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NATURAL HISTORY.

From the Youth's Magazine.

BATTLE OF A SPIDER AND WASP.

Mr. Brainerd: Permit me to relate a recounter, which I saw take place the other day, between a Spider and a Wasp.

In the window of a large school room, where I had charge at the time, the spider had fixed his habitation, and his net for the purpose of ensnaring insects, and whatever else might come that way, upon which he is wont to feed. The wasp had been buzzing about the window for some time, when, by some mischance, it was caught in the meshes of the spider's web, set for that purpose. Seeing it become entangled, I repaired to the place to observe what might follow. Immediately the spider leaped upon it, and then followed the most furious conflict I ever witnessed. After the contest had lasted for a short time, the wasp succeeded in applying its sting to the body of the spider, upon which he quickly relaxed his hold, and retreated to some distance. Seeing the wasp was likely to disengage itself, the spider, with great caution and sagacity, returned to prevent its escape; but not to renew the combat. Adjusting the web in such a manner as most effectually to entangle the wasp, he approached it.—When sufficiently near he reached out one of his claws and took hold of a wing of the wasp, endeavoring to draw it over and approach its back; but the wasp, struggling vigorously, prevented its wily adversary from carrying his point, and nearly succeeded in giving him another sting. Upon this, the spider again hastily retired, and changed his mode of attack. He came so near, that by a long reach he took hold of one of the wasp's feet, and forcibly drew it away to such a distance that the wasp could not molest him. Finding his distance and his hold both secure, he bit the wasp's foot a number of times, and once more retreated. This, he returned and did

several times, until the energies of the wasp were entirely paralyzed.

While the wasp was thus expiring, there issued from some part of his head, (I could not exactly determine from what precise part,) a drop of clear, transparent matter, very much resembling a tear, or dew drop of a summer's morning. This seemed to be forced from it by excruciating pain; evident symptoms of which it exhibited from the moment the spider first bit its foot, until it was nearly lifeless, being a period of about two minutes. Upon this excrescence, the spider, when he found his prey to be perfectly harmless, fed with much apparent satisfaction.

There was another circumstance took place, which, as it goes to show the recollection and singular curiosity of the spider, I cannot forbear to mention.—When the wasp was fully dead, as I ascertained to be the fact myself, by applying the point of my knife to its body, and the spider had satisfied the cravings of hunger, as above mentioned, he got on the back of the wasp, and approached the sting, and where, with one of his paws, he felt the point of the sting with as much circumspection as one of your young readers would feel of the sting of a bee.

Thus, sir, I have given you a succinct account of this battle of a wasp and spider, and its results, precisely as it took place, without any garnish or exaggeration. I have detailed the facts, and leave it with you, or any one that may choose to do so, to make remarks, and draw inferences.

Near Dayton, Ohio, May 6, 1836.

BIOGRAPHY.

WILLIAM THE SECOND.

The memory of William, surnamed Rufus from his red hair and florid complexion, is transmitted to us with little advantage by the churchmen, whom he had offended; and though we may suspect that their account of his vices is somewhat exaggerated, his conduct affords little reason for contradicting the character they have assigned him, or for attributing to him any very estimable qualities.

He seems to have been a violent and tyrannical prince; a perfidious, encroaching, and dangerous neighbour; an unkind and ungenerous relation. He was equally prodigal and rapacious in the management of the treasury; and if he possessed abilities, he lay so much under the government of

impetuous passions, that he made little use of them in his administration: and he indulged without reserve that dominating policy which suited his temper; and which, if supported, as it was in him, with courage and vigour, proves often more successful in disorderly times, than the deepest foresight and most refined artifice.

The monuments which remain of this prince in England are the Tower, Westminster-Hall, and London Bridge, which he built. William Rufus died August 2. 1100, aged 40. HUME.

REMARKABLE PRESERVATION OF A MOTHER AND INFANT.

The village of Roanoke, about 80 miles from Columbus, Georgia, was recently totally destroyed by the Creek Indians. A correspondent of the Portland Courier gives the following particulars of a most providential escape at that time:—

At the time of the assault, there were in the village from 70 to 80 persons, who were taken entirely by surprise, not being in the least apprehensive of an attack. The Indians, as is almost always their custom, entered the village just before day with forces amounting to more than 300 warriors. They dispersed through the village, posting themselves at the doors and windows of each house in such a way as to make their work of destruction sure the moment the inmates came into the open air. As might be expected, where there was such a disparity in numbers, and the stronger party being so advantageously disposed of, the savages were but too successful. The village was taken—every house was burnt—twelve persons were left dead, and fifteen were missing some two or three days after the attack.

At one house there were lodged a gentleman, his wife, and two boarders, one of whom is a Georgian by birth, the other a northern merchant, for some time a resident of the village. When the alarm was made, the host, though entreated to pause, ran to the door, and was instantly shot down by the savages. The other Georgian had escaped from the house, and was hastening to the forest with which the village is environed, when he also was fired upon—the ball passing through his thigh between the muscles and bone. Severely wounded as he was, he continued his course, and succeeded in making his escape. His companion, (the northern merchant) was about to follow, when he recollected that his hostess, whose lifeless husband was then weltering in his blood which had been shed at his own threa-