

Baker Street Elementary

Presents
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



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The Life and Times in Victorian London
AB008 -- Victorian Children -- February, 2022



*Welcome to topic # AB008... Today we
will be discussing Victorian children...
Thanks so much to AboutBritain.com for
use of their summary text for this lesson...*



The lives lead by Victorian children varied widely depending on the social standing and financial position of their parents.



When it came to the Royal family, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert had nine children.



Their care was of paramount importance so they had nurses, doctors, household servants, tutors, and governors to take care of their every need.



Their clothing was of the finest quality, they learned etiquette, their slightest sniffle was investigated and good food was a daily staple.



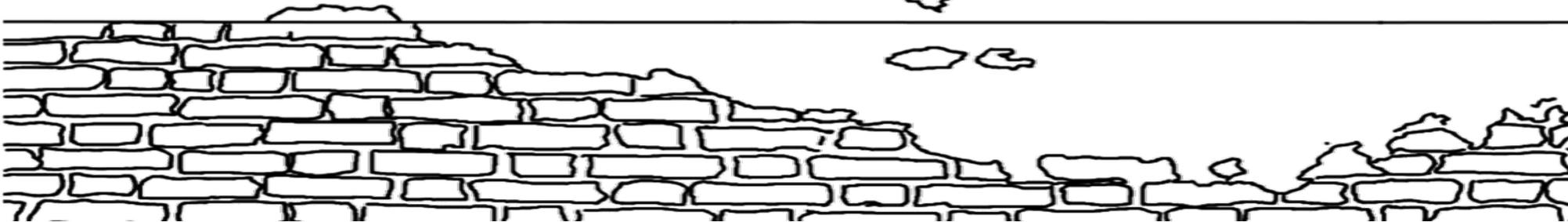


*Days were filled with lessons,
but there was time for play
and leisure activities.*





*Their homes had spacious
rooms, filled with
furniture and toys.*





Beds had clean linen, and playthings would be scattered about.





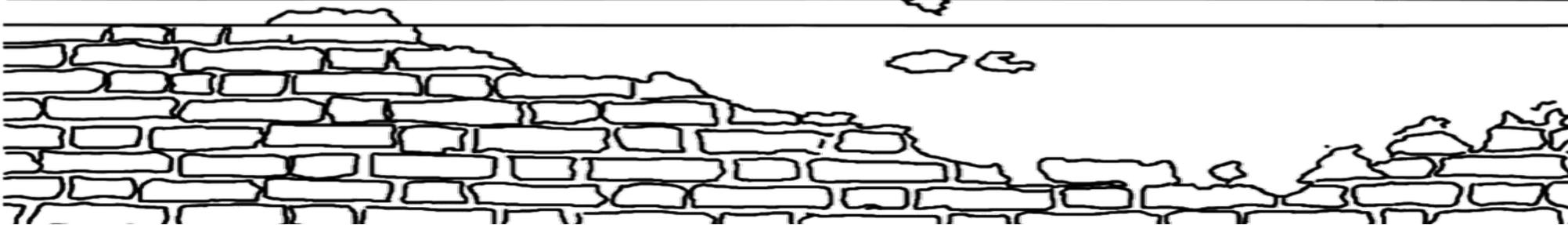
The lifestyle of Victoria and Albert's children was similar to the lifestyle all Victorian Children of the upper and middle class enjoyed.



*Wants were taken
care of almost
immediately.*



Girls honed their home-making skills while boys would learn either estate management or financial procedures.



Dances and other group gatherings would happen on a regular basis.



*"Well to do" Victorian Children
enjoyed travel, with either trips
to the seaside or to The
Continent.*



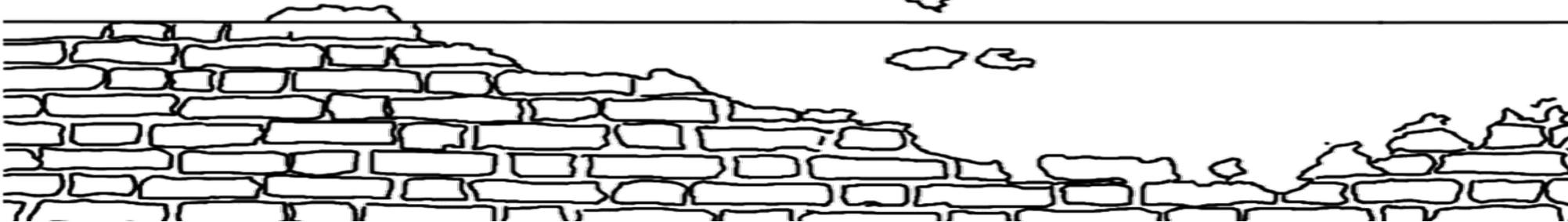


Pocket change was available for any small personal purchases.





*Victorian toys for
these children were
expensive.*



Rocking horses with real hair and doll's houses full of beautiful furniture would occupy young girls for hours.



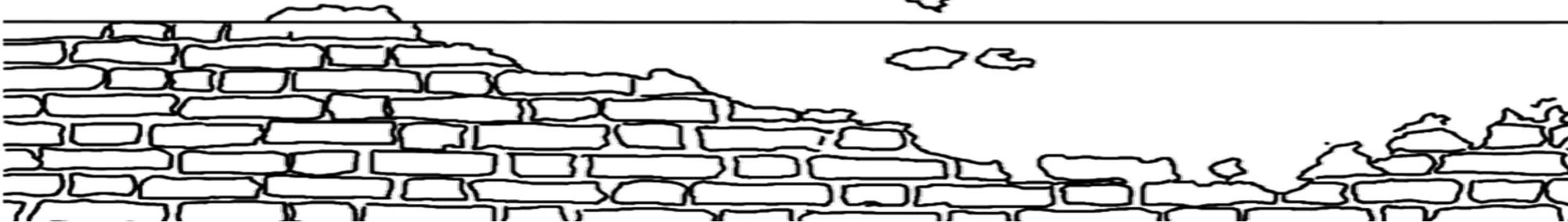
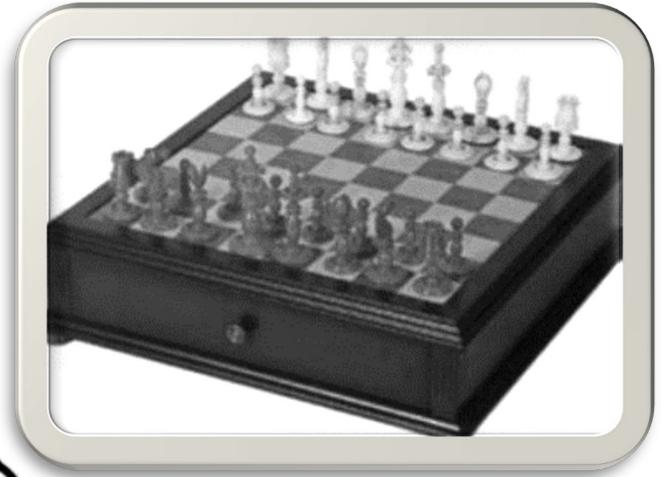
Wax dolls and elegant tea sets would often be set up in a corner of the bedroom.



Boys would have elaborate train sets. Toy soldiers and marbles would be scattered about the floor.



*Checker boards and
chess sets could be
easily reached.*



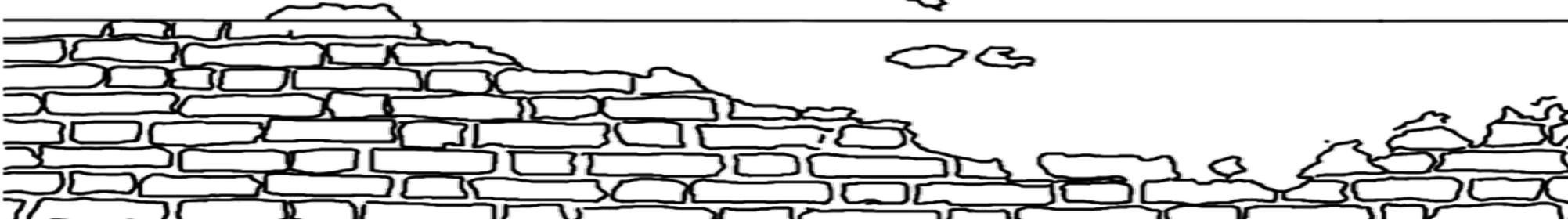
*On the other side of the coin,
poverty was a way of life for many
Victorian children. There often
wasn't the time or energy for play.*



Food was whatever could be found, scraped together, or stolen. Starvation and cold were facts of life.



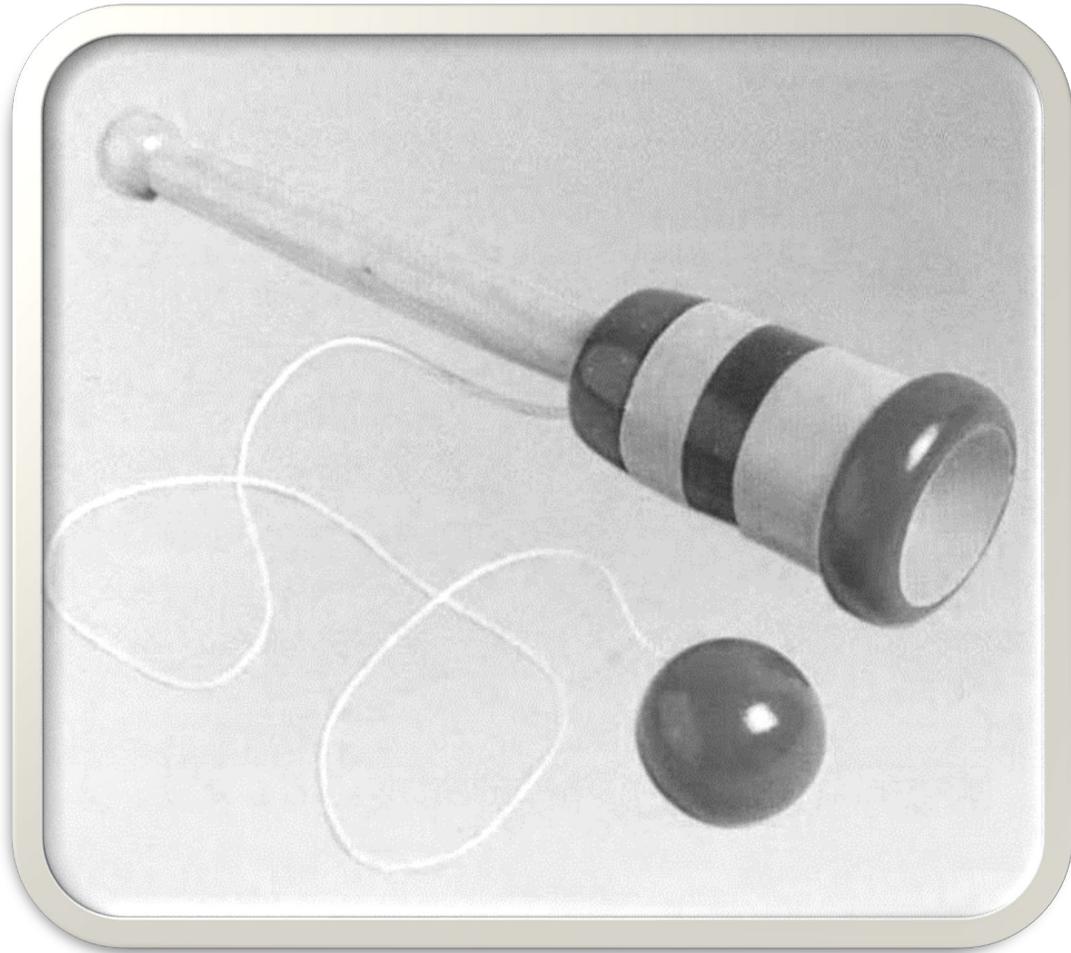
Clothing most often came from trash barrels, or was purchased with whatever few coins a person had on hand. Sniffles would be allowed to grow into colds.





*Ill health was often cured only
by death as the poor could not
afford medical care.*





*Although perhaps not
played with often,
Victorian toys were
available for a bit of joy.*



Boys would use yo-yo's, tin soldiers, and toy drums. Marbles were popular. Girls would make their own dolls from bits of rags and buttons.



These dolls would be loved just as much as the wax dolls available to the wealthier little girls.



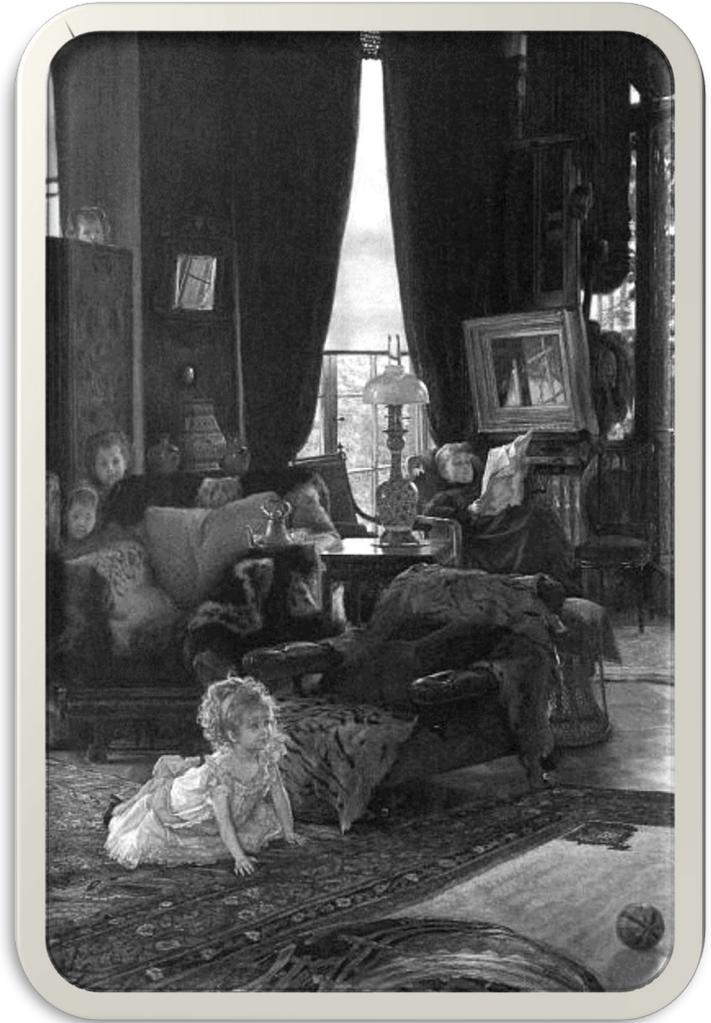
*A hopscotch game
could be held at a
moment's notice.*

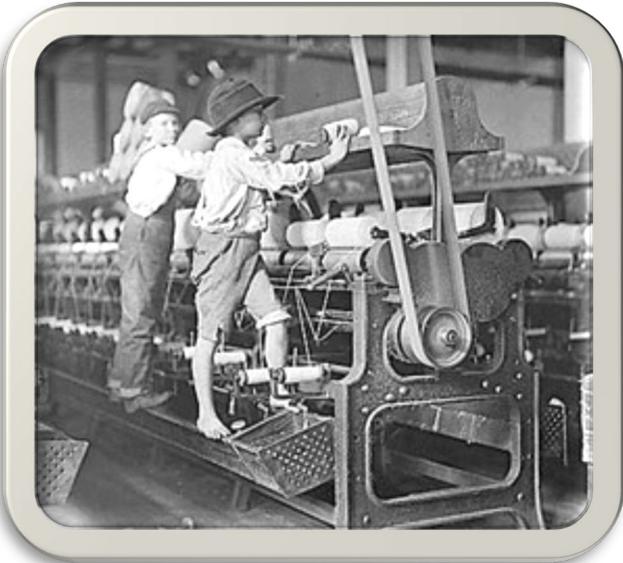


If toys couldn't be found, rolling a hoop down the street would use any energy which was left over from a day of work.

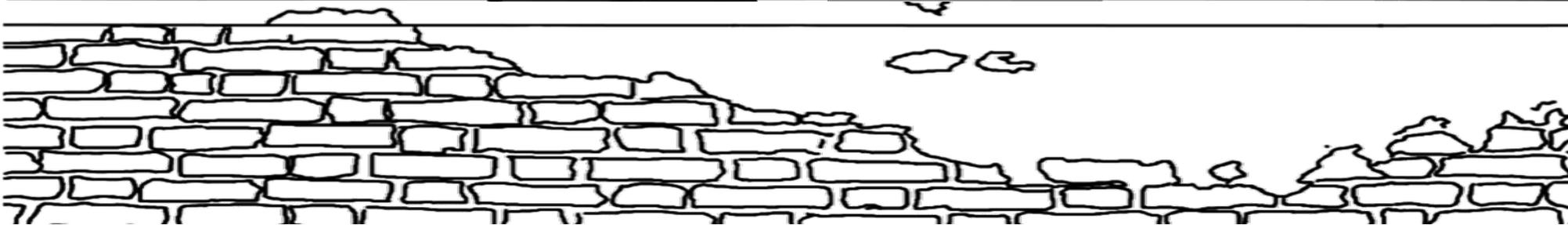


*Games of hide-and-peek and
Blindman's Bluff would be enjoyed
by groups of children.*



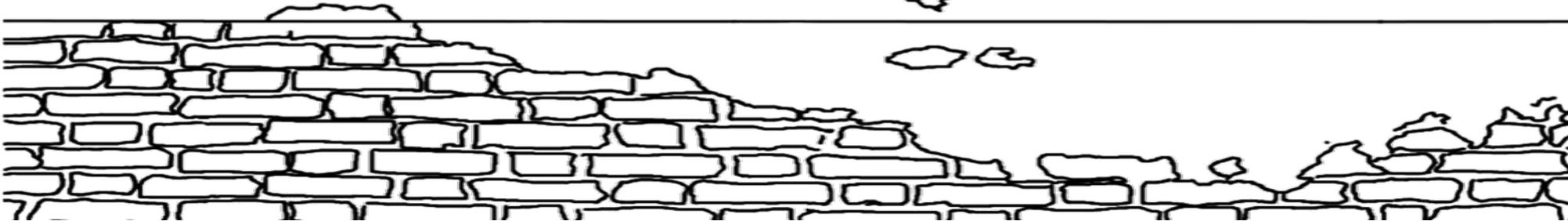


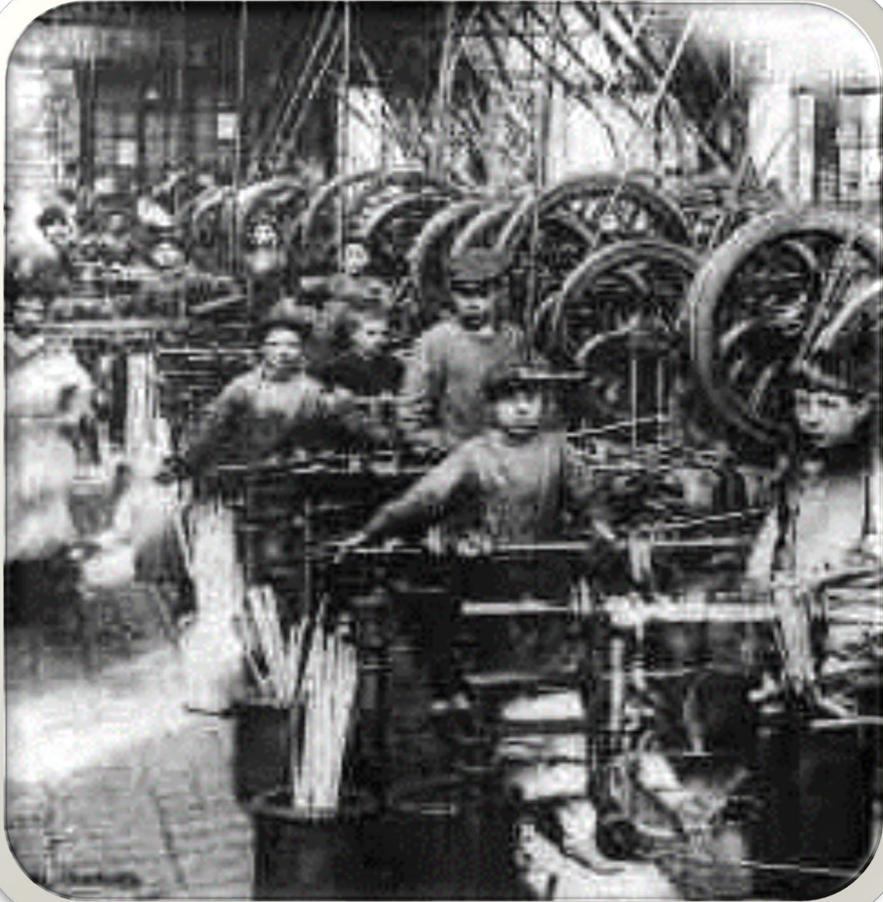
To support a family, children were expected to help supplement the family budget and were sent to work quite young.





*These weren't gentile jobs,
they were manual labor paying
extremely low wages.*





*Factories employed the young
to crawl beneath huge
machinery - into spaces which
adults were too large to enter.*

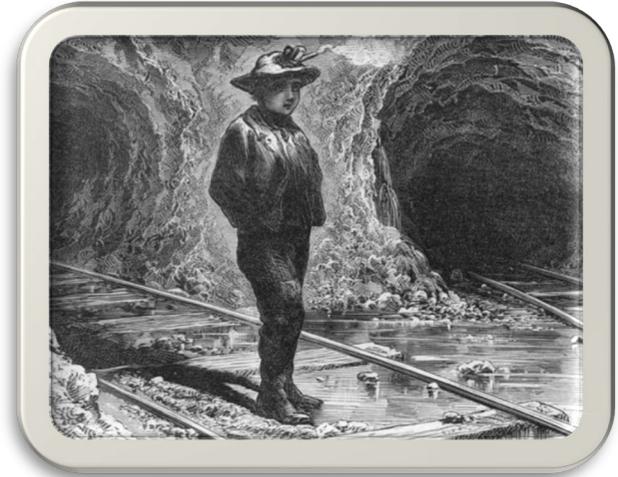




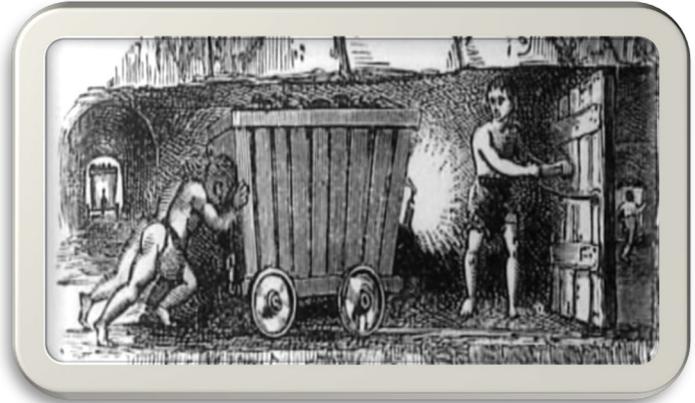
Long hours of drudgery would be the order of the day, often starting before dawn and continuing after dark.



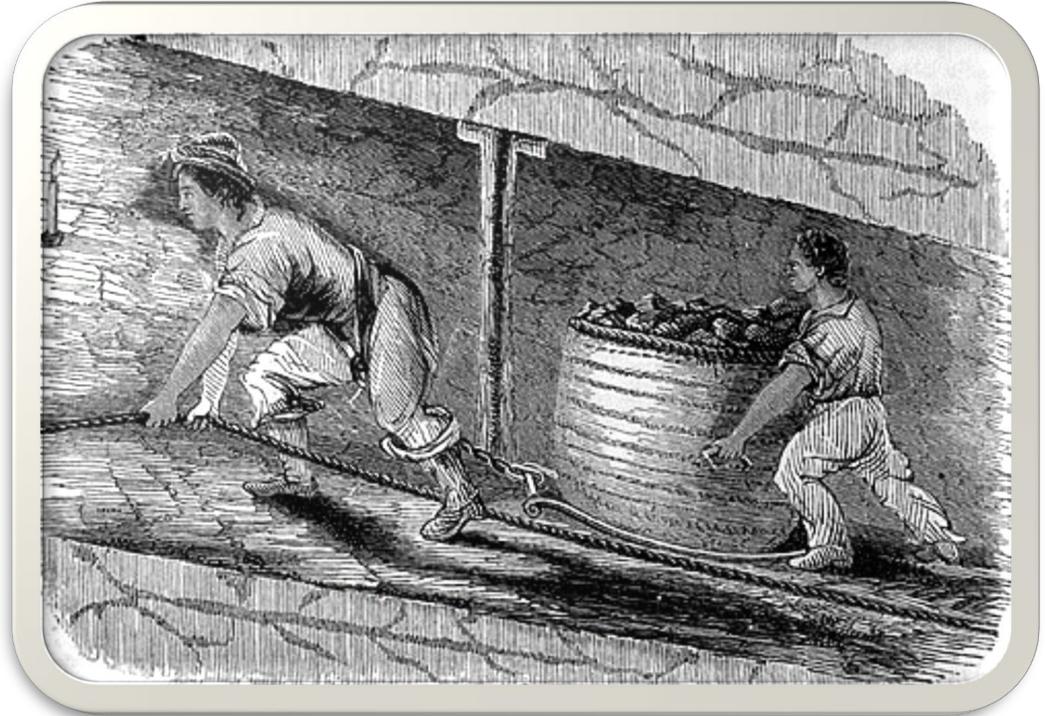
*Conditions were unsafe.
Children who crawled
beneath working machines
were often killed.*



Coal mines wanted children to open and close ventilating doors.



*Until the middle of the 1800's,
children as young as five would
often work up to 12 hours a day
underground, often barefoot.*



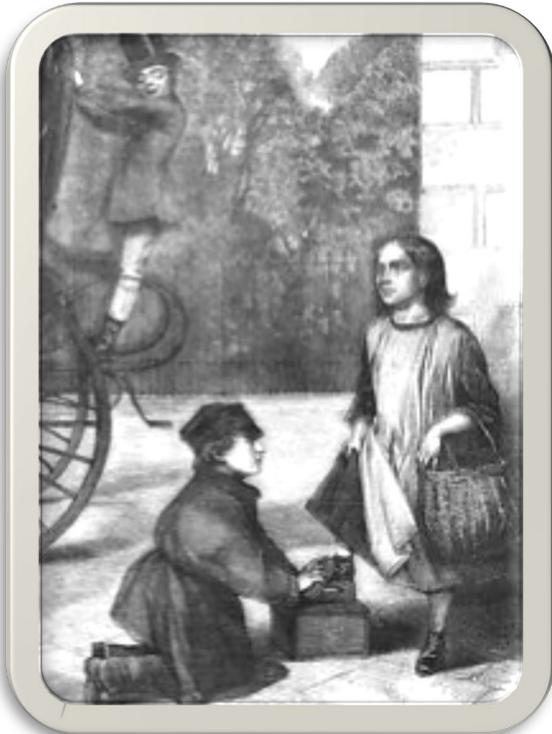
*If not employed in a business,
youngsters would roam the streets
looking for work.*



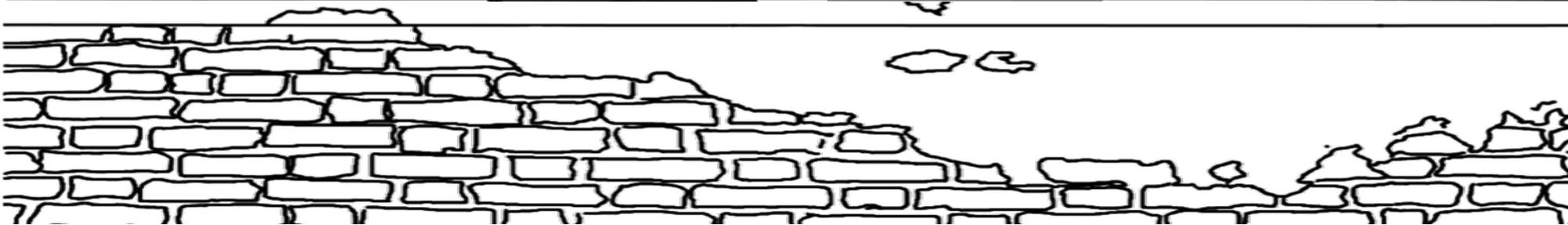


*Being a messenger was a
'clean' job, as was
selling flowers.*

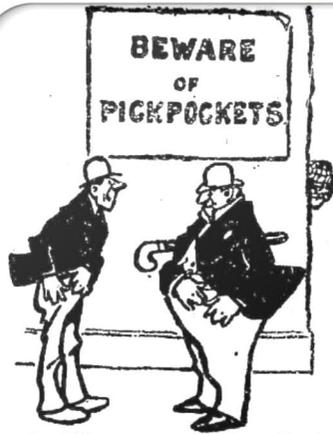




*Others would polish shoes,
sweep front steps, or
become chimney sweeps.*



Some poorer Victorian children found that criminal activities made their lives easier.



1. "Pon me word," said the stranger to the stout man, as he clapped his hand to his trousers pocket, "all these 'ere notices abart pickpockets makes yer feel quite nervous, don't they?" "They do that," replied the stout man, as he too felt his pocket.



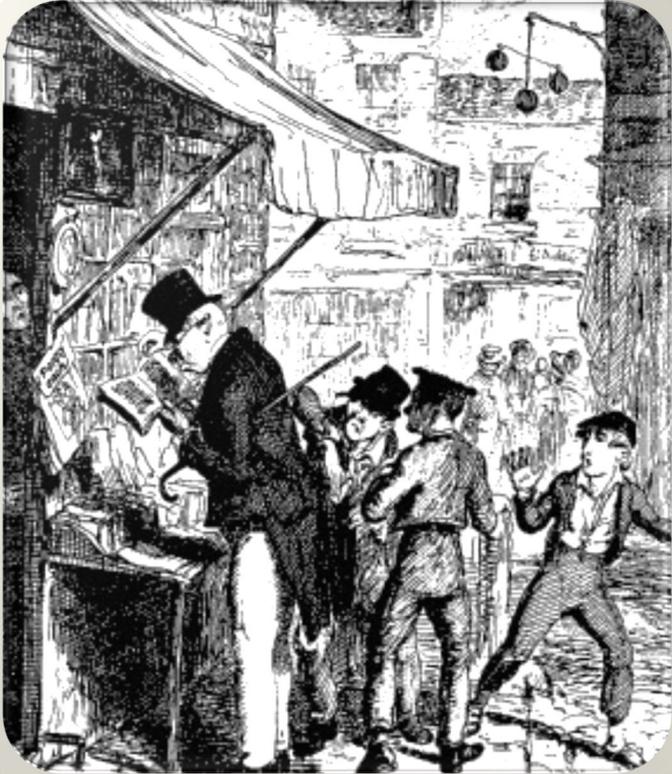
2. "Talk abart pickpockets," went on the stranger—"it's simply 'strordinary the perfection to which they've brought the hart. Why, I've knowed a pickpocket to 'old a man in conversation and prig his ticker at the same time, while a pal actually rifled his pockets! Simply 'strordinary! wonderful!!"



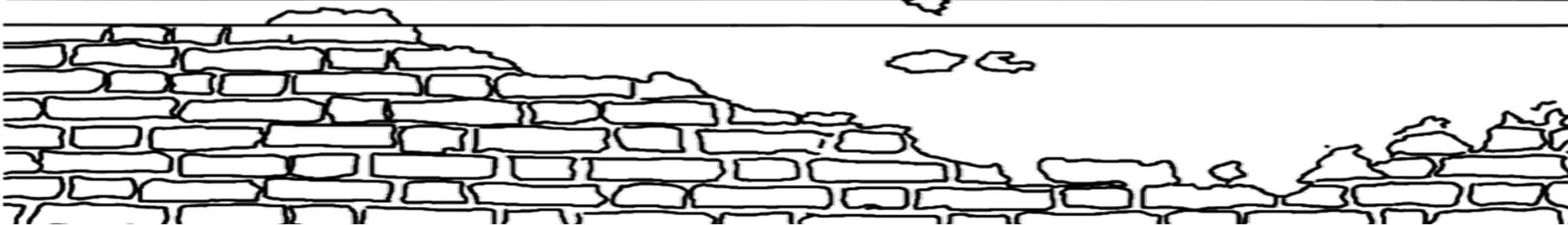
3. And when that stranger had departed, and the stout gent found *his* ticker and purse and everything gone, why, you may depend that he thoroughly agreed that it was 'strordinary wonderful!



Pickpockets were everywhere. Snatching food off food-vendor's carts and quickly running away was often the only method of getting something to eat.



*Being without shelter,
or parents, wasn't
unusual.*



*Parents were often
unable to support their
offspring.*



*These children would be
turned out into the
streets to fend for
themselves.*

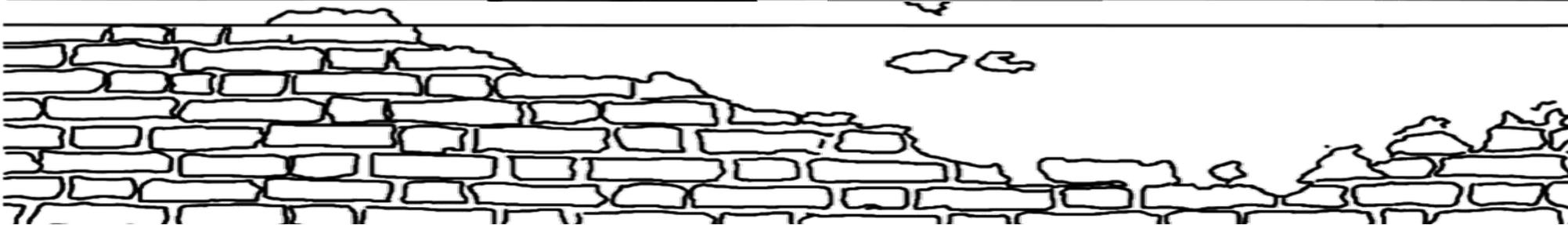


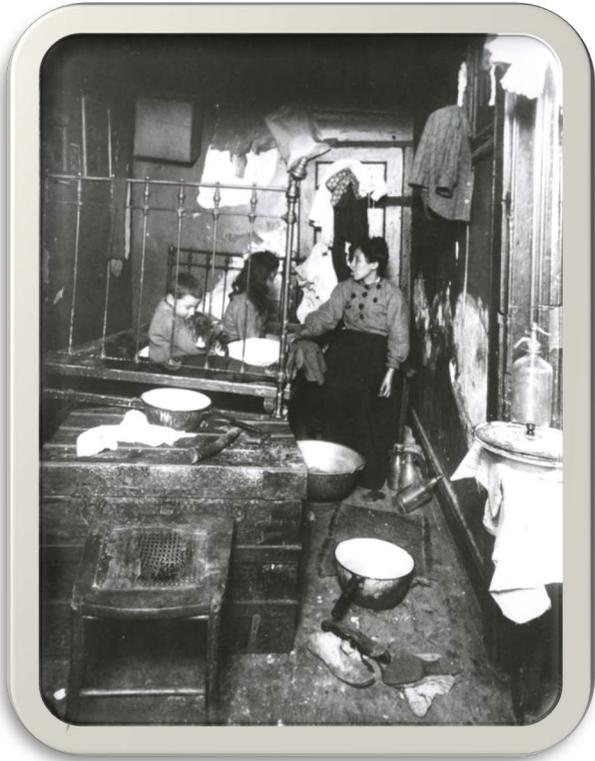
Child abuse was a common occurrence, so many children would just run away. If there was shelter, it was often in a tenement.



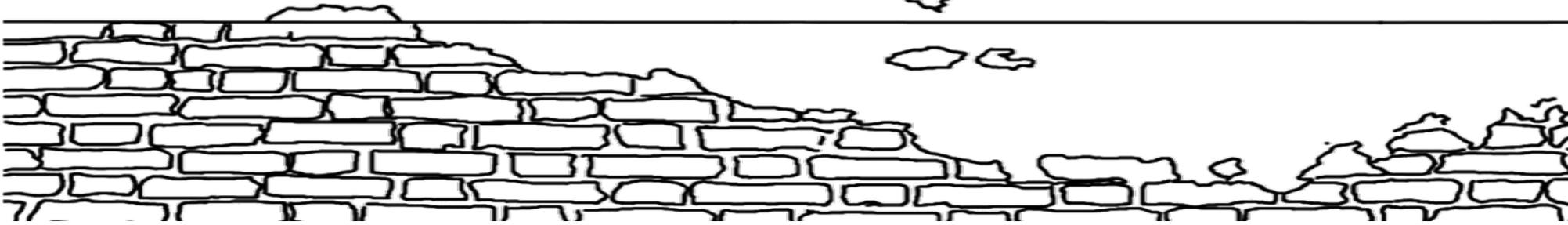


These buildings would be filled with people of all ages, most often sharing single rooms.





*Disease was prevalent in these
slum conditions due to the
populations of fleas and rats.*





Sanitation was unheard of, and running water was a luxury few could experience.



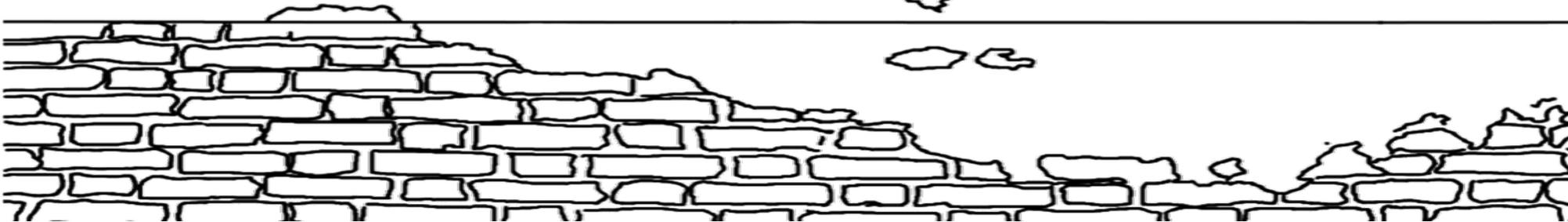
Water would come from an outside ditch. It was normal for these to be filled with raw sewage and dead animals.



By the late 1800's, it was widely felt that something needed to be done to help the poor.



Homes were opened to help the youngsters who were roaming the streets.



*Laws governing the
employment of
children went onto the
statute books.*



However, nothing happened quickly. Although a start had been made, the lifestyle of destitute Victorian children did not see any major improvement until the early 1900's.



*Again, thanks to
AboutBritain.com for their
help... So we have completed
topic # AB008 in our series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back
with another topic
soon...*





Original Source Material for this topic:

1) <http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-children.asp>



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"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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