

## SAVAGES AND BRUTES.

### Odd Attitude of the Primitive Man Toward All Animals.

For the primitive savage animals are mysterious, problematic beings, possessed of a wide knowledge of the things of nature. They know much more than they are ready to tell us. In some way or another by the aid of senses much more refined than ours and by telling to each other all that they notice in their rambles and flights they know everything for miles around. And if a man has been "just" toward them they will warn him of a coming danger, as they warn each other, but they will take no heed of him if he has not been straightforward in his actions. Snakes and birds (the owl is a leader of the snakes), mammals and insects, lizards and fishes—all understand each other and continually communicate their observations to one another.

Inside this vast brotherhood there are, of course, the still closer brotherhoods of beings "of one blood." The monkeys, the bears, the wolves, the elephants and the rhinoceroses, most ruminants, the hares and most of the rodents, the crocodiles, and so on, perfectly know their own kin, and they will not tolerate any one of their relatives to be slaughtered by man without taking in one way or another honest revenge. This conception must have had an extremely remote origin.

Even now when a savage is hunting he is bound to respect certain rules of propriety toward the animals, and he must perform certain expiatory ceremonies after his hunt. Most of these ceremonies are rigorously enacted even nowadays in the savage clans, especially as regards those species considered the allies of man.

It is well known that two men belonging to two different clans or tribes can become brothers by mixing the blood of the two obtained from small incisions made for that purpose, but it was also quite habitual for man to enter into brotherhood with some animal. The tales continually mention it. An animal asks a hunter to spare it, and if the hunter accedes to the demand the two become brothers. And then the monkey, the bear, the doe, the bird, the crocodile or the bee—any one of the sociable animals—will take all possible care of the man brother in the critical circumstances of his life, sending his or her animal brothers of different tribes to warn him or help him out of a difficulty. And if the warning comes too late or is misunderstood and he loses his life they all will try to bring him back to life, and if they fail they will take due revenge, just as if the man had been one of their own kin.

When I journeyed in Siberia I was often struck, without understanding it, with the care which my Tungus or Mongol would take not to uselessly kill any animal. The fact is that every life is respected by a savage, or, rather, it was before he came in contact with Europeans. If he kills an animal, it is for food or for clothing, but he does not destroy life, as the whites do, for the mere excitement of the slaughter.

True, the red Indians have done that with the buffaloes, but it was only after they had been for a long time in contact with the whites and had got from them the rifle and the quick firing revolver. Of course there are rascals among the animals—the hyena, for instance, or the shrewmouse or the man eating tiger, but these do not count; they are outlaws. As to the great animal world as a whole, savage children are taught to respect it and see in it an extension of their own kin.—Prince Kropotkin in Nineteenth Century.

## BLIND INSECTS.

### They Act Just as Though They Had Eyes and Could See.

So far as insects of the caves are concerned the loss of sight which they gradually undergo is sufficiently well understood. The first step is a decrease in the number of the facets which make up the compound eyes, with a corresponding diminishment of the lenses and retinae. After four or five generations the eyes become useless. It would be most interesting to breed these or other blind creatures of the caves in the light, so as to find out if they would get their sight back. In all animals, including man, it is found that nature tries to compensate for loss of vision by increasing the power of the sense of touch. Thus the antennae of cave insects grow remarkably long.

It is very curious to find that nothing in their behavior suggests the fact that they are blind. They walk, run, stop, explore the ground and try to escape from the grasp of the bug hunter just as if they really saw. The light of a candle startles them as much as if they perceived it visually. It is a remarkable fact, proving that the ancestors of these creatures could see, that in the embryo stage of their existence they have eyes well developed.

## FIRST MAP OF THE SKY.

### It Was Made 1,420 Years Before the Christian Era.

At a very early period in the history of astronomy it was felt that the stars should be divided into distinct groups or constellations. This important task has engaged the attention of astronomers from remote times and has only been brought to its present perfection

by a long series of intellectual errors.

According to Clement of Alexandria, it was Chiron, believed to be the maker of the first celestial globe, who, 1,420 years before the Christian era, divided the starry heavens into constellations and so mapped out the sky. Newton upheld this opinion, which is further corroborated in the book of Job, where allusion is made to Orion, the Pleiades, and the Hyades, a proof that at a very early period there had been a grouping of the stars.

Hesiod in his "Works and Days," written 2,700 years ago, also refers to several of the constellations as though their names were familiar to his readers.

## Comparative Depth of Wells.

The deepest wells in Europe are at Passy, France, depth 2,000 feet; at La Chapelle, Paris, depth 2,950 feet; at Grenelle, Paris, depth 1,798 feet; at Neusalwerk, near Minden, depth 2,288 feet; at Klissen, Bavaria, depth 1,787 feet; at Sperenberg, near Berlin, depth 4,190 feet, which is said to be the deepest in the world, and at Pesth, Hungary, depth 3,182 feet. In the United States there are wells located at St. Louis, depth 3,843 feet; at Louisville, depth 2,086 feet; at Columbus, O., depth 2,775½ feet, and at Charleston, S. C., depth 1,250 feet.

## LESSLESSNESS.

Now that they have got horseless rigs

From here to Kalamazoo

An' telegraph that's wireless

An' smokeless powder, too,

There ought to be more lessless things,

It sort o' seems to me.

Why can't we have a stingless wasp,

Also a stingless bee?

Why can't we have sum schoolless towns,

An' workless work to do,

An' spankin's that are slipperless,

An' dogless orchards, too,

An' acheless stomach aches as well,

An' wetless hair, so w'en

We go down to the swimmin' hole

Ma won't know where we've been?

An' w'en we get these lessless things

'Twill fill our hearts with joy,

An' then you'll never see again

A hapless, joyless boy.

—New York Press.

## Something Usual.



The Man—Why don't you run home and wash your face?

The Kid—Hey, fellows! Here's a old guy wot thinks it's Saturday!—New York World.

## An Insinuation.

Tom has been a Benedict for almost two weeks.

"You have no idea what you miss by not being married," he said to his friend Jack.

"No, I suppose not," rejoined the latter. "Do you count your money every night and morning?"—Chicago News.

## The Model.

He—How did I look in my dress suit at the dinner last night?

She—To tell you the truth, you didn't look a bit comfortable in it. It will require time for you to acquire the wholly at home appearance of one of those waiters, for instance.—Boston Transcript.

## None of His Business Anyway.

Sammy Salesman—Miss, is any one waiting on you?

Caroline Countriguri—Yes, Sir Smarty, there is, but it's none of your business. And he's got more sense and good looks in a minute than you have in a year. So there, mister!—Baltimore American.

## Blissful Days.

"I see by dis book," remarked Dusty Rhodes, "dat de ancient Romans uster eat layin' down."

"Wouldn't even set up to eat?" inquired Tired Tiffins, with interest.

"Ah, them wuz good old times!"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

## Very Yellow.

"I've heard several doctors say," remarked the chronic dyspeptic, "that eggs make a man bilious."

"Well," replied Lowe Comerdy, "I've known eggs to make a man look bilious before he got off the stage."—Catholic Standard and Times.

## The Proportions.

"Sir," cried the grocer indignantly, "do you mean to accuse me of putting chicory in my coffee?"

"Not at all," replied the customer coolly. "I always give you credit for putting some coffee in the chicory."—Philadelphia Press.

## A TACTLESS NURSE.

### The Creepy Manner in Which She "Entertained" a Patient.

Nurses are, as a class, a most excellent body of young women, but, as in the case of doctors, one occasionally comes across specimens who are so deficient in tact and sympathy with the sick as to be positively, though unintentionally, brutal. That seems to be the fate of the writer of the following letter:

"Late one night, when I was in considerable pain and unable to sleep, my nurse, in order to provide cheerful diversion, proposed to show me a few of her photographs. So a candle was brought to the bedside and the pictures were held before my eyes as I lay on my back. Producing the first with much gusto, the nurse explained that it was a very pretty picture. It was. It showed 'our mortuary chapel,' and the nurse pointed out the coffin and a row of shrouds hanging up in the corner, explaining that 'we keep all sizes in stock.' The next picture was 'our operating theater,' with the nurse and the doctor 'just ready to begin,' and my tormentor was specially proud of it because the nurse depicted was herself. When she pointed out, however, that galochees were worn by the butcher and his assistant, I endeavored to pass on as quickly as possible to the next picture. It was not long, however, before we came to the portrait of 'Mary, our hospital skeleton.' Nurse explained that Mary was 'cloaked,' but at lectures a string could be pulled and the cloak fell off. In point of fact, the photographer had caught it at the moment of falling, and the figure and features of Mary remained indelibly printed on my memory. I do not say anything against Mary as a skeleton, but she was hardly an apparition to bring comfort or sleep to a poor fevered wretch whose life was hanging in the balance. Yet that nurse held the highest possible credentials in every department of her calling."—London Truth.

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## Pa Helped.

"Remember, my boy," said Uncle James as he gave Bobby a coin, "that if you take care of the cents the dollars will take care of themselves."

Bobby looked a little dubious. "I do take care of the cents," he replied, "but as soon as they get to be dollars pa takes care of 'em."

## A Suggestion.

The Shell Game Man—Why not try the game? It's simply giving away money. The Stranger—But why not give away the money without going through what seems to be a needless formality?—New York Press.

## Waiting For the Evidence.

"You say your late uncle was an eccentric old fellow. Do you think he was insane?"

"I don't know. The will hasn't been read yet."—Cleveland Leader.

## Not So Harsh.

She—Has your wife improved since she began to have her voice cultivated? He—Yes, considerably. When she calls me down I notice that it is in a more musical tone than it used to be. —Detroit Free Press.

Absence from those we love is self from self—a deadly banishment.—Shakespeare.

## Terrific Race With Death

"Death was fast approaching," writes Ralph F. Fernandez, of Tampa, Fla., describing his fearful race with death, "as a result of liver trouble and heart disease, which had robbed me of sleep and of all interest in life. I had tried many different doctors and several medicines, but got no benefit, until I began to use Electric Bitters. So wonderful was their effect, that in three days I felt like a new man, and today I am cured of all my troubles." Guaranteed at Slocum Drug Co.'s drug store; price 50c.

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