

The order *Rodentia* as a whole does not stand high in point of intelligence from an anatomical aspect, the brain being proportionally small in size and with few convolutions. Some notable exceptions to this ruling will occur to most of us. As an instance, our common rat displays a wonderful amount of ingenuity in applying means to an end. A case illustrative of its resources came to my knowledge a short time ago. The occurrence took place this winter. One of my neighbors having placed a basket containing eggs on a shelf at the head of a stair-way leading down to a cellar, went the following morning to get some of them; to her astonishment they had all disappeared without a trace of the remover. Knowing that there were a few rats about, suspicion fell on them and justly so. An investigation having been made the eggs were all found sound and whole under the cellar floor fifteen or twenty feet away. How the rats managed with the resources at their command to take the eggs out of a basket and carry them down a stair-way without breaking even one, certainly points to the fact that their reasoning faculties were exercised to some purpose. Another illustration and I am done. I am indebted to a friend for it. He does not vouch for its authenticity as he did not see it himself. One Mr. Cobb, a respectable gentleman of Lusty Mills, Kentucky, says he saw a Squirrel acting in a very peculiar manner on the top of a tree, and it caused him to stop and watch its actions. Pretty soon it came down the tree bearing a bunch of something in its mouth and went directly to the creek. When it got to the edge of the water it turned around and backed into the creek until the water covered it entirely except the tip of its nose, when it let go the bunch which floated off down the creek. In gratifying his curiosity Mr. Cobb went down and got the bunch and found, he says, a million fleas on it.

It is very doubtful if we, who claim to be the lords of creation, with all our boasted intelligence, could devise a better plan for persuading undesirable and unwelcome visitors to so quietly take their departure.

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