

but to his extreme caution. The fox is really the more cunning, or rather intelligent of the two, but his curiosity sometimes gets him into trouble. He is apt to get over-confident and "monkey" around too close to the trap, knowing full well it is there, whereas a wolf would go half a mile around and take no chances. Horse-sense, as it were; he has not the same confidence in his ability to out-wit the trapper, and sometimes benefits by it.

It sometimes seems to me that a fox can actually use reason, although animals are not generally credited with this power. I have known them to do things that could not be done without reasoning; things that could not happen by mere "blind luck."

I discovered, by accident, one time, what might be a good set for fox. I say might, for I have never given it an actual trial, although I am sure it would work. We killed a coon one night, while on a night-hunting expedition, and, to save carrying it around, skinned it on the spot, leaving the carcass lying on a stump.

Passing that way a few days later, I saw where a fox had been trying for the tempting meal of coon meat. He had simply made that knoll a net-work of tracks, and had jumped onto all the adjacent stumps, in an effort to get the prize without going too near the stump itself. Some of these stumps were rotten in the centre and would have made an ideal place to set a trap.

Now, I think if a trap were set in one

taking them at the den, for they can be frightened away in this manner, no matter what has been said to the contrary.

Sets for skunk do not have to be favored with any very particular pains, so the weasel was having it easy at first. I changed the set several times and, naturally, took more pains each time. Mr. Weasel, coming to the more difficult proposition by easy stages, was getting a cheap and most thorough education.

Up to this time my method had been, something like the one I mentioned for mink earlier in this article, placing the bait in a noticeable position and setting the trap in the most likely point of access. The weasel had, on the last occasion (before the fatal one) excavated a passage down the side of the bank from above and secured the bait. He seemed to know exactly where the trap was, and avoided it most cautiously, never going nearer than a foot from it.

Now, however, I changed my entire plan of campaign. I built a bait house of stakes and stones and blocked every chink save the one to be occupied by the trap, so that it was the only possible way in. When I got through everything looked about as unnatural as it possibly could. One could tell there was a trap there at a glance, yet the weasel went right in over the trap and got nipped.

Yes, he was there in the morning, and it seems only reasonable to suppose it was the same one that had been coming for so long, and giving such a display of animal intelligence. I had a mink do the same thing a while after. It just



of these rotten-centred stumps, say a week before hand, to give it time to get the human odor off it, and then a large bait like the one mentioned placed on a nearby one, it would fool Mr. Reynard. I would like very much to try it out some time and see how it would work. The fact that the fox in question, although an exceptionally cunning one, was not in the least suspicious of any of the other stumps makes me think it would be a success. I think, however, that having the trap set some time in advance would be an important detail, care being taken to use material for covering, etc., that would not easily get out of order, and necessitate a rearrangement at the time of placing bait, as, of course, this would mean approaching the set again.

When an animal has proved very hard to take and seems able to figure out and avoid your most careful set, an entire change in your method will sometimes catch him off his guard. I remember an ermine (white weasel) that it seemed I could not out-wit. Now, as a rule they are a very easy animal to catch, for although the most wide-awake of any animal, they seem to have very little fear of a man, not seeming to realize how dangerous he is. Of course they will get out of his way when they meet him in person, but do not pay the same respect to the places he frequents, as other animals do.

Perhaps I was to blame for the trouble the one in question caused me, if, indeed, one can call a battle of wits on the trap-line an annoyance. I had been baiting for skunk in the vicinity of a good den, and thus getting them one at a time and not frightening them all away by

seemed he was determined to have the bait, and when he could get it in no other way, he threw caution to the winds and went right over the trap. He was there in the morning, too.

What a Tourist Heard

A tourist in Ireland came upon a couple of men "in holts" rolling on the road. The man on top was pummeling the other within an inch of his life. The traveller looked on for a moment in silence and then intervened.

"I say, it's an infernal shame to strike a man when he's down."

"Faith, if yez knew all the trouble I had gettin' him down ye wouldn't be talkin' like that," came the intermittent reply.—Judge.

He Proved it was Logical

A lawyer was defending a man accused of housebreaking, and said to the court:

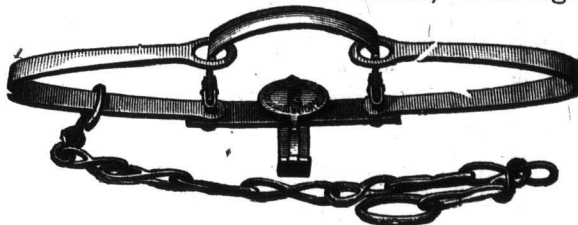
"Your Honor, I submit that my client did not break into the house at all. He found the parlor window open and merely inserted his right arm and removed a few trifling articles. Now, my client's arm is not himself, and I fail to see how you can punish the whole individual for an offense committed by only one of his limbs."

"That argument," said the judge, "is very well put. Following it logically, I sentence the defendant's arm to one year's imprisonment. He can accompany it or not, as he chooses."

The defendant smiled, and with his lawyer's assistance unscrewed his cork arm, and, leaving it in the dock, walked out.

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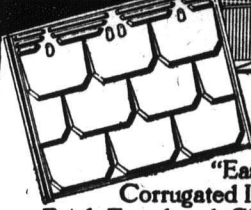
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