

A Spider Captures a Mouse.

The wonderful little spider which captured a mouse, and is elevating it in its parlor at Mr. Michael Gross' carpenter shop on Greatman, between Elvins and Marigny streets, of which we gave an account yesterday morning, is still busily engaged in its herculean task, and filling the numerous persons who visit it with amazement. This astonishing little insect is of the black species, and very small, a fact that renders the feat which it now performs the more marvelous. The mouse was accustomed, when on a predatory excursion, to emerge from a hole under the bench where the spider dwells, and pass into the carpenter shop, where the bench stands. The enterprising spider, which had no doubt watched for a long time the movements, laid a trap for the unsuspecting young mouse, and Monday morning when it started out on its daily rounds, the little spider, who was on the lookout, tightened the threads which she had prepared for her victim, whose hind legs had been entangled in them as it passed out of its hole, and soon secured it. Immediately after the legs had been caught, the spider fastened another thread to the mouse's tail, and after several hours constant work succeeded in raising her prey's hind quarters, and continued so doing until the tip of the mouse's nose only touched the floor. Having thus rendered it helpless, the little spider industriously set to work multiplying its fastenings. After a few more hours' labor the mouse was raised one inch from the floor, the spider working as if with a pulley. In its terrible contortions to release itself, the mouse managed to sever the fastenings around its hind legs, but so strong were the threads which suspended it in the air, and so securely were they attached to its tail, that all efforts to break them proved fruitless. Mr. Gross, taking great interest in the proceedings, left the spider undisturbed, and during almost the whole of Monday night, with several friends, watched its work attentively. The little insect, after taking her position on her victim's tail, commenced manipulating the threads and working. Gradually could the astonished witnesses of this wonderful feat see the mouse creep up, and the threads descending from the fastenings under the corner of the bench to the mouse, increased in number, and during the twenty-four hours ending yesterday evening the threads had so increased that it became impossible to count them, and the mouse, which was still alive, though quite weakened, had been raised from one to three and a half inches from the floor. The spider during the whole time of its work, sat on the mouse's tail, only leaving its position at long intervals, when it would cautiously creep down the tail to its roots and there feed upon the blood of the mouse. Then resuming its position on the end of the tail, it would again begin its work. This unheard-of capture of a mouse by so small an insect and its ingenious manner of elevating it has excited the wonder and admiration of thousands of visitors, among whom may be mentioned several scientific men and physicians, who assembled in large crowds at Mr. Gross' carpenter shop to witness the progress of the gigantic task which the little spider has undertaken and is so successfully bringing to an issue. Mr. Gross will leave the spider undisturbed and carefully watch the result, as every one is anxious to see what the spider will do with its captive after it dies, and how far it will elevate it.—New Orleans Picayune.

ABOUTS CRECKOES.

Now that the planting season is at hand, we have no doubt but that many a farmer will runnager through his garret to find cast-off garments, which, stuffed with straw, are to set up in the confided to warn off the marauding crows. We have never had much faith in this article. Crows are possessed of much more wisdom than is generally credited to them; and while an impervious bundle of rags may drive them away for a short time, we believe that eventually they discover the lump, as we have seen the birds complacently picking up young corn almost within the shadow of an elaborate stuffed scarecrow as ever erected. We, however, have heard of a couple of plans which are calculated to intimidate even the boldest of these birds; and as they are easily carried out, perhaps our farmer readers may make use of them. The first and best is a suspended looking glass. Take two small cheap mirrors, fasten them back to back, attach a cord to one angle, and hang them from an elastic pole. When the glass swings in the wind the sun's rays are reflected all over the field, even if it is a large one; and even the oldest and bravest of crows will depart precipitately should one of its lightning flashes fall on him. The second plan, although a terror to crows, is especially well suited to fields subjected to the hordes of small birds and even chickens. It involves an artificial hawk made from a big potato and long goose and turkey feathers. The maker can exercise his imitative skill in sticking the feathers into the potato so that they resemble the spread wings and tail of the hawk. It is astonishing what a ferocious-looking bird of prey can be constructed from the above simple materials. It only remains to hang the object from a tall bent pole and the wind will do the rest. The bird makes swoops and dashes in the most headlong and threatening manner. Even the most inquisitive of venerable hens has been known to hurry rapidly from its dangerous vicinity, while to small birds it carries unexcused dismay.—Scientific American.

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A SOMNAMBULISTIC FEAT. A NEW YORK GIRL WHO TAKES THE PALM.

Jennie Lawson is a member of the second class in the Eighteenth street Female Grammar School. Friday last a number of arithmetical examples were given out for solution, but three of them in percentage, requiring long processes of division, resisted all Jennie's efforts to secure the correct answer. This circumstance seemed to distress the child, and after working through them again and again without success, she went home determined by persistent effort to find out where the error was, and she continued to strive until long after the rest of the family had retired. Towards midnight her mother, who slept in an adjoining room, called to her daughter that she had better go to bed, lest she should be late in rising the next day. The girl at once retired, and in a few moments was fast asleep. About an hour afterwards Mrs. Lawson was again awakened by a sudden noise in her daughter's bed-chamber, which was then in entire darkness. She called, but receiving no answer, arose to see what was the matter. Jennie was sitting at her desk, and had apparently just completed some work on her slate, the noise having been made by the falling of a ruler from the table to the floor. The girl was fast asleep. Mrs. Lawson did not wake her at that time, and on the following day it was after noon before the girl could be roused from the deep sleep in which she seemed to be. Upon waking, Jennie spoke of the problems, and expressed her intention of making a further trial at their solution. Upon getting the slate she found them completely solved in her own hand, each line neatly ruled and the figuring without the slightest error. At this she was greatly surprised. Her last knowledge of the puzzling examples was of leaving them unsolved on the night before. Of her performances in her sleep she knew when awake absolutely nothing, and her mother not having mentioned the incident left her the more bewildered. Yesterday the girl brought the work to school and related the incident attending it to her teacher. The room was entirely dark, the girl soundly asleep during the working out of the test examples. She had never before shown any symptoms of sleep-working, nor have any of her relatives been so affected.—X. Y. World.

SAGACITY OF SHEEP DOGS.

The following remarkable instance of the sagacity of colley dogs was related to the writer by Charles Hancock, Esq., the celebrated animal painter. Mr. Hancock said: "I was once staying with Lord Kinnaird, at his seat in Scotland, when his Lordship expressed a wish that I should see some of his prize sheep fetched up as quickly as he could. The shepherd whistled, when a fine old sheep dog appeared before him, and seated on his hind quarters, evidently awaiting orders. What passed between the shepherd and the dog I know not, but the faithful creature manifestly understood his instructions.

"Do you believe that the dog of your flock?" I asked.

"Wait awhile, and you will see," said his Lordship. "The dog now darted off toward the sheep, at the same time giving a significant bark, which immediately called forth two younger sheep dogs to join in the mission. Accustomed as I was to the remarkable sagacity of colley dogs, I was amazed at what now took place. On one side of the hill was a river, on the other side a dense forest. One of the younger dogs, on arriving at the foot of the hill turned to the left, while the other darted off to the right hand. The former stationed himself between the sheep and the river, while the latter stood between the sheep and the forest. The old dog now darted into the middle of the flock when the sheep scampered right and left, but were kept at bay by the two watchers. The old dog speedily singled out the particular sheep desired, and in a few moments the three dogs were leisurely driving them toward where we stood.

"Within an hour of receiving the instructions, the dogs brought the sheep up to the door of the mansion!"

THE LARGEST SWAMP IN THIS COUNTRY.—The surveying party sent out to survey the Okefenokee Swamp report that it measures 142 miles in circumference, and with the sinuosities, 180 miles around. This vast formation, thirty miles long and seven miles wide, is the largest swamp in the United States. It lies in the southeastern part of Georgia and partly in north Florida. Here is the source of the Swane river made famous by the old negro melody of the "Old Folks at Home." It traverses a large section of Upper Florida, is bordered with valuable eypress and other timber, and empties into the Gulf at a point about eighteen miles above Cedar Keys. Okefenokee Swamp was for generations a refuge for runaway slaves. Indians have lived there until recently, cultivating gardens; and in the depths of the jungles and forests are thousands of bears, and a great many Florida "tigers"—the cougar, or American panther. One curious experience of the surveying party was to find themselves at one time, while in the midst of a great swamp, suffering for water. The discovery of a number of mounds, "probably built by a race of men existing before the Indians," is also reported. Several skeletons were taken out of one of them, but some crumbled as soon as exposed to the air.

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