

Have We a Gorilla Among Us?
The Wild Man of the Manitous.
He is Followed and Pursued into the Lake.
He is Probably Drowned.

[Correspondence Cleveland Plaindealer.]
A few weeks ago we published a letter from a correspondent on one of the Manitou Islands, giving an account of the discovery of a wild man on one of the islands, forming what is known as Manitou Islands, situated in Lake Michigan, between 20 and 30 miles from the Sleeping Bear Point. We have lately received another letter from the same correspondent, which we give entire.

MANITOU ISLANDS, LAKE MICHIGAN, }
June 21, 1868.

I informed you in my last, dated June 10, of the discovery by one of my comrades, on the Little Manitou, of a wild man, and of the unsuccessful chase he had for him, also of our intention to return to the island for the purpose of capturing him or of learning something of his history, if such a thing was possible. Owing to the heavy rains which prevailed until the 18th our plans were delayed, and not until the 19th were we able to land upon the shores of the Little Manitou. Our party consisted of six men and two boys, with several dogs that we proposed to use in case a chase was necessary. On reaching the island we divided into three parties of two each, the boys going by themselves. Signals were agreed upon in case we came across the strange monster, and we all started with a firm determination to thoroughly explore the island and capture the creature if possible.

It must have been two o'clock in the afternoon when the report of a gun from one of the exploring parties gave us notice that the unknown had been discovered, and we all at once hastened to the spot. I was so fortunate as to be within a short distance of the scene of the discovery, and was soon upon the spot, and found two of our party parleying with something or somebody that they had chased into a tall larch tree. His description tallied exactly with that given in my former letter. It was a form that had an appearance of a man, at least eight feet tall, entirely naked, with his body covered with hair. His face had the appearance of intellectuality, his brow being quite high.

His head descended nearly to his stomach, and his hair was discolored and coarse, though I am of the opinion that he could not have been over six feet high, my companions differ with me. His language was perfectly unintelligible, sounding more like the growl of a bear than that of a human being. When we pointed our guns at him he would howl, gnash his teeth, and run like a monkey higher up the tree. After holding a consultation of war, we concluded to adopt peaceful measures, and sending for our basket of provisions and laying aside our guns we, after an hour or more spent in conversing, induced the stranger to descend the tree. He had no sooner struck the ground than one of our dogs started for him, and, evidently frightened, he started upon a run, we all following him closely.

He gained rapidly upon us, but the dog overtaking him, he turned and, grasping the animal by the throat, literally tore him to pieces. Throwing the dog's carcass upon the ground with evident disgust, he again started toward the lake, where, as we arrived on the edge of the sand, we saw him throw himself fearlessly into the blue waters of Lake Michigan. For a time he swam out boldly and gracefully, but while some of our party went in quest of our boat, those who remained to watch him saw him rise several times in the water as though in agony, and then beheld him sink to rise no more. He has gone. Who he was, what he was, or where he came from, no one will ever probably know. Some persons may be able to trace out all the facts of this strange creature's life; I have merely endeavored to give you the facts just as they occurred and just as they are.

Cincinnati Spectator.

1868 Gorilla Michigan

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