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Some New

Snake Stories

Some Good Yarns Come to the Front With the New Season.
Incidents From Real Life.

Bristol, Tenn. — The little 5-year-old son of Mrs. Nannie Cannon, residing at Limestone, East Tennessee, awoke at 10 o'clock in the night and told his mother that a snake was in his bed. The mother, regarding it as only a fancy of the child, due, probably to dreaming, scoldingly insisted that the little fellow should be quiet and go back to sleep.

Sobbing with fear, the little fellow soon became quiet, but in a short while his mother was again aroused by the cries of the child, who insisted that a snake was in the bed. The mother was still unwilling to believe that it was anything more than a fancy, and vehemently scolded the child until he again became quiet. At intervals during the night she was aroused by the sobbing of the child, whose fear had thrown him into a state of terror. The mother still had no faith in the story, and the night wore away without an investigation.

At daybreak, when Mrs. Cannon arose to go about her household duties, remembering the fretting of the little boy during the night, she turned the cover down where the child lay asleep, and there, coiled up beside the child, lay an unusually large black snake, about five feet in length. Seizing her boy, the mother lifted him quickly from the bed. The disturbance aroused the snake, and before Mrs. Cannon could find any instrument suitable to kill the reptile it had left the bed, which was in an upstairs chamber, and crawled up the wall into the garret. The snake has not been seen since, and the family has been in nightly dread of the reptile. The child was not in any way injured by his hideous companion.

A SNAKE OF UNKNOWN SPECIES.

Indianapolis, Ind.—In an encounter with a huge snake of an unknown species near the mouth of a cave in the hills, Norman Jones, who had heard that the cave was the haunt of a snake, saw the reptile sunning itself as he approached the cave. Seizing a club, he attacked the snake, believing he could kill it with little trouble. But the snake proved a formidable adversary for an hour.

At one time, Jones says, the snake coiled about his neck and was slowly strangling him, when he managed to cut it with his pocket knife. The snake released its hold and dropped to the ground. Believing the reptile dead, Jones made his way to a farmhouse. He returned with two men, who were to assist in skinning the prize. But the snake had disappeared in the cave, leaving a trail behind it. Jones says the snake was almost twelve feet long and that its black body was at least three feet in circumference. Its head was large and flat and a yellow streak ran from its head to its tail down the middle of its back. Jones declares that he will explore the cave and kill the snake if he can find any one to aid him.

It is said that parts of the cave, which was once a rendezvous of robbers, have never been explored. In recent years many persons have seen the snake near the mouth of the cave, and the place has been given a wide berth.

BUSTY DAY FOR JOHN.

Warrensburg, Mo.—John Gardiner, a farmer on Clear Fork, about a dozen miles south-east of town, was sitting on the fence Monday of this week gazing at his corn prospect and lamenting his inability to get his cultivator into the weeds, when he thought he heard a noise in the

grass under the fence. He looked closer and beheld a big rattlesnake eyeing him viciously. John got off his perch, secured a club and dispatched the reptile. He had the job scarcely completed when another snake showed up, and another, and another, until John got as busy as a cranberry merchant. When he took inventory it was found that he had killed seven rattlesnakes. John strung his snakes and took them to the store and weighed them. The bunch tipped the beam at 10-12 pounds—about an average of one and one-half pounds each. He doesn't think the wet weather has had any appreciable effect on the rattlesnake crop.

THEY WERE NOT NICE.

Birdsboro, Pa.—What Benjamin F. Becker, a carpenter of Gogelsville, thought was the nest of a mouse behind the old schoolhouse blackboard at Kuhnsville was something else.

Mr. Becker jokingly said to his fellow employee, Mr. Kuder: "Watch me bring out a nest of young mice." To his utter astonishment a copperhead snake sprang out and made a strenuous effort to fasten its poisonous fangs in the frightened man's hand, but the reptile was killed. The men were engaged in putting up a new schoolhouse at Kuhnsville, and wanted to take down the blackboard in the old building. Mr. Becker was so scared at the unexpected appearance of the snake that he was almost prostrated.

ZEMA FINDS A PLAYTHING.

Franklin, N. Y.—Zema, the 8-year-old daughter of O. C. Sigworth, of Canal township, was going through a field near her home one day this week when she encountered a black snake. In childish innocence she picked up the reptile, and running to her father, asked him to see her new "plaything." The snake measured 5 feet 8 inches in length.

SWALLOWED A CHINA EGG.

Roxbury, Va.—Mrs. R. T. Southall, Quinton, had been missing eggs from her henry for several days, and went to gather the eggs yesterday she was surprised to see coiled up in the nest a large blacksnake. She went to the house, got her husband's rifle, and with unerring aim the snake was killed.

When measured it was found to be 8 feet 4 inches long and of enormous size. The snake was cut open, and there were found ten eggs, one of which was the large china nest egg.

A SNAKE SPRING.

Columbus, Ohio.—A South Sider, who returned from his summer vacation a few days since, narrates an interesting story of a spring in Western Ohio, known as the Snake spring.

The name is due to the fact that it has proved a mecca for thousands of water snakes who rendezvous in a shady pool within a few feet of the spring. Snake spring is situated in the midst of a comparatively primitive section of the Buckeye state, and is surrounded by a settlement of persons who are materially influenced by the superstitions of their forefathers, and consequently, are not disposed to disturb the legions of slimy creatures and their favored resort.

THIS SNAKE WANTS A HOME.

Louisville, Ky.—M. F. Doherty, a Jeffersonville druggist at 227 Spring street, made the unwelcome discovery yesterday morning that he had been rooming with a snake two and a half feet long, but for what period he does not know. He heard the reptile on the floor Wednesday night, and supposing it to be a rat, threw a pillow in the direction of the sound. Mr. Doherty lives with his brother, J. B. Doherty, over the store, and yesterday morning Raymond Doherty, a son of J. B. Doherty, discovered the reptile under his uncle's bed.

Several persons went to the room and captured the snake alive, placing it in a glass jar. The reptile showed no fight and appears to be of a harmless variety, but no one has been

able to tell exactly to what class it belongs. How the reptile came to be in Mr. Doherty's bedroom is as much of a puzzle as is its species.

SNAKE AND EEL FIGHT.

Detroit, Mich.—Captain Geo. Blizzard and a party of pleasure seekers out in a launch on the Cohansey river, Illinois, saw a fierce fight between a snake and an eel. The snake had caught the eel by the end of the tail and was trying its best to tow the slippery tidbit ashore for a meal. The eel, however, had no such notion. It seemed to know the snake's game of trying to get it where there was sand, in which it would be utterly helpless, and it wriggled and twisted as only eels can, and it kept the snake guessing. So intent upon its prize was the snake that it paid not the slightest attention to the party in the boat, and thus it fell a prey to its own appetite, for Captain Blizzard killed the snake and let the eel go.

Sundial Maxims.

It is quite an interesting thing to learn that some of our best known proverbs and mottoes were originally used in connection with sundials. Before the days of watches and clocks, when dials and sun marks were among the rude means of reckoning time, it was a prevailing custom to inscribe them.

Among the maxims traceable to this source are, "Make hay while the sun shines," "The longest day must end," and "All things do wax and wane." Sundials spoke the truth, as may be inferred from a historic one which was placed on St. Paul's cross, in London, and which proclaimed, "I number none but sunny hours." This no one will doubt who has had occasion to consult a dial on an overcast day.

A famous dial in Sussex, England, bore four famous mottoes applicable to the flight of time and the brevity of life. They were as follows: "After darkness, light." "Alas, how swift!" "I warn whilst I move" and "So passes life."

Another old sundial spoke petulantly about the same subject in the words, "Sirrah, be gone about your business."

A Sensitive Horse.

Harsh treatment, though it stop short of inflicting physical pain, keeps a nervous horse in a state of misery. On the other hand, it is perfectly true, as a besotted but intelligent stable keeper once observed to me, "A kind word for a horse is as good sometimes as a feed of oats."

A single blow may be enough to spoil a racer. Daniel Lambert, founder of the Lambert branch of the Morgan family, was thought as a three-year-old to be the fastest trotting stallion of his day. He was a very handsome, stylish, intelligent horse, and also extremely sensitive.

His driver, Dan Mace, though one of the best reinsmen in America, once made the mistake, through ill temper or bad judgment, of giving Daniel Lambert a severe cut with the whip, and that single blow put an end to his usefulness as a trotter. He became wild and ungovernable in harness and remained so for the rest of his life.

Long Winded Orators.

Edmund Burke's greatest speech is generally considered to have been the one on "Conciliation with America." The report of the speech, supplied by Burke himself, runs to as many as thirty-two pages. It contains over 30,000 words. It, therefore, could not have been delivered under less than five hours. It is curious, by the way, how long winded all the great British orators were in Burke's time. The older Pitt was the first to indulge in long speeches in the house of commons. After he had delivered one of these famous orations he was hailed by crowds outside the house with enthusiastic cries of "Three hours and a half! Three hours and a half!" "Just as if a man can talk sense for three hours and a half," remarked the cynical Chesterfield, who happened to pass by.

A Railroad of Curves.

The first railroad west of the Alleghenies was built from Lexington to Frankfort, Ky., in 1831. The road was laid out with as many curves as possible, the engineers declaring that this was an advantage. The cars were in two stories, the lower for women and children, the upper for men, four persons being seated in each compartment. The cars were at first drawn by mules, but after a time a locomotive was made by a Lexington mechanic. The tender was a big box for wood, and a horse-head was provided for water which was drawn in buckets from convenient wells. In place of a cowcatcher there were two poles in front fitted with hickory brooms for sweeping the track.

The First Phenix.

Legend tells us that the first phenix was born in the garden of Eden and had its nest in a great red rose—the first rose that ever bloomed. When the angel drove Adam and Eve out of paradise a spark of fire fell from the angel's fiery sword and burned up the phenix and his nest. Out of the ashes sprang a glorious bird, which also lived 500 years before mysteriously burning itself, at every recurrence of which a new phenix is said to arise.

His Explanation.

"All men," said Mr. Meekton, who was preparing a speech, "are created equal." "What did you observe?" asked his wife. "I said all men are created equal. That is to say, that they are equal to one another. This, of course, is not meant to imply that they are the equals of their wives."

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