

by those varieties of the dog which are principally used in the chase. Those feelings, which would spare the inferior animals unnecessary pain, are ever to be respected in others and cherished in ourselves; as those feelings which delight in cruelty are to be abhorred: but undoubtedly the desire of inflicting pain is not the incentive to the pleasures of the chase; and therefore, with reference to himself, the hunter is free from the charge of cruelty. With respect to the animal which is the object of the chase, the charge of cruelty is reasonably obviated by this highly probable consideration, that man can hardly inflict on the weaker animals a more cruel death than that, to which they are obnoxious by the very law of nature: for, ultimately, they will almost necessarily be hunted and destroyed by beasts of prey; or, if you suppose them to die either of disease or of old age, what misery must they not undergo in enduring this latter period of their life! In fact, unless in the case of acute disease, the occurrence of which in wild animals there is reason to think is extremely rare, they must, through mere helplessness, perish by hunger.

An ethical discussion is to be avoided on the present occasion; and I shall only therefore observe, that, with respect to the infliction of pain on the inferior animals, in the particular case now under consideration, the grand question is