

CHARMING SERPENT.

A Man Made Friends by a Rattle Snake.

W. Felts, a prominent and reliable citizen of the county of Cheatham, Tenn., relates the following extraordinary story of the influence exerted upon him by a rattlesnake a short time ago:

"I started out one day, in company with a colored man, to cut some timber, having a measuring pole in hand, the negro carrying an axe. After a time we separated, and I had not gone far before I noticed a large rattlesnake in the path ahead of me. Apparently we discovered each other about the same time, and both stopped. My first thought was to kill the reptile, but he at once threw himself into a coil and I concluded, as the space around was open and not fearing his escape, to wait and see what the snake would do. I was soon intently watching his movements. He cut up more antics than I had ever seen performed by a snake. To me it was a picture calculated to attract and rivet attention, and my purpose of destruction was soon forgotten."

"I was aware of it I stood, or rather stooped, spellbound as if transfixed to the spot, without the power of speaking or moving, save in obedience to the will of my captor. I felt the distance between us continually lessening, and, although I was conscious of my perilous position, I seemed powerless to change it, and what may seem to be more strange, had no desire to do so, only to approach nearer the object that under different circumstances would have been one of terror rather than attraction. I knew we were gradually nearing each other, but how I could not tell, not being conscious of moving, and the snake seemed to occupy the same position relatively as at first. I only know that in the beginning I stood erect, now I was in a kneeling position, my body inclining forward, my right hand extended, gradually nearing the snake, not in a straight line, but oscillating, and at each movement lessening the distance. From the first moment that I caught the eyes of the reptile there seemed a line extending from each of his eyes to mine about the size of ordinary sewing thread, which seemed to exert a power over me sufficient to hold me and make me subservient to his will."

"How long I remained in this position, I know not. The colored man becoming uneasy at my prolonged absence commenced calling me. I could distinctly hear him, but had no power to answer. Finally, searching for me he found me in the attitude described. He again called to me, but as before I paid no attention to him. Then he came nearer and discovered the huge reptile within a few feet of me, coiled for the deadly spring. His right hand within a few inches of his mouth, each gazing intently into the other's eyes. He comprehended the situation at once, took hold of me violently and threw me backward from the snake, thus partially breaking the spell. No effort was made by the snake to escape. The negro at once killed the snake, while I all the time was begging him not to do so. It measured about 6 feet in length and 14 inches in circumference and had eight rattles."

"I was so completely under the influence of the snake that I could not shake it off, nor, in fact, had any disposition to do so. The hallucination was not only pleasant but exhilarating, and there was only lacking one undefinable something—I could not tell what, but it seemed almost within my grasp—to make my happiness complete. So powerful was the effect upon my system that I was stricken down with a severe spell of sickness."

POPULAR SCIENCE NOTES.

It is said that two French scientists have lately discovered an entirely new property of Faraday's disk, and that the result may be an important improvement in the dynamo.

Children's clothes can be made unfamable by adding to the last rinse water two ounces of pulverized alum. A prominent English chemist says that all children's dresses should be thus treated. Aluminum is found combined with 195 other minerals, and, therefore, constitutes a large part of the crust of the earth, but until recently has been very expensive because of the difficulty of separating it.

One of the latest applications of the heating properties of electricity is to the drying of lumber for planing purposes. At a large mill in Ottawa, Canada, this method has been tested with such gratifying results that a number of electric drying kilns are now being erected.

A new antidote for carbolic acid poisoning has been discovered by an Italian physician. The patient is dosed with a strong solution of sulphate of soda, which forms with the acid a harmless mixture. Inhalations of ammonia are used to hasten the action of the soda.

THE LARGEST TELESCOPE IN THE WORLD.—The Yerkes telescope, which will be the largest in the world, will be made by the firm of Warner & Swasey, of Cleveland, O., the builders of the great Lick telescope, the contract having recently been made. The new telescope is to be the gift of Charles L. Yerkes, of Chicago, to the Chicago University. The gift will also include an observatory, in which the telescope will be placed, the entire amount given to the university for this purpose aggregating \$500,000. Work on the new instrument will be pushed to completion as quickly as possible. It is the wish of the company to have the telescope entirely finished in one year. The Yerkes telescope will have an object glass of forty inches diameter, and the total length of the tube, with its accessories, will not be less than seventy-five feet. The telescope will weigh thirty tons and will be provided with a

motions which are necessary on such a large telescope. The machinery affording this variety of movement can be operated by the hand of the astronomer, or by electric motors, at the will of the observer. In design and general construction the Yerkes will be similar to the Lick, although it will be 25 per cent. more powerful than that instrument. The construction of the new telescope will necessarily be undertaken in sections. It would require an ordinary six-story building to afford room for its building as a whole. As it is, the second and third floors of the large shops will be partly removed in order to make room.

RELIABLE RECIPES.

Gum arabic and gum tragacanth in equal parts dissolved in hot water make the best and most convenient mucilage you can keep in the house.

Tea or coffee stains of long standing may be removed by rubbing the cloth with glycerine, after washing once. A second washing leaves the linen as clean as before.

Kerosene is good for cleaning brass as well as for woodwork. Moisten a cloth with it, and rub the brass thoroughly; then polish with dry flannel dipped in whiting. Kerosene is also excellent for the rubber rollers of the clothes wringer; rub them with it occasionally, and you will not be troubled with them sticking together.

ROAST TURKEY.—An ordinary turkey, weighing eight or ten pounds, requires at least two hours for proper and thorough cooking, for which *The Poultry Yard* gives the following explicit directions: If you are likely to have little time in the morning, prepare your fowl over night by singeing and removing pinfeathers, washing inside and out, and rubbing both with a clean cloth until dry. Mix a little pepper and salt and rub the entire inside of the turkey before putting in the stuffing, or dressing, as it is usually called. This should be made of stale bread crumbs—about three cupsful—to which is added a small teaspoonful of pepper, same amount of powdered sage or sweet marjoram, salt, and a little salt fat pork, chopped very fine, or a piece of butter the size of an egg, if the latter is preferred. Use warm water to mix the whole to the consistency of thick batter; beat up an egg and stir into it at last, and proceed to stuff the breast with half or more of the dressing. Sew up the opening with a coarse thread and needle, tying the skin over the end of the neck. If you have skewers of wood or iron pin the wings to the sides of the fowl closely, and pin the neck onto the back. If you have no skewers use twine to tie down the wings, etc. Put whatever dressing is left into the body, sew up the vent, forcing the legs down and tying them very tight. Put in a dripping pan with a pint of water, and once in fifteen or twenty minutes baste the turkey with the gravy. The frequent basting is of great importance, as it keeps in the juices and allows thorough cooking without burning or drying the meat. Turn often enough to have the whole a rich brown when done. For the last basting of each side, dredge with flour and butter freely. It gives the crisp, frosty look so desirable and appetizing. For the gravy, wash in the morning, and set to boil in a saucepan the liver and gizzard. When done chop or mash the liver very fine and put in the dripping pan when the turkey is done, and place the pan on the stove tipped a little, so that one corner is free from the gravy. Into this corner put a large spoonful of dry flour, carefully mixing it with the butter on the top of the gravy. When it is well saturated stir it into the gravy and let it boil up once and pour into the tureen. Dish the turkey in a large, warm platter, breast up, ready for the carving knife, the gizzard on the platter.

The Yosemite Valley in Winter.

Snowstorm follows snowstorm. Winter has spread his icy mantle over the Yosemite. The mighty cliffs and domes look down upon the valley as in the summer months, but it is with forbidding stateliness and with threatening aspect. How changed the scene and different the attractions! The smiling vale is no longer gay with gorgeous bowers and bright with green meadowlands; no longer is it resonant with the hum of busy insects, the murmuring lullabies of slumbering streams and the joyous songs of summer birds; zephyr no longer whispers to the pine fronds as he floats softly through the forest, and echo no longer repeats the exclamations of glad visitors. The Merced rolls its swollen current impetuously through the valley, flooding many an acre of the meadowland—for rain as well as snow has fallen; the woods are hoarse with protesting against the fierceness of the storm blasts; the snow-slide holds the beholder in awe as it races with the waterfall in its downward plunge, and slabs of talus and unshapely chunks of rock loosen their hold of their parent cliff as water and weather do their work and are washed with din and headlong speed down into the valley. It is true that such terrifying storms do not occur with frequency, but one such was witnessed by Mr. Hutchings and his family during the winter of 1867, when they were the only residents in the valley. On that exceptional occasion the rain-poured down incessantly for ten successive days; all the meadowland was covered with a surging flood; large trees were swept over the ridge of the Upper Yosemite and shivered into fragments on the granite rocks, and pines and cedars were blown down and piled in confusion upon each other by the windstorm that followed the rain.—[California.]

The weight required varies from 1,500 to 2,500 lbs.

A Mother's Story

"When my boy was 2½ years of age, a fall brought on a disease, which gradually grew worse until, when he was 6, he could not walk, and we had him treated 9 months at the Children's Hospital in Boston. But when he came home he was worse, and the doctors said nothing could be done. I then giving him Hood's Sarsaparilla and he improved at once. The 14 abscesses on his hip healed up, his appetite improved and he could walk, at first with crutches, then without. He is now perfectly well, lively as any boy." Mrs. Anna V. Dyer, Wallpole, Mass.

Hood's Pills do not purge, pain or grip, but act promptly, easily and effectively. 25 cents.

One of Emperor William's Toys.

The Emperor of Germany has just placed upon the wall of his study a large photograph of which he is very proud. It is a portrait, half life size, of the largest and smallest soldier of the Prussian army standing side by side. The former is Private Pritzchan of the First Regiment of the Prussian guard. He stands 6 feet 7½ inches in his boots, and when he presented himself at Dusseldorf for examination a special apparatus had to be provided with which to take his waist measure. His breadth is in proportion to his height. The smallest soldier is the hereditary prince. The picture is a unique one, showing a veritable giant, quite equal to any that figure in "Grimm's Tales" or other books of fables, and by his side a soldierly Lilliputian. — New York World.

Inserts generally breath through special pores in various parts of their body, and if these are closed by oil they are suffocated. Any one may test this by dropping sweet oil on the thorax or back of a wasp; it very soon dies. For this reason oil has been found one of the best things to use for the destruction of insects.

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