

**THE RIGHTS OF ANIMALS; OR, THE
RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATION
OF MAN, IN THE TREATMENT HE IS
BOUND TO OBSERVE TOWARDS
THE ANIMAL CREATION**

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The rights of animals; or, The responsibility and obligation of man, in the treatment he is bound to observe towards the animal creation by S. Burdett

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BY S. BURDETT.

"Have respect unto the covenant, for all the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty."—PSALM, lxxiv. 20.

"My soul is pained with every day's report
Of wrong and outrage with which earth is filled."

"Cry aloud thou that sittest in the dust!
Cry to the proud, the cruel, and unjust."—COWPER.

"Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn."—
DEUT. xxv. 4.

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INTRODUCTION, &c.

“Cowards are cruel.”—GAY.

If this were a composition on cruelty to animals demanded by the Schools of our Universities, it would no doubt be required in the first place to *define* cruelty, stating explicitly in what it consists, and, by way of illustration, to specify the modes and manner in which it is exercised or exhibited; and possibly, in order to make it complete in every part, be divided and subdivided, and to obtain acceptance should be written with philological accuracy, if not even mathematical precision. Cruelty, however, as it regards our own species, when exercised towards each other, admits of so many ramifications, that some points would involve a disquisition almost interminable.

The whole might also be written in a very powerful, eloquent, and elegant style, containing such nice definitions, enlarged ideas, and fine sentiments, as could not fail to evince altogether great ingenuity and grasp of intellect, and yet not prove generally useful, or calculated to promote the objects which the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals"* have in view[†]; and were it elaborate, the size, and consequent price, of the work might intimidate many persons from either reading or purchasing it, and therefore not fall into the hands of those for whom this is especially intended, and the intentions of the writer be defeated.

In order therefore to supply a desideratum for the cause of humanity, by a small compendium, these pages are now submitted to the public, with merely a few preliminary observations; and in de-

* This Society has during last year convicted 270 offenders.

† Now of the individual who gave £100 in the last
 time's edition - which according to the Society's
 was not to exceed 150 pages, or less - the price
 given to D. Styles - whose 8th part with appen-
 ended 250.

fining cruelty, briefly to remark, that it comprises every baser passion of our nature—murder, revenge of the deepest dye, malice, slander, “cruel mockings, and scourgings,” false imprisoning, persecution, oppression, and all uncharitableness.

But when cruelty is perpetrated or exercised towards animals, it may be termed such a vicious propensity and inhumanity, as includes all that is most vile, degrading, and depraved; it is cowardice in the extreme, and renders man more brutal than the poor *mute* whom he abuses, and as regards his conduct in some respects, really inferior, because he has, at least, *reason* to guide him, and possessing a power and faculties which the animal has not. Cruelty to any creature perfectly passive and defenceless, is not only a base cowardly vice, but in many instances diabolically savage, and completely outraging Christianity, and frequently arises from the most sordid and selfish motives.

Having premised thus far, it only remains to inform the reader, that as this short Treatise is intended for general utility, by an extensive circulation, it cannot be requisite to endeavour to exhibit superior acumen, or to aim at any display by profound disquisitions and a long analytical dissertation; but sufficient will be manifested to prove that cruelty to animals is a heinous crime and sinful offence against the Almighty who created them.

S. B.

THE RIGHTS OF ANIMALS, &c.

PART I.

THE RIGHT OF ANIMALS TO BE PROTECTED FROM
CRUELTY AND INJURY, FULLY PROVED FROM
SCRIPTURE AND THE UNIVERSAL ORDER OF CREA-
TION, &c., AND ACTS OF CRUELTY STATED.

IN the Scripture narrative of the Creation we read at the close of each division, "That God saw that it was good;" and on the termination of this mighty work, "That God saw every thing that he had made, and behold it was very good;" and gave to man the power and high privilege to have dominion over every living thing that moved on the earth, and pronounced a blessing upon them; notwithstanding which, in a short period, every living creature had corrupted its way on the earth: Adam himself having first transgressed the command of God, was consequently driven out of Paradise; sent forth to till the ground to yield him thorns and thistles; lost all his immunities, and forfeited his dominion. Soon after which, the elder born committed