

WILD MAN IN THE WOODS.

**He Comes to Farm-Houses and Takes
Away Cows, Pigs and Sheep.**

A wild man is loose in the woods at Hancock, N. Y. A party of hunters have just returned from Port Jervis, where they went for guns and ammunition with which to slay him. But the question has arisen whether they have a right to kill a wild man. Some of the hunters argue that it would be murder. Others say that it wouldn't, but that the wild man are protected by the game laws. His life will probably be spared until legal advice has been taken, unless some impetuous woodsman slays him and then waits for a ruling.

The first intimation the farmers had of the presence of the wild man was the disappearance of cows, young cattle and sheep. They at first thought that a bear had taken them.

John Cook, a farmer, heard a terrible rumour in his pigsty the other night, and, believing that the pigs had upset a bee hive placed temporarily in their sty, he ran out. As he stepped into the shed he was grabbed by the wild man. The fellow looked seven feet high, and was quite naked. He was a hairy man and wore a beard as long as a western 'two silver man's. From his mouth protruded big teeth like fangs. Farmer Cook is six feet three inches and very powerful, but he was helpless in the grasp of the wild man, who carried him to the door and hurled him thirty feet. The farmer fell unconscious; when he woke up he found himself lame and bruised. His best pig was gone, a crowbar lay on the ground tied into knots. Farmer Cook says the wild man did this to show his annoyance at being interrupted.

The next night Peter Thomas was driving near Dead Man's Lane when he met this wild man. Thomas says he looked like an ape. He seized the near horse and with a single sweep of his long, hairy arm tore off the harness. Then he wrung the horse's neck and dragged him to the woods. This story is vouched for by Mr. Thomas, who is a church deacon.

A party of hunters followed the tracks to a lonely swamp. The foot-prints showed that the man's nails had developed into claws. He had uprooted trees ever and anon out of sheer devilry.

The hair of the wild man was found yesterday, but he was not at home. Herpetickers discovered it in the woods near Hattlesnake Hill. Near by was a portion of Mr. Thomas' horse, which evidently had been torn with the teeth of the wild man. Scattered about were the bones of cows, sheep and other animals. The wild man takes his meat raw.

Some say the wild man is an escaped chimpanzee or gorilla, but a member of the New York Vegetarian association, who is boarding at Port Jervis says monkeys don't eat meat. Others say he is an escaped Jerseyman. Farmer Thomas believes he is a Philadelphian.—New York World.

1895 Wildman Ape-like Tennessee

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