SIC TRANSIT

Can this be death?

I did not know The death could be so kind-I feared immeasurable woe— A choking—horrid fight for breath— A rushing of the wind.

But-over there. What strange clear light Is breaking through the darkened skies Whose hushed prayer Divides the solemn pauses of the night

What form is it that flies And brings to me unguessed peace-Undreamed-unknown! Lips pressed in the racking pain? With what unutterable gain Of rest and cease-

I go to face The hidden grace

-Eily Esmonde in N. Y: Sun

THE GRAY HUNTERS.

As Will Gerry walked toward the stable buildings, a succession of thumping noises broke the silence of the spring

That sounds as if Pedro was kicking in his stall," he thought. "I wonder what can be wrong?'

Hardly had the question formed itself in his mind when three shadowy forms bounded snarling from the dark oblong of the wagon-shed entrance. He caught a confused glimpse of gray bodies, bared fangs and cruel eyes; then the intruders scurried round the corral and galloped southward over the open prairie, in the direction of the river. The boy watched them till they stopped on a wide expanse of melting snow, and turning, squatted in a row and looked back. "Timberwolves!" he exclaimed. "No wonder Pedro was kicking. They must be famished to dare come here. I guess they scented the venison I saved for dad."

Le entered the wagen-shed, and when

He entered the wagon-shed, and when in another moment he reappeared his face was pale with anger and his eyes were glowing.
"You thieves!" he panted. "You dirty

sneak-thieves, you've stolen all dad's meat! And I thought I had hung it where nothing could reach it." Tears of mortification at his own lack of judgment stood in his eyes as he shook

But Will Gerry did not spend time in vain regrets: he entered the stable, and having quieted and fed Pedro, seated himself on the manger of the empty team

stall to consider the situation. father, ill from an unaccustomed fare of salt pork and dried vegetables that had made up their winter diet, must have fresh meat at once. But Will's rifle ambid the beasts from view. Directly bemunition was all used up, and his older brother would not return with the team and the spring supplies for at least two weeks. He owned a 38 caliber revolver and a few cartridges-an equipment, so far as getting game was concerned, slight-However, it was all that he had to work with, and with the hopefulness of youth, he thought that he might knock over a few prairie-chickens or perhaps a rabbit

or so. Returning to the ranch-house, he pre pared a meal from the scraps of fresh meat left over from the day before; then, with his revolver in his pocket, and his hunting knife stuck in his belt, he saddled Pedro, and rode in the direction of

the river. Soon he picked up the trail of the wolves, plainly printed on the soft surface of the snow. Their footprints showed that there were two of ordinary size and one of huge proportions—bigger by far than any wolf that Will had ever seen. Filled with curiosity, he urged his pony to canter, and followed the tracks across the melting drifts.

For many miles the northern bank of the valley through which the river ran was high and precipitous; the only approach to the water was by way of a coulee, or draw that, starting at a distance of about a half-mile to the west of the ranch-house, afforded an easy route for wagons passing to an from the river-bottom. To Will's surprise, the trail of the wolves, instead of turning toward the head of the coulee, led straight to the high rim of the valley and skirted it west-

Soon, on a wide snow patch that extended to the very edge of the cliff, he found evidence that the animals had become strangely excited. The snow was covered with tracks that proved by the different depth of the footmarks and by the uneven spaces between them that the wolves had crouched, leaped, and run aimlessly to and fro. Then the trail of the two smaller brutes disappeared over the edge of the bank, and that of the huge leader turned sharply away from the bluff, and could be clearly traced, pointing directly for the head of the

Dismounting, Will peered cautiously over the bank. Marks on the soft earth showed clearly that by sliding and leaping from foothold to foothold, the wolves had made their way down the cliff. The procedure was puzzling. Why should two of the band make the perilous de-scent, and the third deliberately leave them and decide to reach the river by way of the coulee? Will decided to follow the trail down the draw.

Suddenly a series of yelping howlsthe cry of wolves hunting-came to him on the steady west wind. Running again to the edge of the cliff he stood watching. For a time he saw nothing except the bare poplars and scrub-willows and the scattered bushes that fringed the stream and dotted the grass below. Then, upon the terraced slopes that formed the southern boundary of the valley he caught a glimpse of two deer. Their actions, plainly visible in the clear atmosphere, indicated both fear and distress Bounding up the slope for a short distance, they would suddenly stop, turn, and stand motionless with their gaze turned toward the river. Sometimes they would run in circles, and return again to their last vantage point before

resuming their flight. Will watched them with puzzled interest; he was at a loss to understand their movements. A succession of yelps drew his attention to a spot in the valley be-low, directly opposite the mouth of the coulee; and what he saw there fixed his

with brush, a young deer ran hither and thither in an evident attempt to follow the trail of the two that Will had first seen; but ever in its path appeared the yelping form of one or other of the smaller wolves. As it dashed backward and forward, it was being gradually pressed nearer and nearer to the steep-sided mouth of the coulee. Then the whole scheme of the gray hunters flesh. whole scheme of the gray hunters flashed upon the boy's mind and the meaning of the tracks upon the snow became clear to him. The wolves had not gone down the coulee, because their instinct told them that the high bank of a valley by increasing their view would help them in their search for food. They had turned to the west, because they knew that they must hunt "up the wind." They had

On a broad expanse of grass dotted

sighted their quarry in the valley, and with the inborn cleverness of collie dogs that drive sheep between the hurdles, had realized that it could be driven into the deep cculee. So the two young wolves had impetuously dashed down the steep in chase; the older and wiser brute had turned away alone, to take up his position at the head of the draw.

Will watched in silence. Then his eyes contracted and his mouth set in a I must say determined line. He pulled out his revolver, and clipping six cartridges into Drawing the sheath containing his hunting-knife to the front of his belt, he turn-

ed and strode toward the coulee. His mind was made up. The wolves had robbed him of his meat; now he would take theirs. Reaching a point on the bank of the ravine that was well covered with brush, he stretched himself at full length upon the ground and crawled cautiously forward. The wind puffed in his face and whistled through the tangled branches above him, and he knew that no animal, he lay peering through the crisscross of leafless twigs without seeing any living thing, although the cries of the pursuing wolves seemed to be drawing very near. Then a great form began to cross and recross an opening in the brush at a short distance to the right of the spot above which he lay. Cautiously he edged nearer, and worked himself into a position that commanded a full view of his

Huge, gaunt, with tangled mane, bloodshot eyes and lolling tongue, the monster leader of the gray hunters paced restlessly back and forth across the snow-covered wagon road. The hair on his back bristled, and he looked the embodiment of savage expectation. At intervals he would pause and sniff the wind; then, an impotent fist in the direction of the maurauders, now flitting riverward over the blotched reaches of grass and dirty the boy watched him; then, drawing his revolver cautiously from his pocket, he

The cries of the chase ceased, and for a time there was absolute silence. Then a quick pattering of feet sounded from all to consider the situation.

The outlook was not cheerful. His wolf stiffened, crouched then shot forlow him was the deer, leaping from side to side to avoid the new danger that had become accustomed to sitting and keepthat moment the two smaller wolves raced into view. Leveling his revolver at the deer, Will fired, and missed. Once habit of trying to look interesting and maternity. A great many such stories ly less useful than a bow and arrow. more his weapon cracked; seizing a use my muscles for I know that for long have begun with suffering and ended plar branch to steady himself, he leaned far over to judge the effect of his shot.

The deer sank to its knees, and on the instant almost disappeared beneath snarling mass of gray wolves. At his next shot, one of the smaller animals ceased worrying and lay still. Now that they had tasted blood, his firing had no determined to disable the leader, he leaned as far forward as possible to make his aim more sure. As he did so, the branch that supported him snapped, the earth beneath his feet gave way, and amid showers of wet snow and splintered twigs, he plunged downward, and landed heavily between the two remaining wolves and squarely across their

For a moment there was a pause; then the angry brutes closed in. Firing blindly, he tried to ward them off and rise. A snarling furry mass that had passed him all his strength, he struggled, panting, to his knees just as the gray leader gathered himself and leaped at him with open mouth.

hurled backward, and his revolver was dashed from his grasp. Then he had a

and slashed near his throat. He knew instinctively that his only chance lay in hugging so close to the head and neck of his foe that the terrible jaws could not get full play; so flinging beast were for a few moments motion-

Then the diabolical strength of the wild thing reasserted itself. It flung itself hither and thither in a fury of fear and rage, while bruised and half-stunned, Will hung desperately on. Every mo-ment was agonizing. His arms and fingers were racked with the strain, yet the power of the wolf showed no sign of lessening. Then into the tortured con-sciousness of the boy flashed the thought of the knife. His right hand released its steel from its sheath. Releasing the grip of his legs, but still holding his neck close to that of his enemy, he struck again and again. The great brute, strug-gling upward and backward in a frantic endeavor to escape the steel, lifted the boy till he felt his feet upon the ground Once more with a convulsive leap the wolf swerved to one side and together they fell heavily upon the snow. Then the boy slowly realized that he was on top and that the wolf was lying still.

"Whew-w-w!" exclaimed Will Gerry, home would call them preserves. after he had somewhat recovered his strength, and taken time to think the situation over. "Whew! That was a

usy few minutes!" Picking up his revolver, he walked over to the deer— a fine young buck. After cleaning it, he climbed the side of the coulee to get Pedro .- Youth's Com-

-For high class Job Work come to the WATCHMAN Office.

FROM INDIA.

Country. Strange Opinions of Americans. The Dress of the Coolies. The Coming of Fall, Etc. Mildew and Rust.

What do you think they say about me ed by saying, "do you know how a true American's voice should sound?" "Yes," they said, "very much nasal." Truly it a thin, raspy voice, whether we will or no. I nevertheless insisted that I was as pure blooded as they usually come in or take yellow spots out of all your white that "land of the free" and that they had clothes before they go to the laundry, forgotten that our land was a big one due to too affectionate treatment of pins and of course had many and various

I must say I have more often felt like a curiosity than like a well-liked individuthe chambers replaced it in his pocket. al. They laugh at my most casual remark and say, "how funnily you put things," or "what a funny word to use, is that American?" and I am really too polite to tell them that to me their ways and words are just as unusual. However, as I am in their country guess I merchant friends to visit Pittsburgh durwill keep still, even when they ask me "why do the Americans spend so much money on the missions in India? This it not their country; they will not reap any benefit, they are helping England," even at close range, could scent him, any benefit, they are helping England," against such a breeze. For a long time to all of which I could only say "I do not know, except that the church is not limited to any one country." True, to them the river and reunions of rivermen, it looks like a desire on our part to flaunt special exhibits at Carnegie Institute, ited to any one country." True, to them our money, not needing it in our own affairs we must needs help a poorer (?) tractions have been provided in cele-country take care of its subjects. As for bration of the Silver Jubilee of the West-"America is such a rich country it can when I remonstrated with the very rich ones about accepting things for nothing they merely smiled, saying "they (the Americans) are rich, they can easily af-

ford it." I have been asked so often about the relative worth of the Presidential candidates and you should hear me "side-step" the question for reading only the North American and the DEMOCRATIC WATCH-MAN I am a bit "befuddled" myself as to the actual value of the men. My only stand what they are saying to you, you appeared so suddenly in its path. At ing your mouth shut and I find it saves afraid they may become atrophied.

It seems so strange to remember that almost a year has slipped by and it is getting toward cold weather again, while (Enosburg Center,) Enosburg, Vt., at this time last year I was not even writes: more effect upon the ravenous brutes thinking of coming here. The adaptating the past year I found myself pregnant than would pattering hail; therefor, bleness of us all—I feel as though I had and in rapidly failing health. I suffered thinking of coming here. The adaptaalways lived here and truly nothing seems dreadfully from bloating and urinary new. This morning, when a coolie woman came, her cloth about her hips, (like times. I felt that something must be trunks) her entire legs bare to the hips done. I sought your advice and received and the "sauri" simply draped over the a prompt relief. I took twelve bottles of head leaving the arms and shoulders bare and every movement displaying her entire naked body, I smiled, thinking how soon one becomes accustomed to such sights when daily confronted with them. for truly, except when thinking from my and have a health baby boy. down sagged heavily across his chest and former view-point, I never notice whether brown humans have coverings sufficient or not. I wonder whether one could so easily get accustomed to other curious forms of living. I do not think Will felt a great weight strike upon his it would be very difficult to forget that chest with irresistible force; he was all babies were not carried in baskets on mother's heads or astride their hip, but glimpse of fierce eyes; a rush of fetid never in their arms like those at home, breath sickened him; white fangs thrust or to see one's servants bare-footed, sleeping any place—on stones or bare ground-when one is not needing them, but always with their head covered. To go to a shop and expect the shop-keeper his arms and legs about the great form above him, he clung with all his might. Closely he pressed his throat and head for you and perhaps sending his servents. for you, and perhaps sending his servants against the evil-smelling tangle on the left side of the wolf's neck. Except for to fan you with an immense palm-leaf their labored breathing, the boy and the fan while you waited, your "sais" squatted on his haunches keeping the flies off the horse meanwhile; and whether you will ever forget the great word of India, "Taro" (wait) will be a matter time only will show to me.

I have done so little of interest this week have but little to tell you about. The house-keeping has become easy as I merely order the food and the cook does the rest. It is not a very good "rest" but not being an expert myself and knowing nothing about an "urrgati" (a native stove burning charcoal) I don't interfere with his bad attempts, knowing mine would be much worse. Most of these cooks have been taught by the English and I never have considered that they know much about vegetable cooking and never even try to make a salad as we know them; all their best efforts are salads made of fruit and so sweet one at

The chrysanthemums are beginning to look very chirpy and I am told that they have had some very pretty ones here, of course all in pots. The rose buds are being pinched off to prevent them from blooming before the winter season. These are all innovations of the western world for no native knows aught about gardening as it is done with the people of the

has been raining since last evening, rather By One on Medical Duty in that Far Eastern damp. That reminds me to tell you about my two suits which I had kept hanging in the paper bag I brought with me and which usually hung in my bathroom. I took them out the other day JHANSI, SEPTEMBER 6th. and you should have seen the blue broadcloth; it was one mass of white mould. out here-that I am not an American. At first I was horrified thinking it ruin-Of course I asked why and was told ed, but I took a whisk-broom and used "your voice is not in the least like a true some strength and then hung the suits American." Being a Yankee I answer- out in the sun (which happened to be highway improved, but that every shining that day) and now they look fairly good. My poor white shoes were so Though perhaps a different kind of bad they mildewed. Although you peowas the limit, to think that we must have ple have the disagreeableness of extremes, just be thankful that you don't rect and appreciable to each. have to shave your shoes each morning.

> rust is as plentiful as mould (Continued next week.)

or nails that happen to rust; for iron

Merchants Invited to the 125th Anniversary of Allegheny County-Old Home Week.

Invitations are being sent out by the Chamber of Commerce of Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh merchants to their ing the week September 22-27, to par-ticipate in the festivities in connection with the celebration.

Throughout the week there will be something doing every minute; there will be reunions, formal exercises, educational meetings, pageants of school children, parades of military and other organizations, parades of steamboats on

At the Pittsburgh Exposition extra at the native, either high or low, he says ern Pennsylvania Exposition Society; among these will be music by the Russian Symphony orchestra, exhibits by the easily give us anything we want," and United States government, working models of the Panama Canal, the State Barge Canal of New York, exhibits by the City of Pittsburgh, the State Forestry Department and many other interesting

Under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce the manufactur-ers and wholesalers of Pittsburgh have arranged for their tenth inbound excursion of Merchants into Pittsburgh to extend over the whole week and are anticipating many pleasant reunions with their out-of-town friends. Certificates will be given to all merchants who make pur-chases during this week, providing for selection lies in Mr. Wilson and as I know the refund of their railroad fares to and but little of him I have for once to keep also be furnished for the ball games, the ward. Will knew that the time for action had arrived. Springing to his feet, do and very easy to learn here. When of membership at the Pittsburgh Athlet-

A Woman's Story.

with smiles of happiness because Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription had cured the pain and restored the health. The

following is one woman's story: Mrs. W. J. Kidder, of Hill Dale Farm cines have brought me great relief. Durdifficulty. I was growing weaker each day and suffered much sharp pain at Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, and also followed your instructions. I began own work (we live on a good sized farm.) I walked and rode all I could, and enjoyed it. I had a short, easy confine

They Are Always More or Less In an Uncompleted Condition.

When walking through the streets in any large town in Chile one is immediately struck by the fact that church buildings are always undergoing re-

One day you will pass a church which for weeks has had about six ladders resting against the walls. Then another day you will find that they have been changed to the other side. This constant changing of ladders goes on year in and year out, but no use ever seems to be made of the ladders. though, perhaps, a new brick or a bit of culture, comfort and prosperity. of plaster will occasionally be added to the building.

There would seem, however, to be a very real reason for the presence of been completed. In order to evade ture and comfort possible. this tax. therefore, no church ever has been completed.

King Robert Bruce's Watch. In Dalzell's "Fragments of Scottish History" is the following: "The oldest known English watch was made, it is said, in the sixteenth century. There

exists a watch which, antiquarians al-

low, belonged to King Robert Bruce." signed J. Jamieson, who therein states him by a goldsmith hawker of Glasgow, who afterward sold it for 2 guineas, and it was next sold for 5. further, but we find in a little work by Adam Thompson, entitled "Time and Timekeepers." that it subsequently found its way into the collection of King George III. - Philadelphia In-

Every Class Has Its Argument for Good Roads; and Putting Them Together They Form an Irresistible Mass of Arguments." --- President

Every law aiming at the improvement of the highways of the State or country, has, as its fundamental force, the highest interests of all the people. No road can be built, no important class of people is benefitted thereby. benefit may accrue to each class, it is not the less true that the benefit is di-

Probably the most direct benefit by the improvement of Pennsylvania highways will accrue to the farmers. Although they form less than onethird of the population-32 per cent to be exact-their immediate and constant use of the highways along which they live, and between their farms and the most available trading center and market town, makes them the most immediate sufferers from bad roads. and gives them the most prompt relief when the roads are improved.

The benefit of the improved roads to farmers assumes many forms. First, according to official figures compiled by the United States Government officials, a good road saves the average farmer \$1.41 on every ton of produce he markets and of supplies ne brings home. In addition to this farmers can make a specialty of market garden truck at three or four times the distance from a railroad station where the roads are good than where they are unimproved, and garden truck always brings good prices.

Then, the farmer's children can go to school every school day, instead of being obliged to remain at home because of bad roads. He can take his family to church regularly; and he can drive over and spend an evening with a neighbor. For five or six miles are less hard on animals and vehicles, and also on those who are riding, over a good hard surfaced road, than is a mile and a half where the roads are in their primitive condition. There are many other ways that the farmer benefits, such as the promptness with which the doctor can reach him in case of sickness or accident; in making a quick trip to town to replace a broken part of a machine, or for other needed supplies: and for getting out of life some of those pleasures so frequently denied those who are isolated by roads not suitable for travel.

And, in Pennsylvania, it is not alone those who live along the State Roads that will derive the benefit. Official figures, gathered in several states, show that approximately 85 per cent of the travel goes over the main roads. which amount to about 15 per cent of all the roads in a state. In a region where the country is more or less hilly, and the roads follow the valleys which carry so much of the total travel is somewhat less, probably not more than 12 per cent of the total mileage, because the local roads make short cuts to the main roads wherever possible. Nearly every farm is so located as to give it the shortest possible trip to the main road, so that in nearly every trip on the road some part of it is over the main road, which in Pennsylvania is the State Road or the State Aid County Road.

With roads improved with a hard surface, a team can haul three tons with more ease than it can haul one ton on an earth road, and with less wear and tear on vehicle and other equipment.

There is another point which is of-

ten overlooked, which must appeal to the farmer when good roads are in prospect. Invariably, when a road is improved, conditions along that route change almost at once. Houses and barns get fresh coats of paint; tumble down fences are fixed up; front gates are made to work properly; the front and side porches and steps of houses get a few badly needed nails and perhaps boards to put them in condition; front yards are cleaned up and trees trimmed; unsightly accumulations of broken farm machinery, and other material is removed to the rear of the premises, or some other place out of sight, and the whole view from the road becomes pleasant, and indicative

In the thousands of miles of good roads which have been built in the United States during the past few years, there has been hardly an excepthese ladders. The Chilean govern- tion to this rule. And the prosperity ment, in fact, levies a tax upon church is real-real money in the farmer's buildings, but only when they have pockets—and that fact makes the cul-

But the farmer has not a monopoly of the benefit when good roads are The law surely might be altered, built. The merchant profits because then, for the eternal presence of these he can sell goods at any time, instead adders-certainly an ingenious idea- of having his clerks idle when the does not add to the appearance of the roads are bad and finding himself buildings or to the comfort of pedes- short handed and overworked when trians in the streets.-London Answers. they are passable. With the improvement of the roads the custom becomes more general and evenly distributed, with greater profits and satisfaction to both merchant and customer.

The doctor, the lawyer and the preacher find their hardships greatly reduced by their being able to get about readily without reference to the In tracing this subject further was seasons. The clerk, the miner, the found a letter in the Gentleman's Mag- mechanic, the laborer, who wish to azine dated Forfar. Aug. 20. 1785, and take a trip in the country for an evening or a Sunday, can put on their Sunthat the watch was offered for sale to day clothes and go with comfort over good roads, while with the roads unimproved the seasons when such trips could be enjoyed only come occasion-The letter does not trace the curiosity ally. There's no enjoyment or profit in a muddy or rough road, anyway.

And more than all, the whole com munity benefits by the building of a good road. Nothing is more certain than that the increasing mileage of improved highways is bound to settle

This is a delightfully cool day but as it PRESIDENT WILSON FOR GOOD ROADS the problem of the high cost of living. By increasing the area of production of food stuffs, and enhancing the profit to the farmer per acre; and by providing for quicker and better and cheaper transportation to the cities the loss in waste will be so reduced that the final selling price will be but a fraction of what it is today. This will apply to practically every article of vegetable food; and when the road systems now contemplated are completed, the "high cost of living," which has for the past few years kept thousands of noses to the grindstone, will appear as but the faint recollections of an unpleasant dream.

> GOOD ROADS CONVENTION AT HAR-RISBURG.

Representatives From Each County Are Asked to Attend to Discuss the Proposed Bond Amendment.

The most important event in the history of road development in Pennsylvania will be the Good Roads convention to be held in the Hall of Representatives, Harrisburg, Thursday

morning, September 18. Here will meet representatives of motor clubs, good roads associations, boards of trade, chambers of commerce, medical societies, the hotel men's association, county and township officials and road builders and

users. As far as the farmer is concerned there is no longer any need of argument as to the advantages of improved roads. He is fully aware of the financial and social benefits to be derived from hard roads which can be traveled, regardless of weather, 365 days in the year, and he thoroughly understands how much closer they bring him to his market and how much more produce he can haul even though he may not be familiar with the statistics that have been compiled which prove the fact.

The farmer now owns a large and rapidly increasing proportion of the motor vehicles used in this state and he and the city motorist are a unit on the good road question.

It is the city resident who needs educating, who does not realize that the benefits of a system of improved roads extend to him, even though he never sees the roads themselves, in the reduced cost of garden truck which will be the inevitable result of the improved road and the cheap automobile.

The indifference of the city residentwho does not use a motor car is what' is hardest to overcome in any good roads movement particularly such as the coming election.

The matter of discussion however at the coming convention will not be the necessity or advantages of improved roads but how we are to secure them in Pennsylvania while we live to enjoy

Are we to follow the example of New York and some of the New England States and issue bonds to pay for built now, or are we to continue to depend upon the varying and often miserly appropriations made each two years by the Legislature which will always be secondary to the ever increasing demands of our benevolent and educational institutions

While the question to be decided at the November election is-shall the constitution of the state be amended to permit the issuing of bonds for highway improvement, it really spells shall we have improved roads in Pennsylvania now or is our splendidly planned system of 8,000 miles of state highways connecting all our county seats and important towns to remain a system on paper only, until our

grandchildren's time. This must be decided at the convention. If the bond issue is endorsed then county committees will be formed at ouce and meetings will be held throughout the state.

It is an important question and one that should have serious considera-The popular sentiment among tion. men who have made a study of the subject undoubtedly favors the bond issue plan and in fact no argument worthy of consideration has been offered against it.

Even were the greatly exaggerated statements which have been put into circulation for political reasons, as to the inefficiency of the present Highway Department, of the poor work, lack of proper supervision political jobbery, etc., true, they would constitute no argument against the bond issue proposition, for no money from this source can be made available during the present administration.

Every one interested in getting better roads in our state is urged to come to Harrisburg September 18. The farmer in particular will be made welcome for he is the man who gets the most direct and the most substantial benefit and in this case he gets them without cost to him, so he of all men should put his shoulder to the wheel.

Can Snakes Fascinate Their Prey? Mr. Fitzsimons answers this question in the negative. The belief in fascination is general, but there seems to be no real foundation for it. "I have had much experience of snakes." writes Mr. Fitzsimons, "and have made it my business to observe carefully their habits and ways, both in their natural condition in the wild state and captivity, and in no instance have I ever known a snake to fascinate an animal in the manner it is alleged to do." He has seen two species, which he mentions, many a time in trees surrounded by a crowd of fluttering, excited birds. But the birds were not. he says, fascinated by the snake. They were endeavoring to intimidate it in order to frighten it from their haunts.

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