

to the thread, each of which new strands being tightly drawn, elevated the head of the snake gradually more and more.

But the most curious and skilful part of the performance is yet to be told. When it was in the act of running down the thread to the loop, the reader will perceive it was possible for the snake, by turning his head veritically upwards to snap at and seize the spider in his mouth. This had, no doubt, been repeatedly attempted in the earlier part of the conflict, but, instead of catching the spider, his snakeship had only caught himself in an additional trap. The spider, probably by watching each opportunity when the mouth of the snake had been turned towards her, adroitly with her hind legs, as when throwing a thread around a fly, had thrown one thread after another over the mouth of the snake, so that he was now perfectly muzzled, by a series of threads placed over it veritically, and these were held from being pushed asunder by another series of threads placed horizontally, as my informant states he particularly observed. No muzzle or wicker work for the mouths of animals could be woven with more artistic regularity and perfection; and the snake occasionally making a desperate attempt to open his mouth, would merely put these threads upon a stretch.

The snake continued his girations, his gait becoming more slow, however, from weakness and fatigue; and the spider continued to move down and up to the cord, gradually shortening it, until at last, when drawn up so far that only two or three inches of his tail touched the floor, the snake expired, about six days after he was first discovered.

A more heroic feat than that which this little spider performed, is probably no where upon record—a snake a foot in length hung by a common house spider! Truly the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. And this phenomenon may serve to indicate to us that the intelligence with which the Creator has endowed the humblest, feeblest of his creatures, is ample for enabling them to triumph in any emergency in which he places them if they but exercise the faculties he has given them. It is only the slothful, cowardly, timorous, that fail, and they fail not so much before their enemies as before their own supineness.

THE BENEFITS OF MACHINERY.—The *British Workman*, a periodical devoted to literature as connected with mechanical pursuits, contains in its number for the present month a very able article on the improvements in the "pottery art," in which it very graphically sets forth the benefits conferred upon workmen by improved machinery. It says:—

"Time works many changes both in men and things, and the last thirty years have shewn not a few instances which at the time were regarded by the working classes as *injurious*, have, in the course of time, been found to be 'blessings in disguise.' Within the recollection of many persons, horses and even hand power were in use at the Lambeth potteries for crushing the clay; and the potters all used wheels, called 'kickers,' which were turned by the foot. When Mr. Green determined to introduce the new wheel into his manufactory, *the whole of the workmen struck*. All the men left, except one man, who was allowed to continue at his kicker until his death, a period of fifteen years. He earned 30s. a-week, while the man with the improved lathe, who sat next to him, earned double that sum. So much quicker could the man work at the new wheel than the potter at the kicker, that he could make as many stoneware ink bottles for 6d., as the other could throw off by his machine for 1s. 3d. Since the day of the kicker the number of men and boys employed at Mr. Green's pottery alone has increased five-fold. What strikes and riots were witnessed in Lancashire and Yorkshire in bygone years on the introduction of power looms and other machinery. Short-sighted policy said—'these will injure the working classes and reduce the number of hands employed.' The result, however, has been very different from what the desponding and faint-hearted dreamed of. Those very inventions which were regarded with such bitter hostility, have, in the providence of God, been the means of extending the commerce of our nation to an extent previously unknown.

The old kickers could not possibly have supplied the present demand for pottery, neither could the old hand-looms have produced one-half the cloth now required for the clothing of the people. Men and women are now employed by tens of thousands in the weaving mills throughout the manufacturing districts, and they can produce far more work and earn better wages than under the old system. What was thought to be a national evil, has proved a national good.

The whole number of newspapers published in the United States is 3,634; some 941 of which are in the State of New York.