GRAY WOLF AND BEAVER.

Showing How Wise the Latter May be, and at the Same Time How Foolish.

From the N. Y. Sun.

"If there is anything a gray wolf likes it is beaver meat," said Mahlen Withars of Wind River, Montana, "and, although both beaver and wolf are getting scarce, it is a fact that if you ever do come across signs of the latter you may be sure to find evidence that the wolf is also lurking in the vicinity, although he may not have been there before. I witnessed a little affair between a big gray wolf and a beaver some years ago which convinced me that a beaver's cunning is not all in timber chopping and dam building.

"I was acting as an agent for a man who owned a large timber tract in Canada West, and I discovered that timber thieves were cutting some thrifty young cedar trees along Weifer's River. I could get no trace of the thieves, and one moonlight night I watched the timber. I hadn't been long on the spot before I saw a dark object rise on the bank of the river, and as it came up in the moonlight I saw that it was a beaver. Then I knew at once that four-footed thieves were taking the cedars. As I had never seen a beaver cut down a tree I thought I would watch the operation. This one selected a good-sized cedar near the river bank and at once began work. The rapidity with which he cut through that trunk with his great teeth is almost incredible. Almost as quickly as a chopper with an axe could have done it that beaver felled the tree. Just before it fell the beaver gave a cry that made me jump, and he scurried down the bank and plunged into the stream. The tree fell into the river, and under cover of the noise it made I crept quickly to the bank to see what the beaver would do further. The fallen tree lodged in the water, and the beaver came to the surface and began lopping off the branches. In this work it was joined by three or four others. They worked industriously, and the noise they made with their teeth could have been heard a long distance. They lopped off those branches as if they were working with hatchets, and in a short time the bare trunk was stretched across the stream. Then the beavers went to work on the trunk, and they cut it up in lengths of probably four feet, and as a length was cut it was floated down the stream until the tree and beaver had disappeared.

"Of course this was all very interesting, but as it was not very profitable to the owner of the timber, and as beaver pelts were then worth a heap of money, I concluded to put a stop to the timber stealing, and also to gather in that beaver colony for my own benefit, if I could. The next day I started down the river on a tour of investigation. Three miles down I came in sight of the place where the beavers had stretched a dam across, made of cedar worth its weight in silver almost. I got down on my hands and knees and, hidden from view by high bushes, crept toward the dam. Peering through the bushes I saw that the beavers had utilized an old log that lay across the stream in making their dam, and then my eye fell on one of the largest gray wolves I ever saw. He was crouching on the log, and looked a part of it, so motionless did he lie. But his sharp eye was fixed on the water, and it actually blazed with expectancy. The hungry chap was there fishing for beaver, and I lay still to see his luck.

"I watched the wolf for, I guess, ten minutes before anything of interest occurred, and in all that time he never moved a muscle or winked an eye. I don't believe the wind was able to raise a hair on his body. Then I saw a long, undulating ripple start from the opposite bank of the stream and follow the surface of the water toward the log. There was no change in the wolf, except that his eyes might have blazed brighter. The ripple ceased at the log. The water broke and the broad head of a beaver appeared. I heard a loud splash, and saw that the wolf and beaver had disappeared, but with such savage velocity had the wolf sprung from the log, I had not seen the movement. I supposed it was all up with that beaver, of course, but in a few seconds the wolf came alone to the surface, blew the water from his nose with two or three loud snorts, and swam back to the log. He had missed his prey, but tufts of fur that he swept from his ugly looking jaw with his paws showed that the beaver's escape had been a narrow one.

"The wolf shook the water from his hide and took another position on the log and began another watch. This time he crouched on the log nearer the shore, where the water was shallower, evidently thinking that he would have a better chance there. I didn't think so, for it was out of the line where the beavers would be apt to swim and climb on the dam. In the light of subsequent events there is no doubt but what my opinion was correct.

"The wolf had barely settled himself on the log when the tell-tale ripple broke again and led right toward the very shallowest part of the water and near the shore, within three feet of the wolf. I was so much excited by this time that I came near yelling right out and spoiling all the fun. I did grind my teeth, however, and said to myself:

"'Is it possible that a beaver can know so much and still be such a ——fool?'

"But the ripple kept on. The water broke, and there was the beaver. Whiz! went the wolf through the air and plunked squarely down on the foolish beaver. I jumped up with the intention of pitching into the wolf and saving the beaver, anyhow. But I didn't have to. The instant the wolf struck his claws in his prey there rose on every side apparitions with fierce whiskers, rows of teeth like fence pickets, and great bales of fur. The wolf was in an ambuscade of beaver, and not less than thirty enraged dam builders rushed to the aid of their companion. They tore and gnashed the wolf unmercifully. He dropped his prey and made a desperate fight, but it was like a ranchman's cabin in the track of a cyclone. In a quarter of a minute there was nothing left of that wolf but fragments of hair and hide. The screams of the beavers and the snarls and yells of the wolf were enough to frighten an Apache.

"You would naturally think that animals with wisdom enough to put up such a job as that—for it was a put-up job, of course—would be too smart to let a little piece of their own body lead them, one after another, and in the same spot, to a certain destruction; but they were not, and I gathered in every one of that colony in a week after the wolf fight. There is no animal so wily as the beaver that is so easily trapped. After you have found where a family is living which usually isn't as easy as happened in my case, take an ordinary steel trap and set it in the water. The trap mustn't be more than a foot under the surface, and a foundation generally has to be built for it to have it in that position. A cedar log is tied to the trap by a long cord, for when the beaver is caught he will swim away with the trap to his hiding place. If the trap were fastened so the animal couldn't get home, he'd be sure and tear out or knaw his leg off. After the trap is set the bait is hung immediately over the trap, and just high enough above the water to be out of the beaver's reach as it swims. The bait is a piece of the medicine gland of the beaver, commercially known as castor. This has a penetrating, musky smell, and is most tempting to the beaver. As the animal swims along in the night he catches a whiff of the castor. That is more than he can stand, and he finds where it is. But he can't reach it from his place in the water, and he feels around with his feet to see if there isn't a resting place somewhere around there. There is, but it is the jaws of the trap. They go together as soon as they are touched, and the poor beaver is caught. He goes immediately for home. The light cedar buoy goes with him, and shows the trapper in the morning where the captive is. With five traps I caught my colony, and I had five beavers every night for seven nights. With them was the one the wolf had caught, and I made up my mind, from the way he had been handled, that if his companions had been three seconds late he would not have survived the victory."

—"He who is false to present duty," says Henry Ward Beecher, breaks a thread in the loom, and will find the flaw when he may have forgotten its cause." A case in point occurs to us. Mr. Wm. Ryder, of 87 Jefferson-street, Buffalo, N. Y., recently told a reporter that, "I had a large abscess on each leg, that kept continually discharging for twenty years. Nothing did me any good except Dr. Pierce's 'Golden Medical Discovery.' It cured me." Here is a volume expressed in a few words. Mr. Ryder's experience is entitled to our readers' careful consideration.—The Sun.

A Living Electric Battery.

From Modesto (Cal.) Republican.

In the country, not more than fifteen miles from Modesto, resides a young lady who has developed into a perfect electric battery. The first evidence to that effect that the young lady had presented itself to her a few evenings ago. She was about to retire, and extinguished the light in her room, with a quick motion rolled back the bed covering, when lo! and behold! the bed was instantly turned into a sheet of fire. The young lady, quite frightened, screamed: "Fire!" at the same time grabbed the bed covering in her arms. When the other members of the family arrived at the door of the room they found her standing in the middle of the room in the midst of what seemed to be a flame of fire, but no sooner had the bed-clothes been taken from her arms than the flames disappeared. Experiments made by the young lady since have proved that she has become possessed of a vast amount of electricity, which shows itself at every opportunity. The young lady is not at all satisfied with the phenomena, as it requires the greatest caution on her part to keep from starting up a small bonfire by the slightest movement of her hands.

—Cholera morbus, cramps and kindred complaints annually make their appearance at the same time as the hot weather, green fruit, cucumbers, melons, etc., and many persons are debarred from eating these tempting fruits, but they need not abstain if they have Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Dysentery Cordial, and take a few drops in water. It cures the cramps and cholera in a remarkable manner, and is sure to check every disturbance of the bowels.

Eighth Wonder of the World.

—It is demonstrated by history that the Ancients in many of the arts, notably architecture, far excelled the present age, but it is reserved for the present decade to produce the eighth wonder of the world, i.e., Weed's World's Wonder or Family Liniment, which is infallible for rheumatism, sprains, cuts, bruises, sores and all diseases requiring external application. 25c. and 50c. per bottle. All druggists. d

A Thousand Christians in Chains.

ROME, Sept. 27.—The Moniteur de Rome has received letters emanating from Christian missions in China, stating that a Catholic seminary in that country had been burned by natives, and that a thousand native Catholic adherents had been placed in manacles.

—No one need fear cholera or any summer complaint if they have a bottle of Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Dysentery Cordial ready for use. It corrects all looseness of the bowels promptly and causes a healthy and natural action. This is a medicine adapted for the young and old, rich and poor, and is rapidly becoming the most popular medicine for cholera, dysentery, etc., in the market.

Fashion Items.

The bodices of thin woolen material are lined with silk.

Grenadines have designs embroidered by hand in floss silk.

Chemisettes of piece-lace have full frainses of narrow lace to correspond.

Silk gloves have chenille figures in bright colors embroidered on the arm.

Cashmere, camel's hair, serge and surah are used for traveling costumes.

Short mantles of Tartan plaid, picturesquely draped, are favorites.

White mousseline de sole bridal dresses are made up over white glace silk.

Surplice bodices have the fullness beginning at the shoulder seam, and crossing diagonally from right to left.

Collars with plastrons, epaulets and cuffs to correspond are made of cut beads in jet, amber, garnet, and opal.

Panels, collars and cuffs of velvet are used for camel's hair costumes, the gathered plastron being of twilled silk.

Grenadines with plush stripes have the plush so cut that it resembles overlapping shells. Others with wide meshes have plush dots.

The favorite shades for gloves for evening wear are putty and tan color. For wear with tailor-made costumes there are gloves of corresponding tint.

Traveling dresses for young persons are made with postilion bodice, kilt-plaited skirt, short, apron drapery in front, and long, straight drapery at the back.

There will exist a certain furore for the bourettes and etamines styled frise, and for rough effects in many different grades of goods, but the enthusiasm is not likely to continue.

Fancy beaded hairpins are very fashionable worn in the hair, and tortoise-shell pins have a crescent, star, horseshoe, or plain initial letter in small pearls, mounted in silver at the top.

A mantle of biscuit-colored frise brocade on a red ground is short in the back and is rather long in front. It is trimmed with fine woolen lace corresponding to the tints of the brocade.

Short mantles reaching to the waist-line have sling sleeves and the fronts have scarf drapery crossing the breast and fastened at the left side of the waist, long ends depending below the knees.

A rich dress of poppy-colored satin is veiled with white guipure lace. The gracefully draped polonaise of embroidered white china crape has the plastron and belt of the satin of which the skirt is made.

An evening dress of almond brown faille Francaise is made en princesse. The flowing draperies are raised high on one side, disclosing a tulle skirt of the same tint embroidered with gossamer-like gold thread.

Mull, silk canvas, cream and snow white muslin, grenadine, and etamine fabrics are all used for neck and corsage dressing, and the guimpes and plastrons shirred or laid in folds, or in full Fedora style, are worn by young and old, pretty and plain.

Points are high in favor. Capes with pointed pieces let into the back and sleeves, dresses with overskirts cut in points and trimmed with lace.

—It is of the greatest importance that the liver should be kept in a good healthy condition. The West's Liver Pills, purely vegetable will do the work. All druggists d

You are Afraid—and Can't Help It.

From Popular Science Monthly.

An instance out of my own experience will go to show how fear does not reason. About ten years ago, when I was in Baden, near the Black Forest, I was in the habit of walking alone in the evening till late in the night. The security was absolute, and I knew very well that there was no danger; and, as long as I was in the open field or on the road, I felt nothing that resembled fear. But to go into the forest, where it was so dark that one could hardly see two steps ahead, was another thing. I entered resolutely, and I went in for some twenty paces; but, in spite of myself, the deeper I plunged into the darkness the more a fear gained possession of me which was quite incomprehensible! I tried in vain to overcome the unreasonable feeling, and I may have walked on in this way for about a quarter of an hour. But there was nothing pleasant about the walk, and I could not help feeling relieved when I saw the light of the sky through a gap in the trees, and it required a strong effort of the will to keep from pressing toward it. My fear was wholly without cause. I knew it, and yet I felt it as strongly as if it had been rational. Some time after that adventure I was traveling at night, alone with a guide in whom I had no confidence, in the mountains of Lebanon. The danger there was certainly much greater than around Baden, but I felt no fear.

—Changeable weather produces colds, coughs, sore throat. For these diseases use West's Cough Syrup, the best. All druggists. d

Domestic Advice.

When your helpmeet inquires in a terrible tone,
"What kept you so late?" and, beginning to moan,
Declares that "you have no more heart than a stone,"
That "you're rapidly wearing her down to a bone—"
Just let her alone.

When she floods all the house with a deluge of tears,
Till the place is a vista of buckets and mops,
And she says "you oblige her to work till she drops,"
Don't seek to assert that your soul is your own—
Just let her alone.

No benedict argues, of course, with his wife,
Unless he's prepared for perpetual strife;
If your principal aim is a peaceable life,
And you'd change for the Torrid the Temperate Zone—
Just let her alone.

At last, when you've really stood all that you can,
If you hear, on the quiet, that she has a plan
To elope on the sly with another young man,
To rush in and stop it, prey do not be prone—
You let her alone.

—The great health restorer, West's Liver Pills. They regulate the liver and promote good digestion. All druggists. d

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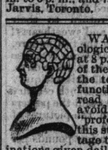

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