

of the most important papers, and the cashier keeps the key of the strong box, which now has something in it besides paper. By his advice the debts of the company are put in a fair way of being paid, tho' some grumbling still subsists among those who were obliged to sell their notes at discount. The master of the hounds is an officer, who it was at first thought would have very little business; but as the wild beasts * of the forest have of late grown very troublesome, it is supposed that he will have his hands full. There is too much of a lurch for hunting among many of the Foresters, and some have not been ashamed to express their wishes that the whole race of wild creatures was exterminated from the face of the earth. There are others who still continue of the mind, that these animals are a degenerated part of the human species, and might yet be recovered if proper methods were used to tame them; but it is greatly feared, that while the rage for hunting continues all such benevolent projects will fail in the execution.

In some late hunting matches, these wild animals discovered so much art and courage, that several of the hunters were laid to sleep in the bed of honour; and the rest were obliged to take to their heels, that they might "live to hunt another day." Some persons are of the mind that it is not best to seek these beasts in their dens, but rather to guard the fields and take care of the poultry at home. Others are for pursuing them to the thickest shades of the forest, and this seems at present to be the prevailing opinion. What the success of it will be, time must determine.

The child that is unborn may rue, the hunting of that day.

Since the new partnership has been established, husbandry and trade have been carried on briskly; the houses are full of good things, and the children are well clad and healthy; but there is one inconvenience which usually attends a full house, and that is, that rats are very numerous and a new species of them have lately found their way thither. Some of them are very fat and sleek, and are not afraid to appear in open day-light, though it is supposed they burrow underground, and have subterraneous communications from house to house. This is an inconvenience against which no remedy has yet been found; though some people, from their apparent voracity, are of the mind that they will either prey upon one another, or else eat till they burst.

I had almost forgot to tell you that two new families have lately been added to the number of partners. One is that of *Ethan Greenwood*, a stout, lusty fellow, born in the family of Robert Lumber, but married into that of Peter Bull frog, from whom, after a long dispute, he has got a good tract of land, which originally belonged to his own father, but was surreptitiously taken possession of by his father-in-law. The other is *Hunter Long-knife*, she was bred in the family of Walter Pipeweed, and has a large share of his spirit of adventure. Having taken up his residence in the outskirts of the forest, he has had many a scuffle with the wild beasts, who are extremely fond of his green corn and young chickens, whenever they can get a taste of them.

* Indians.

† Sp-c-l---rs.

‡ Vermont.

§ Kentucky.