

**THOUGHTS ON HUMANE
EDUCATION; SUGGESTIONS ON
KINDNESS TO ANIMALS AND
NOTES ON THEIR HABITS AND
USEFULNESS**

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Thoughts on Humane Education; Suggestions on Kindness to Animals and Notes on Their Habits and Usefulness by Harriet C. Reynolds & Dr. P. P. Claxton

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HARRIET C. REYNOLDS & DR. P. P. CLAXTON

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Friends

THOUGHTS
ON
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SUGGESTIONS
ON
KINDNESS TO ANIMALS
AND NOTES ON
THEIR HABITS AND USEFULNESS

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FOREWORD.

"Thoughts on Humane Education and Kindness to Animals," while useful for anyone, has been arranged chiefly for teachers, particularly those in the states (now 17 in number), where humane education is compulsory. Many teachers, especially in the larger cities, cannot readily inform themselves concerning the habits and needs of animals, and it is believed that such will find the book of material value in connection with their work. It is essentially a book for adults rather than one to be used directly by the children.

The first few pages are to show the need and importance of Humane Education and the good resulting therefrom. The rest of the book is devoted to teaching the habits, usefulness of and kindness to animals, especially the domestic ones.

The children are fond of animals and where they can, will be with them; when cruel, it is in most cases through thoughtlessness. When a child is speaking or acting kindly, whether to a playmate or to an animal, he is developing and strengthening the tender and noble side of his character; when thoughtless or cruel, the lower and brutal elements of his nature are developed.

Dr. Harris, for many years Commissioner of Public Schools in the United States, once said before a large body of teachers:

“If a boy is cruel he must be educated out of his cruelty, if not he will become a bad citizen, and eighty percent of that class, sooner or later, will be supported by the nation as criminals. It is less expensive to educate in humanity than support as criminals later in life.”

H. C. R.

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INTRODUCTION.

The really great are ever gentle and kind, and the greatest are the kindest and most gentle. Cruelty and indifference to the feelings of one's fellows or of any sentient beings are marks of coarseness of nature, or want of proper instruction and training. Fineness of fibre, inherited or acquired, in man or woman, as in woods and textiles and cordage, is a sure element of strength.

Thoughtfulness of the feelings and interests and welfare of others comes chiefly from careful instruction and training in childhood and youth. Learning to think and care for the welfare of wild and domestic animals makes one more thoughtful and careful of the feelings and welfare of men, women and children. When we read the story of Captain Robert E. Lee, stopping in the midst of a battle of the Mexican War to place a young and unfledged birdling back in the nest from which it had fallen, we know that General Lee, commanding the armies of the Confederate States, will be thoughtful of the welfare of his own men and guiltless of cruelty to his enemies, and that he will win the love and respect of both. The story of his education furnishes the key to his character.