

The Naturalist.

THE ELK.—III.

Since the elk has ceased to be found in his native majesty and hunted as a wild animal, "elk-hunting" has lost all its interest with the sportsman, and when we say that the chase of no other animal is, after all, from first to last, so full of interest as that of the elk, the sportsman has some cause for regret. The hunting to death of the elk is by no means an easy task, as might be supposed from the bulk of the animal, for he knows how to foil pursuers perhaps as well as or

better than most other wild animals. The accompanying cut represents one of the noble animals that formerly occupied the farms on which you reside. He is seen struggling against his destroyers. The wolves, in hot pursuit, have chased him to the frozen river. Their not being quite sufficiently strong to bear him, has broken. He raises his front feet again, endeavoring to extricate himself. The treacherous ice gives way beneath his weight, and still he struggles. The wolves are watching the result. Certain death awaits him. Should the exhausted animal reach the shore, the hungry wolves are awaiting to devour him. In viewing the picture, we notice that one of his antlers has been broken in a previous struggle. There may be yet a few of these animals remaining in some parts of our vast domain. The last one heard of, was three years ago.

Three were killed in the State of Michigan, and the head of one was brought to this city. They are a timid animal, very difficult to be approached by man, unless he has a small dog, from which it is not apt to run. Should the dog bark, it will watch him with great interest. At such times he may be taken the advantage of, and shot, as the barking dog absorbs his attention. We have one of the fine old elk horns in our verandah, which we prize for its antiquity. It was found near our farm about thirty years ago. It was then in a partially decayed state. It remains in about the same state of preservation as when found. The elk is generally captured in winter by hunters mounted on snow shoes, which enable them to skim over the surface of the snow, while the elk breaks through

at every stride. The tongue and nose of the elk are much relished by epicures, especially the latter, which is said to resemble marrow. The hair is of a coarse nature, and brown towards the end. For heavy work, such as tent-covers, &c., the skin is invaluable. Such a scene as our engraving exhibits, no doubt suggested to the mind of one of our eminent poets the following beautiful lines:

"He stands at bay,
And puts his last weak refuge in despair.
The big, round tears run down his dappled face:
He groans in anguish; whilst the growling pack,
Blood-happy, hang at his fair, jutting chest,
And mark his beautiful, chequer'd sides with gore."

Do you use dogs and stones to hurry up the cows from pasture at milking time, thus overheating their blood and bruising their udders?

Do you cleanse the udders of cows before milking by washing their teats with their own milk, and practice further economy by allowing the droppings to go into the milk pail?

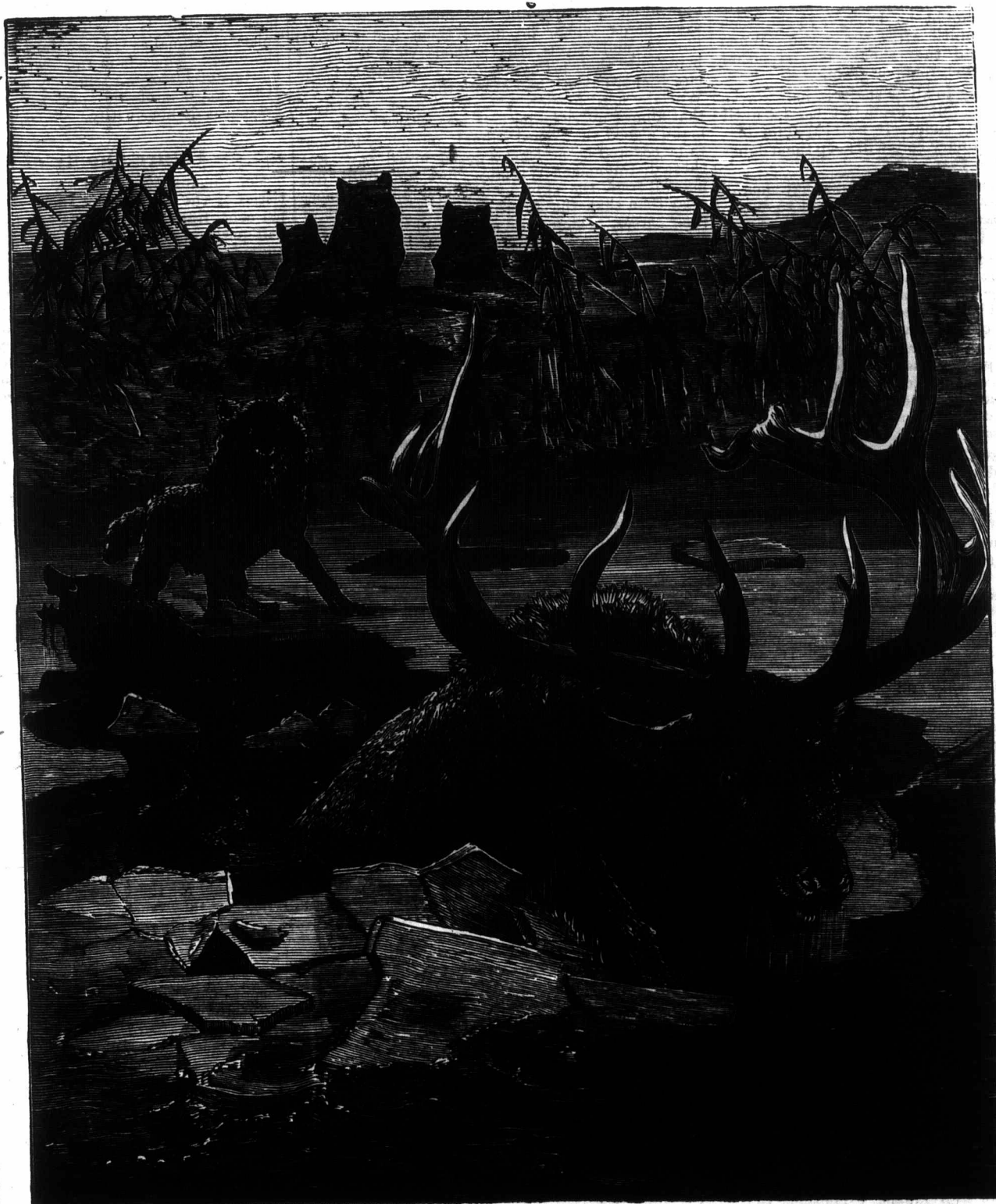
Do you enjoin upon your milkers to wash their hands thoroughly before sitting down to milk, or do you think that uncleanness in this respect is not important for milk that is to be treated for butter making?

When a cow makes a mistake while being milked, do you allow your milkers to kick her with heavy boots, or to pound her over the back and side with a heavy stool, accompanied by sundry profane remarks addressed to the cow to teach her manners?

Is the air about your milk barn or milk house reeking with the foul emanations of the pig sty, the manure heap, or other pestiferous odors?

Good, fresh, clean water, and in abundance, is one of the most important requisites for milch cows, and it should be in convenient places, where stock will not be required to travel long distances to slake their thirst. If springs and live streams cannot be had in pastures, a good well, with windmill and pump, makes an efficient substitute, and the waste water may, if necessary, be conducted back into the well, so as to make up a constant supply of good fresh water.

—Ex.



Questions for Dairymen.

Every dairyman should have a printed list of questions posted in some suitable place on his premises, where his family and those in his employ, as well as his visitors, will have opportunity to read frequently. We give some of them, but the list can be extended:—

Do your cows feed in swamps and on boggy lands?

Have you good, sweet running water convenient for stock, and is it abundant and permanent in hot, dry weather?

Have you shade trees in your pasture, or do you think that cows make better milk while lying down to rest in discomfort in the hot, broiling sun?

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.—The English papers notice the spread of the foot and mouth disease among the dogs in the neighborhood of Thirsk, Yorkshire. The disease now seems to be spreading among the shepherds' dogs. One farmer states that his dog caught the epidemic through being worked among a flock of sheep which had the disease.

Lord Hampton gives a recipe for the treatment of the disease:—Mix one ounce of chlorate of potash in a quart of warm water; add one tablespoonful of camphorated spirits. Give this dose three successive mornings. This is most successful if given the moment the disease shows itself, and, moreover a wonderful preventative.

DURING the year the treasurer of Marshall Co., Ind., has paid out \$570.66 for sheep killed by dogs.