

fire. It would be thoughtless superstition to say the beasts were cruel. They were simply keen with hunger, and alive with the eager passion of the chase. They were not ferocious with any anticipation of battle, for they knew the voice was the voice of a child, and something in the voice told them the chill was solitary. There was no hideous or unnatural rage as it is the custom to describe it. They were but seeking with the strength, the cunning, the deadly swiftness given them to that end, the food convenient for them. On their success in accomplishing that for which nature had so exquisitely designed them, depended not only their own, but the lives of their blind and helpless young, now whimpering in the cave on the slope of the moonlit ravine. They crept through a wet alder thicket, bounded lightly over the ragged brush fence, and paused to reconnoitre on the edge of the clearing, in the full glare of the moon. At the same moment the settler emerged from the darkness of the wood road on the opposite side of the clearing. He saw the two great beasts, heads down and snouts thrust forward, gliding toward the open cabin door.

For a few moments the child had been silent. Now his voice rose again in pitiful appeal, a very ecstasy of loneliness and terror. There was a note in the cry that shook the settler's soul. He had a vision of his own boy at home with his mother, safe guarded from even the thought of peril. And here was this little one left to the wild beasts! "Thank God! Thank God I came!" murmured the settler, as he dropped on one knee to take a surer aim. There was a loud report (not like the sharp crack of a rifle), and the female panther, shot through the loins, fell in a heap, snarling furiously, and striking with her fore-paws.

The male walked round her in fierce and anxious amazement. Presently, as the smoke lifted, he discerned the settler kneeling for a second shot. With a high screech of fury, the lithe brute sprang upon his enemy, taking a bullet full in the chest without seeming to know he was hit. Ere the man could slip in another cartridge the beast was upon him, bearing him to the ground, and fixing keen fangs in his shoulder. Without a word, the man set his strong fingers into the brute's throat, wrenched himself partly free, and was struggling to rise, when the panther's body collapsed upon him all at once, a dead weight, which he easily swung aside. The bullet had done its work just in time.

Quivering from the swift and dreadful contest, bleeding profusely from his mangled shoulder, the settler stepped up to the cabin door and peered in. He heard sobs in the darkness.

"Don't be scared, sonny," he said, in a reassuring voice. "I'm going to take you home along with me. Poor little lad, I'll look after you if folks that ought to don't."

Out of the dark corner came a shout of delight, in a voice that made the settler's heart stand still. "Daddy, daddy," it said, "I knew you'd come. I was so frightened when it got dark!" And a little figure launched itself into the settler's arms and clung to him trembling. The man sat down on the threshold and strained the child to his breast. He remembered how near he had been to disregarding the far-off cries, and great beads of sweat broke out upon his forehead as he thought.

Not many weeks afterwards the settler was following the fresh trail of a bear which had killed his sheep. The trail led him at last along the slope of a deep ravine, from whose bottom came the brawl of a swollen and obstructed stream. In the ravine he found a shallow cave behind a great white rock. The cave was plainly a wild beast's lair, and he entered circumpetly. There were bones scattered about, and on some dry herbage in the deepest corner of the den he found the dead bodies, now rapidly decaying, of two small panther cubs. — Charles G. D. Roberts in *Harper's*.

General Notes.

Halifax, N. S., had a \$25,000 fire last month.

Over 260,000 Russians died of cholera during the past year.

The Sun Life Assurance Company has issued a neat calendar for 1893.

The announcement of the death of James G. Blaine was made of January 27th.

Mrs. William Ewart Gladstone, wife of the British Prime Minister, owns three acres of land overlooking Niagara Falls.

The census of the population of Japan has been published in the *Official Gazette*. The total population is 41,000,000.

J. B. Ashby, an old resident of the Northwest, has been appointed an immigration agent to work in the interests of Battleford district.

Lord Elphinstone who has been for some year's closely connected with the development of Western Canada, died in Musselburgh, Scotland on January 15th.

The C. P. R. has let a contract for the construction of an elevator with a capacity of 250,000 bushels on the Louise embankment, Montreal. The work will be commenced immediately.

A dispatch from London, dated January 26th says: "The Hudson's Bay Company's fur sale this year realized £91,700. The prices were higher than last year. Had last year's rule, the furs just so'd would only have realized £84,700.

A census of carrier pigeons will shortly be taken in France, under the military law of 1877. Colombophile societies and pigeon owners are given notice to declare at their respective mayoralities their names, professions, the number of their pigeons, the number of birds in them, and their particular breeds and peculiarities. Severe penalties will be incurred by those failing to conform to the notice.

A prominent cattlemen from Northwestern New Mexico gives an interesting and creditable tale of the suffering among the cattle of the drouth stricken district. He says that for more than two years the heavens have refused to yield rain and as a result the water courses are dried up and the irrigating ditches are useless. "At a low estimate," said he, "75,000 to 100,000 head of cattle have died from starvation and lack of water."

The first iron casting made in America, a kettle cast at the Saugus Ironworks in 1645, was formally presented to the city of Lyon, on November 21, by John H. Hudson, of Boston, a lineal descendant of Thomas Hudson, the

original owner of the casting, who owned 60 acres of land on the westerly bank of the Saugus river and sold it to the ironworks company. He claimed in consideration the first article made at the works, and received this kettle, which has been preserved through two and a half centuries in perfect condition.

The total revenue of the Dominion for December was \$2,895,253. The revenue for six months, to Nov. 30, was \$15,662,771. The expenditure for December was \$2,081,703. The expenditure for six months, to Nov. 30, was \$14,757,794. Surplus \$4,716,527. The revenue of the corresponding six months of 1891 was \$17,732,479; expenditure \$14,619,390; surplus \$3,112,089.

The C. P. R. is making good progress with the work of replacing the wooden bridges and trestles on its lines with permanent steel and masonry structures. During the year 1892, no less than 523 timber bridges of various kinds were replaced in this way. It is expected that by the end of this year no timber structures will remain in the company's principal lines.

Following the enormous search light on Mount Washington, comes the announcement of another gigantic light projecting lamp. This has been placed on the high tower of the Transportation Building, at the Chicago Exhibition. The rays can be seen sixty miles away, and locate a man twenty miles distant. The light is the largest and strongest one in the world. It was made by Schuckert and Co., of Nuremberg, Germany. The light is what is known as a 4 ft. reflector—that is, the great magnifying glass through which the rays are thrown to such a distance is 4 ft. in diameter. The direct power of the light is 150,000 candles, without any glass whatever; with the big glass, however, the power is magnified to 167,000,000 candle-power. The carbons used in the radiator are 12 in. long, and 1½ in. in diameter. They are fastened inside the lamp merely with two upright pieces of steel. The lamp itself is operated on a sort of carriage, something after the manner of a Maxim gun. It can be turned in any direction, and can be tilted so that the rays will ascend straight up.—*Invention*.



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