

markets are thronged every week with animals for slaughter and the butcher and fishmonger find their places of business thronged with customers. And such, in the main, is the condition of the animal world ; — it consists of its two classes, — animals of prey, and the animals upon which they prey : its wars are simply those of the butcher and fisher, lightened by a dash of the enjoyments of the sportsman.

“The creatures see of flood and field,
And those that travel on the wind,
With them no strife can last ; they live
In peace and peace of mind.”

Generally speaking, the carnivorous mammalia respect one another : lion does not war with tiger, nor the leopard contend with the hyena. But the carnivorous reptiles manifest no such respect for the carnivorous mammals. There are fierce contests in their native jungles, on the banks of the Ganges, between the gavial and the tiger ; and in the steamy forests of South America, the boa-constrictor casts his terrible coil scarce less readily round the puma than the antelope. A world which, after it had become a home of the higher herbivorous and more powerful carnivorous mammals, continued to retain the gigantic reptiles of its earlier ages, would be a world of horrid, exterminating war, and altogether rather a place of torment than a scene of intermediate character, in which, though it sometimes reëchoes the groans of suffering nature, life is, in the main, enjoyment. And so, — save in a few exceptional cases, that, while they establish the rule as a fact, serve also as a key to unlock that principle of the Divine government on which it appears to rest, — no sooner was the reptile removed from his place in the fore-front of creation, and creatures of a higher order introduced into the consolidating and fast-ripening