

**THE WONDROUS TALE OF
ZADAAK BEG; OR,
THE MERCHANT PRINCE
AND THE EASTERN GENIUS**

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HENRY CURLING

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OF

ZADAAK BEG;

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GENIUS.

BY

CAPTAIN HENRY CURLING.

AUTHOR OF

"LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT," "THE MISER LORD," &c., &c.

"What is man that thou art mindful of him.

"Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands. Thou hast put all things under his feet, all Sheep and OXEN, yea, and the beasts of the field.

LONDON:

CHARLES J. SKEET, PUBLISHER,

10, KING WILLIAM STREET,

CHANCING CROSS.

1863.

250. 0. 122.

P R E F A C E.

The Author of the following Tale deems it necessary to say a few words in explanation of the fanciful form in which he has ventured to reproduce his sentiments on an ever-recurring abomination that loudly calls for suppression. This crying evil is the wantonly cruel treatment of domestic animals by those to whose charge they are committed. The chief among the sufferers being that noble and useful creature—THE HORSE.

It is obvious to all who have given the subject the attention it calls for, that the main hindrance to an effectual reformation of this abuse is to be found in the apathy and indifference, manifested by the public at large, at the infliction of shocking acts of cruelty by ignorant and besotted men on the helpless victims of their brutality. And it follows, that until a more active spirit of sympathy on behalf of this perfection of God's creation is awakened, and a corresponding feeling of indignation is aroused in the hearts of the whole community, against the perpetrators of such enormities, but little real improvement can be reckoned on.

Police functionaries, it would seem, scarcely regard such occurrences as worthy of their cognizance, for they very rarely interfere to check them, unless when urged to

do so, in some very flagrant case, by a bystander more humane than his fellows.

Public opinion, if it can be stimulated to raise its powerful voice, can alone rescue suffering animals from this unceasing, senseless persecution on the part of man—"civilized man." This potent influence should, therefore, be earnestly and constantly invoked by those whose Christian feelings prompt them to be "up and doing" in aid of so good a cause. Let them resort to every practicable mode of impressing society at large with a sense of the duty and responsibility it owes to a beneficent Creator in the due appreciation of, and proper care for, the creatures he has given for man's use.

Amongst the various ways of attempting to attain this object, the employment of

fiction, even in its most fantastic form in making available the machinery of Oriental romance, may not be deemed either frivolous or un instructive. At all events, the writer of this unpretending work has not hesitated to make the experiment, believing that many readers who may take it up in the expectation of merely deriving amusement therefrom, may duly ponder descriptions and details of a painful nature, that they would turn from if formally narrated as facts. Some "good service" recruits, may, it is hoped, be thus won from the ranks of the apathetic, or the indolent, willing to be enlisted under the banners of the actively humane.

In concluding these remarks, the writer rejoices to be enabled to state, that his former efforts in the same cause, have not been

altogether in vain. Several distinguished noblemen, and other influential persons, having come forward, unsolicited, to tender their aid and co-operation in calling attention to this question, and more particularly to pledge themselves to neglect no opportunity of bringing offenders to justice in all cases that may fall under their notice.

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses.

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