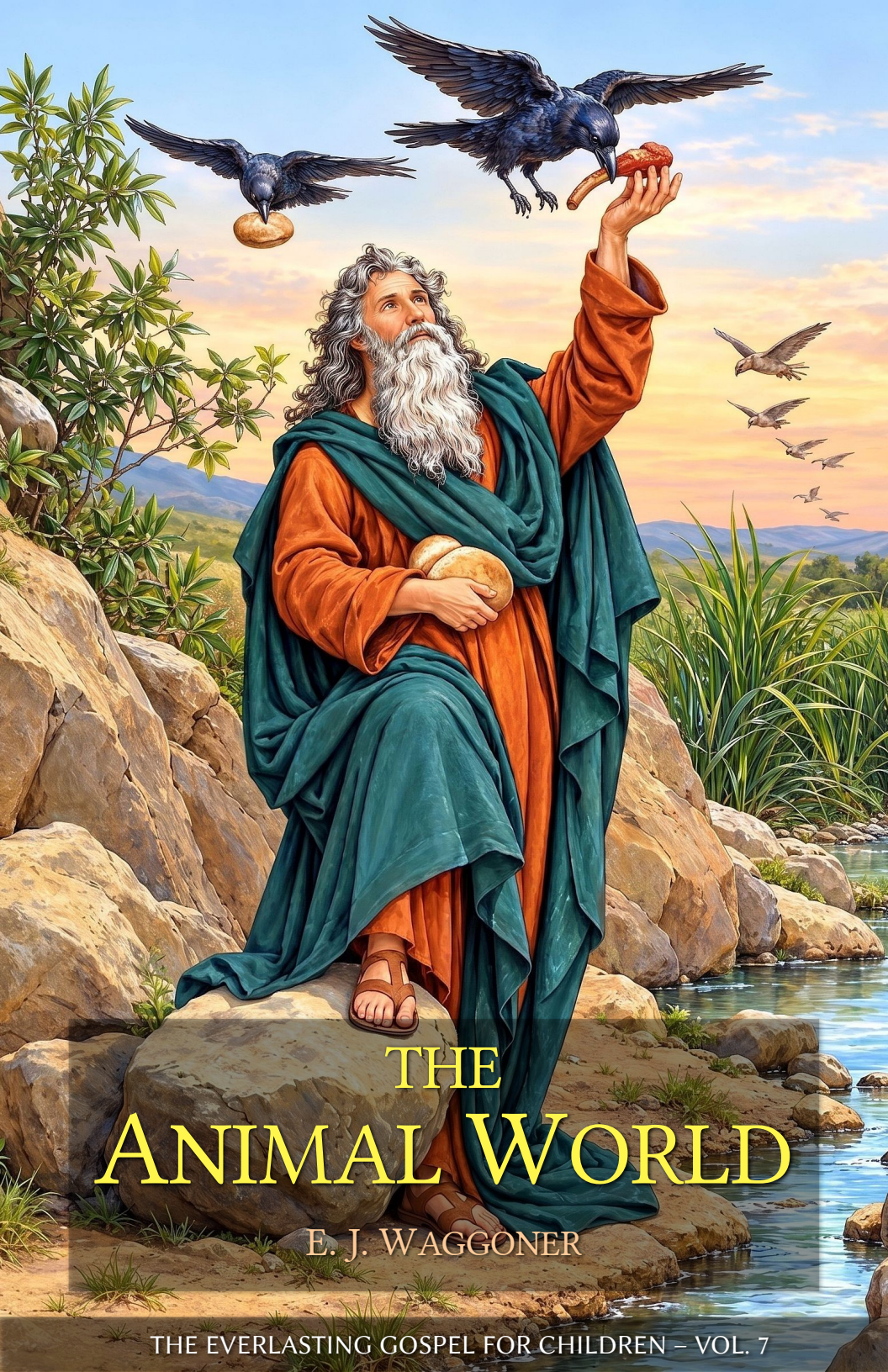




THE ANIMAL WORLD

E. J. WAGGONER

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL FOR CHILDREN – VOL. 7

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Present Truth
1894 to 1903

Cover:
Elijah fed by Ravens
Bible Heroes, 1898
AI enhanced



The Author as a Boy

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About This Series

IN 1891, E. J. Waggoner was sent from America to England, and took over the publishing of the *Present Truth* periodical. Some time around the end of August 1892, we observe the transition from the previous editor, with a sudden increase in articles from the pen of Waggoner. In some issues, there are up to a dozen articles by him.

This “stream opened up in the desert”¹ was not to stop until the end of 1903, when he returned to America.

Shortly after taking over the periodical work, Waggoner introduced a column for children. His own three children would have been aged about 4, 7, and 10 at that time.

The children’s column took on various names over the next ten years:

- The Home
- For the Children
- Children’s Page
- Gospel Primer
- Children’s Corner
- Little Folks
- For Little Ones
- The Children
- Our Little Ones
- Easy Steps for Little Feet

Most of the articles collected for this series of “The Everlasting Gospel for Children” were originally published in the series that these books are named from. In the remaining few cases, I tried to organize them according to their theme, or I placed some articles among pre-existing themes. Occasionally, an article is found in more than one of the series.

¹ *Isaiah* 35:6.

This series, *The Animal World*, was selected from articles published from 1894 to 1903. The are arranged in the order in which they were originally published.

Frank Zimmerman
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1. Water Animals

Present Truth, December 28, 1893

Job 37

¹⁴ Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.

LAST WEEK, we learned about the sun, and the moon, and the stars that we see in the heavens above us.² This week we shall learn about the “stars of the sea,” and about the many other curious and wonderful things that are found in the oceans, lakes, and rivers.

Variety

If you were to visit the sea-shore, and go down among the great rocks, and lift up the long seaweeds that hang from their sides, you would find stars clinging tightly to the rocks,—not shining stars like the ones in heaven, to be sure, but little, five-pointed, *living* stars. These star-fish, as they are called, are of different colors, but generally reddish orange yellowish. The upper part is hard and rough, while the underside is soft and contains the mouth, and an eye is said to



be at the end of each of its five rays. This odd little creature sometimes presses the points of its rays upon the sand, and raises itself in the middle, until it looks like a five-legged stool. If one of its points, or rays, is bitten off, another grows in its place, and if the fish is torn entirely in two and thrown back into the water, the two parts will get new rays and grow into two perfect star-fish.

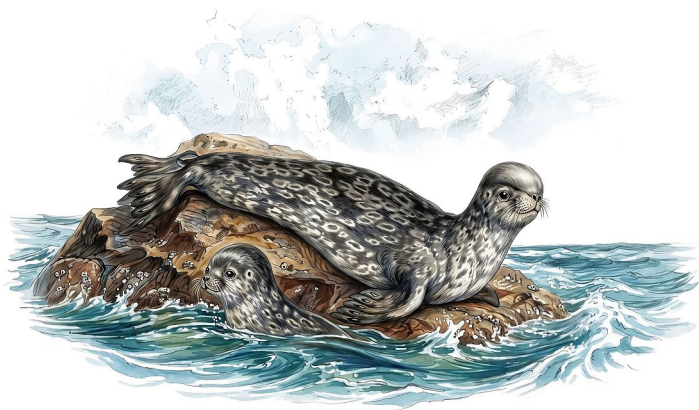
² PP Editor's note: The article Waggoner is referring to, "A Lesson from the Sun, Moon, and Stars," is found in "The Everlasting Gospel for Children, Vol. 1," *The Story of Creation and the Fall.*

But this fish is but one of the many strange things that live in the water. The ocean is just swarming with living creatures. Some of them are very large and many are too small to be seen; yet they are all wonderful. Most of the animals that live in the water have a broad tail and fins with which to swim,

...but some crawl, as the crab, some float about, like the jelly-fish, and some lie still, like the oyster.³

Clothing

Each animal has just such covering or clothing as it needs. The whale, the largest water animal, is so heavy, and goes to such great depths in the water that it needs a very strong covering to protect it from the pressure of the water and the force of the waves. We therefore find it covered with a thick “*blanket*,” as it is called. Its skin is so made that it can hold a great mass of oily matter, which, it is said, is never less than several inches in thickness, in many places nearly two feet deep, and as elastic or springy as India-rubber. The outside of the skin has no hair, but looks like velvet because of the oil that oozes from it. This causes the great animal to move easily through the water. We find the seals and some other animals dressed in soft, warm *fur*. One kind, called the Crested Seal, has even a little hood which it can fill with air to protect its head and nose. One animal is called the Sea



³ W. Hooker, *The Child's Book of Nature*, Part II – Animals, Chapter XIX, 1872.

Mouse, because it has such a *hairy* coat. It is small, and lives under stones and shells, at the muddy bottom of the sea; but it is exceedingly beautiful. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet flesh from every hair in its little coat, and make it seem like



a tiny “breathing rainbow.” The fish are dressed in suits, hard, different-colored *scales*, so lapped one upon the other that they keep out all the water and yet allow the fish to bend in any direction. The scales are kept oiled in order that the fish may glide swiftly through the water. Some animals are covered with sharp, needle-like *spines*, and others, like the turtle, with thick, *bony armor*, and still others which lead quiet lives, in houses of the most beautifully-tinted and pearly-lined *shell*.

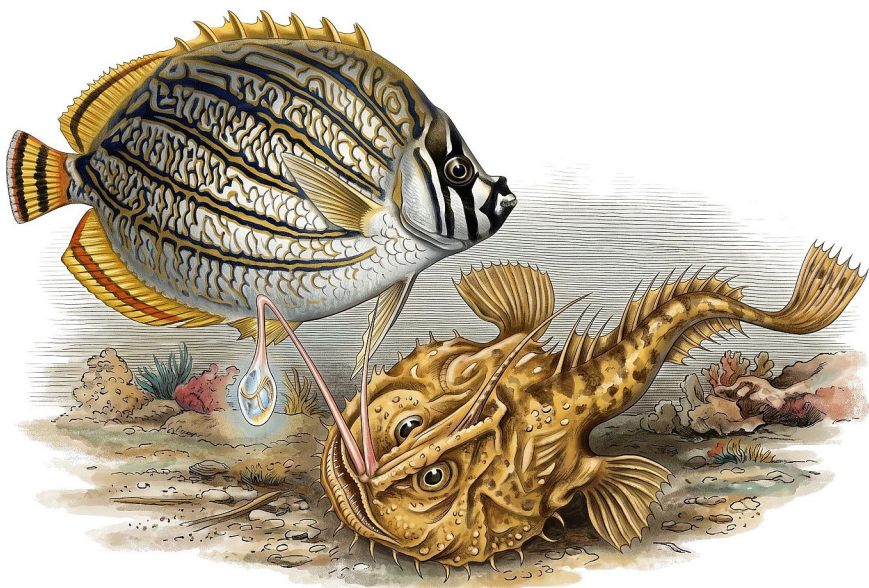
Tools

Each animal has just such tools as it can use. The whale carries in its mouth a *strainer* made of fringed whale-bone with which to re-strain the water out of its food. The Sword-fish has a *sword*, the Saw-fish a *saw*, and the Cuttle-fish and Squids carry *pen* and *ink*. The pen looks like an isinglass⁴ quill pen, and lies along the body just under the back. The black ink is carried in a little sac, and when the animal is in danger of being caught, it fills the water with ink. Then it cannot be seen and quickly darts away. The Angler-fish has *fishing-rod*, and *line and bait*, and can fish with them as deftly as any fisherman you ever saw. A small round fish called the Beaked Chaetodon,⁵ has a little *gun*, or *bow*, and can shoot as straight as you can. The gun is on the end of its nose, and the bullet or arrow is nothing but a drop of water. If it sees a fly or other insects, hanging on the grass over the water, the fish comes up quietly and points its little gun towards the victim. Suddenly it

⁴ Isinglass = a form of collagen obtained from the dried swim bladders of fish.

⁵ Chaetodon = Butterfly fish.

shoots a drop of water at the fly, knocking it off its perch and into the water, where it is quickly snapped up by the cunning hunter.



Ornamented Chaetodon and Angler Fish

But the creatures that live in the water are more than interesting; they are useful. Sometimes one hundred barrels of oil are obtained from one whale, besides the whale bone that is taken from its mouth, and the boot that is made from its tail. Food, oil, leather, fur, ivory, isinglass, trumpets, costly pearls, ornaments, and many other things are obtained from the creatures in the sea. Many of the windows and lanterns in China are made of the clear Chinese Window Shells; and your sponges are but the skeletons of animals that live in the bottom of the ocean. But what seem to be the most wonderful of all are the little coral insects, many scarcely larger than the head of a pin. And yet we find places in the bottom of the ocean that look like a beautiful flower gardens, vegetable gardens, and large forests; and more wonderful still, we find great islands miles and miles in length, which were made by these tiny builders of the sea.

Oh, where did they come from, all these wonderful, beautiful, and useful creatures? Being fitted each one with just the clothing that it needs, and gave it just the tools that it can use? Who taught them all to use their tools? Who painted the lovely shells and caused each hair of the Sea Mouse to reflect a rainbow? Surely it could have been no other than the Creator of the heavens and earth. The Bible says that on the fifth day He said, Let these things be; and they were.⁶ How wise, and how good! He has strewn “beautiful things even on the bottom of the ocean before us.” Shall we not love Him with our whole hearts, and praise Him continually?

Review Questions

1. Have you been trying to be a light-bearer for Jesus this week? How?
2. On the fourth day, what light-bearers did He place in the sky?
3. Where else may we find stars? Describe them.
4. Are these the only living things that live in the oceans, and lakes, and rivers? Name a few others.
5. What kind of clothing does each animal have?
6. How is the great whale covered?
7. How are the seals dressed?
8. What kind of coat has the little Sea Mouse? The fish? the turtle?
9. In what kinds of houses do some of the quiet animals live?
10. What kinds of tools do the animals all have? Name a few of the strange tools that are used by some of them.
11. Of what use is the whale? The seal? The Pearl Oyster?
12. Can you name any fish that are used for food?
13. Where did your sponge come from?

⁶ Genesis 1:20-23.

14. Did you ever see a piece of coral?
15. What wonderful things are done by the coral insects?
16. Were these marvelous creatures always in the waters of the seas and rivers?
17. Who placed them there? When? How?

Genesis 1:20-23.

18. Who alone could give them just the clothes they need, and the tools that they can use?
19. What must they have to keep them alive?
20. Who gives it to them?

Psalms 104:24-28.

21. Then could they live without God?
22. What must we have to keep us alive?
23. Who gives it to us?
24. Then could we live without God any longer than they?
25. What does the Bible say we should do when we see these wonderful things that He has made?

Job 37:14.

26. Why?

They will teach us to know God and to love Him better.

2. For Your Sakes

Present Truth, January 4, 1894

TIME would fail us to tell of the interesting and marvelous things to be learned from the beautiful birds. You must keep your eyes open and study them for yourself.

But more than all else there is one thing that we would have you remember when you see them seeking their tiny but cozy homes:

Jesus, the King of kings, the glory of heaven, and the One who *made* the earth and all of these wonderful things, came down to this earth once and was so poor that He did not have so good a home as the little birds. He himself said,

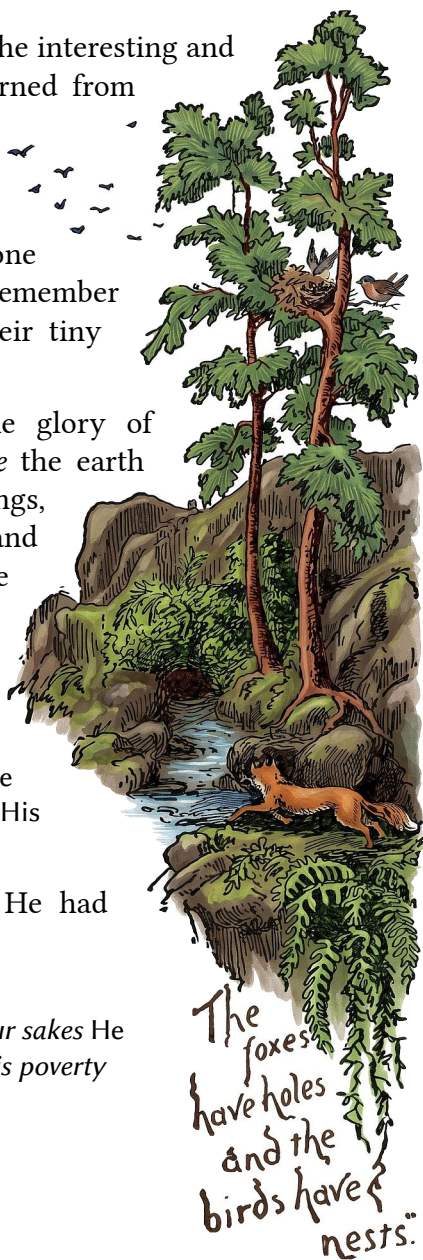
Matthew 8

²⁰ The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has not where to lay His head.

Why was He so poor when He had been so rich? We read again:

2 Corinthians 8

⁹ Though He was rich, yet *for your sakes* He became poor, *that you through His poverty might be rich.*



3. Birds

Present Truth, January 4, 1894

Matthew 6

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air;...your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not much better than they?

IN THE country, in the city, on dry land, or on the ocean, wherever we go we find our feathered friends—the birds. What a quiet, lonely place earth would be without them! They fill the air with music, the trees with life and beauty, and our hearts with joy and gladness.

Kinds

There are two kinds of birds: *flying* birds, and *running* birds. Those that fly very far and swiftly have the largest and strongest wings. One bird that has very long wings can fly so fast that it is called the “Swift.” The humming-bird, the smallest bird that lives, can move from one place to another as quickly as a flash of light or a glance of the eye. The ostrich is the largest and strongest of all birds, but his wings are small and he cannot fly. Because he needs to run so much his legs are long and strong, and his bones are nearly as solid as those of a horse, while the bones of most of the flying birds are full little air-cells that make them very light.



White-rumped Swift

Migration

Did you ever stop to think why we see so many more birds in summer than in winter? When it is about time for the cold

weather to begin many of them gather into companies and fly off south across sea and land to a warmer country. Then when the snow melts and the warm spring-time comes, back come our little friends as bright and happy as ever. A Swift has been known to come back to the very same spot every year for seven years. The pretty swallows and martins often do the same.



Plumage

Look at the feathery clothing of the birds. What can be more light, more dainty, and more beautiful? One bird has a jaunty cap on his little head, another a ruff round his neck, still another a white puff about his legs. One wears a soft inner garment of delicate down, and an overcoat of hair, another waddles along in greased coat, caring neither for rain nor a plunge in the brook. This little fellow still wears his baby clothes, while that one looks as proud in his new suit as a boy does in his first trousers; for birds get new suits once in a while as well as you. The Bird of Paradise is dressed very handsomely, and is more careful of its clothes than some children, for it will not allow a speck of dirt to get on them.

Work

How busy they are! These are holding a grand concert. Those are having some kind of meeting. Yonder we see them fishing, hunting, butchering or diving. Here and there a few are mining, hammering, weaving, sewing, making beds, plastering, or building houses. We notice that many are getting dinner, or talking, whistling, chattering, or warbling. One is tolling a bell so loud that it can be heard three miles away (its cry sounds like a bell tolling).⁷ Another is carrying real letters for his master,⁸ and still another is barking like the dog, mewing like the cat, and trying to make every sound that he hears anyone else make.⁹



Bird of Paradise

⁷ Bellbird.

⁸ Carrier Pigeon.

⁹ Magpie or Mynah.

If you wonder how they can do so many different things, just look at their skillful tools. Those that need to wade in the water have *stilts*, those that swim have *paddles*, those that get their food out of the mud beneath the water have feelers and *strainers* in their bills, and those that eat soft food have *spoons*.

- The woodpecker has a *drill* and a *worm-puller*;
- The Kiwi-kiwi a *staff*;
- The Humming-birds *insect catchers*, long, straight, curved, or double-curved, to fit the flowers in which they find the insects;
- The Hawfinches have broad *seed-crushers*;
- The Cross Bills *nut-catchers*;
- The Tailor Bird a sharp, slender bill for a *needle*;
- The owls *night eyes*;
- The Jungle Fowl has great feet for *shovels*; and
- The Jacana very long, slender toes for *water* that enable him to walk on *shoes*, floating leaves.

The longer you study them the more you will see that each bird has been given just the tools that he needs.

Houses

What wonderful houses they build! and in what strange places we sometimes find them! They generally have but one room, but:

- The Paradise Whidah bird has two, one for the sitting-room and one for the nursery; and
- The Sociable Weavers weave great hotels out of flat reeds and grasses, with thatched roofs, which sometimes have as many as three hundred and twenty rooms, each containing a separate family of birds;
- The Golden Eagle has a neighboring ledge of rock for his larder or pantry, where he keeps the food that he has brought until it is needed;

- The Jungle Fowl shovels up a mound or oven, sometimes fifteen feet high and sixty feet round, in which to keep its eggs warm;
- The Tailor Bird with its long bill and little feet makes thread out of cotton and sews the edges of two leaves together and then puts his nest in the little pocket he has thus made;
- The Oriole hangs in his nest from the branches of a tree and sews it together with horse hairs or strings;
- The Kingfisher makes his nest of fish bones; and
- The Esculent Swallow makes a nest that is thought to be very good to eat!
- The nest of the Humming-bird is hung like a tiny cradle to a twig and it rocks back and forth with every breeze. What a cozy home with its silky walls and downy bed!



Birds kill so many insects, worms, mice, flies, snakes, etc., that they are a great help to the farmer and gardener. Their feathers make good beds and pillows, and the eggs of some are good for food. One ostrich egg is as large as twenty-four hen's eggs, and the shell is so strong that it is used to carry water in. See if you can think of anything else for which birds are useful.

The same One who made the water animals of which we learned last week, made these wonderful birds. And he made them on the same day that he made the water animals. Can you tell, now, when the birds began to live, and who made them? This same wise, loving Being who made and clothed and gave tools to the birds, teaches them how to use their tools, and He scatters their food over the earth for them to gather. He says that He does not forget one little sparrow, and therefore we need not fear that

He will forget *us*, for we are worth more than many sparrows.¹⁰
Let us always think of this precious promise when we look at the little birds.

Review Questions

1. Did you ever live in the country?
2. Did you ever travel on the ocean?
3. What friends do we find wherever we go?
4. What kind of place would this earth be if there were no birds?
Why?
5. How many kinds of birds are there?
Flying birds and running birds.
6. Name two birds that can fly very fast.
7. Name one that cannot fly.
8. Why can the Swift fly better than the ostrich?
9. What is the smallest bird that lives? The largest?
10. What kind of bones do the flying birds have? Why?
11. Why do we see so many more birds in summer than in winter?
12. Who guides them over sea and land every year to the same spot where they were reared?
13. What kind of clothing do birds wear?
14. What may little boys and girls learn from the Bird of Paradise?
15. What strange things do some birds do?
16. What birds can be taught to carry letters?
Carrier Pigeons.

¹⁰ *Matthew* 10:29-31.

17. What wonderful thing can the Parrot do? The Mocking Bird?
The Tailor Bird?
18. Tell about some of the tools that birds have.
19. In what kind of houses do they live?
20. Where do we find these nests?
21. Who builds them?
22. Out of what are they made?
23. What are birds good for?
24. Who made these wonderful creatures?
Genesis 1:20-23.
25. When? How?
Genesis 2:19.
26. Who gave them their tools and taught them how to use them?
27. Who covers the earth with food for them to gather?
Matthew 6:26.
28. Then need we fear that He will forget to care for us?
29. Why not?
Matthew 6:26; 10:29-31.

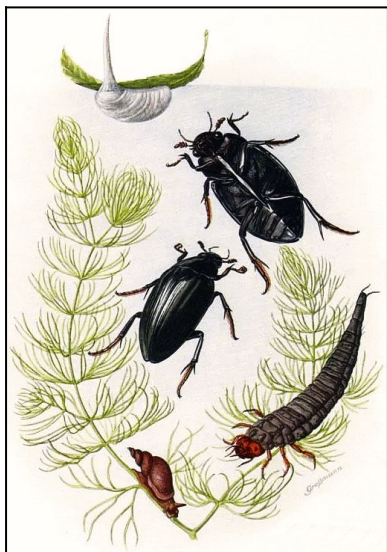
4. In the Pond

Present Truth, January 11, 1894

WHEN our eyes are once opened to behold the wonders round us, we shall be surprised to find the most commonplace little pond turned into a veritable school of learning with teachers innumerable.

There are the newts with beautiful “crimson-stained and undulating crests,” and eyes “gleaming like fiery topaz,” with their curious habits and strange, baby ways.

Swarms of water-beetles may be seen, the most interesting, perhaps, a “living, diving bell” with wondrous swimming-legs and set of strongest suckers.



Then there are the whirlwig beetles with their water telescopes; each one has four eyes, two above and two below—two to see below the water and two to see above it, each eye, of course, being composed of many little eyes.

Numberless water-boatmen float on their backs and row themselves along with their oar-like legs.

The curious larvae of of the dragon-fly “propels himself forward by squirting water backward, having within him a ‘direct action’ propeller.” See! How the dragon-fly eats. His mouth opens *four ways at once!*

May flies, many species of caddis, and swarms upon swarms of the larvae of gnats and other flies are found there besides aquatic crustacean almost without number, and hundreds of other creatures fully as interesting as these.

5. Insects

Present Truth, January 11, 1894

Proverbs 6

⁶ Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.

BY READING the above verse, we find that God wishes people to study even the little insects. Although some are so small that most people never notice them, they can teach us many useful lessons; they are all wonderful, and many are really very beautiful.

If you notice carefully, you will see that there are two kinds of insects, those having jaws or mouths, like the ants, bees, beetles, and grasshoppers; and those having sucking-tubes, like the butterflies, moths, flies, and mosquitoes. A full-grown insect always has six jointed legs, and two horns or feelers. They have a row of breathing tubes along their sides, and most of their bones, instead of being on the inside of their bodies, are on the outside, like a soldier's armor, to keep them from getting hurt.

No kind ever had a better or more beautiful armor than the Tiger Beetle, or Sparkler. Its suit is light but strong, allows the insect to move in any direction, and yet covers every part of its body; it shines with more than steely brightness, and looks as though it were trimmed with gold, and dotted with sparkling stones. This beetle even folds up its wings when not in use, and lays them carefully away in a stout little case on its back.



How delicate and beautiful are the wings of insects! Look at the common fly. Its wings are so thin and clear that you can see through them, and yet they are so ribbed, like a leaf, that they are quite strong. If you move them in the sunlight you see all the colors of the rainbow dancing over them. The most beautiful of all insects are the butterflies and moths. And yet these things of beauty were once but creeping caterpillars! Then let us not despise one little creature that God has made; it may not appear beautiful to us, and we may not know that it is good for anything, but we may be sure that it is, or God would not have made it. The more we study about them, the more we wonder and admire.

The eyes of insects are very wonderful. They are often smaller than the hole made by a tiny pin, and yet they are really often composed of *thousands* of little eyes or facets. Some ants have about fifty, the dragon-fly 12,000, and some beetles and butterflies as many as 25,000, while the common house-fly has two eyes, each made up of 2,000 little eyes. It is thus enabled to see in almost all directions at once.

The tiniest insects have tools as perfect as those belonging to the larger creatures that God has made. The little breathing holes along the sides of the fly have fine *sieves* to keep out dust. The bottom of its foot has two strong *hooks* and some small *suckers* with which the fly can hold on the wall and even walk on the ceiling. The saw-fly has a *saw* and *glue*, and one kind of bee has a *boring tool* and a *cutting instrument* with which it can cut leaves to fit its nest as well as you could with the scissors. The mosquito has a *pump*, the earwigs, *pincers*, and the baby glowworm has a *brush* with which to keep itself clean. The honey bee has a *honey bag*, and the fire-fly carries a *lantern* under his wings; the wasp has a *paper mill*, and the silk worm a *spinning machine*.

Although so small, insects are very useful. The Burying Beetles bury in the ground every dead bird, mouse, or small reptile that they find, and thus keep them from making the air impure. Lady-birds kill the plant lice that get on our flowers and plants. The

bright reds and pretty pinks in pink, water paints, wool, and silk, are made from the dried bodies of the Cochineal Insects. The Lac Insects give out a reddish brown substance that is used in making sealing wax, varnish, and cement. And who has not seen, yes, and eaten, the many little six-sided rooms full of sweet honey, made by the busy bees? When you put on your shining ribbons and silk clothing, do you ever stop to think of the little worms that worked hours and hours in spinning those silken threads? A silk worm hangs itself by its hind feet and, for seventy-two hours, spins away until it has a fine unbroken thread of silk eleven miles long, wound round its body!



It is no wonder that God thinks that sluggards (lazy persons) might learn something by watching the ants. The farming ants of western Texas clear a piece of land four or five feet wide round their city, take away all plants, stones, and rubbish, sow a certain kind of grass, tend it carefully, keep it free from weeds, and when ripe carry the seeds to their nests. If the seeds are found too damp, they are carried out, laid in the sunshine until dry enough, and housed again. In South America, the Leaf-cutting Ants build nests about two feet high and often forty feet across; and in one instance it was found that they had dug a well one foot across and thirty feet deep, so that they might have water. The White

Ant often builds its houses sixteen or seventeen feet high, and, although hollowed out into many rooms, it is strong enough to hold up heavy cattle. There are many other things which you must find out for yourself.

What wonderful insects, wonderful birds, and wonderful water-animals! And they were all made on one day! No wonder that the One who is kind-hearted, powerful, and wise enough to do that is named...

Isaiah 9

⁶ ...Wonderful.

Let us show Him how much we thank Him, by treating every creature that He has made with gentleness and kindness, and by learning the lessons that He would have us learn from them.

Review Questions

1. Do you like to work?
2. What does God say that lazy people should do?
Proverbs 6:6.
3. Why does He wish them to watch the ant?
4. Can you think of some other little creature that is always very busy?
5. Where does it find the honey that it gathers?
6. In what does it carry it?
7. Where does it store it?
In little six-sided rooms that it makes itself.
8. How can it do such fine work in the dark?
It uses its feelers.
9. Do you think of anything that you can learn from the bee?
10. What strange thing is done by the Burying Beetles?
11. Name some other things for which insects are useful?

12. Out of what do wasps make their nests?
Some use clay, others use paper, while others use hard white shiny cardboard.
13. Where do they get their paper and cardboard?
They make it out of fine bits of wood.
14. What can a fly do that you cannot do?
15. How does he manage to walk on the ceiling without falling off?
16. Name some of the strange tools that insects have.
17. What kind of clothing do insects wear?
18. Which are the most beautiful of all insects?
19. Then should we despise the caterpillar and other insects that do not at first appear beautiful or useful? Why not?
20. How do insects breathe?
21. How many kinds are there?
Two: those having jaws, and those having sucking tubes.
22. How long would it take a man to make one of these smallest insects?
23. How long was God in making all the insects, all the birds, and all the water animals?
24. What new name have we learned by which He is called?
“Wonderful.”
25. Do you not think that is a good name for Him?
26. How can we show Him that we thank Him for His great goodness in placing around us these wonderful creatures?

6. Beasts and Creeping Things

Present Truth, January 18, 1894

Isaiah 11

⁶ ...a little child shall lead them.

⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy...

ON THE plains, in the desert, among the cliffs of the mountains, along winding rivers and silvery lakes, swinging from lofty tree-tops, burrowing in the ground, creeping through the grass, and hiding 'neath the leaves, we find creatures, living creatures, so many and so wonderful that we are led to exclaim,

Psalms 104

²⁴ O Lord, how manifold (many) are your works! In wisdom have You made them all!

Each animal is fitted by the all-wise Creator to do just those things that it needs to do. Eskimo dogs, foxes, bears, and many other animals have a warm coat for winter and a cooler coat for summer. The Arctic Fox has even fur slippers for the bottom of its feet. Some of the animals in hot countries do not have any hair or fur, but have skins so thick that a common bullet cannot go through them. The silken fur of the Water Shrew is better than a rubber coat to keep out the water when the animal is swimming, and although the mole is a great digger, none of the earth can stick to its glossy coat. As the Honey Weasel lives mostly on honey and the young of the honey bee, it has a thick, loose skin through which the bees cannot sting. The Hedgehog has a coat of sharp springy spines to protect it when it throws itself down from high walls or meets an enemy.



Dogs and cats and tigers cannot use knives and forks, as we do, in eating their food, but their sharp teeth and claws do as well. The teeth of the rat, mouse, and rabbit, are repaired or mended, as fast as they wear out. And the teeth of the Asiatic Elephant grow up as fast as they are worn away. When the whole tooth is worn out, it falls from the jaw and a new one comes in its place. The Elephant's long trunk serves for hands, a pump, and many other things. The Mole has shovels, the Oared Shrew oars, the Hedgehog and Porcupine an armor, and the Kangaroo a cradle in which to carry its babies. The Spider Monkey uses its tail to hook food out of places too small for its hand. The Ant-eater has an insect catcher, the Musk Rat a perfume sac, the cow four food pouches, the camel a water bottle, and cushions for its breast and knees and feet, and even pussy has cushions on her feet. Find out, if you can, how they use all of these strange things.

Some animals have very odd habits. The bear, squirrel, woodchuck, field mouse, and other animals sleep nearly all the winter with little or nothing to eat! But in this wintry sleep breathing is almost entirely stopped, and the blood circulates very slowly. This is why we see so few animals in the winter. Frogs, toads, spiders, bees, and many of the birds do this. The Mole has a very curious habit of working three hours and then resting three. The Brush-tailed Bettong fastens its tail around a bundle of grass and hops away with it to its nest. The opossum, when attacked falls down and pretends to be dead till its enemy leaves. The hippopotamus carries its young on its back. The monkeys take hold of one another's tails and make living bridges across streams. The beaver cuts down trees, builds houses and dams, and plasters them with mud.

As you put on your warm clothes, do you ever stop to think where they come from? Some of them are made from the woolly coat of the sheep, the hair of the camel or Cashmere Goat, or the fur of the beaver or brown rat! Even the skins of young goats are made into gloves called kid gloves. The buffalo robe is the skin of a bison, and carriage robes and rugs are sometimes made of the

shaggy coats of bears and wolves. We get ivory from the elephant. Polecats' hairs are used for artists' brushes. Hogs' bristles are also used for brushes, and their hide is made into leather for saddles. The otter can be taught to catch fish for its master, the Shepherd Dog to tend sheep, the St. Bernard Dog to find lost and freezing travelers, the Reindeer and Eskimo Dog to take the place of horses in cold countries, the ox to plow, and the noble horse to be the companion and servant of man. The cow gives us milk, butter, glue, leather for our shoes and carriage and harness, and hair for plastering. Even the despised rat saves the lives of thousands of people in our large cities by eating the decaying things in the sewers.

The more you study and think about the animals the more you will see to admire, and to thank God for. For it was God, who, on the sixth day, made...

Genesis 1

²⁵ ...the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps after their kind; and God saw that it was *good*.

Oh, to have seen them then! Not a poor, sickly, or cross animal among them all! Not one that would hurt or kill, for then none lived on flesh, but upon the green herb which God gave them for their meat.¹¹ They all were more tame and friendly than your dog or kitten.

Now, many animals are wild and so fierce that we would be afraid to meet them outside of a cage. But God has made a wonderful promise. He says that by-and-by the beasts will all be as good and friendly as they were at first,—so friendly that a little child can lead them. Listen, here is His promise:

Isaiah 11

⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; *and a little child shall lead them.*

¹¹ *Genesis 1:30.*

⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox...

⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy.

In other parts of the Bible we learn that this will be after He has made the earth all new again and destroyed every evil thing.¹² Where will you be? Will you be among the evil things that will be destroyed, or among the happy children who will live on the beautiful new earth with Jesus, and who will lead the friendly lion and the bear? If you would be with Jesus then, you must live to please Him now. If you are cross and rude to your parents, and cruel to God's birds and animals now, He could not trust you to live with them in the perfect new earth. Jesus invites you to be there, but He cannot take you unless you here learn to be kind and gentle and good.

Review Questions

1. What animals do you have at your home?
2. Name some other places in which we find animals.
3. Which is the strongest beast?

Proverbs 30:30.

4. Which is the tallest?

The Giraffe is the tallest of all earthly dwellers; it is from 18-20 feet high. As it feeds upon the leaves of trees it has long legs and a very long neck, and a tongue so formed that it can be lengthened or shortened or wrapped round one leaf. It can make this tongue so small at the tip that it can pass into the pipe of a common pocket key.

5. Name some creeping things.

Leviticus 11:20, 30.

6. What kind of clothing do part of the animals have in cold weather? In warm?
7. What kind do some have that live in hot countries?

¹² *Isaiah 65:17, 25.*

8. Name a few of the wonderful tools that beasts have.
9. Why do we not see so many animals in winter as in summer?
10. What strange thing does the Opossum do? The Monkeys? The Beaver?
11. Would we be so comfortable and happy if there were no animals? Why not?
12. Who made all of these wonderful creatures, and fitted them with just the right kind of clothing and tools?
13. Then which is greater, the creatures or the Creator?
14. Suppose we should think more of them than of Him, or should worship them, as some do, how would He feel?
15. Or suppose we should treat them cruelly, would He be pleased?
16. To whom do they all belong?
Psalm 50:10.
17. Then have we any right to be cruel to them?
18. When we enjoy their companionship, and see how wonderfully they are made, what should it lead us to do?
To thank and praise the wise, good Father who made them.
19. When did He make them?
20. Were they then just as they are now?
21. Which do you enjoy most, wild animals or tame animals?
22. What precious promise has God made about them?
Isaiah 11:6, 7, 9.
23. When will that be?
24. Only what kind of children will He permit to lead the animals on the new earth?



7. A Wonder of the Deep

Present Truth, September 20, 1894

A STRANGE-LOOKING creature this, is it not? It seems to be almost half head. And how fierce it looks, with its great, staring eyes, and its wide, open mouth lined with sharp teeth. But what is that thing rising up from its nose? That is the most wonderful of all, for it is a torch. This fish is called the torch-fish.¹³ Its scientific name is *Linophryne Lucifer*. Perhaps you may know that “Lucifer” means “light-bearer.” A very appropriate name that, for a fish that carries a torch, is it not?



But what is the torch for? How does the fish use it? Well, sad to say, he does not use it for the good of his fellow-fishes. Instead of using it to light up the dark places in the deep sea, where it lives,

¹³ PP Editor's note: "Angler Fish" seems to be the more common name today.

so that others may be guided in the right way, the torch-fish uses his torch to lure smaller fishes to destruction. It is not lighted all the time, but only when its owner pleases. When meal time comes, he lights his torch, and the small fishes, thinking that it is a phosphorescent insect like the glow-worm, dart for it, and find themselves, or rather lose themselves, in the huge creature's mouth.

That is the way in which this Lucifer-fish uses his light. Who thinks that it is a proper use of it? Is it not rather an abuse of it? Did God make the torch-fish to prey upon and destroy his fellows? Did He give him that wonderful lantern, for the purpose of luring others to destruction? Good Dr. Watts wrote,

Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
For 'tis their nature to;
Let bears and lions growl and fight,
For God has made them so.¹⁴

But is that true? Did God design that any of His creatures should tear one another to pieces? Who thinks that He did? Perhaps you all think so. Let us see what the Bible says about it.

After God had created all things on the earth, and in the air, and in the sea, and had given man dominion over them, He said to man:

Genesis 1

²⁹ Behold I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to use it shall be for meat.

³⁰ And to every beast of the air, and to everything that creeps upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat.

So we see that God's original design was that men should eat grain and fruit. And that the other creatures should eat herbs and

¹⁴ Isaac Watts, *Divine and Moral Songs for Children*, 1705, "Against Quarreling and Fighting."

grass. He did not design that there should be any killing and devouring.

We know this also from what we are told of the new earth. The earth is to be restored as it was in the beginning, and of that time we read:

Isaiah 11

⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain.

Thus it will be when sin is removed, and the earth is restored to its first condition; and so it was before sin entered. Man sinned, and all creatures on earth have suffered in consequence. The gifts which God bestowed on men in order that they might be a blessing to others have been perverted, and are used for their destruction.

Satan, who is the originator of sin and death, was once in heaven. Jesus said,

Luke 10

¹⁸ I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

His name was Lucifer, and the prophet Isaiah, addressing the king of Babylon who in his pride was exalting himself against God, uses terms which must apply to Satan in heaven, when his pride was causing him to rebel against God:

Isaiah 14

¹² How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how are you cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations!

¹³ For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

The prophet Ezekiel also describes his beauty and brightness:

Ezekiel 28

¹² Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus says the Lord God; You seal up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

¹³ You have been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold; the workmanship of your tabrets and of your pipes was prepared in you in the day that you were created.

¹⁴ You are the anointed cherub that covers; and I have set you so; you were upon the holy mountain of God; you have walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

¹⁶ By the multitude of your merchandise they have filled the midst of you with violence, and you have sinned; therefore I will cast you as profane out of the mountain of God; and I will destroy you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

¹⁷ Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness; I will cast you to the ground, I will lay you before kings, that they may behold you.

¹⁸ You have defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of you, it shall devour you, and I will bring you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold you.

He was a beautiful angel in heaven, a light-bearer. Then his light was a blessing to all. But now he has perverted that gift, so that when he chooses,



Corinthians 11

¹⁴ ...[he] is transformed into an angel of light,

—only for the purpose of luring people to destruction.

All creation has partaken more or less of Satan's spirit. Men to whom God has given powerful minds, so that they can discover great wonders, use their intellect to the hurt of their fellow-men. Some spend all their time and thought to discover ways of killing others. The man who can invent a machine that will kill the most people in the shortest time, receives great honor. This is not what God intended that men should do, nor what He is now pleased with.

In the same way the lower animals have become perverted in their natures. Instead of living together in peace, they prey upon those that are weaker. We know what the torch-fish does with his lantern, but we do not know what God designed that he should do with it. But we do know that He did not make it that he might the more easily destroy others.

The Apostle John had a vision of what shall be hereafter, and this is what he says about it:

Revelation 5

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

That will be the time when...

Revelation 21

⁴ ...there shall be no more death,

—because death itself will have been destroyed. Then, if we have allowed the Lord to work His own will in us, we shall have all eternity in which to study the wonderful works of God, and shall see as we cannot now, His perfect design in all that He has made.

8. Helping One Another

Present Truth, May 2, 1895

WHEN sin entered into the world, all creation shared in the curse. So strife and hatred entered into the animal creation. But it is interesting to see the workings of the Divine life still moving animals hearts to kindness and mutual helpfulness. It is a trace of the same nature that they had in the beginning, when the lion and the lamb lay down together.¹⁵ This intelligent kindness is of course more frequently manifested between animals of the same species, but very many anecdotes are reported showing that animals are capable of acting on good Samaritan principles. Here are a few clippings which illustrate sagacity and goodwill combined:

Two Canine Friends

A horse trough in one of the suburbs of Sydney was the scene of a funny incident the other afternoon. Two dogs, water spaniels, were trotting along, when they came to this place, and stopped for a drink. They were both thirsty, but neither was tall enough to reach the trough; and they talked the matter over, as dogs will, and wondered why they had not been treated with as much consideration as horses.

Presently they solved the problem. One of them ranged himself under the edge of the trough; and the other, resting his hind-feet upon his companion's back was able to reach into the pool and slake his thirst. When he had finished he hopped down, seemed to say that the water was good, and then



¹⁵ *Isaiah* 11:6.

in turn ranged himself under the edge of the trough, and the other reached up for the drink he had earned. When he was satisfied they trotted away together, as well contented as any man could be who had met a problem and vanquished it.

Eyes to the Blind

A remarkable story of rats' sagacity comes from Batchworth, in the locality Rickmansworth. At that place here is a sewage farm, where it is no uncommon sight to see rats, attracted by the miscellaneous garbage there collected. A laboring man employed at the sewage farm asserts that, when working on this farm he has recently seen, on more than one occasion, an old blind rat carrying a piece of stick in its mouth, and that two other lounge rats, one on each side of the blind one, lead it about with each end of the stick also in their mouths, and that in this fashion they all cross over a wooden plank. This is not only most surprising, but shows very remarkable sagacity on the part of these rodents, which are of the sewer, or water species.



Sagacity of a Hen

In consequence of some very heavy rains, nearly all the ground about a poultry yard was covered with water. All this time there

was a brood of young chickens in the hen-house. They were on the roosting-place, and could not get down because of the water. In this situation they remained nearly two days, at the end of which time the hen was seen, to convey them one by one, on her back, wading through the water as well as she could, to a grass-plat near by. Thus were the chickens saved from being either starved or drowned.



Sparrows to the Rescue

The social contract among the sparrows, whatever its nature, is certainly most efficient. Every one of them takes for granted that he is his brother's keeper. The danger or misfortune of one is assumed by all. One luckless builder of a nest in the front of a church became entangled in a string so that he could not extricate himself. His call for help was sounded down the street, and soon a multitude of his fellow-citizens were on the spot, tugging at the string, turning him about and about, while the air was filled with cries of distress. Their efforts were in vain. Weeks afterward the

shriveled body hung beating about in the wind; but I noticed that every sparrow that came within range of the sorrowful spectacle uttered a plaintive note, as if exclaiming, “How dreadful!”



Saving a Cat

A recent writer tells of a dog who was seen to plunge into a rushing stream to save from drowning a cat which some *human* being had thrown in, in order to witness her struggles for life. It is not every dog that worries the cat.

Matthew 6

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they?

9. A Lesson in Bird-Shooting

Present Truth, June 18, 1896

ONE spring we boys were having a splendid time with our rubber shooters; every boy in the neighborhood had one or more.

One day I was wandering about the lower end of our garden with my shooter. There were plenty of birds all round, but I did not want to shoot at them, if I could find anything else to shoot at. I got over the fence into another lot, but still there were birds everywhere.

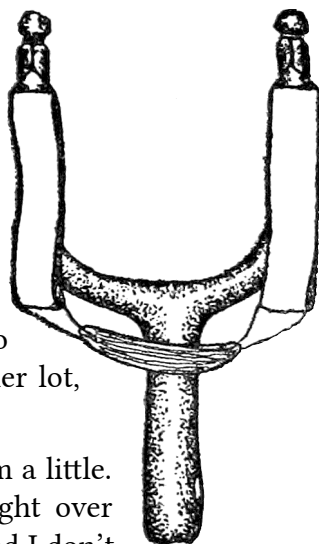
I shot a few times, just to frighten them a little. Then I heard one singing beautifully right over my head. I couldn't see it very plainly, and I don't believe I meant to hit it at all, and I was frightened when it came falling down at my feet, with a sad kind of little scream. I picked it up and tried to make it fly, or walk, but it would not; its pretty eyes were half shut, and it kept panting with its bill. It was a blue-bird.

I knew I never could keep it from mother; for when I have been doing anything dreadful, I always feel as if I was lost till I have told her. As I carried the poor bird through the garden, a drop of blood fell from its mouth, right on a great white lily that seemed looking up to ask me what I had been doing. Mother was standing near the back door; as I laid the bird on her hand, it stopped panting, and was still.

Mother said,

"What is the matter?"

But there was such a lump in my throat, I couldn't speak a word. Then she saw the shooter in my hand, and she said:



“Did you kill that little bird?”

I tell you it scared me, the way she spoke. I never heard her speak in such an awful voice before.

Then she said:

“You have stolen away its little life—it was all the life it had. The Lord loves His helpless little creatures; He gave them to us to make us happy, and He will never bless those who are cruel to them.”

Then she put the little bird up to her cheek, and I saw her tears come. She took the shooter, and laid it on the kitchen fire, and then she said:

“You may go to your room.”

I would rather have been whipped than to have to go there and just have to keep thinking. I thought of all the beautiful days of sunshine I had taken away from that poor little bird, and how it would never fly through the air, nor sing in the trees, nor see the flowers and the grass any more. And I wondered if it had a nest and little birds, and what would become of them.



10. A Grasshopper Story

Present Truth, October 8, 1896

WHEN I go to London, I always stand at the corner of the Bank of England for a minute or two, watching the crowd of busy men hurrying everywhere. What thousands of cares they carry! How many anxieties!

Then I look at the Royal Exchange. It is pleasant to see the London sparrows, though they are a little black and grimy, chirping on the massive cornices, as free and happy as possible, above the din and awful hurry of the great city.

They have no cares, no anxieties. They seem to know what the great letters mean, which are out in the stones on which they hop:

Psalm 24

¹ The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.

God keeps the sparrows, and they are happy. I wish the busy city men would watch the sparrows, and read the great city text.

But the sparrows and the text are not the most attractive things about the Exchange, and I am sure if you look at it, you will think as I do that the weather-cock is the most singular and curious thing about the building. It is not like any other weather-cock in England, or, I should think, in the world; and I'll tell you how it came to be there.

About three hundred and fifty years ago, a woman, with a little baby in her arms, was trudging along a country lane. Presently, after looking



to see that no one was watching her, she climbed over the gate into the field, and wrapping the baby in its little shawl, she laid it down in the grass, so gently as not to awaken it, and then, never even looking behind her, she climbed over the gate again into the lane and went on her journey.

The baby soon awoke, and began to cry; and it cried for a long, long time. And at last, tired and hungry, and hot with the sun, for it was a fine summer's day, it was wearied out, and dropped off to sleep again. But God had...

Genesis 21

¹⁷ ...heard the voice of the lad,

—and see how simply He brought help for the little one.

By and by, down the lane came a school-boy. He was whistling away, as happy as ever he could be; he had come out of school, and was going home. He lived at the farmhouse a little way farther up the lane. Now he gathered a few primroses; now he scampered after a butterfly; now he had a shy¹⁶ at a bird; but just as he came to the gate over which the woman had climbed, he heard a grasshopper chirping away also so loudly that he sprang over the gate to catch him, and there was the baby, fast asleep. Far more pleased than if he had caught a hundred grasshoppers, the boy took up the little fellow, and ran home with his prize. The kind farmer's wife, although she had many children of her own, at once determined to keep the little orphan who had been saved by a grasshopper.

¹⁶ The term "had a shy" is a colloquial expression, primarily used in British and Commonwealth English, meaning to "make an attempt or try at something." In this context, it probably means the boy ran after a bird, trying to catch it.

11. A Lesson from the Lark

Present Truth, August 4, 1898

IN the *Natural History of Birds of Germany*, we find the following interesting fact:

Larks, a feeble race of birds, rise higher in the air than any rapacious bird, and this is often a cause of safety. Their greatest enemy is the Hobby. They fear him greatly, so that as soon as one appears singing ceases, and each suddenly closes his wings, falls to the earth, and hides against the soil. But some have mounted so high to pour out their clear song that they cannot hope to reach the earth before being seized. Then, knowing that the bird of prey is to be feared when he occupies a more elevated position from which he can throw himself on them, they endeavor to remain always above him. They mount higher and higher. The enemy seeks to pass them, but they mount still, until at last the Hobby, heavier, and little accustomed to this rarified air, grows tired, and gives up the pursuit.

This suggests a lesson for us. Our enemy, Satan, seeks to destroy us, but if we can keep above him, it is plain that he can have no power over us. Jesus, our Saviour, has been raised to the right hand of God in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 1

²¹ Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion.

And since we are by faith raised to the heavenly places with Him,¹⁷ it follows that this is our rightful place. If then, when our enemy assails us, and that is constantly, we...

Colossians 3

¹ ...seek those things which are above,

—we shall escape him; for that old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, has been cast out of heaven, so that he can find no

¹⁷ *Ephesians* 2:4-6.

place there any more.¹⁸ He cannot endure its atmosphere. There we can from full hearts sing thanks unto God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁹



Wood Lark and Field Lark

¹⁸ *Revelation* 12:7-9.

¹⁹ *1 Corinthians* 15:57.

12. Great Lessons by Humble Masters

Present Truth, November 3, 1898

Job 12

⁷ Ask now the beasts, and they shall teach you; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell you;

⁸ Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach you; and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto you.

WHAT is it that these creatures can teach us? They can teach us the one thing that it is necessary for you to know, namely, that the power of God is manifested in everything that exists.

Jeremiah 9

²³ Thus says the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches;

²⁴ But let him that glories in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth.

Most valuable lessons are given to everybody every day, and are ignored. Men are constantly mourning their lack of advantages for education, when if they would improve the opportunities freely provided, they might obtain knowledge that cannot be found in any school on earth that is conducted by man. The most valuable things are to be had for free. It is only for second-rate things that we have to pay money.

Job 28

¹² Where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?

¹³ Man knows not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.

¹⁵ It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.

¹⁶ It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.

¹⁷ The gold and the crystal cannot equal it; and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold.

¹⁸ No mention shall be made of corals or pearls; for the price of wisdom is above rubies.

¹⁹ The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold.

Since wisdom cannot be obtained for gold, and no jewels of earth are equal to it in value, it follows that whoever gets it must get it freely. It comes from God without money and without price.²⁰

James 1

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and upbraids not; and it shall be given him.

The wisdom which He gives to man is greater than that which He gives to the beasts of the field and...

Job 35

¹¹ [He] makes us wiser than the fowls of the heaven,

—provided we but accept His Word, and do not imagine ourselves to be any wiser, in ourselves, than the beasts and the birds are.

Out of the almost infinite number of facts that might be cited, we will instance only a few, from authentic books of natural history, as well as from personal observation, which show what marvelous wisdom God has given to creatures with the tiniest bodies and brains. Let us first take a look at...

The Californian Wood-Pecker

This bird nourishes himself upon ants and other insects, but at the same time that he is hunting these, he is engaged in storing up acorns for future use. Whether he eats these acorns, or only the worms that may breed in them, is a question among naturalists, but that is immaterial to our present study. What concerns us at present is the manner in which he stores them up. He chooses a

²⁰ *Isaiah* 55:1.

tree, and hollows out in its trunk a cavity just large enough to receive a single acorn. Then he brings an acorn, and inserts it into the hole, so that it cannot fall out, nor can any other bird or animal get it out. In this way he stores up a vast number. I have seen a fir tree so filled from the bottom to the top of its trunk with the acorns which this industrious little worker had gathered, that from a little distance it looked as though it had been shot full of rifle bullets. It is said that a wood-pecker will carry an acorn thirty miles to store it in its larder.



The acorns which are thus gathered are long and slender, very much like a modern rifle bullet. Of course they vary in size, just as any other nuts; but the remarkable thing is that in no case is the hole made a particle too large for the acorn which is designed for it. Each acorn fits its cavity as perfectly as if it were a piece of iron that had been driven in with a hammer. So, as already stated, no animal can get one of them out. Only the wood-pecker with its strong beak, can pierce the hard, polished extremity of the acorn. Man can dig them out with a knife, but in no other way. It is worthy of note that the holes are never made too shallow, so that the ends of the acorns project beyond the bark of the tree. In every case they are exactly even with the surface. How long would a

man have to practice before he would be able to do such perfect mortising?

The Tailor Bird

This bird is not only a tailor, but a spinner and weaver, as well.

They place their nests in a large leaf, which they prepare to this end. With their beaks they pierce two rows of holes along the two edges of the leaf; they then pass a stout thread from one side to the other alternately. With this leaf, at first flat, they form a horn in which they weave their nest with cotton or hair. These labors of weaving and sewing are preceded by the spinning of the thread. The bird makes it itself by twisting in its beak spiders' webs, bits of cotton, and little ends of wool. Sykes found that the threads used for sewing were knotted at the ends. It is impossible not to admire animals who have skillfully triumphed over all the obstacles met within the course of these complicated operations.²¹



Yes; and one may well say, It is impossible not to admire the God who teaches these creatures to do such perfect work.

Not Blind Instinct

But someone will say,

“Yes, it is very interesting and amusing; but the bird is born with that instinct, and cannot really do any other way.”

²¹Frederic Houssay, *The Industries of Animals*, Chapter VI “Dwellings”.

Even if this were true, it would not in the least diminish the honor due to God for thus providing it with that sense; but it is not true.

Certain birds change the form of their dwelling according to the climate, or according to the season in which they inhabit it. For example, the Crossbill does not build its nest according to the same rules in Sweden as in France. It builds in every season. The winter shelter is spherical, constructed with dry lichens, and is very large. A very narrow opening, just sufficient for the passage of the owner, prevents the external cold from penetrating within. The summer nests are much smaller, in consequence of a reduction of the thickness in the walls. There is no longer need to fear that the cold will come, and the animal gives itself no superfluous trouble.

Again, the Baltimore Oriole, which inhabits both the Northern and the Southern States of North America, knows very well how to adapt his manner of work to the external circumstances in which he lives. Thus, in the Southern States the nest is woven of delicate materials united in a rather loose fashion, so that the air can circulate freely and keep the interior fresh; it is lined with no warm substance, and the entrance is turned to the west, so that the sun only sends into it the oblique evening rays. In the North, on the contrary, the nest is oriented to the south, to profit by all the warm sunshine; the walls are thick, without interstices, and the dwelling is carpeted in the warmest and softest manner. Even in the same region there is the greatest diversity in the style, neatness, and finish of the nests, as well as in the materials used.²²

It is a common idea that birds and animals never improve their methods of labor, but that the young one knows of itself how to go to work, and that it does as well the first time as ever afterwards. This is a mistake, as is already shown. Other instances which may be cited, will show that the brains of these laborers are actively engaged in planning and inventing.

²² *Ibid.*

The *Popular Science Monthly* gives the missionary Moffat as authority for the statement that when lions were yet numerous in South Africa, they were often seen instructing one another in leaping to catch prey, using a bush in their practice, instead of an animal. In one case a lion, which had missed a zebra, through miscalculating the distance, repeated the jump several times, for his own instruction. While he was engaged in this exercise, two other lions came along, and he led them round the rock, to explain the case to them, and then, turning to the starting point, completed the lesson by making a final leap. The animals kept roaring during the whole of the curious scene, "talking together," as a native who watched them said.

By the aid of individual training of this kind, birds become clever with age, old birds building more artistic nests than young ones. In Constantinople, where the life of the street dogs depends upon their ability to protect the morsel that they have secured, against all intruders, the writer has been amused by watching an old dog teaching her pups to fight, and training them to secure their food.

Bees in Their Dwellings

In a hive full of active bees the temperature rises considerably and the air becomes vitiated. Accordingly, means are adopted to secure ventilation.

Bees ranged in files one above the other in the interior agitate their wings with a feverish movement; this movement causes a current of air which can be felt by holding the hand before the opening of the hive. When the workers of the corps are fatigued, comrades who have been resting come to take their place. These acts are not the result of a stupid instinct which the hymenoptera obey without understanding. If we place a swarm, as Huber did, in a roomy position where there is plenty of air, they do not devote themselves to an aimless exercise.²³

²³Frederic Houssay, *Industries of Animals*, Chapter VII "The Defense and Sanitation of Dwellings".

The stores of bees often suffer from the raids of a large moth called the “Death’s Head Moth.”

Protected by the long and fluffy hairs which cover him, he has little to fear from stings, and gorges himself with the greatest freedom on the stores of the swarm. Huber, in his admirable investigations, narrates that one year in Switzerland numbers of hives were emptied, and contained no more honey in summer than in the spring. During that year Death’s Head Moths were very numerous. The illustrious naturalist soon became certain that this moth was guilty of the thefts in question. While he was reflecting as to what should be done, the bees, who were more directly interested, had invented several modes of procedure. Some closed the entrance with wax, leaving only a narrow opening through which the great robber could not penetrate.²⁴

Others built up before the opening a series of parallel walls, leaving between them a zigzag corridor through which the bees themselves were able to enter; but which would not admit the long body of the moth. In the same way man constructs a turnstile, which will allow him to pass, but which excludes the long body of a cow. The bees set up the barricades only in the years when the Death’s Head Moth is numerous. In years when it is rare, they leave their doors wide open, for their own greater convenience.

Gardening Ants

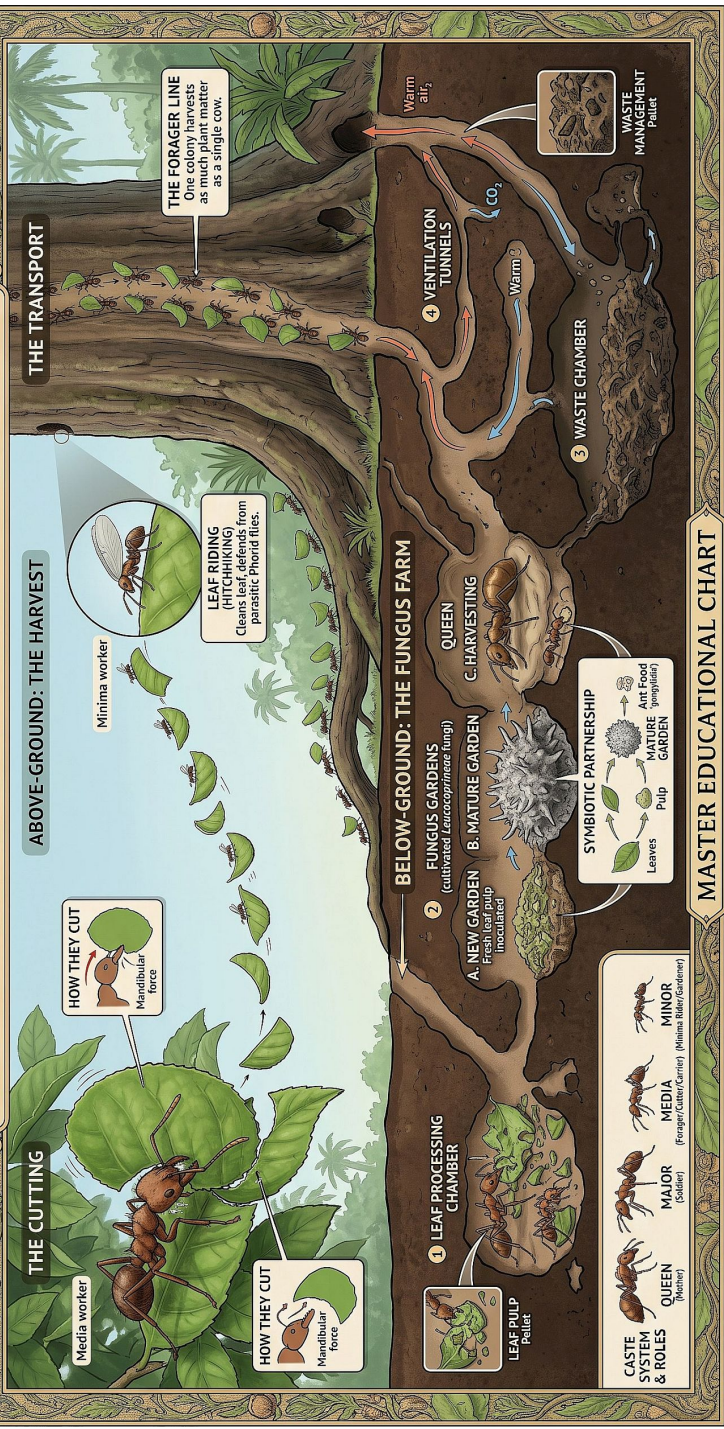
Whole numbers of this paper could be filled with authentic stories of the wisdom of this little insect, but we must be content with one or two facts. The Leaf-cutting ants of tropical America are often referred to by travelers on account of their ravages on vegetation.

They climb a tree, station themselves on the edge of a leaf, and make a circular incision with their scissor-like jaws; the piece of leaf, about the size of a sixpence, held vertically between the jaws, is then borne off to their house.²⁵

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Idem.*, Chapter IV “Provisions and Domestic Animals”.

THE LIFE & SYMBIOTIC FARMING OF LEAF-CUTTER ANTS



It is said that they are capable of destroying whole plantations of orange, mango, and lemon trees. But the ants do not eat these leaves. If they did, their performance would not be so wonderful. These ants are in reality mushroom growers and eaters, for...

...the real use of the leaves is as manure on which to grow a minute species of fungus.²⁶

Great care is taken that the nest should be neither too dry nor; too damp. If a sudden shower comes on, the leaves are left near the entrance, and carried down only when nearly dry. During very hot weather, on the other hand, when the leaves would be parched in a very short time the ants work only in the cool of the day, and during the night.

Occasionally, inexperienced ants carry in grass and unsuitable leaves; these are invariably brought out again, and thrown away.²⁷

Harvesting Ants

In spite of Solomon,²⁸ naturalists for a long time asserted that ants do not store up food in barns for the winter; but it is now admitted that they spoke from too meager data. Nearly all ants may therefore be called harvesters, but there is one species which specially deserves this name. They procure various kinds of grain towards the end of autumn, collecting them from the ground, or even climbing the stalks and gathering them. But they have not completed their task when they have the grain safely in their storehouses. The conditions of heat and moisture in the interior of the ant-hill are such that the grain, if left to itself, would soon begin to grow. But this the ants do not desire, at least not until it suits their convenience. How they prevent the grain from germinating is a secret not known to man; but it is certain that they do it, for as long as the ants have access to the grain it does not ger-

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Proverbs* 6:6-8.

minate, but if from any cause they are denied access to one of the chambers where the grain is stored, it immediately begins to grow.

But although they thus hinder germination in the grain, they do not render it impossible, and when the time has come for utilizing the accumulated stores, they allow the grain to follow the natural course. The radicle and stalk of the plant soon come to light. But the ants do not allow the development of the plant to go too far. As soon as the starch in the grain has been, in the process of growth, converted into sugar for the use of the growing plant, the young stalk is cut off before it has an opportunity to consume the food thus prepared for it. Then the ants bring out their stores to the sun, dry them, take them back to their barns, and thus through the winter have a supply of sweet flour. Here we have the manifestation of wisdom that is not merely wonderful as exhibited in ants, but which is beyond the understanding of man.

Topographical Knowledge

Jeremiah 8

⁷ Yea, the stork in the heaven knows her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming.

When the season comes for these birds to migrate, they go; but they do not go at the same time every season. If warm summer weather continues till late in autumn, the birds remain; and what is more remarkable, they do not, except in single instances, anticipate the return of warm weather in the spring, even though its coming be delayed beyond the usual time. How do they know the right time?

But there is something even yet more remarkable connected with the migration of birds. It is the fact that they will cross the ocean and come back to the very spot from which they started, building their nests year after year in the very same tree or house.

When we stand on the deck of a steamship in mid-ocean, with a trackless waste of waters on every side, we wonder at the human skill which guides the great vessel across the waters, and brings it straight to its destination, even though the place be one to which the master has never before sailed. But he could not do it at first. It took years of study to enable him to accomplish the feat, and when he undertakes the task he has charts and maps of the entire route, and the most delicate instruments, besides his Compass, to enable him to mark his course. But the bird will make the same trip without compass or chart. If this be attributed to “instinct,” then the question arises:

“Isn’t instinct better than reason? Wouldn’t it be a good thing for man if he had instinct?”

The Source of Wisdom

Where do the birds get this knowledge? The answer is indicated by the Lord in His question to Job,

Job 39

²⁶ Does the hawk fly by your wisdom?

And by His statement concerning the ostrich,

¹⁷ God has deprived her of wisdom, neither has He imparted to her understanding.

Now,

Job 35

¹¹ [God] teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, and makes us wiser than the fowls of heaven.

Why then do not men invariably know more than these creatures do? Here is the answer:

Jeremiah 8

⁹ The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the Word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?

Someone will ask,

“Do you mean to say that if men were wholly controlled by the Word of the Lord, they would be able to cross the ocean without chart or compass?”

To that we have no answer to make; but we are to learn from the birds and beasts not merely to do the same things that they do, but that dependence on God which will make us proportionately wiser than they are, in the things which are necessary for us to do.

One thing is certain, and that is, if men were wholly yielded to the Word and Spirit of God, they would make no mistakes in whatever they undertook.²⁹ The degree of knowledge that a man would possess if he were wholly guided by the Lord, is incalculable.

That in the world to come man will be able to go to all parts of the Lord's dominions, and not get lost, there is not the slightest doubt. Every Sabbath day, and every new moon, all flesh will appear in the temple of God to worship.³⁰ From every quarter of the globe they will make the journey, and each one will by the most direct route come to the Holy City. Who dare say that even in this present world a man wholly led by the Spirit of God could not do the same thing, if it were necessary in the service of God? When God's ways are in a man's heart, God will direct his paths.³¹

When we study the life of Christ we can see what wonderful wisdom can be attained by one who takes counsel of God alone. Remember that Christ was here on earth in man's place, so that...

Hebrews 2

¹⁷ In all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His

²⁹ See *Psalm* 1:1-3.

³⁰ *Isaiah* 66:22-23.

³¹ *Proverbs* 3:5-6.

brethren.

He had access to no wisdom that is not open to mankind. He never went to the schools, which taught the wisdom of the day, but He had wisdom even as a child, that caused the wisest doctors of the law to marvel. Here is the secret of His wisdom:

Isaiah 50

⁴ The Lord God has given me the tongue of them that are taught, that I should know how to sustain with words him that is weary; He wakens morning by morning, He wakens my ear to hear as they that are taught.

⁵ The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away backward.

Strength in Helplessness: Wisdom in Simplicity

In this connection let us learn another lesson from the ant. In “Glimpses of Nature,” in the *Strand Magazine*, Grant Allen has the following in a little treatise on ants:

It takes the insects three or four weeks, in the pupa form, to develop into full-grown ants and even when they have finished, they are as helpless as babies, and could not escape from the cocoon but for the kind offices of the worker attendants. It is pretty to see the older ants helping them to extricate themselves, carefully unfolding the legs and smoothing out the wings of the males and females, with truly feminine tenderness and delicacy. This utter helplessness of the young ant is very interesting for comparison with the case of man; for it is now known that nothing conduces to the final intellectual and moral supremacy of a race so much as the need for tending and carefully guarding the young; *the more complete the dependence of the offspring upon their elders, the finer and higher the ultimate development.*

Make special note of the words we have placed in italics. They let us into the secret of wisdom and strength, although the naturalists who note the fact, do not carry it out to the proper conclusion. We are the offspring of God.³² God deals with us as with

³² Acts 17:28.

children, if we do not get so wise in our conceits³³ that we imagine we can get along without instruction from Him. No other animal that is born into the world is so ignorant and helpless as the human infant. And no matter how long we live, we are always little children—babes—in the eyes of God. He says,

Isaiah 46

³ Hearken unto to me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb.

⁴ And even to your old age I am He; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you; I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Isaiah 66

¹³ As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you.

Jesus Christ was born a helpless infant, and was wrapped in swaddling clothes, in which even a man would be helpless, and laid in a manger. He was a perfect picture of human helplessness and foolishness. But He was cast upon God from the womb,³⁴ and so in Him we have the full demonstration of the fact that...

1 Corinthians 1

²⁵ The foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Colossians 2

³ [In Him] are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

1 Corinthians 1

³⁰ [He] is made unto us wisdom...

2 Corinthians 12

⁹ ...[His] strength is made perfect in weakness.

1 Corinthians 3

¹⁸ Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

³³ *Romans* 11:25, 12:16.

³⁴ *Psalms* 22:9-10.

Psalm 146

⁵ Happy is he that has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God:

⁶ Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is.



13. Animal Life

Present Truth, November 3, 1898

Original title: For the Children. Animal Life

WE HAVE been learning for some weeks³⁵ about the plants, the flowers, fruits, and seeds, which spring out of the earth in obedience to the Word of God,

Genesis 1

¹¹ Let the earth bring forth grass.

This week we will learn about some other kinds of plants, some of which swim in the sea, some fly in the air, and some move about over the face of the earth.

²⁰ And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that has life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

²¹ And God created great whales, and every living creature that moves, which the waters brought forth abundantly after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind.

²⁴ And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind; and it was so.

“But,” you will perhaps say, “surely these are not plants!”

Well, let us see what the Word of God says about this. In the 15th chapter of the *First Epistle to the Corinthians* we read, that...

1 Corinthians 15

³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh; for there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

But in the 40th chapter of *Isaiah* we are told that...

Isaiah 40

⁶ ...all flesh is grass.

³⁵ PP Editor's note: These lessons are in the book, *The Everlasting Gospel*, in the third section, “For the Children.”

And then if you will think for a little while you will see that the animals all come from the ground, the same as the plants do that remain rooted in the soil. For just as God said,

Genesis 1

¹¹ Let the earth bring forth grass,

—so He said also,

²⁴ Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing.



So the plants and the animals were all brought forth by the earth, and all came from exactly the same seed,—the Word of God,—and they all share one life, the life of God, for He is *the Life*, and there is no other.

And then again we have been learning how the plants which spring from the earth draw their food from it, and live by the nourishment that their roots suck up out of the ground. But we shall see that these moving plants also get all their food from the ground, for...

Psalm 104

¹⁴ God causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man; that He may bring forth food out of the earth.

All the living beings in this earth are dependent on the earth from which they come to supply them with food to sustain their lives.

We have seen that in all the beauty, fragrance and usefulness of the plants, and in all the glory of the sun, moon and stars, God is revealing himself to us. But this is true of all the things that He has made. So learn all that you can about the animals, the birds, the fishes, and creeping things, for each one, even the tiniest, holds some wonderful secret of God's love and power which He has put there for you, and if you ask Him, His Holy Spirit will teach you what it is.

In another part of this paper³⁶ you will find some facts about the animals, the bees, the ants, and the birds, which will show you how wonderful are the wisdom and skill which are seen in their actions. It is God's own life in them which gives them such wisdom.

- It is His life in the bird which teaches it how and where to build its nest;
- His life in the bee which teaches it where and how to gather honey and store it in the wonderful comb of wax which it makes;
- His life in the spider which teaches it how to weave its silken web and fasten it securely;
- His life in the ant which gives it such wisdom that the wisest man who lived tells us to "consider her ways, and be wise."³⁷

Solomon himself learned wisdom from studying these works of God, and...

³⁶ See the next article, "Great Lessons by Humble Masters."

³⁷ *Proverbs* 6:6.

1 Kings 4

³³ ...he spoke of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

Try to find out what the Word of God tells you about the different animals with which you are familiar. Read the 39th and 40th chapters of *Job*, and see how many animals are mentioned there, and how much we are told about them. And over all these works of His hands God gave man dominion; but how differently men often treat the animals from what God himself does, for...

Psalms 145

⁹ The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

We see cruel men, and sometimes thoughtless little children, ill-treating God's creatures whom He has given them to love and protect.

But the time is soon coming when all the suffering and sorrow that has come upon the animals through man's sin will be over; and...

Isaiah 65

²⁵ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

In the new earth which God will make, men will no longer hurt and destroy the animals, nor hunt them and use them for food; and the animals will not hurt nor destroy each other or man, but...

Isaiah 11

⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

14. More About Animals

Present Truth, November 10, 1898

WE WERE talking last week about how we may learn to know God by studying the things that He has made. How wise, how loving, how merciful is our great Creator you will find out more and more as you think upon the wondrous works of His hands.

Here is a little picture of some of the wonderful things that His powerful Word made from the dust of the ground, when God said,

Genesis 1

²⁴ Let the earth bring forth the living creature.

The largest animal in the picture is the kangaroo. It does not go along on its four legs like most quadrupeds, but upright as you see it here, and instead of running along the ground, it takes the most astonishing long, high leaps.

So that the mother kangaroo can carry her little ones safely with her in these flying leaps, God has made a little cradle in her body, a small pouch or pocket where her babies are stowed away, safe and warm. Here they are kept by the mother until they are old enough to leave it, and even then they run to her and jump in when anything frightens them. You can see the tiny head of one of the babies peeping out from its cozy cradle.





In the next picture is a little hedgehog. You will know him by the sharp spines, or prickles, sticking out all over his body. This little creature has nothing else to defend it from the attacks of its enemies—it

cannot run swiftly and get away from them, and it has no strength or skill with which to meet them. But God has covered it with this armor, and when it sees an enemy—a cat, or weasel, that is unfriendly to it—it draws in all the soft parts of its body and rolls itself up so that nothing can be seen but a ball of sharp prickles. Then anything that touches it only pricks itself without hurting the hedgehog, who waits until its enemy goes away and gives it an opportunity to escape.

In the following picture, making its way to the water, you will see a strange looking little animal that you have never seen before. But did you ever see anything at all like it? Look closely, and you will see that it has a bill exactly like a duck, and webbed feet also.



It swims in the water and feeds in the mud just like a duck, but its body is like that of a mole, and it burrows like the mole in the ground, in the river banks, and makes its nest under the ground. It is so wonderfully formed that it is as much at home in the water as a duck, and in the land as a mole. It is called the duck-billed water-mole.³⁸

This little creature's home is in Australia, and when one was first sent to Europe people thought that somebody must have

³⁸ Or, Platypus.

made it up by fastening a duck's beak on to the body of a small animal. But they have since found that this is really the way that God made it, though they have not ceased to wonder at it.

Another time we will talk about some more of these wonderful works of God. If you will read through the 104th *Psalm*, you will see how He who made them is all the time caring for each one of the smallest of His creatures. He says,

Psalm 50

¹¹ I know all the fowls of the mountain, and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

He *knows* them all, He *thinks* of all, He *feeds* all, and He *loves* all.

Matthew 10

³¹ Fear not, therefore,

—for Jesus tells you that you “are of much more value” to Him than all “the fowls of the mountains” or “beasts of the forest,”³⁹ so “how much more”⁴⁰ will He think of you, and take loving care of you all the time.



³⁹ *Psalm* 104:20.

⁴⁰ *Matthew* 7:11.

15. The King of Birds

Present Truth, November 24, 1898

THE eagle is among birds what the lion is among the animals. You know he is called the “king of the forest,” or “king of beasts,” and the eagle is the king of birds. It soars higher than any other bird, and is lost to sight as it “flies away toward heaven.” Because of this it was called in ancient times “the Bird of Heaven.”

Bird of the broad and sweeping wing,
Your home is high in heaven,
Where wide the storms their banners fling
And the tempest’s clouds are driven.⁴¹

Have you noticed how often the eagle is spoken of in the Bible? Solomon, the wisest man, who spoke of birds, as well as of all the other works of God,⁴² said that:

Proverbs 30

¹⁹ The way of an eagle in the air,

—was one of the things which he knew not, which were too wonderful for him.

From the Lord’s words to Job in the twenty-seventh verse of the 39th chapter we learn that it is at the command of God that the eagle “mounts up,” and also that it “makes its nest on high.” It does not build a nest in the trees or bushes, as most birds do, but chooses usually the peak of a very high rock, which can scarcely be reached by men or animals.

Your throne is on the mountain top,
Your fields—the boundless air,
And hoary peaks, which proudly prop
The skies—your dwellings are.⁴³

⁴¹ James Gates Percival (1795-1856), Poem: *To the Eagle*.

⁴² See *1 Kings* 4:33.

⁴³ James Gates Percival (1795-1856), Poem: *To the Eagle*.



The eagle makes its nest of strong sticks, leaving a hollow in the middle which it lines with grass, and here it lays its eggs, and keeps the young ones until they are old enough to fly. When the

eaglets are hatched, the father and mother spend all their time and strength getting food for them. They are very fierce towards anything which they think would harm them. An Irish peasant once robbed an eagles' nest while the parent birds were away, and started off with the young eaglets. But when the old eagles came back and missed their family, they attacked the robber with such fury that they killed him.

It is God's own life in all His works that gives to His creatures such love and tender care for their offspring. And from this we may learn of His great love and care for us,

Acts 17

²⁸ ...for we are also *His* offspring.

It is because of His great love for His children that His anger burns so against sin, which hurts and destroys them and against Satan who is seeking to steal them away from Him.

How safe we are if we make Him our refuge, and let Him defend us against all the attacks of the enemy. He says that no one is able to pluck us out of His hand, for He is greater and stronger than all.⁴⁴

In *Deuteronomy* 32:11, we are told what the mother eagle does when the time comes for the eaglets to leave the nest and learn to fly. First she "stirs up her nest," and makes it so uncomfortable that the young ones will want to leave it. Then she...

Deuteronomy 32

¹¹ ...flutters over her young, spreads abroad her wings, takes them, bears them on her wings.

When the young birds get so tired that they cannot fly any higher, nor even hold themselves up in the air, the mother flies down underneath them, and catching them on her own strong wings bears them up in safety between her shoulders.

⁴⁴ *John* 10:29.



In this way our Heavenly Father is teaching us how carefully and tenderly He is watching His children to see when they are tired, and to keep them from falling. He says of His people that He...

Exodus 19

⁴ ...bore them on eagles' wings,

—and brought them unto himself. So let us never be afraid, but always remember that...

Deuteronomy 33

²⁷ ...underneath are the everlasting arms,

—upon which we may rest in peace and safety. And,

Isaiah 40

³¹ They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles.

16. The Ostrich

Present Truth, December 1, 1898

ALTHOUGH the eagle is “the king of birds,” and is able to fly the highest of all the feathered tribe, it is not the largest. The largest of all birds is the ostrich, which you can see in the picture. It has a long neck and when it holds up its head, it is



seven or eight feet high, taller than a tall man. When God was telling Job about some of His wonderful works, He spoke about the ostrich. Let us see what we can learn of it from what He who made it said about it.

Job 39

¹³ Did you give...wings and feathers unto the ostrich?

¹⁴ Which leaves her eggs in the earth, and warms them in the dust,

¹⁵ And forgets that the foot may crush them, or that the wild beast may break them.

¹⁶ She is hardened against her young ones as though they were not hers: her labor is in vain without fear;

¹⁷ Because God has deprived her of wisdom, neither has He imparted to her understanding.

¹⁸ What time she lifts up herself on high, she scorns the horse and his rider.

First we will speak about the “wings and feathers” which God has given to the ostrich. The wings are very small for the size of the bird, too small for so large and heavy a bird to fly with. But when it is running it lifts its wings, and flutters them over its back, and they act like a sail to catch the wind and carry the bird onward. When it runs at full speed, it cannot be overtaken by the swiftest horse, but...

Job 39

¹⁸ ...scorns the horse and his rider.

You have all seen the beautiful soft feathers which are so much used for trimming hats and bonnets for ladies and little girls, and the helmets of some soldiers. These are the tail feathers of the ostrich, and are thought so highly of that people pay a large price for them.

The bird is so much hunted to get these valuable feathers to be used for useless ornaments, that it is disappearing from the earth through the pride and cruelty of those whom God meant to be its protectors. For we have learned⁴⁵ that in the beginning God gave into man’s care and keeping all the living creatures on the earth.

If you think of this whenever you see these beautiful plumes, which have usually been torn from the living ostrich, I am sure you will not take any pleasure in seeing them used as an ornament by others, nor ever want to wear them yourself.

There is one thing in which the ostrich is just the opposite of the eagle. We read last week from God’s Word some beautiful

⁴⁵ See Lesson 12, “Animal Life.”

passages which show the tender care of the eagle for her young ones. But the ostrich...

Job 39

¹⁴ ...leaves her eggs in the earth,...

¹⁶ ...[and] is hardened against her young ones.

God has not given to her the same wisdom and understanding to hatch her eggs, and to care for her young ones, that He has given to the eagle, for in the case of the ostrich it is not necessary. She lives in the hot desert regions of Africa, and lays her eggs in the warm sand, where they are hatched without her help by the heat of the sun. When they are hatched she has no special care for the young ones.

The prophet Jeremiah speaks in his *Lamentations* about some people who were so forgetful of their little ones that...

Lamentations 4

⁴ The tongue of the sucking child cleaves to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, and no man breaks it unto them.

Of such people he says that they have...

³ ...become *cruel like the ostriches* in the wilderness.

But although the ostrich is...

Job 39

¹⁶ ...hardened against her young ones as though they were not hers,

—they are not left to perish. He who...

Psalms 50

¹¹ ...knows all the fowls of the mountains,

—and thinks of and feeds the little sparrows, does not forget them. He hatches the eggs by the heat of the sun, and cares for and feeds the young birds, so that they grow up and become large and strong like their parents.

What a sweet lesson of trust in God, our Creator, He is teaching us in all this! He says,

Isaiah 49

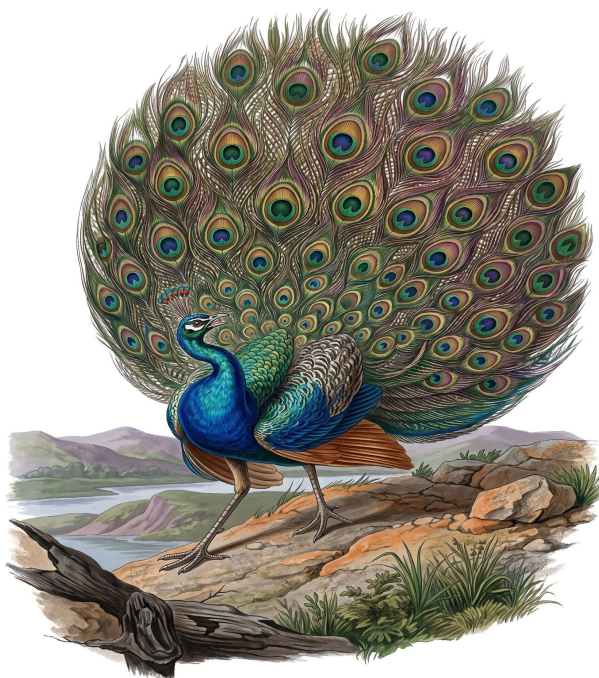
¹⁵ Can a woman forget her sucking child?...yea, they may forget; yet will I not forget you.

So like David we can say,

Psalms 27

¹⁰ When my father and mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.

But I expect you have been looking at the other birds in the picture,⁴⁶ and wondering especially about the one with its magnificent tail spread out so proudly. Another time we will perhaps tell you something about this.



⁴⁶ PP Editor's note: There are no copies of the 1898 *Present Truth* periodicals online, so I could not get the original picture. Instead, I have inserted a Peacock picture below the paragraph.

17. Our Winter Visitors

Present Truth, December 22, 1898

THE little birds that built their nests here in the spring, and cheered and charmed us through the summer with their sweet joyous songs, have many of them left us now that the cold winter weather has come. The swallows, the nightingales, and many others have flown away to the warm and sunny south of Europe, to Africa and Asia. The insects upon which they feed have vanished, the fruit trees and bushes are bare, and they could not find enough food here now; and besides this they could not live through the cold and snow of our English winter.

So God guides these tender little birds over land and sea, to sunny lands where the summer is just beginning when ours is ending; where they will find an abundance of food and bright sunshine, and live happily until the time comes for them to come back to their old home. So you see that their lives are one long summer. God teaches them just when to leave us; He makes them “know their appointed times;”⁴⁷ and it is by His wisdom that they fly, “and stretch their wings toward the south.”⁴⁸

There are a few birds that stay with us all through the year, like the familiar little sparrow and the bold robin-redbreast, which when the other birds have left us are driven by cold and hunger nearer to us than before, coming to our windows to be fed, and even sometimes into our houses to find shelter.

But there are other little visitors now in our parks and gardens, woods and fields. Let us see where these come from.

You know that our days are long in the summer and short in the winter, and as we go farther and farther north the summer days grow longer and longer and the winter days shorter and shorter, until right up at the North Pole the summer is one long

⁴⁷ *Jeremiah* 8:7.

⁴⁸ *Job* 39:26.

day when the sun never sets, and the winter is one long night when the sun never rises.

Think of a night lasting five or six months, nothing but darkness; and how cold it must be when not a ray of sunshine reaches the earth through all that time! Everything freezes; the snow falls like a white blanket to cover the land, and all nature goes to sleep during the long, long night.

Of course the birds would all die if they should stay up there, and so God teaches them to fly away towards the south, and many of them come to us for the winter, and take the place of those, which have gone from us to warmer lands. They reach us in the autumn about the time that the summer birds are leaving.



After staying with us through the cold winter, when there is not much food for them, and the country looks most dreary, they fly away in the spring just when the trees are bursting into leaf and blossom, the flowers springing up, and everything looks so beautiful, inviting them to stay. What call is it that tempts them to leave us at this most pleasant season, when our little summer visitors are joyfully returning to build their nests in their old

homes? What leads them to fly away towards the cold and snowy north, away up into the Arctic Circle, to build their nests and bring up their young ones?

If we could fly with them and see where they go, and why, I think we should not wonder that they wanted to go.

A Bird Paradise

When at last the sun rises and the day dawns again after the long Arctic night, the snow melts very quickly, the summer comes suddenly, and immediately the birds appear in swarms. By thousands and millions they come from all parts, just as soon as it is possible for them to live there again. You will wonder what they can possibly feed on, when the ground has been covered with snow for so long, and nothing has been able to grow in the intense cold. But God has thought about them and prepared for them. He has provided a great store of their favorite food all ready for them to eat just as soon as they arrive.

In the far North there are great quantities of cranberry, crowberry and other fruit-bearing bushes. The continual sunshine of the Arctic summer (for remember that the sun does not set for months) makes these bushes bear a great deal of fruit. But almost as soon as it is ripe, and before the birds have time to gather it, the snow begins to fall, and covers it all up.

Underneath the snow, which keeps all the air away from it, it is perfectly preserved, and kept quite fresh and sweet, without any sign of decay. So you see that directly after the snow melts, there is a rich feast of “preserved fruits” all ready for the millions of birds which come such long distances to have a share in it.

And, then, too, the sun ever shining brings to life such swarms of insects that the air is filled with them, and the insect-eating birds can get an abundance of food just by opening their mouths. No wonder the birds swarm here to make their homes and bring up their young ones in this land of peace and plenty.

What a delightful bird paradise it must be where there is constant sunshine, swarms of insects, stores of fruit waiting to be gathered, and no one to disturb or molest them. God, who has provided this delightful summer home for them, teaches them where to find it, just when to set out for it, how to reach it, and when to leave.

As you “behold the birds” as Jesus has told us to do, think of these things, and what beautiful lessons they teach us of our Heavenly Father’s love and care.

Matthew 6

²⁶ They have neither storehouse nor barn; yet your Heavenly Father feeds them.

Sometimes He feeds them by putting it into the hearts of kind people to give them food in the cold weather. This is one way in which you way help Him to take care of them.



18. Our Fellow Creatures

Present Truth, April 20, 1899

Original title: Little Folks. Our Fellow Creatures

Through created things thrills one pulse of life from the great heart of God.⁴⁹

WE ARE told in the book of *Proverbs* that “out of the heart are the issues of life,”⁵⁰ and you know that every time your heart beats it sends the blood pulsing through your whole body, carrying life to every part of it. So from the heart of God comes the life that supplies the whole creation, and pulsates through all the things that He has made. It is His life that...

Warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,
Glows in the stars, and blossoms in the trees.⁵¹

His Spirit is in the air, the breath of life to all His creatures. All breathe in the same air, the same breath, and so share one life,—the life of God.

We sometimes think of the animals, the birds, the fishes, and the plants, as altogether different beings from ourselves. But the wise King Solomon, speaking of animals and man, tells us that “they have all one breath,”⁵²—one life.

So all these other creatures are only different *forms* of the *same life* that we share. They are our fellow-creatures; they all spring from the same Father as ourselves, and live by breathing in His life, just as we do.

If we really love God, we shall love everything in which we see God, everything that shares with us the life of God,—even the grass beneath our feet, the flowers, the trees, the birds, the animals, as well as our human brothers and sisters.

⁴⁹ Ellen White, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 95.

⁵⁰ *Proverbs* 4:23.

⁵¹ Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Man*, Epistle 1.

⁵² *Ecclesiastes* 3:19.

Love delights in the happiness of all things. So as we learn to see God's life in all, and to love them because of it, we shall delight more and more in seeing them happy. The life that we have in common with them will be a bond of sympathy and love between us, so that we shall be able to understand them better,—to understand their wants and to supply them, and to learn the lessons that God is teaching us by them.



All the animal creation God made for man, and gave to him to rule and to have dominion over. In this way man would be always learning lessons of love, as God should use him as the channel through which to shed His kindness and love upon them. And besides this it must have added directly to man's own happiness, to be the instrument used by God to bring blessing and happiness to all His other works.

1 John 4

¹⁸ There is no fear in love,

—and so man and all the animals were perfectly free and fearless in the beginning. But when man lost the spirit of love out of his heart, the animals began to fear and flee from him, and to try to defend themselves from him, so that he was led to fear them also.

This fear of man that most of the animals have, makes it hard for him to get near to them in their natural state, to find out much about them, and the wonderful lessons they teach.

Thoreau, an American naturalist, shut himself away from all human society in the lonely depths of a wood for two years and a half, so that he might study the works of God around him,—the creatures that made their home there. We are told of him that...

He knew how to sit immovable, a part of the rock he rested on, until the bird, the reptile, the fish, which had retired from him, should come back and resume its habits—nay, moved by curiosity should come to him and watch him.⁵³

The birds in Walden Woods would come at his call and perch upon his arms and shoulders. The snakes coiled round his legs, and fishes swam between his hands, and even the foxes, we are told, would run to him for protection from the hunter.

This was because he was so gentle and harmless, and had studied these animals so well that he was able to make them understand that he would not hurt them. So they did not fear him, nor try to hurt him.

In the good time that is coming, when God shall “make all things new,”⁵⁴ all the “new creatures” that live in His “new earth”⁵⁵ will be holy and harmless.⁵⁶ Perfect love, the perfect life of God, will cast out all fear,⁵⁷ and unite all living creatures in one great brotherhood.

⁵³ Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Thoreau*, 1862.

⁵⁴ *Revelation* 21:5.

⁵⁵ *Isaiah* 65:17, 66:22; *2 Peter* 3:13; *Revelation* 21:1.

⁵⁶ *Hebrews* 7:26.

⁵⁷ *1 John* 4:18.

19. The Lord's Flock

Present Truth, May 25, 1899

Original title: Little Folks. The Lord's Flock

May brings flocks of little lambs,
Skipping by their fleecy dams.

IS IT not a beautiful sight, this “footprint of the Lord.”⁵⁸ We learned last week⁵⁹ that...

Psalm 65

¹³ The pastures are clothed with flocks,

—because...

⁹ [He] *visits* the earth and waters it.

Think of this now as you see the flocks of sheep, with the dear, happy little lambkins skipping gaily about, so full of joyous new life.

And this beautiful sight is as old as the world, for in the 4th chapter of *Genesis* we learn that Abel, the son of Adam and Eve, was “keeper” or “feeder of sheep;” and we read also about the “firstlings” or lambs “of his flock.”

Some of the noblest men of whom we read in the Bible, those whom God specially used in His work, were shepherds, keepers and feeders of sheep.

For forty years...

Exodus 3

¹ Moses kept the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law;

—and it was as...

¹ ...he led the flock to the back side of the desert...

⁵⁸ *Nahum* 1:3.

⁵⁹ PP Editor's note: This lesson, and others related to it, are in Volume 6 of the series on *The Everlasting Gospel for Children*, titled: *The Book of Nature*. The study is titled “God's Footprints.” I have not included it here because it was about clouds, not animals, and was part of a series of studies in that line.

² [That] the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush.



Moses' work in caring for the flock of sheep had given him just the lessons that he needed to teach him to do the work that was now given to him, to lead the Lord's great flock, His people Israel, through the desert to the promised land.

Psalm 77

²⁰ [God] led His people like a flock, by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

No doubt you will think too of the shepherd boy, David, who kept his father's sheep so bravely and faithfully. He too was being prepared to lead and feed the Lord's flock; for in *Psalm 78* we are told that,

Psalm 78

⁷⁰ He chose David also His servant, and took him from the sheep-folds;

⁷¹ From following the ewes He brought him, to feed Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance.

Through his shepherd life God taught David many precious lessons of His own love and care for His people; for...

Psalm 100

³ ...we are...the sheep of His pasture.

David saw how, for the sheep, everything depended upon the shepherd, their food, their comfort, and their safety. And he joyfully sang:

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is *my* Shepherd; I shall not want

² He makes me to lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside the still waters.

A gentleman once asked a shepherd,

“When do, your sheep lie down?”

And the man told him, when they have eaten enough and are quite comfortable, when there is nothing to make them afraid. David knew this, and so you see how much he means when he says that the Lord wakes His sheep to “lie down.” We may be sure that they will be well fed, and that they will have nothing to fear, because they are so safe in His keeping.

Sometimes David had to lead his flock through dangerous places, where there were wild beasts ready to spring upon them, but the sheep did not need to worry, because their shepherd was keeping them. David afterwards said,

1 Samuel 17

³⁴ When there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock,

³⁵ I went out after him and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth; and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

Then as he thought of the tender watchfulness and great might of his own Shepherd, he sang:

Psalm 23

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me.

Though Satan, the great enemy of the Lord's flock,

1 Peter 5

⁸ ...goes about as a *roaring lion*, seeking whom he may devour,

—His sheep and lambs need fear no evil, for Satan cannot touch them while their Shepherd is near. He knows that he has no power over them so he tries to draw them away from Jesus, so that he can seize and destroy them.

But a good shepherd keeps watch to see that his sheep do not stray. If one of David's little lambs strayed away from the flock, he went anxiously after it, and brought it back to a place of safety, and led it gently in the right way with the others. This was what taught him to sing:

Psalm 23

³ He restores my soul: He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

He would have felt it to be a disgrace to him as a shepherd to lose one of his flock; for a true shepherd is a *keeper* of sheep. So he knew that "for His name's sake," for the sake of His own good name, His reputation as a shepherd, the Lord would "restore his soul," and guide him in the right way.

Read the words of Jesus in the 10th chapter of *John*, verse 11:

John 10

¹¹ I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

David *risked* his life for his sheep, but Jesus *gave* His, for this was the only way that He could keep them safely, the only way that He could destroy the "roaring lion" who was seeking to kill all His sheep and lambs.



He says:

John 10

¹⁵ I lay down my life for the sheep;

–but He says also:

John 10

¹⁷ I lay down my life that I might take it again.

When He took up again the life that He had laid down for His sheep, He showed that He had conquered all the enemies of His flock, so that we need “fear no evil.”

Nothing can hurt the Lord’s flock without first taking His life, and this is not possible, for He is “alive for evermore.”⁶⁰ And so long as *He lives*, His flock are quite safe. So He says,

²⁸ My sheep shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Remember that you, dear little ones, are the lambs of the Good Shepherd’s flock, and He says of you,

Isaiah 40

¹¹ He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom.

What a “safe and happy shelter”!

Gracious Saviour, tender Shepherd,
Little ones are dear to Thee;
Gathered in Thine arms and carried
In Thy bosom may we be;
Sweetly, fondly, safely tended,
From all want and danger free.

Tender Shepherd, never leave us
From Thy fold to go astray;
By Thy look of love directed,
May we walk the narrow way;
Thus direct us, and protect us,
Lest we fall an easy prey.⁶¹

⁶⁰ *Revelation* 1:18.

⁶¹ Jane Elizabeth Leeson, *Gracious Saviour, Gentle Shepherd*, 1842.

20. The Cattle

Present Truth, June 1, 1899

Original title: Little Folks. The Cattle

READ the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth verses of the 1st chapter of *Genesis*, which tells us that...

Genesis 1

²⁵ God made the...cattle after their kind.

Everything that God made belongs to Him.

Psalms 24

¹ The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof,

—because He made it and filled it.

Psalms 95

⁵ The sea is His, for He made it,

—and we ourselves belong to Him, for...

Psalms 100

³ It is He that has made us.

And so God says of the cattle that He has made,

Psalms 50

¹⁰ Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

And God thinks of and cares for everything that belongs to Him, and so...

Psalms 104

¹⁴ He makes grass to grow for the cattle.

He who made them knows exactly what they need, and creates just the right kind of food for them.

At the time of the flood, we are told,

Genesis 8

¹ God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and *all the cat-*

tle that was with him in the ark.

He thought not only of Noah and his family, but He “remembered...the cattle” also which were just as much His.

And again, when Jonah was angry because the Lord did not destroy Nineveh as He had purposed to do, God reminded Jonah that there was “much cattle”⁶² in the city, as well as many thousand people. To His own people, the children of Israel, He gave special instructions about the treatment of their cattle.



“He sends the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills;
they give drink to every beast of the field.” Psalm 104:10-11

All these things show us with what loving care God thinks of His cattle, and we may be sure that He notices just how they are treated by those who have the care of them. God made man to...

Genesis 1

²⁶ ...have dominion...over the cattle,

–to rule them. That meant that he was to take care of them, to guide, protect, and feed them. God is the Ruler of the whole uni-

⁶² *Jonah* 4:11.

verse, and has dominion over all, because He has the power to supply all the needs of every creature.

If you have some animal pets, a kitten, a bird, or some rabbits, given to you for your own, you know that makes you responsible for them,—you must see that they are well supplied with the right kind of food, and kept comfortable and happy so far as it is in your power to make them so.

So when God gave to man the whole animal creation, He meant to use man as the channel through which He would supply all their needs, and keep them in a state of perfect happiness.

But oh, what a sad change sin has brought, and how man has fallen from his dominion! For now, instead of being the one through whom the needs of all other animals are supplied, he takes from them all to supply his own needs. He takes the wool from the sheep, the skin from the cattle, fur and hair from other animals, the shell from the tortoise, the ivory from the elephant, and even the feathers from the birds, to make clothes and ornaments for himself.

If he feeds any of the animals for a time it is only that he may use their strength to do his work, or at last *feed on them*, use their flesh for his own food. If you could see some of the terrible sights in the slaughter-houses, where thousands of God's creatures are slain, sometimes with unnecessary cruelty, to make food for man, you would see how sadly true is God's Word which tells us that...

Romans 8

²² The whole creation groans and travails in pain.

Think what terrible sufferings have been brought upon the animals through man's disobedience to God, and be sure that you do nothing to add to these groanings that go up to the ears of God; but be sorry for the sins that have made them suffer so, and do all in your power to relieve them. Always be kind to all the animals that you have anything to do with, and try to influence others to be the same.

God did not make the cattle *to be eaten*. He did not create them for our food, for He gave us...

Genesis 1

²⁹ ...every herb bearing seed,...and every tree in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed,

–to be our food. He made the cattle for His own pleasure for,

Revelation 4

¹¹ You have created all things, and for your pleasure they are, and were created.

He gave all living creatures to man to care for so that he might share in...

Nehemiah 8

¹⁰ ...the joy of the Lord,

–the pleasure that He feels in giving life and happiness.

Thank God that the time is coming when God's loving purpose will be fulfilled, when all creation's groans shall cease, when in the new earth man's dominion shall be restored. Then he shall again be king over the whole earth, not to...

Mark 10

⁴² ...exercise lordship...

–over God's creatures and make them his servants, but to be the one through whom God shall serve and give life and happiness to all His creatures in this earth.

21. The Birds of the Air

Present Truth, June 8, 1899

Original title: Little Folks. The Birds of the Air

THE Lord Jesus is teaching us precious lessons in everything that He has made, and He has especially told us to...

Matthew 6 [RV]

²⁶ Behold the birds!

In the Spring we learned how He is working to multiply them in the earth, how at this season the birds, taught by His Word which is working in them, build their wonderful little nests, and lay in them the eggs which develop into baby birds.

During the past month or two, the trees and bushes have held many of those tiny cradles full of dear little living creatures. You may have seen the happy parents flying home to their nests with food for their little ones, or hovering over them with anxious love and care, to see that all their needs were provided for.

The mother bird devotes herself entirely to her young ones. From the time that the eggs are laid she scarcely leaves the nest at all, except for a short “constitutional” each day for the good of her health, while the father bird takes her place on the nest. To “the queen of the air,” always on the wing, this must be a great sacrifice, but love makes it sweet, and these Spring seasons when her nest is full, are the happiest times in her life.





But now the time comes for the little ones to leave the nest, to try their little wings, and find their home in the air; for this is what God made the birds for,

Genesis 1

²⁰ ...to fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

The parent birds, you will see if you are able to watch them, seem to take great pride and pleasure in teaching the little ones to use their wings, encouraging them to make the first flight, and watching near to see that they do not get into danger.

God uses this to show His tender love and care for His children. He says:

Deuteronomy 32

¹¹ As an eagle stirs up her nest, flutters over her young, spreads abroad her wings, takes them, bears them on her wings,

—so He guides and teaches and keeps His people. When the young eaglets are weary, the mother bird flies down underneath them, and catching them on her own wings, carries them until they are able to fly again.

The wings of the young birds soon get strong, and their flights longer and longer, until by the early autumn they are ready to fly away with the rest, over seas and oceans, to other lands where they spend the winter.

Did you ever think as you have watched the free, graceful flight of the birds, what a wonderful and delightful experience it must be? Of all the creatures that God has made, the birds seem to have

the fullest and freest *life*. This is because they are the most filled with the air, which we have found to be the breath of God, His own life-giving Spirit. Read the article that follows this one on “The Flight of Birds,”⁶³ and you will see how their bodies are formed so that the air that enters their lungs is carried through the whole body, making them light, and buoyant and free,

2 Corinthians 3

¹⁷ Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

But God did not mean that any of its creatures should have any advantage over man; for He made him His own son, in His own image, to be above all, and to have dominion over all. He was to have dominion over the fowl of the air and the fish of the sea, as well as over the beasts of the earth. But in order to rule the “birds of the air,” he must have dominion over the air; and in order to rule “the fish of the sea,” he must have dominion over the water.⁶⁴ He must be more free in the air than the birds, and more free in the water than the fish and other creatures that God made to live there.

This is how God made man in the beginning, but through disobedience he lost the image of God in which he had been made, and so lost his liberty and his dominion—his kingdom. But when Jesus came to this earth as a man, He had the dominion over all things, because He had the perfect image of God. He was the Son of God, and in His life we can see what is...

Romans 8

²¹ ...the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

Jesus could walk upon the stormy waters just as easily as upon the dry land. He had dominion over the waters. And when there was...

Mark 4

³⁷ ...a great storm of wind,...

⁶³ See Appendix.

⁶⁴ *Genesis* 1:26.

³⁹ [Jesus] rebuked the wind,...and the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.



He had dominion over the air. Then after His resurrection, when the time had come for Him to return to the Father, He could rise right above the earth and ascend in the air with perfect freedom.

Dear children, if we now let Jesus come into our hearts, He will restore His own perfect image there, and make us indeed the children of God. Then when He comes, as He is soon to do, and it is clearly shown who have really become His children, we shall rise from the earth as He did, to “meet Him in the air.”⁶⁵ We shall be able to “soar to worlds unknown,”⁶⁶ even to the very throne of God, to be with Him for ever.

⁶⁵ 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

⁶⁶ Augustus Toplady, *Rock of Ages*, 1776.

22. All for Good

Present Truth, October 26, 1899

Original title: For Little Ones. All for Good

Romans 14

⁷ None of us lives unto himself.

THIS is what the Word of God tells us, and perhaps you will understand it better since reading in our last paper of how all things are but as links in one great chain, a part of the great plan of God.⁶⁷

You see that this is true, not of human beings only, but of all things in this wonderful universe. Even the tiny grains of sand that make up the dust of the ground, each is fulfilling its own part in this loving purpose, and no doubt has a far more wonderful work and history than anything that you can imagine.

Try to understand, in all the things that you see around you, their relation to all the other things with which they are connected,—to see just the place and work that God has given to them and how they are fitted for it, and you will be astonished and delighted as you learn more and more of His wonderful wisdom and greatness, who even numbers the hairs of our heads, and without whose knowledge not a sparrow falls.⁶⁸

You will see that all things do indeed “work together for good.”⁶⁹ Even, as we found last week when we were talking about volcanoes, those things which have come upon the earth as the result of sin, are the best thing for it in its present imperfect, state.

The animal creation preying and feeding upon each other as they now do,—God is overruling even this for good; for some

⁶⁷ PP Editor’s note: The article Waggoner is referring to is titled “An Endless Chain,” and is found in Volume 6 of this series on *The Everlasting Gospel for Children*, titled *The Book of Nature*.

⁶⁸ *Matthew* 10:29-30.

⁶⁹ *Romans* 8:28.

creatures now multiply so fast that they would become a plague and a nuisance if they were not kept down by other animals.



Think of the swarms of insects that would cover the ground if every insect egg became in time a perfect insect. Instead of this, most of them are eaten up by the birds when they are only tiny grubs. The butterflies alone lay so many eggs that the caterpillars which come from them would soon eat up every green thing if they were left undisturbed, and the autumn would bring no harvest,—no food for man or beast or insect. So they would even themselves be destroyed by their great number.

Suppose an insect lays fifty eggs (some lay a great many more than this) the fifty insects coming from them would bring forth a greatly increased number, and the third generation would probably be over a thousand! So you see that the destruction of even one insect is not an insignificant matter.

You have sometimes watched the spider at his work, and thought only of his cruelty and cunning, or perhaps admired the skill with which he weaves his snare. But you may never have thought how much *your* comfort depends upon his work; for if all the flies were left to multiply, there would soon be a swarm like

that which darkened the air of Egypt in the time of the fourth plague.

How useful, too, we find our cats to keep down the swarms of mice that would otherwise infest our houses. To show how all things, instead of living to themselves only, are “wheels within wheels”⁷⁰ on which the comfort and happiness, and even the life, of other things depend, the question has been asked,

“What relation is there between the pastoral interests (the work of feeding or grazing cattle) and the number of cats in a district?”

The cat is the great enemy of the field mouse, which in its turn is the enemy of the humble bee. This is the only insect that can fertilize the clover blossoms by carrying the pollen from one flower to another. So you see that the clover which feeds the sheep and cows, cannot flourish where there are no cats to destroy the mice which destroy the bees which fertilize the clover.

You will perhaps be able to trace out for yourselves some other links in this chain which is all about you. A well known naturalist recently told this little story of what happened when the ordinary course of nature was interfered with. Water cress is a favorite food of the caddis worms, but caddis worms are eagerly devoured by trout. The trout, in turn, have an enemy in the herons, which usually catch the fish *after* they have grown fat on caddis worms. It lately happened that a large grower of water-cress had three quarters of his crop destroyed by the caddis worms. It was found that trout which usually eat the caddis worm and thus save the water-cress, had been eaten up too soon,—before the time—by a flock of hungry herons, and the worms were left unmolested to destroy the water-cress.

As you go through this world you will see much to distress and pain you, for the results of sin are to be seen everywhere and...

James 1

¹⁵ ...sin when it is finished, brings forth death.

⁷⁰ *Ezekiel* 1:16.

So...

...you in this fair world
See some destroying principle abroad,
Earth, air, and water full of living things,
Each on the other preying...⁷¹

But remember always that the eye of love watches over all, the heart of love feels for all, and the hand of love is overruling all things for good, although you cannot understand *how* this can be. When...

Psalm 104

²¹ The young lions roar after their prey, [they] seek their meat from God;

—and He “hunts the prey” for them, and “fills the appetite of the young lions.”⁷² But He cares just as much for the creatures with which He feeds them, for...

Psalm 145

⁹ The Lord is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works.

Not over each species only, but over every single creature that His hands have formed, and we may be sure that He will do the best for each. He will permit nothing to happen to anything but what will be for His own glory, and...

His glory is His children’s good,
His joy, His tender fatherhood.⁷³

⁷¹ Robert Southey, *Autumn*.

⁷² *Job* 38:39.

⁷³ John Greenleaf Whittier, *All Things Are Thine*, 1872.

23. He Gives Snow

Present Truth, March 1, 1900⁷⁴

AS YOU have lately seen the pure white snow falling, and clothing the earth with a soft garment, you have no doubt been reminded of some of the beautiful words of Scripture concerning it.

Have you remembered that “He gives snow like wool?” This will teach you much about the snow: where it comes from; what produces it; and what is God’s purpose in giving it.

Notice first that it is God who gives both the snow and the wool; and He gives both in the same way, for...

Psalm 147

¹⁶ He gives snow *like* wool.

You know what it is that produces the snow. It is the cold, which causes the water to freeze into the tiny crystals that we see in the snow-flakes. God sends the cold, for it is...

Job 37

¹⁰ By the breath of the Lord frost is given.

Did you know that it is also the cold, which causes the wool to grow on the backs of the sheep? In very warm countries where there is no cold winter weather, the sheep have no wool, but long, silky hair coats instead. The colder the climate the thicker the wool grows; there is even a difference in the same sheep according to the severity of the winter; in very cold winters the wool grows thicker than in mild winters. The cold affects the skin in a way that causes the wool to grow more plentifully.

You will see in this the goodness and loving care of God for His creatures. For in cold weather the sheep of course need a thicker

⁷⁴ PP Editor’s note: In the *Advent Pioneer Library*, this article is mistakenly dated as March 1, 1899.

coat, and so God provides it for them by the very thing that makes them need it, the cold.



It is for just the same purpose that He sends the snow, to provide a warm garment for the earth to keep the ground from freezing and to save the seeds and plants from perishing. For when the cold is intense enough to injure these things it also affects the water, and causes the falling rain to crystallize into the snow that makes a warm coat for the ground and plants. So you see that the purpose of the wool and the snow are the same, and God gives both in the same way, by the cold which makes them necessary.

But not only the ground and the animals find in the effects of cold a protection from the cold. In our picture you will see how useful the snow is to the people who live in Arctic regions, for they do all their building with it in the winter. It is the warmest material that they can have to make their house of. They pack it into hard blocks, and shape these little round huts from it. Here they manage to keep warm and cozy all through the cold weather.



God gives to all His creatures exactly what they need in the circumstances in which He has placed them. He knows just the needs of all, and provides for them; for...

Psalms 145

⁹ The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

24. The Father's House

Present Truth, April 12, 1900

Original title: For Little Ones. The Father's House

MANY of you have no doubt noticed the sweet, merry songs of the birds, that are again filling the air with melody, as if to welcome the returning sunshine, and to help to awaken the spring flowers that are sleeping later than usual this year, because of the cold weather, which makes them keep tucked up in their warm winter wrappings for fear of being nipped by the frost.

The morning, as the daylight comes in, is the time when the bird songs seem the fullest and sweetest. And the springtime, which is the bright morning of the year, when the sun returns to waken nature from its long winter sleep, is the time when the birds burst out into their sweetest notes of joyous song.

Now of all times, when they are so happy and busy, building their nests and preparing for the summer's work of rearing their young ones, they seem to call the most attention to themselves, and we are most inclined to...

Matthew 6

²⁶ Behold the birds of the air,...

—and learn from these, His little messengers, the lessons that God would have them teach us. One of the things that Jesus tells us to notice about them is, that...

²⁶ ...your Heavenly Father feeds them.

Though they have neither storehouse nor barn, though they neither sow nor reap, and are not able to make any provision for themselves, yet they are not troubled and anxious about where the next meal is to come from.

Mr. Spurgeon tells of a little girl who lived in the city where she was accustomed to seeing birds kept in cages, and she must have thought that this was the natural and proper life for little birds. For when she was taken for the first time to the country, where

she saw the free birds flying in the air, and hiding among the branches of the trees, she said to her mother,

“O mamma, look at those poor little birds! they have not got any cages!”

The “poor little birds” would a great deal rather be without the cage, even though it might mean food and water always within sight. For though they are fortunate enough to have no cages, they do have a house, a large, free beautiful house.

Psalms 84

³ Yea, the sparrow has found a house, and the swallow nest for herself where she may lay her young, even your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.

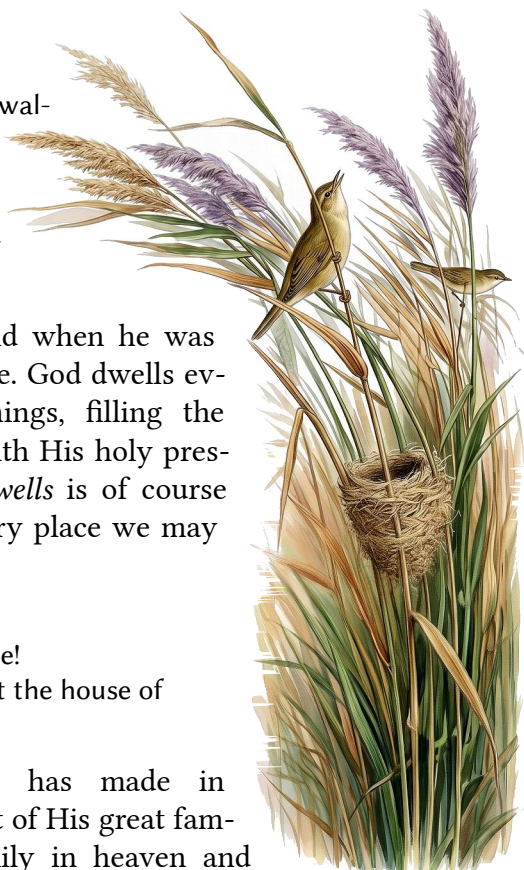
This is what David said when he was talking about God’s house. God dwells everywhere and in all things, filling the heavens and the earth with His holy presence.⁷⁵ Wherever God *dwells* is of course His house; and so of every place we may say like Jacob,

Genesis 28

¹⁶ The Lord is in this place!

¹⁷ ...this is none other but the house of God.

Everything that God has made in heaven and earth is a part of His great family; and “the whole family in heaven and earth”⁷⁶ dwells in “the Father’s house.” God’s dwelling place is the



⁷⁵ *Jeremiah 23:24.*

⁷⁶ *Ephesians 3:15.*

home of all His creatures; but it is such a large place, and we perhaps do not know more than our own little corner of it. We do not now understand and...

Ephesians 3

¹⁸ ...know the length and breadth, and depth and height.

Yet we may rest content and happy, knowing that we are in the Father's house, and that He is with us, caring for all our needs.

Like us, the birds are "the offspring of God,"⁷⁷ and they too dwell in His house, and are fed from His table.

Psalms 104

²⁷ These wait all upon You, that You may give them their meat in due season.

²⁸ That You give them, they gather.

Many of these little birds have seen more of "the Father's house" than you have; for they have been on a long, long journey over land and sea, since last we heard them sing in the autumn. When there was no food for them here, God guided them to another part of His house, where they would find plenty to eat through the winter. Now He has brought them back to sing to us through the summer, and to teach us this lesson among others:

Psalms 84

⁴ Happy are they that dwell in your house; they will be still praising You.

The songs of praise seem to well up from their light hearts, as though they had heard the words of Jesus, that "not one" of them shall fall without the Father's notice.⁷⁸

Matthew 6

²⁶ He feeds them.

So they have no care, for He cares for them.⁷⁹ And if for them,

⁷⁷ Acts 17:29.

⁷⁸ Luke 12:6; Matthew 10:29.

⁷⁹ 1 Peter 5:7.

how much more for you, who dwell also in His house, and are...

Matthew 10

³¹ ...of more value than many sparrows.

So we may learn from the birds that

His goodness stands approved,
Unchanged from day to day,

—and then like the birds we shall...

...drop our burdens at His feet
And bear *a song* away.⁸⁰



⁸⁰ Philip Doddridge, *How Gentle God's Commands*.

25. With the Birds

Present Truth, May 10, 1900

Original title: For Little Ones. With the Birds

WE DO not know what this world would be like to us if God had not made the birds to help to fill it with beauty, life, and song. Thinking of this someone has written these verses to show what a difference they make, and how much they add to our enjoyment:

Fair was the blue sky overhead,
Fair was the earth below;
Soft as an infant's breath, the wind
Went wandering to and fro.
The creeping grasses clad the earth
In garniture of green;
A summer day more fair, more sweet,
The earth has never seen.

Yet something still it seemed to lack
To satisfy my heart;
Lovely, but lifeless, as a thing
Created by some art.
But lo! I heard a gush of song,
The whirring of a wing,
And *into happy, joyous life*
*The whole world seemed to spring.*⁸¹

Think of the awful silence of the world on that third day of time when the voice of God called forth from the earth the trees, plants, flowers, that clothed it with verdure and beauty. No song among the branches, no flutter of a wing, nor even the buzz of insects among the flowers.

But the earth that God had made so beautiful,

Isaiah 45

¹⁸ He created not in vain; He formed it to be inhabited.

⁸¹ Anon.

And so He spoke again, and the same Word that was the seed of all the plant life of the earth also gave birth to myriads of living creatures to enjoy it.



First came the birds, to break the dread silence, and to wake into happy, joyous life the whole beautiful world. Have you ever thought that every little bird you see had, like yourself, its first parent in Paradise? For all the kinds of birds that God has ever made to live in this earth were brought forth at that time.

A gentleman who lately visited the South of France and enjoyed the bright sunshine, the beautiful scenery and flowers of that lovely clime, yet noticed particularly that there was no music,—the dear little song birds of our own land were missing. This is because so many of these tiny helpless creatures have been killed and used as food for man, that the few that are left are very timid and hide themselves at the approach of a human being.

If we could have been with Adam and Eve in Eden, and seen the birds of paradise, we could have learned easily much more than can now be found out about them with a great deal of trouble. For their beautiful nests are now as much hidden as possible for fear of other birds, animals, thoughtless little children, careless

and cruel persons, who might steal their eggs or hurt their nestlings.

They usually find a sheltered nook where their nests are the least likely to be found, and they are very much afraid if anyone comes too near.



But by and by, in the happy time when “they shall not hurt nor destroy”⁸² in all the glad new earth for which we look, according to God’s promise, the birds will not, through fear, try to hide themselves or their young ones from us. We shall then be able to watch them at work and learn all that we want to without making them afraid.

⁸² *Isaiah* 11:9.

A good way to go “birds’ nesting” is to take a Kodak if possible, and get a “snapshot” at all the nests you can find. In this way you can carry away nest and eggs and even the young birds, without causing any loss of life, or filling the breasts of the parent birds with anguish. And the pictures will give you just as much pleasure as the nests or eggs themselves, without causing any pangs of remorse or prickings of conscience.

Farmers, sportsmen, bird-catchers and others catch or kill the birds for various reasons. Where there are the most people there are usually the fewest birds. But in lands where there are very few people the birds are much more numerous. By visiting them in their native haunts and carefully watching them, a great deal has been found out about them.

No doubt you know more or less about the birds at home, the soaring lark, sweet-singing thrush and blackbird, homely robin, swallow, cuckoo, nightingale and others whose recent return tells us that summer is coming. So we will call upon a few of the birds that never come to visit us in this country, and take a peep into their nurseries.



26. Some Interesting Nests

Present Truth, May 10, 1900

HERE is a tiny nest not much larger than a big thimble. It is covered with little patches of lichen that make it look at first sight like a part of the branch to which it is fastened with the threads of a spider's web.

If you take a peek inside, you will see nestling in the soft cotton that lines the nest, some wee fledglings about the size of the Blue-bottle fly. These came from tiny eggs the larger than a pea.

But you are wondering what very small bird can have built so tiny and elegant a nest. If we stand a little distance from the nest so as not to alarm the little mother, we shall be able to see her when she returns.



Here she comes; but she is so tiny, and darts so quickly through the air, that we should hardly see her if it were not for her brilliant plumage. This makes her look like “a winged jewel,” a flying gem, “glowing with all the colors of the rainbow, or the glories of the setting sun.” She is not much larger than a bumble-bee, and I expect from her size, beauty, and the sound made by the rapid

motion of her wings, you have recognized the beautiful little Humming bird, smallest of all the feathered tribe.

This little mother does not fly straight to her nest, for she wishes to keep it secret. She rises high in the air, and then suddenly darts like a flash of lightning down among the branch is quicker than the eye can follow her, and is quietly feeding her babies with the honey and insects she has been gathering for them, while if we did not know just where the nest was, we should be wondering which way she had gone.

The most brilliant of all the kinds of Humming bird is called the Fiery Topaz, because of its glittering scarlet and crimson colors. Another is the Ruby throated Hummingbird bird, because the breast-feathers which gleamed like burnished metal, glow with tints of ruby and orange. These birds are found mostly in South America.

Our next visit is to a bird of quite a different size and character, which is found on the borders of the rivers and lakes in Africa and parts of Asia. You would hardly think, would you, that that tall hillock of sand could be a nest? But if you examine the top of it, you'll find a hollow with two eggs inside as large as goose eggs.

We may be sure that the mother will not be long absent; but if you have been to the Zoological Gardens in London, you have already seen the kind of bird to which this strange nest belongs. For you have surely notice the beautiful rose-colored flamingos, whose long legs and necks make them as tall as a tall man.

When these bright-colored birds are standing still on the green margin of some stream, they look almost like large, brilliant tropical flowers growing on tall, slender stalks. When they fly, the black quills of their wings are seen, in contrast with the flaming red feathers from which they get their name. As they always go in companies, and form themselves into "a fiery triangle" when they fly, they are a very remarkable sight.

Now that you have seen the mother bird, you will understand why the nest is built so high. It is so that the long-legged bird can sit on it without difficulty, when hatching the eggs.



Here is a large thatched dwelling, hanging from the branch of a tree, large enough to hold five or six men. It looks as though some people who are afraid of wild beasts; among the African jungles have built their house among the trees to escape from them.

But if you look at the bottom of this strange building, you will see that it is full of small round holes, just large enough to admit the body of a bird. Here, then, we have not one nest, but a whole "bird city," where hundreds of birds live together for greater safety.

We might wonder how each can know its own home, among so many that look just alike, but they seem to have no more trouble than we have to find our own house among the multitudes of a large city.

The building is made of strong "Bushman's grass," and it is hung from a branch of the "Giraffe Thorn." This has very hard wood, and so can bear the weight of the structure. Its stem is also very smooth and polished, which makes it hard to climb, and so presents the friendly visits of animals who would like an egg or a young bird for breakfast.

We have been looking at the home of the Sociable Weaver bird. As these birds never brood twice in the same nest, they keep adding to the size of their building, until its weight causes it to fall. But as this usually happens in the rainy season, when the wet adds to its weight, and the brooding season is then over, no damage is done to the birds.

Some kinds of the Weaver bird build their nests singly. Those who do this choose always the end of a small branch or twig, and they are careful to hang the nest over the water, not far from the surface.

Then the mischievous monkey, or any other animal, that is too inquisitive is sure to get a ducking, for his weight draws down the branch and lets him into the water, while all the Weaver birds in the neighborhood scold and peck at him.

The next cradle that we are going to examine is one that rocks! It is hung from a branch of the Tulip tree of South America in such a way that it is caught by the breeze and gently swayed to and fro.

This is not, as you might suppose, to soothe the restless little baby birds and send them to sleep. It seems to be rather to keep away intruders, for the slender branch will not bear much weight; and it also helps to keep the nest cool in this hot climate.

The mother knows that the heat would make the little ones uncomfortable, so she hung the nest to catch the cool north-east breeze, and also made it so loosely that the air can get through. When the same kind of bird, the Oriole, builds among the elms of North America, where it is not so hot, she is careful to line her nest with warm down, and hang it so that it gets the warm south wind instead of the cool north-east.

When she makes her home in the Tulip tree, the Oriole does not have to go far for her food, for on the leaves and flowers of this tree she finds the caterpillars and beetles that are her chief food.

Most of you have most likely heard of the skillful little Tailor bird of Hindostan, and its beautiful nest.⁸³ But it is so wonderful that we must take just one look. You will notice that the nest is in a little case, made of a leaf with the edges drawn together and sewn up with the strong fiber of some plan.

The bird uses its bill to pierce the holes through which it threads the fiber that binds the edges together. The inside of this small hollow is lined with soft down, and the nest is ready. Hanging among the other leaves of the tree it is scarcely seen, and is “safe from the attacks of almost every foe save man.”

⁸³ For an illustration, see chapter 13: *Greater Lessons by Humble Masters*.

27. Feathered Ventriloquists

Present Truth, June 7, 1900

Original title: Our Feathered Friends. Feathered Ventriloquists

MANY birds form their sounds without opening their bills. The pigeon is a well-known instance of this. Its cooing can be distinctly heard, though it does not open its bill. The call is formed internally in the throat and chest, and is only rendered audible by resonance.



Similar ways may be observed in many birds other animals. The clear, loud call of the cuckoo, according to one naturalist, is the resonance of a note formed in the bird. The whirring of the snipe, which betrays the approach of the bird to the hunter, is an act of ventriloquism. Even the nightingale has certain notes which are produced internally, and which are audible while the bill is closed.

28. Sense of Beauty in Birds

Present Truth, June 13, 1901

Original title: Our Feathered Friends. Sense of Beauty in Birds

THE more we study the works of God, the more we become convinced that He has made nothing without a purpose.

Ecclesiastes 3

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time,

—and it is evident that all beauty is not solely for man's pleasure, but that birds, at least, have as keen an eye for beauty as man has. The nearer we come to God, and the better acquainted we become with Him, the more we realize the fact that, as the offspring of God, we have kinship with all creation. Then we shall no longer look upon the creatures less highly endowed than we, as formed to be servants to man, or to be served up in dainty dishes to tickle his palate, but as companions, and even as teachers.

Job 12

⁷ But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach you; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell you:

⁸ Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach you: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto you.

⁹ Who knows not in all these that the hand of the Lord has wrought this?

¹⁰ In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

God has given them the same sensibilities and the same emotions that He has to us, only in smaller degree, and, considering their limitations, they often reveal His working in a more marked manner than men do. Among the creatures that rival human beings in the love of adornment, are the Bower Birds of Australia, so-called because their nests are veritable arbors, as seen in the picture. The following description is from *Chambers's Journal*.⁸⁴

⁸⁴ *Chambers's Journal*, Dec. 29, 1894, "Feeling of Beauty in Animals."



Bower Birds

At the courting season, beautiful and curious objects are collected together in these bowers, which are often elaborate structures, and built upon the ground, the nests being in trees. The whole account reads somewhat like a description of the crockery, bead, and tinsel houses which rustic children spread out for themselves on a dry grassy knoll on a pleasant summer day.

One of these Bower Birds takes most readily to the arranging and re-arranging of brightly colored feathers, bleached bones, and shells. Another likes to carry round atones, even from a great

distance, and assort them with shells. A third species makes use of blackberries, fresh leaves, and pink buds.

At the courting season the males dance through their glittering halls, exhibiting the most grotesque antics. In an aviary in Now South Wales the male would sometimes chase the female, picking up a gay feather or large leaf, and uttering a low whistling note.

The Great Bower Bird has been seen amusing itself flying backwards and forwards, taking a shell alternately from each side, and carrying it through the archway in its bill. The bower of the fawn-breasted species is raised on a platform of sticks, and is nearly four feet in length. The quantity of gay objects in all cases surprises the observer.

Since the habits of the Australian Bower Birds have been narrated, Dr. Beccari, an Italian traveler, has described a new one, which he found in New Guinea, called the Gardener Bower Bird. This bird chooses a flat surface beside a small tree, round the trunk of which it builds a conical hut nearly three feet in diameter at the base. The hut is formed of the twigs of a parasitical hanging orchid, whose leaves, keeping fresh for a long time, add to the beauty of the bower.

Within the hut, a quantity of moss is arranged round the trunk of the tree. There is a meadow of moss, weeded of grass and stones, and kept scrupulously clean, before the cottage door. Gay flowers, glossy fruit, fungi as well as bright insects, captured and killed, are placed on this green turf so as to form a pretty garden. Hence the bird's name of "gardener," which is also its native name. When the objects fade, they are removed out of sight, and fresh ones supplied.

The Hammerhead

Mr. Layard's description of the Hammerkop, literally, Hammerhead, also named the Umbrette, is equally interesting. Specimens, of late, have been occasionally secured for our Zoological Gardens. It is somewhat like a heron or stork, has a melancholy gait, lives on fish and frogs, and is considered in Africa a bird of evil omen. It is found in Cape Colony, some other parts of Africa, and in Madagascar. Under its quiet appearance, it nourishes aesthetic tastes. When it casts off its sober demeanor; it indulges in a fan-

tastic dance. In a state of nature, two or three join in the dance, skipping round each other, opening and closing their wings. They breed on trees or on rocky ledges, forming a huge structure of sticks. These nests are so solid that they will bear the weight of a heavy man on the domed roof without collapsing. The entrance is a small hole, placed in the least accessible side.

In a lonely rocky glen, Mr. Layard once counted half-a-dozen of their nests, some almost inaccessibly placed on ledges of rocks. One nest contained at least a large cart-load of sticks. They occupy the same nest year after year, repairing it as required. The female is credited with the joiner-work, and the male is the decorator. On the platform outside the inner portion he spreads out all kinds of objects of *vertu*,⁸⁵ brass and bone buttons, bits of crockery, and bleached bones.

If a knife, pin, or tinder-box were lost within some miles, the loser made a point of examining the Hammezkops' nests. Indeed, were it not that hyenas, leopards, and jackals ranged in their vicinity, it is highly probable man's curiosity or resentment would have often extirpated these interesting artists, or at least destroyed habits founded on leisure and immunity from persecution.

After such well-authenticated instances of birds showing a taste for ornament, one is less credulous of the statement that the Baya Bird of Asia decorates its elaborately constructed nest with fireflies, much as the Creoles in the West Indies adorn their hair with them for a dance or assembly.

We have the high authority of Mr. Gould for the fact that certain hummingbirds decorate the outside of their nests with the utmost taste, fastening thereon beautiful pieces of flat lichen, the larger pieces in the middle, and now and then a pretty feather, intertwined or fastened to the outer sides, always so placed that the feather stands out beyond the surface.

The nest of our long-tailed titmouse, which some authorities tell us is a variety peculiar to the British Isles, combines beauty of appearance with security and warmth. A favorite building-place

⁸⁵ Or, *virtu*: small, rare, or antique decorative items that display fine craftsmanship and skill.

is in the midst of a clump of almost inaccessible black-thorns. The outside of the nest sparkles with silver-colored lichens adhering to a firm texture of mass and wool. The female is known to be the nest-maker, and it takes her nearly three weeks to complete her habitation.

Personal Adornment

Into the question of the personal beauty of birds, insects, etc., we have not space to enter. One fact is rather striking—namely, that these ornaments seem as if they were meant for display. They are either found on conspicuous parts, or on parts that can easily be rendered conspicuous at the will of the animal. We never find the colors which adorn the crests, the eyes, the necks, and the tails of birds hid away, for instance, on the under part of the wing, where they cannot be readily noticed. Indeed, as Mr. Poulton has pointed out, the wings of these species of humming-birds and insects which vibrate so rapidly that they are invisible, lack ornament, whereas the slower-moving wings of many insects and birds retain it.

On the other hand, almost all night-birds are either white or very somber. Brilliant birds have the habit of congregating and waltzing, dancing, or displaying their charms. Plain birds flit into the bush, or, if they charm each other, they betake themselves to song.

Our most beautiful domesticated bird, the peacock, is so vain that its shadow on a glass door or a polished stone, or the presence of a dog in the court, is sufficient to induce it to show off.

Were it not that the magpie is so much persecuted, its taste for collecting bright objects would be more marked, as also its remarkable gatherings known as “magpie marriages.” Indeed, as if to make the analogy between human and animal dandies more complete, birds always have on their finest plumes at the courting season.

Physiologists inform us that the eyes of birds are constructed so as to enable them readily to discern every shade of color. We may now consider that it was somewhat rash in the poet to tell us that flowers were ever born to blush unseen, or thoroughly waste their fragrance, since it is well known that color and fra-

grance are as advertisements to insects that sip the nectar or make use of the pollen of the flowers, and, by their visits, assist in cross-fertilization.

It is more pleasant to believe that birds enjoy their own songs, are each delighted with the other's beauty, and take a pride in personal appearance, than to regard them as dull and apathetic to those amenities interwoven with the sweetness and grace of life.

Job 39

¹³ Did you give the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?

²⁶ Does the hawk fly by your wisdom, and stretch her wings toward the south?

²⁷ Does the eagle mount up at your command, and make her nest on high?

²⁸ She dwells and abides on the rock, upon the crag of the rack, and the strong place.

Matthew 6

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them.



29. He Loved Animals

Present Truth, January 16, 1902

CHARLES KINGSLEY'S love for everything that had life was remarkable. He spoke of all living creatures as his friends, and saw in them the handiwork of God. On his lawn lived a family of natter-jacks (running toads) that dwelt from year to year in the same hole in a green bank which a scythe was never allowed to approach.

He had two little friends in a pair of sand-wasps that made their home in a crack of the window-frame in his dressing-room. One of these he had saved from drowning in a hand-basin, taking it tenderly out into the sunshine to dry. Every Spring he would look eagerly for this pair of wasps or their children, watching for them to come out from, or return to, the same crack.

The little fly-catcher that built its nest every year under his bedroom window was a constant joy to him. He had also a favorite slow-worm in the churchyard, which his parishioners were warned not to kill under the mistaken idea that slow-worms were poisonous.

The same love for God's creatures was encouraged in his children. He taught them to admire and to handle gently every living thing. Toads, frogs, beetles and worms were to them not repulsive things, to be killed as soon as seen, but wonders from the hand of God.

30. The Butcher Bird

Present Truth, March 27, 1902

DID you ever hear of the “Butcher Bird”? And do you know how he got his strange name? It is because he keeps a larder in which he hangs up the bodies of his victims, and keeps them until he is ready to feed on them. Perhaps you are wondering how he fastens them up. He makes his nest on a tree having sharp thorns,—often a hawthorn—and he sticks his prey on the thorns.

If in your ramble through the woods you should come upon the horrid sight of bees and beetles, birds and mice or other small animals stuck upon the thorns of such a tree, you will know that you are near the nest of a butcher bird, and are looking at his larder.

I lately saw the picture of one which contained some bumblebees and large beetles; the body of a fledgling larks that the wicked bird had stolen from its mother’s nest; while the Butcher bird’s wife was just hanging up the body of a dear little harvest mouse,—smallest and prettiest of British quadrupeds.



It was truly a gruesome picture; but the worst of it was that these poor creatures have all been hung up alive! For the Butcher bird likes his meat fresh, and he knows that if he kills his victims their bodies will decay. So they are left to suffer the agonies of a slow death by crucifixion upon the thorn tree.

It is terrible to think of the sufferings of these poor little creatures; but we cannot blame the bird. Though God in the beginning

made all things “very good,”⁸⁶ the instincts of many have been so changed by the curse of sin that has come into the world, that they do not know of any better way of getting their food than in this barbarous fashion.

Although God has provided an abundance of good, wholesome food that can be had without the practice of the cruelty, or the taking of life, yet human beings, like the Butcher bird, kill and eat their fellow-creatures, thinking it to be necessary for their own life. And often a great deal of needless suffering is inflicted on the helpless victims. Fish and eels are skinned alive, lobsters cast all live in the boiling water, to give them a good color, live worms fastened to fish-hooks as bait for fish that they also may be hooked alive.

And besides those animals that are used for food, many more are treated with horrible cruelty for the sake of clothing or ornament. Fur-bearing animals, and birds of beautiful plumage, are captured or shot, and the tortoise robbed of its protecting shell, which is torn from the back of the living creature. And worse than all, there are those that are hunted only for “sport”—shot in order to give men a chance to try their skill.

You think all this is very sad and cruel; and it is. But grown-up people are not the only ones to do these things. Have you not seen a thoughtless little boy try his skill in throwing stones at the birds, or shooting at them with his catapult? And even little girls join in the chase after butterflies, which if caught are sometimes fastened up alive! in much the same way that the Butcher bird fastens up his victims, but without the same excuse for the action. For the butterflies are wanted only that their beautiful colors and the stripes and markings of their wings may be shown to admiring friends.

Our picture will give you a little idea of what it would be like if the tables were turned—if you should be caught in a great net instead of the butterfly. Suppose some such giant creature should

⁸⁶ *Genesis* 1:31.

stick a sharp instrument through your quivering body, and hold you down through the lingering agonies of a slow death, that he might be able to show your blue eyes, rosy cheeks, pearly teeth, penciled eyebrows, shell-like ears, and sunny curls to his neighbors and friends,—how do you think you would like it?



How would you like it?

31. The Strength of Helplessness, or The Wisdom of Obedience

Present Truth, May 29, 1902

Original title: The Animal World. The Strength of Helplessness, or The Wisdom of Obedience

THAT inimitable delineator of animal real life, Mr. Ernest Seton-Thompson, seems to excel in describing the growth and development of the young under the instruction of their parents; and from his fascinating stories the thoughtful reader can draw many valuable and impressive lessons.

On nothing does he lay more stress, then the absolute necessity of obedience, and the advantage that the young animal has, that most promptly and closely heed every warning given by those whose experience has taught them how to escape from threaten dangers.

In his story, and *The Lives of the Hunted*, of “Krag the Kootenay Ram,” a famous Rocky Mountain sheep that for years was the leader of a band that succeeded in escaping the hunter’s rifle, there is the following striking paragraph:

For a young animal there is no better gift than obedience. It is obedience to the mother that gives him the benefit of all his mother’s experience without the risk of getting it. Courage is good; speed and strength are good; but his best courage, speed, and strength are far below those of his mother, and they are at his service to the uttermost, if he will obey. Brains are all-powerful; but among very young Bighorn sheep, at least, an obedient fool is far better off than the wisest headstrong lamb that ever breathed the breath of life.

Every word of this is applicable to a young child as to a wild, Rocky Mountain lamb. Children are apt to think that obedience is bondage, and to long for the time when they can be free from parental control, forgetting or not knowing that obedience is life, liberty, and wisdom. It is well to remember this truth so well

stated by Mr. Thompson, that by obedience the young child becomes possessed of all its parents' experience, without the hardship and trouble of going through it.

And all this that applies so well to children in relation to their parents, is equally applicable to people as long as they live, in their relation to our Heavenly Father.

Psalms 111

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do His commandments.

The words of the Lord...

Proverbs 4

²² ...are life unto those that find them; and health to all their flesh.

We can never hope to understand all...

Job 37

¹⁶ ...the wondrous works of Him which is perfect in knowledge;

—we cannot even know what is just before us, and we know not the dangers that beset us, even if knowing them would enable us to escape them; but by heeding...

Matthew 4

⁴ ...every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God,

—we shall ensure our lives. The man whose delight is in the law of the Lord, shall be...

Psalms 1

³ ...like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he does shall prosper.

For the perfectly obedient soul there are such “treasures of wisdom and knowledge”⁸⁷ as all the schoolmen of earth have never dreamed of. Of the statutes and judgments of God, it is said to us,

⁸⁷ *Colossians 2:3.*

Deuteronomy 4

⁶ Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

There is another interesting lesson to be drawn from animal life, which is the necessary complement of the foregoing. This lesson is from the ant, from which we may learn wisdom in more than one direction. Darwin said that considering its size, the brain of an ant was perhaps...

...the most marvelous piece of matter in the whole universe.

This, of course, is only “perhaps;” but, without making comparisons, every observer must be struck with a high intelligence exhibited by these tiny creatures; and the lesson for us lies in the fact that for this intelligence they are indebted to their helplessness.

The young ant is a very helpless creature.

It takes the insects three or four weeks, in the pupa form, to develop into full-grown ant; and even when they have finished, they are as helpless as babes, and could not escape from the cocoon but for the kind offices of the worker attendants.

Sir John Lubbock:

It is pretty to see the older ants helping them to extricate themselves, carefully unfolding the legs and smoothing out the wings with truly feminine tenderness and delicacy.

And here comes the lesson, which is thus stated by Grant Allen:

This utter helplessness of the young ant is very interesting for comparison with the case of man; for it is now known that nothing conduces to the final intellectual and moral supremacy of a race so much as the need for attending and carefully guarding the young; the more complete the dependence of the offspring upon their elders, the finer and higher the ultimate development.

We have seen that obedience means wisdom; and it is evident that helplessness means dependence, and that is, of course, obedience; and so the one who most recognizes his helplessness, and his absolute dependence on God, will receive the most Divine wisdom. A little child is the most helpless of all creatures, and for the longest period of time; hence the responsibility of its greater development. But in order that the child may receive the full benefit of its dependence it is manifestly necessary that its parents be filled with wisdom to impart to it. And to this into end, it is necessary that they remember that to God they themselves are but little children, to be carried in His arms.



Only as parents consciously occupy this relation to God, can they stand in the place of God to their children. But with their relation recognized and maintained, what infinite possibilities open up before the children of men. By taking Christ as literally the life of our bodies, we become sons of God, and since...

Colossians 2

³ In [Him] are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,

–it is evident that all His wisdom is at our disposal.

1 Corinthians 1

³⁰ [Christ is] made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

Nestling in the everlasting arms of the eternal, all-wise God, drawing our life from His bosom, His Spirit makes us know “the deep things of God;”⁸⁸ and this wisdom, hidden from the wise in their own conceits,⁸⁹ is revealed unto babes.

1 Corinthians 3

¹⁸ If any man among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

And...

Colossians 3

¹⁶ Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.



⁸⁸ 1 Corinthians 2:10.

⁸⁹ Romans 12:16.

32. The Brooding Spirit

Present Truth, January 22, 1903

Original title: Little Folks (article title was not given)

HOW can an egg turn into a chicken? You have eaten many eggs, but you never saw anything in them that looked like a chicken. And you have seen a raw egg broken open, but found nothing inside but white and yellow liquid.

Yet if that egg had been left for the hen to sit on, in a few days you might have heard a little “peep,” and a faint, tap. Soon after, out would have come a little fluffy ball of yellow down, with legs and a beak, and a pair of bright, beady eyes,—a perfect little chick. A miracle! Yes, surely.



This whole world was once “without form.” It was a watery mass, and no dry land could be seen. But the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, and brooded over them as a bird hovers and broods over her nest.

Then forth came this beautiful earth. The dry land was covered with grass and flowers, where ants, bees, butterflies, and a countless host of other insects live and work and play. There were blossoming fruit trees with birds singing among the branches. In the woods and meadows were all kinds of animals, from the huge ele-

phant to the tiny field mouse. The seas swarmed with living creatures, fish and water animals. That which did all these wonders was the Spirit of the living God.



Nothing but the power that made the world out of that shapeless mass, can make a chicken out of an egg. It can be done only by the Spirit of God. He has never left the world, but is still working, forming and keeping all the things that are made.

33. About Birds

Present Truth, May 14, 1903

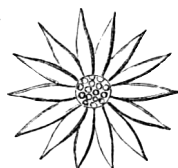
Original title: For the Children. About Birds

NATURE is a book that the Heavenly Father has made for His earth born children. It is to teach us of His wisdom, His power, and His love. As we study this book we see how wonderfully each thing is fitted for the place God meant for it. The Bible says that the one who says there is no God is a fool,⁹⁰ because all around him is God's workmanship, the signs of His eternal power and Godhead.⁹¹

Here are some facts about birds and other creatures that help to show us this. They are taken from a little book called *What Is a Bird?*

Birds occupy an important and distinct place in the world; but before we enter upon their particular histories, let us notice the formations of a few other animals, that we may the better understand the exquisite skill with which birds have been fitted for their place, and in what way their peculiar bodies have been linked, in their general characters, to the rest of the living creatures on earth. First then let us notice some of the varied forms to be seen in the mouths of animals.

Those creatures which possess but a small quantity of life, such as corals and star-fishes, have their mouths placed in the center of their arms or moving powers, something as the yellow summit of a daisy is placed in the middle of its white florets.



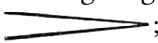
The mouths of insects are refurnished with a variety of instruments, by which they are able to hew, cut, pierce, smooth down, and crunch. In other instances they are supplied with pliable sucker trunks, such as the fly possesses.

⁹⁰ *Psalm* 14:1.

⁹¹ *Romans* 1:20.

Higher animals have an opening in the bones of the head, protected by soft lips; and the two jaws within the mouth are furnished with hard enameled teeth; but a bird's mouth is unlike any of these; it stands forward as a horny tube, more or less ending in a point. This pointed beak acts for the bird like the front teeth in the higher orders of animals; it seizes hold of, and cracks the food; while the gizzard inside the bird's body, answers the purpose which double teeth serve in other animals, that of rubbing the food to a pulp.

When we consider the life a bird is intended to lead, that is, to be continually darting through the liquid air, often at the rate of fifty miles an hour, can you imagine any form of head better suited for the use of such a creature? When men prepare a wedge to drive into wood, they make the end thin, that it may glide easily between the opening sides: an awl is made fine at the point, that it may pierce quickly.

Now the bird's pointed beak opens for its body just such a passage in the air, and so sensible are birds of the benefit of a point in pushing forwards, that you may often observe that sea-gulls and other birds, when taking long flights, form themselves into the shape of a wedge ; and because the one that first cuts the track has the hardest work, they often change places, the last coming up to take the foremost point, whilst the previous leader falls back.

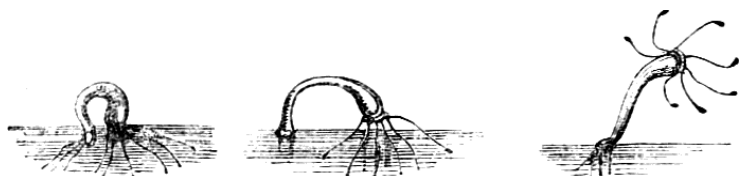
The wings of a bird again are unlike those of any other flying creatures. One species of fish is said to fly, but it is only so long as the fins of those fishes are wet, that they can rise above the waters. Bats fly, and insects fly, but none of these creatures move with the powerful actions of the bird. The delicate thin wings of an insect are formed of air-tubes covered with skins so fine, that strong winds break them to pieces. The wings of birds, on the contrary, are thick and firm, and without injuring them, the bird can dash on through severe storms, flapping forcibly against the air, as the paddles of a steamship flap against water.

The bones in the wings of birds are remarkably strong. The muscles that move them are very tough, and the feathers that cover their wings are of the stiffest kind. The delicate wings of an insect are flat on the air; the firm wings of the bird bend over the

air, something as the concave top of a watch-glass; by having this form, the air underneath assists in buoying them up.

Birds and insects both fly, but as you know, their bodies are by no means fashioned alike. Birds approach much nearer in form and in nature to four-footed beasts. They have flesh, blood, and bones, which flies and beetles have not. They have, like quadrupeds, four limbs for motion, while the lowest number among insects is six and eight. But on looking at a bird, you will see that in its body, the situation the quadruped's two front legs take, is changed in that of the bird; for, to enable the creature to glide through the air, its front limbs are made to strike out horizontally from the sides, while its two hind legs are left in a perpendicular position, to serve for pillars of support, whenever the winged creature alights on the ground.

Again, the feet of birds are unlike those of all other animals. Among the lowest animals, the hydra in our ditches, which looks like a piece of green stalk, walks by its sucker tail, drawing it up to its head, then stretching it forth, and again bringing the tail



close up; and thus the hydra contrives to creep on at the rate of a few inches or feet in a day. Worms glide over the ground by shortening the muscles that lie between the rings in their bodies; and some have bunches of hair on the outside of each ring, to give them additional help in moving. Crabs sidle and scrape with their eight legs along the wet sands, whilst lobsters spring and crawl.

The legs of Insects are finished off at their tips with either pads, cushions, hairs, or suckers. The four legs of beasts end in fleshy feet, that are either covered with horny hoofs, or tipped with toes and sharp claws. Man, like the bird, is a biped, or two-legged animal; his legs are long, fleshy, muscular, and end in flat feet with ten toes. The feet of birds differ from all those we have named; they are simply composed of a few thin toes, formed of bones, muscles, and skin; the shapes of their toes are, however, much

varied; and it is interesting to notice how admirably their wide-spreading feet are adapted to the habits of their owners, whether it be to enable them to stand, hop, walk, roost, climb, or swim.

Insects have no jointed neck; quadrupeds and birds have. Did you ever notice how closely the head of a sparrow appears to lie upon its shoulders, almost as if it had no neck? It is true that the sparrow has but a short one, but notwithstanding that, it has nine delicate little bones in its short length, which play and roll upon each other with such ease, that the bird can move its head with a rapidity our eyes cannot follow. The length of neck in birds, as you must have seen, greatly varies. In the arched neck of the stately swan, are twenty-three beautifully rolling joints. Most birds have not half that number; yet all their necks move with a quickness that shows that their Maker planned that birds should both require and enjoy rapidity of action in the movements of the head.

Wood-peckers tap upon wood for insects; and such birds as herons and bitterns, strike into water for fish, with quickness that prevents our counting the strokes. A bird is ever bobbing its head forwards, sideways, and backwards, railing it in every direction, looking up in the air, down on the ground, burying it under the wing, or laying it flat on its back.

The human finger performs a great variety of work, but its movements are few compared to those of a bird's bill, most of which depend upon the quick and changing actions of the neck.

Appendix: The Flight of Birds

Present Truth, June 8, 1899

By Dr. Newton

Note: This article was referred to in article 21, The Birds of the Air.

THE body of a bird is made very light. The bones are all made hollow. They are as light, and yet as strong, as it is possible to make them.

And then, to make them lighter still, God has arranged it so that the air passes into all the bones in a bird's body. This is the case down even to the small bones of the toes, to the quills of the feathers, and the tips of the wings.

And then, besides the air in the bones of a bird, there are sacs or cells for containing air in different parts of the body. These are all connected with the lungs by which the bird breathes. Through these it controls them, and can fill them and empty them just as it pleases. And when these bones and bags are all filled with air, the body of a bird is ready to rise and sail away like a balloon full of gas. It floats in the air almost as easily as a piece of cork floats on the water.

We sometimes see sea-gulls and other birds of considerable size sailing about, with their outspread wings, and seeming to be as much at their ease as a baby is when rocked in its cradle. The condor of the Andes is one of the largest birds we know of, and yet its body is made so light by the air it carries in it, that it can sail about for hours without ever once flapping its wings.

The frigate-bird is another very large bird. Sometimes its wings, when spread out, measure fifteen feet from one end to the other. And yet these birds are often seen by our sailors, out at sea, a thousand miles from land. They seldom go ashore for anything but to lay their eggs. They scarcely ever rest on the water. The air is their home. They live, and move, and have their being there. They eat, and drink, and work, and play, and rest, and sleep, while

sailing about on their broad, outspread wings. How nicely balanced their bodies must be to enable them to do this!

Some birds fly very fast, and very far; and it would be impossible for them to do this unless their bodies were made both very light and very strong. Thirty miles an hour is reckoned very slow for a bird. The swallow is said to fly at the rate of ninety miles an hour, and the hawk a hundred and fifty miles an hour. Some birds migrate, or travel from one country to another every year. When winter comes they go to a warmer country, and when spring returns they come back again.



