

'duke's old bombproof,' meaning the Duke of Kent, our sergeant's wife kept one of them in her quarters. I have often seen the children tumbling and rolling over it, and they never had a scratch or a quill stick in them, and their mother was never alarmed." And here was another bit of nature.

Since that day I have seen their dens in the forest, under some old root, and their path worn in the snow to a tall hemlock, which stood stripped to the top of its branches, the snow beneath covered with them; and over the watch fire at night, Sam Copeland has told me how he has seen them going day by day, and returning from the tree at night, and gnawing snow, for drink; and once or twice, at day-dawn, have I met them scuttling home with their awkward gallop, and stopped my horse to watch them out of sight, and bid them good speed as I thought of my dull-eyed old pet. From all these sources I gathered that the little animal was susceptible of being tamed, of showing strong attachment; that when attacked, he put his head between his fore legs, opposed his back and tail to his enemy; that he had the power of erecting his spines, and I think of detaching them, though not of projecting them; and at other times he could retain them, or else the sergeant's children would have been wounded. A side blow delivered with his tail left a number of spines behind in whatever it struck; this usually would be the mouth of his enemy. Dogs frequently are killed to prevent them dying miserably from such wounds—the spines never coming out, but working their way inwards. I saved the life of an honest rough terrier, who came home with his mouth full, by fixing his head to the ground between the tines of a pitch fork, fastening his jaws open with a stick, and cutting down upon and extracting every spine. The operation was both noisy and prolonged. I have also known these spines to nearly encircle a child's body before they worked out. Of all known animals these Porcupines are most infested by tape worms. Their intestines are literally loaded, and in almost every individual. It bears a singular resemblance to the human tape worm, so much so that their flesh should be avoided. They prefer the bark of the Spruce Hemlock to any other food, though as old Molly tells us, they may be made to drink soup; so, too, they love the most lonely and wild forest, and avoiding the open, save in the warm October night, they sometimes steal out into the clearing, for the apples that lie clustered around the wild trees root. Armed at all points they are timid and avoid contests, and only when cornered will they fight. They are found from Virginia almost to the Arctic Circle.

Audubon, (*Quadrupeds N. America*, 1846,) says of one he kept for six months, "He became very gentle and evinced no spiteful propensities; when we called to it, holding a tempting sweet potatoe, it would turn its head slowly towards us, with a mild and wistful look and take the fruit from our hand. He would gently approach us rubbing its side against our legs. We frequently plagued it to try its temper, but it never evinced any spirit of resentment by raising its spine." Again (page 283) he says, "we are inclined to suppose that the individual just spoken of retired nightly to its comfortable domicile and warm bed in a hollow beech." The usual opinion being that he remained for weeks upon a tree until he had destroyed it, I cannot forbear giving those extracts from this great naturalist, to show how the book of nature, if read by the tongue of truth, gives out the same sound, in all times and places; or how poor Indian Molly, Her Majesty's old pensioner, and the hardy woodsman Sam Copeland, are so exactly verified by the man of science, full twenty years afterwards.

J. B. G.

OUR prayers must be fervent, intense, earnest, and importunate, when we pray for things of high concernment and necessity. Our desire must be lasting and our prayers frequent, assiduous, and continual; not asking for a blessing once, and then leaving it, but daily renewing our suits, and exercising our hope, and faith, and patience, and long-suffering, and religion, and resignation, and self-denial, in all the degrees we shall be put to. This circumstance of duty our blessed Saviour taught, saying, that "men ought always to pray, and not to faint."