

**EVERY LIVING CREATURE;
OR, HEART-TRAINING
THROUGH THE ANIMAL
WORLD, PP. 3-38**

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Every Living Creature; or, Heart-training through the animal world, pp. 3-38 by Ralph Waldo Trine

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RALPH WALDO TRINE

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EVERY LIVING CREATURE

OR

HEART-TRAINING THROUGH THE ANIMAL WORLD

BY

RALPH WALDO TRINE

AUTHOR OF

"WHAT ALL THE WORLD'S A-SEEKING," "IN TUNE
WITH THE INFINITE," "THE GREATEST
THING EVER KNOWN."

The tender and humane passion in the human heart is too precious a quality to allow it to be hardened or effaced by practices such as we so often indulge in.

FIFTH THOUSAND

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EVERY LIVING CREATURE,

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HEART-TRAINING THROUGH THE ANIMAL WORLD.

It is said that in Japan if one picks up a stone to throw at a dog, the dog will not run, as you will find he will in most every case here in America, because *there* the dog has never had a stone thrown at him, and consequently he does not know what it means. This spirit of gentleness, kindness, and care for the animal world is a characteristic of the Japanese people. It in turn manifests itself in all of their relations with their fellow-men; and one of the results is that the amount of crime committed there each year in proportion to its population is but a very small fraction of that committed in the United States.

In India, where the treatment of the entire

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animal world is something to put to shame our own country, with its boasted Christian civilization and power, there, with a population of some three hundred million, there is but one-fourth the amount of crime that there is each year in England, with a population of less than twenty million, and only a small fraction of what it is in the United States, with a population less than one-fourth the population of India. These are most significant facts; they are indeed facts of tremendous import, and we would do wisely to estimate them at their proper value.

We cannot begin too early in inculcating what I would term humane sentiments in the mind and heart of every individual. How early and almost unconsciously the mother, for example, gives the first lessons of thoughtlessness, carelessness, and what will eventually result in cruelty or even crime, to her child. The child is put upon the hobby-horse, a whip is put into his little hand, and he is told: "Now whip the old horse and make him go." With this initial lesson, continued in various ways, we find the eager desire the child has for whipping, when he gets the whip into his hands, in a wagon be-

hind a real horse. Or even when younger, the child stumbles over a chair, receives a knock, and bursts into crying. The mother, in some cases merely thoughtless, in others caring only for her own comfort and ease, in order to call the attention of the child away from the little hurt and greater rage and fright, says: "Did the mean chair hurt mamma's little boy? Go kick the old chair—kick it hard." The next day when the child falls over or bumps against the dog, sanctioned already by the mother in giving way to its anger, the dog in turn is the one to receive the kick; and still later when anything of the kind occurs in connection with a little playmate, the playmate receives the same treatment. And, so far as his relations with his fellow-men, when he is grown to manhood, are concerned, each one can trace them for himself.

We have sketched the thoughtless or the selfish mother. Let us look for a moment at the other type of mother, the one who is ever thoughtful, desirous of bringing the best influence to bear upon this little sensitive plate, if you will allow the expression, the mother who understands the great, almost omnipotent form-

ing-power of early impressions. The child stumbles over or falls against the chair. The mother, after smoothing the hurt place and kissing away the first impulse to anger and also the fright of the child, and thereby its tears, says: "And now I wonder if mamma's little boy has hurt the chair. Go bring it to mamma and let her smooth away its hurt also." This is done, and all is now as if nothing had occurred. The next day, then, when the child stumbles over or bumps against the dog, after he has had his own hurt soothed by his mother, he in turn toddles off to soothe and comfort the dog; and again, when the child bumps against his little play-fellow, after he has been soothed and kissed and thereby comforted by his mother, he feels for and sympathizes with the other little fellow, and brings him up to receive the same treatment. And again, each one can for himself carry the effects of this type of suggestion and training into the child's later life and into his relations with his fellow-men. Many instances of this nature in the every-day life of the mother and child might be mentioned.

And to go back even farther — those mothers