

**FRIENDLY ANIMALS.**

**ODD FRIENDSHIPS THAT DUMB CREATURES CONTRACT.**

Horses and Dogs Frequently Become Intimate—Queer Taste That Canines Display in Choosing Companions. Some Remarkable Cases.

The particular friendships occasionally formed by animals among themselves are characterized by the virtues and failings incident to human attachments. We are frequently reminded of man's selfishness and inconsistency in the ways of the brute creation, nor is it peculiar to animals that they sometimes enter into alliances of a curious kind. Naturally enough, horses often make friends and comrades among their own race, as dogs do still oftener, but a close friendship and understanding between horses and dogs is apparently more frequent than any similar relationship between the individuals of the same species. Perhaps the most remarkable attachments are those shown by animals thrown together by enforced circumstances and separated from others of their kind.

Horses have a positive dread of solitude, and when this happens to be unavoidable will make friends of the most unlikely creatures. The hours which a carefully tended favorite passes in his box are often relieved by the companionship of the stable cat, which the noble quadruped speedily adopts as its own, and to which it often becomes genuinely attached. The absence of the cat is at once remarked by the horse, who manifests impatience and plainly asks for the restoration of its favorite.

One of the runners in the Derby, a colt named Galeopsis, had for some time before the race shown symptoms of distress and uneasiness, amounting to positive melancholy, and not attributable to any physical cause. A goat and kid were procured and judiciously introduced to the stable, the result being thus described by an eyewitness: "Galeopsis seemed to take much interest in them until the goat died; but the kid remains, and the horse now vastly diverts himself by lifting the little creature up by the back of its neck with its teeth, putting it down in the manger, carefully placing it on the ground again after awhile, and then repeating the operation."

There is an interesting record of the strange dislike entertained by a pony for a particular horse with which it was brought into daily contact, and the extraordinary friendship formed by it for a calf in the same meadow. The pony and calf became inseparable, showing their mutual regard in many diverting ways, greatly to the annoyance of the calf's mother, who not unnaturally evinced the utmost jealousy and resentment. Gilbert White relates how a horse and hen, spending much of their time together in a lonely orchard, also became the fastest of friends: "The fowl would approach the horse with notes of complacency, rubbing herself gently against his legs, while the horse would look down with satisfaction, and move with the greatest caution and circumspection lest he should trample on his diminutive companion."

Dogs have so much larger a share of personal liberty than horses or cattle that their friendships obviously lie more at their own disposal. But notwithstanding this fact they constantly make friends of the most "unlikely birds" and for the most inexplicable reasons. No doubt some temporary alliances are formed for the attainment of a particular object, not always of a creditable kind. Attachments between members of the same race are of course common, but attract the less notice on account of their obvious reasonableness. Dogs, however, are greatly addicted to queer company, and constantly go out of their way in quest of it. The numerous friendships formed between dogs and geese, and even poultry in general are quite remarkable. It is not generally recognized that the goose is a bird of extraordinary sagacity—it has even been described as of great intellectual capacity—and this mutual regard of fur and feather may proceed on an understanding that overrides the distinctions of race.

The species of geese known as the "gray lag" is especially remarkable for its strong and frequent attachments to the dog. One that was rescued by a mastiff from the insidious attack of a fox showed a consciousness of its obligations and a desire to return them that were touching in their obvious feeling. The goose entirely abandoned the society of its kind, roosted in the dog's kennel and followed it in its daily wanderings over a large farm and through the neighboring village. The dog happening to fall ill the goose would not leave him night or day, and would to all appearance have been starved had not a pan of corn been placed for it every day near the kennel.

The French naturalist Houzeau also relates how a Chinese goose made friends with a dog at first sight, uttering threats of vengeance against any person or animal offering to interfere with its favorite, in whose occasional absence it was inconsolable. Dogs and fowls also enter into amicable relations for reasons much less apparent to onlookers than to themselves. A hen and a retriever became so strongly attached that the former laid her eggs and hatched her chickens in his kennel, an interesting observer remarking how, on the hen leaving or entering her nest, the dog would move from the threshold to make way, while any attempt to touch the eggs in the absence of the hen was met by his immediate disapprobation.

Another remarkable friendship grew up between a spaniel and a young cock, which was for some reason perfectly ostracized by his fellows and not allowed to feed with the other poultry in the farmyard. The spaniel was constantly observed keeping the fowls away, in order that its persecuted friend might obtain food, the cockerel obviously recognizing and reciprocating the good will shown by its four-footed protector.—London Standard.

**THE ABSENTMINDED WOMAN.**

Several Arguments to Prove That She Is Not, as She Feels, Insane.

A lady who hastened to explain that she is "not a drinking woman," that she is "not addicted to the use of drugs," in short that she has no habits that would tend to impair the intellect, cites an experience that has caused her much disquietude. Briefly told and in her own language, she "went down town and forgot to put on either hat or bonnet." This bit of mental aberration has so haunted, worried and generally upset her that she appeals for relief—something in the nature of citation of similar cases that may convince her that she is not a glaring exception to the world of sensible people and that her performance is not to be taken as an indication that she is losing her mind.

It ought to be the easiest thing in the world to convince this needlessly alarmed lady that in the light of the many and notable examples of mental lapses her experience is rather a pleasantly distinguishing characteristic and not a terrifying misadventure. If she has followed the daily papers or has read the floating bits of biography she must have noted the many strange stories of great men and women remarkable for their absentmindedness. In fact, the preoccupation of the mind has led people into many absurd experiences and has made them the subjects of many oft told jests.

But nobody would think for a moment of accusing such people of a marked tendency toward insanity or of intimating that the brain was softening. The explanation would be that the mind is so concentrated on what happens to be occupying it at the moment that all other things are subordinated. For example, people wrapped in thought will be carried beyond their railway station, will walk several blocks out of their way, will even pass their own door.

A further interesting and consoling thought is the fact that the profoundest thinkers afford the most numerous illustrations of absentmindedness. Scientists, literary men, college professors, lawyers—in short, all classes of people who are of a studious profession—are noted for such eccentricities. The wise professor, with his head crammed full of the inspiration of the study, is the butt of the students and the practical folk that enjoy the bewilderment into which his preoccupation leads him. Professor Sophocles, of Harvard University, was a man of this kind. Professor Snell, of Amherst, was another. Professor Walter Houghton, the historian, is a third. It is related of Professor Houghton that in leaving his room to pass down a long corridor and thence to the street he invariably raised his umbrella unconscious of the smiles of the amused spectators.

Samuel T. Glover, for many years the bright ornament of the St. Louis bar, was notoriously absentminded. He would enter a restaurant, order a luncheon and fall into a brown study over a law case. After the luncheon had been served he would pick up the check, pay the cashier and walk out, leaving the food untouched, entirely unmindful of the fact that his stomach was still unsatisfied. Mr. Beecher has related stories in which thought preoccupation has played him pranks, and has laughed as heartily as anybody over the misfortunes.

In view of the thousands of experiences that might be cited in evidence of the extent of absentmindedness, it would appear that the lady who pranced down town hereof in her bonnet has no reason to fear that she is also to be bereft of her reason. A thousand Bloomingdales could not accommodate the lunatics in her stage of disease.—New York World.

**A Primitive Shelter.**

While attached to a military expedition against the Sioux in Wyoming, in 1877, I saw those Indians construct at the various camps we made what I take to be the most primitive form of house built by human hands. It was simply a shelter, or tepee as they called it, made with the green boughs cut from the cottonwood trees. Without any especial preparation of the ground, they implanted the cut ends of the limbs in two parallel rows about eight feet long and five feet apart. The tops were adroitly bent over the inclosed space and fastened together along the middle line, thus creating a semicylindrical shelter open at both ends. These tepees were merely intended for two or three men to sleep in, all the cooking and other arrangements being performed outside.—R. W. Shufeldt, M. D., in Popular Science Monthly.

**Clever Dogs.**

Notwithstanding the doubtful statement of Leibnitz that he heard a shepherd's dog utter no fewer than thirty words, it may be asserted that no quadruped has been taught to talk any language spoken by man. Certain learned dogs have been taught a kind of speech. But this consists merely of differentiated tones of the bark. Professor Beneden, of the University of Louvain, had a dog which could accompany with his voice a tolerably complicated air played on the piano. Another dog, belonging to a different man, could sing in unison an air of "La Favorite" when a contralto friend gave him the keynote.—Atlanta Constitution.

**Using Waste Steam.**

A Glasgow paper states that an engineer resident there has, after nineteen years' labor and experimenting, devised an arrangement in an engine by which he returns all the steam back to the boiler after doing its work in the cylinder. In several cases he has got his engine installed and at work, giving most extraordinary results, and in one case in a textile factory it is doing as much work with one ton of coal as was formerly done with seven tons.

**Too Powerful.**

College Professor.—We are to have a new telescope next year. Student.—I'd rather have a fieldglass. Telescopes show only one boat at a time.—Good News.

**For Scrofula**

"After suffering for about twenty-five years from scrofulous sores on the legs and arms, trying various medical courses without benefit, I began to use Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and a wonderful cure was the result. Five bottles sufficed to restore me to health."—Bonifacia Lopez, 327 E. Commerce st., San Antonio, Texas.

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**Rheumatism**

"For several years, I was troubled with inflammatory rheumatism, being so bad at times as to be entirely helpless. For the last two years, whenever I felt the effects of the disease, I began to take Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and have not had a spell for a long time."—E. T. Hansbrough, Elk Run, Va.

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