Naturalist O'Reilly Relates Some Thrilling Adventures.

A BIG BOA UNDER A LADY'S BED.

How He Lived in Africa With a Room Full of Hissing Reptiles.

WHERE LIFE DEPENDS UPON SKILL

Mr. G. R. O'Reilly, a member of the Royal Zoological Society of Ireland, has made snakes the study of his life. A student of literature and philosophy, he has from childhood surrounded himself with birds and beasts, and things that creep and crawl. On the dry karoo of South Africa, in the orange groves of Andalusia, on the waters of the Orinoco, in the forests of Venezuela, among the mountains of Columbia, the ruins of Central American cities, or the swamps of Staten Island, he has ever kept up his untiring snake hunt. His exertions have from time to time enriched the zoological gardens of London, Dublin, Paris, Berlin, Philadelphia and New York with snakes that were large, beautiful or rare.

The most extensive and representative collection of living snakes ever seen in this country was that which he left on view at Central Park, New York, during last summer, to which considerable attention was drawn by the newspapers at the time. The largest part of it is now in the Zoological Garden at Philadelphia. He is at present Garden at Philadelphia. He is at present in New York uncertain whither the weather-tock of inclination may next point to.

To his pen The Disparch is indebted for the following sketch of his strange hunting, and of the methods he uses in catching

The Story of a Snake Hunter. Though for years I have hunted and captured snakes in various regions of the world famous for reptile wonders, still it was in South Africa that I had my earliest and most startling experiences. There it was that in a church, at prayer time, I caught a



G. R. O'Reilly. snake gliding about among the kneeling worshipers. It was there, also, that I made close acquaintance with the spitting cobra, when, in catching him, he squirted cobra, when, in catching him, he squirted out the venom in clear drops upon my face. And it was likewise in the same arid land that, having secured a young puff adder, with nothing at hand to carry him home in, I unscrewed one of the lenses of my large binocular and safely stowed him therein. In the college at Grahamstown I kept no less than 40 or 50 snakes in my bedroom, many of them run-ning about loose; and one of these pests, a famale cobra (sepedon hamachates), surprised me at bedtime on a Saturday night by depositing 18 young ones on the dressing table.

On entering that room the scene of hissing and wriggling was startling to a stranger. Its fame, safer than any lock, rendered the place an arcanum sacred to the white "unmagati," as the natives called me, into which no Kafir servant or workman would dare to enter. I have carried snakes in my pockets in street cars and railroad trains; and, by the byel once, on the crowded sidewalk of Fifth avenue, New York, I was unable to salute a lady because I had one in

A Yellow Boa Under a Bed. A Yellow Boa Under a Bed.

The day after my arrival on the Isthmus of Panama a friend sent his card requesting that I would kindly come over to breakfast, and to do him the favor of catching a boa constrictor under his bed. He added naively: "Encoutez les soupris de madame, qui a la tete converte, encore se couche accablee de peur, craignante de mettre dehors du lit ses douces pieds." My stars! The lady in bed with her head covered up. Mentally praying she would keep so, I seized my hunting stick and a sack to stow the beast in and hurried off without either hat or coat. Eight enough. There were the beast in and hurried off without either hat or coat. Right enough. There were the bedclothes gathered up in a heap, while from the bundle proceeded a murmur of sighing and praying. My friend, with his negro servants, crowded at the door. I dropped on my knees at the bedside and peeped beneath.

peeped beneath.

There was a great yellow tree bon coiled in the remotest corner. It was impossible to get at him there, but a jerk of the stick soon shot him out into the middle of the floor. The negroes fled screaming "My King!" The snake hissed loudly and sprang at me fiercely, while from the bed came a



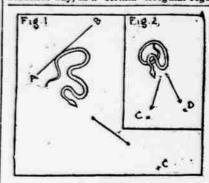
terror stricken cry "O Mon Dieu! Que je suis malheureuse!" Before I could use my suis malheureuse!" Before I could use my stick he had his long curved teeth entangled in the cloth of my trousers, but ere he with-drew them, my nimble flugers were clasped round his throat. His eight-foot body flew out like a whip lash entwining me tightly round arms and neck as I rushed from the room and from the house, fearing an appari-tion at the bedroom door. But I never saw the lady, either then, before or since. However, the following week I received a pretty little copy of "Paradise Lost." "Avecles remerciements de madame—pour souvenir de l'aventure du serpent."

Equipment for Snake Hunting. Equipment for Snake Hunting.

Generally setting out alone my equipment is neither heavy nor cumbersome. A haversack for refreshments, a cutlass to clear the way through entanglements of vines and bushes, a binocular glass with which to search the open glade before breaking through the screen of leafy branches, a few bags of coarse stuff in which to stow the captures, a stick about eight feet long, having the last six inches turned off at an angle of 45 degrees with which to press the necks of the deadly snakes to the ground so as to protect the hands from a fatal bite, a sharp penknife to lay open the seat of poison and penknife to lay open the seat of poison and allow of its extraction; these complete the

As a rule venomous snakes sleep by day

and wander abroad in the shades of evening to seek food or drink, or meet their mates in the wood path. Oltenest, where the ferns in the wood path. Oftenest, where the ferns wave in the crannies and screen him from view in the deceiving light of their fluttering shadows, will the hunter find the rattler taking his midday siests. Yes, there he is! lying close in an angle of the lichen-grown rock. You can see him through the leafy curtain. I'll press back the ferus with my stick and leave him clear of shade. See how he lies, so beautifully mottled with variations of black and brown and gray, with here and there a tinge of yellow. Although he is not colored like the rock nor yet like the dried leaves or withered sticks, still he harmonizes with all—an indistinct still he harmonizes with all—an indistinct mass hf blending tints, arranged in nature's beautiful way, in a certain irregular regu-



larity, causing the eye to lose him, as it were, in the sameness of his surroundings. Stoop gently over him. He will not fly at you. Is he asleep? Who can tell? Yet his eyes are wide open—round glassy balls of gray, with a vertical pupil like the cats. They never close, even when he sleeps. He is ever thus wide-eyed, gazing alike on the mysteries of day and night. mysteries of day and night.

Catching a Rattlesnake

is given. It vibrates so rapidly that the eye cannot follow the movement. Tis a blur upon the sight. To the ear it is like the rustling of withered leaves with some the rustling of withered leaves with some resemblance to the whirring song of the cicada. I touch him gently again, that the head may be thrust forward clear of the coils. Aha! There it comes. I press with the bent stick on his neck gently but firmly to the ground. Then stooping, steadying the stick with my knee, I take him with my hand around the neck, close behind the jaws. In this way he cannot turn to bite. Into one of the bags I have with me I drop him, tail foremost, and carry him off in triumph.

Other dangerous snakes of the same family are the copperhead and the water moc-casin, the former inhabiting the hillside and the latter the rivers of the Southern States. Both these and the rattler are loth to strike, and even when provoked will often be satis-fied with one bite. They are not to be comfied with one bite. They are not to be com-pared for size or venom to the terrible Fer de Lance. Unlike them, although belong-ing to the same family, he will strike again and again, and is the cause of great mortal-ity where he exists, causing death often in a few moments. Over the whole earth there is none to compare with him, except the notorious cobra of India. Although not a water snake, he is fond of the river and of the flat lends in its vicinity, seldom being the flat lands in its vicinity, seldom being met with in the hills.

The Terrible Fer De Lance. This denizen of the reedy swamp and sedgy river bank is found over the whole north of the South American continent as well as the islands of Trinidad, St. Lucia well as the islands of Trinidad, St. Lucia and Martinique. Of a dull vellowish or clay tinted ground-color, he is ringed with irregular, blackish bands narrowing to-wards the back and broadening downwards. This arrangement of coloring makes him ex-tremely difficult to discern on the flat al-luvial lenge.

One day as I sat on the bank of river under a spreading mora tree I found myself unexpectedly in the neighborhood of a large Fer de Lance. The tall reeds of the opposite

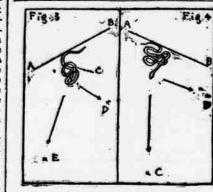
bank were reflected in the placid stream. I felt inclined to rest but was startled by a sharp squeak from a buach of weeds just below on a stretch of sand by the water. The birds heard it too and showed their agitation. Having no doubt of its being a snake, I climbed down to reconnoiter. Seeing nothing on one side of the weeds, I passed to the other where lay a great log of driftwood half buried in the sand. As there was nothing to be seen there either, I put forward the long stick and pressed back the spreading leaves which shadowed the log, but what was my horror to find myself within striking distance of a large Fer de Lance half hidden in the weeds, and holding in his mouth a goodly-sized water rat. Quickly I jumped backward; nor less quick did he relinquish his prey and throw himself into a posture of defense.

Saved by an Instant's Delay.

Saved by an Instant's Delay.

But to this momentary delay I owed my safety. To take a rattlesnake or a copperhead is easy, but for a Fer de Lance especial care and promptaess are requisite, for he strikes repeatedly and with precision to a much greater distance. As he lay in a disadvantageous position, it was necessary to shift him before making the attempt. When the struck flercely several times; but finally glided off toward the water. Immediately I bounded forward to pin him to the ground by the neck, but calculated wrongly, the stick catching him several inches from the head, so that he turned and bit it angrily. For a moment I was puzzled. It was impossible to roll it down toward the head on account of the bend at the bottom; so seizing a favorable opportunity, when he ceased biting, a dexterous movement transferred it close enough to his jaws to allow my fingers to clasp his throat with security. Not without much wriggling and twining round my arms did he resign himself to captivity.

While the lattlesnake prefers the wood, land border and the unfrequented copeand the moccasin and Fer de Lance confine themselves to the fiast lands by the river, the bushumster roams over hilly regions in the depths of the vast forests of South America, where every bird and beast, even the flerce jaguar, leaves him undisputed king. With Saved by an Instant's Delay.



fangs of wondrous length and poison ex-ceedingly copious, 'tis especially his great length, and consequent power of striking to such a remarkable distance that renders him truly the terror of the woods.

Power of the Bushmaster. He grows to the length of from 8 to 10 feet, and has been found 13½. Now deadly snakes can usually launch themselves to a distance equal to two-thirds or even three-fourths of their own length. What, then, must be the peril of attempting to take an 8 or 10-foot bushmaster with an 8-foot stick. The strikbushmaster with an 8-foot stick. The striking distance depends altogether on the manner of the coil. If this is well laid he has full power. But if, on the contrary, as is usually the case, it is entangled within itself or with surrounding roots or branches, his striking distance is curtailed. Should he be encountered with untrammeled coil the hunter must keep at a respectful distance and force him to shift his position until he becomes involved as as to reduce the biting range and so allow a safe approach. Then even the great bushmaster may be taken with little risk, as I once did a very large one in the forests of Trinidad, although, had his coil been well laid, he could have struck me in the face or breast where I stood.

The accompanying diagrams show the comparative distances to which a poisonous snake can strike under various conditions. In figure 1, with support on A—B, he will strike to C. In figure 2, without support, he he will not strike beyond C and D in those directions. In figure 3, with support on A—B, and being free in the line to E, he can strike to that point; while in the line to D a kink, at C, will prevent his striking beyond that point. In figure 4, with support on SUCCESS TO WHOM IT IS DUE. Saller & Co.'s Spring Opening.

Faller & Co.'s Spring Opening.

As pretty a sight as one can see in a day's walk is the one presented at the popular closhing house of Saller & Co., eor. Smithfield and Diamonds streets. A half hour could not be spent more pleasantly or profitably than by paying a visit of inspection through this well-known establishment. The scene in one of the mammoth showwindows represents a "Spring Opening" of fashionable ready-made clothing, artistically and beautifully displayed, while the other window is nestly and attractively arranged with all the nobby designs in plececloths for custom talloring. To the left and right respectively as yon enter are located the furnishing goods department and hat department. On this floor also is the enstom talloring department under the personal charge of Mr. Saller. The display on this floor is simply immense. New suitings and trouserings in endless variety are here for inspection, and ready to be made up peerless in design, fit and workmanship, for which Mr. Saller is so well noted.

But the climax is capped when the men's and boys' clothing department on the second floor is reached. Friends and old patrons of Saller & Co. would barely recognize it. The change is wonderful, and the sight that greets the eye is original, novel and striking. All this was wrought during the past month by Mr. John O'Hara, the well-known union contractor, who undertook the Herculean task of entirely removing a brick wall sixteen (16) inches thick which separated the rooms. With an endless amount of trouble and numerous obstacles to contend with, Mr. O'Hara, with the aid of a small army of workmen, successfully accomplished the undertaking. Painters, plasterers, carpenters, kalsominers, etc., put on the finishing touches, resulting in the whole floor being transformed into a surprisingly large, commodious and well-lighted salesroom, filled with long rows of tables plied mountain high with stacks upon stacks of stylish spring clothing for men, boys and children, marked in plain figures at popular low prices

Insist Upon Getting Excelsion Crackers, manufactured by E. Maginn, 918 and 915 Liberty street, Pitsburg; 50 Federal street, Allegbeny.

A FIFTH AVENUE property, near Market street, for sale at auction. See Black & Baird's ad., 11th page.

Order Your Easter Suit Now Of Saller & Co., corner Smithfield and Diamond streets. Every fabric, shade and style in spring goods are in at prices lower than ever.



I'LL BET A THOUSAND Dollars that there is no imitation of Dia-monds that can compare in any way with

VOLTAIC DIAMONDS. I'll bet \$2,000 that no Jeweler can sell you Voltaic Diamonds except

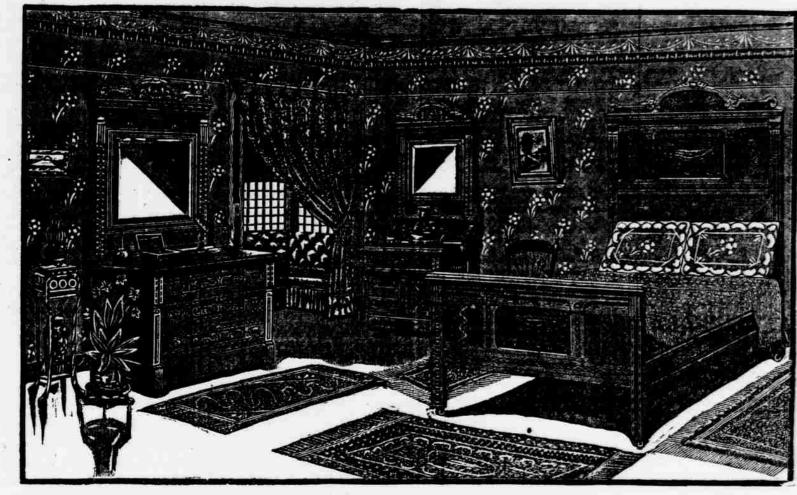
> B. E. ARONS, Jeweler, Sole Owner, 65 FIFTH AV. ap3-xwrsu



GRAND

WEDNESDAY——APRIL 6, 1892.——WEDNESDAY

We extend to you a cordial invitation to visit our spacious stores, corner TENTH STREET AND PENN AVENUE. We will show you the finest selection of FURNITURE, CARPETS and HOUSEHOLD GOODS ever before displayed in Western Pennsylvania.



Whether you wish to buy or not, COME AND SEE US. You will be entertained and instructed. GENTLEMANLY SALESMEN will show you through the various departments, and will quote you prices that will surprise you.

Every Lady Visiting Our Stores on the Above Date Will Receive a Useful Present.

On this date store will be open until 10 P. M.

CASH OR EASY PAYMENTS

Cor. Tenth Street Penn Avenue.

COMPLETE



Our Hats are on top in price and style. They are also on top of hundreds of heads whose owners have already bought their spring

Every new block from every popular maker is here. Fit yourself at \$1.49 or go as high as \$3.24. The style's as perfect in one as in the other.



OUR APRIL SHOWERS:

SHOWERS OF GOODS AND SHOWERS OF DOLLARS

SPRING SUITS.

SPRING OVERCOATS.

> SPRING PANTS.

speak for themselves.

IN MEN'S CLOTHING

We are sowing seeds of gladness among those who delight in fine, fashionable, perfect-fitting clothing.

Surely Pittsburg never saw an equal to the stock we display this spring. For many weeks past heads and hearts

have been busy in bringing together this choice collection of

SPRING APPAREL

The weather as well as the almanac now tells you 'tis time to spruce up. Here's the

spot to do so and save money.

We will not weary you with a list of the fabrics and makes nor puzzle you with a detailed description of our immense stock.

See it; it will bear out every word we have ever written about it.

OUR CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Is a palace of style and beauty. Particular parents who take a pride in seeing their children well dressed find shopping a pleasure when they come to see on what a mammoth scale we have anticipated their wants.

CONFIRMATION SUITS.

We are ready to fit out the boys for Confirmation with a line of suits specially adapted for the occasion. The materials and styles we guarantee to be correct; the prices shall

WORLD'S FAIR BANK.

Begin to save up to visit the World's Fair. We give you an incentive by

Presenting Each Patron of Our **Boys' Department**

-OF \$2 OR OVER-WITH A BANK LIKE CUT OPPOSITE.



OUR NEW DEPARTMENTS

In six or seven days (due notice of exact time will appear in the papers) we will open up several new departments for the benefit of the Ladies, Misses and Children of the two cities and surrounding country.



For the grand opening of our

LADIES' CLOAK, SUIT, TEAGOWN, WRAPPER, SHAWL, WAIST and HOSIERY

......PARIS, BERLIN AND VIENNA.....

In our grand showing for the gentler sex. The very latest styles from Fashion's centers will be here; the only thing you'll miss will be the stylish prices that usually accompany these fashionable, foreign outfits.

WE SHALL ALSO DISPLAY

A full and complete line of Misses', Children's and Infants'

Wear, from the cheapest to the finest. It will be well worth your while to defer making your Spring purchases in any of the above goods till we are ready to serve you.





Facts are the foundation of good advertising. They are also the ground floor and the second story of

It is the facts we have told about shoes and the facts in the shoes themselves that have brought us our immense shoe busi-

Like John Brown's soul we are still marching on. We have made a "lasting" impression on the "soles" of the community, and have certainly got the "upper" hand in the shoe trade of the city.

Our grand spring stock will more than maintain

