

feet of the soil had been removed almost every upheaval of the spades brought to light either a bone or weapon or other object. The earth was carefully raked over and the relics laid aside. The work went on for two or three days, and hundreds from the country and neighboring towns visited the spot. The exhumed antiquities have been carefully stored by Mr. Vandervoort, who intends sending them to Austin to the State Scientific and Geological Association. Your correspondent was shown the collection recently. In all, the skeletons of nearly 100 men had been dug up, but most of the bones had been re-interred. The two skulls which had been kept differed so widely in shape that it was plain that they had belonged to representatives of entirely different nations. One was unmistakably the skull of an Indian; the other, Mr. Vandervoort declared to be an Aztec's, or at any rate that of a being much higher in intelligence than the Indian, and yet lower than the Caucasian.

"You observe," he said, "that I make a distinction between the Indians and the Aztecs, for, although the latter were called Indians, they differed physically as widely as they did in habits and manners from the wandering savage aborigines."

There were a great number of arrowheads, both of stone and of glass, in the manufacture of which the Aztecs excelled. But to set at rest all doubts as to what people the bones had belonged to, a score or two of the maquantli, the peculiar weapon of the Aztec race, were found. This weapon is a short metal ax, with blades of glass. The metal is supposed to be copper, but the specimens just found are so tarnished and incrustated by age and burial that this point has not yet been fully determined. Several shields are among the relics, and on being cleaned were found to be of brass, each skillfully engraved with the figure of an owl. Copper knives and stone tomahawks are abundant, and twenty or thirty headbands of ebony, silver and copper are in the collection. There is also a helmet or casque of thin silver with a small hole in the top. The head dress of an Aztec officer was a helmet with a topknot of feathers, known as a pancake. The feathers were of course gone from this, but we may conclude that the skull which still wears this symbol of rank was that of the commander of the party. A pair of silver cuishas (armor for legs from knee to ankle) were found near the helmeted skull. One bony hand still clutched a dart with three copper points, and held it so firmly that it was necessary to keep hand and all. Another ghastly object was a pair of clenched jaws, holding between their discolored teeth a small image engraved on agate. This must have been the likeness of a god thrust into the mouth by the dying possessor. A number of gold and silver pendants and a quantity of Aztec currency were picked up. This latter consists of bits of tin in shape like the T. letter

Among the human bones were mingled those of several animals, too small to have been cattle—horses were, of course, unknown—and too large to have been dogs. Mr. Vandervoort confessed himself puzzled as to what animal they could have belonged to, but while we were talking it over Mr. Roberts, who was present and examining the bones, and who is an old hunter, stated that they were those of ocelots. These animals were trained by the Aztecs for the hunt, and in this instance it seemed for battle, too, for from the promiscuous mingling of bones and weapons, the inference is that a small battle took place here between some wandering tribe of Indians and a band of Aztec warriors during the southward journeyings ages ago of the mystic race of Aztlan. That the ocelots took an active part in the skirmish is shown by the fact that the jaws of one held the severed skull of an Indian, while the teeth of a second were fastened on a thigh bone. In turn a tomahawk was still sticking in his partially cloven skull.—*Globe-Democrat*.

#### Hunting Alligators.

Alligator hunting by night is at present the great sport in Florida. In their present panic-stricken condition the alligators seldom go far away from the water in the daytime, but make all their overland journeys at night. They are growing very uneasy at the advances of civilization, and have learned to shun both men and steamboats. So frightened have they become that repeated trips may be made the entire length of the St. John's River without a single specimen being seen. Alligator hunting was formerly one of the most lucrative pursuits in Florida, as well as a source of infinite amusement to tourists. The reptiles were slaughtered in great numbers all over the State. They seemingly possess no intelligence whatever, and are notably slothful, but have learned that safety is found only in hasty flight and seclusion. In former years they were shot at random by excursionists from the deck of nearly every steamboat that navigated the lakes and rivers of the State, but now the iron-clad rule is everywhere enforced on board that alligators must not be seriously disturbed by either passengers or employees. This regulation has been rendered necessary to satisfy women and children who constantly complain of being in Florida for weeks without ever seeing a single real live alligator in its native haunts.

Under present conditions alligator hunting by daylight has become tedious and unprofitable in most parts of the peninsula, and a novel scheme for killing them at night has been adopted. The hunters equip themselves with guns, revolvers, knives, and hull's eye lanterns. The alligator track is reached soon after dark, for the alligators begin to move early in the night. The tracks are as plainly marked as wagon roads, and are made by the reptiles constantly traveling from one lake, river or swamp to another. The alligators can be heard at considerable distance laboriously approach-

ing. The men preserve absolute silence until the alligators reach the proper point, and then turn their bull's eyes upon them.

The dazzling stream of light seemingly paralyzes the reptiles, and they stop short in their journey. Their eyes bulge out and sparkle, and at these glistening orbs the hunters direct their aim. It is useless to shoot the alligators except in the open mouth or under the throat, as the shot is repelled by the tough skin on other parts of the body, producing no perceptible effect, except in some instances to exasperate the reptiles to frenzied resistance.

In one case, between Lakes Nellie and Louisa, a few days ago, an alligator supposed to be fatally shot showed fight when approached, and knocked one of the men unconscious with its tail. Fearing to shoot then because of possible injury to their companion, the other hunters attacked the ferocious reptile with clubs, one of which, four or five inches in diameter, was seized in the monster's jaws and crushed to splinters. A man is usually employed to remove the hides and teeth, while the bodies are left as food for the numerous buzzards, which are here protected by law. The hides sell for from \$1 to \$3 each, and the teeth for as much more, the former being in demand for the manufacture of various leather goods, and the latter to be worked up into jewelry and other ornaments. Half a dozen enterprising men can capture from one to a score of alligators in a single night, the number depending largely on the locality selected and the condition of the weather. If the migratory propensities of the alligators continue to develop, so that they can be reached without encountering the dangers of the swamps, they will be practically exterminated throughout this region within the next few years.—*Chicago Herald*.

#### American Waiters.

"American waiters have to contend with certain difficulties that European waiters know nothing about," said Mr. H. M. Kinsley. Europeans are different from Americans. They have become leisurely in habit. They have, further, learned an art comparatively rare in America—the art of eating. They are more given to wine and liquor drinking at meals than we. Hence as one might naturally expect, the stamp of the people has been impressed upon the waiting required. In the old world one of our counter restaurants, with its toe-treading and elbow-jostling, would be a curiosity, visited once as a freak but shunned afterward. A European waiter, accustomed to easy-going habits, would lose his head and fall where one of our waiters would be perfectly calm and self-possessed.

"No class of people is more pushed in its work than American waiters. I'll warrant that fully 50 per cent of all the people who come into my establishment give a special injunction to the waiters to hurry; and yet with all the rush they expect the highest degree not only of skill but of courtesy on the part of those