

**DO ANIMALS
THINK?**

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Do Animals Think? by H. Recordon

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By H. ^{Henry L.C.} RECORDON

SECOND EDITION



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Do Animals Think?

PREFACE.

THIS is not a work on natural history or other sciences. It does not treat of the origin or pedigree of animals, but of their observation and penetration. It tends to show that animals do think, more or less, according to their capabilities, some having more and some less. It tries to prove that much of their prowess is due not to instinct, but to intelligence, which entitles them to the respect and sympathy of mankind.

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DO ANIMALS THINK?

PART I.

Do they, or do they not? Here we have a question that is not very simple to answer. The small minority of men contend that they do, while the larger majority contradict it, and, this being the case, we will try and sift the matter thoroughly. This being the question of the opening of this work, it stands to reason that there should be a satisfactory answer, and decide permanently the different contending points on the matter.

The word think may be applied to both man and beast and be interpreted in one or all of the terms: To compare things or terms in the mind; to deliberate; to consider; to judge; to conclude;

to determine; to imagine; to fancy; to meditate; to intend; to design; to conceive; to believe; to esteem, and to have ideas in general on one or more subjects.

There are but few of these definitions that cannot be applied to animals as well as to men.

One characteristic more prominent than all the others, is fancy, or anger, which is found in the whole animal kingdom. There one can see the mind at work, more so on the laws of nature, self-defense or self-preservation, and the maintenance of one's dignity, at any price.

The pleasure of quarreling does not exist in animals as it does in man.

Anger is nothing more than an impulsive consideration for the time being, when any member of the numerous species of the animal kingdom is annoyed. We have, too, in other animals, those of the higher order of intelligence, which imagine a wrong inflicted toward them; then there are others which are justified in such imagination.

Take for example the elephant, which has the largest brain of all, even eclipsing man's. He therefore has a wonderful and good memory, never forgetting a good or bad action; especially a bad one, for he thinks and ponders over a wrong and bides his time to inflict the punishment and be revenged. Let the time be short or long, he waits

and he will not or in fact never does forget it, and when he meets the object of his wrath, he will remember almost instantly.

A case of this kind happened not long ago at one of our Zoos, where a crowd was there as usual. There was one person whom his majesty, the elephant, eyed more than the rest. I watched to see what would happen. The woman went toward his cage, when the elephant, with a roar, and the uplifting of his trunk, seized the woman by the waist and was about to dash her to the ground, when the attendants intervened and saved her from further harm. Strangely enough she recalled that twelve years before she had struck an elephant over the trunk with her umbrella, for trying to ransack her satchel. She was not sure, however, it was the same one, but the guards told her it must have been, for an elephant never starts a fight without good cause.

All animals are not of the same turn of mind. I can recall an incident that happened in one of our western cities not long ago. It was in this case a woman also and a king of beasts. She was at the circus, and in the crowd, but when she approached the lion's cage, he was lying down, but at sight of her he bounded upward and pranced like a kitten. The woman remembered that she had sold a pet lion ten years before. She went