

The Pool Tribe. A QUEER MOUNTAIN RACE THAT LIVE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Two broad, low foothills, a spur of the Appalachian range, comprise almost the whole of Durell township Bradford county in the northern tier of Pennsylvania.

The origin of these people is unknown. A current tradition says that early in the century a man named Van der Pool, a Dutch sailor, left his life on the briny, salted sea.

Hunting, fishing, and picking huckleberries are the mainstays of a majority of the tribe. In late years, the appearance of game, even of the smaller varieties, has at times driven some of them to work for a few days at a time for the neighboring farmers.

The circus comes up fully to the Pool's idea of heaven, and the ringmaster's whip is about the only thing besides the pangs of hunger which will drive the rank and file of them to work.

They are to the Pools what summer boarders are to the Jersey farmer. When the berries ripen they camp out among the bushes, and stay out till frost comes.

I camped two nights on the mountain a few weeks ago, and took a stroll up among the rocks, keeping an eye out for rattlesnakes.

Proceeding cautiously, we climbed up on a rock and looked over on the other side. There, stretched lazily out on a flat stone, lay a large snake.

"Does you want 'im, mistah?" said the Pool.

"I'll haf to go yo' was his reply, as he cautiously climbed down from the rock on which we rested, and then looked on all four until within a few feet of the snake.

"Are you afraid of getting bit?" I asked.

"No," he replied. "I've been bit mo' a hundred times. Gin me nuther drink."

After the old man had irrigated, I asked why it was the bite of a rattlesnake never hurt a Pool.

"Well," said I, "you can have the remainder of this fine juice if you will take it."

"I'll haf to go yo', mistah," he said, as he climbed down from the rock and led the way up among the rocks at a pace which left me breathless.

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A woman can't be a good bank cashier unless she is quick at figures, but almost any woman makes a good teller.

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