

powerful, mysterious motive—just to wipe his beak, which he could very well have wiped on any branch or barnrail or fence, and saved himself that tremendous labor.

This was an extreme instance of the effect of habit on a wild animal. Doubtless this bird had been accustomed, after devouring his first mouse, to fly to the vane, where he could rest for a few minutes, taking a general view of the place, and wipe his beak at the same time, and the habit had become so strong that he could not forego his visit even on so tempestuous an evening.

Animal Imitativeness.

One of the most curious traits to be found in the animal nature, said an observant citizen, is that which gnaws out of the unconscious imitativeness of creatures of the lower order. I have observed many instances of where the creatures of a lower order have taken on the characteristics in some noticeable degree of members of the human family. One might know, for instance, the beggar's dog from the look of the dog, from the droop of the eye, the pathetic hang of the lip, and a certain general air of despondency and hopelessness which seems to speak in the very nature of the animal. I mention the beggar's dog because it is a familiar example. The beggar's dog never looks cheerful, never smiles, never frolics, but simply sits by his master and broods and begs for whatever charity may give. I have seen the dog character moulded under happier influences, and the dog become more cheerful. He was a lighthearted, free-and-easy sort of creature, and seemed to get something of the sunnier side of things. I am almost tempted to say that if you will show me a man's dog I will tell you what manner of man the owner is, with particular reference to temperament and his moods. The melancholy man, the man who grovels mentally along the gloomier grooves, the pessimistic man who is always looking at the dark side of the picture, all the men who come within these unhappy classifications rarely own a cheerful dog. The dog unconsciously takes to the ways of the master, and in his moods imitates the master's way of thinking. But turn to the dog of the jolly, cheerful fellow. Watch him show his teeth in laughter when the master approached. He is dating across the yard and dancing and frisking at the master's feet in the happiest way imaginable, and he is up to all kinds of pranks and does all kinds of little things to indicate the good nature that is in him. He does as his master does, and seems to take the same general view of life. These are small things, but they show just how important one's way of thinking may influence one's dog and change his whole view of life.

How Cowslip Saved Him.

In the Highlands of Scotland it is a kindly custom to give names to the cows as well as other animals. A Scotch lad had three to care for, and all three had names. The red cow was Cowslip, the dun was Bell, and the black was Meadow Sweets. The cows knew their names like three children, and would come when called. One day (the boy tells us) I was not with them, but had been given a holiday and gone up on the side of the hill. I climbed until I was so high that I got dazed, and lost my footing upon the rocks, and came tumbling down and snapped my ankle, so I could not move. I was very lonesome there. It seemed to me that it was hours that I lay

there, hitching along among the bracken. I thought how night would come and nobody would know where I was. I could not move for the anguish of my foot. It was no use to call, for there was naught in sight save the crows skirting against the sky. My heart was fit to break. For I was but a lad, and mother looked to me for bread. I thought I would never see home again. After a while I spied a cow beneath, grazing on a slip of turf just between a rift and the hills. She was a good long way below, but I knew her. It was Cowslip! I shouted as loud as I could: 'Cowslip, Cowslip.' When she heard her name she left off grazing and listened. I called again and again. What did she do? She just came toiling up and up—till she reached me. Those hill cattle are rare climbers. She made a great ado over me, licked me with her rough, warm tongue, and was as pleased and as pitiful as though I were her own. Then like a Christian she set up a moan and moaned—so long, and so loud that they heard her in the vale below. To hear a cow moaning like that they knew that she was in trouble. So they came a searching and seeking. They could see her red and white body, though they could not see me. So they found me, and it was Cowslip saved my life.

Eggs Scarce.

The eggs of some common birds of the present day have never been found. There is the robin snipe, its eggs have never been seen. An English zoologist kept a man going up and down the coast of Labrador for weeks purposely to get a robin snipe's egg. But it was in vain. The bird is known by thousands of people, but it breeds so far north and so remote from any civilisation that no scientific observer can ever get to its nest ere the young are hatched and have taken to wing. The frigate bird, that is so commonly seen at sea on the Pacific and off the West Indies, is such a solitary bird, and is so seldom in its nest during the hours of daylight, that its egg is rare. It seems strange, but the eggs of so well known a bird as the sandpiper have never been found, and are almost priceless.

Interesting Facts.

A pound of phosphorus heads 1,000,000 matches.
A complete set of new stamps has been ordered for the Orange River Colony.
It has been observed in the hospitals that nails on amputated fingers continue to grow.
The longest speech in the English Parliament was made by Mr. Gladstone when introducing the Budget in 1853. He spoke for 5½ hours.
The whole of the celebrated forests of Vallombrosa, in Italy, were planted by the patient and industrious monks of St. Benedict during the middle ages.
China has decided to establish a general post office and to turn over the administration of it to the marine customs service under Sir Robert Hart.
It is said that the flint which forms the substratum of London is nothing but petrified sponges. An examination of the fossil sponge or flint shows its structure.
A comparison has been drawn in Norway as to the profit of the fisheries in the sea and in the rivers, which shows that the former are three times as remunerative as the latter.
The alligator never leaves fresh water, while the crocodile often goes to sea, and in the West Indies has

sometimes been found many miles from land, heading directly for an island, possibly out of sight.

Captain Perry speaks of the great distances that sounds can be heard during intense cold. We often, he says, in the Arctic regions heard people converse in a common voice at the distance of a mile.

Bolivia produces one-twelfth of the world's tin, and is rich in copper and placer gold, yet it has only 200 miles of railroad for its 600,000 square miles of territory. The almost entire lack of transportation facilities has kept back its development.

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