

not tell you while there was a chance of failure ; but now you are cured, and you can get up to-morrow."

I can't find any words to describe the joy in that little household when Dora and Jeff came home and heard that their little Kitty would be well and strong, and able to run about again. Why, they all laughed and cried together, and Jeff danced about the room, and grannie kissed every one, and none of them forgot to thank Him from whom the great

blessing came. As for me, when Kitty was able to be up, I was put in a pretty little frame, and hung up in the parlour, and though other Christmas cards may have finer homes, I am quite certain not one can be happier than mine. Ethel comes in often, and always looks at me with a smile ; she never regrets having given me to Kitty, for she knows I'm a constant pleasure to her, and I am quite sure that I don't regret the change of owners myself. H. J. B. HOUSTON.

ANECDOTES OF UNSELFISH ANIMALS.



LET no one suppose for a single moment that animals are incapable of affection, either towards their young or towards one another. This is fully as true of animals in a state of nature as of those which have been tamed or have grown up in the

midst of human surroundings—as true of the partridge and lion as of the cat or dog. Of course such an institution as the "happy family" of the showman explains itself. It is not the rule for a cat to see white mice or pretty little birds running about within easy reach of its paws and claws without—such is pussy's nature—putting an end to these hapless creatures. When, therefore, we find such a group of hereditary foes dwelling together as brethren, in unity, we may reasonably enough conclude that fear and the rod have been mainly responsible for the strange good fellowship. Imagine the trainer's and tamer's work undone in the twinkling of an eye, and what a miserable spectacle the "happy family" would then present !

Mention has been made of the partridge. No one will suspect this bird of a strong liking for the society of man : in fact it shuns him and all his ways, and there is no need to tell lovers of roast partridge that it has every reason to avoid him. We cannot, therefore, accuse it of following human example in manifesting, as it does, great affection for its chicks. Should a sportsman come upon a partridge brood unawares, the mother bird will affect lameness, or fall as if wounded, to withdraw the observer's attention from her young, which she will meanwhile be warning, by her croaking cry, to hide themselves. Or she will spin around the intruder, "mewing" and dragging her wings in such a disordered fashion as to make him pause almost to wonder what kind of creature it is, bewildering him—may we hope,

successfully!—for a few moments till her chicks conceal themselves, whereupon she will herself retire to a safer distance.

From this touching example of a bird's affection for her young let us turn to an instance of attachment between animals in no way connected with each other. Many years ago, a certain blacksmith purchased a "black-faced" lamb. She was very wild, and only with great difficulty was she separated from her companions. Her new owner turned her into a field beside his cow and a small white pony. Of the cow the lamb took no notice, but soon she evinced a decided liking for the pony, which, unaccustomed to such tenderness, heartily returned the friendly sentiments. Henceforward the two animals were always to be seen together ; in short, like Mary and her lamb, "everywhere the pony went the lamb was sure to go." Of course this somewhat novel sight attracted a good deal of attention, but whenever the lamb experienced any unpleasantness from over-curious folk she sought refuge from their persecution under the pony's legs, from which shelter she would pop out her head every now and then, looking fully conscious of the fact that she was safe and sound. This shelter stood her in good stead when attacked by stray dogs, for the pony on such occasions did not hesitate to interfere actively in her behalf, and compelled her noisy assailants to keep a very respectful distance. At night she retired to the stable and slept under the manger just before the head of her friend. Here, then, we witness a case of strong attachment between animals which, though not coming under the class "wild," were at all events perfect strangers, until their master introduced them to each other.

Still more remarkable was the affection cherished by a mare for her dead foal, as the following brief anecdote will prove. About a year after the foal's death, the lady who owned the mare was driving her in a carriage when they chanced to pass a foal of about the same age as the one that had died.

The mare having stopped, the lady got out of the vehicle to learn what was the matter. To her concern, she found the poor animal trembling, and big tears rolling down its cheeks. There could be no doubt that the appearance of the foal had recalled to her memory the little one she had lost, and had excited her to a degree of grief that was certainly almost human. Several minutes elapsed before the mare was able to resume the journey.

Many of the diving birds are "wilder" than the game birds, and probably see less of man. We shall discover in the case of the divers known among the Americans by the strange name of "loons" real devotion to their young. Mr. F. H. Herrick, who spent some time camping out on Lake George, tells us that he was returning to his quarters one night when he noticed a family of loons at play in the water. He and his companions determined to chase them, but when they were well on their track all the birds dived. The mother came up shortly after with her young, and made as fast as possible for the opposite shore. Not so the father: rising to the surface in much the same spot he quietly awaited his pursuers. A few shots were sent after him, but happily missed him. Instead of taking warning by this hostile act, he became aggressive, coming nearer to the sportsmen, and uttering a kind of ironical cry. He hung about the boat, approaching at times within oar's length, and as often as he succeeded in cheating Mr. Herrick and his friends, he set up a "peculiar and unearthly sort of howl, more like the deliberate yell of some wild beast than the cry of any bird." The whole of these tactics were resorted to for the purpose of securing the safe escape of the mother bird and young, and he must have had some sort of notion that he performed the antics at the risk of his life. Every now and again he turned a glance at his retreating family, which was meanwhile, out of all danger. The two young ones had swum in front of the mother and, oddly enough, had not been seen since the first dive until they were almost at the opposite shore. How they had been hidden Mr. Herrick failed to discover, but after the family were united their peals of "laughter" were loud and long, either in derision of the successfully-eluded hunters, or in celebration of their escape, and the skill by which it had been effected.

Interesting as was the lamb and pony friendship already referred to, Dr. J. D. Caton, the American naturalist, has described what is probably one of the strangest attachments on record between animals in no way related. When he left Honolulu he took away with him two pairs of Hawaiian geese.

These geese are found only in the island of Hawaii. They are small, pretty, easily domesticated, rather social, and semi-aquatic. They live among the lava-beds of the high mountains, and never go to sea, though capable of flying considerable distances. One of the ganders was given to Dr. Caton by a gentleman, who expressed great regret at parting with it, as he had grown much attached to its winning ways. It used to meet him at the gate every evening when he came home, and walked with him to the house, "talking" in a low soft voice the while. Dr. Caton lost one pair of these birds two years afterwards; then the remaining gander disappeared, and but one goose was left. Her first winter in this desolate condition was lonely enough, but in the spring she made friends with a sow in the pig-stye. She would not desert her strange companion for more than a few minutes at a time, and although the pond was only a hundred yards distant, did not once go near it. Of a litter of pigs that appeared on the scene the goose took entire charge of the two survivors when they were only two weeks old. She would drive them out of the pen to the grass-plot when she thought they required an airing, and while they basked in the sun she would sit upon them with outstretched wing. If a deer approached, she drove it off without much ado; and if any one drew near, she roused the piggies and got them back into the stye as quickly as possible. Whenever Dr. Caton's small black-and-tan terrier followed his master to the pen, she assailed him in a furious fashion, until the dog learned to avoid that quarter. When the pigs grew up, they were still under the goose's control, and—which speaks volumes for her discipline and training—they obeyed her orders without the least hesitation. Dr. Caton looking forward to a period when it would be necessary to convert the pigs into pork and bacon, began to wonder what the goose would do then, poor thing. The doctor seemed rather ashamed of the extraordinary attachment, but I can see nothing in it which did not redound to the goose's credit.

These examples of unselfishness in animals could easily be multiplied. They are common to the biggest as well as the tiniest animals, to the fiercest as well as the tamest. The buffaloes on the prairies tend the young and sick and aged of their herds, with the most laudable devotion. The lioness fondles her cubs with as much tenderness as the "silly sheep" their nurslings. And if we were to ransack the animal kingdom, we should discover instances of wonderful affection, even among "brute beasts," where we should least expect to find it; so true is it that "one touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

JAMES A. MANSON.