

sufficient headway by a dozen flaps of the wings to sail thirty or forty yards at a stretch. As they rose in the air, I knocked down two more, thus securing an excellent meal. During the next day I laid out on the mound, which was beaten smooth by the trampling and stamping of many little feet, a set of bent rods, inserting the ends well into the earth, and suspending from the arches thus formed running nooses of buffalo sinew in the same manner as is followed in snaring rabbits. For several evenings and mornings these snares supplied me with from one to three birds; but they finally either mated or grew wary, for they refrained from indulging in their dance in that locality.

The fierceness with which they fought may be judged from the fact that in several cases when birds were snared, a lot of feathers were plucked from them, and the skin on the top of the heads was completely pecked off. The poor unfortunate bird, held fast by the sinew loop, was soon killed by his blood-thirsty companions.

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## V. SOME PREHISTORIC AND ANCIENT LINEAR MEASURES.

BY R. P. GREG.

I have for a considerable length of time been engaged on an investigation concerning the units of measure among certain ancient nations; and though there is not space, within the limits of a mere communication \* like the present, to enter upon the whole ground gone over, which would moreover entail a considerable number of figures and illustrations, I will, as briefly as possible, recapitulate some of the leading results, about which, I think there is little reasonable ground for doubt, and which may lead to interesting results.

1. *Peru*.—From the measurements afforded, mostly by a number of small objects, it would appear that the ancient Peruvians of the time of the Incas employed the same inch and foot as did the Aztecs and Toltecs, and Central Americans: viz., a foot equal to  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches English, or say a fraction more than the old Roman or Solon's foot. This foot =  $\cdot 298$  of a metre, and was

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\* Communicated as correspondence to *The Academy*, July 4th and 25th 1885.