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Montreal.

DUMB ANIMALS.

A PLEA FOR MAN'S DUMB FRIENDS,

Being the Substance of an Address delivered
in Salem Church, by

REV. SAMUEL MASSEY.

We read in the Book of Proverbs that "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel." These words mean that a good or just man will be just and kind to his beast, but that a wicked or unjust man will be unjust and cruel to his beast. Many of our carters speak and act toward their horses as if they really believed that a horse has no claim upon their good nature, and that he has no right to expect either a kind word or a kind deed from them. He is only a horse, and therefore deserves to be abused. He must be cursed and whipped and compelled to draw, and "go ahead," whatever be his load or condition. In every sense, it is far better to be humane and kind to poor dumb animals than to be otherwise. To say nothing of the sin, and the judgment to come, a man puts himself much lower than a brute, when he abuses his horse. But drivers are not the only persons to blame, for, as citizens, we are all verily guilty concerning the treatment of dumb animals on the streets of our city.

For some years past much interest has been manifested in the welfare of dumb animals, especially in large cities, on both sides of the Atlantic. In many of them societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals have been founded, and these societies are being vigorously worked, and are doing much for the comfort and the alleviation of the miseries of all kinds of dumb animals, especially

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horses. Some of these Societies, such as that of New York, employ agents in the city and country towns. Besides the parent Society in New York City, there are eighteen branches in different parts of the State, and 279 agents are employed. Their good influence is felt in every part of the State, and perhaps it is not too much to say that there is no society in New York doing a more humane, and I may say Christian work, than good Mr. Bergh and his society. In that great city, where there are thousands of horses, it is now a very rare thing to see a horse going faster than an easy trot, and it is quite as rare a thing to see one overloaded. The consequence is that the horses in that city look clean, strong and healthy, and above their work. This is chiefly through the ubiquity and activity of the agents of the society, for every carter and driver imagines that one of these agents has his eye upon him. I know that all this is true, for I have more than once walked up and down the city watching them, and admiring the care of the men for their horses. They are well fed, not overworked, and treated with kindness. Of course there are exceptions, but I speak of them generally and as a whole.

Stock yards and slaughter houses are under the constant supervision of the society's agents, and dumb animals of all kinds have their sympathy and attention, so that much cruelty is prevented throughout the city and State. A close watch is kept on river boats which bring cattle to the markets, as well as on the railway depots. In this way the agents prevent the animals from being abused, as they otherwise might, and probably would be. No society in New York is more liberally or more cheerfully supported than the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Last year the expenditure was upwards of forty thousand dollars. He had alluded to New York because it is a neighboring city, and presents to us a good example, which he hoped we may have the goodness and courage to follow.

OUR OWN CITY.

There is no city in the world where there is more need for a vigorously worked society, such as I have just described, than our own city. This necessity arises chiefly from the great number of horses employed and a still greater number of cattle and live stock of various kinds which are annually brought into the city, to say nothing of dogs and other domestic animals which are kept in the homes of our citizens.

Another important reason showing the need of such a society is the generally bad condition of our streets throughout all seasons, but especially, as at this time, in the spring and fall. Then the streets running north are all up hill, for these reasons the life of a carter's horse is generally a life of great hardship. He gets few pats on the neck, or kind words of encouragement, two things which he knows how to appreciate, perhaps, as well as his driver, often better. I allude here more especially to those who cart coal and wood (over 600) and material of that kind, and to the horses employed on the shipping wharves. They are more heavily loaded and abused than any other horses in the city. With regard to sleigh and carriage horses also there is some room for improvement, for while there are some humane and careful drivers, particularly those who own their horses, there are many who are cruel and ill-treat them. In New York City there are well defined and humane laws which greatly facilitate the detection and punishment of such characters, and in this city it is not difficult to do this if the citizens would take the trouble and interest themselves more in the welfare of horses and other dumb animals.

THE CITY PASSENGER RAILWAY HORSES.

This corporation employs a large number of horses, and I am glad to say that they are well cared for. They are well stabled and well fed, and on the whole, perhaps, not much overworked. The only thing we have to complain of with regard to them is that they are often much overloaded. But this, I think, is rather the fault of the citizens, and of the City Council, than of the Company. There should be a law limiting the number of passengers to each car or 'buss as in England. This would greatly tend to promote the comfort of our city horses. Such a law is all the more necessary on account of the many hilly streets.

THE NUMBER OF HORSES.

We have about 10,000 horses in the city, and as we have already intimated that many of these are driven by thoughtless, if not heartless lads, and the stabling of many of them is not of the best, or the safest, especially in case of fire, as we have lately seen, with much pain, for a horse smothered or burned to death in his stable, is not a very pleasant sight. The horse is a noble animal. He seems to be formed for the service of man, and no other animal

serves him so well. He is sagacious and even intelligent, very sensitive and grateful for kind treatment, and always well repays it. Almost any horse will cheerfully respond in some way to a kind and encouraging word, and will tremble at an angry one. He is patient and silent under ill-treatment, simply because he is dumb. If he could speak he would doubtless often reproach his owners and drivers. In sad tones he would say: "Why do you treat me thus? Am I not doing my best?"

KIND TREATMENT.

Kind treatment pays best in the end. A horse that is well fed and kindly treated will do much more work, and live longer than one that is ill-treated, and consequently it will pay a man better to do well by his horse, to say nothing of the sin and shame of abusing him. Butchers' horses, fast trotters on the streets in the upper parts of the city, coal cart drivers, and the dray and truck horses on the wharves and elsewhere require attention. Fast driving must be put down all round.

CHECK BITS.

Horses often suffer much unnecessary pain from the improper use of those barbarous instruments called check reins and bits. Possibly some high-spirited animals may need such things, but they should never be used unless absolutely necessary. We often see horses roughly checked and put in agony without the slightest reason, except for the pleasure of the driver to enable him to "show off" a little. It is a pity that drivers and riders have not a more humane and kindly feeling for their horses.

Our boasted civilization seems in some respects little better than common barbarism, for we often see dumb, innocent and helpless animals abused on our public streets in a manner so heartless and cruel, that it would more than make an uncivilized Indian from the backwoods ashamed of his white brethren. An owner of horses assured me the other day that a horse should never be allowed to draw a load more than a ton in weight, even in the summer time, when the roads are good. But when the streets are in the condition they are in to-day, half a ton was quite enough; yet they are compelled to take their usual heavy load. A horse can have his heart broken as well as a man. Some time ago I saw several horses drawing heavy loads of hay up one of the steepest of

our street hills. They breathed heavily, bent almost to the ground, and with trembling limbs and steaming with perspiration, two of them reached the top, but the weakest, and seemingly the most willing and spirited, dropped dead upon the street. Did not this poor horse, in trying his best to serve his master, break his heart?

BIRDS.

I often see—what? shall I call them men! going away from the city with gun and game bag early on Sunday mornings. Bags empty in the morning when they start, and full when they return, perhaps of pretty little innocent birds which they have cruelly shot on the Lord's Day, thus doubling the bloody sin. I remember shooting a little wren when I was a boy, but I have never forgotten it and never shall forget it. It lies on my conscience to this day, although more than half a century have passed away since the deed was done. I wonder whether these small sportsmen have any feeling, or conscience, or shame!

We should do all we can to encourage birds to remain with us, for we have sadly too few of them. I well remember my great disappointment when I first came to this country at finding so few birds. I wandered over the mountain, and in the woods and fields, but, alas, found neither lark nor nightingale, and but few birds of any kind, so that to shoot the few we have is not only cruel but unwise, as it takes from many the innocent pleasure which only living birds can give. Besides, they have a perfect right to enjoy their short, happy life. If they had the skill and power they would have as much right to shoot men as men have to shoot them. Something must be done to put a stop to this wicked, cowardly Sunday sport.

CATTLE MARKETS.

I am told that there is much cruelty practiced at the cattle markets; cows, calves, sheep and lambs are often ill treated and put to unnecessary pain. This should have the special attention of the agent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

There is also much cruelty, I am informed, practiced on them, when being brought to the markets, by river market boats and by the several railways. This is done chiefly when loading and unloading, and also by overcrowding. The number of live stock brought into the city for slaughter and for sale, exclusive of those

for exportation, is very large, as the following figures will show. For the year 1885 the figures stand thus :—

Cattle.....	18,289
Calves.....	8,504
Sheep and lambs.....	43,894
Pigs.....	2,959
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	73,646

This gives a total of upwards of seventy-three thousand brought to our markets in one year, and this does not include those brought to Point St. Charles, as I failed to get any return from the agent in that quarter. Perhaps that would run the number up to a hundred thousand, and this, as I have said, is exclusive of cattle brought in for exportation. This, I think, is quite sufficient to show that there is a wide field for the exercise of the energy and diligence of the society's agents, in order to prevent any cruelty that may be practised upon them when being brought into the city, either for sale or slaughter.

The City Abattoirs also require the attention of the agents of the Society, as well as of the Sanitary Association.

COWS IN CITY.

There are upwards of seven hundred cows kept in the city, many of them greatly overcrowded in their stalls, their stables or sheds often being in small crowded yards, where it is almost impossible to keep them sufficiently clean and healthy so as to give pure milk for human food. They are confined all winter in their stalls, and are rarely out of doors from fall to spring. Here also is something which calls for the attention of the Sanitary officers as well as for the agents of the Society for the protection of animals. It might be well to enquire what kind of food they get during the winter season !

NOBODY'S DOGS.

There are about 5,000 dogs in the city. The dog being a favorite animal, he is generally treated with kindness, not unfrequently he gets more than his share of the comforts of dog life. But there are many dogs neglected and sent adrift, and others get lost and wander about the streets, and feel that they are nobody's dogs. There is hardly anything sadder or more pitiful than the

countenance of a lost dog. Boys throw stones at him, and he is often kicked and cuffed about until the policeman's club puts an end to his sufferings. A lady informed me that she saw a policeman club a fine looking dog to death in a back lane. The poor animal seemed to appeal for mercy in the most piteous way, but it was all in vain. The dog at last was supposed to be dead and the policeman left, but in a while the poor bleeding thing opened his eyes and tried to rise, but could not. The brute then returned and finished his work with his club.

All this was done in the presence of a number of little boys and girls! I do not wish by this to cast any reflection on the police. What we need is a "dog pound," such as they have in Toronto and New York, to which poor lost dogs can be taken and cared for, where their owners may find them, and when really necessary, they can be put away in the most quick and harmless manner.

THE USEFULNESS OF DUMB ANIMALS.

Let us think for a moment where we should be or what we could do without our dumb animals. Our horses, cows, sheep, and even dogs. How essential they are to our comfort, well being and life. As citizens, therefore, we should feel it to be our bounden duty to protect them in every possible way we can.

SCHOOLS AND TEACHING.

But we can have little hope of a thorough reform unless teachers, preachers, priests, Sunday School teachers and parents, take the matter up, and teach the rising generation—the children—never to be cruel, but always kind and merciful, to all dumb animals. Occasionally special lessons might well be given on the subject to the children in the public schools and Sunday Schools also.

Let us hope that in future our city horses and other dumb animals will have better protection. They continually do cry for help to all humane citizens, and they have strong claims upon our sympathy and protection, for they are good and useful servants, and often receive but poor and cruel returns. The old Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been resuscitated, and will henceforth be vigorously worked. The agents, while looking well after all dumb animals in every part of the city, have been instructed to give special attention to horses. It is hoped that our citizens

will assist the Society and its agents in bringing to justice any who may be seen abusing dumb animals of any kind. Letters from citizens to the Secretary, at the office of the Society, 198 St. James street, will always receive prompt attention.

May we not hope that the membership of the Society will be largely increased, and that it will receive liberal support from all, but especially from our wealthy citizens.

“The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath ; it is twice bless'd ;
It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes.”



