

WOLF CHILDREN.

AUTHENTIC CASES OF HUMAN BEINGS CARED FOR BY THESE ANIMALS.

The First Circumstantial and Authoritative Account of a Wolf Acting as Foster Parent to a Human Child—They Have All Been Males.

It is well known that the Hindoos as a race have a strong aversion to taking life of any kind. Strange as it may seem, the wolf is regarded in some parts of India with a peculiar superstitious reverence, which makes the shedding of his blood something iniquitous. As a consequence the wolves are bold and numerous, especially in districts where there is little or no European influence. Children, also, are numerous, and the wolves, having no scruples about the sacredness of life, have on countless occasions not only raided the village sheepfolds, but have carried off children. The vast majority of the latter have been devoured, but here and there a poor victim, by the agency of some occult malign influence, has been reserved for a fate worse than death.

In 1852 what was probably the first circumstantial and authoritative account of the "wolf children" of India was published by Col. Sleeman, a British officer especially distinguished for the leading part he took in putting down the thugs and Dacoits. According to this authority, the first authentic case of a wolf acting as foster parent to a human child was discovered accidentally by a trooper who was riding along the banks of the River Goomtree, in northern India. As the ravines in that region were all infested with wolves, the soldier was not surprised at seeing a she wolf, accompanied by three cubs, come out a covert and go down to the river to drink. What surprised him very much, however, was the presence of another creature which had the appearance of a little boy, but was evidently on the friendliest terms with its brute companions and was treated apparently just "like one of the family." The creature went on all fours and drank from the stream like the others.

The trooper tried, though unsuccessfully, to intercept the phenomenon before it escaped with the wolves into their den. He secured the help of some natives and dug through several feet until the lair was almost reached. The wolf family then made a bolt into the open, and it was only after a stiff chase and something of a fight that the "wolf boy" was captured. He seemed to be between six and eight years of age.

"They took the boy to the village," said Col. Sleeman, "but had to tie him, for he was very restive, and struggled hard to rush into every hole or den they came near. They tried to make him speak, but could get nothing from him but an angry growl or snarl. He was kept for several days at the village, and a large crowd assembled every day to see him. When a grown person came near him he became alarmed and tried to steal away; but when a child came near he rushed at it with a fierce snarl, like that of a dog, and tried to bite it."

For about three years this being lived in charge of a British officer's servants. During all that time, in every instinct and habit, he remained a wild animal. He was inoffensive except when teased, and could never be induced to keep on any kind of clothing, even in the coldest weather. Very rarely he was known to walk in a semi-upright position; but he always ran to his food on all fours. Raw meat he devoured greedily, and would often take as much as half a lamb at one meal. He was very fond of uncooked bones, which he used to crunch and gnaw like a dog, holding them on the ground under his hands, just as a dog uses his forepaws. He would growl angrily if a human being came near while he was eating, but seemed to have no objections to a dog or a jackal; in fact, he would sometimes share his meal with such. He was never known to laugh or even smile, and once only was he known to speak. This was just before his death. He put his hands to his head, complained that it ached, and asked for a drink of water. He drank the water, and expired almost immediately afterward.

Another "wolf boy" had been carried off from a field where he had been placed while his father and mother were at work. He was then about three years old. Nothing was heard of him for six years. His mother was by that time a widow. She happened to hear of a "wild boy" who had been captured at a place several miles away while entering a den in company with wolves. Curiosity drew her from her native village to visit the place where the boy was kept. She recognized him by some indubitable birthmarks as her lost son and took him home with her. She found his quite irrecognizable, however, and after a few months' trial abandoned him to the public charity of the village.

He was fed on raw flesh, hares, birds, &c. A favorite amusement of the village boys was to throw live frogs at him and watch how greedily he would devour them. Whenever a bullock died and was skinned he would gorge himself on the carcass in company with the dogs. During the day he hung about the village for the sake of what he could get to eat; but every evening he went off to the jungle and stayed there all night. In the year 1850, while he was being sent to Col. Sleeman, he escaped into the jungle and was never afterward heard of.

The "wolf boy of Agra" differed in no material respect from either of the two already described. The strongest point of contrast between them was the length of time he continued in cap-

tivity. He died several years ago, or consumption it is said, and had been in confinement for about twenty years before that. The name given him was Sanichar, and his home was the Secundra Orphanage. In the famous old city of Agra. He was discovered in 1867 in the jungle near Bulandhahr, in northwest Panjab. Some natives who were hunting big game "surprised a stray wolf which they followed to a little hillock. Out of this hillock rose a rock, and on this rock, evidently sunning itself, sat a dark, curious-looking object." To the astonishment of the hunters, this "object" turned out to have the semblance of a human being. When they approached, it jumped from the rock, ran on all fours and entered a cave along with the wolf. The hunters smoked the cave; both the wolf and its humanlike companion rushed out. After a short, sharp struggle in which several men were bitten the latter was captured.

On Feb. 3, 1867, he was sent by the Magistrate of the district in which he was taken to the Secundra Orphanage, and because the day he arrived there happened to be Saturday he was named Sanichar. At the time of his capture Sanichar seemed to be about eight years old. He was entirely nude but for the short, thick hair which covered his body. His behavior was altogether that of a brute, and it was long before he could be induced to wear any clothing whatever or in other ways conduct himself like a human being. He ate his food from the ground, putting his hands on it as a dog does his forepaws, gnawing the flesh from the bones and crunching the bones themselves with ease and evident enjoyment.

Two facts noticeable about the "wolf children" hitherto discovered seem easily enough explained. One is that they have all been males. It may, of course, "just have happened so," that only male children have ever had the distinction of a wolf foster mother. But were it otherwise, then the more rugged constitution of the male child, enabling it the better to withstand the terrible experiences incident to such a life, would be a reasonable explanation of why males only have survived the ordeal. When one thinks how weak and helpless a thing the human child is, even the strongest toddlers of three years old, it seems marvellous that even one such child could exist for a single day or even for a few hours in the unnatural environments of a wolf's den.

The other fact is that all such creatures when found have been children. The oldest of them at the time of capture could hardly be more than eight or ten years old. This, no doubt, is accounted for by the various "moving accidents of flood and field," to which all such foster children would be more and more continuously exposed as they grew older and were more entirely thrown on their own resources. They would neither have the instincts nor the strength and endurance to contend successfully in the struggle for existence with their brute comrades and competitors.

A BLOW TO THE OLD MAN.

How a Bank Cashier Won a Wife and Got His Salary Raised.

You can never tell where you are going to encounter a romance. The other evening half a dozen gentlemen sat smoking after a dinner given by one of them at his handsome residence on Woodward avenue, relates the Detroit Free Press.

"No," said the host, in response to an inquiry, "I married her down east long before I thought of coming to Detroit. Didn't I ever tell you about it? At that time I was cashier in a bank with little hope of ever getting a better hold in the world than that of a salaried employe. The president, who practically ran the entire institution, never had much to say to his men, except by way of reproof, and I had special reason to think that he did not look upon me with favor. This made it the more surprising that he should come to me with a proposal to raise my salary to the extent of \$500, provided I would get married within the next three months. He preferred having men about him that were settled in life and felt the responsibility imposed in caring for a family. I studied for a moment, had an inspiration and before we were through he had bound the bank to make me the raise, to keep me for five years, provided I did my work properly, and to raise my salary handsomely each year.

"Two weeks later I asked for a vacation and told him I hoped to return with a wife. He was delighted and granted my request. On the tenth day I wired him that the deed was done and that I would be home at once. He responded with congratulations and an invitation to dine with his folks on our arrival. We went. As we entered the old gentleman almost fell in a faint. 'You—you—' he stammered, 'are you married? You—'

"Yes, papa," began my wife, but I broke in with: 'Yes, sir, we're married. You knew that we were in love; you sent your daughter on a long visit to the south to get her away from me, and then tried to bribe me into getting married during her absence. I checked you, that's all, and your son-in-law is your cashier for the next five years.' He simply threw up his hands, and he was a father to me as long as he lived. It did him a whole lot of good to beat him at his own game."

At three of the large London railway stations—Charing Cross, Cannon Street, and London Bridge—more than 33,000 movements for signal and point levers have to be made every twenty-four hours, quite apart from the telegraphic operations.

ELEPHANTS IN WAR TIME.

Some Points as to Their Employment by the British in India.

One of the most interesting features of the English army life presented to the layman in India is furnished by the remarkable efficiency of the elephant brigade, most highly developed through the skill of the Burmese in handling the giant animals. Their usefulness in India can scarcely be imagined by one not familiar with the amount and variety of work which they accomplish, but it would be a serious mistake to imagine that this degree of usefulness is attained through any aptitude of the unwieldy animals or natural tendency toward it. It is due solely and entirely to the wonderful ability of the natives in training the huge animals, and overcoming their natural inclinations. This cannot be too highly praised.

Neither must it be imagined that the use of elephants in army life is not attended by great disadvantages, not the least of which is the difficulty with which they are transported.

Naturally the elephant is not an intelligent animal. He can be taught remarkable things, in which his strength and endurance play an important part. He can never, however, perform these feats without continual attendance and direction. Abstractly, his power of work is unapproachable; when directed by skillful hands, however, it is remarkable.

The transportation facilities which are provided for the sole use of the elephant are quite as remarkable. I witnessed recently the loading and unloading of a lot of elephants on the Madras Railway. Both were remarkable processes. In loading a rope is fastened to his fore leg and a lot of natives haul and pull at it to induce the animal to take the first steps into the car. This is only accomplished, however, by admonishing him in the haunch by means of a tusk. The first step taken is rapidly followed by the others until he stands safely on the car.

This portion of the task is accomplished comparatively easily, however, when compared with the next. At first he is timid and slightly frightened, but when the car starts his fear is wonderful to behold. Though he may ride a hundred times, he never overcomes this fear, though it is much more pronounced when he takes his initial ride after, say, two months' acquaintance with civilization. He rears the air with wild trumpeting, endeavors fruitlessly to escape, and only ceases his efforts when the car has again come to a standstill.

Of course, wonderfully strong cars are necessary to hold him. They are made completely of iron, with huge bars rising to a height of ten or twelve feet above the platform. Often these cars are rendered useless by the twisting of the bars, due to the application of the occupant's remarkable strength.

In transporting the elephant by sea the difficulties are almost as great. They are raised by means of a canvas sling from the wharf to the ship struggling to escape and rending the air with their cries. Once aboard ship they are easily managed, the motion not affecting them, because they do not see the moving panorama before them. Unloading them is easy. They are lowered to a raft beside the ship and allowed to swim ashore. They take to the water easily and are excellent swimmers, being able to swim eight or ten miles at a stretch without tiring.

The size of the Indian elephant is usually about eight feet in height and ten feet in length. The male is a little larger, perhaps eleven feet, and weighing about 5,000 pounds.

French Rule a Success in Tunis.

France has had possession of Tunis eighteen years, and under its management the country has reached a state of civilization and order which it had not before known since the Roman dominion, and, perhaps, not then. It was bankrupt when the French occupancy began; it is now solvent, and its yearly receipts regulate its yearly expenditures. In 1889 it had not a farthing of decently made road; now fairly good ones connect all the principal towns, and the work is improved and extended year by year; a prosperous railway system has been introduced; the harbor channels have been deepened to admit the largest ships to the wharves of the city; forty lighthouses, small and large, have been built; wells have been sunk all over the country, a steady supply of water being one of the most urgent needs; domestic industries of all kinds have been encouraged and promoted, and the safety of life and property is almost as well assured there as in Aquitaine or Brittany. France may point with pride to this prosperous and orderly North African possession as an illustration of her capacity in the way of colonial management which she is so anxious to try on a larger scale.

Destroyers Not Up to the Mark.

The failure of some of the new torpedo boat destroyers to attain anything like the speed recorded of them while on their contractor's trials is engaging the serious attention of the admiralty and of naval engineers. The difficulty has existed ever since the adoption of the 39-knot destroyers, but it has been especially noticeable in the cases of the Earnest and Griffon, which only a few months ago, while undergoing their contractor's trials on the Clyde, exceeded a mean speed of thirty knots on a continuous three hours' run, the engines in each case working at 6,000 horse power. Since they have been at Devonport completing for sea they have been subjected to no work whatever, yet

on a two hours' trial, with the engines working at an even greater rate than when on the Clyde, they barely exceeded twenty-six knots. Such a great reduction of speed in new vessels is regarded as surprising and even alarming, and it is likely to form the subject of close inquiry.—London Daily News.

FOOD WASTED IN GREAT CITIES.

Enough to Feed Their Hungry Children—Salvation Army's Work.

The problem of utilizing the waste food of the great city of New York for the benefit of the poor, which President Guggenheimer is trying to solve, is one that has given General William Booth of the Salvation Army much thought. The Salvation Army has only reached an approximate success in the work laid out for its salvage brigade to do.

Some of the waste food of New York and, in fact, of most other large cities, is gathered up by the agents of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Some of the high-priced hotels and restaurants sell food that is clean and wholesome to hotels and restaurants which cater to a less fastidious class of patrons; but still Colonel Holz, who has charge of this branch of the work done by the Salvation Army, estimates that from the tables of the well-to-do and the wealthy there is probably enough wholesome food thrown into the garbage can and carted off by the Street Cleaning Department to feed every hungry child in the slums.

For lack of funds the Salvation Army does not attempt to do much in the way of utilizing waste food, the salvage brigade giving attention to waste paper, bottles, old furniture, and clothes. There are three stations at which the officers of the salvage brigade can be found in New York and one in Brooklyn. The old shoes, clothes, and furniture are, whenever this is possible, cleaned, disinfected, and repaired. They are then sold at a merely nominal price to some one who needs them, or in cases of extreme need the things are given away; but the Army always prefer to give work rather than money. The old bottles are sorted and sold; the waste paper is also sold to the paper mills. The sorting, cleaning, and distributing of this junk give employment to idle men.—New York Sun.

The Empire of Barotse.

There now remains only one people and one little valley south of the equator whose sovereignty has not been claimed by some European power. It is the Valley of Barotse, fifty or sixty miles wide, north of Lalul, in South Africa. And the only reason why the Marotse, who inhabit it, have preserved their independence is that England and Portugal both claim it, and therefore the work of "civilization" is at a standstill.

It may not be so easy to conquer the Marotse when the time comes, for they are a tall, well-set-up race, very black in skin. In manners they are courteous and in bearing dignified. Every full-blooded Marotse is by birth-right a chief, and takes his place in the aristocracy of the empire. The bare fact that he is a Marotse insures the respect of the subservient tribes, and as he grows to manhood a sense of superiority usually implants in the native the dignity of self-respect.

Heat Measurements for Fogs.

Warnings by sound to vessels in fog being unreliable on account of the uncertain effects of air currents, which often render inaudible the signals of nearby foghorns, while distant sounds are plainly heard, the use of the thermopile is proposed for detecting approaches to danger with greater certainty.

This apparatus is capable of registering a change of temperature as small as a millionth of a centigrade degree, detecting the heat of a candle at a distance of a quarter of a mile. By the use, therefore, of two horizontally rotated thermopiles, the two heat collecting funnels pointing in opposite directions, it is believed that not only would the proximity of a vessel be shown by its heat radiations, but the nearness of an iceberg, and even of land or a sunken wreck.—Sun.

Freaks of a Jury Wheel.

Pittsburg people are ruminating over a jury wheel mystery. In the drawing of the petit jury for the November term of the United States Circuit Court there was taken from the wheel the name of Coroner Heber McDowell, placed in the wheel sixteen years ago, while Mr. McDowell was a constable in Pittsburg. Also the name of John G. Reading, Jr., that was put in the wheel over fourteen years ago, while he was a law student at Williamsport. Mr. Reading is now a leading Pittsburg lawyer. In contradistinction to the names that have been in the wheel so long and undisturbed, twenty-six of the forty-eight at the recent drawing were among those put in the last time the wheel was filled. The wheel always contains 300 names. When a jury is drawn as many names are substituted as are taken out.—Philadelphia Press.

Shot an Albino Deer.

Among the deer brought to Bangor was a handsome albino, or white deer, with a good set of antlers, shot on the east branch of the Penobscot by Fred Hubbard of East Berlin, Conn. The deer will be mounted whole by a Bangor taxidermist.—Maine State Press.

Why Did We Beat Spain?

Because we are as strong as Sampson, we are as Schley as a fox, we are Miles long, we possess Merritt, we are Hobson's choice, what more Dewey want?—Sample Bag

FARM AND GARDEN NEWS.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ON AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

Save the Soft Corn—Cows Going Dry Too Long—Mulching Small Fruits—Regrafting Old Apple Orchards—Etc., Etc.

SAVE THE SOFT CORN.

At this season most farmers who grow corn have much of it that is soft and is difficult to keep well. So it is fed out rather indiscriminately to hogs, poultry and cows, or whatever else will eat it. Only the cow can get much good out of it. She swallows the corn cob and all, and then re-masticates it, mixing the grain with the juices of the cob, which are then sweet and nutritious. No animal that does not chew the cud should be fed soft corn. It will sour the stomachs of hogs and horses, giving them sore teeth and neutralizing most of the good its nutrition might otherwise do.

COWS GOING DRY TOO LONG.

In the last of the fall and in the early winter there is danger that cows due to calve in the spring will dry off and thus go dry for an unprofitable length of time. They should have some extra feed, most of it succulent, to maintain the milk flow. It is not best to give much grain, as milk will fatten rather than increase milk. A slop with wheat bran or middlings given warm is excellent. So are roots, especially beets or carrots. By keeping up the milk flow in winter not only does the cow pay her way at this season, but the milk-producing capacity of the unborn calf is increased. Milking for long periods must always be the foundation of good breeding for dairy purposes.

MULCHING SMALL FRUITS.

The proper way to mulch small fruit plants is not to put on the mulch until the ground is frozen. The main purpose of mulching the strawberry bed is to keep the plants from being thrown out of the ground by the breaking up in the spring, this being the season when plants are injured by alternate freezing and thawing. Stable manure is the most convenient mulch to use, but it should be largely composed of coarse straw and never of large lumps of solid manure. Leaves are about as cheap as anything when they can be had and are easily held in place on the plants by scattering straw over them.

The canes of tender varieties of raspberries, blackberries and grapes that need protection should be bent over, first throwing up a mound of earth for them to rest on, and covered with a shovelful of soil. Or the soil may be dug away from one side of the plant, the canes bent over and held in place with a wooden pin or peg and covered with soil.

REGRAFTING OLD APPLE ORCHARDS.

What to do with old apple orchards that have long ceased to be profitable is a most important question. There are doubtless hundreds of orchards, many of which were years ago planted with varieties that could not be profitable, because not adapted to the locality or not sufficiently productive. Almost every orchard has some trees of this character, and if a farmer has an orchard largely composed of such trees he is better prepared to go into fruit growing than he could be by planting an orchard of all young trees. Often a regrafted large tree will bear the third year from the setting of the graft. In a young tree it will require eight to ten years or even more to get a crop. The varieties that are slowest to come in bearing do best when regrafted on large trees, especially if a large number of grafts are set. This requires cutting off the limbs far from the centre of the tree, and putting grafts in each place where a limb has been sawed off. In the olden time grafters took pay for the number of grafts they could set that would be alive the next year. It was their interest, therefore, to put as many grafts in the trees as they could. It was also the interest of the grower of the tree, for a healthy tree that has only a few grafts put in it will probably put out so many suckers that the graft will be killed, or possibly it may never have started to grow, and thus be a total loss to both the grafter and the owner of the tree.

TO KEEP HENS LAYING.

The main thing to keep hens laying is to have good layers, to feed for eggs rather than for fat, to make a change, to have something to take the place of the green food they get in summer, to have warm quarters, warm enough to prevent freezing the combs. There should always be plenty of gravel. We have sometimes thrown hard coal ashes in the henhouse in winter time and have found them to make a substitute for gravel. Bones and meat are good—and there, that reminds me of a true story, one that came under my own observation. A certain man who was working for another person, owned a stunted calf. That calf was the apple of his eye, the light of his life, the joy of his heart, but lo! one day the apple, the light, the joy, was quenched, for the quadruped died; there was great mourning, but the carcass was given to the hens, and lo, they began to lay and laid so much and so many eggs that these sold come to more than the real market value of the calf could ever have done. The fowls needed just this stimulus to start them in the good way and they kept it up in a most amazing manner.

While remembering to feed properly do not forget to always keep a supply of drink on hand; the fowls like water above freezing, and they like milk, sweet, sour or buttermilk. Keep the poultry house as clean as you can, the fowls free from lice and trust your hens to pay for their keeping. Wheat is the best single food, if one can have but one kind.—New England Home-

COLD STORAGE ON FARMS.

The farmer as a producer finds himself limited as regards the sale of fruits by the impossibility of keeping them at all beyond their natural season when there is always a glutted market. In most large cities cold storage houses for the keeping of fruit, meats and other products are built, and their owners realize very large profits, though they are obliged to build on expensive ground, and to procure ice that costs much more than it could be put up for by most farmers. We believe the time is coming when the keeping of fruits until the best season for selling them will be regarded as much the legitimate business of the large orchardist as is the care and management of his trees and the gathering of their fruit.

If no farmer in a neighborhood grows enough fruit to make this worth while, a number can combine together to build the storage house, allotting to each one space proportioned to the amount each has put in. A better way would be to capitalize the cost of the icehouse and a sufficient fund to furnish each winter the amount of ice it will require the following year. It will then be easy to divide up the available storage room, allowing each stockholder as much room as the amount he had put in would entitle him to. The cost of this storage may often be paid in labor in putting up the ice, and if the stockholders do not want all the room the surplus may be disposed of to those who will make the best offer. But for a long time the fruit growers who originally invested in this co-operative concern will want all the room to themselves. Those who want to get in as original stockholders will be obliged to form another co-operative establishment, and build cold storage rooms for their own use.

It is not alone for fruits and vegetables that cold storage will prove valuable. By building separate cold storage quantities of milk may be kept in good condition, so that the night and morning milking may go together to be sold. When farmers take to building cold storage for any one purpose they will probably very soon learn of other uses that it can be put to that will give them greater profits than they have ever before found for investments on the farm itself. The business of farming, so far as production is concerned, seems to have been overdone. But this is only because enough attention has not been paid to marketing products after they are grown.—American Cultivator.

GOOD TEETH PREVENT LAMENESS.

Some years ago a test was made by an express company, who had 600 horses in constant use, twenty-five of which were indiscriminately selected for proper dental treatment, and separately weighed. Their oats and maize were reduced two quarts each. After the first month a great improvement in their general condition was apparent, continuing during the second and third months, when they were again weighed, and it was found that an average increase of forty-eight pounds per head was the result. The test lasted during the hot months of July, August and September when natulent colic was very apparent in the stable, yet not one single case had occurred among those twenty-five horses! Since this trial and whenever a carload of newly purchased young horses arrives, it is considered a waste to feed them until their teeth are examined and put in proper shape.

As a preventive for lameness, to commence operations on the teeth would appear to some very ridiculous, yet common sense and practice would convince them that this would be the proper means of preventing interference, one of the chief causes of lameness in young horses.

Young horses fully developed show signs of fatigue and weakness after a journey, and interfere. Some grasp the quarter of the forefoot with the toe of the hind foot, or overreach.

In such cases the ordinary practitioner would treat locally, possibly advise different shoes, order tonic balls or condition powders and a few days' rest (the latter would benefit mostly and give temporary relief.)

Now, supposing there were irregularities of the teeth, as is usual with all young horses, the first treatment should be to put them in order, so as to promote mastication and good digestion, to enable proper assimilation of the nutritive qualities of the food, and there ensure increased strength and condition, thus removing the original cause of the weakness.

It may seem equally absurd to some of our readers to assert that operating on the teeth will prevent pulling and other vices, but that it is not so is proved by the following incident: A pony that we treated had changed owners for no other cause than that none of them had been able to drive him with ease, although various bits and contrivances had been used. The primary cause must be first discovered, which in this instance was a decayed tooth, the removal of which affected an instantaneous cure. The pony is now driven in a plain, straight bit without a curb chain by the present owner, an elderly gentleman, who appreciates the animal's quietness and docility so much that no amount of money could part them.