

THE DOMESTIC CAT.

1 In ancient Egypt cats were held in the highest esteem and rever-
2 erence. The power of the government was insufficient on one
3 occasion to save from the ^{angry} mob of Alexandria a distinguished
4 Roman who had ~~arrived~~ ^{arrived} at Alexandria and was ~~being~~ ^{being} ~~murdered~~ ^{murdered}, too, at a time
5 when the Roman name was held ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ dread. These animals are
6 not ^{now} held in much esteem in any place. They have fewer of
7 the virtues to be commended and admired than any other, at least,
8 of the domestic animals. It is true that some cats when very
9 hungry or possibly in search of amusement will kill an occasional
10 rat or mouse, but they do not make a business of doing so and
11 rarely do an injury to a mouse or rat except under strong provo-
12 cation. Outside of this, cats have never been known to serve
13 any useful purpose. They can not be set upon their prey, as a
14 dog may and when coercion in any form is used to induce the cat
15 to perform ^{his} functions, ^{he} proves intractable and rebellious.
16 If the cat declines to go in search of a mouse or ^a rat when the
17 matter is ^{he usually declines} suggested to him, and ~~this is usually the case~~ for he
18 seldom acts on suggestion, you may fasten him up in company with ~~the~~
19 the rat and he will not only refuse to catch it but will flee in
20 the utmost terror. ^{related by a man named Petak} There is an old story which used to be
21 printed in the back of the Old Blue Blacked Spelling Book about
22 a wary old cat, who, when the rats had become so afraid of him
23 that he could get no opportunity to catch them, covered himself
24 with meal and hanged his body up as if dead. On seeing him
25

Once when I was a boy and there

Once the writer knew a bad boy who fastened up a large Thomas Cat in a barrel with a whorf rat. The rat was considerably embarrassed at first in the presence of his hereditary enemy but not nearly so much so as the cat. The fur of Thomas stood up like the "quills upon the fretful porcupine" and he ^{uttered} ~~emitted~~ the wildest, fiercest and most demoniac cries that ever were heard from man or beast and it actually seemed he would die of fright or have his intellect [✓] dethroned, ^{if not} ~~had he not been~~ permitted to escape. As it was he did not become composed for several days, eschewed the companionship of his friends and never afterwards could be induced to approach a barrel of any kind. To offer to put him in ^{to} a barrel would almost frighten him out of his wits.

The cat has something sneaking, treacherous and false in his nature that no amount of kindness, training or flogging can eradicate. He prefers stealth to openness, firtive ^{to open} taking, ~~to robbery~~, cunning to fairplay and sneaking to honesty. He will watch for hours to take by theft what he might have had by ^{honest} ~~honorable~~ means. No cat has ever been trained by blows or by kindness so that he will not leap upon the table when your back is turned, enter the cupboard when left open or steal into the dairy when unclosed to incover the milk and lap off the cream.

Though the cat has been domesticated from remote antiquity and may appear the most gentle and fond, if you permit ^{one} ~~him~~ to lick your hand, he will end with trying to bite out a portion of your flesh for food. This shows something uncanny about

Cats are wont to assemble by night, some where in the neighborhood of man if possible, and to give utterance to all of the most abominable and fiendish yells ever heard by human ear. What it is that troubles them or disturbs ~~them~~ their usually placid mindson these occasions has never been satisfactorily ~~explained~~ ~~no man can~~ bear up under these sounds any considerable length of time without losing his reason.

It is not generally known that a cat will perform almost as satisfactorily as a dog when a can is ~~xxx~~ attached to him but such is the case. However, something larger and not so heavy as an oyster can is preferable to secure prompt and vigorous action. A large news paper will answer the purpose fairly well.

Fire crackers have been highly recommended by some, while others use a large paper bag, inflated and tied fast at the neck. ~~Any of these~~ ~~methods~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~ ~~entirely~~ ~~effective~~ unless the cat is too gentle or too lazy. Care must be taken in handling the cat while attaching the appendage as he is very much opposed to such frivolous amusements and will undertake to prevent them, if possible, both by scratching and biting.

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