

sure to die for no remedy has been found to cure the bite. Once when in Cocanada I saw a big cobra killed near the mission bungalow after one of our missionaries had nearly stepped upon it.

This week a very large snake was brought to our house and also a goat, they were both dead. This reptile which was of the python variety was thirteen and a half feet in length for we stretched it out and measured it on our garden walk. Now let me tell you about this rock snake, or python. About a mile from our house is a very thick jungle to which the shepherds drive the goats and sheep to pasture on the bushes on the mountain side. This poor little goat while in the jungle was caught and killed by this snake and while it was trying to swallow it the shepherd came and killed the snake.

A young man named Razanna who often goes into the jungle told me that he has seen a python twenty feet long and that it sometimes swallows a deer. On one occasion he saw one with the horns of the deer projecting from its mouth, all the rest had disappeared. After it has eaten such a big meal it eats nothing more for two months. Once when Mr. Currie lived in Tuni a big rock snake actually caught a little boy but some men quickly came and rescued him before he was killed.

These reptiles are very strong, and very cunning, and also very lazy; they will drop upon you from the branch of a tree and coil their tail around you while their head is still coiled around the branch. The most dangerous snakes are the smaller ones. About two years ago a Russell viper dropped from the top of a door in our house nearly upon a servant who shouted so that I ran and killed it with a stick. This specimen was beautifully marked and only about eighteen inches long but as the natives say "its bite begins with death" for it is so very poisonous.

Last night in our prayer meeting our school teacher told us that the Lord took care of us both day and night and never forgot us one minute. He said that he had spoken to a man in the bazaar the day before who was in good health in the afternoon but was bitten by a snake that same evening and died.

In this big country which is really a world in itself with so very many men, women and children nearly all of whom walk about barefooted, about one hundred people die each day from snake bites, but very few English people die. An Engineer who has been in India twenty-five years told me that during all that time he has only heard of two or three Englishmen who died from snake bite in India.

When we go out after dark we generally take a light, sometimes, however, we take a little walk without one. Let me see, there is something in the Bible about a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path" is there not? In Psalms 119 chapter and 105 verse it reads "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Now how can the word be a light, and what path is this? Perhaps you can explain to me.

From your friend,

R. GARSIDE.

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