

their abode in a dressing table or study table, and afford you much amusement in observing their skill as hunters. They watch the insects flying rapidly about till they alight somewhere, then approach them as stealthily as a cat does a bird, taking advantage of every book, or pincushion, or brush, or other article on the table, to hide until within springing distance; and then, resting an instant, jump several inches, with unerring aim, and devour the prey. They become so tame, that night after night one will be found on your dressing table so accustomed to you as to pursue its business whilst you watch it. Another will hunt over your arm, hand, shoulder, etc., as you are writing, and every now and then raise its fine eyes to yours with a look that seems to say, "I know you won't hurt me." I have often watched them with interest.

But the thing that used to please me most was their killing scorpions. Scorpions, you may know, are from an inch to six inches long, with long grappling claws on each side of the head, not unlike a crab or lobster, and a strong tail, with a hard sharp sting at the end of it. This sting contains poison, and, though not fatal, inflicts a wound that for twenty-four hours or more is very painful. You may read something about them in Revelation ix. 5. These scorpions get upon one's clothes, towels, books, and almost everywhere, and are so irritable, that at the least touch they strike with their tails, and inflict a very painful wound. The lizard is often not much bigger than the scorpion, yet has no fear. Often have I wondered that a little thing like a house lizard, with such a delicate skin, should dare to attack so formidable a thing as the rough scorpion with its sting. But what it lacks in strength it makes up by



INDIAN LIZARDS.

quickness and ingenuity. When it sees a scorpion crawling along the wall, it runs quickly towards it. The scorpion then faces the lizard, curling its sting-pointed tail over its back ready to strike. The lizard runs quickly, first to the right, and then to the left, a few times, and the scorpion faces it everywhere. After a little fencing in this way, the nimble and cunning little lizard leaps directly upon the tail of the scorpion, and sits upon it, pressing down the sting. Thus holding its enemy's weapon, it begins at the head, and eats the scorpion gradually down to the last joint of the tail, and then goes away, leaving only the head and poisonous sting. My young readers will thus see how foolish it would be to "scream."