

A WILY ORIENTAL

Guile of a Tricky Native Snake Charmer in India.

GATHERED IN THE SERPENTS.

It Was No Trouble to Him to Lure the Reptiles into His Basket, and the Supply Was in No Danger of Giving Out and Losing Him a Job.

Among the numerous objectionable and dangerous creatures peculiar to the orient none is more repulsive than the snake. One shudders involuntarily as one thinks of its wiggling body and vicious characteristics. During my residence in India I never felt safe from its presence. I had my closets, bed and even my bathtub searched every day lest one should be found coiled up in some corner, writes Eliza K. Van Bergen in the Christian Intelligencer.

I was always on the watch for the creatures and ever in mortal terror of treading on one. It never occurred to me to sleep without a light, and a stick was always near at hand lest I might find one unawares and be unprepared to meet it. I even looked upon my thin mosquito curtain as a slight protection, for it would at least break its fall should a snake tumble down suddenly from the ceiling.

The creatures have a decided preference for cool, damp places and often choose the bathroom and sometimes the tub for their habitation, much to the discomfort of its rightful habitue. It is not unalloyed bliss to live in a place infested with serpents. With such formidable enemies, one never forgets to be cautious, nor to guard against their presence and sudden attack. It makes one alert to be in the midst of danger and adds spice to life.

Well, as I started out to say, my garden was infested with snakes, and I was persuaded to have a native charmer summoned to lure them away. His hideous occupation, weird incantations and strange pets surround the snake charmer with a peculiar fascination. His magnetism and skill are considered phenomenal in the east.

This specimen was tall and lank and had deep, cavernous eyes and an abstracted air. Some of the creatures were coiled around his wrist, which made him still more repellant. He handled them as if they were perfectly harmless. About the neck he wore a chain with a flute attached. Two other jugglers accompanied him, similarly attired, but minus the snakes. One carried a closed basket on his arm.

He stepped at a respectful distance to make his "salaam," which is the customary salute of the country. Then he approached the aloe hedge which inclosed my grounds, squatted himself tailor fashion on the grass and began to produce weird, plaintive sounds on the flute, to which music the reptiles entwined themselves around him and seemed to sway their bodies to and fro.

After some time a snake appeared, gliding slowly and stealthily out from the hedge toward the spot where it heard the enchanting music. The charmer allowed it to come quite close and to wind itself around his arm. Another followed and yet another, while the other two men stood by holding a basket ready to receive them as soon as they unwound themselves. At least a half dozen appeared and were disposed of in this manner. After being captured they appeared as if in a stupor.

Horrified with his performance, I begged him to stop and bade him leave the place. He assented and, picking up the basket, departed with the snakes without ever ceasing to play his uncanny tune. His companions gathered up the rest of his belongings and followed him. I paid a certain sum for each snake thus dispatched.

He came repeatedly thereafter and went through the same performance, conjuring up more reptiles and disposing of them in the same way until I began to suspect some trickery. He refused to allow the snakes to be killed, insisting that they were sacred and must not be put to death. It looked as if he replaced the snakes in the hedge after removing them, and thus he multiplied their number and increased his gains.

I was finally forced to have him removed by the police and threatened with punishment in order to keep him away. Nothing would persuade me to permit one of the fellows to enter my premises again.

Amplified.
Proud Parent—If you would win my daughter, young man, you must prove to my satisfaction that you have fortitude, patience under discouraging circumstances, strength of character, courage, an indomitable will to succeed and, above all, an ability to bear with misfortune. Have you those qualifications? Sutor—I've known your daughter for some time, sir, and am asking you for her hand. Do you wish other assurances?

Good Cause For It.
A friend of mine who visits that newly married couple saw the husband the other day throwing stones at his wife.

"Good heavens! Was she hurt?"
"Not a bit of it. She was just tickled to death. They were diamonds."—Baltimore American.

Never let familiarity exclude respect.—Vanburgh.

MEASURES ALTITUDES.

The Use of the Barograph on Aeroplanes and Balloons.

What the compass is to the mariner the barograph is to the aviator. The barograph is an instrument for measuring altitudes. The pressure of the air as it increases or decreases causes a delicate needle to trace a wavy line upon a cylinder which revolves by clockwork. This line indicates not only the exact height that is reached by the aviator, but also the speed at which he is traveling.

The barograph is kept in a weather proof box with a glass front, which is attached to a bar of the aeroplane or to a rope on the balloon. It is officially sealed before the aviator embarks, so there is no possibility of tampering with it, and the seal is taken off in the presence of witnesses at the end of the flight. In this way it is possible to establish absolutely and graphically the altitude which an aviator attains in his aeroplane or balloon. It is necessary for the aviator to watch the barograph constantly, as it indicates a change in the elevation almost to the foot. The sky pilot has to keep his eye on the indicator much as the man at the wheel of the seagoing ship watches his compass. Should the aeroplane or the balloon rise or fall ten or twenty feet the aviator would not be conscious of it unless he looked at the wavering needle tracing its permanent record on a chart before him. This tells him immediately of any changes in the nature of the air currents and gives him timely warning of aerial dangers.

These instruments are so delicate and so accurate, it is said, that a man might hang one of them about his neck in his glass case or carry it in his hand and climb a flight of stairs, the height of his ascent being graphically indicated by the inked needle on the machine.—New York Press.

A CAREFUL MAN.

His Indecision in the Matter of Employing a Doctor.

The parsimony of the old New Englander of the type now almost vanished was nobly exemplified in Mr. Benny Huntingdon, who lived with his maiden sister in a little town in western Massachusetts. Neither had ever spent a penny unnecessarily and when in his old age Mr. Benny became crippled with "the rheumatism" and had, as well, strange flutterings of the heart, which were unrelieved by the best recommended "yarb teas," they were greatly shocked at the suggestions and warnings of their friends and neighbors that they ought to send for a doctor. Mr. Benny refused, declared his scorn of the entire medical profession and continued to save his pennies.

But the pain grew worse. Mr. Benny was confined to his bed in great agony and overheard some of the neighbors telling his sister that he was going to die. Then he sent for an old schoolmate, a man as "careful" as himself.

"Josiah," he asked, in a low, confidential tone, "have you ever had a doctor?"

Josiah shook his head. "Dunno as I have," he answered.

Mr. Benny reached out and laid a trembling hand upon his old friend's arm. "Josiah," he asked again, "did you ever hear how much one o' them doctors charges for a visit?"

Josiah looked at his suffering friend with pitying sympathy. "Well," he said, breaking it as gently as he could—"well, I have heard, Benny, that they charge as much as \$2 a visit!"

"Two dollars!" Mr. Benny repeated. "Two dollars!" Then he sank back on his pillow and sighed in a voice of strangely mingled relief, regret and resignation. "Well, I dunno but I'd rather spend \$5 than die!"—Youth's Companion.

The Licorice Plant.

The licorice plant resembles a rose with a single green stem, reaches a height of about three feet and bears a small purple star shaped flower. The first year's root growth resembles a loosely twisted string of tow and may run to twenty feet in length. The second year it assumes a woody substance when dry, and the third year it acquires its commercial value. The time for digging the root is the winter, when it is dried and crushed under heavy stones drawn round on it by mules, much as olives are crushed to extract their oil.

Queer Kaffir Custom.

Kaffir women will not pronounce their husband's names or even use words which contain the emphatic syllable of those names. One old woman, being taught to say the Lord's prayer, changed the word from "come" in "Thy kingdom come" to something that made nonsense, and it proved that the proper "come" word was the main syllable of her husband's name.

Proving His Contention.

"Jones is an optimist, even in the most discouraging circumstances, isn't he?"

"Why, no. His mother-in-law is slightly indisposed, and he thinks there's no hope for her recovery."

"Well, what did I tell you?"—Cleveland Leader.

Chess in Ancient Ceylon.

In ancient Ceylon the game of chess was played with local variations peculiar enough to note. The king may not castle, but he is permitted to jump like a knight till checked. The pawns are exchangeable on the last row for the pieces on whose row they stand.

Though the world may owe every man a living, only the persistent collector gets it.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

In the county court of the state of Oregon for Umatilla county.

In the matter of the estate of Louis A. Gibbens, deceased.

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern: That J. D. Plamondon has been appointed administrator of the estate of Louis A. Gibbens, deceased. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with proper vouchers as required by law, to me at my office in Athens, Oregon, within six months from date hereof.

Dated this, the 3rd day of November, 1910.

J. D. Plamondon,
Homer I. Watts, Administrator.
Attorney.

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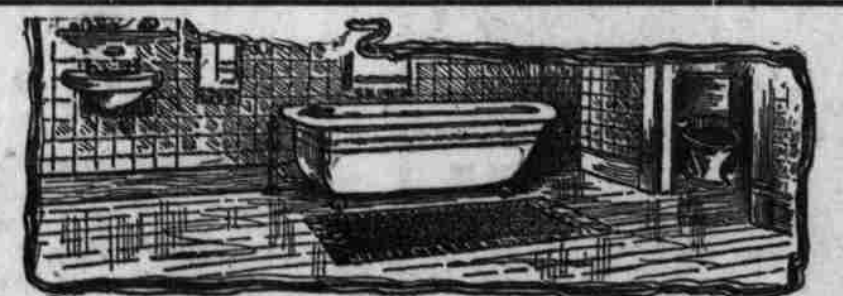
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