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THE RANCHIL, OR PIGMY MUSK.

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About four years ago a ship was on her return trip from Singapore to New York with a cargo of pepper and spices. When passing through the Straits of Sunda she was met and surrounded by the usual fleet of native bum boats laden with fruits and curiosities. Among the miscellaneous cargo of these sea peddlers' boats one had aboard some of the most graceful, beautiful creatures one could well imagine—five full grown, live deer

mate of the vessel the buck had eaten off its legs and it was dead.

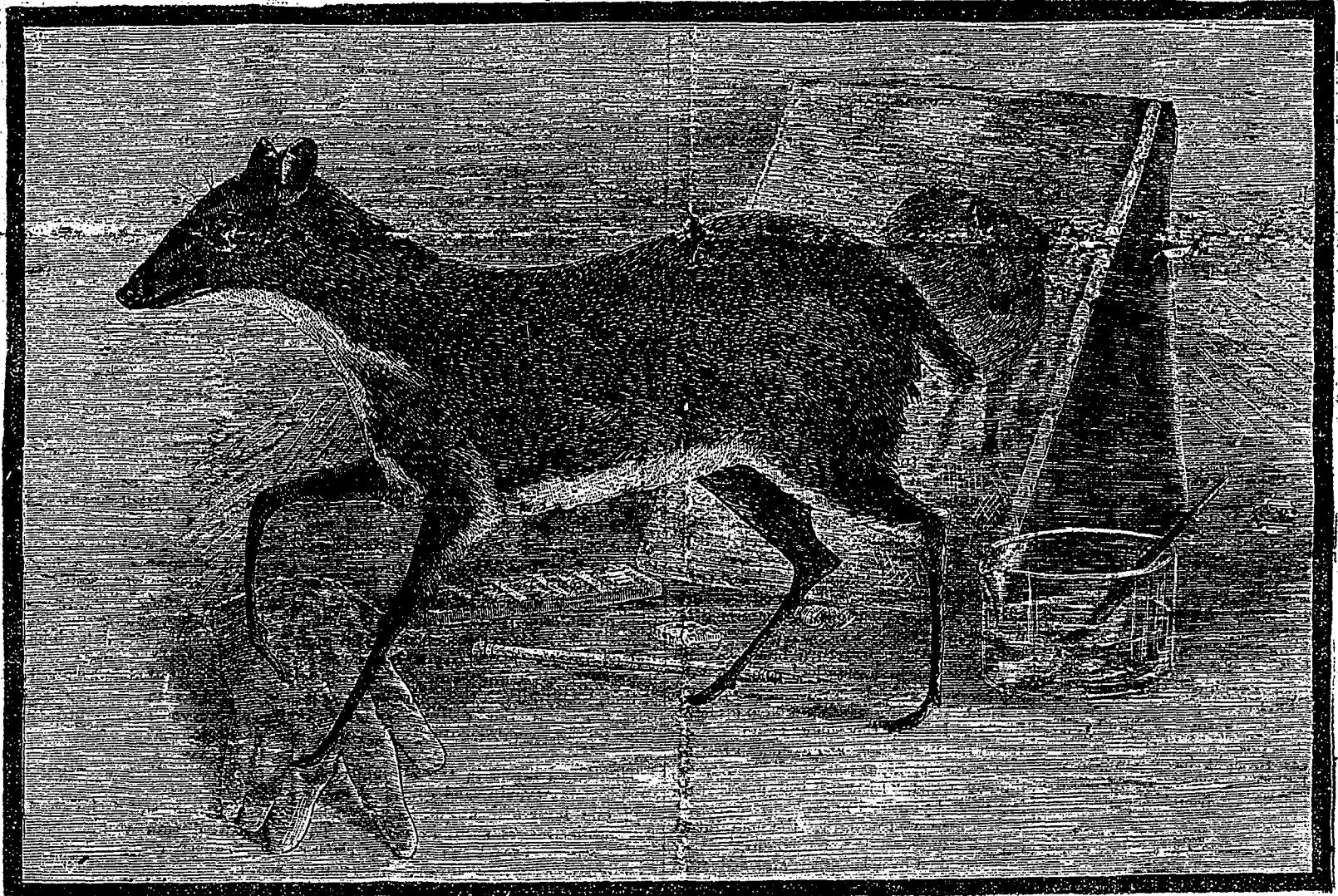
Arriving off Sandy Hook the "Janet Ferguson" encountered a cold wintry gale, all hands were kept busy, and during the confusion three of the little creatures that had managed to escape from their snug little house perished with the cold. Immediately after arriving at port the fourth, a fine buck, fell a victim to the (to them) inhospitable climate. The only survivor, a beautiful doe, represented in the above drawing

listening attitude, or crept timidly and stealthily close to the wall and behind the articles of furniture, it was difficult to realize that it was a real live deer.

The pigmy musk is common in the peninsula of Malacca and the neighboring islands, frequenting the thickets.

The Malays prize them both as articles of food and as domestic pets. It is of this species that a rather doubtful story is told to the effect that when closely pursued by the hounds they will leap into the overhanging

inches in length; the head rather large, being $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches from point behind the ears to tip of its nose; nose movable, always wet and cold like a pointer dog, and like that dog possesses a keen scent. The teeth were short, slender, and sharp, and, unlike the buck's, did not extend below the lips. The ten inch mark upon the rule came above the highest part of her back. The legs were extremely delicate: a Faber lead pencil looked thick and clumsy beside them. The tiny hoofs only measured two-eighths of an inch at the



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not larger than small rabbits. The captain of our "Janet Ferguson" after some parley succeeded in purchasing them, giving in exchange an old silver watch. The ship's carpenter soon built for them a convenient little house, about the dimensions of a small dog house, with "Deer Lodge" neatly painted over the door, and in these comfortable quarters the little midgets made in safety a voyage of 136 days, becoming great favorites with the crew. One fawn was born during the trip, but when discovered by the

came into my possession; but she only lived about a week. In spite of all my care she too expired, killed by the cold breath of our New York winter.

She was a timid little creature, and although perfectly tame objected to being handled, but she would take food from my hand and allow me to stroke her back. She had the pose and action of our ordinary deer. When watching her as she leaped over a footstool, or stood, head erect, with one forefoot gracefully poised, in an eager

branches of some friendly tree, and hangs suspended by their large canine teeth until the two eager foe rushes by, then dropping to the ground they will calmly retrace their steps. It is said that the creatures can make most extraordinary leaps, and that they display great cunning. They have no musk bag, and like the rest of the family are destitute of horns. The antlers we see upon stuffed specimens in the windows of the taxidermis are artificial.

The doe in my possession measured 15

broadest part, where the cloven parts united. The color is general reddish brown, darker upon the back, where the hairs are tipped with black; an indistinct dark band runs from a point between the ears to nose; rather stiff gray hairs upon the sides and back of the neck; fawn colored sides; three white streaks on the under part of the neck; soft white hair upon the belly and the anterior upper part of the hind legs and the posterior upper part of the fore limbs; the lower jaw is also white.—*Scientific American*.