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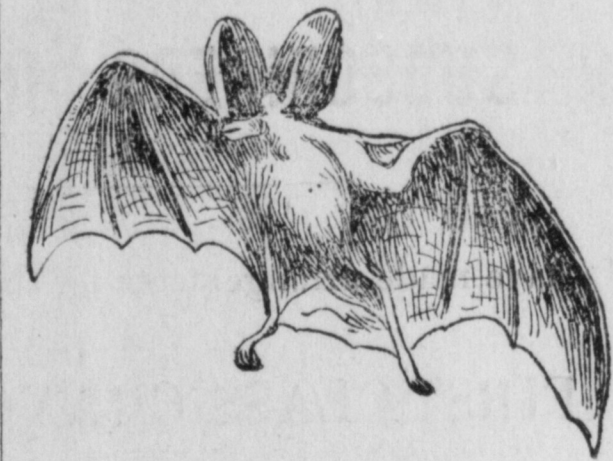
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SUCK HUMAN BLOOD**VAMPIRES WITH SHARP TEETH
AND AN APPETITE FOR GORE.**Only One Blood-Sucking Species in the
World—All Others are Harmless, Feeding
on Insects Only—The Large Kind, Known
as Flying Foxes, are Fruit-Eaters.Uncle Sam has a bat man. His name is
Gerit S. Miller, and he is engaged in
making a study of bats for the Govern-
ment. With this end in view, agents of
the Department of Agriculture have been
collecting these flying mammals from all
over the country, and the contents of hun-
dreds of their stomachs have been exam-
ined. The bat is an animal of some econ-
omic importance, inasmuch as it feeds on
insects. How many of these are of harm-
ful species nobody can say, as yet. In fact,
science up to date has learned very little
about bats and their habits.That is a pity, because bats are very re-
markable creatures. As a group they stand
alone, being not nearly related to any
other animals. Nobody knows whence in
creation they spring. Early naturalists
put them down among the birds, which

BIG-EARED BAT.

was not very surprising. They are the
only mammals that fly. It is not neces-
sary to explain that a flying squirrel does
not really fly. Bats are able to remain for
hours on the wing, being so swift in their
movements and so eccentric in their dart-
ings after insects that even a skilled
marksman finds it difficult to shoot them
without special practice. The most inter-
esting bat in the world is not found in the
United States, and nobody need regret that
circumstance. It is the true vampire. Al-
though many kinds of bats have been
charged with blood-sucking, this is the
only species which really has that habit,
as far as naturalists have been able to as-
ertain. It is a native of tropical America,
and it does a good deal of damage by bit-
ting horses on the back, where the saddle
rubs. It also attacks cattle. It does not
hesitate to assail human beings, and being
provided with sharp chisel-like teeth, it is
able to cut a piece of flesh clean out of a
man. Fortunately, it is small, weighing
only a few ounces, and having a wing-
spread about 2 feet. That is not much for
a bat. The Kalong bat of Java measures
5 feet from wing-tip to wing-tip.It was Darwin who first made scientific
demonstration of the blood-sucking habit
of the vampire bat. He found that it fed
exclusively on blood, the whole digestive
tract being specially modified for that
diet. The intestine is much shorter than
in any other species, because blood is easily
digested. The vampire is the only species
of its genus, which is called "Desmodus."
The bats of the United States are com-
monplace animals, comparatively speak-
ing. One must go to other countries to
find bats of great size and brilliant hue.
It is not true that all bats are dressed in a
garb resembling that of an undertaker.
There are species which are beautifully
colored. One of the largest kind is nearly
white, with a rosy blush from the red
blood that is seen through its skin. A
South American species is bright red,
mixed with buff. The long-eared bat of
California is almost white, with huge ears
twice the length of its head, and a re-
markable projection on the top of its
nose.There are about 400 species of bats in
the world. Of these thirty are found
within the borders of the United States.
These flying mammals are most numer-
ous in warm countries. In tropical Amer-
ica are many species which feed on fruit.

MACROGLOSSUS OF JAVA.

Some of these have long tongues furn-
ished with bristles, by means of which they
scrape off the pulp of the fruit they eat.
In Mexico, the West Indies and South
America the fruit-eating bats are plenti-
ful, but no species having this habit is
native to the United States. The fruit-
eating bats of the Old World, which are
called "flying foxes," are of genera quite
different. They are much larger, with a
wing-spread of 3 feet or more, and the
teeth are different. In the differentiation
of species naturalists rely to a great extent
upon teeth.These "flying-foxes" of Europe and Asia
do a good deal of damage. They come in
large flocks and settle upon an orchard,
taking the fruit at night. Some of Rud-
yard Kipling's stories tell about such vi-
sitations of bats in India. This is the only
harm that bats ever do, leaving the single
species known as the vampire out of ques-
tion. They are the most innocent animals
imaginable and there is not the slightest oc-
casion for the fear with which most people
regard them. Their appearance is certain-
ly against them, the face being hideous,
and the mouth filled with sharp teeth.
They suggest dark unwholesome caverns,
and their nocturnal habits make them
mysterious to the popular mind. There
are plenty of superstitions relating to bats.
Many a ghost has turned out to be a bat.
It is not surprising that bats are almost
always killed on sight.A story that has become classical is told
of the eccentric naturalist Rafinesque, who
on a certain occasion was the guest of the
great Audubon. The family had gone to
bed and it was near midnight when sud-
denly there arose a fearful uproar. Audu-
bon, perceiving that the noise came from
his guest's room, hastened thither and
found Rafinesque running about the apart-
ment stark naked, holding the handle of
Audubon's favorite violin. The body of
the instrument had been battered to pieces
in trying to kill bats which had entered
the open window presumably in pursuit
of insects attracted by the candle inside.
Rafinesque, believing the bats to be a
species new to him, lost his head alto-
gether.The numbers of bats sometimes found in
caverns are astonishing. A favorite roost-
ing-place of these animals is Wyandotte
Cave, Crawford County, Ind. Here they
hibernate in myriads, hanging to the roof
and walls by their hind feet. There is a
room in this cave that is known as Bat
Lodge, because the bats appear to assemblethere for council as well as for sleeping.
In the day time the ceiling is covered with
clusters of them, crowded thickly together,
and the air is filled with plaintive whin-
ing, whispering voices and a disagreeable
odor from the bodies of the animals. At
the beginning of twilight the bats start to
leave the cave for their nightly hunting
expedition. According to one description
that has been given, a column of them
from 20 to 40 feet wide and from two to
three miles long is then seen to move in a
straight line from the mouth of the cavern
to the northward. A few minutes later
another column quite as large issues forth,
directed to another point of the compass,
and a little later yet another column to
yet another point. In the morning the bats
return, but in small flocks.In caves which have been dwelling-places
of bats during long periods great accumu-
lations of bat guano are found. This
material is most valuable as a fertilizer,
containing a large proportion of nitrogen.
Considerable quantities of this guano have
been taken from caves in Texas. The
deposits in Marble Cave, in Southern Mis-
souri, are large, and many tons of the stuff
have been taken out by means of a wind-
lass and bucket. But for the fact that
there are no facilities for transporting the
merchandise to market, this guano might
be worked more extensively with profit.
The length of time during which the bat
guano has been accumulating in Marble
Cave can only be reckoned in the hundreds
of thousands of years. In the lower layers
of it are found bat remains, particularly
the jaws of bats, mixed with bones of ani-
mals that have been long extinct. It is
safe to estimate that the accumulation
represents a period of not less than 1,000,
000 years. Astonishing accumulations of
cherry pits and other seeds are made by
the fruit-eating bats of Jamaica. They
carry the fruit into caves, eat the pulp and
drop the seeds.The droppings of bats have a very strong
and unpleasant odor. In the neighborhood
of New Orleans, and elsewhere in the
Southern States, many houses are rendered
uninhabitable by this cause. The bats
get into lofts, between walls and under
loose clapboards—into all sorts of crannies,
in fact, from which it is difficult to dis-
lodge them. There is a record of 9,640
bats killed in one house at Seneca Point,
near Charleston, Md. Bats in cold latitudes
spend the winter in a condition of
torpor, the vital functions being practi-
cally suspended. No pulse can be detected,
and the animals seem actually dead. For
the sake of warmth they frequently gather
together in masses. They hibernate
usually in hollow trees or in caves, hang-
ing by their hind feet or by the wing claws
which correspond anatomically to the
thumbs of a human being. Some species
of bats have sucking disks on their heels

MEGADERM VAMPIRE.

and wrists, so that they are able to stick
on a wall like flies.At least three species of bats are po-
sitively known to have the habit of migrat-
ing, going south in winter. These are the
"hoary," the "red" and the "silver-hair-
ed" bats. The hoary bat is a mountain
species and breeds in the far north. Its
winter resort is the southern part of South
Carolina and Southern Texas. The three
species above mentioned are not found on
Cape Cod, except in the middle of August,
when they appear abundantly for two
weeks. At that season many of them
come aboard vessels off the coast. The
migrations of bats, like those of birds,
are governed by considerations of tempera-
ture and food supply.The wing of the bat is a very different
affair structurally from the wing of a bird.
A bird's wing is a mere stub for holding
feathers, the fingers being rudimentary.
In a bat's wing, on the other hand, the
fingers are enormously developed, and over
them is stretched a membrane very much
as silk is stretched over the ribs of an um-
brella. The membrane consists of two
coats of skin with nerves and vessels be-
tween. It is interesting to observe the
adaptation by nature of two methods so
widely different in the making of a wing.
Bats, though less graceful flyers than
birds, are much more agile. They do not
soar, but accomplish flight by rapid wing
beats.The wing of a bat is something more
than a mere instrument of flight. It is an
extremely delicate organ of touch.
In fact, it may be said that the sense of touch
is more highly developed in the bat than
in any other animal. Its nocturnal habit
renders this perceptive faculty extremely
valuable to the creature. It must be re-
membered that the membrane which cov-
ers the wings extends from the head and
to the feet and tail, practically surround-
ing the body. The large ears are also or-
gans of touch. At the bases of the fine
hairs that cover the membrane and the
ears are sensitive nerve-fibers. A bat that
has been blinded will fly about a room,
passing hither and thither between threads
that have been stretched across the way
and that, without ever touching one of
them. The somewhat cruel experiment
has been made more than once.The expression "blind as a bat" is based
on a false notion. The eyes of a bat are
well developed, and it is probable that it
sees very well. Its senses of hearing and
smelling are exceedingly acute. The voice
of a bat is a metallic squeak so highly
pitched as to be near the limit of human
hearing, being reckoned at about 2,300
vibrations a second.When vibrations become much more
rapid than that they are not detected by the
ear. Many persons cannot hear the squeak
of a bat for this reason. Apparently, bats
are very intelligent, notwithstanding their
keen senses. Their breeding habits
are a mystery, though it is known that the
female gives birth to from one to three
young.The female bat is a very devoted mother.
A story perfectly well authenticated is
told of a person who caught a little bat
and carried it away. The mother followed
and actually alighted upon the breast of
the captor, her fear of him being overcome
by the strength of the maternal instinct.
All bats are nocturnal, and there is not
one day flying species, though some of
them venture abroad in the twilight. It
is chiefly on this account that so little is
known positively about bats. To shoot
them is difficult for lack of daylight, as
well as by reason of their erratic mode of
flight. An enthusiastic bat hunter would
rather kill one hoary bat than slay a dozen
deer. The sexes of bats differ very little,
the females being slightly bigger as a
rule. The males of some species have
scent glands at the neck or on the shoul-ders, and one genus has them on the
wings. These glands are rudimentary in
the females. Whether or not the scent is
for the purpose of attracting the female is
not known.Bats are very awkward in their move-
ments on the ground; it is only in flight
that they are agile. Their likeness to
mice causes many people to imagine that
they are nearly related to those rodents,
but such is by no means the fact. In
some parts of the world they are called
"flying mice," and the German name for
bat is "fledermaus." When the bat is at
rest its wings are folded up—that is to
say, the fingers are folded together at the
root of the hand, so as to make of them a
compact bundle like the ribs of an um-
brella. The bats of the United States feed
exclusively on insects, mostly beetles,
which they capture flying. Some species
use the rear part of the membrane between
the legs and the tail as a sort of scoop-net,
by means of which the flying beetles are
captured, to be subsequently examined
and eaten. Bats will catch in this way
little pebbles that are thrown to them.
This statement is made on the authority
of one of the most famous of living natu-
ralists.

Caves in Trinidad harbor contain bats



AFRICAN BAT.

that are fish-eaters. They actually catch
small fishes somewhat after the manner
of fish-hawks. Bats are very abundant in
the Yellowstone National Park. Imme-
nse numbers of them congregate in the
caverns and in pockets in the rocks near
the Hot Springs. They seem to find the
warmth agreeable, and hundreds of them
may be startled from every cranny. The
so-called pale bat of California, New Mexi-
co and Arizona, a common species, has
very long ears and a peculiar naked muzzle
of a livid hue which gives to the animal a
very repulsive appearance. It infests
houses and causes much annoyance by
scrambling about in walls. Another re-
markable California bat has enormous
ears, projecting forward so as to form what
look like ear trumpets. The nostrils are
far above and beyond the mouth in a sort
of proboscis.There is not the slightest cause of the
fear commonly entertained by women that
a bat will get into their hair. No animal
is less likely to do such a thing. How
the notion originated is beyond imagining.
Another popular belief is to the effect that
bats carry bed-bugs. This is likewise un-
founded. Certain parasitic insects that
look like bed bugs are found on the ears of
bats, but they are not such.**LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE.**Curious Results of Observations By the
Weather Bureau.The results of observations of lightning
and the damage and destruction it causes
are given in a pamphlet issued by the
Weather Bureau at Washington. Among
the curious facts noted is that the theory
that lightning never strikes twice in the
same place does not hold good. Many in-
stances are cited where lightning has
struck in the same place not only twice,
but several times. Another singular fact
is that barns in the country, which appear
to be favorite marks for lightning, are
seldom struck at the season of the year
when they are empty, but suffer most
when they are filled, just after harvest
time.It is shown by the records that in June,
1894, ninety-six persons were killed by
lightning in this country and 102 severely
injured, while numerous cows, sheep and
horses were knocked down and property
destroyed worth \$250,000. But in Novem-
ber of the same year only one dwelling
was struck. The hot summer months are
the favorite season for the lightning to
play. Some states are more affected than
others. New York state leads in the record
of barns struck during 1892, Pennsylvania
coming next and Michigan third. In 1892
the damage from fires caused by lightning
amounted to nearly \$3,000,000 in the
United States, and in no single year since
the figures have been kept has the loss
been less than \$1,000,000.During the five years the Weather Bu-
reau has been keeping these records, 1,120
persons have been killed by lightning in
this country, making an average of 224
per year. During ten years 12 churches
have been struck. The fact is noted that
a building may be seriously damaged
without having been struck at all. This
is done through electric induction, and the
case of the Hotel de Ville, at Brussels, is
cited, as a fire was caused there by light-
ning when it was supposed to be the best
protected building in the world.—Syracuse
Journal.**Soul Satisfaction.**Soul satisfaction is the thing above all
others to be desired, because it is the most
valuable and is within the reach of all.
Many desire wealth and stay poor; they
crave reputation, and are dishonored; they
thirst for knowledge, and remain com-
paratively ignorant. But the soul that
hunger and thirsts after righteousness,
after a clearer faith, a brighter hope, a
holier joy, a diviner reverence, shall in due
time attain to the height of full-souled
satisfaction in regard to these things. "I
shall be satisfied when I awake in Thy
likeness." The awakening time is coming
for all souls that hunger and thirst after
righteousness, for God has said "They
shall be filled."**Estimating Trolley Car Speed.**There is in the public mind a confusion
of ideas as to the speed of electric street
cars. Two inexperienced observers guessing at
this speed will rarely come within miles
of the correct estimate. Yet it is possible
for anybody, by a simple calculation, to
arrive at very nearly accurate informa-
tion. An electric car going at the rate of
a mile an hour travels eighty-eight feet in
minute characteristics. Much of it, doubt-
less, is over-elaborated "and" beside the
mark, which is disputed ground, the re-
cords of different observers varying in
many important particulars. But the broad
facts remain that children are born into
the world with certain well-defined traits
of mind and body distinct from their fel-
lows, and that these children a large
proportion are found, in later life, to have
run off the track and become absorbed in
the criminal class. A recent investiga-
tion in London schools has shown that the
number of these children amounts to 18
per cent. Is there not some reason to be-
lieve that wise treatment and special train-
ing from the beginning might bring under
control the passions of which the bodily
anomalies present a faint and often erring
index, and save many lives from mischievous
and ultimate despair?—London Hospital.**R.A.D'OLLOQUI, M.D.**

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