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## OUR LESSER BROTHERS.

(DIARY LEAVES.)

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IN China it was considered especial good fortune to be devoured by a tiger.

There is narrated a remarkable method of hunting the lion in Africa. The king of the desert having been tracked down, the hunters go out after him without guns but with a large pack of small vociferous dogs.

Hidden in the brush, the lion endures the clamour for some time, but at last among the branches begins to appear his menacing paw. The experienced hunter then says: "Now he's going to jump," and sure enough the terrible beast leaps high in the air and lands in the next thicket.

Then is added a new fresh pack. The barking of the dogs increases. Experienced hunters say: "He won't stand this for long." Then comes on a strange moment, when the dogs in their consuming rage rush into the brush. The hunters say: "Let's go, he's already finished." The desert king cannot endure the barking and ends up from heart failure.

In India we have had occasion to observe a tribunal of monkeys. On a lofty rock is seated in a circle a full Areopagus of the oldest grizzled judges. In the middle of the ring is placed the accused. He is obviously much alarmed, and tries to prove something both by gesticulations and outcries, but the tribunal is inexorable. Some decision is reached and the condemned, with his tail between his legs, whimpering pitifully, is taken to a steep cliff and cast into the roaring torrent. Thus it happens in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Indeed, if we listen to stories about the great apes living around the snow line, we can compile whole books. We have had occasion to see these mountain dwellers sedately sitting in a family circle in the open space around their cave. Observers have remarked: "Do they not still have fint implements?" In them is much similarity to men.

Here is still an animal perception, akin to man. In the cold winter time, on the Tibetan highlands, the forage has disappeared under the snow. For three or four days the camels have been sent by a route where exposed herbage has been reported. This hope has proved futile, deep snow has fallen there and forage is not to be found. In the course of two weeks all the camels have perished. We recall a clear winter morning in our camp on the glittering snowy upland, seeing some animal moving in the distance. A camel! Without men.

Slowly and with dignity the lone emaciated camel approached our tents. Its manner was assured. With its last forces it hastened to the place where it had formerly been fed. It recognized the camp as its home and unerringly. In fact, it was fed with the last rem-

nants of grain. Pack saddles were ripped open in order to procure the tufts of straw. Nevertheless it lived through it all, this sole faithful camel. It survived and later went with us through all the mountain passes, by the cornice-like trails, to Sikkim. We presented it to the Maharajah of Sikkim, and perhaps it is still living on his lands. This was the first two-humped camel which had entered India from Tibet. All the neighbouring inhabitants came running to stare at it, and it calmly shook its head, and its deep and lustrous wise eyes were like dark agate.

Very likely the eyes of a deer, beclouded by tears, are also full of expression, when the hunter hastens to dispatch it, having wounded it. The more sensitive hearts, once gazing into such eyes, viewing these tears, will never again use a knife upon a dumb animal.

If people would decide upon the killing of animals only when extreme need presses them, the need of food. All longing to kill must be abandoned. Medical treatises about the spread of cancer shew that this scourge of humanity has been especially developed where a meat diet is on the increase. An experienced physician always forewarns that sooner or later one has to renounce meat, if there are undesirable stones in the liver or similar adverse affections. From the stand point of nutrition, one reads almost continually in scientific journals conclusive articles about vitamins which far transcend the necessity for meat. It must be hoped that the time has passed when brutal physicians prescribed raw meat and blood. How horrible it was when they even recommended blood-drinking!

If even the question of preserving health, and the scientific experiments and the counsels of physicians are not convincing, then will it not persuade one finally if one gazes into the eyes of animals?

The friend of the home is the dog. The eyes of a faithful dog can tell so much; moreover they see more than ordinary people. How many times could it have been observed that a dog senses something invisible, bristles up and warns one by growling! It is possible to recall very many narratives of such perceptions of animals. It appears to us that dogs sense more than other animals, but perhaps this only seems so to us—we observe the dog more than the other beasts. The dog has entered more into our way of life and people have been accustomed to canine expressions.

One sheep-dog asked for coins, collected them in its cheek, and going into the bakery demanded a loaf with a bark. In Paris we knew a dog which went to fetch the newspaper. There are so many known examples of the self-renouncing behaviour of dogs, when they themselves were prepared to freeze, giving warmth to their masters.

Everyone can remember touching expressions in animals' eyes. People could learn much from them.

To-day we got a new dog—"Nokhor"—in Mongolian it means friend.