

THE LAND WE LIVE IN

DEVOTED TO ORIGINAL HUNTING, FISHING AND DESCRIPTIVE ARTICLES.

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FOR THE LAND WE LIVE IN.

IN THE CEDARS.

THE inhabitants of cities and those who visit cities see in the markets a very long legged and long eared animal, the body of which is covered with white fur in winter. Judging from recent quotations in a New York paper, "60 cts. a pair," they are thought to be eatable there. Though they are not eagerly sought after in eastern cities or regarded a fancy dish when served, nevertheless they are frequently bought and sold. When alive this animal is an excursionist especially on moonlight nights. Its track may be seen far away from the place in which it dwells and feeds. But when off on a tour it does not pass by any delicate morsel of browse without a generous nibble. Most always in the day time it will be found in the cedars, in the low cedars and where such bushes are thick. A great abundance of such game we rarely find elsewhere in the Eastern States.

There are many experiences which a hunter can relate who will take the pains to enjoy sporting of this kind, and I have often wondered why no writer in *THE LAND WE LIVE IN* has ever said "Rabbit." To hunt it the best time is in winter if you know where it is to be found. Being white and the ground bare and dark, the least movement of the white object shows at once.

On a Thanksgiving day, having a boy's relish for food, the flesh of it was first pronounced delicious by the writer. I was not a boy alone, but the reader can picture two boys on the side of a wooded ridge around a fire. Sticks in their hands are sharpened out to pierce strips of meat lying by and to

roast them. They were soon done brown, being seasoned with salt, and thus cooked they helped wonderfully the pocket lunch, that was brought along.

My companion related at this meal a practical joke played upon him the previous year by two associates. They had made an appointment to go hunting with him upon a certain day. They had arrived at his home very early in the morning and he was not at liberty to start as early. While he was adjusting matters to keep the household right

a rabbit close by. They went in the course they had left it he attending. They were sure not to see the head but were sure he would, which he did, and discharged his gun at it. Going to take up his game of course he got the lifeless head, which was not so appreciable to him as to his merry companions. However, at this later day he seemed to have fully entered into the enjoyment of the joke so as to think it a good one at his expense.

But further back than all this it is remembered now that a little fellow of this kind had been taken from the bush on a summer day and that I was one of the children out of whose hand he would feed and that *this* gave us enjoyment till Tabby became desirous, one autumn night, of a dainty morsel and took off his head unceremoniously for her enjoyment.

These boyhood days have lengthened out into manhood's, but still it is considered quite in order when close time comes on the ruffled grouse to take a hunt or two for rabbit before setting into winter quarters.

There are woods which stretch along the north of this county. We pass over the county line and over the brook, where our best trout are taken in summer upon a jam of logs, or on a tree fallen across and frozen into the ice. Lumber men have been working here and have made roads since we were here last. We pass up one for several rods but see nothing whatever. Parallel with it are other roads and one is found by going through a cedar thicket six or eight rods, but just as we step into it we see

at the right, two ears erect, a full round eye and a perfectly motionless body of white. Here we begin the capture, which ends in good time, at 4 o'clock p. m., with number eight. After one of them we have had a lively chase. He has taken pains to keep us just a little too far off most of



WITH ROD AND GUN.

side up for the day, they had entered the woods near by, and having shot a rabbit had severed the head from the body and put the head on two sticks so that it would show above the log by the side of which they had left it. When he came out ready for the day's sport they told him that they had seen