

that neighborhood. Finally, the two "buck" parkies were captured and conveyed to lock-up. The engagement lasted until daylight, when a full peck of wool, and a bushel of boot heels and buttons were found upon the field of action; it was emphatically, the greatest wool gathering on record. Not wishing to give unnecessary publicity to the fact that Africa carried war into the Tremont House, no complaint was entered, and the two Congos were discharged.

[From the Baltimore Sun.]

AN EXCITING PANTHER HUNT IN THE MOUNTAINS OF VIRGINIA.

It may not be generally known that that part of the State of Virginia where the Counties of Shenandoah, Hardy, and Pendleton join, is as wild as any other part of the territory of the United States, and abounding in most kinds of game. The waters of Cedar Creek, a wild and romantic stream, wash the base of the tall ridges which rear their frowning summits of rock far overhead, altogether presenting as primitive an appearance as can well be imagined.

A short time since, the inmates of a dwelling, not far from Cedar Creek, at night, were startled by the attempts of a large animal to get into the house. A sick lady, infant, and nurse, occupied a room on the first floor. A brother and sister occupied apartments above, and the husband was absent. From the lateness of the hour the entire household was asleep. The lady was awakened by hearing something at the window, and turning towards it, in the full light of the moon, she saw the head of an animal at a pane of the glass, which was almost instantly broken, and a large round head thrust through the opening—the sash bent, and seemed as if it would give way. Her screams aroused the house and brought her brother into the room, when the animal with difficulty withdrew his head. An effort was made to pursue it, but the only dog on the premises refused to leave the house—his instinct, probably, telling him there was danger.

On the following morning, some two hours before day, accompanied by their trusty dogs, they traced his steps, and after a long and laborious walk, arrived at his den, only to find, to their great satisfaction, that the animal had left his retreat and gone farther. They, however, again followed the track, keeping the dogs back so as not to destroy the foot-prints by running over them. In a short time they came across the carcass of a deer, which had been recently killed and nearly devoured. From this they judged they were close upon him.—The route now was on the very summit of Paddy Mountain, along which they plodded through the deep snow until near the setting of the sun, when they had the satisfaction to find that the game had again taken to a den. One of the dogs ran upon the flat rock which crowned the den, and placing his nose to a small rent, gave unmistakable evidence, by erect tail and a low growl, that the animal was within. He instantly darted round and entered the hole, followed by the others, before it could be prevented.

In a moment a terrible growl was heard, followed by a blow of the animal's paw on the rock, as he struck at the dogs. Soon the mingled growls of the animal, and the furious barking of the dogs, with cries of pain and rage of the latter, came from the den. The question was now, what was to be done? The dogs must be got out, or all would be killed. The old hunter then told the youngest of his nephews that he must try and get into the hole and pull the dogs out, while his brother must prevent them from re-entering, and he would stand ready to pull him out at the first notice of danger. All was safely and successfully accomplished. The dogs were but little hurt, except the noble fellow which first entered; he had received a mortal hurt.

Rudolph again told the young man that he must go into the hole, while he and his brother would stand ready to pull him out, and see what the animal was. This was cheerfully agreed to, and he entered. After a careful survey he said he could not see anything. "Look here to the right," said Adam, "and under the rock where the dog first wined." In a few moments he answered—"I see a pair of eyes as big as

a dollar, and as bright as a coal of fire." "It is not a bear then," said Adam, "for as a bear's head is shaped like a pig's, his eyes are small and close together." The nephew was drawn out, and they all stood with rifles ready.

Rudolph then went to the rent in the rock and cleared away all the leaves and litter which obstructed the passage of the light into the den. At his own instance he was then lowered into the den to take a look. In a little time he was pulled out, and stated that there were two animals in the cave, one of which he had seen leap upon a rock far back in the chamber, while the one which the nephew had seen still lay at the same place, and that it was of a dun color. He concluded to go into the hole first, and hold the muzzle of the rifle; one of the nephews was to follow to pull the trigger, while the other remained outside to keep the dogs off. He had discovered that the hole went down about six feet and then stopped at a rock about three feet high, between which and the roof of the cave was the entrance to the chamber where the animal lay. He was assured that one man could not shoot him, as from the position he must necessarily occupy in the hole, he could not get the muzzle of the piece over the ledge of rock at the entrance.

The plan being formed, it was as speedily carried out; and Rudolph entered first, firmly clutching the rifle near the muzzle. The nephew followed, and brought the gun to his shoulder, though not without great difficulty, as the position they were in was exceedingly awkward, being nearly on their backs, and their heads lower than their feet. "Do your work clear," said Adam; "shoot at his eye, and don't let us have to shoot twice." "I see his eyes now," said the young man, "but can not find the end of the rifle. Raise a little higher—a little to the left—a little to the right—there, steady—a little higher!" in a low whisper, when the piece was instantly discharged with a most terrible report in that confined place; and, as they afterwards said, they thought the rocks would have surely tumbled in on them.

In a moment the young man was drawn out by his brother, and together they pulled away at the old man, whose shirt becoming entangled in a projecting angle of the rock, he cried out he was fast; and they, supposing the animal had hold of him, pulled the harder, and after some bruises and contusions, got him out. Listening quietly, low deep groans, like the sobs of a human being in distress, were heard issuing from the cave. One of the dogs was sent into the cave, and all within being quiet, they knew the animal was dead. Their next efforts were directed to get the body out, which proved to be that of a panther, measuring nine feet one inch from the nose to the end of the tail. Finding it impossible to carry the body home, they skinned it, hung the body on a tree, and started off with the hide—a trophy of perseverance and courage rarely equalled. They say they are still ready to undergo the same toil and danger, if occasion offers, for so rich a prize.

THE ZICZAC AND THE CROCODILE.

On one occasion I saw a long way off a large crocodile, twelve or fifteen feet long, lying asleep under a perpendicular bank, about ten feet high, on the margin of a river. I stopped the boat at some distance, and noting the place sufficiently, I took a circuit inland, and came down cautiously to the top of the bank, whence with a heavy rifle, I made sure of my ugly game. I had already cut off his head, in imagination, and was considering whether it should be stuffed with its mouth open or shut. I peeped over the bank, there he was within ten feet of my rifle. I was on the point of firing at his eye when I observed that he was attended by a bird called the ziczac. It is of the plover species, of a grayish color, and as large as a small pigeon. The bird was walking up and down close to the crocodile's nose. I suppose I moved, for suddenly it saw me, and instead of flying away, as any respectable bird would have done, it jumped up about a foot from the ground, screamed "ziczac! ziczac!" with all the powers of its voice, and dashed itself against the crocodile's face two or three times. The great beast started up, and immediately spying

his danger, made a jump into the air, and dashing into the water with a splash which covered me with mud, he dived into the river and disappeared. The ziczac, to my increased admiration, proud apparently, of having saved his friend, remained walking up and down, uttering his cry, as I thought, with an exulting voice, and standing on the tips of his toes in a conceited manner, which made me very angry, and justly, with his impertinence. After having waited in vain for some time, to see whether the crocodile would come out again, I got up from the bank where I was lying, threw a clod of dirt at the ziczac, and came back to the boat feeling some consolation for the loss of my game in having witnessed a circumstance, the truth of which has been disputed by several writers on natural history.—*Curson's Visit to the Levant.*

ANCIENT COINS AND MEDALS.—The collection of coins and medals in the British Museum is superior to any existing in the world. I do not pretend to even a knowledge of the alphabet of Numismatics, as that branch of archæology which treats of coins and medals is called; and yet I confess to looking upon the rusty head of Alexander the Great, or the twisted nose of Ethelbert the Saxon King of Kent, or an authenticated piece of silver lodged perhaps in the pocket of a plebeian Roman, while he heard Mark Antony harangue, with a sort of loving interest that neither statue, nor sarcophagus, nor bas-reliefs from Hadrian's villa can excite. It is curious to think for how long a period the world continued to transact all its business without coined money. The ancient Egyptians had no coin. There is no allusion throughout the Old Testament to coin as having been used by the Hebrews; nor in all of Homer is it spoken of. For at least three thousand years men lived and toiled, bought and sold, without using a piece of coined money. The very first coins used by the Greeks, pieces of metal rudely stamped with a device on one side, are here; and from that date, from age to age, through the ramifications of a thousand nations, it is wonderful how complete is this collection.—*Correspondent of Newark Advertiser.*

AN ORIENTAL KING.—Captain Eggerton, in his winter tour in India, says:—"The king was about the most gorgeous, and yet nearly the most absurd individual I ever saw. All the effect of his magnificent robes and jewels was injured, not to say spoiled, by the ridiculous addition of a 42d Highlander's bonnet and plumes, which he wore with an air as if he really thought he had 'done it now.' Besides the usual black feathers, he had added a bird of paradise plume on one side of it, the whole effect being supremely ridiculous. In other respects, with his yellow and gold dress, and blue velvet mantle powdered with gold fleure-de-lis, his splendid jewelled chains, and his gold embroidered slippers, he was the most gorgeously 'got up' individual I ever saw. The chains he wore, three or four in number, were something like the collars of different orders of knighthood, but one mass of pearls or other precious stones. Besides these, he had strings of jewels of immense size hanging about his elbows, an attendant walking close behind him on each side to hold them, for fear they should break off. In fact, as he stood, I should think he would have been cheap at £100,000.

A SHORT CANADIAN SERMON.—Perhaps it may not be amiss to remember the printer in my discourse. He is in a very disagreeable situation. He trusts everybody; he knows not whom; his money is scattered everywhere, and he hardly knows where to look for it. His paper, his ink, his type, his journeymen's labor, his living, &c., must be punctually paid for.—You, Mr. —, and Mr. —, and a hundred others I could name, have taken his paper, and you and your children, and your neighbors have been informed, and I hope improved by it; if you miss one paper you would think very hard of the printer; you would rather go without your best meal than to be deprived of your newspaper. Have you ever complied with the terms of your subscription? Have you taken as much pains to furnish the printer with his money as he has to furnish you with his paper? Have you paid him for his type, his handiwork, his headwork? If you have not, go and do so.

A GOOD JUDGE OF DISTANCE.—It would be well if all passengers could keep themselves as firmly aloof from excitement in a steamboat race, as a venerable Friend, of Rhode Island, (now descended, full of years and full of honors, to his grave,) did on the occasion of a race between two contending steamers, on one occasion, in Long Island Sound. The boats had been running with no visible advantage on either side, for a great distance, and groups of excited persons were on the deck, discussing their several chances of triumph, and finally appealed to the "Friend" in question:—

"Don't you think we've gained on her in coming the last forty miles?"

"Yes," replied the Quaker, with imperturbable gravity, "I should say, from present appearances, that we had."

"Do you? Well, Mr. Brown, how much should you think we have gained upon her?"

"I may be mistaken," replied our "Friend," "for I have small gift of correctly calculating differences of distance; but I should think that in the last fifty miles we have gained upon her about an inch!"

He was too "close" an observer to be bothered with any further questioning from the excited bystanders.

A HAPPY RETORT.—An instance of Irish readiness at repartee occurred the other day at the Capitol, which is too good to be lost.

Certain members of Congress, finding the debates rather dry in the House, stepped out to refresh their thirsty spirits at Casparis's refectory which is conveniently contiguous. As they passed out, they saw some eight or nine laborers, harnessed to a sled, hauling a stone about heavy enough for one horse, while one, acting as driver, leisurely walked along side.

(All the laborers are on a per diem allowance, as well as the members.)

Pausing to witness this operation—which seemed to present a parallel to their own arduous labors in the public service—one of the members addressing "the driver," said:—

"Well, friends, you are making yourselves horses, I see!"

"Yes," was the prompt rejoinder; "and by the powers it's a mighty sight better than making asses of ourselves, as some of you are doing up there."

The prevailing report is, that the conversation abruptly closed, and every man of that party patronized Casparis to the extent of two juleps instead of one.—*Southern Press.*

SCENE IN COURT.—Not long since one of the learned counsel in a small suit, deemed it necessary to shake the testimony of a Mr. Samuel Butterworth, by impugning his veracity. A witness was called to the stand.

"Do you know Samuel Butterworth?"

"Yes."

"What is Butterworth?"

"Two and tenpence a pound, although some folks have paid as high as three shillings."

Two Dutchmen, studying the English language, met one morning, and the following conversation ensued:

"Ah, Hans, it did rain to-morrow?"

"Yaw!" was the reply, "so it was!"

"Hallo, there," said a farmer to an Irishman who was busily engaged at one of his cherry trees, "by what right do you take these cherries?"

"I faith, my friend," said he, "by my right hand, sure."

"Do you understand me now?" thundered out one of our country pedagogues to an urchin at whose head he threw an inkstand.

"I've got an ink-ling of what you mean," replied the boy.

An eccentric man in Bath, Me., was asked to contribute to foreign missions. He gave a quarter of a dollar, but stopped the agent as he was departing, and said, "Here is a dollar to pay the expense of getting the quarter to the heathen."

A son of the Emerald Isle, trying to put out a gas light with his fingers, cried out, "Och, murder, the devil a wick's in it."

"I'll take your part," as the dog said when he robbed the cat of her dinner.