

with the alarming intelligence that one of his cows had been killed and partly eaten by some wild animal, which he had reasons for believing was a panther. As he had been accustomed to hunting tigers, wild boars and other beasts in India, his opinion and judgment was treated with respect, yet we could not account for the appearance in the neighbourhood, only a few miles north of the town, of animals powerful enough to kill and drag a cow nearly half a mile, and half way up a very steep hill on the farm where it was afterwards found.

He told us that when he saw the cow dead and torn he came to the conclusion, from various observations, that it was killed by neither a bear, lynx or wolf, but he believed it to be by a panther or catamount. He said he spent a large portion of the night in a tree not far off, with his rifle, watching in the hope of getting a shot, but the animal, or whatever it was, did not reappear while he was there; but the next morning the cow had disappeared, and he traced it to where it had been dragged.

His chief object in coming to the town was to beat up recruits amongst his friends for a general hunt, in the hope of finding and killing his dangerous neighbour before any further harm could be done.

We eagerly acceded to his request. There was a spice of danger in the enterprise, and he soon obtained a dozen resolute fellows, ready and willing to risk their lives in search of adventure.

The next day we started bright and early for the general rendezvous at his farm house, and soon afterwards commenced our tedious tramp.

We searched the dense woods, deep, dark swamps, and every place of concealment in a circuit of many miles, but without effect. We came upon one place where it was plain to be seen some animal of the cat species had been sharpening its claws, for a tree had been torn and the bark scratched in many places. We walked all day, and examined as well as the nature of the dark forest and thick foliage would permit, and returned at sundown, tired, weary and disappointed, to partake of a splendid dinner provided for us by our hospitable host.

I cannot remember the names, at this distance of time, of