

**SOME TALK ABOUT
ANIMALS AND
THEIR MASTERS**

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Some talk about animals and their masters by Sir Arthur Helps

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SIR ARTHUR HELPS

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SOME TALK ABOUT
ANIMALS AND THEIR
MASTERS

BY THE
AUTHOR OF 'FRIENDS IN COUNCIL'
For Arthur Helps

STRAHAN & CO.
56, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON
1873

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TO THE
BARONESS BURDETT COUTTS

WHOSE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS
HAVE BEEN EARNEST AND UNREMITTING

This Work is Dedicated

WITH MUCH REGARD AND RESPECT

BY

THE AUTHOR

Nous devons la justice aux hommes, et la grace et la benignité aux autres créatures qui en peuvent estre capables : il y a quelque commerce entre elles et nous, et quelque obligation mutuelle.—MONTAIGNE.

Du führst die Reihn der Lebendigen
Vor mir vorbei, und lehrst mich, meine Brüder
Im stillen Busch, in Luft und Wasser kennen.

Goethe.

The gentleness of chivalry, properly so called, depends on the recognition of the order and awe of lower and loftier animal life, first clearly taught in the myth of Chiron, and in his bringing up of Jason, Æsculapius, and Achilles, but most perfectly by Homer, in the fable of the horses of Achilles, and the part assigned to them, in relation to the death of his friend, and in prophecy of his own. There is, perhaps, in all the 'Iliad,' nothing more deep in significance—there is nothing in all literature more perfect in human tenderness, and honour for the mystery of inferior life—than the verses that describe the sorrow of the divine horses at the death of Patroclus, and the comfort given them by the greatest of the gods.—RUSKIN.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE conversations that follow took place during an Easter vacation. The persons who joined in the conversations were those who have before been known as 'Friends in Council.' They are Sir John Ellesmere, a lawyer of much renown; Sir Arthur Godolphin, a statesman and a learned man; Mr. Cranmer, an official person; Mr. Maaleverer; Mr. Milverton; Mrs. Milverton; Lady Ellesmere; and myself, Mr. Milverton's private secretary. It was sometimes their fancy to take one theme as the subject of their conversation; and this would be kept to as closely as the discursive nature of some of them, notably of Sir John Ellesmere, would allow.

The reason why the particular subject of the treatment of animals was chosen on this occasion

is truly related by Mr. Milverton, who, after his escape from drowning, said to me exactly the same thing which he tells to the other friends.

I cannot help thinking that the general question is one of the deepest interest, and that it is one which may be well treated in the way of dialogue. I at first urged Mr. Milverton to write an essay, or treatise, on the subject; upon the whole, I am glad that he did not adopt my advice, but brought out the points which he wished to urge in the course of these conversations with the other 'Friends in Council.'