

fined twice as much as he would have to pay for assaulting with a stick." (Encyclopædia Britannica, vol. xxi., Siam.)

As a rule, the Gentoo owner of an animal that trespassed upon another's land, and destroyed the crops thereon, had to compensate the owner thereof and was also liable to a fine. The amount of the fine varied according to the nature of the trespassing animal--that for a cow was more than that for a sheep or goat, that for a camel (that 'umpy, lumpy, 'umming bird, which is a devil an' a ostrich an' a orphan-child in one, as Rudyard Kipling says) far more than that for a cow, and that for a horse or buffalo more still. If the owner had a keeper employed to watch the animals, then the latter and not the owner had to pay the penalties. If a magistrate's horse or elephant should eat the crop, nothing was said about it. Nor was the owner or keeper amenable if the cow or other animal was blind or lame; nor if a cow, being frightened at seeing an army, or by a thunderstorm, or any other accident, should run away and eat up another's crop; and if a weasel, or a mouse, or a rat, or a mule, should eat the crop of any person, the owner or keeper of these animals was not liable. It was mercifully provided that if, while a keeper, or the owner himself, was tending kine, buffaloes, or such kind of animals, he was stricken by lightning, or bitten by a serpent, or fell down from a tree, or was carried off by a tiger, and then the cattle, or other animals, should escape and eat the crop on any person's ground, neither the keeper (nor the owner) was amenable.

The readers of the laws of Howel the Good will remember with what particularity he provides for the payment for damage to the crops of another; even the owner of a cat caught mousing in a flax garden had to pay for its injuries.

*Apropos* of serpents, it was the law that if a man, by violence, threw into another person's house a snake, or any other animal of that kind, whose bite or sting is mortal, the magistrate should fine him five hundred puns of cowries, and make him throw away the snake with his own hand. India in those old days was not the home of sportsmen, for if one killed a goat the magistrate cut off one of his hands and one of his feet; if a man killed a fish he was fined ten puns of cowries; if he knocked a mosquito off his nose, and, in so doing, killed it, he could be cited before the magistrate and fined eighty cowries; if, to prevent a