

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 8, NO. 195.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1908.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## THE EVIL OF “SENTIMENT.”

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**T**HE Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (S.P.C.A.) announces a gift of \$100,000 to establish a chair in Humanity at Columbia University. If this were the year 10,000 before Christ its donors might have the excuse of inexperience. This being the year 1908, after Christ, there is no excuse for a gift, the practical working of which will be downright inhumanity.

The motto, device, guiding star—or be it fundamental principle of the S.P.C.A. is: “Remember that He who made thee, made the brute!” Even the most casual inquiry will reveal the fact that such a motto involves the falsest of reasoning as a foundation for ethical conduct. If the consciousness that “He who made thee, made the brute” be the ground for love for the brute, then the S.P.C.A. folks should at least allow the mosquito to bite them, at any rate, they should not chase the poor brute away—“He who made thee, made that brute.” Rattlesnakes, tarantulas, mad dogs, fleas, tigers, etc., etc., have the identical Maker as the S.P.C.A. folks. He who made these gentlemen and ladies also made those brutes. The point need but to be indicated in order to be understood.

A wrong abstract principle leads to hypocrisy in practice. Accordingly, history tells of how feudal bishops, who in their churches read the Biblical command, Do not muzzle the ox that threshes your corn, fastened boards around the neck of their serfs at gleaning time, in order to prevent them from eating any of the fruit they picked; and to-day we see all manner of shop regulations intended to prevent the hands from “stealing.”

The principle of the wrongfulness of cruelties to animals must be based upon a reason other than that “He who made thee made the brute.” Based upon so loose a reasoning, hypocrisy is the inevitable result; not “the brute” but some few brutes are freed, not from cruelty absolutely, but from some acts of cruelty and the “noble” act

is forthwith turned into a mask behind which MAN may be treated with all the cruelty that the material interests of the S.P.C.A. may require.

To-day the point is not open to discussion. The S.P.C.A. scheme has approved itself a scourge to the working class. The hypocrite whose "heart bleeds" because a ruffian beats a horse, cares not if his overseer rushes a workingman, or workingwoman, or working child to death in the mine, the mill, or on the railroad yard. Aye, that identical hypocrite fiendishly defends the social system which, by holding the lash of hunger over the head of the above named ruffian, dehumanizes and drives him into acts of cruelty to keep his job.

In the Dark Ages bandits burned a candle to their patron Saints in order to feel all the freer afterwards in their acts of banditism. Under Capitalism the same superstition prevails, only the Saint has changed name. To-day a candle is burnt to Saint Anti-Cruelty to Animals, in order to enjoy an all the freer hand in cruelty to man. The \$100,000 to Columbia University to establish a chair in Humanity is but a scheme to extend the area of capitalist hypocrisy.

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Uploaded December 2009

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