for beings who have no such power, but who are wholly dependent upon them, and whom it would be, in the eyes of God, a great moral crime to neglect.

Let us not, therefore, enter into the needless question whether animals have souls, and think of penetrating, daringly and presumptuously, the designs of the Omnipotent, nor assume for His conduct motives which we have no facts to prove; but be governed, in our own conduct, by those facts unquestionably before us. We behold the miseries of the poor dumb creature, we feel that we have free-will sufficient, and the means, to lighten his burdens; let us therefore commence with energy this really benevolent purpose, rather than assume theories of his happiness which are but apologies for our want of feeling, our avarice, or our indolence.

IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT.

A PART of the object of the Author is to bring before the public *some* of his own experience of the prevalence of cruelty; which, limited as it is to this city and neighbourhood, a small district, will give some idea of the extent of a dreadful evil which must be hourly going on over the whole land. For if one small city, checked by the operation of a Preventive Society, yield so much within a few months, what must be yielded annually by hundreds of towns and cities, unchecked by any Society? And be it remembered, that the account,—a mere abstract from a great number of cases,—is taken generally from convictions, or offences committed in public: the awful and cruel examples of such crimes perpetrated in stables and slaughter-houses, are of course unknown, but it is probable that their numbers far exceed, and beyond all comparison, the discovered ones.

Such a practice as bringing into light so great an evil is salutary. By exposing the nature and extent of the disease, there is a better chance of its removal.

Another part of the object is, to shew the utter inadequacy of the present law of forty shillings fine, which allows the power of mitigation,—for the crime of cruelty is incessantly recurring under this system of mitigation, and is even repeated by the same individuals. Some of the offences also require a much heavier punishment than the forty shillings.

Note 1.—THE DONKEY.

One would imagine that the humble and patient character of this despised animal could furnish no provocation for ill-treatment; that] the gentleness of his nature, when not ruined by incessant torture, would secure him from the most diabolical dispositions. It is just the contrary: and thus it appears that the more meek,

unresisting, and feeble beings, excite neither pity nor compassion in the lower orders, but in reality appear to be the chosen objects on which bad temper wreaks its vengeance.

The slightest error, or fancied error, draws upon this abject and forlorn creature a blow on the head, and if he be stunned by it, so that he understand not the orders of his master, he is beat again because he is obstinate. The pleasure of this cruel infliction would appear to be often the only motive for continuing it. A more cowardly or detestable action, however, cannot be conceived than that of striking a helpless creature, who is equally incapable of explaining its innocence, or of resenting the blow.

It is unfortunate that the poor ass should be doomed to be generally managed by boys, whose tricks and want of feeling increase the numerous torments of his deplorable life. It is still more deplorable that the greatest cruelties should be practised upon the lame and aged donkey, who has not strength to do what is required of him. This is his greatest crime. To force or ill use the noble hunter in the pride and high-fed vigour of his days in a steeple chase,—where you break his heart or his back,—is bad enough; but ere the fatal moment arrives, he may participate in the pleasure, the glory of the contest; and thus, though he pays the penalty of his master's insanity, and suffers for him, he is still not so much an object of pity as the hapless, despised, and humble donkey, who has no joys, no pleasures, and but little coarse food to compensate him for a life, generally, of unbroken misery.

Cruelty from Overload, conjoined with Old Age. The mitigated Fine followed by a Repetition of the Offence.—Case 1. February 17th, 1845.—A skeleton of a poor donkey, nearly forty years old, and with a lame hind leg, was seen staggering (in a coal cart, laden with about half a ton of coal) from side to side of the road, breathing hard, and distressed beyond measure, so that he excited the pity of the passers by. One would have thought that the owner, J. L——, who had been striking him to make him move at all, would have lightened his load, or removed him from the cart. No! Some additional blows induced the suffering creature to renew his struggles to advance another step or two, when he fell, from exhaustion and extreme age. Angry at his falling, the ferocious

proprietor recommenced beating the poor old creature even over the head and eyes, as he lay on the ground, and continued so to do until he was prevented by the humane interference of the gentleman who proved the cruelty, and who generously gave his own fees (as magistrates' clerk) to the Society.—Fined *seven shillings and sixpence*, and costs.

This small fine has not prevented this offender from using regularly, from morning till night, the poor old donkey, which frequently falls, and which ought not to be used at all. If the full fine of forty shillings had been inflicted, it might have been effective. The proprietor would not have run the risk of being tempted to ill use the donkey to get his load along: he would either have so materially diminished it, so as to prevent the temptation of beating, or have destroyed the poor animal, which not being worth the fine, would thus have found a termination to his miseries, and have been the least loss to his master. This poor old donkey is no more. The tender-hearted boy who retailed coal from the cart, at last could not bear to see him fall so often, (his strength was unequal to the task of raising him,) and told the cruel master that he would have no more coal of him, because he would not again drive this feeble old creature. Another boy was appointed. The donkey fell again, soon after leaving the stable. The ferocious brute of a master witnessed it, and brought him back to the stable, where, vindictively, he instantly cut his throat!!

And will nothing be done by Parliament for these aged, worn out, half famished, and helpless beings?—for the magistrates say the present law has no provision, unless accompanied by acts of violence. But for the blows inflicted, this man would have escaped punishment, although no act can be more cruel than that of driving so aged an animal till he is wholly exhausted, and generally more or less injured, or lamed, by these repeated falls. The evil is very extensive;—every poor speculator in the carrying trade is seeking for a cheap donkey, or old horse. Now, the older it is, the cheaper it is; and thus this species of cruelty is rendered more common than the unthinking passers-by can suppose. Every coal cart employed in retailing coal or other matters, is almost always *dragged* along, by an infirm or aged animal, which,

however diseased or lame, makes no difference in his wretched lot; he is flogged on when the parties are out of observation, and when not, they push him forward from behind.

Depraved Cruelty requiring the heaviest Punishment.—Case 2. February 5th, 1844. — William Hacker had received some offence from a very young donkey. The first object of his vengeance was a large open harness-wound on the shoulder: on this he inflicted repeated blows with a knotted stick, until blood ran in streams down the fore leg over the hoof. His rage continuing unabated, and the meek creature evincing no resentment nor sufficient sign of suffering to please him, he selected, with an ingenuity which none but a fiend could have conceived, the tender lower bowel! Up this part he forced the same knotted stick for some inches, which, when withdrawn, was covered with dung and blood. — Fined *one shilling*, and costs.

Remark.—This case also shews the danger of allowing a power of mitigating the fine; for surely there could be no correspondence between so great a crime and its punishment of one shilling. Decisions in cases of cruelty will greatly depend on the quantity of feeling in the judge, which varies so much in different men. Some men conscientiously believe that dumb creatures feel little, if any, pain when they are flogged, although the very existence of the whip is a proof to the contrary. For punishment to prevent a crime, it must be effective as an example. The act of cruelty once proved, there should be no mitigation below forty shillings in any case.

In the foregoing horrible case, the fellow, after paying the shilling, went away laughing, and said, he would give another shilling to serve his Worship as he did the donkey.

Attempt at pulling out the Tail of a Donkey—Case 2. June 5, 1844.—John Bright was detected in an attempt to tear out by the roots the tail of a donkey. For this atrocious cruelty, he was also fined *one shilling!!!*

It is, perhaps, unnecessary to narrate further, either the number of the cases of cruelty, or the manifold forms of it which are daily inflicted upon the donkey: the former are as numerous as the animal itself, the latter as the inventive genius of corrupted youth among the lower orders can make them. The

little value of these poor creatures, too, is an additional source of their endless misery, and incessant ill usage.

A Donkey beaten to Death.—Case 4.—The officer of the Society found one of them dead in the town, and beaten about the head, the eye protruding, and one side a mass of blood, bruised flesh, and broken ribs. Another (Case 5) was led to, and left at, a public house, mangled and dying, by one who was ashamed to show himself as the perpetrator of so vile an act. Its miseries were terminated by an order from the magistrates. The author takes this opportunity of revealing its fate to the barbarous proprietor, who should have been the protector of the helpless animal, rather than its murderer.

A man had a long spike fixed into a stick, and with this weapon he goaded to market, once a week, one of this abused race, which was too heavily loaded. The wounds made on one Saturday were generally healed by the next, but soon festered. Over both hips were scattered either fresh wounds, cicatrices of old ones, or running sores. The ostler would not give evidence: the proprietor, alarmed at enquiry, withdrew the animal.

If some animals more than others require the immediate attention of the legislator, it is the poor old horse and friendless donkey. When very old—(the Author has seen the latter work at thirty-nine and forty years old)—they will drop dead in the road. Can there be any cruelty to exceed this, of driving, with too heavy loads, a weak and starved creature which staggers along to fall at last, then to be helped up by the murderous use of the stick, again to stagger and stagger again, until he falls once more, happily never to rise again. These scenes of suffering are so frequent in almost every street of every large town, as to be a disgrace to them, especially where they are used for retailing coal in small carts. The Turk would be ashamed of being suspected of doing, once in his life, an atrocious act of cruelty, which Christians will do, or permit to be done, every hour of their existence. Drivers of donkey carts, or others, should not be allowed to ride in the empty cart, after they have delivered their load,—and sometimes this is done to the extent of two or three persons; for the poor animals, were this practice discontinued, would have an opportunity for comparative

rest, which, considering their scanty food, would much relieve them.

Nothing can be more disgraceful than to see one or two lazy fellows sitting at their ease behind a poor old donkey, whistling and singing, whilst the worn out animal is compelled to indulge their idleness at the expense of his own feelings and strength. There are many of the British school, whose graphic powers exhibited in ridicule in the shops, would greatly assist in putting to shame this unfeeling practice.

The common source of cruelty in all draught animals, (and the donkey is one in this neighbourhood,) is the overload.

Note 2.—THE COCK.

This the earliest and oldest companion of man, which awakens him to industry and wealth, is too frequently ungratefully and barbarously used at wakes, horse-races, and, on holidays, in perhaps one of the most cowardly and disgusting forms which cruelty can show itself.

The noble and aspiring form of the poor bird, his daily and friendly intercourse with man, are no protection for him, but lead to his destruction, by tempting his avaricious master thus to sacrifice him. A shallow hole is dug in the turf, in the centre of which a stake is driven; and then, literally, this domestic creature is brought to the stake, and tied to it: his back is greased, that the shots may glance off—in this manner to increase the number of indecisive shots, that existence may be protracted, to further the mercenary barbarity of his master. At twenty paces distance the slaughter commences, at three pence per shot.

Shooting at the domestic Cock, tied to a Stake.—Cases 6, 7.—In the present case, every time the shot struck or passed over the devoted bird, he would spring up, and courageously crow or challenge his cowardly assailants. But as shot after shot followed, his springs became less vigorous. His mouth, in terror and pain, was half opened and bleeding; he cowered, submitting to his cruel fate, spread out his wings convulsively, and his bleeding head

bounded on the ground. The proprietor now counted his pence gained by his dying victim.

What an advance of moral feeling and humanity does this recital indicate in a civilized country, as well as the benefits to be derived by the public from the society assembled on the race-course, where these refined exhibitions usually take place!!!

J. H—— was convicted of this disgusting offence at Westminster, May 7th, 1845, and fined five pounds for keeping a room for badger-baiting.

Case 8.—H. H——, at Tewkesbury, April 2nd, was fined *nineteen shillings and ninepence* for a similar offence. Here, after twenty shots it was discovered that there was no marksman sufficiently skilful to kill the bird: he was removed from the stake, ruffled in many places by the shot, and bleeding, to *serve another day*. In this way the first bird had been shot at on different occasions, and wounded, and put aside, to be killed a few days afterwards by a better shot.

Remark—This cowardly crime of shooting at a domestic bird, tied to a stake, is inconceivably barbarous, and can only be exceeded in cruelty by keeping him, when wounded, until his wounds are healed, to be shot at again.

No money nor fine could be adequate to the offence. Instead of a pound, had the law allowed it, he should have paid five, or in default of payment have been sent to prison for two months, with hard labour on the treadmill.

Remark—A punishment like this, repeated a few times, and the case accurately published, with the names of the persons shooting at the poor bird, as also the name of the proprietor, would certainly put a stop to the practice of shooting at and mangling a poor domestic bird, tied by the leg, without the power of escaping from his cowardly assailants.

Note 3.—THE BADGER.

Entrapped among his native hills, this inoffensive animal is often doomed to undergo a fate that the human mind cannot con-

template without pity, and horror, and shame, that it belongs to a race capable of such atrocities. Brought from his peaceful home, and thrown into a pit dug for his reception, he there listens to the frightful yells of the crowd of wretches preparing for his slow and murderous slaughter. Now a ferocious dog is set upon him, and he is dragged from his hole. And now the circle of miscreants contract around this wretched scene to see a harmless little stranger lying on its back (Oh, shame!) and without a friend, defending itself. The vociferations of the fiends increase as they close upon the scene of butchery. Sometimes the poor thing's fate is suspended, he beats off the dog; but either another is let loose upon the wounded creature, or he is sold on the spot for his courage, on the humane speculation that he will afford good sport on another day, or as soon as his wounds are healed!!

Case 9.—In this way, the officer reports, that the badger in question has been sold and re-sold four times (his value decreasing in proportion to the injuries he had received) before his miserable existence terminated—his wounds, weakness, and protracted suffering rendering him, at last, an easy victim to his hellish persecutors. But occasionally this is not all. A greater cruelty is sometimes added to these most atrocious proceedings, called sport. The badger bites hard, young dogs sometimes are shy of attacking him, and then, in order to break them in gradually, the fiends will cut off a portion of the lower jaw with the teeth of the unfortunate creature; and thus, besides the horrible cruelty of the operation, shamefully deprive him of his only means of defence!!!

May country gentlemen think of these things! and when they hear the furious vociferations of the miscreants at a badger-bait, they will not regard their dinner, or their sport, even of horse-racing, but will ride as if for their lives, to stop so foul a crime, which the savage of the wilderness would shudder to behold committed upon a poor animal. To shew the efficacy of the largest fine, for these, amongst the worst of offences, it is only necessary to observe, that since the five pound penalty, this cruel pastime has greatly declined, although it was heard of in some parts of this county at the last Easter and Whitsuntide holidays.

Note 4.—THE CAT.

Were one animal selected from all others, as the most frequent example of the cruelty and treachery of man, it would be this lovely creature, our companion in sickness and in sorrow, the gentle and enduring playmate of our children, whose graceful and undulating form adorns and cheers our winter hearths, and whose affectionate song betokens both pleasure in our society and a wish to impart it. For when these animals are treated with kindness and feeling by man, there is no doubt that they acquire a corresponding strong affection for him. If more than usual endearment has been bestowed on a female cat by her master for some days, a temporary separation from the object of her affection becomes painful in the extreme. If, walking in the garden, he attempts to leave her, she utters the most piteous lamentations. Having left home for a time, the house was filled with her plaintive and melancholy cries for some days. But especially is the intensity of this affection remarkable at the approach of the hour when, in unusual pain and suffering, she gives birth to her young. The manœuvres to detain her beloved master near her couch at such periods, would be hardly credited. He escapes, or interposes, to mask his departure, another person; but the fraud is speedily detected; he is soon tracked by the sufferer, and brought back to sit by her side till she suffers no more.

Horrible Cruelty to Two Cats.—Case 9.—Two half-starved cats had been in the habit of lingering about the neighbourhood of a company of nailers, when at dinner, to pick up a chance morsel. They might have given some previous slight offence. One day they were coaxed with food, and thus treacherously seized, when the following tragedy was enacted by this horde of demons. The tails of these poor devoted creatures were tied strongly together, amidst their agonising shrieks; they were then thrown over a tight rope placed across the room, and thus suspended by their tails, their heads downwards, and struggling to get loose; their weight and muscular exertion increased the straining and forcing at the roots of the tails. The amusement of the surrounding fiends now commenced, and became positive rapture, when

each poor creature, believing its companion to be the cause of its suffering, attacked it with ferocity, and the horrible combat proceeded amidst shouts and laughter, until the bowels of one poor creature, and an eye of the other, protruded. No witness would give evidence of this atrocious act, though many were present.

Dreadful Mutilation of a Cat.—Case 10.—Two dandy shopmen of a linendraper, remarkable for their attention to their fair customers, and for the softness of their manners, found a poor little frightened strange cat cowering in a corner of the shop, seeking pity by looking up imploringly, and in the midst of its fears mewling faintly for food. It was driven out, but having lost its home, returned again for shelter,—it had been frightened, apparently, by its shivering and increased timidity. It looked up piteously, as if asking for protection, and uttering the most plaintive cries. It was removed to the yard, and while one scoundrel held it on the block used for chopping meat, the other, with a cleaver cut off, first one foot, and then the three others in succession, then the nose and part of the face; ultimately, its head was smashed with the back of the cleaver, and its body, warm and palpitating, was thrown into a neighbour's yard.

Though many knew these facts, none would appear against the wretches.

Hundreds of cats are constantly being cruelly used and destroyed or mutilated, from being unable to find their homes when shut out at night: a place of refuge for strays of all descriptions would save great misery, and they might easily be then discovered by the owners. This idea will be further developed in considering of hospitals for animals.

Cat mangled to Death.—Case 11. August 1st, 1845.—John Silvey and Henry Avery appeared before the magistrates for the following cruelty to a cat. On Sunday last the parties took a cat, with its legs tied, into a meadow close to the city, and in this helpless condition threw it on the ground and set a bull-dog upon it. Incapable, in its bound condition, either of defending itself or of using its legs to escape, the poor little creature was slowly mangled to death in about a quarter of an hour. The scene was too horrible for description.

For this barbarous and prolonged murder of an innocent fellow-creature, committed on a Sunday morning, the miscreants were fined *five shillings*!

Surely no fact can more painfully shew the disproportion between the crime and its punishment, and consequently, (and what is worse,) the danger of granting a power to reduce even the present forty shilling fine (too little for an aggravated case) in cases of cruelty, which, once proved, should be levied to its full extent, and, in default of payment, two months' imprisonment, with hard labour on the treadmill.

Cruelty a Pastime.—Case 12. October 1845.—A beautiful female tortoiseshell cat was basking before the fire at a lodging-house in Hare-lane, in this city, purring in the height of her enjoyment, and waiting for her mistress to make breakfast, when a dog-cart was driven up to the door by a half drunken driver—William F——. Perhaps any but the fiends who drive these carts would have been impelled by a kind-hearted feeling to have fondled the beautiful creature. Very different was the scene. Seizing the miserable being, this scoundrel tossed her to the dogs, encouraging them to worry her. The precise fate of Ravallac, torn to pieces by wild horses, was that of this miserable creature, who but a minute before was so happy: each dog got hold of a hind leg, and she was torn asunder amidst the most horrid screams. Some humane person got her from the dog's mouth, but she died after giving a few convulsive agonising sobs.—Fined *forty shillings* by the city magistrate, but being unable to pay the fine, was sent to prison *for a fortnight*.

What *should be* the punishment for such an act?

Note 5.—THE DOG.

We know not whether it is the charm which belongs to this favourite of the human race that preserves him from cruelty, but certain it is that less of cruelty has been practised upon him than upon other animals within the small district which is watched by this Society—an involuntary tribute to the fine qualities which form

his character. Without the vices of his master, he has the best of his virtues—a devotion unalloyed with selfishness and undiminished by time, and a generosity which practises with ease a doctrine that we ourselves are but slow to learn, and find difficult to teach, the forgiveness of injuries—for often does he caress the hand that has had the hardihood to injure him!

This noble creature is, however, too frequently treated most barbarously. He is scalded severely for entering the scullery in search of a bone with which to allay the cravings of hunger; for many thoughtless and avaricious owners of dogs never feed them at all, but let them get what they can in houses by stealing, and are thus the cause of the extreme hunger that leads to theft. How many dogs are mangled, and how many have their eyes shot out, from this cause, for which the poor animals certainly cannot be blamed. This cruel practice of starving dogs also leads to the most common example of cruelty practised upon them, namely, that of tying a kettle to the tail, very tightly, with whipcord, so that the pain is extreme; he is then beat unmercifully, and turned out of doors. If the pain of body be great, the terror of mind which succeeds is past all comprehension; associating the agony he feels with an unknown and mysterious cause at his heels, the noise of the kettle, the shouts of his diabolical tormentors, every moment increases his sufferings, and he rushes into some obscure corner: then the low moan, the trembling frame, the expression of the most eloquent eye in nature, often floating in tears, asking for pity and forgiveness, mark the spot where in agony lies the poor sufferer. The whole of this misery arising from the cruel avarice of the tyrant man over dependent and helpless creatures!

Cruelty, combined with Treachery, to a Dog.—Case 12.—James F—— was summoned for this example of cruelty, aggravated by the innocence of the poor animal (which generally gives some offence) and by the treachery with which he was seduced within the reach of this brute.

A poor, friendless, half-starved, little dog, accustomed to pick up his livelihood on the quay (he had lost his master) was coaxed treacherously within the villain's reach by a mock offer of some food. A kettle was then tied to his tail, so heavy that the poor

famished thing could not drag it along; and because his cruel sport was thus spoiled, he beat the little creature, and then, as a climax to his cruelty, threw him, kettle and all, into the river; the weight of the kettle broke the string, and the poor little half-killed harmless creature got to the shore.—Fined *five shillings*.

The dog is often cruelly treated when employed in dragging carriages. On a morning succeeding a wake or fair, you see the thimble-rig gentry, half drunk, harnessing these noble creatures, so superior to themselves. If the creature fondly licks the hand which is enslaving it, there is a severe blow for the slight interruption and affectionate act. But against a hill it is that he suffers most; up all night, and tired, the drunken outcast of a proprietor sits at his ease, and compels the poor dogs to drag him up the hill by severe beating. It is pitiable to see their struggles, their heads turned and looking back at every cut of the whip, imploringly, with an expression of bodily pain, mental anguish, and reproach mingled with affection. Panting for breath, they renew their struggles, the tongues indicating great distress, hanging deeply from their mouths, until the vehicle is pulled up at some pot-house for the master to have his glass. A single kind word to the sufferers, with five minutes' rest, and all his ill-usage is forgotten, a cry of joy follows, and the noble animals again bound forward, to please the greatest brute of the party, who is altogether misplaced in the carriage, sitting at his ease, rather than in harness dragging the cart. In this way, one of torture, hard labour, and scanty diet, do they convey to country places the seeds of crime, which otherwise would probably never reach such remote districts. No class of itinerants are more active in the practice and circulation of vice than these dog-cart drivers that wander over the country in the summer and fall of the year. Connected with the gingerbread stalls and the horde of thieves that crowd our fairs, wakes, &c., the dog-carts afford a facility for the removal of stolen property; and their quiet unobstructive character, as they steal along bye lanes, renders concealment or sale of stolen goods more easily effected. A stop should be put to these magazines of wandering vice, whence the ignorant poor are initiated into the mysteries of the broad fan, the thimble-rig, the prick in the garter, &c. &c.,

which are all positive robberies, the player having no chance of winning.

It is generally the very worst and most abandoned of society that set up a dog-cart, as a cheap mode of extending their talents and improving the finances and morals of the rural population. The plunder obtained by these persons is often considerable, and induce habits of drunkenness, the effect of which is furious driving, when great danger is incurred on the road, the unusual form and character of the whole equipage contributing greatly to frighten horses.

Independently of the immoral purposes to which dog-carts are made subservient, and from which society would be spared by their abolition, and also from their danger, there is another powerful reason for their being made illegal, viz.—the poor dog, worthy a better office than dragging crime about the country, would be saved from a life of incessant cruelty and hardship, by being daily exposed to the vindictive passions of a class of men, whose brutal ebullitions of temper know no restraint, and who are in the habit of exercising violence on the first object that happens to be within their reach.

The dog-cart people sometimes fight their dogs for wagers, which are spent in drink.

Dog Fight.—Case 14.—A gentleman approached a crowd. There had been a dog fight; but though the battle was over, the scene of blood and slaughter remained. Blood was on the pavement and pebbles, evidently brought there by the feet of the spectators, which had dabbled in it. The ground was torn up. The victor was in the naked and blood-stained arms of his master, his ears torn to ribands, yet struggling again to reach his dying antagonist, which was a half-bred mastiff, lying gasping on the ground; his lip was torn, cheek and all, backwards, revealing the whole white line of teeth; the blood was gurgling in his throat, which appeared to be almost detached by a wrench of the jaws of his antagonist. His master—his master, for whose pleasure and profit he had devoted himself to slaughter—leaned over him, and even patted his lacerated head. Never while life shall last, can be forgotten the expression of unalterable attachment that still

beamed from the eye, though obscured by blood, of the noble and forgiving creature; he even attempted to lick the hand that had destroyed him; his tail gently moved, and a low whine of recognition and affection seemed to say "Master, I did my best for you."

This poor animal had previously dragged a heavily loaded cart from Cirencester.

No witness would give evidence. There being a repugnance in the lower orders to do away with dog fights.

Case 15.—Another dog fight, having the most horrid termination announced by the Society's officer. The victor was a bull terrier: when he got his antagonist down, he was ferociously encouraged by every exciting means until he first tore *the ear from the roots, and then the entire tongue from his mouth*. This was the more distressing and affecting, as the poor dog was apparently a stranger, passing quietly under a wall, not courting observation, and probably unhappy, having lost his home or his master.

A disgusting massacre, and agonising to behold. No witness in this case would come forward.

The dog is also (when employed in dog-carts) a sufferer by having to drag overloads. If, with his fine qualities he is to be ever doomed to this life of slavery, to be a beast of burden, let his burden be lightened as much as possible, so that the whip may be spared.

An overload is the common source of all sorts of cruelty to draught animals.

Were dog-carts prohibited, a vast annual amount of suffering would be spared this ornament of animal life. Sentiment in its fairest forms distinguish him; human affection is poor indeed when compared with the warmth, constancy, and fidelity of that which this captivating creature bears towards his beloved, but too often unworthy master. Mark the transports with which he receives him on his return home, and, with all this gentleness, the high and daring courage and sagacity with which he defends him in the hour of darkness and danger. More sensible to the remembrance of one act of his kindness than of his numerous injuries, he fondly cherishes the first, and nobly and generously forgets the last, and is thus an example for the best of mankind to imitate.

Note 6.—THE CALF.

Fairs and market-days never pass without the perpetration of cruelty to a race of animals (cattle) more devoid of guile and error, from their simplicity and ignorance, than the more domesticated animals.

Revolting Cruelty of Beating a very young Calf, exhausted with travelling.—Case 16.—A ferocious wretch, Thomas H——, was observed at the Kingsholm turnpike beating, with a large stick, a poor weakly calf, which had travelled a long journey by the side of its mother, was just taken from her, and wholly exhausted by the separation, and the journey, had fallen to the ground. In this helpless and pitiable state, the poor thing was cruelly beaten to make it rise, amidst the cries of the spectators, “Why don’t you carry it?” for it was not able to get up, much less to walk. The constable is in pursuit. This practice of beating poor calves, which, from their extreme youth and weakness, have been unable to bear the fatigue of a long journey to market, is very common, and is of the same dreadful character as that of flogging poor old horses and donkeys in the last stage of weakness and old age, to make them drag weights far beyond their powers to do, until, broken-hearted or exhausted, they fall to rise no more.

The *ne plus ultra* of cruelty, however, with one exception, is the method of carrying calves to market; but for which, it appears from the following case, there is no punishment by our present laws.

Carrying Calves. Cruelty the Custom of the Country.—Case 17.—T. P—— appeared for cruelly using a number of calves, in bringing them from long distances in a position a description of which is sufficient to prove the horrible cruelty, and that a person guilty of committing it deserves the very highest punishment.

These poor animals, packed and marked like so many sacks of corn, had their bodies and legs so tied in the cart, that their heads hung over the sides, so that at every concussion of the vehicle they were often struck violently against the wheels or body of the cart! When to these repeated blows on the head, be added the inconceivably dreadful sensations from the filling of the brain with blood, as the head hangs down for so long a journey—and which

may be in some measure imagined, by the incessant coiling of the neck, as the miserable creature attempts to turn its head to seek relief in a new position, which it can never find,—the protruded and blood-gorged eyes, the incessant blows, the loss of its mother, its affright and anguish,—and you have a picture of suffering, not to be exceeded by the rack; but unlike the rack, it is bestowed upon an inoffensive and guileless being. Sometimes the bereaved parent follows the cart, lowing mournfully after her offspring; and the poor young creature, unaccustomed to such cruel usage, and hearing her voice, now makes a violent struggle, and raises its head, to gaze for the last time on its mother, who little thinks of the tragedy about to be enacted on her helpless offspring.

Apoplexy, in many of these cases, shortens the sufferings of these poor animals; they die on the road, and thus murdered, are thrown out of the cart at the close of the journey.

In the present case, although it was accompanied to justice by a Reverend Doctor, most humanely, yet it was, to his astonishment, decided by the magistrates, that “the evil complained of was the custom of the country, and could not be interfered with.”

This decision permits an uninterrupted succession of poor creatures to be thus tortured twice a week, and without a remedy. When arrived at home (what a home is the slaughter-house!) the spectator, in looking into the cart, believes they are calves already killed for the market: at first sight not a vestige of life remains: the limbs tied together roughly with ropes, are painfully stiffened, the constant beating or concussion of the brain and body, with the alarm, have extinguished its phenomena. Presently, however, amongst this bruised mass of suffering, a slight writhing of a neck, here and there, is perceptible, followed by a sigh or groan! Poor simple-minded things! how deplorable and affecting it appears, at first sight, that life should have been opened to you at all, to be so short, and yet have so early, so dreadful, a termination—a succession of horrors of which no language, however graphic, can give a conception.

Each calf is now fatted. From this period the remainder of its existence is a continued series of revolting cruelty, the mouth being

bound up with a strap that its moans may not be heard. To make the meat white, the poor simple creature is bled till it staggers and falls: it has scarcely recovered from the horrid faintness and weakness which large bleedings produce, than it is again bled, until it staggers and falls a second time; and is often bled a third time (the second bleeding is sometimes fatal, that is, the animal is bled to death!); and now, as a climax to these atrocious proceedings, it is kept without food for the last twenty-four hours of its existence. The climax of suffering? No! this is still to come: staggering with weakness and barbarous treatment, it is at last brought forth to die, and is slung in the air with its head again downwards. Its executioner first strikes it on the head with his axe, but hardly enough to stun him or deprive him of feeling, *for the head must not be bruised*. Its guileless mouth is then transfixed with a hook and the head pulled forcibly back, when its throat is cut from ear to ear, so that the flesh shall be drained of every drop of blood. Many butchers cut the throat without attempting to stun the wretched creature. Who after this could eat white veal?

Where is the legislator, as he calmly on his pillow reviews the actions of the day, that would not sleep more peacefully, and believe that he had gone a long way in making his peace with God, by contributing successfully to save from torture thousands of God's helpless and innocent creatures? A noble field, equally deserving occupation by the orator, the lawgiver, and the philanthropist. That man's end would certainly be more happy, and his memory sanctified, who would even do away with the secret and foul crimes of the slaughter-house, that sink of blood and carnage, where every cruelty is practised upon the gentle and unresisting.

The Indian warrior sometimes takes his enemy in the act of butchering his wife and children. Passionless, and meditative, he coolly surveys his captured enemy being tied to the stake, the whole powers of his active mind are concentrated in one absorbing idea—not certainly in doubting whether he shall relent or not, which his calmness to a stranger might indicate, but in devising a current of torments with which to gratify his intense hate, or assuage the thirst of his unutterable revenge.

But the cunning and ingenuity of the wild savage of the wilderness could scarcely sketch out a plan of cruelty more terrible, with which to slake his vengeance for the slaughter of all which was dear to him in this world, than that which is thus perpetrated in this civilized country upon an innocent and unresisting animal, for the especial purpose of procuring a dainty dish to gratify the palate of the enlightened and humane Christian.

It seems Christian and English ladies and gentlemen have a peculiar relish in eating (so prepared) their veal—white. But there is a just, prompt, and remarkable retribution, although not sufficient in degree of punishment. Veal in stomach complaints (and there are few persons without them) is a most unwholesome meat, and in many cases of these disorders acts like a poison. If it be not rejected as soon as swallowed, like many of the poisons, it remains only to work disorder in the head, and the heart, and other parts influenced by an injured stomach.

It is not possible for malignant ingenuity to devise more horrible and dreadful cruelty than is allowed in the carriage of these simple and innocent creatures, and their treatment previous to being, and when, slaughtered.

Let any person who doubts that it is cruelty to carry calves in the way specified, recollect for a few minutes, and ask himself whether he would not prefer having both legs amputated, than encounter the feelings he must endure in being carried with his head downwards for *one* mile. The poor calves are often carried *many*. What dreadful feelings, inexpressibly horrible, must be those of any living creature so circumstanced, would be best proved by hanging the doubting person with his head downwards for a short time—and it would be short, for apoplexy, in a human subject, would probably soon follow. And yet we dare to permit such a cruel crime to be executed upon helpless beings for hours together, which we, independently of the danger, could not even endure the thought of suffering *for a minute*.

This is another example of the evil of the law not classifying or specifying what is an act of cruelty, and leaving this to be done by magistrates, who might differ in opinion.

Note 7.—THE HORSE.

Is more frequently an example of cruelty in every shape, in this neighbourhood, than any other animal, and this it is painful to state from the circumstance of his great utility, and thus his merits are made the introduction to his transcendent miseries. His most cruel and frequent sufferings arise chiefly from those sources of which this great country should be ashamed—starvation, overload, and old age.

He is worked when lame and in pain, and often till, when late in life, he falls into the hands of the needy and poor, and thus also he is worked in old age, and frequently when half starved, and this, at a season, and under circumstances which would demand, and obtain, for man commiseration, a hospital, or poor-house,—but for him there is no provision, no protection, no relief, but the fitful, short-lived humanity of a series of generally hard-hearted and impoverished masters.

Who that has lived in the country will not recognise the last miserable days of the poor old animal seeking, instinctively, in a bye lane a morsel of herbage growing by the road side? Sometimes his mouth gathers, as it moves, a little at random, but oftener there is nothing for him, and he cannot see where to be more successful. The eyes are gone, as completely as if thrust out with a gouge—and perhaps they were knocked out—gone for ever, either from cruelty, ignorance, or neglect. Skin only covers his bones, his knees are raw, and perhaps his sides, from the deep laceration of the spur; and in this state he is left just to support life, or to be sent to the pound, where he is perhaps worse treated.

The fate of the old mare in this state of wretchedness seeking a morsel of nourishment, is still more touching and affecting, if she happens to miss the foal from her side. Something has separated them. Instinctively conscious of her loss, she raises her head in alarm, and glares upon you from the large ghastly sockets, as if she would see her lost one without eyes. The expression of the whole head is that of a strained attention to sound, and turned sideways towards it, whether coming from the voice or footfall of her lost one. Poor thing! She reaches out her head to touch,

(oh ! if she could but touch her beloved,) but sight, touch, and ear, have all failed ; and then affectionately rushing at random towards the sound, she falls, mangled, on a heap of stones !

How many old horses has not the Author seen fall on the stones, smashing their knees, when dragging loads too heavy for their enfeebled and diseased frames : then flogged up again and again, to proceed once more by aid of the cruel and heavy whip, until they fall for the last time !

May God change the hearts of the oppressors, and bestow feeling and wisdom on our legislators and magistrates for the protection of these unfortunates, usually old, and weak by starvation !

The horse is ridden to death on the road, his back is broken in steeple-chases, to gratify avarice, ambition, and—sport ! He is starved in pounds more frequently than is imagined ; and in stables his secret sufferings are probably greater than the open ones : the hissing sound of the lash, and an occasional subdued execration of the wretch at his barbarous work, are all that can be known in general of stable cruelties. As a concealed crime, however, so frequent, and yet so difficult of detection and punishment, it ought to be visited with exemplary severity, more especially when we remember, that the deed is done in darkness, and always (in the case of servants) accompanied by a breach of trust.

Three repeated examples of Cruelty by the same Offender, after mitigated Fines.—Case 18, of overload, producing most unmerciful flogging, on the Cheltenham tram-road.

The long-continued sound of a heavy whip attracted the Author to the scene of cruelty. George Haines, of Cheltenham, with the air of a demon, his teeth set with determined malignity, was flogging a poor starved horse, which had both fore fetlock joints diseased ; on one of them was a large sore concealed by a rag. The truck contained 2 tons 12 cwt. of stone. The animal strained and struggled to move the load, and his sufferings may be conceived, when the whole weight, conjoined with his exertions, was thrown upon his diseased joints, ready by this pressure to give way into dislocation.

The spectators said that the struggles of the poor animal and

the flogging had been heart-breaking. To avoid the lash, he would turn back, cross the road, and, mad with suffering, run his head violently against the turnpike house, and then try to get into the house. The whip and handle alternately were with fiendish ingenuity now applied to the raw and diseased joints. At this moment the Author arrived—"You scoundrel! it is impossible that this starved creature can move the load." "But he must, Sir; how d'ye think I am to get to Cheltenham?" and then recommenced the horrible flogging.

He was imprisoned a week, not being able to pay a fine of *half-a-guinea*. But this punishment did not prevent a repetition of the crime, when the same man was again convicted in the same small fine.

His brother admitted that this George Haines was in the habit of buying, for a trifle, horses, from age and disease soon intended for the dogs; that by flogging he would get them along, but often they would fall, and frequently unable to rise again, he would occasionally cut their throats on the spot, with a knife he carried for the purpose.

July 28th.—The foregoing atrocious miscreant was again observed with a wretched horse, whose near fore fetlock was so much diseased, that little of a joint remained. There was a loaded tram-road cart behind him, containing about 2 tons 12 cwt. To witness the struggles of the poor animal, his whole powers (in straining) thrown upon this joint which rested on the pebbly convex surface of the tram-road, was dreadful; for constantly slipping, and the joint giving way as the pain from the pressure became intolerable, the use of the whip, and the holding up of the head, would all have failed to prevent his falling on his knees, had not a neighbouring team lent its assistance in moving the truck. When this assistance was withheld, which it would be very speedily, and out of the reach of observation, nothing but a constant flogging could make this miserable creature keep its legs.

These examples of diseased limbs are especially the cases for hospitals, for without entire rest they have no chance of recovery, and this cannot be obtained when belonging to poor proprietors. The horse is therefore cruelly used, or its master must starve. If

the veterinary surgeon decided the case to be incurable, or that it would be cruelty to work him at all, he should either be purchased of the proprietor, from a fund devoted to that purpose, and be destroyed, or the Legislature should interfere to protect those tortured and unfortunate creatures from a continuation of a life so barbarously cruel that neither words, thoughts, nor imagination can give anything like even a faint description of the reality. Had the full fine of forty shillings been levied on this man on the first conviction, he would not have repeated the offence three times.

These flogging scenes are daily practised on the same tram-road from the same causes—loads too heavy for weak, diseased, and aged horses to draw. The poor creatures are perpetually falling upon swollen and lacerated knees, on a stony road.

In the foregoing cases, the punishment, as in most others, was too slight to prevent incessant repetition of the offence in the same individual: no good was effected. The whole of the present fine should be enforced—no mitigation allowed.

When old or worn out horses are thus employed by owners, they should be made responsible for any cruelty such a state might induce; and be fined at least equally with the drivers.

The horses are generally blind on this same road, and many of them from violence applied by the handle of the whip; and shocking it is that this very blindness brings upon the poor creatures still further punishment, for when whipped they get off the narrow road, and not being able to see their way back, they are flogged to find it at random; they blunder, go wrong, and are again flogged back, until they know not what to do, or where to go!

It is most lamentable that when a horse becomes aged, infirm, lame, and diseased, his hour of wretchedness has arrived, and not passed, as in human beings. The more lame and feeble, the more he is whipped—and all for man's worldly gain. He toils and struggles often in acute and incessant pain, without one sound limb to drag his burden with, and scarcely ever with one kind word to cheer him. His death is like his life. No sight can be more mournful and affecting than that of this poor, starved, and aged creature, now that he has no longer strength to serve his master,

feebly creeping in pain down some bye lane to conclude a life of misery by a death of agony. No friend nor friendly feeling accompanies him in this his last journey; no sound disturbs the silence of the early morn, save a brutal execration from his executioner; if the miserable being in his weakness move too slowly to please him, who is already baring his arm and feeling for the fatal knife.

Aggravated and malignant Cruelty.—Case 21.—George P— was summoned for a most atrocious act of cruelty committed on a mare of Mr. Johnson's.

He was a bad tempered man, and had been in the habit of beating her on every trifling occasion, which the poor thing would sometimes resent by showing her teeth. For this offence, one day he first flogged her unmercifully, and then calmly and coolly fixed the iron traces around her belly, so tight, and in such a way, that they could not shift their position by any strain that could be applied. A large staff was now passed under this chain, which he thus twisted with all his strength. The screams of the poor creature drew forth the inhabitants of the village from their houses; but the cries of "Shame! Shame!" did not deter him; he persisted in increasing the torture, the mare crying like a child, when fortunately the chain broke in two places, and was bent in several others. Fined *five shillings!*

Remark.—Another lamentable instance of the punishment not being at all proportioned to the crime. The case for extreme cruelty could scarcely be exceeded, and requires no further comment than its history, except, indeed, that little should be left to the feeling of the judge where the conviction and proper punishment of the offender depend upon the accidental circumstance of its being present. In this case there was no feeling in the matter, and the man would have escaped altogether but for a difference of opinion. Nor is this said without deep respect for the magistrates, for want of feeling is involuntary, and arising very much out of uncontrollable circumstances or habits which have encompassed man through life. There should, therefore, be no mitigation of the full fine of forty shillings or two months' imprisonment; for as to very short imprisonments, they are often disregarded by the sort of characters concerned in these brutal crimes; a little change of residence and

of scene is sometimes more pleasing than painful, especially against winter, unless the treadmill be conjoined with it.

Cruelty from Galled Necks and Collar Wounds.—These yield the largest class of sufferers among horses, from the cruelty and avarice of man; and although a calm enquiry must leave the mind painfully affected that avarice should be the main source of this almost universal misery of the poor draught horse, yet is it equally surprising that it is, with us at least, thought little of, probably from its frequent occurrence in a hilly country, as well as from the general apathy to the sufferings of animals, and from its not being a malignant or an intentional cruelty. This last feeling creeps into the justice-room, and naturally leads to very slight ineffective punishment, which, in its turn, perpetuates the evil. “Drivers cannot help the collars galling,” said a most amiable magistrate, who had been connected with the posting business. But the master’s avarice should not stand in the way of their cure; and when it does, which is always the case, he should be severely punished for it; for trivial as the case itself may seem, the sufferings of the poor animal are most exquisite, and almost constant, interrupted only by the *short* rest allowed between the journeys; indeed, this rest only aggravates the animals’ sufferings, for the wound gets stiff and inflamed during the absence of the collar, so that when it is re-applied the increased soreness must be intolerable. Conceive, in these collar wounds the skin rubbed off the flesh, and that a mixture of blood, matter, and perspiration hardens the leather of the collar into ribs or ridges, and that these ridges are scraping the raw sore for hours together, producing such copious streams of blood and matter that they run over the hoof! This is the fact. Again, no analogy can be closer drawn from the human subject, than the raw surface of a blister rubbed for hours together with a brickbat. So exquisitely tender is the extensive sore, that the poor animal is naturally reluctant to bear against the collar, especially when a heavy load is behind, so that this barbarity leads to another—perpetual flogging, to keep him up to the collar. Now, when another fact is remembered, namely, that *sufficient* rest from the collar, and proper applications, are sure to cure the patient, the postmaster himself who permits a

continuance of the crime from avarice, by not resting the poor creature, or be at the expense of slight local treatment, or of purchasing a better sort of collar, deserves a heavy effective fine, which, with the driver's fine, would stop the prevalence of this cruelty among the most useful and valuable of our animals. As the proprietor's avarice is generally most to blame in his permitting his horse to work under such cruel circumstances, his fine and punishment should be perhaps greater than his servants, or at any rate master and man should be both fined in the forty shillings penalty. This would stop the evil.

Mitigated Fine useless. Offence repeated.—Case 22.—Joseph B—, of Stroud, March 25th, (offending again June 25th,) was summoned for driving a horse with a large collar wound. When the collar was removed, an immense circle of raw flesh entirely surrounding the root of the neck, presented itself, covered with blood and matter—indeed streams of blood ran down the fore leg and over the hoof. This wretched horse was made to travel twenty miles daily, from Stroud and back, in this dreadfully lacerated state, adding fresh torture, and more lacerations, to the raw surface of the sore.—Fined, the costs only, *three shillings and sixpence*.

The extreme inadequacy of the punishment to the crime was, of course, ineffectual, even in preventing a continuation of the cruelty in this particular case. The man continued the practice, only a little removed from the observation of the Society's officer.

A great many of these unfortunate cases have been proved, but fined so slightly, that little good has been effected in arresting this universal cruelty. Even the infliction of the whole fine prescribed by the present law, would not, in some cases, stop the cruelty, the use of the animal exceeding in value the amount of the fine—an evil which can only be met by a much larger fine, or by fining both owner and man; the former being most to blame:

Mitigated Punishment useless. Offence repeated.—Case 23. May 30th.—Another example of the inadequacy of the fine to the crime, occurred in the case of C—— of Hucclecote. He had been in the habit of driving a team of horses to Gloucester, that excited the surprise and horror of the spectators; they were literally skin and bone, and so weak as to fall down, one or other

of them, on the road daily; and the constable had humanely made the driver go round some distance to avoid hilly ground. These poor creatures had also galled shoulders.—Fined, with costs, *eleven shillings and sixpence*.

Case 24. June 14th.—Repeated offence by the same individual. Summoned again in *one week after the first conviction* for the same offence, the previous convictions and slight punishment having no good effect, from the fine being mitigated. To shew still more forcibly how little the galled shoulder is thought an act of cruelty, it is only requisite to observe, that some of the cases were discharged with an admonition only.

A Horse, exhausted by Disease and Labour, savagely mutilated and beaten to Death.—Case 25.—This was a most affecting case. The poor horse, weakened by a long illness, had been compelled to take a load of coal to Cheltenham. On its return, it fell from exhaustion, which so enraged the driver, Thomas Merchant, that he drove a pick-axe into the body as it lay on the ground. The murderous assault was then continued with the edge of a shovel about the head, until it was bent double: the face guttered with wounds, and the upper lip cut into ribands. The bleeding was so terrible, that although the poor creature was got upon his legs, he dropped dead soon after. One Wood, who accompanied the cart, was found lying on the dead body, his clothes saturated with blood. A scene of greater depravity, on a public road, can scarcely be imagined; an inoffensive, helpless, and unresisting, fellow-creature brutally murdered in a state of illness, while the drunken witnesses of the deed were wallowing in its innocent blood.

November 4th.—Fined by the county magistrates *forty shillings*. A punishment, however, not at all proportioned to the foul deed: it did no good, for the fellow not being able to pay was sent to prison for a *fortnight*, whence he returned, laughing at his punishment, and saying he should like to go to prison for double that time for the forty shillings. Short imprisonments, without the treadmill, are of no use.

Barbarous Treatment of a Horse, requiring a heavier Punishment.—Case 26.—John Packer was summoned for great cruelty inflicted upon an exhausted and famished horse, which was one of

a team belonging to ———, about to ascend the slight hill at Wotton. All the horses were so weak and so shamefully starved, that there were sometimes two down at a time. The horse in question, however, when down, could not get up, from weakness, and from want of food. He was in this state cruelly beaten about the head, and the blood ran down his face from the repeated blows about the eyes, one of which appeared closed. It was pitiable to see a helpless being struggling, to rise, who had not strength, and worse to see a creature so ill, beaten cruelly, because nature had not given him the power to do so. At last he was got up with a long pole placed on each side, but when up, could not walk, and was obliged, ultimately, weakened by the cruel treatment he had undergone, to be carried upon the poles to the nearest stable.

An amiable lady had the moral courage and feeling to appear twice before the magistrates to prove the case, but she could not identify the offender, and a fresh summons has been issued.

Note 8.—THE LAMB.

Horrible Cruelty to the gentle and inoffensive Lamb.—The cruelty now to be described, there is too much reason to fear, is very generally practised in this country, and considering its dreadful, premeditated, and unnecessary character, together with the gentle, young, and innocent creature which is the subject of it, exceeds in atrocity most other examples of known cruelty.

Cruelty to the poor Lamb, the Custom of the Country.—Case 27.—A flock of that emblem of innocence, the lamb, the universal favourite of the gentle and the good, whose trembling voice thrills with tenderness and affection through every feeling mind, are reposing in the deep rich green of a luxuriant pasture sparkling with dew and brilliant with the red and white wild flower. But never more will they behold the gladness of another morn: the sun, as if taking leave, sheds his glory on their innocent heads; the morning breeze, that heavenly charm to all things living, sweeps gently and for the last time over the peaceful group, sighing tenderly and mournfully, as if lamenting their approaching doom. But the butcher is waiting—their last hour is at hand.

Would to God, that lordly man, who exercises such tyranny as this over a fellow-being, as to kill and eat him, would enact such laws that should compel his death to be effected with humanity and some degree of feeling towards an innocent and helpless creature. Take an example of the preliminary and cruel process as practised in this neighbourhood.

The lambs are driven to the slaughter-house : one by one they are seized by the butcher, but oftener by his boy, the head fixed between the knees, but rarely steadily, and a knife is drawn across the face so as to cut open each nostril, and sometimes the cheek—for the operator is not very particular—often down to the bone ! This is done with the intention probably of opening the facial artery, to produce profuse bleeding. The mingled bleating of the poor creatures is in vain ; the voice so piteous and affecting, which, if listened to, should disarm the most ferocious, and now crying for its mother, is disregarded. Each gentle and winning creature is dragged forth in its turn, and its innocent countenance thus mangled by the knife, which is not always a keen one. This is the first act of the tragedy. What follows is scarcely credible, although true. The butcher, an hour afterwards, enters this bloody scene of his own creation, to ascertain how much the poor creatures bleed, (for the object is to bleed,) and if the floor be not so slippery that he can with difficulty stand upon it, nor the streams of blood from the mutilated cheeks of his victims sufficiently copious to please him, he strikes with a mallet the nose of the wretched creatures, now become inflamed and tender from the violence already committed : this atrocity is to make them bleed afresh, and more freely !! They are now (Thursday, the day before the killing day) shut up in a dark den, almost swimming in their own blood, till the next day at four o'clock, without food, (horrible !) when their miseries are terminated by a fresh employment of the fatal knife.

The last and more dreadful portion of the foregoing cruelty, the hammering of the lacerated nose to draw blood, though well known to be done, has no chance of prevention, without free admission to slaughter-houses, which would greatly abate the evil ; but the most decided remedy to arrest the general abominations of the slaughter-house, would be the public one, or *abattoir*.

The horrible mode of bleeding by cutting at random across the face, the magistrate, to whom the Author applied, a very able and sensible man, thought would certainly escape punishment, under the plea of its being the custom of the country.

There is something inexpressibly interesting in the character of the poor lamb, which we cannot help loving: its last moments are deeply affecting.

Who would be ashamed of feeling a tender melancholy, deepened with sorrow and regret, at hearing an extensive butcher in this county say, "The lamb, Sir, dies harder than any other animal; it sobs like a child when struck with the knife, and continues so to do, till almost every drop of blood has passed away; or, as long as the slightest signs of life remain?" Or rather, who would not be ashamed of making no effort to save from unnecessary torture one so gentle and so innocent, and so piteously reluctant to part with life?

Note 9.—STABLE AND SLAUGHTER-HOUSE CRUELITIES.

Dreadful as it is to dwell upon, yet there can be no doubt of the fact, that private cruelties are more numerous than public ones.

Crowded as the public streets are with examples of cruelty of every kind, filled with the incessant sound of the lash, to urge on the asthmatic horse with a diseased heart, or to force him to exert all his powers upon diseased joints, till he falls with weakness or old age,—yet there cannot be a shadow of doubt, that the more frequent and enormous atrocities are perpetrated where no eye is allowed to detect them, and which, if detected, no language could describe.

Slaughter-House.—Whence comes that low and melancholy moan? There, in a den of carnage, yet smoking with the hot blood of recent slaughter, is tied up an innocent and harmless creature, waiting in its turn for the beginning of that series of incessant and varied suffering and solitary horrors which are to fill up the remainder of its existence!

Bereft of food and companions, (for animals in affliction and solitude, feel deeply their loss,) and wallowing in the blood of its

predecessors, it lingers through its last night, to die on the morrow a death of violence, often executed with still greater barbarity.

If death must come, let it at least be unaccompanied with torture in an unresisting creature, nor let life be prolonged in unnecessary misery,—for it is well known that the mental agony, that horrid foretaste of its doom, which the smell of blood induces in an animal, must be more terrible to bear than the pains of death itself; and yet we either with disgusting insensibility, or refinement in cruelty, shut up in darkness the affrighted fresh victim with the blood of the last!

A very common kind of cruelty, and one scarcely ever thought of, and which is perhaps more affecting than any other, is, mistaking illness for obstinacy or bad temper, and then beating the wretched creature for an offence of which he is not guilty, instead of treating with tenderness and caution a helpless being, which cannot explain its suffering or answer questions. A person of any feeling making such a mistake, could scarcely forgive himself.

A miserable case will illustrate this point, and shew the necessity of extreme care, necessary in the choice of servants. An affectionate pet cat, became suddenly very irritable, and without making any enquiries, a servant girl thought this was sufficient to require a severe beating. Frightened and unconscious of error, the poor little thing retired from observation and soon afterwards died; its death hastened no doubt by its wounded feelings, for dumb creatures become extremely sensitive when tenderly brought up—a fact that must be instantly recognised by those who study their character. The cause of this irritability was a fatal bite by a dog through the neck; and in this painful and dying state, the poor creature, accustomed to all the endearments of affection, was cruelly beaten. These occurrences, so painful to dwell upon, are too often happening to old horses and donkeys, or to cattle driven long distances. They are ill, and fall exhausted from weakness, and frequently have literally no foot nor hoof to stand upon, it being worn down by constant travelling, the bloody stump remaining as a substitute for the foot, and a memorial of British humanity to the helpless brute. In this deplorable state they also are beaten to make them move on; but to beat the poor creature when ill or thus circumstanced, although it may be done in innocence, is so mournful and shocking an act, that a man guilty of it, and possessed

of any good feelings, and when fully assured of what he has been doing, would but slowly recover his peace of mind, perhaps never be exempt from occasional acute pangs of remorse, as associations brought back to memory the sad event. The beating the sick animal, knowing it to be so, is really the *ne plus ultra* of cruel depravity, and not very rare in a country where cruelty is often a pastime and humanity would appear to be a stranger, and where, it is painful to observe, Christians may be taught by the heathen, although the former profit not by the lesson. Let an observing man, standing at Charing Cross or higher up in the City, abstract his attention from all other objects for one day save the treatment of horses, and he will have no occasion for a telescope to discover the truth of this remark.

Considerably more than 2000 cases of aggravated cruelty have been convicted by one Society alone, viz., Our Parent Society, within a few years, under the management of its able and indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Thomas.

Cruelty done in secret, where there is greater facility for its perpetration and a greater difficulty in the detection, should be considered as an aggravated offence, and dealt with accordingly. The English law, indeed, sanctions this distinction, by considering a burglary, the breaking into a dwelling-house in the night when the family sleeps, or the crime of a poacher who steals game in the night, as aggravated offences. And is not that secret crime of cruelty deserving of a heavier punishment, especially for its prevention, where a ferocious tempered brute of a groom, for some little offence given to himself, and which might not have been intentional, ties up his master's horse with which he is entrusted, locks the door inside, and then with fiendlike malignity commences a barbarous assault with a besom, staff, or heavy whip, till he is tired, upon the poor animal, which has no protection, save that of an imperfect Act of Parliament, which, permitting no opportunity of detection as a matter of course the crime escapes punishment.

How constantly is this cruel and generally secret scene rehearsed in almost every stable!

It is, perhaps, more affecting where the simple minded cattle are concerned, shut up without food or companions, and in soli-

tude for days, bled and then slowly murdered by ineffective blows on the head, often so unskilfully done that the sad work is too frequently finished by any other means that the corrupt fancy, the bad temper, or the physical inability of the slaughterman might indicate.

May our Legislature take pity on the helpless and innocent sufferers, and arrest these atrocious proceedings! But before this can be done, the law must allow the police, or the officers of Protection Societies, free access to these abodes of misery, and also to stables, where it is probable that more cruelty is secretly practised than in all other situations put together.

It is possible that thus simply laying open the scenes of these depravities, would stop the greater portion of the evil. Were there not abundance of facts to shew the necessity of immediately attending to the indications which the melancholy history of the slaughter-house must present, a single question would suffice.

We all know the demoralized condition of the class of mankind employed in slaughter-houses, especially in large towns. Is it right that the destruction of animals intended for our food should be left, without superintendence, to the sole management of persons addicted to drinking, devoid of feeling, and perhaps, in a great degree, of moral and religious principle, prone to give way to their passions, and who are, by their very habits of slaughter, reckless of blood and suffering, and not always sufficiently skilled in the painful science of destruction?

Note 10.—ON THE PENAL REMEDIES.

Until the period may arrive when education and more enlightened views shall have effected a change in the public mind in favour of the dumb creation, it is necessary to enact promptly and for their immediate relief, such vigorous laws that will surely arrest the crime of cruelty practised on beings which are God's creatures as well as ourselves.

If the prevention of this crime be the proper object of punishment, it is clear that the present penal laws do not answer the purpose for which they were intended.

The punishments generally bear no proportion to the offences they have to encounter, and furnish only partial checks, in some degree corresponding to the activity of Protection Societies. For without these Societies there would be few convictions to enable us to stop a moral disease that is rooted in the feelings and habits of the more demoralized portion of society, and which occupies every large town and village, and even our stables and dwelling-houses.

If ever legislation were required to be decisive, it should be so in the cause of the helpless, whose voice is for ever silent in their own cause. This humane practice, indeed, is recognised by our laws in the cases of minors and lunatics, and in the general and benevolent feeling of mankind to incline towards the weak and unprotected, in all cases save those of the poor unresisting dumb creatures. If two men fight, the spectators side with the little or more helpless one: if he cry "Foul," the sympathy is still stronger for him. How much more this beautiful moral sentiment is required to protect the abused and ill-treated brute who has no voice as a warning to cry "Foul," when writhing under the torturing lash, or the violent kick from the heavy shoe of the ferocious and faithless wretch to whose care he has been entrusted!!

The Author is fully satisfied that the present form of Mr. Martin's Act is much too feeble for its object. The power of mitigation by magistrates to small fines, from forty shillings downwards, or slight imprisonments, renders the punishment little regarded, or it is soon forgotten altogether.

This also is the experience of other Societies for the Protection of Animals.

A continuation of the crime is always the result where there is little or no fear of the consequences; and thus it frequently happens that repetitions of the same offence, by the same individuals, often follow the primary conviction. This is especially the case with horses with galled shoulders. From some reason or other, probably from there being no intention in this example of cruelty, and from there being a conviction in the mind of the magistrate that the offender, the driver, is not so much to blame as his master, small fines are imposed, by which a continual repetition of the offence is constantly going on, and often by the same indivi-

duals. If master and servant were both fined the full fine of forty shillings of the present law, this cruel and constant shape of suffering for the poor horse would cease.

It would also be desirable to inflict a double fine on repetitions of the same crimes by the same individuals.

The most frequent and worst example of cruelty is the horse; which, it is deplorable to add, arises out of the weakness induced by starvation or old age, often by overload, lameness, or internal disease. The effects of an overload, especially to the aged and diseased horse, the human mind cannot contemplate without horror; nor should it rest until relief be obtained for the poor beings. The whip has exhausted its influence—(*see Case 25*): the miserable old creature struggles and falls. The pick-axe and shovel are employed instead of the whip to get him up to work again—a dying creature. It is murdered on the spot: blood soaks the ground and the apparel of the murderer. The cruel deed executed on the high road, with no compunctious visitings of the conscience, for one of the party is found half drunk reposing on the bloody body of the victim!!

If custom does not rank such an enormity equal to the murder of a human being, we will take the liberty of expressing an opinion that the vindictive slaughter of an inoffensive, helpless, old creature, and ill, who had committed no fault except that which nature, old age, and want of food creates, deserves, indeed, an example of punishment that would not readily be forgotten.

From the incessant recurrence of bad cases of cruelty, it is clear that the present law has little or no good effect in checking the evil. Instead of forty shillings fine for these most atrocious cases, the punishment should be greatly increased: in default of payment, two months' imprisonment, with the treadmill, which last should never be omitted. In horse cruelty, or in other animals used for draught, both driver and proprietor should be fined, in cases when the latter is to blame, which is almost always the case when he employs aged, worn out, or diseased animals.

There is a species of cruelty, which, as it leads to others, and is itself a dreadful condition of life, requires a heavy punishment. It is not violence, though it inevitably leads to it: its tortures may

better be felt than described—starvation. The weakness that accompanies it against a hill, or with an overload, is productive of all kinds of brutal conduct.

The signs of starvation are not difficult to make out. Sometimes one horse only in a team may be skin and bone, and in that case, there may be disease or extreme age to account for it ; but when the whole team is a collection of skeletons, the proof is complete ; it has a cruel master who deserves severe punishment. Several teams of these phantoms creep about this neighbourhood, moved slowly by the aid of the whip, which, had it no effect would further the idea of their unsubstantial or unearthly character. For this wickedness the present laws have no punishment, unless cruelty by violence be superadded. When eating heartily your own dinner, look from your dining-room window at these poor starved horses, toiling and struggling, who have little to eat, nor friend, nor law to ensure them a fair meal, and no voice to complain.

All is silent save the hissing sound of the whip, and the deep curse of the impatient carter ; yet this man, bad tempered and brutal as he too often is, is innocence itself compared with his unworthy master, who should be made responsible for any act of cruelty, arising out of starvation, extreme old age, or infirmities.

How mournful it is to contemplate the fate of the poor old horse, lame, diseased, and worn out. This very creature, whose age and infirmities should exempt it from all pain and suffering, is the very one doomed to bear the greatest of all ! The whip—the heavy, keen and torturing whip, is to supply the loss of youth and physical power, and the deficiencies of old age !

To fill the pockets of the avaricious and unfeeling proprietor, it is compelled to drag weights beyond its strength. The greater the weakness of the poor thing, and the more aged, the more is it whipped. To witness the straining and struggles under the agony of punishment to move the load, is inexpressibly painful. It is in vain : he can proceed no further. Again is the sound of the keen whip heard in the air, as the driver selects the tenderest parts of the poor old creature. The agony of the lash again stimulates him, with a groan, to advance, soon, alas ! to fall with a broken heart, or utterly exhausted, and literally flogged to death. Should

he live to return to the stable, he is worse fed than ever, because he can no longer work; and it is dreadful to conceive that this deplorable existence is the fate of most horses not killed in battle, by accident, or happily by disease, in early life. From his first falling off in beauty and strength, in the possession of his original master, his gradation from bad to worse, is certain. He endures starvation, hard labour, and the whip, until no longer "worth his keep," (the usual expression of his unfeeling master,) he is sent to the knacker's yard. Here, sometimes intentionally left without any food, he gnaws, or attempts to eat, in the agony of hunger, his fellow-sufferer!

There are many humane persons who would fain hope that animals have no sense of feeling, although such an opinion must be contrary to observation, which is the sure source of all sound knowledge.

The very employment of the spur and the whip is founded on the fact that they possess acute feeling, for both the one or other must be useless without it. The horse bounds forward when struck with the spur, or when lashed with the whip, and throws his head aside when expecting a blow from the butt-end of the latter.

Plucking Poultry alive.—There can be no doubt of the occasional perpetration of this horrid practice, which is done because the feathers come out much easier when the animal is alive, than when quite dead; and because the skin of the bird, when for sale, looks smoother, by the feather holes closing more completely when the feathers are plucked from him alive,—or at least so it is thought. As domestic animals, poultry come within the meaning of the Act; and the animal should be considered alive so long as any motion remains in any part of the body, and to prevent the escape of offenders.

Discoveries, however, of these cruel practices cannot be easily made without making all places where animals are confined subject to the visits of the constable or police.

Pound Cruelties.—Who will attempt to describe them, even since the operation of the benevolent Amended Act of 5 & 6 William IV., which compels the pound-keeper, or person impounding, to find good and sufficient food for the poor animals under his charge, and in default of his so doing, rendering him liable to the heavy penalty of *five shillings* daily?

The pound-keeper is empowered to recover from the owner, and is in the habit of charging so much a day for the food. Here is to be found the source of a most calamitous evil, for there is not a doubt that, frequently, charges are made for food which the poor creatures never have, and the money goes into the pocket of the pound-keeper or his deputy.

Clause 5, probably foreseeing this result, empowers any other person or persons to feed the poor astray. But who thinks of this, or will take the necessary trouble? In fact, it is rarely done; and the pound-keeper or his deputy (having no check on their conduct, and perhaps the owner not appearing) will keep the most cruelly used animal *upon just enough food* to sustain life, until the bill approaches near to his value, and then he is sold, to pay for his daily food, which, probably, he has never had. If the owner does appear, he pays for this keep without having any proof of the animals having had it. To cut short so cruel and deplorable a speculation, it is of consequence to get the poor creature out of the pound as soon as possible. This may be done by giving more publicity of his confinement than is at present practised. Pounds should be more exposed to the public view, and a finger-post, if otherwise, ought to indicate their locality.

Moreover, when an astray is impounded, the crier of the place should give notice to the public twice or three times a week, until the case is concluded. The pound-keeper should be so respectable in life, as to be above the temptation of robbing the helpless animal of his food, and should not be allowed to keep a deputy. Finally, it would be desirable that the pound-keeper should feed the poor wanderer three times a day, and be compelled to ring a bell at such periods.

The construction of our pounds is a disgrace to a civilized country. They have generally no shelter from the heats of summer or the storms of winter. The nights of the unfortunate impounded animal, in the latter season, in his desolate prison are too painful to dwell upon. We pass his melancholy abode as the darkness of a December evening is gathering round his solitude, which will soon conceal, without relieving, its gloomy horrors. He is standing perhaps in a pool of dirty water, half way to his knees: the keen cold wind roughens his coat, and exposes his bare

and famished ribs, whilst he has no cover to protect him from the pitiless pelting of the impending storm, or the driving of the snow gust, or the piercing cold of a long wintry night. He is without food. In taking your morning walk you will be shocked at seeing the poor half-killed creature standing on the same spot, motionless, in the filthy puddles of his never cleaned habitation, increased by bad weather, and forsaken by all the world, but often with a drooping air of desolation, misery, and submission, which is deeply affecting. He is still without food. How many hundreds of wretched—most wretched—beings pass in pounds such nights as these every winter; and do they live under the protection of wise laws, in a land of charity, feeling, and benevolence?

To save such helpless beings from some of these horrors, the pounds themselves must undergo an alteration, or be erected anew. The water should run off an *oblique* floor, which should be always pitched and drained. A covering, or place of warmth and shelter, should be erected over the spot at the highest part, for protection in bad weather, and there should be a rack from which the poor creatures might pick their bit of hay, instead of picking it up from a floor soiled by the fetid accumulations of their most cruel and disgusting prison.

The Author is fully satisfied, from a rigid enquiry, that, notwithstanding the amended Act, the poor astrays are frequently kept without food for days together, in the manner described, and that the dreadful condition and form of a great number of pounds render them unfit for the reception of any living creature—exposed without shelter to the heats of summer and the bitter cold of winter, and to being stoned by boys, from whom they cannot escape.

Note 11.—REMEDIAL SUGGESTIONS TO ABATE THESE EVILS.

IF happiness be not the proper object of man in this life, his chief employment is certainly the pursuit of it. It is thus a paramount consideration, and to obtain it he sacrifices everything. If of such boundless value to man, it must be equally so to all animals connected with him; thousands and tens of thousands of which necessarily depend on him for what little here may be their lot. This lot to most is a dreadful one.

An alteration in Mr. Martin's Act is necessary to render the connection less fatal, to rescue from torture crowds of sentient beings. This is an important object certainly, though the Legislature may consider other matters of higher importance. The following may be considered as hints, and most of the measures proposed appear to be absolutely necessary.

There should be, if possible, a more clear identification of what is considered cruelty, and a classification of the different kinds; for example, some magistrates consider that the case of galled shoulders in horses, not being specified in the Act, and not being intentionally an act of cruelty, is not cruelty; and to-day, (December 6,) a summons was refused by the county magistrates, for a man setting a large Newfoundland dog upon a small lap dog, which it bit and tortured to death. The objection was, that the deed complained of did not come under the Act of Parliament.

In the first case, "*wantonly* torturing" could perhaps scarcely apply; nevertheless, the cruelty is the same to the poor animal, *and, therefore, comes within the Act as to "ill-treating;"* but in the latter case, setting a large ferocious animal upon one who had no chance of defending itself, to tear and worry it to death, is certainly an extreme act of "*wantonly* torturing" a dog.

Nevertheless, if the magistrates had not felt such an objection to exist, they would not have acted upon it.

Amongst some of the subjects for the consideration of the Legislature, but far from all, are the following :—

To prevent the overloading of public vehicles, by which great cruelty is brought upon draught animals.

A provision for the protection of old, diseased, and worn-out horses, by making the owner responsible.

In cases of galled shoulders from the collar, the owner to be responsible as well as the driver.

The subjecting, under proper regulations, all slaughter-houses, stables, and other places where animals are placed in confinement, to the inspection of the police or constables.

The abolition of steeple-chases, or laying a heavy tax upon them.

A provision to prevent the present cruel method of carrying calves.

The making penal the dangerous and cruel practice of drawing carts with dogs.

A measure to prevent unnecessary cruelty in the destruction of animal life for food, as in the examples of making veal white, bleeding by mutilation, in slaughtering cattle, &c. &c.

A premium should be offered for the easiest method of destroying the life of all creatures destined for the food of man.

A double penalty for second offences by the same individual.

Cruelty intentionally done in secret, where the crime is difficult of detection, to be considered an aggravated offence.

A law of protection for all creatures used by man, but especially a provision for securing them properly qualified veterinary practitioners.

There is, however, one alteration in the present law that requires immediate attention, without which the Act, if not nearly nullified, is most seriously abridged of its salutary power, viz.—There should be no mitigation of the penalty—when an act of any kind of cruelty is proved—from the present fine of forty shillings; while there should be a much larger one when the cruelty is of an aggravated and highly atrocious character. For proof of this, it is only necessary to refer to the cases, and to the experience, of other societies.

Humanity requires immediate attention to the subject of Pounds, which, from their want of shelter and their imperfect construction, and government, is generally a source of great cruelty.

Note 12.—MORAL REMEDY.

THERE can be no doubt that the taking out of the mind the temptation to commit an act of cruelty is the most certain method of arresting the practice; but it is a difficult undertaking, requiring no less than the co-operation of a system necessary to change the minds of the lower orders, amongst which class this disgusting crime more particularly abounds.

What task can be greater, or in its progress slower, than to change the brutal feelings or habits of an uneducated man, accustomed daily to intemperance, and to give way to resentment and blows on every trifling occasion; who, if fear of the law or of retaliation prevent him from exercising his violence or bad passions on his neighbour, feels no difficulty in doing so upon the first unfortunate brute at hand, which should happen to give him the slightest offence, and which has no friend on earth to protect him, save an imperfect law, and that law rendered almost inefficient by the weakening influence of a power of mitigating the punishments granted to its administrators?

On the towing-path, between Gloucester and Ashleworth, where great cruelties are practised, one man with a boat tiller knocked a donkey down the river bank, and, but for the rope catching hold of a bush, the poor creature would have been drowned. Another put out the hip of a second donkey, by a blow of great violence in the same way. Both these men possessed, doubtless, cruel dispositions, and nobody will suppose that moral lectures could remove at once such bad habits of the mind. They would be either misunderstood or laughed at. The treatment of this case should be first, a punishment so decided as to deter them, or others who might hear of it, from repeating the same offence, and which would very likely, for the first time, show them that they had been doing wrong; still the disposition or character of the man not being changed by punishment alone, he would probably repeat the cruelty privately, whenever tempted so to do.

There is no doubt, therefore, of the wisdom of attempting to improve the mind, wherein the seat of the disease exists. But

before the disposition of these demoralized persons can be corrected, it would be necessary that the teachers themselves—the better educated part of society, should determine on the principles and feelings which ought to be inculcated as the ground of any attempt at reformation.

We must not forget the origin of the inferior animal creation to be the same as our own; that they are equally under the protection of the great First Cause; and that they are not given us to be abused, but used for our convenience, with humanity, tenderness, and forbearance: more especially should we be cautious in our treatment of them, as their real character and destination, among the thousand other wonders which surround us, are all equally unknown. Death to a wise man can be no evil, neither surely can it be to the poor brute, provided he has not a foretaste of his violent doom, and but as little suffering as possible in the catastrophe of his departure.

Further of him we know not. But whilst with us in life, his helplessness, the want of speech to communicate his wishes, and his sufferings, should induce incessant activity in his behalf; for he bears the same relative position to ourselves, and, in domestic life, is as dependant upon us in this world, as we are on the mighty Being who gave us all existence.

This reflection should never be absent from our minds,—that as we expect mercy and forgiveness from our common Father, on whom alone we can depend, so should we act towards these helpless creatures whom fate has made so wholly dependant on our will and pleasure. Do unto them as we would God should do unto us.

The most gifted of our race in his serious moments is conscious of his nothingness, and that his sole reliance is on the Author of his being. Certain of nothing but his death,—and even of this event he knows not the period, nor how soon it may happen,—he, however, has a comfort in a communication with his species, can receive and impart consolation, describe his pains and his sufferings, and ask for relief—all of which consolation is denied to the poor brute, whose sorrows and sufferings, whatever they may be, are for ever locked within his own bosom. Let us, therefore, be always on the watch that we inflict not unnecessary suffering upon creatures so

deplorably circumstanced,—and that while the door which admits every wretchedness to them is always open, that which admits consolation is for ever shut.

The loss of language to entreat for mercy is occasionally supplied by an affecting substitute ; for some animals, especially high bred mares, have been known to shed tears when under the torture of the lash ! Poor things !! They must often know not why, nor have they (which is dreadful to believe) any means of knowing why, they are so cruelly used. Often is there reason to believe that these heart-breaking tears proceed as much from a sense of wounded feeling and degradation as from pain ; and ineffectual as they may be in arresting the arm of violence, they probably will not be forgotten in the account to be settled between the Judge, the merciless tyrant, and the helpless and innocent victim.

Should a poor animal be more than he appears to be (and who will dare to say what he is ?)—should he be conscious of his innocence, when cruelly beaten and mutilated, without having a voice to prove it, what would he think of us, or what should we think of ourselves, when that sad period arrives, which it must to many, when, sobered by reflection and softened by misfortune, we begin at last to see the truth, and to regret the past, with scarce a hope for the future ?

The inclination to serve these helpless beings will be greatly augmented by a more intimate knowledge of their character, in the study of which we shall often find in many of them more than we expected—gratitude, intense affection, and the purest friendship, moral qualities worthy of imitation even by some of those who are thought to be their betters.

The want of speech is a barrier to our knowledge of the moral portion of the inferior animal world : beyond observation of their habits and conduct little can be known, all is darkness and obscurity. But the deeper the obscurity, the more impenetrable the veil which conceals the wonder, the greater will be the awe and caution in the pious mind, for it approaches the secrets of the Eternal.

Remember then that His eye is upon your treatment of His creatures ; and forget not that both natural and revealed religion demonstrate that His care extends to all of them, and that it must be impiety in us to act contrary to His intentions. A

philosophical argument from natural religion is in the Preliminary Note to shew His ultimate justice; and let us not forget that beauteous and splendid passage from the Sacred Volume, which fills the mind with awful sublimity, "Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." Christ also declares the universal providence and minute watchfulness of God:—"A sparrow shall not fall to the ground without your Father:" and again, "The very hairs of your head are all numbered." The meaning of this is, that all things are known to him, even the treatment of his animals. Be cautious then how you punish, for error, a being who has no power to explain his motives or his conduct.

If really to blame, those who are best acquainted with animal nature will state that the slightest switch is sufficient to correct and lead him right. Moreover, the poor thing might be ill, unknown to you, and you would be guilty of a fatal error in mistaking illness for obstinacy. Strike him not cruelly, therefore: violence rarely does good; and, moreover, you might be guilty of injustice. But if you will give way to your passions, strike and injure your equals in life,—for it is mean and dastardly to strike those who are defenceless and in your power: strike, if you will do so, your enemies or even your friends; a magistrate will hear their tale, and repair the injustice; but use not ill a helpless creature, whose tale the magistrate can never hear.

The habit of waiting upon the sick animal should be inculcated as a duty: feeling will soon follow. No pleasure is more exquisite than that which is derived from attending to the wants of the utterly helpless; and helplessness is the especial and striking character of the poor dumb creature, when domesticated with man.

To make happy is always pleasing; but it is delightful to make happy a helpless being devoid of all guile, who disgusts you not with deceit, affectation, insensibility, falsehood, or vanity; who looks up and clings to you, and in return for ever so little, gives you all that is precious and noble in affection, an imperishable devotion, a fidelity unexampled. When left by accident in far distant climes, in vain will a thousand privations, the pathless forest, or the wide deep interpose, for his sagacity and love overcoming all obstacles, will seek and find you out; nor will he

abandon you, even should you be heartless enough to strike or spurn him,—nor forsake the spot where your remains have found their last home. Here, on the grave of his beloved master, will sometimes be seen the faithful creature, when wintry winds and the gnawings of hunger shall in vain conspire to dissipate, or even to chill, a more than human affection.

Close observers readily recognise how rapidly kind feelings towards animals are propagated from superiors to servants, for sensibility creeps into life often by sympathy or imitation. An endearing epithet for the poor brute first heard in the parlour, is frequently the first link of a long chain of benevolent feeling which extends through the whole family, and is its best safeguard.

Thus, pets are not objectionable, at least to the cause of humanity, for the love of one of these favourites of fortune frequently softens the good and sensitive mind towards the whole race. A master who enters his stable or kennel daily, and enquires into all matters connected with the health and comforts of its inmates,—who occasionally feeds, fondles, and talks to them as companions, will quickly be imitated by the groom, and stable cruelty under this new creation of feeling would gradually fade.

On this subject of gentleness to brutes, masters and mistresses should never forget how much of good or evil in a family depends on their example.

The moral method of improving the public feeling, and of interesting it in the cause of the poor suffering dumb creatures, might be widely extended from various effective points. The persuasive eloquence of the pulpit, breathed upon by the gentle spirit of the doctrine it teaches, could scarcely be exerted in a more benevolent and laudable cause than in protecting from unnecessary pain and torture, the undoubted works of the Creator. The beauty of language and intellectual power found in the columns of the leading journals would be of immeasurable value in directing the public mind; and as no difference in politics could disturb the harmony of a coalition formed for such a benevolent object as expelling cruelty from the land, the cause of humanity would triumph; for the public voice once gained, all difficulties would vanish.

It should also be an invariable rule observed by masters and mistresses never to hire a servant who brings not a character for kindness to animals. This question should never be forgotten—"Is he good to dumb creatures?" This practice alone would prevent a great deal of cruelty exercised by servants towards those beings, especially by cooks,—and would create a *necessity* for the correction of the vicious habit; for, after all, perhaps there is no moral force so effectual as necessity.

Benevolent individuals should form a fund for general purposes to promote the common object. From this fund, servants or others in the lower orders, who have been remarkable for their kindness and attention to the dumb creation, might receive small tokens of reward, accompanied by letters of thanks, expressive of gratitude,—which letters, remaining with themselves or their families, would be durable monuments of the respect and esteem of their superiors, and an honourable passport in their short journey through the difficulties of life.

As sympathy, moral sentiment, or sensibility are conveyed through the eye more instantaneously than through any other channel, especially amongst the middle and lower classes of life, it follows that the works of art which address that organ must be powerful agents in promoting the interest of the animal world, and would create an active benevolence in its favour, and raise the standard of animal biography.

One fine picture in an exhibition room would readily teach hundreds of the lower classes a moral lesson or sentiment, or a piece of interesting animal history, which would hardly reach the same individuals by any other means; for everybody cannot read for instruction, and will not seek it in a church.

It should never be forgotten, that it is among the lower classes of the community that cruelty mostly abounds. To make a favourable change in such minds with regard to brutes, as they are called, all circumstances that surround or influence these minds should be well studied; for, after all, man is the creature of circumstances; and the great art in the important business of moral education is, so skilfully to manage these circumstances that they shall have the best possible effect in moulding and fashioning his character to that shape of perfection which his limited and

imperfect nature is capable of receiving. The moral influence of exhibition rooms on the lower orders is of great value, when the subjects are well chosen. Prizes should be given for the best designs, or pictures illustrative of interesting points of animal character.

The British school of painting has had the honour of producing an artist whose fame in the department of animal painting is beyond a rival; but brilliantly as he shines in composition, in the glory of colour, touch, or execution, he is exceeded in these rare qualities by a still higher one, that of portraying the generous mind, the exquisite feeling of unutterable affection, which distinguishes the character of the dog.

This extraordinary man has probably accomplished more in favour of this noble animal on the walls of our exhibition rooms, than the most eloquent language could have effected. He may safely reckon himself to be the benefactor of a race of animals which man cannot prize too highly, or treat too tenderly, or celebrate too much.

Mr. E. Landseer may descend to the grave with the pleasing reflection that he has done much to purify from selfishness the best feelings of his own race, by his skill in depicting the nobler feelings of another. Who can look on the little picture of "The Highland Cradle," without experiencing the deepest admiration of the noble creature that stands sentinel over the safety of his precious charge, the sleeping infant? It is indeed an honourable post, and the animal is worthy of the high trust, for we feel conscious the child is as safe as if a battalion were there. Every faculty is absorbed, every muscle tense with boundless energy; one sacred feeling of vigilance prevails in the creature's mind; a pin dropped would excite suspicion, and, as if fearing to awake the child, a low suppressed growl; the eloquent and penetrating eye would wander fiercely in search of danger.

If this gentleman has accomplished so much by his pictures—of which fact there can be no doubt—in raising the interest we feel in the dog, this same method of teaching by the eye might be employed to any extent by other graphic means, though with diminished power,—and every wall might be made a school for humanity, by sketching the horrors and evils of cruelty, and even the portraits of convicted individuals, offenders, or some revolting

circumstances which accompanied their conviction. In this way, woodcuts, and the employment of adequate artists, would probably greatly serve the cause of the animal creation, and be a valuable engine in the extirpation of cruelty. Masters of schools cannot be too vigilant on this subject. Besides the checking of everything approaching to cruelty to animals, the Author would suggest the giving of prizes occasionally for the best essays on kindness to the brute creation.

Neither the populace, nor especially the rising generation, should be accustomed to cruel exhibitions of creatures, which, considering their origin, ought rather to be approached with pious reverence. No quicker mode of corrupting the young mind to cruelty could be devised than such exhibitions. It imitates everything : hence boys teach each other to practise cruelty without being conscious that they are doing anything very wrong. The habit once formed, is indeed difficult to eradicate, and this fact should never be absent from the minds of all those who have the education of our youth, and should make them vigilant that the seeds of a future cruel disposition be not implanted by the example of their senior companions, or by parental silence on such a momentous subject. Instead of passing by unnoticed the transfixing of a cockchafer, the wise and conscientious man of feeling would stop, and endeavour to arrest the growing taste for cruelty, by showing its disgusting nature ; and he would probably prevent the full formation of a habit, which through life is a terrible tyrant.

Such is the power of habit, that a true animal's friend would find it difficult to abandon the gun, though so sensitive, that to pick up his dead victim would be impossible ! But let the populace have their amusements ! for the grossness, intemperance, and vicious habits of the race-course, with all its gambling scenery, might be swept away by a substitution of a course of gymnastic games better adapted to sustain the manly habits of the lower classes, and also to furnish them with a powerful and interesting amusement, where glory and not money should be contended for, and where the Greek stadium, instead of the Roman amphitheatre, should be the model.

These sports might be an institution resembling the Olympic

games, or a selection from them, and should be conducted with the same classic vigour of principle and elevation of sentiment which distinguished the Greek games. These gymnastic exercises would greatly improve the individual and national character, by promoting temperance and bodily strength, skill and energy in manly exercises, courage, and especially in the acquirement of the most valuable kind of it, self-command, or moral courage—one of the highest qualities of the human mind. In all this, provided he does not break the laws, man has a full right to do as he pleases with his own person ; but he has no right to encourage helpless creatures under his protection in being worried, lashed, and tortured, or to the slaughter of each other, for his sport or profit ; unless, indeed, their consent were previously obtained, and they thus become a party in the transaction.

There are few acts in which a man of any sense would feel more ashamed, than that of being detected at a cock-fight. He would probably feel his understanding degraded by being enraptured at such a senseless exhibition ; while to gloat over the blood and the slaughter of a poor helpless bird, to rejoice in seeing his head clove asunder by an invention of cruelty worthy only of a Nero, would be equally fatal to his character as a gentleman, a man of taste, feeling, or education. When the battle or slaughter was over, such a man would pull his hat over his face, and sneak out the back way.

Much may be done by individual exertions. You should never leave home without an abstract of the Act of Parliament, 5th and 6th William IV., c. 59, in your pocket, for your own guidance, nor without a few suitable tracts to circulate where most required ; that is, without both the physical and moral remedy : nor should you fail in your daily list of memoranda to place this first—"Remember the helpless dumb creatures ;" nor to ask yourself the last thing at night, this question, "Have I diligently done so ?"

Tracts and the abstract of the Act of Parliament may be heard of from the Secretaries of the several branch Societies, or from the office of the Royal Society, 12, Pall Mall.

Note 13.—ON HOSPITALS FOR THE DUMB CREATION.

SICK hospitals originally were intended to be receptacles for the poor, in which they could be maintained at the expense of their richer brethren, and provided with medical and other necessary attendance gratuitously. As time went on it was found that the congregation of so many persons with all kinds of disease, and every sort of accident, afforded a large field of experience, and thus hospitals, besides effecting their original charitable purpose, became large practical schools for the improvement of the medical art, by which society generally have benefited beyond all calculation.

Time, indeed, has consecrated these noble institutions to be of boundless value to the human race; first to the poor, and then to all classes of society;—for there is not a spot on the globe, where life exists, that does not partake of the benefits of the knowledge derived from these abodes of concentrated experience. Such is their inestimable character, that to be elected Surgeon to one of these institutions, when well constituted, is reckoned, and with truth, to be the greatest and rarest good fortune that a young medical man can meet with in life; for, with the industrious, such an election is a certain passport to the acquirement of great medical knowledge, and especially to having it in his power to be of immeasurable value to his fellow-creatures.

If hospitals be of such great importance to one class of living creatures, all liable to disease or accident, they must be also of value to another class of living beings, also subject to the same consequences—the poor domesticated creatures who have to pass their hard life with man. Hospitals, therefore, for dumb creatures, should stand in the same relation to them, as those erected by man stand in regard to him; they should be viewed as humane and charitable institutions, where the poor, the maimed, and the help-

less may receive medical advice and nourishment until their health be restored, and as nurseries of veterinary science, where, from the great or concentrated experience they afford, its elements may be acquired, taught, and illustrated by practice. They might also be so constituted as to receive patients of different classes, like other asylums.

Hospitals are at least quite as necessary for the protection, comfort, health, and well-being of this neglected and ill-used portion of God's creation in immediate connection with man, as they are for the poor of the human race, for whom they were originally instituted, and this because of their forlorn and speechless condition, and from their being subject to the will and pleasure of one who spares them not to benefit himself.

Where superior power exists, it will generally be exerted over an inferior to promote its own interest. This is tyranny, no doubt, and must end in helplessness on the side of the inferior, who of course will be subject to all the hardships which slavery brings, unless a benevolent law steps in and stops the uplifted hand. In the disease or sickness of animals this helplessness especially demands our pity and commiseration, and we naturally collocate the great powers of a hospital with the alleviation of such an evil.

Animals suffer most in every way, but especially in their health and comforts, when the property of the poor or middle class proprietor, and the demoralized portion of society, or the nearer they approach these different grades of society.

The animals thus circumstanced incur the evils arising out of the comparative poverty of their masters, and hence should be ranked as the poor, or lower orders, of the dumb creation,—a lot of life to them most unfortunate, as their misery and bodily suffering arise from no misconduct or errors of their own, but are the effect of circumstances surrounding them, over which they can have no control; thus a deep and peculiar pity, consideration, and tenderness should be excited in us in the treatment of this more than commonly wretched class of beings, which can do nothing for themselves. The evils derived by one man from another are often very serious; still he has a will, a voice, and an understanding, which to a great extent may correct the evil; but the evils endured by

the dumb creature, from the poverty of man, his master, he has no means of remedying, and is therefore an object of profound interest and compassion in the eyes of the humane.

The evils of poverty are felt in all seasons, but more acutely in old age, and especially when sickness is added to the account.

Without money, friends, or perhaps a home, our own poor shrink from the blasts of winter, and seek, in illness, the wards of a hospital, where they find warmth, food, medicine, and every attention awaiting them—provided by their benevolent fellow-creatures. When ill, the poor of the human race go to the hospital, but these poor animals have no such charities provided for them; and it is a melancholy fact that the whole animal population, with the exception of some belonging to the nobility, gentry, and the opulent part of society, begin life and terminate it without any medical advice; for that which is usually obtained from unqualified cattle doctors can scarcely be called medical advice: and still more melancholy is the fact that this, probably, must ever be the case, unless hospitals be established, and these poor beings ranked and treated as God's creatures, and included in His moral government of the universe. Whenever these animals, the poor of this race, get ill, they must get well again spontaneously or not at all; at any rate, all the remedy they obtain is an indiscriminate drink from the druggist, or what is no better, a visit from the cow-leech, or irregular cattle doctor, who enters into no scientific enquiries into the nature and character of the disease, for which he is not qualified, having never been to College to study his profession, and whose attempts at a cure are often as absurd and ridiculous as they are useless or mischievous.

When ailing, the poor labouring old horse or donkey is taken little notice of; they suffer in silence, are forced to work as usual: or if, perchance, self-interest or a fear of the animal's loss should procure it a day's rest, it goes out to work too soon, or only to fall ill again, and so on from time to time, until some organic changes take place, when even scientific knowledge (though they never get it) would be too late, and the animal dies, after unnecessary and protracted suffering, if belonging to a poor proprietor, to

his great loss or possible ruin,—for he might not afford to buy another.

Now what would happen were there charitable institutions for animals? Why the middling owner would do for the animal what he would do for his servant on a similar occasion, send him to the hospital, where he would receive skilful advice and attendance gratuitously, which he could not otherwise obtain; nor could he pay proper attention at home for a sufficient length of time to establish or consolidate a cure. This temptation, for the sake of gain, to work an animal too soon, would be irresistible to a proprietor who got his bread by his labour, were the animal at home and within his reach; and his necessity for gain would also blind him to the early symptoms of a fatal disease, which, if attended to in this stage, might have been readily prevented.

Again; if there were hospitals on the one hand, and medical inspectors, acting under a decisive law for the protection of animals, on the other, a vast amount of animal misery and loss to the proprietor would be saved—for the inspector would not allow the animal to work when he saw it in an unfit state so to do,—which measure must have the effect of impelling him into the hospital immediately. These two principles would work well together,—a law to punish the cruelty of working sick or very lame animals, with an open asylum ready to receive them, on producing a ticket for admission. An united plan of punishing persons for driving or ill-using animals, lame, sick, or infirm, and having hospitals always open for their gratuitous reception and relief, must, under proper restrictions and regulations, be a decided means to effect vast good, but especially in pulmonary disorders and lameness, both of which forms of maladies are more cognizable to the senses, and therefore more easy of detection.

The great experience to be acquired in a comparatively short time in hospitals gives its professors rapid tact in discovering disease, even when enveloped in obscurity; and a vigour and certainty in its treatment that would be unknown to the class of persons who usually undertake the medical treatment of animals. How many would be thus saved to the needy proprietor by sending

them to the hospital, which frequently die in this kind of way ! The animal is suddenly taken ill, or may grow gradually so, but the nature of the malady being unknown, it advances without interruption ; and delays still further are allowed, while the effect of some stuff, often worse than nothing, is being tried : at last, during this indecision, inefficient treatment, and delay from the fear of expense, a serious inflammation of some vital organ is established, which, if perchance discovered, is treated too feebly by those who want that confidence in themselves which knowledge only can impart, but which is necessary to undertake decisive measures ; or, becoming alarmed, (almost always a mark of ignorance,) they act rashly, ignorantly, and fatally. In either case the patient is lost.

The best advice is always the cheapest. Proprietors, when their cattle are ill, should send for the veterinary surgeon ; this would be something like reason. But who in the country ever heard of a poor, or even a middle class proprietor, being at the expense of sending for a regular veterinary surgeon ? Now were there a hospital, the animal would be sent in time ; there the discrimination of the disease, the vigour of the treatment, and attention to everything necessary for a cure, which none can furnish better than a hospital, would probably restore him to health. If the case be improper for removal, some good assistance might be obtained for it in the shape of an out-patient.

With local diseases and the many causes of lameness, as in the foot from unscientific shoeing, or diseased joints, the matter is equally clear. One of the very first principles of treatment in such diseases would be rest ; now, who among persons that get their bread by animal labour would give rest, especially for the length of time which is often necessary to employ it in the cure of disease ?

Frequent blistering,—firing in the common way, still more firing, which is sometimes necessary, called the ridge and furrow system, which might occupy many months before a cure could be effected, are all sometimes required,—but are they ever employed sufficiently or properly by the middling class or poor owner ? The poor of our own race in a hospital have time for all things necessary allowed them : it is their own fault if they have not ; and

when the right practice is begun early, the patients are generally cured.

Why should the far more helpless dumb creature not have such an invaluable asylum provided for him? Why should he not be cured of a painful disease, by which cure he could better bear those ills already in store for him? Rest is a wondrous agent in the cure of most diseases, and no language can give a sufficient idea of its importance; but it is especially necessary to an overworked animal, and indispensable to the cure of lameness, to which he is so liable.

Like the wavering, uncertain, half measures usually pursued in the internal diseases of animals, by unqualified persons, so is the treatment of the causes of lameness; none of which can be surely successful without a sufficient quantity of rest, together with a deliberate and scientific enquiry as to the source of the malady, on the discovery of which only can a rational plan of treatment be founded.

Can the poor of the animal race, that is, the animal of the poor or middling class owner, get this rest and this knowledge and assistance anywhere but in a hospital? And whether such be necessary or not, some visits to the towing-paths in this neighbourhood alone, or wherever they exist, or to the tram-roads, or to our great thoroughfares, will perhaps be sufficient to awaken the humanity of the public, and decide its judgment.

In a general hospital the poor animal would have the best advice, and as much of this invaluable remedy, rest, as his case required. What an incessant current of lame horses, compelled to labour in pain and agony, we suffer to pass unheeded, without pity or attempt to relieve them, which we should not permit in the poor of our own race. They would be sent, on account of this indispensable rest and scientific treatment, to the hospital—the very place fitted for lame legs, and where they are usually cured. Far more necessary, if possible, is the hospital to the lame or sick animal requiring rest, than to the poor man. The latter can apply to the overseer for relief, which he dares not refuse,—can explain to the parish doctor the seat of his pain, and probable origin of his sufferings, and can thus get relief; but the poor brute has no overseer to appeal to,—no voice by which he can

explain his woes; and thus has no chance of relief, unless the fears of his master be awakened to his own interest by the probable loss of his animal. Thus influenced, he may be induced to send for some curative assistance, but of such a kind that it is just as likely to do harm as good.

The case would be different with a human being so circumstanced. The anxiety of friends makes them active in observing all which is going on in the disease; and the language of the patient, founded on his own observation, is copious in describing all connected with his case. But who hears the appeal of the sick animal! Poor, ever silent beings! Their sufferings pass unheeded, and are for ever unknown. None can record the seat or the intensity of their pains, their origin or their progress; nor have they anxious friends to give information on the subject. How pitiable is their lot, in sorrow and in sickness! Yet will the practice of consultations in hospitals often diminish the difficulties and the sufferings of these forlorn mutes. ✓

There is another most important point of view in which large well-constituted hospitals should be considered—they possess a power of collecting facts, the advantages of which are incalculable. This large experience continually excites, employs, and corrects the talent of observation, the source of all sound knowledge in medical science, and the cradle in which every able man has been rocked. From this mass of experience, this disciplined observation, results fine judgment in general, and skill in operations in particular; for without great practice in operating, superior skill is rarely acquired.

Whilst, therefore, the great results of enlarged observation are very readily obtained in these institutions, fresh streams of patients and varieties of cases are continually pouring in, to add to the increasing stock of knowledge already derived from this never-failing source of centralised, often original and important, facts.

Thus, a hospital, with all these advantages, may be looked upon as a vast charitable magazine of knowledge derived from experience, of which the key is kept by its munificent and benevolent supporters, not for their own benefit exclusively, but

nobly for that of others, and for the especial relief of crowds of sentient, distressed, helpless, and suffering beings, who would otherwise never receive the blessings of that knowledge and those comforts which these charitable institutions are so capable of affording.

Now, if the foregoing be some of the benefits derived from these inestimable institutions, and if they are especially fitted for the poor man, why are they not fitted also for the poor man's cattle—his donkey, his horse, his sheep, or his lamb?

The poor animals are constituted like ourselves. Not only have they organs to perform certain functions—a heart, arteries, and veins, to circulate their blood,—but more particularly should we remember, that they have a brain and nerves to give energy to the whole, and with which they also feel pain, sorrow, and hard usage. No folly can be greater or more mischievous, than that which assumes a belief that animals have no feeling, moral or physical; and it is much to be suspected, that this fallacious doctrine is cited only when it appears necessary to screen, or apologize for, our barbarities. To attempt to claim feeling, or even passion, as exclusively our own, is now too late. Animal feeling will sometimes outshine man's, even in some of the noblest qualities of his nature—gratitude and parental affection. Indeed, observation leads us to believe, that all animals, but especially those gifted with locomotion, are subject to modifications of the same passions and feelings which sway alternately the human mind. We see them, as parents, occupied with feelings of the most amiable nature, obeying the calls of ardent affection in a manner which cannot be exceeded, and devoting, with incessant tenderness, the whole of their care to the well-being and preservation of their offspring.

The turtle dove woos his bride with his plaintive song, assuming the most winning attitude, and overwhelming her with his caresses; while the little love-bird sits beside his mate, and feeds her from his own bill. If one die, the other is inconsolable, and rarely survives its beloved partner.

Animals have often strong friendships for each other. A

Newfoundland dog has been known to carry food, such as large bones, which had been given to himself, to another dog which was tied up.

Whenever a cow bison has been slain by the hunters in the prairie, the calf will not quit the remains of its mother, but will follow them affectionately from its native solitudes into a crowded city. "I have seen," says Mr. Turner, "a single hunter, who had cruelly slain the mothers, followed by three calves into the town of Cincinnati."

Thus is the cruelty and treachery of man always found side by side with animal life. Accustomed to the silence of the peaceful forest, the poor calf disregards the frightful contingencies of a new and strange world, to press towards the shelter of that tender bosom it is destined never more to reach; whilst the ardency and beauty of its affection are thus treacherously employed as a trap, to secure another victim to the avarice or the gluttony of the destroyer!

The eider duck, the blue-bellied paroquet, and some other birds, pluck the down from their own bodies, to shelter and comfort their helpless young.

A lioness had been attended by a negro, who had reared her. The man quitted her at Exeter 'Change, when the poor thing, the ferocious wild monarch of the forest, melted beneath the stroke of grief for the lost object of its affection, and soon became inconsolable. She pined away, and died of a broken heart.

Anderson says, a fisherman wounded one of two whales, a male and female, which made a long and terrible resistance. Its companion bravely seconded its efforts; but when at length the poor creature sunk under its wounds, the other, with tremendous bellowing, stretched itself upon its dead companion, as if to protect it from further assaults, and then shared its fate.

Large, well-constituted hospitals, would greatly prevent the crime of cruelty, more particularly that worst and most horrid of all, beating or ill-using the sick and lame, to compel the poor creatures to work at such a season; because, when thus circumstanced, the owner would be more likely to take him there to get

cured, as he could derive no benefit from his services in this condition. But the beneficial capabilities of hospitals would be more completely developed by a corresponding law of protection, which would necessarily compel all the middle class owners of the diseased and sick animals to seek the protection of the hospitals, where crowds of poor objects might receive relief.

A calculation has been made of the length of time it would take one system of cruelty, of barbarous, unremitting labour or ill usage, to kill a horse, that a man may get money; and how long it takes another kind of slaughtering labour to arrive at the same end.

Mr. Youatt (whose painfully graphic work should be in the hands of all those who have the heart to read it) says, that the miserable life of the omnibus horse in London will destroy him in a period of time varying from two to six months. In the fate of carmen's horses, the butchery is rather more hurried. No pity is shown them. They draw gravel all the day, and soil in the night. They are scarcely off their legs one night in a week; or, if they should happen to be at home, to litter down a bed for the wretched creatures is a practice unknown! They are bought at small prices, are set to work incessantly to the extremity of their powers, and urged on till they die of the treatment mentioned: indeed, the hazard of dropping in the street is constant. Their time for living, or rather for dying, is known and well calculated; and thus a bargain is made with the knacker to take the dead bodies at forty shillings per head when the murder is completed.

The fate of the barge horse is, perhaps, more dreadful; for the horrors of its cruel life are frequently endured in solitude, unless the fiend behind him can be considered as a companion. The poor creature (and he is too often skin and bone, and lame) is compelled to drag a boat, with a load of near forty tons, a certain distance. To compel the unfortunate animal to do this, one of the party belonging to the boat keeps close to the haunches of the horse, lashing him dreadfully. At certain distances, when tired, his wearied arms are relieved by another brute, who continues the cruel torture till the changing place is reached.

The inhabitants of Gloucester may satisfy their minds on this subject, by visiting steadily the towing-path on the Severn and on the canal. Donkeys here are sometimes employed instead of horses, when, as if flogging or beating them were not sufficient, a long spike, fixed into a stick, is forced into their hips. Blood, from these incessant stabs, flows in streams; and the instrument of cruelty just taken from an offender now under summons, is covered with the blood of the poor animal. The poor creature is often half starved, although compelled to drag from twenty-five to thirty tons.

One miscreant, for a small wager of five shillings, drove a poor donkey from Worcester to Gloucester, (nearly forty miles,) without giving him food or drink, although there are four stations between the two cities.

These bargemen have, at least, a character for ferocity and cruelty to animals which scarcely belongs to any other class of the labouring community, and which may be derived from the habits or wild licenses of the river, and from living far from the observation and restraints of society.

The despised donkey is capable of strong attachments, when kindly used; will follow his master like a dog, and seek him in a crowd; whilst the meekness and submission with which he meets the scorn and ill usage of the world, claim our sympathy for his forlorn situation and sufferings. With this recollection of feeling in this humble creature, distant association, at once the charm and bane of life, seizes on the memory. An individual lingered on the banks of the Severn, to behold the glory of the morning sun disperse the mist which hung on the broad bosom of the river, and slowly reveal its large bend in the distance, the cattle on its banks, and a village spire; whilst the song of a blackbird, sitting on a spray which hung over the water, added music to the charm of the landscape. No other sound disturbed the beauty of the scene. Suddenly, however, there came across a deep hollow, formed by a large curve of the river, a heavy sound, as though a blow had been struck on a hard substance. The water was low, the banks high, the reverberation strong. Another and another blow followed,

accompanied by a curse and horrid blasphemy, but not by a cry of anguish, as though great violence or murder was being perpetrated. A sudden breeze, wafting away the mist, discovered the painful truth: it was the meek donkey on the towing-path on the opposite bank, at a distance from all help, silently and on the ground submitting to its fate. A fiend of a bargeman had knocked him down, and was most barbarously beating the miserable and unresisting creature over the head and eyes with a boat's tiller, "because" (he said) "he would not go," which was next to impossible for him to do with a weight of twenty-five tons in the barge. Remonstrance was in vain, the click of a gun-lock was distinctly heard! Happily reason prevailed, the burst of pity and indignation subsided, and the villain and his victim passed on, left to the justice of their Maker.

In these romantic solitudes, far away from observation, it is that the most terrible cruelties are committed. Did the owners of these poor donkeys which toil on the towing-paths, when they consign them to these cruel slave-drivers, know their doom when performing long and always slow journeys—did the Legislature know the daily miseries inflicted upon these patient, humble creatures—something more would be done for their relief; and these secluded and solitary crimes, so often the result of long meditated revenge, and so difficult to detect, ought certainly to be considered as highly aggravated offences.

In these various modes of torture, by which animal life is cruelly shortened, the poor creatures are usually said to be worn out, or to die in the seasoning. This language, however, is very inadequate to give a correct view of the horrors of the truth. We can fancy that the term wearing out means getting thin by incessant labour, and then slowly perishing by simple exhaustion or hard usage, without much pain or suffering. It is, however, too certain that death is very often accelerated by the intervention and irritation of painful diseases, if not mental agony—all the result of the cruel and murderous life so graphically described by Mr. Youatt. If the animal were given for man's use, it was not intended that he should destroy its life barbarously on any account; but especially

for the sake of his own profit, is it disgusting and criminal, and deserving condign punishment, that he should put him to death by a series of torments so terrible and protracted, such as the ingenuity of an inquisitor of the last ages could never have devised.

These incessant series of torments in the wretched creature beget disease and pain; and when it thus becomes weak and ill, the early symptoms of suffering and disease are overlooked and disregarded; for he might have been bought for a small sum, to last for a certain time, and if he does this, the brutal owner will be satisfied. Whether he is ill, or has any disease or suffering, is of little consequence to *him*. The miserable being will be pushed against a hill, or be severely flogged, overdriven, and forced onwards, even whilst labouring under pain and difficulty of breathing; and thus, working with great distress and agony, he arrives near his resting place, if he has one, when suddenly, something has happened, something given way; he stops, in spite of the lash, staggers, and then another lash and another struggle, and he is happily beyond the reach of his oppressor, for he has fallen to rise no more.

Now, the very reverse of these horrible atrocities should be practised towards a mute and helpless being; for did we do as we would be done by, the early signs of disease would not be overlooked; and in proportion to the inability of the creature to convey an account of his sufferings should be our activity in discovering them, and in furnishing the means, whatever they might be, which would be necessary for his relief.

It is scarcely credible that such cruelties should be permitted to exist in a country which can boast of a Howard, an Erskine, and a Chalmers, and which is, or affects to be, swayed by Christian principles;—for, in truth, hitherto there is no effective law to protect these mute and helpless beings from many of the worst kinds of ill treatment,—from working them when ill, lame, or starved,—or from being slowly murdered in a few months by overloads and the whip, by forced and most terrible preternatural exertions, when their natural term of life would be many years, if kindly treated.

From the thousands of horses that annually perish prematurely, in a few months, by the most cruel usage, which might otherwise live for more than double as many years, it is clear that a law of more certain protection is wanting than the present Act of Parliament can afford. With some necessary amendments, much good may be done; but if such amendments were collocated with hospitals, the measure would be vastly more effectua'. At least, such is the opinion of the Author, who has been attached to them all his life.

Hospitals for animals, perhaps, should have a more general or charitable character than belongs to scientific institutions for the cultivation of veterinary knowledge and the cure of disease; but this new feature in their constitution could only be carried out by the annexation of farms; although, with regard to the treatment of disease alone, the measure would be often useful, and readily acknowledged by those accustomed to all its forms. They might also become the depositories, and the instruments, of a refined charity, which the wealthy could afford to practise, the middle rank sometimes imitate, and all would applaud. Here might life be happily prolonged, the comforts of old age promoted, and disease and infirmity corrected for an old and valued servant, a being which gratitude and affection would prompt us to spare from the impending horrors that threaten him,—from being sold in his old age, for the sake of a little money, to run the gauntlet of cruelty and hardships for the rest of his days, until he dies in a ditch, and is given to the dogs; or, from what is equally revolting, although not so cruel, the slaying of an old friend, merely because he is troublesome, and no longer of use to us!

How many hundreds and thousands are there in the world, especially of women, who far exceed us in charity, who would gladly pay for more than the keep of an old faithful servant to an institution, where his health would be watched, where he might have a summer pasturage and warm stabling in winter, and where the kind master and mistress might enquire after their aged favourite, and witness his gentle and painless progress to that last resting place towards which we are all moving. If we compare

this happy termination of the life of an old dependant to the thousand horrors of the sad reality, we must shudder, and be ashamed.

There are, however, some other questions of conscience to be satisfied before we can indulge in this fit of economy. To destroy the life of another, however humble its being in the ranks of the creation, and how often soever we may even have done it ourselves, or however necessary it may be thought to be, is not always food for pleasing reflection,—for the deed is certainly an act of extreme tyranny and cruelty, often attested by the blood of the victim, and always sealed with the stamp of injustice.

To the creature lying at your feet, and whose life you have just taken in cold blood, whose eyes, still open, glare at you, as if reproachfully, with a frightful agonizing expression of departing life, and whose sobs of deep anguish, the last throes of ebbing existence, still rend the heart,—life was as precious as your own; it was his, you had no right to take it away: you did not bestow it; to it you had no claim: the poor creature might have been happy, he might have been miserable,—it mattered not, such as it was, its life did not belong to you: you had no more right or title to it than the right of the strong—a right that no good man would covet to possess, and which, sooner or later, he would regret ever to have exercised. For here the question would be, not whether it is right and necessary to take away life for food, but whether it is always justifiable to take it away for the mere purposes of convenience or economy.

Few of us admit these degrading motives; we lay claim to more elevated ones: it is to be hoped that we are sincere in our pretensions.

We tenderly consider the miseries and increasing infirmities of the animal's old age, and charitably sign his death warrant for their relief! Strange it is, however, that after such a noble and praiseworthy decision, we dare not face the eye of the condemned victim, but retire from it with something like the feelings of an assassin just detected in his guilt, and we depute to another the execution of a deed of which we ourselves are ashamed—to put to

a violent death an old companion, which in adversity, and in prosperity, in weal or in woe, had administered to our wants, contributed to our pleasures, and beneficially engaged some of our best feelings and affections.

Were there hospitals, how many kind and benevolent persons would prefer the more natural course, by claiming their protection and assistance for infirm and crippled dumb creatures, and thus allowing them to end their days in comparative ease and comfort !

How many unhappy ones are there in the world, sufferers from broken affections, who feel that they must still love something ! Poor is the heart that cannot ! Of this large class, foremost always in piety, sensibility, and benevolence, is the fair and kinder portion of our species. More refined than man, and therefore more easily disgusted with the imperfections of our nature, especially those of deceit, they naturally turn towards objects of affection which deceive them not ; and the poor dumb creature thus often receives a large portion of that tender and benevolent feeling which deceit has lost to the human race. Love for the poor brute is therefore more remarkable with the sex than with us ; and if ever animal hospitals should be formed, their success and prosperity would equally depend on the powerful and unremitting benevolence of the ladies in behalf of this helpless being. Nor will the effects of this amiable feeling expire with life ; for it is reasonable to suppose that those who have the means so to do, will, by testamentary or other permanent provision, take care to provide for the poor objects of their solicitude by adequate endowments.

Animal hospitals, especially in the country, might be so arranged as to be of great benefit in protecting astrays, which, in the present order of things, are subject to great cruelties.

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON BAITING THE BADGER.

(See Note 3, page 15.)

There is something so surpassingly horrible, as though tainted with the venom of a foul fiend, so purely malignant, in the joy of a badger baiter, and in the practice itself, of worrying, lacerating,

and frightening an helpless and harmless creature, from time to time, until life is extinct, that no language can depict its transcendent depravity, nor could any punishment be commensurate with its hardened and boundless villany. This practice, however, is by no means so nearly extinct as some have supposed it to be. It has been before stated, that the baiting of this harmless creature has greatly declined, or rather perhaps, as it appears, that it has retired before the activity of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty, (and the weight of the heaviest fine of five pounds,) into districts where the law does not so readily reach, or where the magistrates and the public are lukewarm in cases of cruelty, and where especially there are no Animal Protection Societies established. Of the great value of the latter, there can now be no doubt; for this particular crime, in consequence of their activity, and of the five pounds penalty, has nearly disappeared from districts in which it has raged from time immemorial. Thus, Gloucester and its vicinity are free from the stain of this foul crime, though certainly the neighbouring towns are not. The superior efficacy of a heavy fine to a small one is very remarkable, and should not be forgotten, if the penal law against cruelty to animals be ever amended; small mitigated fines being utterly disregarded, and the offenders constantly re-appearing in our halls of justice. You could formerly ride in no direction, at Easter and Whitsuntide holidays, without being horrified with the mournful sounds of a badger bait, and the ferocious cries of dogs set upon the poor innocent animal. Notwithstanding the decline of this most barbarous sport, it is beyond all doubt that there are several persons living in this neighbourhood, on the banks of the Severn, who are dealers in badgers for the purpose of being baited; for the price for which they are sold would not be given for any other purpose—it ranges from twelve shillings to one pound, according to the weight and size of the animal. These dealers are always ready to buy, so that this species of cruelty in distant districts must be considerable. The navigation of the river, and the market barges, are employed for their conveyance from Gloucester.

The entire treatment of this unfortunate creature, from his

capture to his horrible death, teems with treachery and misery. Revenge itself could devise nothing more cruel, to satiate the most diabolical hate. Waylaid at the entrance of his residence, on a moonlight night, he is bagged, and brought to a house close to the Severn, and thrust into an iron cask, in which he is kept, either without food altogether or with very little, till the departure of the barge, generally to the coal districts, or cities and towns on the banks of the Severn. The midland counties get their share of this persecuted race of God's creatures. In the most horrible state of darkness, solitude, alarm, and starvation, the poor creature will sometimes be kept *for days together*, before the barge sails; and then its voyage proceeds amongst the most frightful noises and horrors, admitting of no rest for the wretched victim. On arriving at the fatal destination, a new scene of refined cruelty commences. Weakened with alarm, ill usage, or starvation, he is now carefully fed, to make him strong again, with a mess of potatoes, and offal boiled in weak beer, which it is thought makes the wretched animal more fierce for the series of combats he is compelled to undertake in unavailing self-defence, a protracted butchery of incessant attack of fresh enemies, with increased vigour and rage.

The course of torture varies: the ordinary process is, that a terrier is let loose upon the poor badger, as he lies in his hole, listening to the frightful uproar made by the murderers assembled around the scene of slaughter, and who are betting as to the number of times, within a given period, that the dog will draw the unfortunate and harmless animal from the hole. As the dog enters, a miscreant holds him by the tail; and when he is sensible that the dog has fixed his armed jaws into the body of the suffering innocent, he pulls by the tail both dog and badger from the hole, amidst the exultations of the fiends. To make the dog unfasten his teeth, he is often bitten through the tail by one of the ferocious ruffians, and as soon as the poor miserable badger is let loose, bleeding, from the dog's mouth, he is thrown into his box or hole, and the dog, oh, horrible! is turned into him again, and again is he perforated and torn by the teeth of the terrier, and again drawn forth, and so on, till the time is up, and the bet decided.

Now another dog is set upon the miserably wounded creature; and the same course of murderous laceration is continued with fresh dogs, till the unfortunate creature expires:—unless his owner stops the massacre from mercenary motives, and keeps the badger, to be again fed in preparation, and to heal his wounds for another day, or perhaps sells him on the spot to a humane speculator on his superior strength and courage.

Sometimes the wretched animal is so mentally distressed and alarmed by his capture and the horrid subsequent circumstances of his fate, that he has no appetite, and will not eat when his voyage has terminated. This wretched state of feeling, which, in a human being, would be called misery of mind, and is always respected, and tenderly treated, is, in the poor badger, called sulkiness, and is visited by vindictive terms of disappointment and opprobrium applied to the unfortunate and doomed creature.

Whenever its wretchedness excludes all appetite, the resistance is but feeble, and its death is happily soon effected. No pains or time, however, are spared by his persecutors in barbarity to prepare him to fight vigorously for their amusement. What do such fiends deserve, who thus make a living creature the subject of such refined cruelty, and who are far more ferocious than the bull-terriers they encourage to tear it asunder?

The owner of the badger convicted at W——r, had the animal for two months in his own house, in preparation.

At this badger bait the county police were amusing themselves by looking on, in utter ignorance that there was any law against the crime, (they will often do the same at dog-fights,) or that they were empowered by it to take the offenders into custody. So rarely, therefore, must the penalty be levied in some districts where no Animal Societies exist, that the law can only be partially known, though the offence might be in constant commission, for which the law was instituted.

This shews the necessity for these Societies, whose immediate and particular business it is to look after such offences, and to punish the offenders. It is deeply to be deplored that they are not more general, though certainly they are increasing; for the Royal

Society has branches at Plymouth, Liverpool, Belfast, Dublin, Bristol, Exeter, Bath, Leeds, Gloucester, Norwich, and Bury St. Edmunds.

Where no Societies exist, benevolent individuals and the local authorities should, on the approach of the Whitsuntide and Easter holidays, and horse races, post up a few hand-bills containing the penal laws against the cruelties usually practised at such seasons. This would prevent, probably, all open exhibitions of such atrocities, and greatly affect their secret practice—for secretly they are practised, or as much so as is possible. Thus, although the vice of cruelty is mostly carried on by the ignorant, and demoralised lower orders, as a result of idleness and intemperance, yet there are persons to be found among what would be considered the better classes of society, of such depraved habits, that they will appropriate certain parts of their domestic residence for the private enjoyment of such a diabolical taste! The man convicted at W——r is reckoned a rich man; and not far from the capital town of Shrewsbury lives another rich man, who sent all the way down to the Severn, to Bristol, for a badger, that weighed twenty-eight pounds, which he baited at home, to give pungency to his festivities of last Christmas.

In holiday times the humane traveller, in passing through low, blackguard places, and especially near small public-houses, situated in the suburbs of a town or village, where he can hear the incessant yelping of a terrier (even if all the other parts of the establishment be in comparative or profound silence) should, without hesitation, enter to make enquiries. There is, probably, a badger being baited secretly; and especially is it the more likely if there be no Animal Protecting Society in the neighbourhood.

Individual exertion on the part of the humane is thus essentially necessary in the present state of the penal law, for the fines, when mitigated (as will be seen in the cases) sometimes down to a few shillings, furnish no incentive for the police force to exert itself; for although they, when prosecutors in cases of cruelty, take one-half the penalty, yet this sum, from a mitigated penalty, would be so small as not to be an object worthy their attention.

Accordingly, convictions of persons for cruelty, by the police, are very few.

Small or mitigated fines are ineffectual in every point of view, and also in this of their inadequacy to reward the police, who are always, very naturally, more ready to look out when they are paid, which is proved by their readiness and energy in getting up felony cases, out of which they are always far better remunerated than out of cruelty cases with mitigated fines. Besides individual exertion, therefore, the friends of the animal race in every city and town should form societies for this particular object, of carrying the law against cruelty into effect, more especially as the powerful aid of the police force is greatly paralysed by the circumstances already described. Every society should have a special constable.

Among the penal errors in the present Act, is the period of imprisonment in lieu of fines: it is too short, and ill-judged. For general acts of cruelty it is a fortnight for the forty shilling penalty, which is so little regarded, that there is many a scoundrel who would commit an act of cruelty to be maintained in prison for that time, in the winter. If the fine were five shillings, (a very common one,) the imprisonment apportioned, according to this ratio, in the room of fine, would be absurd as a punishment, though the change of scene for so short a time might be desirable as an amusement!

The cities and towns on the Severn and in the midland counties, to which the badger has been sent from Gloucester quay, have no Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; and hence this cruelty of badger baiting is certainly carried on in those places, where it is probable nobody interests himself for the kind treatment of the animal race, (a fact most lamentable, and generally true, in most localities,) where a taste for these brutal practices of worrying them for amusement has been acquired, and indulged for a long time past.

In the city of Gloucester, and its neighbourhood, the baiting of the inoffensive badger is not now heard of, because Gloucester possesses rather an active Society to protect the poor dumb creature, and which, by holding up the large fine of five pounds, deters a great many from the commission of this unmanly, dis-

graceful, and most diabolical crime, who would otherwise most certainly practise it.

But while this prevention here is undoubted, it is equally clear that the exportations of the badger for baiting elsewhere, from Gloucester quay, does take place; indeed, there are always buyers to be found, who will give large prices for large boar badgers. It is to be lamented that the particular towns on the Severn and in the midland counties, to which we have before alluded, have not formed Societies for the protection of the animal race from cruelty, inasmuch as such Societies have been eminently successful in abating cruelty where magistrates have enforced the larger penalties. For example; when the fine has been large, and levied fully, that is, without mitigation, in badger baitings and cock fighting, those more serious cruelties have nearly disappeared; though ready admission to constables to such scenes, for proof, is much wanting, and we fervently hope that the present law will soon receive this and many other necessary improvements. The penalty of five pounds should accordingly be inflicted without any mitigation; and if so continued, with diligent perseverance and steadiness, there is not a doubt but the present foul stain upon the English character, of taking an unnatural and disgusting pleasure in worrying a little inoffensive animal to death, would soon cease to deform society.

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON POUND CRUELITIES.

(See page 45.)

Were the many thousands of these dreary prisons which are spread over the land, gifted with speech and memory;—could the bare rails speak, the filthy floors open, and render an account of the horrors which had been acted on their surface;—could the spirit of many a forlorn and helpless prisoner rise up in its former wretched and most melancholy abode, and tell the horrid tale of what it there endured,—of the scorching heat of a midday sun, without shade, whilst swarms of flies inflicted their tormenting stings,—of the burnings of thirst without water; still

worse, if worse there could be, could it speak of the long and bitter winter nights spent there in a piercing north wind while half buried in snow or in filth, of the driving storms of sleet and heavy rain to which it was exposed, perhaps in old age, without any kind of shelter, and often for days together, without any sort of food or companion, so that even the voice of the tyrant man himself, the cause of so much misery, would be welcome ;—Oh God ! what a tale of utter woe and boundless horror would be revealed, which one class of Thy creatures are doomed thus mysteriously to suffer from the selfishness and wickedness of another,—who have no other right thus cruelly to abuse their fellow-beings, than that dastardly and degrading one—the right of the strong over the weak, the violent and tyrannical over the meek and the lowly, the resigned, and the unresisting !

The Author has known, in a pound not far distant from his house, a poor wretched horse kept three days without food, in a puddle partly of filth long accumulated, ordure, and water (from heavy rains) that reached nearly as high as his knees, for there was not a bare place where he could otherwise stand, or where he could pick a bit of dry unsoiled hay, had any been offered to him !

There is no doubt but that this neglected creature would have suffered still longer, had not the gardener who daily worked in a contiguous garden reported the circumstance, and who believes that the unfortunate animal had had no food for some time before it excited his close attention.

The poor creature was covered with wet and dirt, so that his colour could scarcely be recognised. He stood with a dejected air, his hinder parts towards a cold easterly wind, which exposed his bare and ragged hips. The sound of voices seemed for a moment to attract his attention, and appeared to give him hope : he turned his head slowly towards the sound, and slightly neighed and pricked his ears, as with a struggle he disengaged his fore legs from the bog. But seeing no food approach, his ears dropped, his head resumed its original melancholy position and air, and, as if in despair, he suffered his fore legs again to sink into the cold wet bog. Again, and again, as the gale wafted the sound of the conversation

to his ear, would he repeat this affecting motion of the head, indicating alternate hope and despair, the gnawings of hunger, and acute disappointment. Oh! ye that have feeling, when you lie down in your warm beds at night, think of the situation of this abandoned and most wretched being, the astray in a pound! and how many there are to be found in this state of bitter cold, darkness, and starvation every night, without shelter, with no power to make known their heart-rending condition, or voice to cry out for succour!!

Among the many examples of famishing, and otherwise tormenting animals in these tombs for the living, called pounds, may be selected one as related by Mr. W. G——, formerly horse dealer of this city. He had lost a horse for a very considerable period, which, from some marks described to him by a correspondent, he conceived might be the one impounded in the parish of —— in this county.

It was, on enquiry, found to be the horse he had lost—a colt, originally with a long and full tail, but the hairs of which had been eaten off entirely by another horse which was in the same pound!

The other horse's tail had been eaten by Mr. G.'s horse.

There was no water nor food in the pound, which was very deep in filth. The pound-keeper, whose bill he paid, declared that the poor animals had plenty of food; but it was clear, that they were to the last degree famished, so as to be compelled to eat each other's tails. Notwithstanding, he paid for food which the poor creatures could not have had.

The amended Act 5 and 6 Will. IV., which compels the pound-keeper, or person impounding, to find food for the poor animals within his charge, under a penalty of five shillings daily, is of little use, inasmuch as one-half of this small sum, which goes to the informer, would not pay him for watching and detecting the pound-keeper in not feeding the animal; but a penalty of five pounds would make it worth the while of the informer, and this dreadful cruelty would probably be prevented; for the pound-keeper would sooner feed the animal properly, for which he would be paid, than risk incurring the penalty of five pounds. Moreover,

this sum of five pounds would be more adequate to the punishing of so enormous an offence as that of starving and utterly neglecting helpless creatures, than five shillings would be. In the aforesaid amended Act there is a serious omission, for there is no provision to compel the pound-keeper to find the poor animal water, the want of which, in hot weather, must be dreadful, where there is no shelter from the melting heat of the sun.

Besides a place of shelter to keep off the sun and bad weather, every pound should be furnished with a pump, and proper drainage to keep the filthy floor dry, and the pound-keeper should be subject to the same penalty in not providing water for the animal as for not giving him proper food. Nor should the vicinity of water to which the animal might be led, operate as an excuse for the proprietors not erecting a pump, for the pound-keeper might be fearful of a pound breach in leading out the animal, which would often deter him; and as for the contingency of *his carrying* water to his suffering charge, this should not be encountered; he might be lazy, might trust his man to do it; but were there a pump, all difficulty and danger would be superseded, and he should be compelled to use it.

To show the inadequacy of the 6th clause of the amended Act 5 and 6 Will. IV., which compels the pound-keeper to feed the astray, under a *penalty of five shillings*, it is only necessary to say, that the Superintendent of the police here, a man of great experience, has never known, nor ever heard, this fine of five shillings being once levied,—not for want of cases, but for want of temptation to prove the fact; and the temptation of a moiety of this penalty being too slight for the trouble of detection and conviction, by persons who might have reason to suspect the avaricious pound-keeper of not feeding the astray.

It is probable, also, that if an offender was summoned for starving an impounded animal, he would say, that he had no opportunity of feeding him until long after the period sworn to by the informer had passed. To meet this subterfuge, the informer would have to watch night and day to detect the pound-keeper;

but this could not be done for half-a-crown, which would be one half the penalty due to the informer or prosecutor. Less than five pounds in the room of the five shillings would not be effectual in protecting the animal from being starved. The temptation to the pound-keeper to rob the poor creature, by charging for food it never had, and thus keep in his pocket the money which should have purchased it, would be too great, unless he was deterred by a very heavy penalty. For the law in this case of starvation in pounds, should be founded rather on a knowledge of the frailties of human nature, and of the power of temptation in the lower orders of life, than on positive proofs of the crime, which, as the law now stands, are extremely difficult to obtain. With this view, the construction of the law should have a corresponding severity in the weight of the fine with the terrible nature of the crime, of the existence of which we may be fully satisfied by the strongest presumptive evidence, but which is not enough to constitute legal proof. Thus with regard to the two horses in one pound, which from hunger ate each other's tails, although we are satisfied from there being no signs of food or water in the pound, from the starved appearance of the animals, and from the disappearance of the tails, which appeared as if bitten off, that the poor animals were starved, that the pound-keeper was morally guilty, yet the legal proof was wanting, inasmuch as the emaciation of the animals, together with the loss of the tails, might have arisen from disease. The legal proof, acquired by watching the pound-keeper day and night, could not be obtained for so small a sum as half the present penalty of five shillings. No informer, who suspected the pound-keeper, would undertake his conviction on such terms. Would it not, therefore, be more wise and humane to legislate so as to *prevent* the commission of so horrid a crime, than to suffer a probable continuation of it, by the great difficulty of obtaining legal proof? This might be done by substituting a heavy penalty, as five pounds, instead of five shillings; then there might be lookers-out, and convictions, which have never happened hitherto with the five shilling penalty. Should the Cruelty Act be ever amended, which is much needed, the magistrates should be compelled to

make a constable daily survey these wretched prisons called pounds, and regularly report on the same.

With regard to the astray's protection, by a proper pound habitation being provided for him, pitched, drained, and covered in to a certain extent, as a shelter from a midday sun, and bad weather in winter, and provided with a pump,—all this must be the business of the proprietor of the manor; and it is most fervently hoped that he will speedily be compelled to make, or provide, better and more spacious premises for these homeless and forsaken animals, than the present—the whole character of which, structure, filth, and size, are a disgrace to a community which has the slightest pretensions to humanity or civilization, or of being governed by Christian principles.

The pounds are frequently let, and underlet, so that the trouble and difficulties would be so great to effect the benevolent and immediate object of preventing the cruelties now inflicted upon these wretched and unprotected beings, that nobody would undertake the trouble, unless the steps were simplified by Act of Parliament.

There is no reflecting person possessed of a moderate knowledge of human nature, especially as exemplified in the class of persons to which pounds are let, (or still more in their deputies,) who could do otherwise than believe that they often charge the food which the poor creatures never have; the money being spent in drink, a temptation to purchase which, would be irresistible to those addicted to it.

The truth is, that the pound-keeper should be placed on a parallel with the hostler at an inn, their situations in life with regard to temptation and practice being precisely similar.

We do not trust the hostler with the corn to feed the horse placed under his care; we see it fed ourselves, if we act prudently and humanely. We know that if we trust him to do so, he will indeed receive the money for the corn, which the wearied creature would seldom get. So with the pound-keeper; he receives the money for the food of the poor animal under his care, which is not given to him, but is very differently spent. Now

we are not likely to feed the imprisoned astray, as we feed our horse at an inn, and therefore we have only one means of securing the poor animal food ; in fact, to prevent his being deprived of it, —and this has been already stated to be so heavy a fine as would deter the pound-keeper, or his deputy, from yielding to the temptation of robbing his charge.

The case is quite clear and conclusive, that if we feel it necessary to take precautions against the hostler, there is equal necessity for caution against the pound-keeper ; in fact, they are both hostlers, and neither, perhaps, in a situation to be safely trusted.

As the humane person should never pass a suspicious house where the incessant yelping of terriers is heard, fearing a badger bait, so would he never pass an inhabited pound without making earnest enquiries as to the treatment of the poor prisoner, and the condition of his residence. He would afterwards sleep sounder for the benevolent act, and awaken with happier feeling, for he has been serving the unprotected and the helpless.

The result of such enquiries will certainly be, that he will find too much reason to believe that in many pounds there is no food at all supplied to the unfortunate inmates, whilst their condition generally is filthy beyond description, and without any shelter from sun or bad weather.

Note 14.—MODERN STAG HUNTING.

Although the cruelty of badger baiting is so disgusting, and the frenzy of the pleasure which accompanies it (unless viewed as monomania) so strange and unaccountable to an enlightened and humane mind, yet is its practice generally confined to the low blackguards of the community : unfortunately, the higher orders of society, those who, on other subjects, practise actions which evince taste, feeling, and humanity, and thus give signs of a certain degree of moral and intellectual progress, are infected with this same frenzy in regard to hunting the tamed stag, which is equally loathsome, and equally intense in cruelty to that which marks the degraded and ferocious barbarities of the badger ring ;

yet, in the recklessness of the moment, the stag hunters may be unconscious of the striking analogy between the two species of cruelty, and would on no account be detected at witnessing such a debasing spectacle as a badger bait.

Of the two kinds of cruelty, however, that of the hunted tame, or half-domestic, stag is more revolting than that of the baited badger, (for the poor stag is long in friendly intercourse with man, who deliberately prepares, and, finally, betrays him for the worst of purposes,) and is certainly productive of far greater evils than the latter. Both badger and stag are strongly fed, to increase their physical powers, and the latter likewise disciplined, to increase his speed to prolong the chase, and thus protract his own miseries; both are often saved, with barbarous refinement, only for the purpose of being again trained or cruelly prepared to undergo repetitions of the same misery; and both in a dastardly manner are deprived of their means of defence, that ourselves or our canine brethren may escape injury, when the poor creatures are defending their own lives—the one by the occasional amputation of the lower jaw, the other by a regular amputation of the horns; and both suffer a death so horrible, that imagination itself must fail to depict its horrors!!

In vain will the stag hunter say, he does not intend the wretched death of the tamed unfortunate animal. That event which it is in our power to prevent, and which we do not, but even sanction by our presence, may be fairly put down to us as the cause. Amongst the countless miseries inflicted by man on the inferior animal race, some of the most terrible are those suffered by the simple and forlorn badger, torn from his happy hills, and by the tranquil domesticated stag, the picturesque ornament of our park scenery, on whom we should love to look, but not to torture, and who appears to have been purposely created to adorn the quiet solitude of the forest, and the peaceful romantic retreats of nature; and from which true taste would rarely expel him, and never for cruel purposes. We admire his noble front, his spreading horns, on which he sometimes wears above twenty antlers, and his limbs finished with so much elegance; but still we submit him to a course of refined cruelty and mutilation, for our amusement.

The preparations for this most unnatural and distressing species of sport, of hunting the carted or tame stag, are so revolting, and productive of so much evil, that they must affect the feeling mind with remorse, when the enthusiasm of the moment has passed away, and calm reflection reveals the depravity of that nature which can receive pleasure from such deplorable, degrading, and unmanly practices exercised towards inoffensive and helpless creatures. However much we may wish to conceal it from ourselves, it will appear that badger baiting and carted stag hunting are strictly analogous, and that the tame stag hunter is upon an equality in a taste for cruel sport with the low, demoralized, frenzied, spectator of the sufferings of the humble badger—with this strange and painful anomaly, that the former is enjoyed even to the same frenzy by persons from whose education and taste we should rather expect the deepest abhorrence, and is personally patronized by others, to whose elevation and rank in society we look up for examples for our own conduct, whether exemplified in the purity of our taste, refinement in our manners, or in the more grave, important, and responsible obligations of morality and religion. More especially will this modern system of hunting animals trained for sport or cruel purposes, influence injuriously our practice of benevolence towards our fellow-creatures, but particularly among those who most need it, the more humble and dependent, whose helpless and subordinate position in the creation calls upon us, their superiors, for protection from unnecessary suffering.

There is something in common, an affinity, between every variety of sport—for they are all more or less cruel, and we sportsmen more or less blameable; and although there are some of a far more reprehensible, grave, and striking character than others, as this of hunting the tame or carted stag, yet, the state of mind, the unnatural excitement especially, and the habit of witnessing any, will lead us almost imperceptibly to practise all, and enjoy the most criminal. Cruelty also is infectious, so that every unnatural stretch of refinement in it is sanctioned by numbers, and the tumult or rage of the excitement becomes so excessive, that the man loses all sense of right and wrong, and arrives at the

unfortunate distinction of becoming as great a beast as his dog, both often equally cruel, and equally mad. Even madness itself could scarcely excuse the depravity sometimes exercised in this rage for stag hunting; for even the innocent and petted deer, brought up tenderly, fed and fondled with every endearment, have been frequently made the victims of this cruel sport! But a man must be a monster who could propose or sanction such a crime against nature. He who could doom such innocents to the horrors of a modern stag hunt, might be expected capable, when stags were scarce, of worrying his own child; for, in forming a pet, you create an object of affection—and his child is no more.

Again, Is it not both impious and cowardly to cut off the horns of the animal, and then hunt him in this defenceless state, with such ferocious enemies, in the proportion of perhaps thirty to one? Can it be right, and is it not cruel, to force him with a whip to practice leaping in a drill yard, to teach him to increase his speed, overcome obstacles, and thus lengthen the chase, and protract the agony of his own mind, for our mere amusement, to prolong that terrible fear of impending violence and destruction which animals feel with unexampled horror? Is it right, or rather, is it not doubly wrong, to increase the speed by training, when we know that its cruel effects are not confined to the poor stag, but extend to the generous and noble horse, who, with the torturing whip, and plunging of the lacerating spur, is compelled to follow the fleet stag, with nostrils stretched, eyes gorged with blood, ghastly staring with inward agony, from desperate struggling, until, staggering for a short distance, he falls and flounders on the earth, a broken heart:—blood gushes from his mouth and nose—and he dies, uttering a few piteous groans and convulsive sobs?

Oh! ye that can do this horrid deed without compunction, from mere recklessness, think of the sufferings of the helpless animal, before he falls thus murdered! Have you done by him as you would have been done by? Had you not better have governed your frenzy, pulled up, and saved your miserable and helpless, dumb and unresisting creature, instead of riding him to death with whip and spur, to indulge feelings of childish exultation

and a most contemptible ambition? Do you ever reflect, or remember, that you must die, and that your last hour had better be spared recollections like these, many of which, (some perhaps from other sources,) might make it even more terrible than the miserable end you inflicted upon your poor horse?

In this most horrible way, it is understood that five horses on one day, and two on another, have perished behind these fleetly-trained stags, and one pack of hounds. Calculate then the evil, the destruction, the cruelty, which must be practised over the empire, with the numerous packs spread through it; and this, without taking into the account the still more horrible fate of the stags themselves, whose speed is so great, that the huntsman cannot always be up with his dogs time enough to prevent it. In this way also it is understood, thirteen stags have been torn to pieces in two seasons by the same hounds.

Fox hunting is, comparatively, an honest, straightforward, business-like sport; for the fox, a rogue and felon by nature, is sought for as legitimate prey. But then, he is sought with the proper feelings of a sportsman trying for game:—unless when turned out of a bag, when the practice is equally as cowardly and as cruel as forcing a tame stag from a cart.

We are all, more or less, sportsmen, and, to a certain extent, guilty of actions towards our inferior fellow-creatures for our own amusement, which will not bear close enquiry. But some sports are far worse than others; and the practise of these in our early days will create in our latter ones a degree of remorse, that it would be wisdom to avoid by a timely forbearance.

So domesticated does the beautiful stag become by all these familiarities of training, being fed like a horse in a stable with corn, and practised leaping like him, that he may indeed be included in the list of our domestic animals; and we might as well let loose the hounds upon a calf, or a donkey, as upon the tame stag, and probably should do so, if these humble animals were as fleet, so as to give equal excitement in the chase; a practice which would neither be very respectable, nor very sportsmanlike.

Whatever is highly unnatural, is almost sure to have a vicious

origin, and to terminate in further mischief, and, sooner or later, will require decisive checks. Refinement is very excellent or very bad, according to the subject refined upon. To refine upon humanity, would be, to extend the boundaries of our benevolence, and would promote the happiness of others; to refine upon cruelty, to protract its duration, to give it more pungency, would be to extend our power of malignity, and make us as ferocious as wild beasts, which prey without hesitation upon all creatures within their reach, according to their taste. We have also our taste, we select one sport, or one animal, in preference to another, to torment and to destroy, whether it be in steeple chases or this modern stag hunting, both cruelties of the worst description, and demanding the immediate interference of the Legislature.

When the poor stag has finished training, and his condition and speed are made perfect, we send him, an inoffensive creature, in a cart like a condemned felon to an execution, of a far more terrible character than that of the human, and really guilty criminal, whose mind has been long prepared for his fate, and made up to meet it. The poor stag is boxed up in the cart like a cat or tame rabbit, or a fox in a bag, which is turned out to be hunted by all manner of dogs and all manner of persons, to amuse reckless school boys. Indeed, the whole scene of the stag turned out, has a peurile as well as cruel character, not at all resembling real sporting, the chief pleasure of which consists in the keen pleasure of anticipation or in searching for game. The poor animal is so tame as scarcely to be forced out of his prison, and even then requiring an old hound to be sent after him, to drive him away from those to whom he has become attached, as to benefactors!! but who have so treacherously deceived him as to be at that moment employed in preparations for his torture, for their wanton entertainment. The old hound succeeds in frightening the poor tame thing to run off, and then the whole pack follows.

The chase commences: and now, with the noise of the coming dogs comes also that vague undefined terror of mind in the animal which no language can describe, and which nature has largely implanted in the inferior animals for their protection,—an apprehension of danger, and fear of instant or impending death, soon

amounting to agony, as the cause or sounds approach nearer and nearer. And this state we purposely prolong in a helpless unresisting brute, for our amusement, although it be often concluded by a death of indescribable and appalling horror. For who can describe the agony in the mind of the ill-fated animal (who would be the author of it?) in that dread moment which immediately precedes its seizure, which is expressed in the look of despair with which, for an instant only, it turns to survey its ruthless enemies, alas! with the terrible conviction that there is no escape? Oh! that consciousness as well as hope could now be together extinguished in the mind of the poor sufferer!! It is, however, not so: the helpless creature, after making a slight defence with the remnants of the horns, is pulled down (a large animal can be but slowly mangled to death by dogs!) the limbs, seized and pulled in opposite directions, are dislocated, and, steaming with hot life, become subjects for contention, and, by the time you ride up to this scene of uproar and carnage, the blood is gushing in all directions: you are sprinkled; the place smokes; the dogs are red with it. Is your thirst for this cruel sport satisfied? If not, behold! what is that? The head of the dismembered and unfortunate animal, the eyes still open, with life not quite extinct, are directed towards her destroyers with an unutterable ghastly expression of anguish, the last agony of mental fear and bodily pain. In the corner lingers the well-known tear, an affecting mark of the dying sensibility of the sufferer, who, in the scene whence this sad picture is taken, was a poor petted deer once much loved and cherished.

The stag sometimes escapes for a while from the hounds, becomes a wanderer, weak and exhausted, when he is persecuted by assailants and enemies of all descriptions. But has he not still one resource, one refuge left—his forest home, his lost companions? No, polluted, hunted by man, the poor fellow is no longer considered one of themselves—he is rejected as an outcast, an alien, which they would pursue and gore even unto death. The unfortunate creature is now arrived at the climax of misery, and without a home, without a friend, bleeding and exhausted,—it is not to be regretted that the ball of the keeper soon terminates his woes.

But for the universal tyrant of the animal race, the life of the

poor stag, spent in the shaded woodland, or the warm sunny breadths of the park, in the society of his kindred, would have been one of unbroken felicity ; and the first wish of the benevolent, on witnessing his happiness and liberty among the wild scenery of his home, would be, that such felicity should never be disturbed. Deer feed early ; their morning retreat is thus picturesquely described :—

“The day pours in apace,
And opens all the balmy prospect wide ;
The hazy woods, the mountain’s misty top
Swell on the sight : while o’er the forest glade
The wild deer trip, and, often turning, gaze
At early passengers.”

As evening approaches, you may see his elegant form, richly coloured, suddenly emerge from the depth of the dark green woodland ; he takes his stand at the margin of a broad and transparent lake, and looks about him as if admiring the splendor of the evening sky, and the glory of a glowing sunset, with his own figure reflected by the calm, clear water : gracefully he bends his neck towards it, and now you have a full view of those noble antlers given to him by his Creator, for ornament and defence, but which you have neither the piety nor the taste to preserve, nor the courage to encounter.

Here we cannot refrain from asking a most painful question—How is it that such a cruel system of training this beautiful or any other creature to endure cruelties again and again like those we have mentioned, and now become general, can exist in the middle of the nineteenth century, in the most distinguished Christian country in Europe, to amuse some of the most elevated and best educated of the society to be found in it ?

The writer’s pity for the unfortunate race of deer, the subject of this note, was deeply excited by an affecting incident which occurred under his own observation, and this must plead his pardon, if it be necessary, for having written it. It was at the close of a fine October day, that one of this persecuted race passed

near him, not far from the high road, in a state of distress, dismay, and exhaustion; there was no longer the vigour and tension of muscle, the elasticity of motion of the happy animal, when bounding through the glades of the peaceful forest. The lower jaw hung, the mouth was half open, and the tongue lolling deep and dry from it; his flanks heaved, he breathed hard, and with difficulty sustained a heavy staggering gallop; the whole physical character denoted extreme exhaustion and departed energy. But oh! the look of inexpressible terror that shot from his protruding eye, half reverted, showing the white, as it seemed anxiously to scan the distance to the hounds, which were now too plainly approaching. The leading dogs were soon up, without huntsman or sportsman, and the fate of the helpless and unfortunate animal was decided; but not soon. The roar of the dogs as they seized their wretched prey, was frightful. "Go no farther, Sir; they have got him down, and are worrying, murdering him in a ditch; but as he has no horns, they are a long time about it." Soon, however, all was silent.

The cry of the dogs, when they made their last roar and fatal rush, will never leave the ear of the observer; nor will the look of unutterable despair in the eye of the poor distressed and condemned victim as it passed, deprived of all hope and means of defence, as the dogs neared him, ever fade from memory; nor the graphic, though exquisitely painful illustration, of the countryman, conveyed by the expression, "They are long about it, (the work of death,) considering the poor fellow has no horns."

So tame is the stag made by his education with man for this cruel hunt, that he will often make affecting appeals for protection, by endeavouring to gain shelter in houses and among our domestic kine.

A stag was lost at —, after a hard day's run; the next day he was found lying down, tired, amongst the cows of the farmer who reported the case. He was driven up from the midst of his companions, who could not protect him, and again hunted and lost. The next time, he was found having taken shelter in a hovel, and escaped at one door as the dogs entered at the other; he

probably in his fright mistook this for his own stable, and expected to find the man who fed him! For this mark of affecting confidence in the poor animal, showing his reliance in man for protection, he should have been persecuted no further. But when did the unworthy and cruel tyrant of the animal race forego his own pleasures to save from torture his poor dependent dumb creatures? The frenzy prevailed, the tired, exhausted animal was again hunted. And now the poor tame thing sought refuge in a gravel pit, near to which some men were at work. Here he was captured, after being torn by the teeth, and having had a view of his merciless enemies almost at his heels for at least an hour, during which time his agony must have been intense, his failing powers, and their nearer approach and ferocious cries every moment convincing him of the utter impossibility of escape.

After this series of successive and barbarous chases of an animal so tame, it was carted and sent home, to be fed and rested for future miseries—for future sport.

This capture of the stag exactly resembles the human criminal's reprieve, which comes after his sufferings have commenced; with this great difference, however, that whilst the really guilty criminal, the man, will be tortured no more, the poor innocent animal will certainly be tortured again and again, and may finally undergo a death so terrible as to be a climax to all earthly suffering.

The sensibility of the stag,—his sorrows, his sighs, and his tears; the unfriendly return his distresses find from all his former companions, after being hunted, are deeply affecting matters of fact in his history, well known to the naturalist, the forester, and the huntsman, and should plead earnestly for mercy when man is about to inflict the tortures of the modern mode of hunting this noble, feeling, and elegant animal.

Shakspear has beautifully described these affecting traits, showing that he knew as much of animal feeling as he did of human. The melancholy Jacques is introduced by the poet reposing on the ground.

"As he lay along
 Under an oak, whose antique root peeps out
 Upon the brook that brawls along the wood,
 To the which place a poor sequester'd stag,
 That from the hunter's aim had ta'en a hurt,
 Did come to languish; * * *
 The wretched animal heaved forth such groans,
 That their discharge did stretch his leathern coat
 Almost to bursting, and the big round tears
 Coursed one another down his innocent nose
 In piteous chase; and thus the hairy fool,
 Much marked of the melancholy Jacques,
 Stood on the extremest verge of the swift brook,
 Augmenting it with tears. * * *
 * * * Anon, a careless herd,
 Full of the pasture, jumps along by him,
 And never stays to greet him. Ay, quoth Jacques,
 Sweep on, you fat and greasy citizens;
 'Tis just the fashion: wherefore do you look
 Upon that poor and broken bankrupt there?"

NOTE.

If famishing a dumb creature be not a cruelty, what is the name of the crime? It is surely ill-treatment.

Three pigs, so famished, that two of them fed upon the third.

An intolerable stench was observed around a building where a dirty fellow was known to keep three pigs, and to feed them occasionally with stinking fish, and other offal that he could procure from dung heaps; and this he scarcely ever did more than once a day, and sometimes once in two days. The effluvia from the sty became more offensive, but none of the neighbours could obtain a view of the interior. At last a great outcry among the pigs, as if one were being killed, led to the door being burst open. A scene of horrors was then exposed, sickening to behold! The pigs were living skeletons. Two could scarcely stand, while they were voraciously engaged in eating their emaciated companion,

having already torn off side pieces from each hip. They were driven off with some difficulty, reluctant to leave their fellow-sufferer and victim, whom, prompted by the cravings of hunger, they were eating alive!

The poor pig, thus mutilated, was led, staggering, weak, and bleeding, into the neighbouring pound.

The state of the sty was horrid. The wretched creatures being immersed to the belly in a long accumulated composition of their own soil, with an effluvia that quickly drove away the discoverer of the scene.

The author surveyed this loathsome den himself: it was a room of small dimensions, sunk nearly two feet below the door sill, and filled with the most disgusting accumulation; for the floor being a very low one, the drains from the neighbouring houses had found their way into it, where, meeting with the ordure of the animals pent up altogether, they formed an intolerably foetid mass. This deplorable sight was more deeply frightful, from the fact, that the poor creatures could not have lain down for a considerable period, as they must have been suffocated had they attempted to do so.

Generally, it would be allowed that there was cruelty enough in the foregoing case of starvation, practised upon entirely dependent, locked up, and utterly helpless creatures; but such is the diversity of meaning applicable to the word cruelty, or to the words of the Act for its suppression, that a most able and upright magistrate did not think that there could be, under the terms of the Act, any punishable cruelty without actual personal violence to an animal; and therefore, although starvation was highly culpable, yet it was not, in a legal sense, "cruelty;" and that he would not advise a prosecution of the foregoing case, for fear of a failure.

It is evident then, to meet such cases as that last described, that the law should be better defined, and made more comprehensive; for magistrates are perpetually differing in opinion as to what is "cruelty," under the second section of the Act, and particularly as to the latitude of meaning to be given to the words therein used,

of "ill-treating," "abusing," and "torturing;" many of them contending that beating or personal violence is necessary to constitute the crime punishable under that clause.

If the law hereafter should consider starvation of an animal by its owner or his servant to be a cruelty, it should be punished as such, whatever might have been the cause, whether neglect, forgetfulness, or revenge. The fact of not feeding, being proved, should be sufficient to ground a conviction; for the sufferings of the poor creatures are equally great, whether they were intended or not. The most vigilant care should be taken of the hapless being, which cannot call aloud to explain his miserable situation,—a prisoner, and too helpless to break his prison in search of food!

The difficulties of proving the starvation of a dumb creature are very great, especially in single examples; for its effects, emaciation and weakness, may arise from other causes, such as disease.

When it happens amongst congregated numbers, the detection is more easy, for disease would scarcely, or rarely, affect numbers with emaciation at the same time, though starvation might; but, at all events, certain proof could never be obtained without watching suspected cases, the activity of which would be sharpened by the temptation of half a large penalty, as was formerly remarked in starvation in pounds—a small one would be useless. The fear of a heavy penalty would probably deter small proprietors and others from neglecting and starving the poor creatures in their keeping, a cruelty perhaps more common than any other.

Such persons as work hard their poor slaves of the dumb creation, from morning until night, upon the most scanty food, would either feed them better, work them less, or sell them to masters who could better afford them wholesome food, and in sufficient quantities.

When an alteration of the present law, as regards cruelty to animals, shall take place, and be made more comprehensive and efficient, and so clear that magistrates could have no reasonable excuse for not carrying its provisions into full and remedial effect, it

is to be hoped, that besides the cases already mentioned, it will be made to embrace acts of cruelty practised by traders, and for which, in excuse for the cruelties they admit they are guilty of, they plead custom ; such as boiling lobsters alive, when the poor animals scream in agony, as if appealing for mercy ; starving them to death by thousands—for fishmongers admit the awful fact, that it is the practice of the trade, when in expectation of a better market, to keep these creatures for weeks together upon wetted small coal in the dark part of a cellar, (light irritating them,) where they gradually cease to move, waste away, and all which remain unsold, ultimately die ; skinning eels alive, when they might instantaneously be killed by piercing the spinal marrow at the back of the neck, which is professed to be, but is seldom or never, done ;—cutting up fish while in the full and vigorous possession of life ; mangling both sides of the face of the innocent lambs, for the purpose of bleeding them before they are killed, and, during the long interval, giving them occasional blows on the sore nose with a mallet, to make them bleed more freely, instead of more properly bleeding from a vein ;—carrying calves in a cart with their heads hanging downwards ;—driving poor cattle upon their worn and bloody stumps of feet ;—plucking poultry alive, (for the previous stunning by a blow on the head, is scarcely ever properly done) ;—and innumerable other cruelties of endless character, which might be very much checked, if not wholly prevented, by a proper legislative enactment.

This must include some decided changes in the present penal law, in which, generally, there is no proportion between the crime and its punishment ; the greater atrocity of the former frequently requiring a corresponding vigour in the latter, to arrest a vice which grows with frightful luxuriance in the midst of a vast and corrupted population. For it would be romantic to suppose, that among such foul materials, moral checks alone could cure so hideous a disease, rooted as it is in the tyranny of man's nature, which is ever prone to exercise it the most where he finds the least resistance. At least such moral checks would not be decisive until some far distant period, when time and the

progress of education and knowledge may have so far changed the character of such a population as to render it more capable of being governed by enlightened views and improved moral sentiments.

If anything has been said in the foregoing notes to serve in the slightest degree the cause of our inferior fellow-creatures, or to save one of these helpless beings from torture or suffering, the author's purpose will be answered, and the short time devoted to the writing of them will not have been spent in vain.

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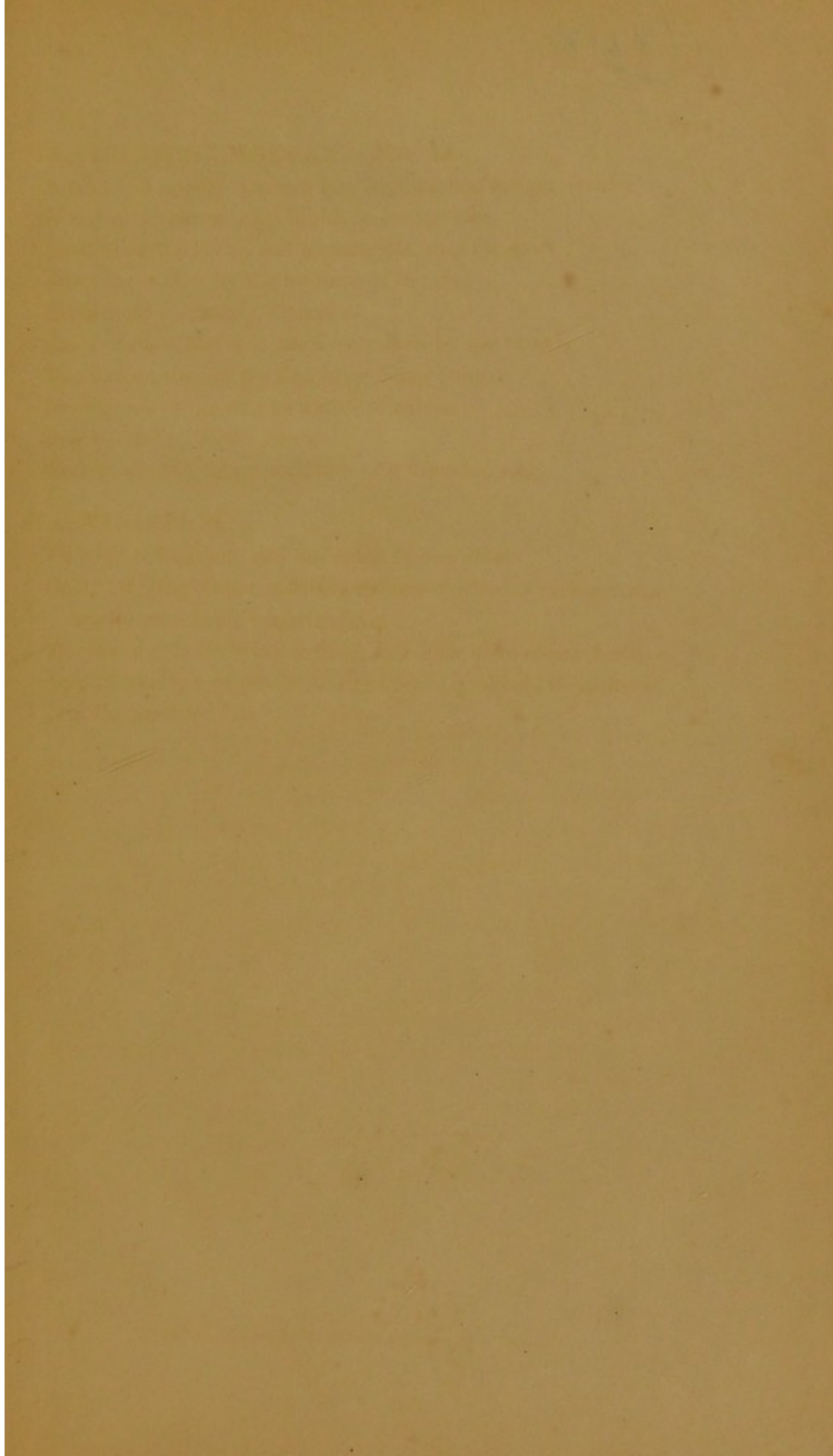
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