

whom a great light had shone. "Edward," she said at last, "is it you?"

"Lillian," imploringly replied the man, now altogether addressing himself to the girl, as though no one else were present. "What have you to say to me? What is all this about weariness with life? It is a falsehood, a base, groundless fabrication—this story about my marriage, two years ago. Some villain must have had the notice you speak of specially printed to deceive you. I never heard of it before. I wrote you again and again, I tried in every possible way to reach you—to communicate with you, until I heard of your marriage with the preacher, but I could not. A cunning system of espionage must have guarded you well. Was a blacker crime ever committed?"

"Oh, Edward!" gasped the girl. "Can it be true—you love me yet? Can you

forgive me? I only married him because I cared for nothing. It was my way of committing suicide of the soul. Oh, if you could only understand."

"I do understand, dearest," he cried, "and nothing shall stand between us now. I am sorry but that school in Salt Lake will have to look out for another teacher."

It did. We heard no more true tales that Christmas Eve, but nevertheless it turned out to be a very happy one to all of us, and for two persons upon the train in particular. Forgotten was the blizzard, and the icy wall that hemmed us in. And when at last the plows got to us the next day and dug us out, and when finally, worn and weary, we reached Denver, all of us, during the stopover, were glad to be present at the wedding ceremony that united Mrs. Lillian McNeil and her true love, Edward J. Crosby.

The Deer Hunters

Following the Game Birds and Game Fishes and Small Furbearers with Camera, Rod and Gun. By Bonnycastle Dale. Photos by the Author.

IT IS remarkable the great number of black-tailed deer we meet upon the Island of Vancouver and on the islands in the Gulf. We never meet the white-tailed nor the mule deer. These are to be sought in the dry lands south of the C.P.R. in Okanagan, East Kootenay. But the little fellows with the black tails are numerous everywhere. In our Natural History work

large animal had rested there, a path that was less deeply pressed all the remainder of its length, showed where a panther had crept inch by inch, foot by foot, upon its sleeping prey. Slowly the trail was a long succession of deeply pressed beds where the creeping animal had dragged its lithe body and tremulous quivering tail along, pausing for a minute here, squatting for ten minutes



B.C. Scenery.

we actually see them daily in some places without making the slightest search. They remind me of antelopes on Denman's Island, so small are they. Here the breed has been impoverished by inbreeding until they are positively the smallest deer I have seen on this continent; many of these would not weigh more than sixty pounds. Some that ran along the sand cliffs looked like fawns of other breeds so small were they. They still possess that leaping bounding run so typical of the deer. One that was surprised while feeding by the road leaped sideways over the five-foot fence as if it were no obstacle at all.

I do not know what to say about the regular killing of these by the settlers at any and all times of the year, but it is done winter and summer, spring and fall. It is no trick to kill these little inquisitive deer. Time after time Fritz and I would get so near them that we would try to round them up on some blind trail and catch them. I could shoot them readily from the canoe on the river and in some of the salt water harbors, but as we never kill anything larger than a wild goose the breed will not be diminished by us.

During one of our rambles on the hills we came across a mute reminder of a far worse than man. We were far up on one of the mossy shoulders of the hills. Sitting on a fallen stunted fir, beside the top of the bank of a little, most dry, mountain brook that flows far beneath me, I made my path. A path in the high fern, a path and there pressed down as if some

there, ever heading towards a little shady spot, where, under a clump of distorted firs, a single black-tail had made its daily bed. Here it could see all danger that approached from below—and all from above save through this one irregular patch of fern. Slowly the savage beast dragged itself clear of the sheltering fern. The eloquent black soil of the soft-padded foot lightly pressed as the great cat crept on—still the deer slept. Over the bare trap rock the panther passed—here it dislodged a few fragments of sun-cracked rock and awakened its prey. Now the great leaping footmarks showed plainly in the disturbed light soil where the beast bounded after the now alarmed deer. One, two, three leaps. Here the loose soil and moss was planed off the rock, showing where the big, strong paw had knocked the affrighted deer down and deer and panther together had slid a few feet. The struggle had not been much prolonged as only a little blood, a small space of crushed dwarf fern marked the death scene. Now the panther's big, soft paws could be plainly traced where he carried his light burden down the mountain side. The Kanaka, Indian-English half-breed, that was with us, swiftly tracked the beast. The kill was fresh. We found the carcass, but not the panther. It is remarkable how clean one of these hungry animals will finish up its meal. The deer's hide had been nimbly ripped open, all the meat, the heart and the lungs had been eaten, the skull had been scooped out. It seemed impossible that

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