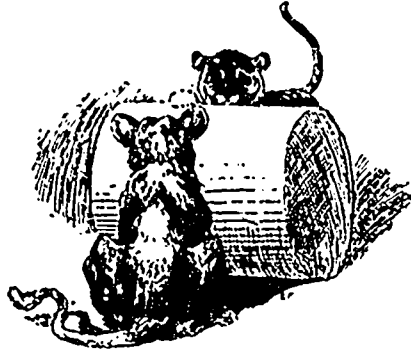


safeguard always, and the huge alligators must have been not a little amused to see their master jump up again in a twinkling, before they had time to decide what they should do to him.

Another day he was getting half a dozen pythons into a cage to be sent away. Suddenly his hat fell off, when one of the serpents immediately attacked it with his fangs. While Mr. Hazenbeck tried to get at his hat, another of the dreadful creatures began to coil himself round his leg. He dropped the idea of saving his hat, in his



desire to save himself. Upon this the first serpent dropped the fun of the hat too, and came to help his friend over the keener sport. For fifteen dreadful minutes the man had a two-to-one conflict each of his opponents being at least sixteen feet long, and of enormous strength. Indeed, the dinner of one of these fellows had been five lambs that day. By watchful dodging they were both, however, held at bay till assistance came.

On another occasion Mr. Hazenbeck was called to quell a row in a cage in which two bears, two hyenas, two dogs, and a lion were all raging and scolding in a furious roaring mass. But they get attached to their masters, nevertheless, these furious creatures, and are capable of genuine affection and gratitude, which seems to require their keepers for the danger connected with caring for them.

ANSWER TO A CHILD'S QUESTION.

BY S. T. COLERIDGE.

Do you ask what the birds say? The sparrow, the dove,
The linnet, and thrush say- "I love, and I love!"
In the winter they're silent, the wind is so strong:
What it says I don't know, but it sings a loud song.
But green leaves, and blossoms, and sunny warm weather,
And singing and loving all come back together.
But the lark is so brimful of gladness and love,
The green fields below him, the blue sky above,
That he sings, and he sings, and forever sings he-
"I love my Love, and my Love loves me."

PETER'S FAITH.

Peter Sinclair, a native of the parish of Sandwich, Orkney, was at one time a catechist appointed by the Original Seceders to visit the various islands in the county. On one occasion he wished to get across from the mainland to Shapinshay; but it was late before he arrived at the ferry, and poor Peter had not the wherewithal to bribe the boatman. Now Peter was a man of great faith, and the idea struck him that he, like his namesake of old, could get across by walking on the water. He walked out into the water till it rose to his waist, but still he appeared to be sinking. Looking around, and seeing the tails of his old surtout floating out behind him, he ruefully exclaimed:—"Ah, Peter, Peter; man, ther's mair faith in yer coat-tails than in yer haill body!"



AN ICE CREAM MAN.