

MONKEYS OF INDIA.

THE HAVOC THEY CAUSE BY THEIR WARS FOR WIVES.

Laughable Tactics Employed by the Natives to Disperse the Belligerent Packs—Little Chance For Male Monkeys at Birth.

Monkeys in India are an unmitigated nuisance, especially in the country. I have often come across in the jungles adjoining the villages of northern Bengal whole troops of them, whose depredations in fields and orchards were the despair of the unfortunate villagers. These troops always consisted of one huge male and about 100 females. The fact is, when a little monkey is born in the pack, it is sufficed to live if a female, but instantly killed by the father if it happens to be a male. The mother, however, sometimes manages to hide the little one until he is able to get about and then sends him away before the big male catches sight of him. In this way it often happens that individual males are to be found living by themselves in single blessedness. Now, getting tired of solitude after a time and perhaps believing in union as a source of strength, these bachelors often join together and form a pack of their own—as a sort of club.

Then the fun begins. They want wives—very naturally. But how are they to get them? All the female monkeys of the country belong to the harem of some big brute or other. Clearly, the only solution is to attack such a harem, kill the gotha (the aforesaid big brute), and then divide the spoils. So an ultimatum is sent—and rejected. War is declared. The battle is a fierce one and often lasts several days. The party attacked always tries to retreat and often traverses several jungles, fields and even villages. But the pursuit is hot and vigorous, and at last a stand has to be made—sometimes in a village green or even an orchard of some country mansion. In the actual fight the females generally remain faithful to their lord and master and help him fiercely against his numerous assailants. But the result is a foregone conclusion, and the several widows, after a very short period of mourning—usually manifested by a show of ill temper—are consoled by the victorious males.

Now, these battles cause sad havoc to the fields and orchards of the country and often prove a positive danger to the people, for, though monkeys seldom attack men, woe to the luckless one who ventures to come near them in their deadly struggle. Moreover, when pressed by hunger, these packs are not to be trifled with. You may not mind even the damage done to your orchard by hundreds of monkeys gobbling up everything they can lay their hands on, but it is quite a different matter when you have to shut your doors and windows and stay in for days at a time because of the army outside.

Consequently the object of the natives is to break up these packs by capturing their leaders. Killing is against the dictates of conscience, but capture is not, especially as the monkey is liberated in a short time, as will appear presently. So, when a pack is about, the natives employ the following method: Close to an orchard a bit of level space is selected and a hole dug in it, about 2 feet deep and 6 or 8 inches in diameter. A noose is made at one end of a long, stout cord and placed over the mouth of the hole. The cord is then passed through a pulley or ring attached to a tree close to the house and the other end held some distance away by a concealed person. The noose and about 10 or 15 feet of the cord are covered with sand. Then a nice, tempting banana is placed in the hole, and a number of rotten ones—covered, however, with fresh skins—are strewn all over the ground near the hole.

When the pack comes, the females are too shy to venture out into the open space near the house, but the big gotha is a brave fellow. He sees the bananas on the ground, leaps down, takes up one, throws it away in disgust, then another, with the same result. Suddenly he notices the nice, tempting one in the hole, and plunges his arm in. Immediately the cord is pulled, the noose fastened on the arm close to the shoulder and the monkey dragged willy nilly to the tree where the pulley or ring is attached. Then the hiding shikari comes forth, and, circling round and round the tree with the cord held tight in his hand, binds the unfortunate monkey safe and fast, all but the head. The pulley or ring is introduced not merely to bind the monkey to the tree, but also because it would be highly dangerous to drag the infuriated brute right up to a person.

The monkey, however, is not killed. Instead they lather his head and face, no special care being taken in selecting the finest soap or the purest water. The operation is an interesting one and a source of great amusement—to the bystanders. The monkey, however, dodges his head about, only to get a good dose of soap in his eyes and mouth. Then he has enough of it, especially as he feels dreadfully achy all over and the cords cutting into his body every inch—to say nothing of the personal remarks and the highly adjectival language of the bystanders. He submits to his fate with eastern stoicism. His head is shaved clean as a billiard ball, and then the face as well, nice and smooth, like a baby's. Then they let him go. But alas, such is the vanity of life, his wives will not have him now that his beauty is gone. They disown him completely, cut him dead. Nay, they drive him away from the pack with contumely, with the ends of their tails—in the absence of domestic broomsticks. And thus, being without a leader, the pack is soon broken up.—Strand Magazine.

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LOCAL TIME TABLE.

In Effect Dec. 5th, 1898.

P.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.
3:40	7:00	Lv. Frankfort	Ar. 11:30	7:10
3:52	7:11	Lv. Elkhorn	Lv. 11:37	6:58
4:07	7:18	Lv. Switzer	Lv. 11:50	6:48
4:17	7:28	Lv. Stamping Grd.	Lv. 12:00	6:38
4:27	7:34	Lv. Duvall's	Lv. 12:05	6:28
4:37	7:39	Lv. Johnson	Lv. 12:10	6:18
4:47	7:45	Lv. Georgetown	Lv. 12:22	6:08
4:57	7:50	Lv. C.S. Ry Depot	Lv. 12:28	5:57
5:07	7:56	Lv. Newtown	Lv. 12:35	5:47
5:17	8:02	Lv. Centerville	Lv. 12:45	5:37
5:27	8:08	Lv. Elizabeth	Lv. 12:50	5:27
5:37	8:14	Lv. Paris	Lv. 12:55	5:17

KENTUCKY CENTRAL RY. POINTS.

P.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.
3:40	7:00	Lv. Frankfort	Ar. 11:20
4:28	7:50	Lv. Georgetown	Ar. 10:36
5:10	8:40	Lv. Paris	Lv. 9:30
5:30	9:00	Lv. Maysville	Lv. 8:45
6:16	11:42	Lv. Winchester	Lv. 7:09
7:20	P.M.	1:00	Ar. Richmond

Daily except Sunday
 A connects with L. & N.; b connects with C. & O.; c connects with Ky. Central.

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EAST BOUND.

Lv. Louisville	Ar. Lexington	Ar. Frankfort	Ar. Paris	Ar. Winchester	Ar. Maysville
8:30am	8:00pm	11:15am	8:30pm	8:30pm	8:30pm
11:25am	8:50pm	8:30am	8:50pm	8:30pm	8:30pm
12:25pm	9:50pm	9:15am	9:15pm	8:30pm	8:30pm
1:15pm	10:45pm	10:00am	10:00pm	8:30pm	8:30pm
2:15pm	11:45pm	11:00am	11:00pm	8:30pm	8:30pm

WEST BOUND.

Lv. Winchester	Lv. Lexington	Lv. Frankfort	Lv. Paris	Lv. Louisville
7:30am	4:50pm	6:55am	5:50pm	5:50pm
8:30am	5:50pm	7:55am	6:50pm	6:50pm
9:30am	6:50pm	8:55am	7:50pm	7:50pm
10:30am	7:50pm	9:55am	8:50pm	8:50pm
11:30am	8:50pm	10:55am	9:50pm	9:50pm

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ARRIVAL OF TRAINS:

From Cincinnati	10:58 a. m.; 5:38 p. m.; 10:10 p. m.
From Lexington	5:11 a. m.; 7:45 a. m.; 3:33 p. m.; 6:27 p. m.
From Richmond	5:05 a. m.; 7:40 a. m.; 3:28 p. m.
From Maysville	7:42 a. m.; 3:25 p. m.

DEPARTURE OF TRAINS:

To Cincinnati	5:15 a. m.; 7:51 a. m.; 3:40 p. m.
To Lexington	7:47 a. m.; 11:05 a. m.; 3:45 p. m.; 10:14 p. m.
To Richmond	11:08 a. m.; 5:43 p. m.; 10:16 p. m.
To Maysville	7:50 a. m.; 6:35 p. m.

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