

last, when getting near the clearance, he heard the sound of waggon wheels; and fancying that the attentions of the panther were becoming aggressive, he uttered a loud scream, and the animal bounded away into the darkness. When the waggon arrived at the spot, the driver found the terrified farmer scarcely able to speak.

I have not quoted the foregoing interesting incidents as positive facts in natural history; but I imagine that there must be some reasonable foundation for narratives of the kind, or they would be unlikely to appear so frequently as they do. You are all acquainted with the beautiful story of the Roman Slave Androcles, and the Lion, and a most affecting tale it is, and perhaps, strictly true. If true, it speaks volumes for the almost rational gratitude of the king of the beasts. I have read, also, of a certain class of Asiatic priests who kept tame tigers which followed around like dogs, and were perfectly docile and harmless. The Cheetar (*Felis jubata*), the hunting leopard of India, forms a strong link in the chain of evidence, which goes to prove that many savage animals are susceptible of an educational transformation, which, in a great measure, neutralizes their supposed natural propensities. The Ounce, the American Leopard, and Panther, the Bengal Tiger and the South American Jaguar are untamable. Even the beautiful little Ocelot is not quite as tractable as a domestic cat.

From its length of body, strength of limbs, and liness of form, the cougar is naturally possessed of immense muscular power and agility. These qualities are peculiarly requisite to enable it make the sudden and swift rushes with which it surprises and captures its prey. Although a rapid and expert climber, it would appear, according to Merriam, that the cougar is not generally given to ascending trees. It was, however, supposed, and commonly believed, at one time, that its attack was usually made from some elevation, or from the overhanging branch of a tree. James Fennimore Cooper, in his famous and inimitable "Leather-Stocking Tales," which, as graphic pictures of Indian and hunter's life, and savage warfare are, *sui generis*, the most intensely interesting narratives ever written—gives many strange and attractive accounts, which would lead, more or less, to the belief that the panther, or "painter," is a much stronger, and a much more formidable animal than he really is.