

## Miscellaneous

Mr. T. F. Hall, at Amaranth, recently shot a magnificent deer, weighing 200 lbs., on his farm.

Alt. J. Vermeir, who recently stole \$25,000 from his employer in San Francisco, was a conspicuous member of the Y. M. C. A.

A sturgeon was sold in Kingston market on the 19th inst., weighing 192 lbs., and measuring 6 1/2 feet long, with about 2 1/2 feet around the shoulders.

A man named Laughlin, bar tender for Tip Corey, Petrolia, cleared out on Sunday 17th ult.

An Irish gentleman, an amateur bull-fighter, killed two bulls in the presence of 15,000 people at Barcelona, on the 15th inst. He was surrounded at night, and gave his share of the proceeds of the fight to the Hospital of Barcelona.

Professor Huxley proves conclusively that the alligator was once a bird, walking about on two legs, and to this day it lays eggs. We are glad it was never domesticated and made a barn-yard fowl.

A letter from the Adirondacks says that deer this autumn are more abundant than for many previous years, but that they keep away from the lakes, finding more security in the second growth timber.

Mr. Tom Taylor, of Fremont, Ohio, killed a woodcock weighing 8 1/2 oz., and measuring 10 1/2 inches from tip to tip of wing; this gent has bagged over one hundred and twenty-five this season and reports several large bags, his largest in one day I think was nine-teen.

Mr. James Gardiner, of Hibernia, Queen's Co., brought a very large bear into market yesterday. It was caught by Mr. Stephen Palmer, of Mr. Gardiner's farm. Mr. Gardiner has lost, since June, 11 sheep by bears. Mr. Gardiner says he never remembered so many bears being in the settlement before.

Betsy Grigsby, of Lexington, Ga., was induced to pugilism by reading about the recent fight between Goss and Allen. She believed that she was able to distinguish herself in the same way, and in her first attempt she whipped a woman. Next she decided to try a man; but she did not wish to be too ambitious at the outset of her career, and so chose a decrepit negro over eighty years old. She beat him so badly that he died on the same day, and Betsy is in goal awaiting trial.

A professional trapper with 200 traps is catching muskrats on the Housatonic river, Mass., moving two miles a day, and catching about 300 rats a week. He says that, in twenty years' experience, he has never saw them better or plumper, and he gets 20 cents a piece for them in New York.

The fresh water "sea-serpent" has met his end in Mendonack Lake, near Rockland, Me. A sailing party met him near the shore just as they were landing, and all but one of them ran away. William Grinnell, of Washington, however, killed him with an oar. The snake is 10 feet long, is of a dull brown color, and has a fin running the whole length of his back. The head is very long, and the tail would make a nervous man shudder.

A proposition has been made in England for establishing a regular carrier-pigeon system in Suffolk county, for police purposes, with headquarters at Ipswich. The birds will be used for conveying information to and from the police stations in the county, and from detective employed on particular duty. They will also be resorted to as a means of communication by those who live in isolated manors, to summon assistance in case of fire, robbery, or accident.

THE TWENTY WON.—About two o'clock this morning a man rose up at a Virginia fare table, where he had been eating and losing for hours, and laying a twenty on a card said, as he drew and cocked a derringer, "If I don't win I'll send you to —". The dealer raised his eyes and looked from under the broad brim of his souch hat into the muzzle of the pistol. He didn't even change color, but calmly remarked, "Oh, if that's the way to bet, we may as well go on" and he did. The twenty won.

A Londoner is of use.—Recorder Black of New York, added to his other accomplishments, one upon guns, two other days, which bore against a prisoner who declared that the shot gun, with which he had shot some children, went off from a blow against the window sill. The recorder examined the gun, declared it impossible, and told the prisoner to try it in that way.

## INSTINCT.

Professor Hammond, of New York, relates many instances of instinct in animals. If the entire brain be removed from a frog, the animal will continue to perform those functions which are immediately connected with the maintenance of life. If the web between the toes is pinched, the limb is immediately withdrawn. If the shoulder be scratched with a needle, the hind foot of the same side is raised to remove the instrument. If the animal is held up by one leg, it struggles. If it is placed on its back, a position to which frogs object, it at once turns over on its belly. If one foot is held firmly with a pair of forceps, the frog endeavors to draw it away. If unsuccess-ful, it places the other foot against the instrument and pushes convulsively to remove it. Not succeeding, it writhes the whole body from side to side, and always in a forward direction. All these, and even more complicated motions, are performed by the decapitated alligator. I have frequently seen the headless body of the rattlesnake coil itself into a threatening attitude, and when irritated, strike its bleeding trunk against the offending body. On one occasion a teamster on the Western plains had decapitated one of these reptiles with his whip, and when bending down to examine it more carefully, he was struck full in the forehead. So powerful was the shock to his nervous system that he fainted and remained unconscious for three minutes. A natural historian relates that a viper whose head had been cut off moved determinedly towards its hole in the wall.

## RAVAGES OF THE HORSE PLAGUE:

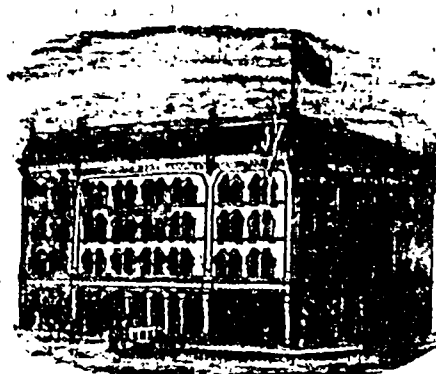
An Alexandria correspondent writes: "The horse disease is, I fear, spreading fast. When I last wrote it was confined to the two districts of Cairo and Zagazig, a cotton centre, half way between Alexandria and Suez. But in the last week there has been numerous cases in the Delta. It has made its appearance at Tanta, Mansourah, Mahalla and Birket, all large towns and great centres of cotton culture and trade, and all in constant communication with Alexandria. So I fear we shall have it here very shortly. In the canals dead bodies are to be seen floating about in quantities, and as they supply water to the people as well as to the cotton lands, we are beginning to dread the outbreak of some epidemic. At Zagazig the plague is dying out, as nearly all the horses are dead. The crowds of wild dogs that serve as the scavengers there have been poisoned in great numbers by feeding on the carcasses. It is difficult to estimate the loss to the country by this destruction, as the season commences, of the means of conveying the cotton from the fields to the factories and railway. Popular talk goes as high as millions. Anyhow the loss will be very great."

## Horse Notes.

STARTLE TROTS A FAST QUARTER.—Gen. Withers visited the breeding farm of Mr. Bonner, last week, and was much pleased with Startle and his colts. In order to show Gen. Withers his action, Mr. Bonner had him hitched to a waggon, and driven a quarter of mile, in the extraordinary time of 88 1/2 s., and this on a three-quarter mile track. A ride behind Dexter was another sensation experienced by Gen. W.

SALE OF BROTHER TO BASSETT AND VIGIL.—The announcement that Col. McDaniel had sold, on Sun lay last, the half interest he owned in the three-year-old colts, Brother to Bassett and Vigil, with their engagements, for the alleged price of \$12,000, caused considerable sensation in the racing circles of New York. Messrs. Dwyer Brothers, of Brooklyn, the owners of Rhadamanthus and Galway, are the purchasers, and the colts will be trained in future by Eph Saedikor. The sale, it is stated, was made to dissolve the partnership that had existed between Col. McDaniel and Mr. H. O. Bernard, the latter retaining his half interest in the colts, who will both start in the Dixie stakes, next Tuesday.

A GOOD TEAM.—On the 12th inst., Island Park, Troy, N. Y., witnessed a fine trot against time. Mr. George Hanor, of Melrose, N. Y., matched his black team, Velas and Vulcan, to trot against time, to beat 3:31, to road wagon. The first heat was made in 2:31 1/2, second in 2:35, and third, the team captured the purse, trotting the mile in 2:30 1/2. This same team trotted a full mile, about four weeks ago, over this track, in 2:30 1/2.



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