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No 1

Poetry.

THE NEW YEAR.

The new year rises o'er us
The old has set in night;
But ere it fades before us,
We pause to mark its flight.
With grateful hearts and voices
To God we would draw near,
And bless the hand that spurs us
To hail another year.

As we, our path retracing,
Recall the year that's fled—
How long it seemed in passing;
How short it looks, when sped!
Its joys and griefs are over;
Forgive us, O God!
And grant us peace and pardon,
Through Christ's atoning blood.

We would not choose our portion,
Nor ask our lot to see;
Thou God of our salvation,
Thou sufferer with us abide!
Leave us not, nor forsake us;
Upon our pilgrim way,
Till thou dost come and take us
To dwell with Thee for aye.

O Shepherd true and tender,
O Refuge proved and tried,
O strong and sure Defender,
Do thou with us abide!
We stand as little children
Before Thy mercy's door;
Come down to us O Father,
And lead us evermore.

Thou Saviour, pure and holy,
O make us more like Thee—
More loving, true and lowly,
Eyes self and sin more free!
Upon Thy grace relying,
Henceforth be this our aim—
In living or in dying
To glorify Thy name!

Miscellany.

A STORY FOR NEW YEAR.

Forest Adventure.

The grizzly bear (*Ursus ferox*) is, beyond all question, the most formidable of the wild creatures inhabiting the continent of America, jaguar and cougar not excepted. Did he possess the swiftness of foot of either the lion or tiger of the Old World, he would be an assailant as dangerous as either, for he is endowed with the strength of the former, and quite equals the latter in ferocity. Fortunately, the horse outruns him; were it not so, man's life would be his, for he can easily overtake a man on foot. As it is, hundreds of well-armed men are slain each year by the hands of this ferocious animal. There is not a mountain range in America who cannot relate a string of perilous adventures about the grizzly bear. And the instances are far from being few in which human life has been sacrificed to the conflicts with this savage beast. The grizzly bear is an animal of large dimensions; specimens have been killed and measured quite equal to the largest size of the polar bear, though there is much variety in the size of different individuals. About five hundred pounds might be taken as the average weight. In shape, the grizzly is a much more compact animal than either the black or polar species; his ears are larger, his arms stouter, and his aspect fiercer. His teeth are sharp and strong; but that which enemies most dread is the armature of his paws. The paws frequently leave in the mud a track of twelve inches long by eight in breadth; and from the extremities of these formidable feet protrude horn-like claws full six inches long!

Of course, I am speaking of individuals of the largest kind. The claws are crescent-shaped, and would be still longer, but in all cases nearly an inch is worn from their points. The animal digs up the ground in search of marmots, burrowing squirrels, and various excellent roots; and this habit accounts for the blunted condition of his claws. They are sharp enough, notwithstanding, to peel the hide from a horse or buffalo, or to tear the scalp from a hunter—a feat which has been performed by grizzly bears on more than one occasion.

The color of this animal is most generally brownish, with white hairs intermixed, giving that grayish or grizzly appearance, whence the trivial name, grizzly. But although this is the most common color of the species, there are many varieties. Some are almost white, others yellowish red, and still others nearly black. The season too has much to do with the color; and the pelage of the grizzly is longer than that of the "Dress Americans."

eyes are small, in proportion to the size of the animal, but dark and piercing.

The geographical range of the grizzly bear is extensive. It is well known that the great chain of the Rocky Mountains commences on the shores of the Arctic Ocean, and runs southerly through the North American Continent. In these mountains the grizzly bear is found, from their northern extremity at least as far as that point where the Rio Grande makes its great bend toward the Gulf of Mexico. In the United States and Canada, this animal has never been seen in a wild state. This is not strange. The grizzly bear has no affinity with the forest. Previous to the settlement of these territories, they were all forest-covered. The grizzly is never found under heavy timber, like his congener, the black bear; and unlike the latter, he is not a tree-climber. The black bear hugs himself up a tree, and usually destroys his victim by compression. The grizzly does not possess this power, so as to enable him to ascend a tree-trunk; and for such a purpose his huge dull claws are worse than useless. His favorite haunts are the thickets of "Corylus" and "Amelanchier," under the shade of which he makes his lair, and upon the berries of which he partially subsists.

He lives much by the banks of streams, hunting among the willows, or wanders along the steep and rugged cliffs, where scrubby pine and dwarf cedar (*Juniperus procumbens*) with its rooting branches, forms an almost impenetrable underwood. In short, the grizzly bear of America is to be met with in situations very similar to those which are the favorite haunts of the African lion, which, after all, is not so much the king of the forest as of the mountain and the open plain.

The grizzly bear is omnivorous. Fish, flesh, and fowl are eaten by him, apparently, with equal relish. He devours frogs, lizards, and other reptiles. He is fond of the larvae of insects; these are often found in large quantities adhering to the under sides of decayed logs. To get at them, the grizzly bear will roll over logs of such size and weight as would try the strength of a yoke of oxen. He can "root" like a hog, and will often plow up acres of prairie in search of the trapa and Judin turnips.

Like the black bear, he is fond of sweets; and the wild berries, consisting of many species of currant, gooseberry, and am-lanchier (service-berry), are greedily gathered into his capacious maw. He is too slow of foot to overtake either buffalo, elk, or deer, though he sometimes comes upon these creatures unawares; and he will drag the largest of buffaloes to the earth, if he can only get his claws upon it.

Not infrequently he robs the panther of his prey, and will drive a whole pack of wolves from the carrion they have just succeeded in killing. Several attempts have been made to raise the young grizzlies, but these have all been abortive, the animals proving anything but agreeable pets. As soon as grown to a considerable size, their natural ferocity displays itself, and their dangerous qualities usually lead to the necessity of their destruction. For a long time the great polar bear has been the most celebrated animal of his kind; and many a wonderful tale of his prowess and ferocity has been told by the whaler and Arctic voyager, in which the creature is figured as the hero. His fame, however, is likely to be eclipsed by his hisberter less-known congener, the grizzly. The golden lion which has drawn half the world to California, has also been the means of bringing this fierce animal more into notice; for the mountain valleys of the Sierra Nevada are a favorite range of the species. Besides, numerous "bear scrapes" have occurred to the migrating bands that have crossed the great plains and desert tracts that stretch from the Mississippi to the shores of the South Sea.

Hundreds of stories of this animal, more or less true, have of late attained circulation through the columns of the press and the pages of the travel, until the grizzly bear is becoming almost as much an object of interest as the elephant, the hippopotamus, or the king of beasts himself. Speaking seriously, he is a dangerous assailant. White hunters never attack him unless when mounted and well armed; and the Indians consider the killing of a grizzly bear a feat equal to the scalping of a human foe. These never attempt to hunt him, unless when a large party is together; and the hunt is among some tribes, preceded by a feast and a bear dance. It is often the lot of the solitary trapper to meet with this four-footed enemy, and the encounter is rated as equal to that with two hostile Indians. From a celebrated "mountain man," I had the following story or episode, which I give in the rude patois of the narrator:

"Young fellow, when you scare up a grizzly, take my advice, and give 'em a wide berth; that is, unless your unknown well-mounted. Of course, if your critter kin be dejected upon, an' there's no brush to jungle him, you can't do no better as to grizzly a. I seed when, in a hole where the ground is open an' clear, I seed all their polar kin, the hunter's dog, and

brushy, an' the ground o' that sort whar a host must stummele, it are a're the safest plan to let do Epl'm slide. I've seed a grizzly pull down a good hoss as ever tracked a parairy, whar the critter had got bothered in a thick et. The fellow that straddled him only saved himself by hookin' on to the limb of a tree. 'Twasn't two minutes afore this critter came up to the bar, an' sent a bullet—sixty to the pound into the varmint's brain-pan, when he immediately copped over. But 'twas too late to save the hoss. He war rubbed out. The bar had half skinned him. Wagh!"

Here the trapper unsheathed his clasp-knife and having cut a chunk from a plug of real "Glenzie" River, stuck it into his cheek, and proceeded with his narration: "Young fellow, I reck'n I've seed a pretty considerable of the grizzly bear in my time. Ef that thar chap whar rides about all sorts of varmint—Aw'do-hog, I think, they calls him—had seed as much of the grizzly as I har, he must a gin a hulug coustainin the critter. Ef I had a plug o' bacca, for every grizzly I've rubbed out, it'd keep was jaws waggin' for a good twel'-month, I reck'n. Ya—es, young fellow, I've done some bar-killin'. I hev that, an' no mistake. Wal, I war gwine to tell you o' a sarnestance that happened to this critter about two yearn ago. It war upon the Platte between Chimbley Rock an' Laraines'. I war engaged as hunter an' guide to a carryvan o' emigrade folks that war on thar way to Oregon. Ov course, I alvays kept ahead o' the carryvan, an' picked the place for them to camp."

Wal, one afternoon I had halted whar I seed some timber, whar a scarce article about Chimbley Rock. This thort I, 'd do for campin' ground; so I sat down pulled the saddle with the bar, an' staked the critter upon the best patch of grass that war near, intendin' she shed her bar afore the camp-rattle kin up to bother her. I had shot a black tail buck, an' after killin' a fire, I roasted a greakin' of him, an' ate it. Still thar war no sign of the carryvan, an' arter hangin' the buck out o' reach o' the wolves, I let her graze away, an' went about; an' that, let me tell you, young fellow, ar about the most foolstest think you kin do upon a parairy. I war'n't long afore I proved it, but I'll cum to 'em by an' by."

Wal, I first clomb a considerable hill, that gin me a view beyond. Thar war a good-sized parairy, lyin' to the south an' west. Thar war no trees, cap'n! a odd cottonwood thar an' thar on the hillside. About a mile off I seed a flock o' gawts—which you, young fellow, call antelope, though gawts they ar, as sure as gawts is gawts. Thar war'n't no kiver near them—not a stick, for the parairy was as bar as yer hand; so I seed at a glim it 'ud be no use a tryin' to approach, unless I tuk some plan to decoy the critters. I soon tuk o' a dodge, and went back to camp for my blanket, which were a real mackinaw. This, I knew 'ud be the very thing to fool the gawts with, an' I set out first. For the first half o' an hour I carried the blanket under my arm; then I thrust it out, an' walked behind it until I was thar an' thar on the hillside. About a mile off I seed a flock o' gawts—which you, young fellow, call antelope, though gawts they ar, as sure as gawts is gawts. 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