

CAPTURING A DEVIL FISH.

AN-OF-WAR'S CREW IN PURSUIT OF A 2,000 POUND MONSTER.

(From the Vallejo Chronicle.)

An officer of the flagship Pensacola, of the Pacific Squadron, writing from La Paz, California, Dec. 9, communicates an interesting account of the pursuit and capture of an enormous sea monster resembling Victor Hugo's famous devil fish. The writer says:—

The most exciting event of our cruise thus far was the capture to-day of an immense devil fish. Ever since our arrival in these waters several huge fish have been observed in the vicinity of the ship, and much speculation has arisen as to what they were. One making his appearance this afternoon, our gunner, Geo. F. Cushman, decided to establish his identity, if possible, and accompanied by assistant engineer Edwards, Midshipmen McDonald, Wood and Craven, and Pymaster's clerk Spaulding gave chase in the dingy. The fish, swimming slowly and near the surface of the water, which is very clear here, looked like a shapeless brown mass, frequently throwing above the waves the thin white tips of its sides like the dorsal fin of a shark. It allowed the boat to approach within a few yards of it without showing symptoms of alarm, when it suddenly sounded. The harpoon thrown by Mr. Cushman struck, but not with sufficient force to hold, for the fish freed itself and disappeared, after dragging the boat with great velocity for several seconds. Another was seen, however, after a short search, and was approached more successfully. As it showed an indifference to our presence, equally great to that of its companion, we pulled the boat directly over, and no more than a foot or two above it, and Mr. Cushman, standing in the bow, plunged the harpoon firmly into its flesh. In an instant that seemingly passive mass was transformed into an infuriated monster, which first threw itself bodily out of the water, and then, settling down to business, sent the harpoon line whizzing out at a rate that would have made it decidedly uncomfortable for us if it had become foul.

The strain soon came upon the dingy, and as we were whisked with the speed of an express train, we felt as though we had applied the match to some mine, or that we were taken in tow by the gentleman in black himself. It was a ride that for novelty and speed could rarely be equalled. Imagine our situation in a light boat, with such a monster attached to it, which as it rushed along, now on the surface, and again diving deep, threatening to upset us among the sharks, and you can realize the intense excitement of the moment. The only available thing in the boat, a bucket, had been made fast to the harpoon line to offer some additional resistance, but the fish seemed to regard it no more than a feather, and with the bucket out of sight under water, continued to draw us up and down the bay at full speed. During all this time its efforts had been confined to an attempt to escape, but as its load grew heavy it became belligerent, and several times turned upon the boat, exhibiting the full capacity of a month's work in two feet in diameter, and lashing the boat with its sides. We made up our minds that if the fish decided to jump into the dingy, we would quietly slip out over one side as he appeared at the other. But a vigorous resistance from boat hooks and oars induced him to resume his fight in each instance. By this time all hands on the ship were watching the struggle, and the whaleboat was sent to our assistance, but for fully an hour both boats, lashed together, were towed without signs of exhaustion from the fish, the thrusts of boarding pikes seeming only to accelerate its speed. Finally its immense exertions told upon it, and it came to the surface directly between the two boats, where it was placed hors de combat by blows from an axe, and dyeing the water crimson with its blood, was towed ashore and dragged upon the beach. It required the united exertions of nearly forty men to accomplish this undertaking.

A more formidable looking monster than this devil fish could hardly be imagined. It was shaped somewhat like an immense bat, measuring 15½ feet in width by 11 feet in length; it was twenty-nine inches thick, and weighed probably 2,000 pounds. It had but one fin, unless the wing-shaped extremities by which it propelled itself can be considered such, or that at the base of a long thin tail, similar in appearance to a riding whip, and which is preserved as a memento of the adventure. Its eyes are placed in flexible projections which seem to have been used to grasp and convey food to its mouth. The mouth, large enough to engulf a man whole, was destitute of teeth, but furnished with solid bones, that, in the dying agonies of the fish, ground large pieces of coral as a stone crusher would stone. The skin of the fish was rough as a coarse file and of a dark grayish hue on the back, with white patches toward the head, and pure white on the under side. Several Mexicans present viewed the capture with great satisfaction, as they say that this creature is one of the

THE OCELOT.

The ocelot, or tiger cat, like the jaguar and puma, is a native of the almost endless virgin forests of tropical America. Here, like the above-named animals, it fulfils the same mission in nature in keeping in check the numerous family of quadrumanous rodents, and other herbivorous animals, that are spread throughout those dark and gloomy solitudes. This little and elegant animal is about one-third the size of the leopard, measuring about four feet in total length from nose to tip of tail, and eighteen inches high at the shoulder. The ground color of the ocelot's fur is a pale yellowish fawn. A continuous chain of black oblong patches runs from the shoulder to the tail. On the back, sides, and abdomen, are numerous rings and oblong markings of a deeper hue. Each of these rings is surrounded by a deep black edging. On the haunches the markings are more like the roseate rings of the leopard. The shoulders down to the feet are marked with black transverse bands and spots. Four black lines commencing above the eyes, are continued down the neck to the shoulders. The cheeks, chin, and throat are white, as well as around the eyes. Across the throat are two or three dark bands, and two black streaks begin above the eyes and join each other below the ears. The tail is more or less spotted with black. In three stuffed specimens now before me there is a great difference both in the ground color of the fur and in the arrangement of the markings. Another species has all the markings entirely black without any light centres. And the tail of this species, which is more bushy, is nearly black. No doubt this is a distinct species from the other three animals. The ocelot is found throughout the whole of the forest lands of South America and Central America as far north as Mexico. Two or three other species of this genus, averaging in size from the ocelot to the domestic cat, are found throughout these extensive forest lands. Another of this family is the Pampas cat. This animal is about the size of the European wild cat. The color of its fur is a warm yellowish grey, and numerous pale brown stripes run obliquely from the back along the sides. On each side of the face are two streaks of a dark tawny color, commencing near the eye and extending over the cheeks, down the sides of the neck to the shoulders. The muzzle, chin, throat, and inside of the legs, are a dirty white. The tail of this species is rather short. The Pampas cat is found throughout all of the great Pampas chains of America, south of 30 degrees, south latitude.

FLOUNDERS' EYES.

HOW THEY CHANGE FROM ONE SIDE OF THE HEAD TO THE OTHER.

In the late summer of 1877 a little shoal of some fifteen quite transparent flounders were captured by Agassiz, on a quiet and brilliant morning, on the surface of the water at the mouth of the harbor of Newport. They were swimming vertically, and violently rushing after the minute antomastrea which swarmed on the surface. They were at once transferred to shallow glass jars, in which they would remain at the bottom on their right sides, for hours immovable. When disturbed they were rapid in their movements, frequently jumping out of the water. When swimming vertically they usually moved obliquely, the tail being carried lower than the head. When one of these was looked at in profile, its right eye could be seen through the head, slightly in advance and a little above the left eye; owing to the great transparency of the body, the right eye was then nearly as useful as if placed on the left side. Gradually it rose, until in about six days it was well above the left eye; shortly after, wonderful to relate, it was seen to sink into the tissues at the base of the dorsal fin between this and the frontal; slowly it sank until the huge orbit became reduced to a mere circular opening. Little by little this became smaller, the eye pushed its way deeper into the tissues, until an additional opening was formed on the left side. At this stage there were three orbital openings, though of course but two eyes. The original or right-orbital opening soon became closed, and the colored side had its two eyes.

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

The Japanese are very kind to animals. Professor Morse tells us that a boy is never seen to throw a stone at a dog or bird, and crows come into the city of Tokio and lodge on the houses. They pay for their kind treatment, for they act as scavengers, picking up what rice or fish may fall to the ground. In a crowded thoroughfare he has seen a dog lying asleep in the middle of the road. No one disturbed him, but carefully turned out for him. He once threw a stone at a dog to see how he would act. The animal rose

GEN. JACKSON'S NERVE.

THE EXTRAORDINARY MANNER IN WHICH HE PUT A VETO ON SWINDLING ON A TENNESSEE RACE COURSE.

In Judge Jo. Guild's new book on 'Old Times in Tennessee' appears the following sketch:— Many are the interesting scenes of Jackson's life which have not been brought to light. When a boy I saw him scare twenty thousand men. The occasion was this:—

Greyhound, a Kentucky horse, had beaten Double Head, a Tennessee horse, and they were afterwards matched for \$5,000 a side, to be run on the Clover Bottom Course. My uncle Josephus H. Conn, carried me on horseback behind him to see the race. He set me on the cedar fence and told me to remain till he returned. In those days not only counties, but States, in full feather, attended the race course as a great national amusement, and the same is still kept up in France and England under the fostering care of each government. There must have been 20,000 persons present. I never witnessed such fierce betting between the States. Horses and negroes were put up. A large pound was filled with horses and negroes bet on the result of this race. The time had now arrived for the competitors to appear on the track. I heard some loud talking, and looking down the track, saw, for the first time, Gen. Jackson, riding slowly on a gray horse, with long pistols held in each hand. I think they were as long as my arm, and had a mouth that a ground squirrel could enter. In his wake followed my uncle Conn, Stokely, Donelson, Patton Anderson, and several others, as fierce as bull-dogs. As Gen. Jackson led the van and approached the judges' stand, he was rapidly talking and gesticulating.

As he came by me he had irrefrangible proof that this was to be a jockey race, that Greyhound was seen in the wheat field the night before, which disqualified him for the race, and that his rider was to receive \$500 to throw it off, and 'by the eternal God' he would shoot the first man who brought his horse upon the track. That the people's money should not be stolen from them in this manner. He talked incessantly, while the spittle rolled from his mouth, and the fire from his eyes. I have seen bears and wolves put at bay, but he was certainly the most ferocious looking animal that I had ever seen. His appearance and manner struck terror into the hearts of 20,000 people. If they felt as I did every one expected to be killed. He announced to the parties if they wanted some lead in their hides to first bring their horses on the track, for 'by the eternal' he would kill the first man that attempted to do so. There was no response to this challenge; and, after waiting some time and they failing to appear Gen. Jackson said it was a mistake in the opinion of some that he had acted hastily without consideration. He would give the scoundrels a fair trial, and to that end he would constitute a court to investigate this matter, who would hear the proof and do justice to all parties. Thereupon, he appointed a sheriff to keep order, and five judges to hear the case.

Proclamation was made that the court was open and was ready to proceed to business, and for the parties to appear and defend themselves. No one appearing, Gen. Jackson introduced the witness, proving the bribery of Greyhound's rider, who was to receive \$500 to throw off the race, having received \$250 in advance, and that Greyhound had been turned into the wheat field the night before. He again called on the parties to appear and contradict this proof and vindicate their innocence. They failing to appear, Gen. Jackson told the court that the proof was closed, and for them to render their judgment in the premises, which, in a few moments, was done in accordance with the facts proved.

I was on the fence forming one line of the large pound containing the property bet on the race. Each man was anxious to get back his property. Gen. Jackson waved his hand and announced the decision, and said, 'Now, gentlemen, go calmly in order and each man take his own property.' When the word was given the people came with a rush. It was more terrible than an army with banners. They came bulging against the fence, and, in the struggle to get over, they knocked it down for hundreds of yards. I was overturned and nearly trampled to death. Each man got his property, and thus the fraudulent race was broken up by an exhibition of the most extraordinary courage. He did that day what it would have required two thousand armed men to have effected. All this was effected by the presence and action of one man without the drawing of one drop of blood. A certain knowledge that in one event streams of blood would have flowed effected this great and worthy object.

SHOWING THE WHITE FEATHER.

The phrase is expressive of cowardice, used for instance, when a person has notoriously

DESTRUCTION OF GAME.

A western United States paper calls attention to the wholesale destruction of game, animals and birds, which is going on in that country, and urgently demands that some measures shall be taken to put an end to the slaughter. The wholesale destruction includes the slaughter of ducks, quails, rabbits, squirrels and deer, and the quantities destroyed are something enormous. It is said that fifty thousand dollars represents the weekly value of the wholesale trade in game in Chicago; but this lump sum conveys no correct idea, either of the aggregate volume of the trade or the prices at which the game is retailed. Quails are said to be sold at fifty-five cents per dozen, rabbits at five cents each, squirrels at seven and a-half cents, ducks at forty cents per pair, venison at five cents per pound, and other game at equally low prices. The destruction of the game this season appears to be on a larger scale than at any previous season, and it is suggested that there must be an organized company or companies engaged in the work. It has been remarked that only a few, comparatively, of the carcasses bear the marks of gunshot, and it is assumed that the game is caught with snares and traps and by other unsportsmanlike devices. One of the speculations in connection with the slaughter going on is that of supplying the English market with quails, and the persons engaged in it expect to make very considerable profit out of their venture. But, for the great bulk of the game slaughtered, there does not seem to have been any particular market fixed upon, and it is sent forward haphazard to find the best markets open, or none at all. The destruction of deer found in the woods of Minnesota is on an immense scale, and there is very strong probability that one or two more seasons like the present one will see the animals exterminated. Similar complaints may very properly be made respecting the slaughter of game in this country, and that notwithstanding all the precautions taken by the Government to protect the denizens of the forest and the lake in the seasons of breeding. Not many years ago, deer were as plentiful within twenty miles of the city as sheep on a well-stocked farm, but now the sportsman is necessitated to go back a long way in the country to find his legitimate sport. This change has been brought about, there can be no doubt, by indiscriminate slaughter and wholesale and wanton destruction out of season. Even now, or at all events until quite lately, pot-hunters and butcher speculators have followed the deer to their remote haunts and cut them down by the score, regardless of law or dictates of common sense, to make a little money. In the same way the numerous lakes and streams of the country have been almost denuded of their finny inhabitants; men have ruthlessly netted, speared and butchered the fish wherever and whenever they could find them, perfectly indifferent to the laws of reproduction or the public economy involved in the proper preservation and conservation of the fish. Indeed, so thoughtless and indifferent are people generally with regard to the preservation of game that the very guardians appointed and paid by Government have been known to forget their obligations and duties, and to connive at infractions of the game and fishery laws. All thoughtful men recognize the great necessity which exists for measures, supplementary to those of Government, for the apprehension of this wholesale destruction of game; but it unfortunately happens that the majority of men, on this subject, are not sufficiently thoughtful, and without their actual and moral support it would be difficult, in a country of the wide extent of Canada, to properly carry into effect any repressive measures.—Ottawa Citizen.

DON'T BITE OFF MORE'N YOU KIN CHAW.

(Brother Gardner in Detroit Free Press)

The janitor was as proud as a boy with a new pair of red mittens. Some kind soul in Hartford, Conn., had forwarded the club a jawbone of a shark as a relic to hang on the walls, and he had fastened it up between the bar trap and the coffee mill, and placed under its sharp teeth the legend:—'Don't bite off more'n you kin chaw.' 'Gem'lren,' said Brother Gardner as he pointed to the legend, 'de languide of dat motto am not elegant, but de words convey a heap of common sense, an' we don't hev to go down ober so'teen feet to fin' de moral. De man who bites off more'n he can chaw is gwine to get himself in an embarrasin' sitchuashun. De motto doan' apply altogether to de eatin' of meat an' taters. It means dat de puseon who wants to sting on gorgeonsness bez got to hev de rocks right down in his pockets or fall kerchunk in de road. It applies to de young man on a salary of \$3 a week who am courtin' a girl who kin use up \$2 a day and not half try. It applies to de man who sinks he kin sell out a ward caucus and deliber de votes in a collar-box. It applies to de man who buys up delegates and depends on de honest voters to push him frow. It applies to de chap who sails along de avenow wid de idea in his head dat all business would suddenly stop in

A SPORTSMAN'S SUGGESTION.

Editor of Ottawa Citizen:

Sir,—Although I can scarcely agree with you in some of your remarks respecting those who are partially authorized by Government to look after the game and fishery laws, still I am glad to see that you have taken up the subject of the wanton, as well as mercenary destruction of game. In my opinion the only way to prevent the utter extermination of deer in Canada is to prohibit by law the sale of venison and its exportation for a number of years. The penalties for killing deer in the close season require to be made much more severe than those now in force. The snaring of deer should be punishable by a fine of not less than fifty dollars for each animal so illegally destroyed, with the alternative of at least three months imprisonment at hard labor. Ere long the buffalo, it not to be shortly exterminated, will have to be protected by preventing the sale of buffaloes in any part of the Dominion, and their exportation entirely, for say ten years, to show it will work.

Yours truly,
SPORTSMAN

DAN MAOE ROBBED.

Dan Mace, the trotting horse driver, drove to Police Headquarters, late on the night of the 9th, and told Inspector Thorne that he had been "cleaned out" by burglars. He inspected the Rogues' Gallery and went away. Mr. Thorne was not at liberty to give details. Mace lives in lodgings at No. 4 West Forty-fifth street. His niece while sitting with a friend at supper last evening was disturbed by the barking of a little black and-tan dog up stairs. Neither of them went up stairs, and suddenly the dog ceased to bark. After supper, when the young lady went up stairs, she found her room in confusion. Mace, who was in his stable close by was sent for. He found his pet dog dead at the foot of the stairs. It had been strangled by the burglars. They had broken open a bureau in Miss Mace's room and stolen a diamond cluster broochpin belonging to M. Mace and worth \$2,000, watches, ear rings, brooches and other jewelry worth perhaps \$1,500 more. The rooms up stairs had been completely ransacked and robbed of every thing valuable and portable. It is supposed the burglars had false keys.

POMPEII

Among the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum the skeleton of a dog was found stretched over that of a child. It was conjectured on their discovery that this dog, from his position, was attempting to save the child when the eruption of Vesuvius was fatal to the city. The opinion was confirmed by a collar which was found of curious workmanship; its inscription stated that the dog was named 'Ditta,' and belonged to a man called Severinus, whose life he had saved three occasions, first, by dragging him from the sea when nearly drowned, then, by driving off four robbers who attacked him unawares; and, lastly, by his destroying a she-wolf, whose cubs he had taken in a grove sacred to Diana, near Herculaneum. Ditta afterwards attached himself particularly to the only son of Severinus, and would take no food but what he received from the child's hand.—Dogs and their Ways

DOT SHICKEN WAS FLYIN'.

I noticed in your issue of January 4th an article headed a 'Sportsman and a Dog.' I think I have one to match it. Last summer Mose O. and one of our sportsmen concluded to take a day's chicken hunt. Arrived at the field of action they loaded their guns, and began operations behind a sty pointer, who soon entered a stubble field and drew to a staunch point. Mose looked on a few moments with a disgusted expression on his classic features, and then proceeded to light a cigar, after which he remarked to the astonished companion, 'If dot dog ish gwine to stay dare all day we don't goin to get any chickens.' He was told by his friend to cock his gun, as there were chickens near. Mose slowly and deliberately took his gun from his shoulder, cocked the right hammer, and replaced his gun on his shoulder. He was told to take down his gun and