AFTER BUFFALO CALVES.

BABY STEALING ON THE PLAINS IS AN EXTREMELY EXCITING BUSINESS.

PRETTY NERVOUS WORK.

Until within the last five years it was not strange or uncommon for buffalo cows and calves to be found herded with the wild cattle of the ranges and the spring round-ups always reported more or less sport for the daring and reckless "cow punchers" with buffalo calves. Western men have at least, however, begun to realize, with more than a little regret, that the large droves of buffaloes roaming at will over the trackless plains of the Territories formed sights that are forever to be lost, and to realize also that the shameful slaughter of these picturesque brutes has been a waste of gold. The fact that the domesticated buffalo and the cross breeds are both very valuable and easily herded is just now giving a new zest to the sport of buffalo hunting, and the dangers of the chase are increased ten fold by the fact that the object now is not to kill, but to capture. To make prisoners of the young or to bring upon one's self the fierce avenging fury of a buffalo cow, by throwing a rope over her calf, requires the utmost self-possession as well as that peculiar daredevil familiarity with saddle and horse which are found so fully developed in the range riders of the Western plains. The hunt is profitless if the calves are injured, and the preparations for the care of the captives are not only minute, but necessarily expensive. Domestic cows are provided as wet nurses, and a constant watchfulness is observed over these compulsory foster mothers until they have overcome a not unnatural repugnance to their new charges. The calves, however, when captured and placed in a corral with their nurses, display no excessive modesty in foraging for milk, and their impetuous raids upon the new commissary are extremely amusing.

An important element in the buffalo hunting of to-day is the fact that the females give birth to their young very early in the spring, and the hunt must be accomplished before the beginning of the spring round-up of cattle, or the calves become too strong to capture alive.

A SPECIMEN HUNT.

On the 13th of February two four horse teams, with heavy wagons behind them, pulled slowly out of the town of Rawlins, Wy. T. In the first wagon, and in charge of the expedition, was a gentleman known as "the Colonel," whose weather beaten and genial face was aglow with the pleasures of anticipations and whose wagon was packed with comfortable bedding, "grub," cooking utensils, and last, but not least, a varied assortment, consisting of sour mash, Martel, cigars, tobacco, pipes, rifles, &c. Beside him sat John, rotund, smiling and evidently content with the world as it is. The rear wagon contained two thousand pounds of baled hay and a quantity of rope to be used for lariats, and was manned by a notable Jehu, who, the Colonel swore, could transform a jack rabbit into a pullet, or, if the very worst should befall them, could broil the harness leather so that it would be as good as a tenderloin.

LIMITED WATER SUPPLY.

For three hours the wagons jolted slowly along over a rough trail, while the smiles of the Colonel and his companions attested their faith in the things hoped for. The constant, "chuck," "chuck," of the heavy wagon was a little wearying to the Colonel, but the bottles in his wagon were well packed and easily accessible, so that Bell Springs was reached without any occurrence to mar the pleasure of the trip. The Jehu had announced that noon camp would be made here so that the horses could get water. On alighting from his wagon the Colonel looked about him for a moment and then a terrific roar was heard. "Where the h—— is the water?" "Right there," replied Jehu, pointing to a trail of water about the size of a lead pencil trickling through the alkali soil, "there's all the water we'll get till night."

Three days' travelling carried the party to the northern boundary of the Red Desert, where were waiting the hunters—Wright, Chapman and Gomez, a Mexican vaquero. Each hunter had a "string" of eight horses. Twenty-five dollars was the stipulated price of each calf which should be caught uninjured, and bound by the feet. At four o'clock on the following morning breakfast was announced, and at its finish all hands but the cook saddled their horses and "hit the trail," driving the extra saddle horses before them.

GAME IN SIGHT.

After quietly riding for an hour Gomez called attention to a buffalo trail and followed it at some distance in advance of the others, carefully watching ahead. The trail lead through sage brush, over the plains across innumerable draws, until Gomez reached the summit of a low range of hills, when he suddenly wheeled his horse and returned to the party. Instantly all was excitement; the game was in sight. One enormous bull, four cows and three calves were browsing, unsuspicious of danger, about half a mile away from the party. Fresh horses were roped and saddled, and the hunters separated to surround the herd with as little noise as possible. At a signal from Wright, given when each of the hunters had crept as close as possible, the three horses made a dash forward. With a snort of fear the bull threw up his head, and seeing Wright rushing upon him he wheeled in blind terror and plunged head long toward Chapman, whose horse reared and fell backward. As Chapman swung himself out of the saddle unhurt the terrified brute went past him like a cyclone.

THE MOTHER OBJECTED.

Meanwhile Gomez had thrown his rope over a calf and was in the act of getting out of his saddle to tie the calf's legs when the mother came dashing through the sage brush with a savage bellowing for her young. As the infuriated brute rushed toward him Gomez dropped his rope and swung his horse around, and the cow, finding both Gomez and Wright galloping toward her from the rear, fled, panic stricken, and her calf was secured. By this time the others of the herd were a mile away with Chapman flying after them. Another calf was run down and tied before its mother had sufficiently recovered from her fright to notice its absence. The three hunters then put their horses to a gallop to run down the remaining calf. A half hour's hard riding brought them up to the band again, but this time under vastly different choleric conditions.

THEIR BLOOD WAS UP.

The cows that had lost their calves were furious, and the one whose calf was still with her was disposed to fight savagely. The calf was exhausted by the run and the cows were decidedly vicious. So giving their horses a breathing space, the three hunters separated again, coming upon the band from different points. As they approached cautiously intending if possible to stampede the herd and rope the calf as it fell behind, one of the infuriated cows made a sidelong dash, and in a twinkling Wright's long legs were in the air and his horse lay kicking in the sage brush, while the cow was plunging away down the plain with the speed of an unlimited express. Chapman threw his rope on the calf, and as it bellowed, its mother turned upon Chapman, who was forced to drop the rope to avoid a collision which would have been certain death. Finding her calf free the cow fled and was run away from the calf by Chapman and Gomez, while Wright, who had picked himself up and got into his saddle again, followed, overtaking the calf, and throwing another rope over it secured the last of the three. One of the wagons was brought up and the calves loaded into it. Saddle horses were again changed and the party moved the camp about twelve miles to a corral, where domestic cows were held awaiting their new charges.

The following day was spent in a fruitless search for other buffaloes, but on the third day two other calves were captured, making in all five captives as the result of a ten days' hunt.

Coercion in France.

The new French Ministry has started with a stroke of Coercion, the mere contemplation of which is enough to knock the wind out of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Gladstone, and all who follow them. M. Constans, the Minister of the Interior, published the other day, a decree to all prefects and sub-prefects throughout the Republic, ordering them to proclaim in their districts complete suppression of the Society known as the League of Patriots. It is forbidden to carry on its propaganda, and any meeting of its members or under its auspices consisting of more than twenty people is to be put down by armed force. This high-handed decree affects an organization numbering nearly a quarter of a million of members. These are drawn from all ranks of society. There are members of Parliament in the League, a multitude of labourers, and all sorts and conditions of men belonging to the intervening classes. The French Home Secretary's decree applies equally to a kindred and powerful association, called the Gymnastic League; and the order for repression is so construed that the condemned associations cannot spring up under another name to carry on their work. What makes the circumstances yet more note-worthy is the ratification by the chamber of the Ministerial decree. By a majority of 339 votes to 195 the Chamber of Deputies has adopted a resolution approving of the Government's zeal in "repressing factious enterprises."

It is true that in France resistance to the law is at once met with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets, but for all that it is strange that so strong a body as the members of the league have not resorted to the barricade, as their ancestors invariably did when antagonistic to the governing power. But it is the boast of the suppressed organizations that they seek to prosecute their aims exclusively by constitutional methods. The ostensible reason for putting down the League and confiscating all its property and papers is that it sent a despatch of sympathy to the Panslavists when the news came that the French admiral had fired upon Atchinoff and his armed force, on the latter's refusal to quietly quit French ground on the Red Sea coast. The real reason for the coercion is that the League of Patriots is the mainstay of Boulangism; and, indeed, this real reason is no longer disguised. The fact is that the League's despatch of sympathy never left Paris, the authorities having intercepted it. Even if it had, there might have been occasion for official remonstrance, but not for the suppression of a powerful political organisation. The League of Patriots began as a Gambettist organisation; and as long as it backed the Opportunists it was not only allowed but encouraged. It has been converted to Boulangism; and that is why it is put down. The fear is that this arbitrary putting down of it will make General Boulanger stronger than ever.

Appalled at His Legs.

A person arrayed in full Highland costume caused terrible commotion in a railway carriage in the Perrache Station, near Lyons, France. Two ladies who were in the carriage shrieked as they saw the awful spectacle presented by the entry into their compartment of a man without pantaloons. The Highlander, who was on his way to Nice, nevertheless, took his seat with Caledonian coolness, whereupon the ladies screamed the louder.

It was in vain that the apparition in the garb of old Gill apologized and explained the situation in bad French, and equally futile were the efforts of the station master who assured the ladies that the gentleman in the dirk, the sporran and the tartan accessories of properties was perfectly harmless. "You don't run the shadow of risk, Mesdames," insisted the station master in his blandest tones. "The gentleman comes from a country where the men wear petticoats and do not wear trousers." Despite everything, however, which was said in order to claim their apprehensions, the over-timid lady travellers had to be placed in a carriage at a safe distance from that in which the Caledonian stern and wild had taken up his position.

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The Baldwin pony that has been coming down from the top of a London circus tent every night, apparently by means of a parachute, recently fell suddenly when the descent had just begun and was badly injured. The wires by which the lowering had really been accomplished had broken. The act is now omitted from the programme.

Two Much Affected.

Wife (to husband who has just returned from Washington)—"Well, my dear, did you get an office?"

Husband (moodily)—"No."

"You didn't? Did you tell the President you had faithfully attended every Republican inauguration since Lincoln's and you had never asked for an office yet?"

"Yes."

"Wasn't he much affected?"

"He was. He shook me by the hand and said: 'My patriotic friend, permit me to congratulate you. I hope you'll be able to attend many more inaugurations and say the same thing to every President.'"

The Tract he Got.

The grimmest hospital story I ever heard concerned a legless soldier, who was sufficiently mended to read eagerly the scant literature daily provided for the invalids. The purveyor of the books and papers generally made an early round, but once was detained till late in the afternoon. The cripple watched the door anxiously the live-long day, and when at last the distributor came he left with the legless patient "A Tract on the Sin of Round Dancing.'

A Wondrous Flower.

A maiden from the city tripped lightly mid the trees and sniffed the pungent odor that floated on the breeze. "Oh, tell me, ancient farmer, with arms so brown and bare, what is that wondrous flower that scents the morning air?" Loud laughed the ancient farmer, till the tears rolled down his cheek. "Why, bless you, that's a polecat, and I've smelt him for a week!"

"The Merry Wives of Windsor"

could scarcely have played such fantastic pranks had they been subject to the many ills so common among the women of to-day. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a legitimate medicine, carefully compounded by an experienced and skillful physician, and adapted to woman's delicate organization. It is purely vegetable in its composition, and perfectly harmless in its effects in any condition of the system. It cures all those weaknesses and ailments peculiar to women, and it is the only medicine for women, sold by druggists, UNDER A POSITIVE GUARANTEE from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle-wrapper, and faithfully carried out for many years.

The more recent diamond hoop earrings are mounted in very slight settings, so that nothing but the gems are seen.

A Bad Spell.

A merchant's clerk wrote a check for forty dollars, and spelled the numerical adjective "f-o-u-r-t-y." His employer directed his attention to the error, with the remark, "you seem to have a bad *spell* this morning," to which the clerk replied, "sure enough; I've left out the 'g-h-.'" Let us hope the clerk will still further amend his orthography, meanwhile, if any suffer from a "bad spell" of headache, superinduced by constipation, ask your druggist for Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets. Entirely vegetable, mild, prompt and effective, and a most efficient remedy for derangements of the liver, stomach and bowels.

Nice cuff buttons are those fashioned as oval bloodstones, set in chased silver settings.

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Your throat's raw and smarting; you're hacking, of course;
And if you're not careful, the first thing you know,
Your lungs are attacked, and disease lays you low.

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A.P. 443

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