

THE MOOSE DEER.

(From the London Field.)

An habitual browser, the moose is essentially denizen of the greenwood shades, and its congenial resorts are thick and extensive forests, where it can find food and concealment at all seasons. Naturally wary and timorous, it seeks the more secluded recesses, frequenting especially those portions of the forest in which its favorite browse is plentiful, and seldom leaving the shelter of the covert. Moose are most partial to the leaves and shoots of the several varieties of maple, particularly *Acer pennsylvanicum* (known as moose wood for this reason), which are preferred to any other browse. They are naturally gregarious, and inclined to associate in small herds, but owing to their lessened numbers it is seldom that more than three or four are found together. During the summer months they resort to morasses and swamps, and the shores of lakes and rivers in the backwoods; and when the weather is warmest they pass most of their time standing in the water, partly for the sake of coolness, but chiefly to avoid the annoying attacks of the various flies which persecute them incessantly at that season. In June and July the Canadian forests are visited as it were by a plague of malignant flies—black flies, and flies, gnats, mosquitoes, etc.—which beset their unwelcome attentions assiduously and diligently on man and quadruped alike, and under the woods for the time being almost uninhabitable. The most formidable of these insect pests is the caribou fly, a kind of large gadfly, which confines its attacks to animals, and is much dreaded by them, owing to the severity of its bite. To escape their various winged tormentors, the moose take refuge in the water, where they remain almost constantly while the heat continues and the flies are in activity. They immerse themselves in water up to their backs, with their heads alone raised above the surface, and feed on the stalks and leaves of the water lilies and other aquatic plants. They appear less wary or vigilant when in the water than on land, for if occupied in feeding it is not difficult to approach them from leeward in a light canoe, skilfully and noiselessly paddled. The rutting season begins about the 10th of September, and comprises the remainder of that month and two or three weeks of October. At this period the female in seeking her mate utters frequently a loud and discordant roar to attract attention, which is often imitated by hunters to inveigle the male within range of their rifles. During the rutting time the males are extremely pugnacious, and furious combats take place between them whenever they happen to meet. The period of gestation in the moose is about eight months, the calves being dropped in the following May. The number is usually two in each adult female, sometimes only one, and occasionally, though more seldom, three. They continue to accompany the dam until they are a year old, when they leave her to shift for themselves.

In winter moose do not move about much, as they cannot travel with facility through deep snow. When the weather becomes cold they take up winter quarters in what are termed 'yards' in the backwoods, wherein, if undisturbed, they remain quietly until spring. A moose yard is simply a secluded track or portion of the forest, varying in extent from three or four acres to twenty or more, producing a sufficiency of browse, and suited therefore for winter abode, as its occupants have not to wander far in quest of provender. When taken young the moose may be reared and domesticated without much difficulty, becoming tame and tractable in confinement, and associating amicably with cattle. Many instances have occurred in which individuals of this species have been reared and tamed, in some cases even accustomed to harness and used for draught purposes. The latter observation has likewise been frequently amplified in the elk of Scandinavia. In parts of Sweden where elk were once much more common than at present, they were formerly domesticated and employed like reindeer in drawing sledges, their great strength and endurance fitting them admirably for such work. So well tamed is the elk qualified in these respects for a tamed animal, that it appears at first sight somewhat surprising that it is no longer used thus in those northern countries, or that a tame race has not been established and perpetuated there, in the case of the reindeer. The explanation probably is that the elk, although far more powerful than the reindeer, and therefore capable of drawing much heavier loads, is, on the other hand, greatly inferior to the latter in the power of traversing the frozen surface of deep snow—a qualification of the first importance. Being so much heavier than the reindeer, and not possessing like it an expansive hoof, the elk would sink in the snow, and be brought to a standstill under circumstances in which the former could travel over the surface with little difficulty, and this doubtless is the reason why the custom of

to be successful in either case. To 'creep' or 'still-hunt' a moose successfully in the fall of the year, in the Indian summer, for instance, is a feat even more difficult of achievement than to circumvent the wilest old hunt in a solitary Highland glen or corrie; and requires excessive caution, skill, and astuteness, combined with much experience and observation of the ways and habits of this game. As a sport, moose creeping differs from deer stalking generally in no special feature, beyond the fact of its being exclusively conducted within dense forest, a circumstance that tends in some respects to increase its inherent difficulties. In creeping moose, one is compelled to study very closely the direction of the wind, should there be any, in order to approach the deer from a leeward quarter, as it is impossible to cross the nose of a moose to windward of him, even at an incredible distance, without his detecting the 'tainted gale,' and taking alarm. The hunter is obliged, therefore, to advance with extreme circumspection, and especially to avoid breaking even the smallest dead stick under foot, or the decayed branches and twigs of trees and bushes, in his onward progress; in fact, to be almost as noiseless and stealthy in all his movements as a cat. When browsing, moose usually follow a very devious course, making frequent turns and winding; and, having done feeding, lie down always to leeward of their tracks, with their heads to the wind. On this account the experienced moose hunter does not, as a rule, follow directly in the wake of the deer when browsing, but, noting carefully the direction of their tracks and of the currents of air, quarters the ground to and fro against the wind diligently and cautiously, keeping the while a most careful watch for the animals or their traces. With a party of several hunters this sport may be made to partake more of the character of driving, if there is no available 'pass'—as, for example, a narrow neck of land between two backwoods lakes—or particular route that the deer are likely to take when roused, and towards which they may be started by some of the party.

In the early winter, when the snow is neither very deep nor frozen hard on the surface, stalking or tracking moose on snow-shoes is capital sport, and often tests not only the skill, but also the endurance and perseverance of the hunter severely; as, under these conditions, a moose when started, if unwounded, may be followed continuously for two or three days in succession before the pursuers finally tire him out, and arrive within shot. There is, of course, little difficulty in tracking the slo' of a moose in the soft snow; but walking on snow-shoes through the woods for so many hours, with only an occasional brief halt for rest or food, is exceedingly fatiguing exercise, suited only to men of thews, sinews, and stamina.

Moose calling is a somewhat peculiar branch of the venatory art, which is practicable only in the rutting season; and, although it has often been described, some account of it here may not be devoid of interest. The art and mystery of 'calling,' then, consists in cleverly simulating the peculiar grunting roar which the cow moose has a habit of uttering during the rutting time as a call to her lord. This call consists of a succession of low deep grunts, ending in a very loud, prolonged, and hideous roar, which, in the profound silence of the woods on a calm night, is audible at a distance of two or three miles. Unmelodious and unsirelike though the sound is to human ears, it apparently has its charms for the animal that it is intended to attract, and by closely and skilfully imitating this strange cry through a kind of horn or trumpet, formed of a twisted roll of birch bark, the hunter is enabled to decoy the most wary old 'bull' moose within shot. To do this, however, requires, as a rule, much skill and experience on the part of the caller, who must be gifted with a great ear and natural aptitude for mimicking sounds. A moose, especially an old bull, is one of the shyest and most suspicious of animals, and his sense of hearing is of the keenest; moreover the nearer he approaches the spot from whence the call emanates the more wary and cautious he becomes, consequently the least inaccuracy in pitch or tone is immediately detected, and sends him to the right-about forthwith. Each note must therefore be correctly rendered, as one false note or improper variation will inevitably ensure detection of the imposition. The chief secret of success is in knowing exactly when and how to modulate the sounds in the manner best calculated to allay the animal's suspicions as he draws nearer; then to raise or lower the notes: in particular, when the crafty moose makes a halt close to you, perhaps within range, but still concealed from view, and pauses thus irresolutely, keenly listening, and dubious whether to advance or take his departure; to be able at this critical moment to produce the low, half-uttered, and distant-sounding grunts and subdued roars which are needed then to overcome his distrust and entice him fairly under fire. Few white men possess this skill, or attain any high degree of excellence in this line, as it requires long practice to become an adept. The

MARRIAGE OF A CANADIAN SONGSTER.

Mlle. Cellini, of London, England, daughter of Nelson Forsyth, Esq., of Fort Erie, Canada, who has been pursuing for several years her operatic studies in Italy and London, and who has already made very successful appearances publicly in the former country, and privately in the latter, was, on Nov. 23rd, at the Parish Church, in the parish of St. Mary le bone, married to Signor Angieri, a rising young American artiste, and the happy possessor of one of the finest high baritone voices now on the stage. Mr. John Thomas, harpist to her Majesty the Queen, gave the bride away, and, after the ceremony, splendidly entertained them at his own house, when the happy young couple remained his guests until the 27th inst., when they sailed for Melbourne, Australia, on the Steamship *Leistania*, of the Oriental Line, to fulfil a lucrative engagement they have made together under the management of W. Savin Lyster, for the term of eighteen months, in Italian Opera. We understand that they do all the principal cities of Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, California and the United States of America.

TOO CLEVER BY HALF.

An amusing story is told of a Belgian bridegroom who, being about to start for Paris on his honeymoon tour, was informed by his bride that she thought of concealing several thousand francs' worth of lace about her, hoping by its sale to pay the cost of their journey. The bridegroom was not smitten with this frugal prospect, and pointed out that there were custom house officers and a female searcher at Ercquelines, who were sometimes struck with an unaccountable fancy for examining the passengers' pockets. This he said, being a timid man, and his bride to humor him promised to give up her plan; but of course she secreted the lace all the same without telling him about it. Arriving at Ercquelines, the bridegroom reflected that if his bride was not searched, after all, she would have a chance to laugh at him for his fears. So he whispered to the proper official, "I think if you search that lady yonder you may find some lace." The douanier winked; the happy bride was accosted with an invitation to walk into the female searcher's room; she turned pale, tottered, but was led away, and five minutes later dismal sounds of hysterics were heard. The douanier reappeared and said to the horrified husband, "Thank you, sir; it's a good capture. The lady will be taken to prison, and half the lace will go to you." Imagine the feelings of the ingenious Benedict, and the scene which ensued between him and his bride.

PRODUCE OF A PAIR OF RABBITS.

I can't tell the whole number of rabbits that would spring from a single pair in the course of a season, but I know the number of young ones that a single doe produced this year. I got a pair of silver-gray rabbits on March 1; they had been caught in an enclosed warren of about thirty acres in extent, so might be called wild. I ran up a bit of wire netting four feet high, three yards on each side, enclosing a space of nine square yards. I put nothing on the ground to prevent them scratching out, and threw in some sticks, stones, and bricks for shelter. The day after I got them, March 2, I found seven young ones lying scattered and dead on the ground. I was not aware of the interesting condition of the doe, or I would have been more careful. On April 4 the same doe had eight young ones, seven of which she reared. On May 28 she had seven young ones, four of which she reared. On August 14 she had eight young ones, seven of which lived to be running about and eating, but died before they were three months old. In six months this single doe had thirty young ones. I have been told that if I kept the buck and doe together he would destroy the young ones; but I never removed him, and he killed none. For breeding house I had a three-dozen wine box, with a hole in the side; a common six-inch drain pipe had one end placed in the hole of the box. When she had young ones in the box, I have seen the doe chase the buck away when he came near the mouth of the pipe. She evidently thought he was not to be trusted; but he killed none. In this north country (Scotland), though young rabbits may be seen in almost every month of the year, yet those born after Sept. 1 seldom thrive, they seem to get swollen in the stomach, and have large livers spotted white. From September till Feb. 1 they appear unhealthy; but rabbits a month old on March 1 are likely to do well.—J. D. B.

THE SKUNK.

As the trapping season draws around every amateur thinks of his traps, and, if not convenient to engage in his favorite sport, naturally delights in hearing something relating to the art, or about the habits and habits of the

A FISH WITH FOUR LEGS.

A correspondent writing from Hutchinson, Kan., says:—"This place is considerably excited over the finding of a fish with four legs and a frill or sort of ruffle about its neck in a well forty feet deep. This little curiosity is the same as that discovered by Prof. C. C. Marsh, in 1868, at Lake Como, in Wyoming Territory, to which he gave the name of *Sireodon leichnoides*. Out at territory they are known as the 'Fish with Legs,' and are from five to ten inches in length. This one found at this place is about three inches in length, as a sardon enjoys the external bronchial appendages or gills, making a partial frill to the neck, and membrane along the back and tail, resembling that of the tadpole. The head is like that of the yellow catfish the body of a black olive color and nearly transparent. According to Prof. Marsh's experience with the siredons, this little creature will undergo a change like the tadpole, and the beautiful ruffle about the neck and the tadpole-like membrane will be absorbed by the body, various other changes will follow, and the little wonder of Hutchinson will be transformed into a completed animal, formerly known as the *amblystoma marmoratum*, and the doctrine will be proven that all siredons are merely larval salamanders. Your correspondent found the above-described little wonder at the drug store of Winslow & Albright, where it can be seen by one who may wish to look at their large cabinet of curiosities."

A SAILOR'S STORY.

It was a weather-beaten sailor we overheard in a Clay street restaurant the other day, kindly giving a few reminiscences of travel to some lady friends he was treating to corned beef and cabbage. 'Talking about lions,' he went on to say, 'they are the intelligentest animal what is. A curious thing happened once when we were on the East Coast last cruise. One of our officers went out hunting deer, and next morning his body was found bit clean in two, but with his watch missing. Nobody understood it. Next day the quarter-master's body was found in the same condition, with his watch gone. Seemed as though a lion and pickpocket were kinder going snags, as it were, only the lion didn't eat nothing. Next day two middies disappeared—same result. None of the sailors were hurt—had no watches, you see. Of course the whole crew turned out for a grand hunt, and at last we killed a lion sixteen feet long. In his stomach we found all the watches, still running. Cold fact, I assure you. The ship's surgeon, who had cut the breast open, said he wasn't in good health—had a torpid liver. So we used at once that the animal had killed all the officers just to swallow their watches—sorter like pills, you know. The lion must a' thought that the wheels and things would kinder tickle him 'p inside. When we shot at him he was lying 'h his eyes shut and mouth open, listening to o works going on inside of him. Sounded 'like a whole jewelry store. Fact ma'am. Take some more cabbage.'

A TARVELLED CIRCUS.

Cooper & Bailey's circus and menagerie, which had among its attaches several people well known here, and which more than two years ago started on a tour to the uttermost parts of the earth, has just returned to Philadelphia, where it will winter. The troupe left California on the City of Sydney, October 8 1876. Since that time they have visited hundreds of cities and towns where the circus ring was a thing unknown. On December 6 the ship arrived at Honolulu, where it stopped for a day. King Kalakaua and his royal suite went on board and witnessed a performance. He seemed highly pleased and made several presents to the performers. The next place visited was the Fiji Islands and the company then started for Australia, and after a rough voyage reached Sydney in the latter part of December. In the spring they sailed to New Zealand. As this was the first menagerie ever seen in the South seas, whole tribes of the warlike natives flocked from the North to see them. The showmen had a great deal to contend with, as on several occasions the natives refused to leave the tent when the performance was ended and repelled them when force was resorted to. Fever also broke out and a number of the attaches and performers were prostrated, among them the nimble Japanese acrobat, "Little All Right," who died after a few days' illness.—Cincinnati Gazette.

A NEVADA BEAR FIGHT.

A man went hunting in the Nevada mountains, armed with a rifle, a hatchet, and a long bowie knife. As he reached a clearing he espied

THE PIGEON ROOST.

(From the Joplin News.)

Such a scene as is presented at the great war-pigeon roost, in the Indian Territory, some fifty miles southwest of this city, is very uncommon, and has no equal anywhere in America. The 'roost' includes a space of about forty acres, in the timber, and when they return to the roost in the evening, the trees are perfectly black with them. The Indians, who own the land, will not permit other parties to take advantage of the game, but hire men, who sit at the roots of the trees and shoot and blow clubs all night, and the next morning the ground is covered with pigeons, and they are gathered up, loaded into wagons and hauled to this city, where the Indians realize from ten to twenty five cents per dozen for them. During the day only now and then a pigeon can be seen in the vicinity of the roost, but they invariably return at night. The man who owns the land say they have killed dozens of eagles loads this fall, and still the number does not seem to diminish in the least, nor does the nightly slaughter seem to intimidate them.

THE PRINCESS LOUISE AND OUT-DOOR EXERCISE.

An Ottawa correspondent writes - Her Royal Highness is setting one good example to the ladies of the Dominion, which it will be well for their health if they imitate. She is an early riser, and has been indulging in several long 'constitutional' before breakfast of five or six miles. She is generally attended by one or more of her suite, and walks with that ease and grace which can only be acquired by habitual exercise in the open air. She dresses with great simplicity, but appears rather afraid of the cold, as she 'muffles up' a great deal, and thereby disappoints the curiosity of many who would like to get 'a good square look' at her. In these walks she is accompanied by a splendid Collie dog, a present from her mother, who bears around his neck a very common looking leather collar, with a brass plate on which is engraved—'I belong to H.R.H. the Princess Louise, Kensington Palace.' The dog is a magnificent specimen of his breed, and the Princess is said to be exceedingly fond of him, partly on account of his donor, and partly because at the fire at Inverary Castle it was the barking of 'Rover' which awakened her and saved her, per haps, from a horrible death. Every time H.R.H. has appeared as a pedestrian she has carried a small cane—apparently a *Misacca*, but I have not had an opportunity of examining it either in my hand or over my back, so I cannot be accurate, and this has given rise to the fashion of carrying canes being adopted by ladies here.

AN ECCENTRIC EARL AND HIS DOGS.

The Earl of Bridgewater lived in Paris during the last century, when, according to the *Kaiser-Mail*, the circumstances now narrated took place. He was a miserable-looking little man, unable to walk without the aid of two lackeys. He had an immense fortune, which he spent in gratifying every caprice. Was a book lent to him, it was representative of its owner, and returned in the Earl's landau, occupying the place of honor, and attended by four footmen in costly attire, who handed it to the astonished owner. His carriage was frequently to be seen lined with dogs, his special pet. On the feet of those dogs he bestowed as much attention as though they were human beings. He ordered them books, for which he paid dearly as for his own. Caring to entertain his own kind at two tables, ten people dined with him. Still, covers were daily laid for a dozen, served by suitable attendants. At this table he received and dined with more than twelve favorite dogs, who seemed to comprehend the compliment paid them, as they occupied their chairs with decorum, each with his white capkin tied round its neck. These were so trained that should any, by an instinct appetite, transgress any rule of good manners he was hushed from the table, and degraded to an ante-chamber, where he picked his bone in satisfaction, his place remaining empty until he had earned his master's pardon.

WHAT A FOSSIL COST.

Our readers will no doubt remember the announcement of the discovery some time since of a specimen of *Archaeopteryx lithographica* in the Jurassic beds of Solenhofen. As but one specimen of this most remarkable fossil bird was previously known, and that specimen an imperfect one, there was of course no little desire on the part of paleontologists to secure one and to have the