

prison, sprang up and caught me by the chin. In an instant, my hands were loosed, my apron fell, and the mice lay sprawling in the snow. The blood soon dropped from my chin; but tears fell more copiously from my eyes, and with a loud cry, I hastened to the house.

The younger portion of the family gathered around to examine the wound, and of course I had their sympathy. Poor old pussy too, looked inquiringly, as if to ascertain the cause of my weeping, little suspecting, however, that by my disobedience she had been cheated out of her dinner.

This was the first and as far as I can now recollect, the only time that I ever disobeyed the command of my father. Many years have passed since then, and this trifling incident would perhaps long since have been forgotten, had not the sharp teeth of the mouse inflicted that punishment so justly my due, while in the very act of disobedience.



THE RATTLESNAKE AND HIS ENEMIES.

The rattlesnake has a superior foe in the deer and black-snake. Whenever a buck discovers a rattle-

snake in a situation which invites attack, he loses no time in preparing for battle. He makes up to within ten or twelve feet of the snake—then leaps forward and aims to sever the body of the snake with his sharp hoofs. The first onset is most commonly successful; the buck repeats the trial till he cuts the snake in twain. The rapidity and the fatality of his skillful manœuvre leaves but slight chance for his victim either to escape or eject his poison into his more alert antagonist. The black-snake is also more than an equal competitor against the rattle-snake. When the black-snake and the rattle-snake are about to meet for battle, the former darts forward at the height of his speed, and strikes at the neck of the latter with unerring certainty, leaving a foot or two of his own body at liberty. In an instant he encircles him within five or six folds, and then stops and looks the strangling and gasping foe in the face, to ascertain the effect produced on his corseted body. If he shows signs of life, the coils are multiplied, and the screws tightened—the operator all the time narrowly watching the countenance of his helpless victim. Thus the two remain thirty or forty minutes—the executioner then slackens one coil, noticing at the same time whether any signs of life appear; if so, the coil is resumed and retained till the incarcerated wretch is entirely dead. The moccasin snake is destroyed in the same way.

Mr. P. P. Thomas and the "Barbarians" of the Chinese.

Every boy in England is taught to believe that the Chinese consider him a little "barbarian." The belief may be said to grow with his growth and strengthen with his