

now we are coming on to this stony ground; never noticed the round cactus before; always grows here so. Greenhouse plant in some parts; not so here. Well, well."

"Mr. Kirwan, look at that snake! What kind is it?"

"Oh, that's a rattlesnake."* The reptile was basking in the sun surrounded by five or six little ones. As soon

* *Crotalus* (Rattlesnake). In zoology, a genus of the class *amphibia*, order *serpentes*. There are five species of this genus. The one found in America is the *Crotalus Horridus*, or Banded Rattlesnake—abdominal plates, 167; dorsal, 23—the most venomous of the serpent tribe; growth, greatest extent, 6 feet, but those of this length are seldom seen now. This snake is eaten by swine with impunity. It preys on birds and smaller quadrupeds. The rattlesnake produces its young in June or July, generally about twelve in number. By September they grow from nine to twelve inches in length. There is little doubt that it receives its young into its mouth, and swallows them in time of danger. This theory has been much laughed at by people who have not had ocular demonstration of the fact. M. Beauvois, a naturalist born in the last century, asserted this fact, and declares that "happening to disturb a rattlesnake in a walk near Pine Log, he saw it immediately coil itself up and open its jaws, when instantly five small ones, that were lying by, rushed into its mouth. He retired, and in the course of a quarter of an hour saw her discharge them. He approached it a second time, when the young retired into its mouth with greater celerity than before, and the snake immediately moved off into the grass and disappeared." The rattle consists of hollow, hard, dry, and semi-transparent bones, nearly of the same size and figure, resembling in some measure the shape of the *human os sacrum* for, although only the last or terminal one seems to have a rigid epiphysis joined to it, yet has every one of them the like, so that the tip of every uppermost bone runs within two of the bones below it, by which contrivance they have not only a moveable coherence, but also make a more multiplied sound, each bone hitting against the other two at the same time. The *C. dryinas*, or wood rattlesnake, inhabits America. *C. durissimus*, or striped rattlesnake, inhabits America, and is generally found under the trunks of fallen trees. *C. milliarius* inhabits Carolina. *C. mutus* inhabits Surinam.