

pression of his face did not alter ; but I cannot help thinking he was aware that I saw through his manoeuvre. Accordingly, he began to pick his way carefully down the ravine. My servant, in the rear, had about this time a very narrow escape from another snake. I thought it better to mount my horse, and recommended the others to do the same, although the place was very rough and unpleasant for riding, owing to the quantity of loose sandstone and high coarse grass. I never should have believed it possible that so many rattlesnakes could have assembled together as I saw in that ravine. I think there must have been nearly enough to fatten a drove of Missouri hogs.*

As soon as we emerged from this ravine, I dismounted and rejoined the guide, from whom, ere long, I heard the well-known "Ugh!" which accompanies the sudden presentation of any new object to the eye of an Indian ; and, following the direction of his finger, saw two or three antelopes browsing on a hill side to windward of us. As they had not yet seen our party, I halted it, and told them to lie down, while I would try and stalk one. After creeping for some distance, I came within about

* It is well known that, in the Western States, where rattlesnakes are still plentiful, the hogs kill and eat them ; nor is their bite formidable to their swinish enemy, on whom its venomous fangs seem to produce no effect. It is owing to this well-known fact, that families resident in those districts conceive that hogs'-lard must be a kind of antidote to their poison, and frequently use it (I believe successfully) as a remedy.