

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, September 2, 1893.

THRILLING ADVENTURE WITH A RATTLESNAKE.

[From the Dubuque Times, July 31.]

Last Monday morning, Mr. Richard Bennett, a student, who is enjoying a summer vacation at his father's well-appointed mansion, a short distance southwest of Dubuque, took a volume of Tennyson's poems in his hand and wandered out to repose beneath some rocks which extended along the shore, and also feasted his soul upon the poetical truths and beauties breathed forth by the poet-laureate. He flung himself down upon the grass, and was soon lost in contemplation of king and princess, shady grooves, summer bowers and enchanted land, until overcome by the themes presented and the warm weather, he fell asleep.

How long he lay thus he knew not. It might have been for hours, but he was suddenly awakened by a peculiar rustling noise close beside him. Instinctively he turned his head to the point from whence the sound proceeded, when he beheld a sight which froze him with horror, and which he, if an ordinary man, will not be apt to forget until his dying day. There, not four feet from him, coiled up as if ready for a spring, with head erect, eyes darting fire, and tongue playing like forked lightning from the bosom of the clouds, was an enormous rattlesnake, over eight feet in length. It would be hard to describe the feelings of Bennett at that moment. Fresh and vigorous, in the springtime of life, the world with its dazzling future before him, hardly a stone's throw from his father's house, he came upon him. His presence of mind did not forsake him, however, and he lay perfectly motionless, fixing his eyes upon those of his snake-ship, and waiting for new developments.

This appeared to suit the latter. Gradually he relaxed his menacing attitude, and lowering his head, commenced to crawl slowly towards Bennett, at the same time emitting a low, murmuring, singing sound, which the impromptu hearer describes as having been really delightful. Heavier and heavier came the snake. Bennett remained perfectly motionless, not daring to move for fear of the terrible fangs, until finally the monster actually crawled over his legs, and nestled down by his side like a pet kitten, as much as to say he was well pleased with his new companion, and would forego hostilities. Here was a dilemma, and how to get out of it was the difficulty. While Bennett was speculating as to how this could be done, and revolving over a thousand plans, a neighbor chanced to pass along, who comprehended the whole situation at a glance, and at a mute gesture from Bennett, rushed to the house for assistance.

He procured a rifle, and coming back, put the muzzle within two feet of the head of the serpent, and with a steady aim, pulled the trigger. There was a deafening report, and the next instant the snake was writhing in his death agony, while Bennett bounded from the ground, and with the exclamation, "Saved! saved!" fell fainting into the arms of his preserver.

CHINESE PRINTERS.

There are two newspapers published daily in Hongkong, besides several semi-weekly ones; by this I mean whenever the mail goes forward to Europe, or when the publisher thinks himself justified in the publication necessary. The Hongkong Press and the China Mail—the former a morning and the latter an evening paper, are both good papers, rather old-fashioned in style, but perhaps just as suits the tastes of the inhabitants of the island. The editors, reporters and proprietors are Englishmen, while the compositors, pressmen, mail clerks, etc., are Chinese. The compositor is one of the enigmas of China, and therefore worthy of a paragraph. There are some twelve or fifteen of them employed in the composition room of the Press office, who "set" from six to nine thousand ems per day each. The strangest part of the paragraph is yet to come, and while it is in preparation, is almost beyond belief, notwithstanding these compositors set type not a single one of them understands a word of English, and have not the faintest idea of what they are placing in type. They set manuscript with as much facility as they do reprint, and but few American printers can set type faster or with less error. I have watched these fellows while at their work and was astonished to see how nimbly they made their fingers fly from box to box. These printers are cheap workers and consider themselves well paid when they receive fifteen dollars per month, and perhaps they are, for that is big wages for a Chinaman in this country. There are some very tasty and rapid job printers among these Chinese, who do work to the satisfaction of all who employ them. [English Paper.]

How to Catch Rats. — J. H., of Decatur, Ill., is responsible for the following:

Cover a common barrel with stiff stout paper, tying the edge around the barrel; place a board so the rats may have easy access to the top; sprinkle cheese parings or other "feed" for the rats on the paper for several days, until they begin to believe they have a right to their daily rations from this source. Then place in the bottom of the barrel a piece of rock about six or seven inches high, filling with water until only enough of it projects above the water for one rat to lodge upon. Now replace the paper, first cutting a cross in the middle, and let the first rat that comes on the barrel top go through into the water and climb on the rock. The paper comes back to its place and the second rat follows the first. Then begins a fight for the possession of the dry place on the stone, the noise of which attracts the rest, who share the same fate.

A CURE FOR SICK HEADACHE. — Take half a drachm of aromatic spirits ammonia, in a little water; at the same time apply cloths wet in solution of muriate of ammonia (one ounce of muriate of ammonia in nine ounces of water, and one ounce of alcohol) to the forehead.

A New Jersey man has patented a chair which can be converted at will into a rocking chair; and which moreover by its rocking rotates a fan for the occupant.

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