

The cougar which you may see, very inartistically and unnaturally, set up in the glass-case before you must have been, when living, a remarkably fine specimen. As nearly as possible, he must have measured seven and a half feet from nose to end of tail. He was shot by a boy named Bentley, upward of forty years ago, on Croil's Island, on the south side of the St. Lawrence River, opposite Farran's Point, about ten miles east of Morrisburgh, with an iron spike or nail. The youth killed the animal with a single shot, a sporting exploit sometimes found difficult of accomplishment by experienced hunters.

About one hundred years ago, the panther was found in every part of Ontario and Quebec. I have been assured by reliable authority, that about forty years ago, two large specimens were frequently seen near the Village of Lachute, in the Province of Quebec. Since the days of the adventurous Kentuckian, Daniel Boone, many thrilling stories have been told about the size, ferocity and destructiveness of the cougar. It is well known that it has strong proclivities for the flesh of deer and smaller animals, and that, also, when pressed by hunger it has been known to destroy sheep and horned cattle; but we have yet to learn from any authentic record that one of its characteristics is to attack man, except when wounded and brought to bay. In the latter case, it will defend itself to the last with great fury. Under such circumstances, valuable hounds have frequently been killed in the attempt to close with it.

On the contrary many strange stories have been told from time to time, illustrative of the apparently unaccountable, friendly and even affectionate feeling entertained by it for the human race. I have read an account recently which is strikingly illustrative of the gentleness of of this interesting animal towards man. A farmer was travelling upon a lonely road in Washington Territory to a place called Olympia. The road led through a thick bush for a mile or more. In the darkness, he became sensible of something rubbing against his leg, and at the same time heard a loud purring sound. On looking down he was terrified at the sight of a large panther walking along beside him. Every few yards the animal would bound off into the bush, only to return and repeat the cat-like action, and continue the purring. At