THIS INFANT HAD NERVE.

A Two-year-old That Floated in a Cistern and Helped Rescue Himself.

Little Charles Lee Burdon, the twenty-five-months-old grandson of Lee Burdon, is being petted and caressed by the citizens of Elmwood, both as a musical prodigy and more particularly in recognition of his wonderful presence of mind and courage in the presence of death by drowning which he displayed under the most trying circumstances even to one of maturer years.

Charley was visiting Grandpa Burdon in Greenwich street, and, clad in an ulster and tight fitting bonnet, was playing in the yard, accompanied by his grandmother. There is a cistern in the yard, 10 feet in depth, about 8 feet in circumference and containing 7 feet of water. It is supplied with an iron cover, and precautions had been taken to have it securely fastened. Charley decided to make an investigation.

His grandmother left him for an instant, and the child in some unexplainable manner either succeeded in tilting the cover by partly raising it, or else as he stepped on the edge it was raised sufficiently to make an opening through which the adventurous infant was precipitated. The grandmother returned to the spot where she had left him, but he had disappeared. She called out to him, but no response was heard. She made a circuit of the grounds, but no trace of the boy was discernible. Happily she thought of the cistern, and seeing that the cover was bottom side up she removed it from the opening and was terrified to discover Charley floating on the surface of the water. He had probably fallen into the cistern feet foremost and his clothing had buoyed him up so that he was able to float temporarily.

The frantic grandparent called to him, and he responded bravely. She besought him to raise his head a little, and then called out to the gardener to come to the rescue. Peter hastened to the spot, and in his perplexity could not devise an immediate plan of action. Mrs. Burdon realized the dire peril of the situation, and seeing a small pitchfork near by she seized it, and with Peter's assistance made a desperate effort to fasten it into the infant's clothing. The cistern was dark, and it was with extreme difficulty that the exact location of the child could be discerned. All the while the grandmother was urging Charley to keep up courage and uttering words of loving solicitude, and the little fellow responded with lisping assurances. Finally the handle of the pitchfork was thrust within reaching distance and Charley was bidden to cling fast to it. He is a vigorous, well developed boy, and he quickly clasped his hands around the staff and clung to it with dogged determination.

Slowly and steadily the weight was lifted to the surface of the cistern, and the wet and dripping figure was clasped in the arms of his deliverers. Charley was cool and self possessed, and was quickly taken into the house and supplied with an outfit of dry clothing, and hot drink was administered to him. He lisped that he was pretty wet, but that he was a smart boy because he swimmed in the water.—Providence Journal.

Moorish Locusts Feed Man and Beast.

The British consul at Mogador while on an excursion inland, about a day's journey from Mogador, met flights of locusts. He says it was an astonishing and interesting though painful sight, the air being in some parts so thick with them that they formed a dense living brown fog, through which he could hardly find his way, while they so completely covered the ground that the utmost caution was necessary in walking, as he could not tell whether he was treading on soft sand, hard slippery rock, or what.

Many birds feasted on the insects, including large flights of gulls from the sea, and beasts evidently enjoy their share, for in the middle of the densest swarm he saw a fine red fox dancing about in the most frantic manner, leaping up and snapping dozens of the locusts in the air, until, seeing the stranger, he suddenly dropped on all fours and quickly vanished in the live fog. Not only did the barbel get their share of the novel food (the consul used the locusts successfully as bait for them), but some of the fish of the Atlantic were found gorged with locusts which had been blown off the land by easterly winds. As usual, they were extensively eaten by the native population, both Mohammedan and Jewish.—London Times.

Bowery Drug Stores.

The Bowery drug stores do a large consultation and advice business. They hire some young doctor who is licensed to practice, in order that they may keep within the law and not subject themselves to prosecution by the county medical society. These young practitioners take no pay for their services directly from the customer, the druggist making his money and theirs out of the medicines which he sells. No prescriptions are given to the customer lest he take them somewhere else to be filled more cheaply.

These places sell a great deal of patent medicines, especially such things as Bone Liniment and bitters strong enough to set one's nerves at tension. The inhabitants of the Bowery, when they take anything internally or externally, want it to produce an effect about which there is no mistake.—New York Sun.

The Dog Knew.

A few weeks after my marriage we went to our future home, a farm ten miles from the town of L——, which was my husband's birthplace and the home of his family. Mr. E—— had kept bachelor's hall for a year.

Among his possessions was a beautiful setter dog, Bounce, who soon became much attached to me. He followed me everywhere, and in the frequent absence of my husband from the house never allowed me to get out of his sight.

We often drove to L—— for a visit of several days, and sometimes to my own home, thirty miles away. On our return the dog's delight was a very pleasant welcome, and when Mr. E—— got out of the buggy to open the gate, Bounce, after greeting him, would jump into the vacant place in the buggy and he and I would drive up to the house.

Once, however, Mr. E—— was already at home and I, with a small, precious bundle of humanity drove up in the old carriage from my mother's. When we arrived no one was in sight, although we were expected during the day.

We were in the house, and baby was lying quietly on the bed, before Mr. E—— heard of our arrival and hurried in, closely followed by Bounce. My welcome was more demonstrative than usual, as it was long since the dog had seen me. In a little while I turned to the bed, and taking baby, held him down for Bounce to admire.

Never shall I forget the look of reproach and sadness in those almost human eyes. He stood for one instant looking at me, and then turned and walked slowly from the room. From that day, for all the five years of his after life, he ignored my existence and that of baby, never coming near me, nor allowing the child to touch him.—Cor. Youth's Companion.

How Our Globe's Age Is Calculated.

The amount of lime salts in water which drains from districts made up of granites and basalts is found by comparison of different analyses to be on an average of about 3.73 parts in 100,000 parts of water. It is further assumed by those who take this mode of reckoning the age of the world that the excess areas of igneons rocks, taken on an average throughout all geological time, will bear to the exposures of sedimentary rocks a ratio of one to nine. From these and other more complicated data it has been inferred that the elimination of the calcareous matter now found in all the sedimentary strata must have been going on through a period of 600,000,000 years! This therefore represents the minimum age of the world.

Geologists also conclude that the formation of the Laurentian, Cambrian and silurian strata occupied a period of about 200,000,000 years; the red sandstone, the carboniferous and the pœcilitic systems another 200,000,000 years, the remaining 200,000,000 years being taken with the formation of all other stratas. Thus we are led to believe that geological time has been enormously in excess of the limits urged by certain well known physicists, and that it has been ample to allow for all the changes which, on the hypothesis of evolution, have occurred in the organic world.—St. Louis Republic.

A Flirt Rebuked.

At a social gathering on Harlem avenue Professor Snore, of Columbia college, was present as an invited guest. Miss Esmerelda Longcoffin, a venerable maiden lady, was also present, and as usual she made frantic efforts to captivate the professor, who, by the way, is a confirmed woman hater.

"Professor, how old do you really think I am?" asked Esmerelda, coquettishly.

"I can't possibly tell," replied the professor. "I'm not in charge of the department of ancient history."—Texas Siftings.

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