

**Animals' Friend Society, for the prevention of cruelty to animals
[Prospectus and abstracts from the Society's reports].**

Contributors

National Animals' Friend Society (London, England)

Publication/Creation

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No. 603^a

ANIMALS' FRIEND SOCIETY,

FOR THE

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

REORGANIZED IN 1832.

CHIEF OFFICE, 18, WEST STRAND ;
BRANCH OFFICE, FOR SOUTH-LONDON DISTRICT,
6 HIGH STREET, NEWINGTON BUTTS.

"A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel."—*Prov.* xii. 10.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."—*Matt.* v. 7.

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God."—*Luke* xii. 6.

"Open thy mouth for the dumb."—*Prov.* xxxi. 5.

In order to save the Society the expence of Printing as much as possible, please to return this Book to the Collector when called for.

LONDON:

M. & W. COLLIS, PRINTERS, 53, BOW LANE, CHEAPSIDE.

1845.

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National Animals' Friend
Society

In order to save the memory of the
National Animals' Friend Society
the first of the following was called the



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LONDON:


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1845.

ADDRESS.

In order to continue the services of the Constables in the Metropolis and the Provincial Towns and especially in this district; the authorized Collector will call in a few days to receive any Subscription or Donation you may be pleased to give; and the Committee does hope that none will refuse to contribute their mite, however small, as it is not a cause of party or faction, but that of mercy to the suffering brute creation. If you will favour the Committee with your humane support, you will signify the same in the enclosed form, where your Name, Residence, and amount is requested, and for which an official receipt will be given.

LEWIS GOMPERTZ, HON. SEC.
Oval, Kennington.

 *The Collector will on application furnish abstracts of the Acts of Parliament, Reports of the Society, &c. &c.*

Subscribers of 10s. and upwards are entitled to an Annual Report, and a copy of all publications that may be published.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

To those benevolent persons who may be inclined to become Benefactors by Will, the following form of legacy is most respectfully suggested.

Item: I give and bequeath unto the Honorary Secretary, or Treasurer, (for the time being) of a Society called or known by the name of the Animals' Friend Society, reorganized in September, 1832, which said sum I desire may be applied towards carrying on the benevolent designs of the said society; and the receipt of the Secretary shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

N. B. Giving land, money, or stock by will, with directions to be laid out in the purchase of any estate for the benefit of this Society, will be void by the statute of *mortmain*, but money or stock may be given by will, without being directed to be laid out.

Those benevolent persons becoming Subscribers or Donors to the Animals' Friend Society, will please to insert their name and residence in this printed form.

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Auxiliary Committees of this Society have been formed in Dover, Canterbury, Gravesend, Walsall, Birmingham, Bristol, Yarmouth, Brighton, Norwich, Manchester, Nottingham and Stroud.

APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC.

IN consequence of the extended efforts recently made by the "ANIMALS' FRIEND SOCIETY," in repressing those cruel and immoral sports of cock-fighting, dog-fighting, bull-baiting, badger-baiting, cat-worrying, &c. formerly so prevalent in London and the Southern, Western and Northern Counties, and to abolish the gross barbarities so long practised with impunity in those receptacles of misery—the Metropolitan and Provincial Knackers' Yards. The Committee feel necessitated most urgently to appeal to the humane liberality of the British public, for its co-operation and pecuniary aid, whereby to enable it to extend its protection to the ill-used dumb creation, and thereby improve the religious and moral character of mankind.

The Animals' Friend Society has effected much good, yet much remains to be done, and the Committee sincerely hope that friends will not be wanting to assist in this worthy and Christian cause.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FIXED PLAN OF OPERATION, VIZ :—

1st. The circulation of suitable tracts gratuitously or by cheap sale, particularly among persons entrusted with animals, such as drovers, coachmen, carters, &c.

2nd. The introduction into schools of books calculated to impress on youth humanity towards the inferior animals.

3rd. Frequent appeals to the public, through the press, (on every religious and moral principle,) and by every mode tending to awaken a more general attention to this important and interesting subject.

4th. Periodical delivery of discourses from the pulpit, and public lectures.

5th. The employment of constables in markets and streets; and also in the country districts.

6th. The prosecution of persons guilty of any flagrant cruelty, and giving publicity to the same; but only resorting to coercion when mild persuasion will not avail.

7th. The employment of every effort to induce the senators of this country, and of others, to grant to animals a more extended and effective protection.

8th. The conferring of occasional rewards on persons exemplary for their humane treatment of animals.

ANIMALS' FRIEND SOCIETY,
FOR THE
PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

THE peculiar attention with which every attempt to ameliorate human woe is regarded, bears the strongest testimony to the nature of that benevolence which so universally prevails in this enlightened country. No sooner is the way pointed out, which leads to the fulfilment of any genuine advantage to the poor and afflicted, than the generous hands and hearts of many cheerfully unite to give it their patronage and support. Encouraged by these considerations, the committee of the above institution are led to hope that a society which is established for the protection of those which are suffering the most acute and painful tortures, and who are incapable of making known their innumerable grievances, will be readily supported, and the plans of the Society carried out more forcibly than hitherto, until the period shall arrive when mankind generally shall be brought to a just sense of their duty towards the brute creation.

In 1824, a period soon after the enactment of the statute introduced by the philanthropic Richard Martin, Esq., M.P. for Galway, in the House of Parliament, for preventing and suppressing the cruel and improper treatment of animals, several friends, warm in the cause of benevolence and humanity, deeply deploring the wanton and malicious cruelty daily being administered towards the harmless and unoffending dumb creation, united themselves into a Society, determined to oppose evils so much practised, and so demoralising in their social tendency. An institution was then formed, a Committee appointed, and a plan of operations for carrying out the humane and benignant objects thus intended—was adopted.

The Society has continued its operations to the present time—and the great benefits already effected during its existence—the good accomplished by the various members and

agents connected with it—will, the Committee feel assured, continue its exertions for the suppression of evils and barbarities which remain undisturbed. They would not have the friends of humanity to infer that *all* the good is effected. No: much they are happy to know is done; but a vast—an immeasurable amount of good remains to be performed. Bull-baiting is nearly annihilated, but dog-fighting is still carried into execution—cocks are still fought—calves are still packed in carts, and slowly bled to death, to render the veal white—pigs are still driven with their hoofs off, and on bleeding stumps—asses are over-laden and beaten to death, on our canal sides—that faithful servant of the public—the horse—after a life spent in the service of its mercenary owner, is still doomed to drag out a wretched existence in the “Knackers’ Yards,” the revolting outrages of which have been vividly exposed by the valuable institution bearing the head of this. With such an enumeration, and the actual atrocities which must meet the eye of every observer, the question may reasonably be asked—What has the Society effected, if all these evils still exist? In reply, the Committee not only request a survey of the streets of our metropolis—the improved condition of horses used in omnibuses, coaches, cabs, carts, &c., since the operations of the Society, is unquestionable. View Smithfield Cattle Market, 1829, when no one dared to interfere on behalf of the helpless victim of a brutal drover, without risking his very existence; and respecting which, one of the agents said, in his evidence before the House of Commons, in 1831, he believed, “*it would have been impossible by human foresight to insure his life a single hour whilst performing his duty, had it not been for the timely assistance of Mr. Williams and other respectable inhabitants who sheltered him from time to time in their houses.*” By the unremitting exertions of the Society, such is the change produced, that any agent can now enter the midst of the market, and expostulate with the drovers, or take the offenders into custody, when they feel themselves justified in so doing. In 1829, the honorary solicitor, appeared professionally to prosecute John King, the proprietor of the most notorious cock pit in England, where kings, princes and nobles resorted to witness scenes of barbarity, which may truly be said to emanate from the disposition adapted only for that place of “*torment, where depravities are incessantly acting upon each other, and where the agony of despair darkens and perpetuates the horrors of guilt.*” An agent, who was the principal witness in this case, also succeeded in prosecuting four other pits then existing in London, and by that means considerably checked such barbarous prac-

tices; but on the revival of those barbarities in 1839, Mr. T. B. Gibbins abolished another in Tottenham Court Road, which appeared to be a fatal blow to such sports in the metropolis. In one instance, at Birmingham, no less than ninety-five dog-fighters were captured one evening! which number of persons met with that reception by the worthy magistrates as such perpetrators of cruelty deserved.

“The Animals’ Friend Society,” with a view to the immediate and original intentions, are sending out agents to all parts, hoping thereby to expunge all those cruel and barbarous sports and pastimes which are daily demoralizing a great portion of our community, and inflicting the most extreme tortures upon the poor animals so brutally engaged for the purpose.

There are three very extraordinary anomalies of the present refined age, which now so signally disgrace the finest city in the world.

The continuance of these blots upon us as a civilized people, can only be attributed to a corrupt influence and most criminal avarice in the public body that, on one side, inflicts the evil—and to the ignorance, the criminal indifference, and low ebb of public spirit, on the other side, which servilely submits, and makes not the slightest effort to overthrow those nuisances in which, not only the inhabitants of the metropolis are victims in *all their varieties* but of *every county* throughout England, in very important points.

The first of these is SMITHFIELD CATTLE MARKET, with all its brutal cruelties, its abandoned and frightful demoralization—the focus of all the lowest dregs of the town—and consequently the very nursery of all crime, from drunkenness and robbery, to ruffianism and murder.

The second is that of the SLAUGHTER HOUSES in the various parts of the metropolis—with all their *secret* and hideous barbarities—all their filthy and disgusting odour—and all the same abandoned and demoralizing effects on the uninstructed; or rather, the mutually-viciously-instructed youth initiated into all their abominations.

The third, and not the least, is that of the KNACKERS’ YARDS, which include in them all that is appalling in barbarity;—all that is revolting in putrefaction and corrupt animal matter—disgusting to the senses, and infectious to the health:—and all these, combined with the inhuman consequences which identify Smithfield and the butcheries.

The inspectors and officers have, by the Committee’s orders, visited these places, where they have discovered some of the most revolting barbarities possible for any individual to con-

ceive. The most glaring of which have been "The horrors perpetrated in the Knackers' Yards, where horses are left for the express purpose of being slaughtered, but which are kept for days and weeks without food or water, excepting the corrupted offal that accumulates in the yard." These poor animals are brought here in the last stage of their existence, absolutely unfit for any kind of work. "It is true that horses have been known," says the Earl of Carnarvon, "to burst from their fastenings, and in a frantic state devour each other for the purpose of satisfying their hunger—the greatest of all physical suffering." These horrid secrets of the charnel house, discovered and brought before the public by this Society, have been the means of checking much in the continuance of these monstrous evils; but yet *much* remains to be accomplished for the total abolition of those cruelties which are heaped unrelentingly, on the most noble and useful animal in the creation.

Through the unremitting exertions of the society, wicked sports and barbarities towards domestic and other animals, have been greatly lessened, and a regard for the law has been inculcated on their parts, and considerably manifested by them.

Throughout the Metropolitan district the most unremitting labors have been carried on by the inspectors and officers, for the purpose of exposing and suppressing every description of cruelty towards dumb animals. The annual fairs, for the amusement of the working classes, have been strictly watched by the constables; and by the vigilance exercised by them, and the convictions they have already obtained, they have been successful, in checking much unnecessary severity, and in preventing much wanton cruelty towards the various animals employed or let out to hire.

The Society would now particularly direct attention to the progress of the cause in the Provinces, where the most pleasing results have followed, and crowned their labors. The Inspectors have directed their exertions to the principal towns and villages of the following counties, viz., Surrey, Hampshire, Sussex, Kent, Essex, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Buckinghamshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire, Devonshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Glamorganshire, Pembrokeshire, Salop, Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Somersetshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Wiltshire, Chester, Dorsetshire, &c. &c. Some of the most barbarous and glaring cruelties have been detected, and the guilty parties brought before the magistrates in whose jurisdiction the sports took place. This has greatly lessened the

cruelty, but yet a vast amount is still practised, which, with the Society's exertions, the committee trusts will speedily be removed

There are various modes of cruelty which this Society deeply lament are of too frequent occurrence, which are carried into execution in secret. Few persons are acquainted with this fact, though carried on in the immediate vicinity of their own residences; and they frequently urge the excuse, when solicited to become *Donors or Subscribers*, "*that they never see any cruelty, and therefore see no necessity for doing so.*" If they could but visit the dog or cock pit, which are generally situated at the back premises of a public house, which, perhaps, they never entered, and witness the poor creatures mangled and torn to pieces, and that these creatures are so starved, for the purpose of being excited to a blood-thirsty ferocity, that they often devour the flesh of each other. These sports too frequently occur on the Sabbath-morning.

The Society has been the humble means of abolishing those cruel sports of bull and badger-baiting, at Stamford and in Warwickshire. The number of tracts and publications circulated, has already produced a good effect among those who were the supporters of these evils, &c.

In various parts of the kingdom, several hundred thousand of tracts and other publications have been distributed, also several abstracts of the Act of Parliament, regulations for coachmen, flymen, omnibus drivers, drovers of cattle; cautions, handbills, and essays on the subject of humanity, and the sin of acting cruelly to the brute creation; and the Committee have received several pleasing accounts of the good result that has emanated from the perusal of such, particularly from Sunday and other schools where they have been circulated. The minds of the rising generation have been instilled with the cause of mercy and humanity, which have never failed to impress upon their intellects the Almighty's regard for the dumb creation.

This Society has prosecuted above 3,500 cases of wanton cruelty, and caused sermons to be preached, meetings held, and lectures delivered, &c.

The Society would now, in conclusion, most earnestly call upon the liberality of the humane and philanthropic to aid and assist the noble principles of the institution, which they trust, for the sake of the truly oppressed and ill-used dumb creation, will be kindly responded to, until these evils be entirely removed.

Copied from the Weekly Dispatch, 3rd March, 1844.

“ANIMALS’ FRIEND SOCIETY.”—“This Society, in its annual report, which it has just published, has acknowledged the assistance afforded by the WEEKLY DISPATCH in forwarding the humane objects which it has in view. The Society may calculate with certainty upon the continued and untiring support of the WEEKLY DISPATCH, for it is impossible to witness the horrid cruelties committed upon the dumb brute creation by biped monsters, without aiding to the utmost of human exertion in putting down such brutalities. During the 17 years of the Society’s existence no less than 3,143 cases of cruelty have been prosecuted by it. The few following cases selected from the list of prosecutions, prove beyond question the necessity for, and the utility of, such a Society. In Parmenter’s knackers’ yard, Battle-bridge, there were found horses up to their fetlocks in decayed putrid animal matter without food or water. The living were standing among the dead, and crushing the skeletons of the latter at every step. The stench from the dead carcases was insupportable. In reply to a question one of the slaughtermen said that they “had no trouble with them as four or five dropped dead every night.” Through the Society’s instrumentality this frightful atrocity has been in some measure put down. At Wallis’s yard, Wandsworth, were found nineteen horses in an open shed, 31 feet long by 12 deep, so closely wedged that they could neither lie down nor turn. In Canterbury a most diabolical act was committed by a boy in the slaughter house of Mr. Stradwick. The young wretch tied the legs of a sheep together, and knocked it about till it put out its tongue, and he then cut a piece of it off, broke its neck, and while struggling began to flay it alive. Through the Society’s exertions, dog, bull, and cock-fighting have been put down in 140 villages, and in every city, town, village, and hamlet, measures have been adopted to suppress bull-baiting, and every species of cruelty towards the dumb creation. The Society has been honored by the patronage of the King of Prussia, and the support of noblemen and ladies of the first rank. The debt of the Society has happily been reduced; the total received during the past year, has been £398 15s. 11d., the expenditure, including the arrears of the preceding year of £142 19s. 10d., has been £432 5s. 8d., and the reduction of debt has been £109 2s. 1d., leaving a balance now due to the Treasurer of £33 17s. 9d. We heartily congratulate the Society upon its successful efforts, its promising prosperous condition, and the universal spread of the noble principle of humanity through every grade and every class of society.”

ABSTRACTS FROM THE SOCIETY'S REPORTS,
 OF SOME OF THE
CASES OF PROSECUTION,
 AS NOTED BY THE PROSECUTORS,

Conducted under the direction of the Committee.

POLICE COURT, WANDSWORTH, March 2nd, 1843.

Mr. Lewis Gompertz appeared before Mr. Clive with two officers of the Animals' Friend Society, who charged Edward Wallis, a knacker, with having ill-treated a number of horses, 19 of them having been confined in a shed, thirty-four feet by eleven, nearly up to their knees in decayed animal matter, with neither straw nor food, and very little water, surrounded by about thirty dead horses, some in a putrid state.* Mr Clive examined several of the witnesses brought by the defendant, who said that the horses were fed twice a day and were comfortable. Mr. Clive thought that there was no evidence of starvation, and that the other cruelty did not amount to an offence under the act. He therefore dismissed the case with costs on the Society; but with heavy private costs to defendant, who it would seem was well aware of the justice of the charge, by his since subscribing £1 to the Society, which he applauded, and having greatly improved his yard and the comfort of his horses.

* On Monday, February 9th, 1843, in company with 188 N, we visited Parmenter's Knacker's Yard, at Belle Isle, Battle-bridge. We found eight horses in an enclosed place, up to their fetlocks in decayed animal matter, mire, and every description of corruption attached to such a place; no food or water, but the stagnant water in holes in the yard, which in wet weather flowed from heaps of decayed bones. At the further end of the yard were two small sheds, filled with live horses, and a chain placed across either doorway to prevent their coming out. Those who were outside had no shelter whatever from the inclement weather, which at this time was very severe. When we visited them they were in the most wretched condition, in the last state of agony and misery, surrounded by putrefied carcasses of their fellow-creatures. The living standing among the dead, and crushing the skeletons of others at every step they took. The stench was so bad from decayed carcasses that it quite overpowered me. In reply to a question, one of the slaughtermen

said, they "had no trouble with them (the horses) as four or five dropped off every night." This statement can be corroborated by 188 N, who went with me as above stated, and also by 114 S, and 17 N, and 21 N, who can prove that these atrocities have been carried on for the last ten or twelve years. I also refer to a lady, of Pentonville, who for the last three years has endeavoured to stop these barbarities. This lady went to Mr. Thomas, of Pall Mall; he said he had no power to enter the yard, it being private property. She applied to me repeatedly, so that at last, in disguise, at every hazard, I attempted and succeeded in gaining admission, as above stated. I summoned the offending parties to Clerkenwell Police Court, and though not successful in obtaining a conviction, through a technical objection raised by defendant's solicitor, Mr. Humphries, I so far succeeded in remedying the evil, that the horses were immediately killed, the dead ones removed, and the yard cleansed out, and, lastly, a new lock placed on the gate to prevent our entrance in future.

We have since visited every Knacker's Yard in London and the environs, most of which we found comparatively clean, especially Mr. Winkley's, in Friar-street. At Wallis's Yard, Wandsworth, we found nineteen horses in an open shed, 31 feet long by 12 deep, so closely wedged in that they could neither lie down nor turn; they were considerably over their fetlocks in decayed animal matter; no manger, no straw, no rack, nothing but this filthy mire to lie down on, and if they did they would be trampled on by the others. I have stated the length of the shed. At the extreme right end there was a large tub placed: we saw a man empty two pails of water in it; three or four horses rushed to it, and struggled to get at it as if suffering from extreme thirst. Those at the left (among whom were some blind ones) had not the slightest chance to obtain any except the others were removed away. There were at least thirty horses lying dead—some completely putrefied, and the stench from them was dreadful. In reply to a question, Mr. Wallis, junior, said they *never killed while they had so many dead ones*. He likewise offered to *sell me a horse* if I wanted one; and, let me add, when we entered the yard, we found a man unharnessing a horse, which had just drawn a Knacker's cart into the yard, and was then put in the pound with the other condemned ones. This statement can also be confirmed by 99 V, who went with us twice. We summoned the offending parties to Wandsworth Police Court, and, though not fortunate in obtaining a conviction for ill-treating and abusing certain horses (although the fact appeared evident to the magistrate, Mr. Clive,) through a defect in the clause of the Act, by which no pecuniary penalty can be enforced, and the guilty parties can only be reached by an indictment at the sessions; and though the evidence of eight witnesses brought forward (*all in the service of Mr. Wallis*), and three more who were not examined by the defendant's solicitor, Mr. Gilham, we had the highest commendation from the magistrate, who said we had done perfectly right in bringing the case forward, and he hoped the defendant would have water constantly supplied, the yard properly cleansed, and the horses regularly fed, which he promised to do, and likewise said he should become a subscriber to the Society. These are facts which can be proved by several persons more, if requisite. One satisfaction has resulted from this, *it has put the knackers on their guard*; on Friday, the 24th of February, one of the agents and a police officer visited Belle Isle, where we had a few days previously witnessed such horrors. There they found only one live horse and several dead ones, and the yard perfectly clean. Of course this change is an act

of necessity, on their parts;—but we cannot suppose this will be continued by persons of their stamp—and should urge the Society to procure, as speedily as possibly, an Act to prevent the recurrences of such barbarities.

UNION HALL, December, 9, 1844.

CRUELTY TO AN ASS.—Mr. T. B. Gibbins, chief officer to the Society, charged William Dark (a dust collector, of Camberwell) before Mr. Traill with cruelly beating an ass in the Blackfriars-road. The evidence went to show that the defendant was trying to race with an omnibus, and because the poor animal could not keep up with it, he beat it several times across the loins in a most brutal manner with a large ash stick. After this he again endeavoured to race with another vehicle, urging the ass on with greater violence, keeping it in a full gallop to the London-road, where he was stopped. Mr. Gibbins said the defendant beat it from the bridge to the London-road, with scarcely any intermission. He had on several occasions cautioned him; it was not the first time he was charged, for he was brought to that court by him (Mr. Gibbins) two years ago for cruelty to an ass at Camberwell fair; he was then fined, but not being able to pay, he was committed to prison. Mr. Traill said he should have thought that the imprisonment that he had had, would have taught him better. He could not plead ignorance; he had once been punished for his brutal treatment, and he certainly should not pass this over, but should inflict a fine of 10s. or be committed for fourteen days.—Committed.

UNION HALL, December 10th, 1844.

CRUELTY TO AN ASS.—Mr. Gibbins charged James King (a costermonger, of Princes-street, London-road,) before Mr. Traill with extreme cruelty to an ass in the Blackfriars-road. Prosecutor, having been sworn, said he saw the defendant coming from the bridge at great speed, driving an ass drawing a cart, to the shafts of which another was tied, but not so powerful as the one drawing the cart, which was urged on with violent blows, dragging the other (which appeared to be in a very weak state) after it, causing the wheel to come in contact with its hocks, and taking the skin off, also laming it that it went some distance on three legs, and while being dragged along in great misery, the defendant beat it in a wanton and cruel manner. The prosecutor several times remonstrated with him upon his improper conduct. Mr. Traill severely rebuked him for his cruelty, and fined him 7s., or, in default, ordered him to be committed for fourteen days.

BOW STREET, December 12th.

CRUELTY TO A HORSE.—One of the officers of the Society charged William Baker, before Mr. Twyford, with great cruelty to his horse.

The officer having been sworn stated as follows:—While on duty in Parliament-street, I saw the defendant whipping his horse under the flank in a brutal manner; I went and gave him a caution not to repeat such conduct, but he appeared to take no notice of anything that was said. I then left him and concealed myself at the Horse Guards, where I again saw him whipping his horse with greater violence; I went to him the second time and remonstrated with him on his brutal treatment. I also perceived the horse to be in great pain. I then commenced removing the harness. Under the saddle I found a large ulcerated wound; in size it was four inches by three; there was no pad or anything to keep the saddle from working in the wound. The worthy magistrate asked the defendant what he had to say in answer to the charge; in reply, the defendant said it was true there was a wound on his horse's back, but he did not whip him to hurt him. Mr. Twyford said the offence was clearly proved against him, for which he should fine him 5s. it being his first time of appearing at that Court.—He paid the fine and was discharged.

BOW-STREET, January 3rd, 1845.

CRUELTY TO AN ASS.—An Inspector of the Society charged Thomas Best, before Mr. Jardine, with wantonly and cruelly beating an ass. The inspector said on going his rounds, he observed Best sitting on the front of a cart, or barrow, drawn by an ass. Best was forcing the stick under the tail with great violence, after that he jobbed the point of the stick on the back, and several times beat it cruelly on the ribs with the thick end; the poor animal gave way under the severe blows. Mr. Jardine said the public was very much indebted to the inspector and the society for bringing to justice such characters as the defendant. Fined 5s., in default to be committed for fourteen days. The fine was paid, and he was discharged.

The same inspector then charged Thomas Shearman with cruelty to an ass. The officer said he saw Shearman in High-street, Bloomsbury, beating an ass on the legs and body with violence; he was requested by complainant to desist, but refused to do so, telling complainant to mind his own business, at the same time striking the poor animal several severe blows. Finding remonstrance of no avail, he took him into custody. In answer to the charge, the defendant said he considered he had a right to do what he pleased with his own; he bought and paid for it. Mr. Jardine said, though it was his, he had no right to ill use it, and fined him 5s.—Committed to prison.

SOUTHWARK POLICE COURT, January 18th.

CRUELTY TO AN ASS.—Mr. Gibbins charged William Head, a costermonger, of Deptford, before Mr. Cottingham, with wanton cruelty to an ass. After being sworn, prosecutor stated, he saw the defendant in the Borough, beating an ass on the head with a thick

stick. It was drawing a heavy load. He (prosecutor) did not see any just reason for such extreme violence ; the ass was going exceedingly well. In answer to a question from the magistrate, he said it was an obstinate animal, and he only struck it once.—Fined 5s. ; in default was committed for seven days.

WORSHIP-STREET POLICE COURT, January 25th.

CRUELTY TO A HORSE.—Mr. Gibbins charged John Stephens, before Mr. Broughton, with ill-using a horse in Chiswell Street. Mr. Gibbins said he saw Stephens coming from Smithfield horse market. His attention was at first drawn to the weak state of the horse, which caused him to follow it. When he got into Chiswell Street, he saw Stephens several times attempt to get on its back, but from previous hard work it was very much strained, and every time he made the attempt it gave way under him. The defendant became so enraged because he could not get on its back, that he struck it at least a dozen times on the head with a stick with a knob at the end as large as an egg. Mr. Broughton asked him what he had to say to such brutal conduct?—in reply, he said, he wanted to get home soon ; the horse was very much strained before he had it.—Fined 5s.

MARLBOROUGH STREET POLICE COURT, January 31st, 1845.

CRUELTY TO AN ASS.—Mr. T. B. Gibbins, chief officer to the Society, charged James Nash, of Marylebone, before Mr. Hardwick, with cruelly whipping an ass, and otherwise ill-using it. Mr. Gibbins said he saw the defendant in New Bond-street, driving a horse and cart, to the shaft of which an ass was fastened. Nash whipped the horse, and caused it to draw the wheel on the hind quarters of the ass. It was dragged along by the horse some distance, at the same time Nash whipped the horse and ass very cruelly, until stopped by him and Police constable 220 D. On examining the ass it was found that blood was flowing from several wounds where the wheel had taken the skin off. The defendant did not attempt to deny the charge made against him. He was fined 10s., in default to be committed for fourteen days. Committed.

MARLBOROUGH STREET POLICE COURT, February 8th, 1845.

CRUELTY TO A HORSE.—An officer of the Society charged James Mills, before Mr. Hardwick, with cruelty to a horse. The officer said, while I was on duty in Oxford-street, I saw Mills strike his horse several times on the nose with the butt end of the whip ; it appeared to give it great pain. Mr. Hardwick—what is your answer to the charge?—in reply he said, he only did it to guide the horse, it was stupid and blind. The magistrate said he would teach him better for the future, and fined him 10s. and costs.—Committed for seven days hard labour.

SOUTHWARK POLICE COURT, March 1st, 1845.

CRUELTY TO A HORSE.—Mr. Gibbins charged James Ellis, of Walworth, before Mr. Cottingham, with great cruelty to his horse. Complainant said, he saw Ellis in Tooley-street, whipping his horse under the flank ; on stopping him and examining the horse well, he found large pieces of flesh cut out of the thigh by the constant whipping, and under the saddle there was a large running wound ; it was altogether in an emaciated state. Mr. Gibbins reminded the magistrate that Ellis was charged before him on the 22nd February, with cruelty to the same horse, but on account of sickness in his family it was not pressed against him, and he was then discharged on his promising not to work it again in that state. On account of the defendant's poverty, and having four of his children laid up with a fever, he was again discharged. Mr. Cottingham told him, if he was ever brought before him again, he should inflict the highest fine the law allowed.—*The horse was killed.*

SOUTHWARK POLICE COURT, March 11th, 1845.

CRUELTY TO A HORSE.—Mr. Gibbins observed John King, of Kensington, working a poor old horse in the Borough, with large ulcerated wounds under the saddle, the lining of which was saturated with blood and corruption ; he was taken into custody and charged with the offence, before Mr. Cottingham. The defendant in answer to the charge pleaded poverty. He was discharged with a severe reprimand.—*The horse was killed.*

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES OF THE SOCIETY'S AGENTS.

THE KNACKERS' YARDS,

Statement of George W. Mernier, P. C. 188 N.

On the 9th of February, 1843, I went with the Society's Agent to Parmenter's Knacker's yard, Belle Isle, Battle Bridge, and hereby fully confirm the truth of his printed statement.

On the following morning (the 10th), I looked into the yard, the gate being open I went in, and saw a man cutting up the skeleton of a horse. In the sheds were a number of horses, *apparently starving*; there was a chain across the doorways. On the outside there were several horses in the same state, no food, no water; two had fallen dead, and the live ones were gnawing the hair and skin from them. I made observations to that effect to the man cutting up the bones, he said it was very common for them to drop dead by the severity of the weather, and did not seem to like to answer any other questions. The yard was in the same state as on the previous day; the stench was horrible,

I visited the yard again on the 11th, and apparently the same number of horses in the sheds; a chain across the doorway. One horse was groaning in the agonies of death, and struggled hard to get up; another horse in as complete a state of starvation, was positively eating the filth under the rack, in which there was no food; the yard was still in the same filthy state as on the preceding days. On coming out, I met one of the knackers, I asked him if he had been in the yard that morning? He said no. I told him about the dying horse I had seen, and recommended him to go and kill it, to put it out of its misery. He said he would go and look to it. It was immediately after this day that a strange alteration was made; no doubt from the *publicity* of an application to the Police Office, Clerkenwell, *respecting this yard*, appearing in the daily papers, which put the knackers on their guard.

GEORGE W. MERNIER, P. C., 188 N. Division.

Statement of Shayler, 114 S.

On the 11th of November, 1842, at three in the morning, while on duty, I went into Parmenter's knacker's yard, Belle Isle, Battle Bridge, with a man who was just entering to slaughter a horse, and showed him a light. I saw several horses lying dead and dying in the filth in the yard, and a quantity of rats running over them in all directions; and the decayed animal matter was full three inches deep: the groans of the animals were dreadful. There was at least forty cart loads of bones, no food, no water except the horrid filth on the ground. On the man leading the horse out, his (the horse's) feet became entangled in the skeleton of another, which had to be knocked to pieces to disengage the horse. When the man fetched the horse out he directly locked the door, which is a continual practice. There were at least twenty horses alive outside the sheds. The stench was dreadful.

P. C. 114 S, EDWARD SHAYLOR,

Statement of Christopher North, 17 N.

About six years ago, at midnight, in passing Parmenters' knacker's yard, Belle Isle, Battle Bridge, I heard a groaning, when I scaled the gate and got into the yard. There were about twenty horses, some tied up and some loose; the loose ones were gnawing the tails and manes of the others in their hunger, which caused them to groan dreadfully. The yard was so thick with corrupted filth that my feet stuck fast in it; there was no food or water, and altogether it was a horrid sight, and the stench was dreadful.

CHRISTOPHER NORTH, 17 N., *Sergeant.*

Statement of Sergeant Allen, 21, N.

About eight years ago, at midnight, a brother police constable and myself were induced to scale the gates of the knacker's yard, Belle Isle, Battle Bridge, to ascertain the state of the yard and the horses therein. To our great horror we discovered fourteen or fifteen horses apparently dead, lying on the stones in an open shed, some of them were tied up to rings in the wall, and had dropped dead during the night. All the *wood-work about the premises was gnawed away*, even the *bar* across the gates inside. On one side the yard was a shed, with a chain across the door-way; the shed was quite full, it appeared that another horse could not have been put in it. While examining as well as we could that shed, we heard a noise behind, among the supposed dead horses; it was the moving of a horse's leg, the grating of the shoe on the stone. After some trouble we discovered (by the steam issuing from the trunk of a dead horse, from which the *bowels had been taken*,) that the still living horse, in its agony, had plunged its head into the body by its side. It was the first time I had ever seen such horrors, and it made me quite ill for some time after.

{ HENRY ALLEN, *Sergeant, 21, N.*
{ P. C. 114 S., EDWARD SHAYLOR.

About the same time in another yard close by, I found four or five horses tied to the skeleton of a horse in the open air, where one was down between the others in the agony of death, and the others covered with frost. The horse that was dying struck out in his pain repeatedly, and brought the other horses down upon himself two or three times.

HENRY ALLEN, *Sergeant, 21 N.*

The late disclosures by the Animals' Friend Society (18, Strand), of the horrors of the knacker's yards, have just met with their parallel, by a similar exposure, made by it, of a den of cruelty in Upper Kennington Lane, which beggars description, where a great number of dogs, rabbits, hogs, goats, birds, and other animals, are confined in a yard, and in various dark parts of the house, amongst a heap of lumber and filth, without any litter, and with scarcely any food. Some of the dogs have already been claimed, and the proprietor being already in custody on another charge, an application was made by the Hon. Secretary to the magistrates, respecting the providing the poor animals with food during the confinement of the proprietor, the Society having for several days, at its own expense, maintained all the animals there. Mr. Henry readily entered into the Society's views, and kindly ordered that they should be provided for by the police.

LIST OF A FEW OF THE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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| Wilson, Mr. | - | - | - | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | |
| Wilson, Wm., Esq. | - | - | - | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Wrench and Son, Mr. | - | - | - | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | |
| Webster, Mrs. | - | - | - | | | | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Welch, Mr. | - | - | - | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | |
| Yerburey, Miss | - | - | - | 0 | 5 | 0 | | | |

