

## ENCOUNTERS WITH WILD ANIMALS.

On one occasion a resident of Cape Colony, named Bournan, was suddenly attacked by a tiger, which struck its claws into his head. Bournan, being a powerful man, a desperate struggle ensued between man and beast, during which the tiger was thrown to the ground, and Bournan, putting forth all his strength, kept the animal under. It then became a question of endurance, and Bournan soon realized that his strength was leaving him. Almost exhausted, he was about to give way, when he suddenly remembered that he had a knife in his pocket. Quick as thought he took it out, and pressing the tiger to the ground with a last desperate effort, he succeeded in cutting its throat. He was covered with wounds, from which he did not recover for some considerable time.

One day a native of Bethany, Great Namaqualand, returning home from a visit to some friends, took a circuitous route in order to pass a small pool, where he hoped to shoot an antelope. The sun had risen to some height by the time he reached the spot, and he laid his gun on a low-shelved rock whilst he went to the water to quench his thirst. Returning to the rock he indulged in a quiet smoke, and then being tired fell asleep. In a short time the heat reflected from the rock awoke him, and, opening his eyes, he was considerably startled to find a large lion crouching before him, within little more than a yard from his feet. In this predicament he sat motionless for some minutes till he had recovered his presence of mind. Then, eyeing his gun, he moved his hand slowly towards it, whereupon the lion raising his head gave a tremendous roar. — He made another and another attempt, but the gun was beyond reach, and as every time he moved his hand the lion became more enraged, he ultimately gave up trying to secure it. His situation now became painful in the extreme, for the rock on which he sat became so hot that he could scarcely bear his naked feet to touch it, and kept moving them, alternately placing one above the other.

So the long day passed, and then the night, but the lion never moved from the spot. At noon the lion rose and walked to the water, looking behind him as he went, in case the man should move, and, seeing him stretch out his hand to take his gun, he turned in a rage and seemed on the point of springing upon him. The lion went to the water, drank, and returning, lay down again at the edge of the rock. Another night passed, and the man, in describing it, said that he knew not whether he slept, but if he did it must have been with his eyes open, for he always saw the lion at his feet. The following day the animal went again to the pool, and while there his attention was attracted by a noise in the distance, and he disappeared in the bushes. The man then seized his gun, and crept to the water and drank. His feet and ankles were almost powerless, and, unable to stand, he had to crawl home as best he could.

An African traveller once had a curious adventure with a snake, but thanks to his presence of mind it did not have any serious result. Captain Harding himself relates the incident as follows. "Being," he says, "on a military expedition across the frontier, I had slept one night as usual wrapped in my cloak, beneath a tree. On awakening at daybreak the first object I perceived on raising my head from the saddle which served as a pillow, was the tail of an enormous adder lying across my breast, the head of the reptile being muffled under the folds of the cloak close to my body, whither it had betaken itself, apparently for warmth, during the night. There was extreme hazard that if I alarmed it by moving, it might bite me in a vital part. Seizing it, therefore, softly by the tail, I pulled it out with a sudden jerk, and threw it violently to a distance. By this means I escaped without injury, but had I unwittingly offended this uninvited bedfellow before I was aware of his presence, I might in all probability have fatally atoned for my heedlessness."

*Chums.*

Life Assurance is the light which proceedeth from the Sun.