

## THE SLEEPING BEHEMOTH.

The fable of the Lion and the Mouse is well known. Didst ever hear of the sleeping Behemoth and the Solomon mice? It's a most fascinating allegory. It is instructive as well. Its peculiarity is that while everyone thinks that he knows the Behemoth, none knows him. All assume that they know the Solomon mice! But few do! Nevertheless, some do know something of the Solomon mice. It is striking strange—no zoologist has ever seen or heard of either the Solomon mice or the Behemoth. Both are mentioned in the Bible. Sacred and profane history has much to say of the Solomon mice. "But the Behemoth! What of him?" He is nothing like the lion of the fable in appearance. You can see that kind of an animal at any time in Central Park. He is always caged. You can see the Behemoth, too. He is never caged. He goeth about free. Is it not singular that you should so often see the Behemoth and yet know him not? He is the most singular of all the beasts of the field. Among the fowls of the air and the fish of the sea none resembles him. He is king of the forest, monarch of the sea, and imperial ruler of the world. The Solomon mice are alone his superior. They are the dictators to this ruler of the world. His might is indescribable. We eat with him, sleep with him, talk with him, shake hands with him, laugh and cry with him, and yet we know him not.

Think not I am attempting to describe the Omnipotent. The fool alone essays that folly. The Behemoth has but one superior in manifesting the omnipotence of the omnipresent. The little mice, the Solomon mice are the exclusive representatives of the omnipotence of the omnipresent. "But the Behemoth, what of him?" Why is it that men always rush after the lions of brute force and so completely ignore the Solomon mice of intelligence. Surely, mankind is still bound. It is high time that it cast off its intellectual swaddling clothes. The Behemoth, mighty monster! is almost always asleep. He is seldom seen though ever present. He is enwrapped in an invisible and impenetrable veil. We see neither the Behemoth nor the veil. The Behemoth knows not of its existence. The Solomon mice can alone see the veil and pass through its meshes. The Solomon mice know the Behemoth. They tell us that he much resembles a sleeping volcano. He must not be compared with Vesuvius or Etna. They are but small, sputtering volcanoes. The Behemoth is but slow to anger. His volcanic wrath has been seen but a few times. Fortunately these are of comparatively recent date. The Solomon mice have especially studied his nature. They alone know of the sources of his power. They tell us that the Behemoth is a somnambulist; that he walketh in sleep, eateth in sleep,

talketh in sleep, and worketh in sleep. The Behemoth hath eyes to see and ears to hear with but seldom makes use of them. He is the paradox of paradoxes; the riddle of riddles.

## The Mystic Veil.

The Behemoth lives in a veil. Other animals live within its mystic and capacious folds. They all move about within it freely yet see it not. The Solomon mice alone see it and know of its nature. While all these animals live within and are enshrouded by this mystic veil, none knows the other, save the mice. The Solomon mice know them all. None sees the Behemoth as he is. But few of the generations of men have seen the Behemoth step beyond the veil. None has ever wanted another visitation of his Titanic wrath who has once seen and suffered from it. The Solomon mice alone know and fear not the Behemoth. He, the sleepy, phlegmatic mammoth, troubles not himself about the mice. The veil is a paradox. The Solomon mice can see through it and find free passage. All other animals live within it yet know it not.

## The Inhabitants of the Veil.

The veil is ignorance. It encloses the jungles of eternal warfare. The chief inhabitants of these jungles, aside from the Behemoth and the Solomon mice are lions and tigers, wolves, hyenas, jackals, sloths, and pole cats. Occasionally, there are intervals of seeming peace. The Behemoth and the Solomon mice constantly desire and seek peace. The lions and tigers are in perpetual warfare. The wolves, the hyenas, the jackals and the pole cats keep the jungle in constant turmoil. Though passing through centuries of discord the inhabitants of the jungle seem to have learned but little from experience. They are profoundly enwrapped in the veil of ignorance. They have turned their hearts against wisdom. They have no ear for the Solomon mice. The nature of the veil is such that with all their wisdom it has been impossible for the Solomon mice to partition off the jungle and maintain peace among its inhabitants. Unlike the sheep and goats they cannot be separated. The Behemoth is greater and more powerful than all the other inhabitants of the jungle combined—except the mice. The Solomon mice are apparently insignificant and but few in number. Notwithstanding this, they alone can prevail over the Behemoth and bring him to reason. Thereby they rule the jungle. For that reason all the other inhabitants hate them. The Behemoth notices not the other inhabitants so long as they disturb not his peaceful slumbers. The roar of the battle almost constantly going on between the lions and tigers seldom frets him. The hyenas, the wolves, etc., form a sort of camp following to the contending factions. They pester the

Behemoth more than they do the lions and tigers. These pests swarm about the sleeping monster and occasionally stir him up, but they sneak away ere he is fully aroused. The Behemoth knoweth the Solomon mice, though generally too indifferent to listen to their wisdom. The lions and tigers are too busy combatting each other to give attention to anything else. They know their necessities, but neither knows that the path of peace and reciprocal usefulness is the only way to attain unto them. The Behemoth is often half aroused by the boycotts and strikes of these warring clans. As an armistice, for repairs, soon follows the Behemoth turns to his slumbers again. The lions and the tigers have little or no idea of their mutual relations as inhabitants of the same jungle. They know of the Behemoth, they know something of his wants, but of his nature they know nothing. The Behemoth knows nothing of them, except that they are continually quarreling about him. None of them knows that he cannot live without the other, the partition of the jungle being impossible. Only the Solomon mice know this. Ever since the jungle was inhabited they have been telling the inhabitants that they could not live and prosper until they knew the nature of the invisible veil which separated them while it did not isolate them. The somnolent Behemoth is too indolent to listen. The lions and tigers are too busy fighting each other for their own lives. They have the utmost contempt for the mice. They say: "Those insignificant little animals, what are they doing here? Of what use are they to anyone? If they are of any account in the jungle why is it there are so few of them?" The Solomon mice have a hard time of it in the jungle. Could they not find shelter in the shadow and between the limbs of the mighty Behemoth they would long since have perished. The Behemoth's phlegmatic indifference is their safety. He knoweth not that but for the watchful intelligence of the Solomon mice he would be destroyed through his indifference to the warfare of the lions and tigers. It would have been the total destruction of the inhabitants of the jungle had the mice been destroyed. The wants and appetites of the Behemoth are innumerable and unsatiable. The lions and tigers live largely in supplying them. The hyenas, the jackals, the wolves, the pole cats, and the sloths, are parasites. They live mostly on the Behemoth—too indolent and indifferent to be aware of it. Otherwise these parasites live on the refuse of the camps, left by the lions and tigers. The chief mission of the wolves appears to be to stir up strife between the lions and the tigers while they rob both. The jackals and hyenas are camp followers of the tigers among which they keep up a condition of mutual suspicion and unrest. The pole cats follow in the wake of the