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THE DALLES OREGON

CUNNING OF CROCODILES.

They Escape the Net Spread for Them by Burrowing in the Mud. The following is a fair sample of how cunningly crocodiles, in common with all other wild animals, can conceal themselves in moments of danger, says the Westminster Gazette.

"I say, Murray, what fun it would be to try and catch some of these beggars in a net." "Bravo," said he. "Let's try it presently. Apper, send the horse-keeper to the village and tell him to bring up all the men he can find and some long fishing nets. We will give a good santosim" (present).

The villagers seemed some fun, and with the further stimulus of a santosim very soon turned up to the number of thirty. It was now eleven o'clock and scorching hot, the air quivering over the bare, sandy plain in which the pond was situated. It was breast deep, as we knew, including about one foot or eighteen inches of heavy mud.

Immediately behind the net came a line, and men about a yard apart, with long, pointed poles with which to prod the mud along the bottom of the net, and so drive the malingering gentlemen into proper position in front of the net. My friend and his servant (for all entered into the sport) followed close up to the second line.

At it we all now went, splashing, shouting, stamping and hauling, but a big but—not a sign did we find of a single one of the brutes that we had seen before us when we came to the edge of the water. We dragged that water backward and forward more than once, but our only reward was a deadly thirst that lasted us till late that night.

They had burrowed deeper into the mud than we could reach them, for nothing—I doubt if even a rat—could have escaped unseen out of the water.

ANTS IN FLORIDA.

More of Them There Than in Any Other Part of the World.

There are more ants in the square mile in Florida than in any other country in the world, says a writer in the Savannah News. There are ants which will measure more than half an inch in length, and then there are ants so small that they can scarcely be seen to move with the unaided eye.

But the Florida ants will take out the lettuce and other minute seeds from the soil in which they are planted and actually destroy the seed. They will suck the life out of acres of young cucumbers and melon plants, uproot strawberry plants or cover the buds with earth to such an extent as to kill them. They will get into pie, pickle, sauce, sirup, sugar, on meat, in hash, will riddle a cake or fill a loaf of baker's bread till it is worthless.

All remedies failing, I took to baiting them near their nests with slices of meat, bones, apple and pear parings, and when I had from fifty to one-hundred thousand out turned a kettle of boiling water on them. I have killed in one week over one million in the space of a quarter acre lot, and I have almost wiped them out. I had to do this to secure any lettuce plants, and many unobservant farmers complain of seedlings when they should attribute their troubles to insects.

It is very curious and instructive to see how promptly the ants which escape the scalding will go to work taking out the dead, and, after piling them outside first, then go to excavating again and rebuilding their cells and runways. This being done very quickly the next work on hand is the laying in of a supply of food, by hauling the dead bodies of the hot-water victims into their storehouses. You may see a small black ant hauling and tugging at the carcass of a red ant twenty times its own weight, and he always succeeds, in the end, in landing it in the warehouse of the colony.

EUROPEAN MONASTICISM.

Said to Have Begun on the Little Island of St. Honorat.

To the student of ecclesiastical history the little island of St. Honorat is one of the most impressive spots in Europe, says the Thinker. Almost invisible on the map, it at one time occupied a most conspicuous position in the eyes of the world as one of its great historical sights. As a center of intellectual and moral influence it had, as Montalembert truly says, a greater effect upon the progress of humanity than any famous isle of the Grecian archipelago. It may well be called the Iona of the south. It is a remarkable circumstance that two little insignificant islands, one in the far north, amid the dark clouds and mists of the wild Atlantic, and the other in the far south, under the brilliant blue sky, and laved by the bluer waters of the Mediterranean, should have formed the centers which drew to them, and from whence were dispersed, all the spiritual and intellectual forces of Christendom during its darkest ages.

Meeting one day one of those wretched lepers, who were as common in Europe in the early Christian centuries as they are now in Asia, Honorat took him home to his own room and began to anoint his terrible sores. Suddenly the dreadful mask of deformity fell off, and the scarred face burst out into overpowering radiance; and in the transfigured leper he beheld with inexpressible awe no other than the Lord Jesus Himself.

When St. Honorat left his northern home he was accompanied by his sister, who was devotedly attached to him. The strict rules of monastic life would not allow the presence of a woman within the precincts. The gentle and beautiful girl, who at her baptism as a Christian received the name of Margaret, was consequently sent to reside in the neighboring isle of Lero, where she was completely separated from her brother. By her entreaties she at last prevailed upon him to promise to come and see her once a year. "Let me know," said she, "at what time I may look for your coming, for that season will be to me the only season of the year." The saint replied that he would come when the almond trees were in blossom. Whereupon the legend says the forsaken Margaret assailed all the saints with her prayers and tears until she got her wish, that the almond trees in her island should miraculously blossom once a month; and sending each month a branch with the significant flowers on it to her brother's retreat, he dutifully came to her at once, and her heart was thus made glad by the sight of her brother no less than twelve times every year.

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