

when he was born, and now he's over four feet and a half, all grown in five months. He's my son's favourite. They were pretty fierce when I got 'em, but I burnt all their mouths and that tamed them."

"How do you mean?"

"Why I took them in turns. Turtleheads have teeth, not fangs, and are supposed for that reason not to be poisonous by naturalists. I consider all snakes more or less venomous, so to usually cure them of that habit before I play with 'em, I heat a poker red-hot, then I put the snake on the ground and irritate it, and when it makes for one of my fingers I watch my opportunity and shove the hot iron down its throat. Snakes treated in that way seldom try to bite a human being again. Every one of those fellows in there has been treated thus. I kept them separate until their mouths were well and then I or my boy stroked them a little each day until at last we could do what we liked with them. They appear to take kindly to this climate. I had several more, but showmen purchased them from me. I got from \$20 to \$25 a pair for them. They eat rats, sparrows, mice, young squirrels and rabbits, which they crush and swallow on the boa-constrictor principle.—*Philadelphia Press*.

The most Catholic monarch in Christendom, Alfonso, of Spain, and his noble Queen recently gave a beautiful mark of true Catholicity. A *Herald* correspondence from Madrid, dated Jan. 22nd, says: In common with many people who happened to be in the Ratiso park at the time, I saw a very unusual and touching sight on Tuesday. The King and Queen were taking a drive, when just at the entrance to the park they met a parish priest carrying the Viaticum. Their Majesties at once alighted and followed with the equerries and servants, the whole party carrying lighted tapers, and the King walking bareheaded. The priest led them as far as a humble house in one of the lower Madrid suburbs, near the bull ring, where a man lay dying of small pox. Their Majesties waited patiently while the Sacraments were administered, and having left alms for the sorrow-stricken family of the deceased, walked back with the priest to the church, this time followed by hundreds of people of rank whom they had met on their way, and accompanied by the blessings of the bystanders.