

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1897.

ABOUT WILD CHILDREN.

A FEW OF THE MOST AUTHENTIC CASES ON RECORD.

A Little Boy in India Was Brought Up By a She Wolf—Two Wild Girls in France—Unsuccessful Attempt to Civilize a Wild Boy.

Among the remarkable stories which travellers have from time to time narrated to groups of admiring and faithful listeners these connected with the finding of so-called wild children are, says the London Standard, perhaps not the least fascinating. The human being stripped of his thin veneer civilization, and ranging at large with out 'clothes, language, or morality,' demonstrates how much one owes to early education, and how nearly we are allied to our poor relations with tales, from which science darkly hints we sprang in the past. Byron declared that men became wolves on very slight occasions, and Captain Nichol's story of the child who, like Romulus and Remus, was reared upon wolf's milk, and nursed through a large portion of his infancy by this uncookable animal, gives a certain weight to the poet's remark.

The captain tells us that, when he was with his regiment in India, he happened one day to be out shooting, and saw a she wolf bring her cubs down to the river to drink. Among them he spied a human child, which he eventually succeeded in capturing and carrying home to his quarters. It transpired that this child was the son of Hindu parents, but in an unlucky hour had been captured by the she wolf and carried off to the woods. We are now told how this particular Hindu child was ear marked, nor is any suggestion offered as to why the she wolf did not devour him on the spot, rather than adopt him and bring him up with her cubs. However this may be, Captain Nichol brought this child once more under the influence of man, and set about civilizing him at once. His favorite diet, as one would expect, was raw meat and bones, upon which he fed with great avidity, tearing the flesh with his teeth, crunching the bones much after the fashion of an ordinary dog. He appears to have entertained a great objection to the society of man, but his partiality to all kinds of animals was marked, and he struck up so fast a friendship with a puppy that he even allowed it to eat out of the same basin with himself. On the Captain discovering that the wild child was no match for the dog at the dinner-table, but stood a fair chance of being starved through the greediness of his four footed mess-mate, he shot the dog in the boy's presence. This seemed to have no outward effect on the wild Hindu, who at once returned to his dish, perhaps not altogether sorry that his canine friend was no longer present to share the repast. To the conventional garments of civilization he is said to have shown a marked aversion. If he was dressed in a suit of dittos, and then left by himself even for a few minutes, he invariably tore them off, and on the return of his benefactors they found the clothes scattered in all parts of the room, and the child sitting among the fragments. He was, according to the Captain's account never known to speak, save once, and that was shortly before his death, which occurred a few months after his capture. A few days before he died, a great change came over him, behaving the while with all docility, and startled his attendant by complaining, presumably in Hindustani, of a severe pain which he felt in his head.

Wild girls as well as wild boys have occasionally been met with. In 1781 two female children, of about the ages of ten and twelve respectively, were found near a pond at Chalons. Their clothes consisted of skins, which they had somehow pieced together. Of these two wild girls, one managed to escape, but the other was captured and conveyed to the house of Viscomte d'Epina. Though unable to speak she made up for this by incessantly screaming, while she exhibited such agility and strength that it took several men to hold her. So swift of foot was she, that in a race which she subsequently ran with the Queen of Poland's fleetest horse, she outdistanced it with ease. In mental capacity she was not altogether wanting, and would in all probability have soon learned to speak, but she died within six months of her capture.

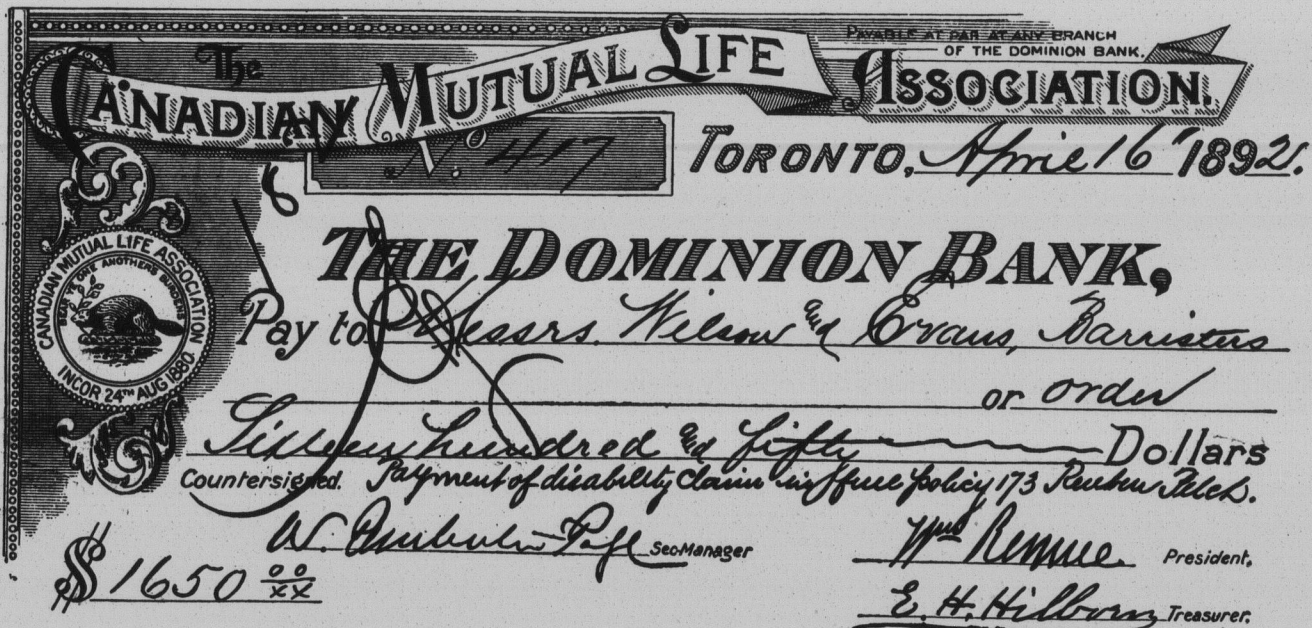
Probably the most authentic account of a wild child is that vouched for by M. Isard. This child was found in Avignon in 1718 by some sportsmen, and was brought to Mr. Isard's asylum in Paris. When found, he was without clothes and though the thermometer registered several degrees of frost, he was rolling in the snow, apparently enjoying the pastime. His body was covered with bites and scratches, and it was presumed that he had been engaged in other than amiable discussion with some other denizen of the forest. Unable to speak, he was to all intents and purposes an animal, but how he came to this deplorable condition it was impossible to say. On his arrival in Paris, M. Isard, the superintendent took him in hand and endeavored to teach him language. Whenever any one entered the room in which he was, the child made toward them

THE CURE WAS PERMANENT.

The Story of a Man who Suffered the Agonies of a Living Death.

MEDICAL EXPERTS PRONOUNCED HIM INCURABLE AND HE WAS PAID A LARGE DISABILITY CLAIM.

The Case Probably the Most Wonderful in the History of Medical Science—Brought from Hopeless, Helpless Inactivity to Health and Strength—A Reproduction of the Check by which the Disability Claim was Paid.



No other medicine in the world has ever offered such undoubted proof of merit.

WHAT

DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS have done for others they will do for you, if given a fair trial.

From the Medford, Ont., Monitor.

About two years ago the Monitor procured an interview with Mr. Reuben Petch, of Griersville, in order to ascertain from his own lips if the reports were well founded that he attributed his most astonishing return to health to the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. The result of the interview was published in the Monitor under the date of Jan. 17th, 1896. Mr. Petch's case was certainly one of the most extraordinary in the annals of medicine in Canada—if not in the world. He had been ill for five years and in that time he consulted no less than six of the best physicians he could find, but none could give him the least relief. His limbs and body were puffed and bloated to such an extent that he could not get his clothes on, and for two years he had not dressed. He had lost the use of his limbs entirely. His flesh seemed to be dead, and pins could be stuck into various parts of the body without being felt or creating the slightest sensation. He could not move about and if he attempted to get up would fall and would have to be lifted up. He was unable to open his mouth sufficiently to take solid food, and had to be fed with a spoon like a child. The doctors said his trouble was spinal sclerosis, and that he could not possibly get better. He was in fact nothing more or less than an animated corpse, so helpless was he. He was a member of the Canadian Mutual Life Association, and was under their rules entitled to disability insurance and made a claim for it. Two doctors, on behalf of the association, were sent to examine him, and they pronounced him incurable and permanently disabled, and in accordance with their report he was paid a disability insurance of \$1,650.

On being again questioned, Mr. Petch said:—“You see those hands—the skin is now natural and elastic. Once they were hard and without sensation. You could pierce them with a pin and I would not feel it, and what is true of my hands is true of the rest of my body. Perhaps you have observed that I have now even ceased to use a cane, and can get about my business perfectly well. You may say there is absolutely no doubt as to my cure being permanent. Indeed I am in even better health than when I gave you the first interview.”

“Do you still attribute your cure to the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills?” asked the Monitor.

“Unquestionably I do,” was the reply. “Doctors had failed, as had also the numerous remedies recommended by my friends. Nothing I took had the slightest effect upon me until I began the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. To this wonderful medicine I owe my release from a living death. I have since recommended Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to many of my friends, and the verdict is in their favor. I shall always bless the day I was induced to take them.”

The above are the chief statements made by Mr. Petch in this latest interview, and the Monitor may remark, from a long acquaintance with him, that we consider his statements absolutely true and reliable. He has no interest to serve other than a desire to recommend the medicine that has done so much for him, and feel sure that if any sufferer will write Mr. Petch, enclosing a stamp for reply, he will endorse all the statements made above. We may further add that Mr. Petch's remarkable recovery leaves no doubt of his wonderful curative powers of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and it seems reasonable to infer that they will do for others what they have done for him—restore health and vitality.

The check at the head of this article is a fac simile of the one by which Mr. Petch's disability claim was paid and is given in further corroboration of his statements.

he was treated with all humanity, the attempt to civilize this unfortunate wild child ended in his death.

A Journey Round the Earth.

The time required for a journey round the earth by a man walking day and night without resting would be 428 days; an express train, 40 days; sound, at a medium temperature 83½ hours; a cannon ball 21½ hours; light, a little over one-tenth of a second; and electricity, passing over a copper wire, a little under one-tenth of a second.

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