

A HUNTER OF SNAKES.

Naturalist O'Reilly Relates Some Thrilling Adventures.

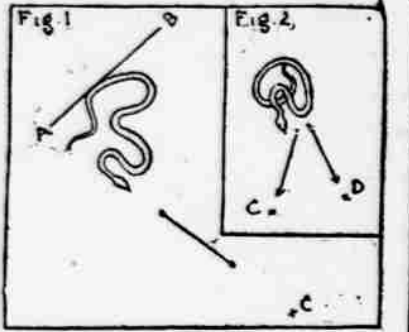
A BIG BOA UNDER A LADY'S BED.

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.

and wander abroad in the shades of evening to seek food or drink, or meet their mate in the wood path. Oftentimes, where the ferns wave in the crannies and screen him from view in the deepest light of their fluttering shadows, will the hunter find the rattler taking his midday siesta. 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 ferns 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 mass of blending hints, arranged in nature's beautiful way, in a certain irregular regu-



larly, 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. They never close, even when he sleeps. He is ever thus wide-eyed, gazing alike on the mysteries of day and night.

I touch him gently. The quiet coil begins to move within itself. He draws back his head slightly. The tail, with its warning rattle, starts up vertically from the center of convolution and the signal of alarm 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 resemblance to the whirring song of the cicada. I touch him gently again, that the head may be thrust forward clear of the coils. Ah! There it comes. I press with the bent stick on his neck gently but firmly to the ground. Then stooping, steady 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 moccasin, the former inhabiting the hillsides and the latter the rivers of the Southern States. Both these and the rattler are loath to strike, and even when provoked will often be satisfied with one bite. They are not to be compared for size or venom to the terrible Fer de Lance. Unlike them, although belonging to the same family, he will strike again and again, and is the cause of great mortality where he exists, causing death often in a few moments. Over the whole earth there is none so deadly as this, except the notorious cobra of India. Although not a water snake, he is found of the river and of the flat lands in its vicinity, seldom being met with in the hills. The terrible Fer de Lance.

This decision of the reedy swamp and sedge river bank is found over the whole north of the South American continent; as well as the islands of Trinidad, St. Lucia and Martinique. Of a dull yellowish or clay tinted ground-color, he is ringed with irregular, blackish bands narrowing towards the back and broadening downwards. This arrangement of coloring makes him extremely difficult to discern on the flat alluvial lands.

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While the rattlesnake groans in the wood, land border and the unfrequented cove and the moccasin and Fer de Lance continue to roam the vast forests of South America, where every bird and beast, even the jaguar, leaves him undisputed king. With snakes of wondrous length and poison exceedingly copious, his especially his great length, and consequent power of striking to such a remarkable distance that renders him truly the terror of the woods.

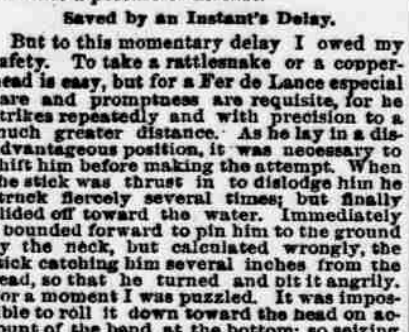
Power of the Bushmaster. He grows to the length of from 8 to 10 feet, and has been found 13 1/2. Now deadly snakes can usually launch themselves to a distance equal to two-thirds or even three-fourths of their own length. What, then, must be the peril of attempting to take an 8 or 10-foot bushmaster with an 8-foot stick. The striking distance depends altogether on the manner of the coil. If, in this well laid he has full power. But if, on the contrary, as is usually the case, it is entangled in roots or with surrounding roots or branches, his striking distance is curtailed. Should he be encountered with untrammelled coil the hunter must keep at a respectful distance and force him to shift his position until he becomes involved so 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 so close, he could have struck me in the face or breast where I stood.

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On entering that room the scene of hissing and wriggling was startling to a stranger. Its faint, safer than any lock, rendered the place an arcanum sacred to the white "untacati," 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 bye! once, on the crowded sidewalk of Fifth avenue, New York, I was unable to salute a lady because I had one in my hand.

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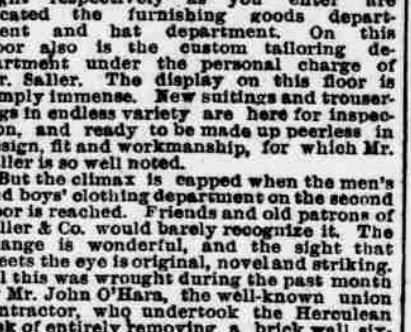
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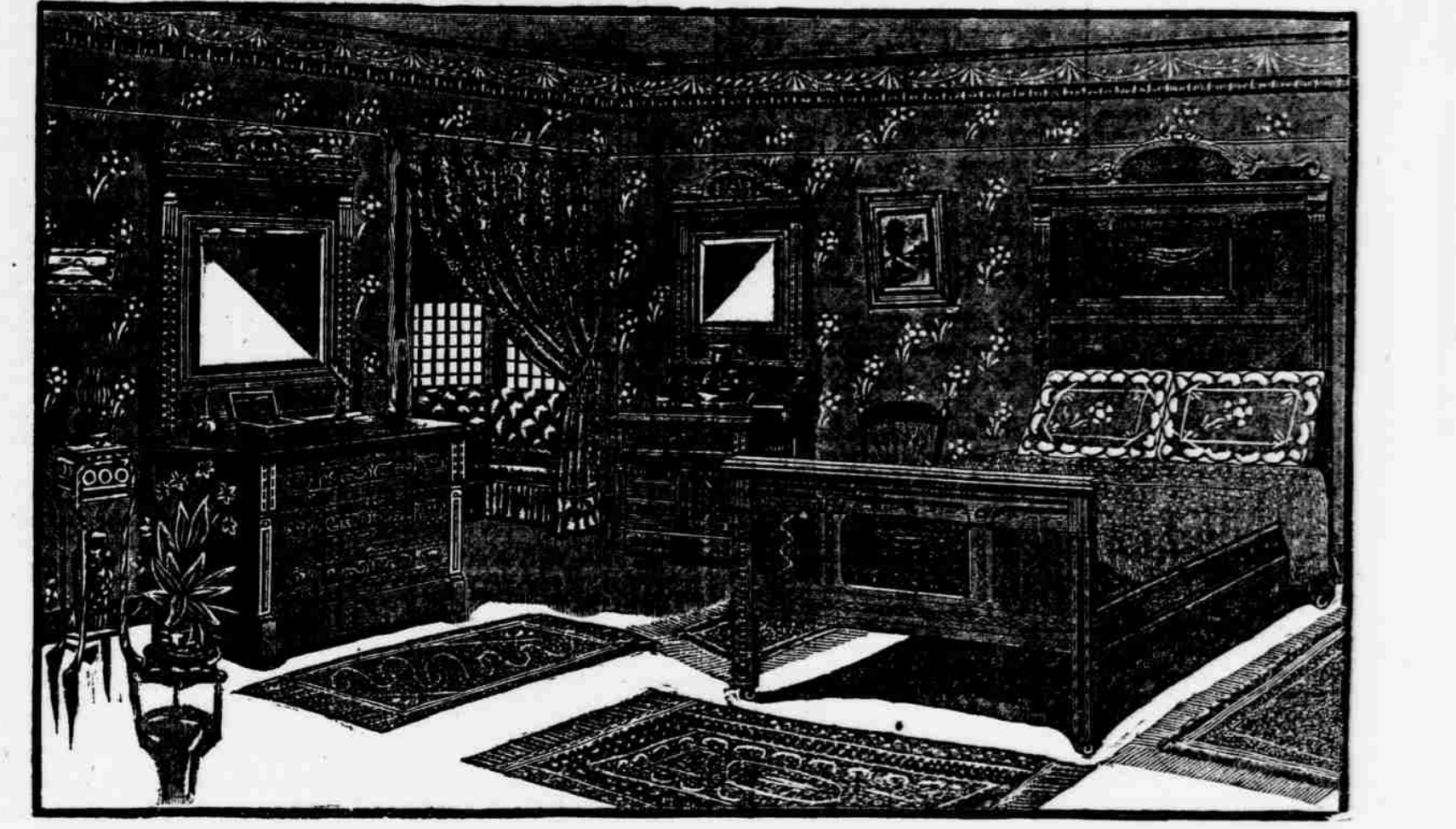
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GRAND SPRING OPENING

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

PICKERING'S COMPLETE HOUSEFURNISHERS

OUR APRIL SHOWERS!

SHOWERS OF GOODS AND SHOWERS OF DOLLARS

Spring has come. The season of flowers, sunshine and gladness is here. The flowers of fashion that bloom in our Garden of Values furnish a feast for contemplation that outrivals Nature. Jove of old came to Danae in a shower of gold. We come to you in a shower of bargains. Seasons may come and go; spring beauty will depart, but we remain. We build no castles in the air, but deal in solid facts, and those who trade with us remain also. Our fair dealing, honest values and low prices make PUBLIC PATRONAGE PERMANENT.

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.

WAIT

LADIES' CLOAK, SUIT, TEA GOWN, 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.



G. R. O'Reilly.

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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 soupis de madame, qui a la tete couverte, encore se couche accable de peur, craignant 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 sock to stow 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 hissing and praying. My friend, with his negro servants, crowded at the door, I dropped on my knees at the bedside and peeped beneath.

There was a great yellow tree boa 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 struck at me fiercely, while from the bed came a



Catching the Rattler.

terror-stricken cry "O Mon Dieu! Que je suis malheureuse!" Before I could use my stick he had his long curved teeth entangled in the cloth of my trousers, but ere he withdrew them, my nimble fingers were clasped round his throat. His eight-foot body flew out like a whip last entwining me tightly round arms and neck as I rushed from the room and from the house, fearing an apparition 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." Areelles remerciez-vous de madame—pour avoir saisi de l'aveugure du serpent."

Equipment for Snake Hunting. Generally setting out alone my equipment is neither heavy nor cumbersome. A haversack for refreshments, a canteen to clear the way through entangling 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 allow of its extraction; these complete the list.

As a rule venomous snakes sleep by day



HATS.



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 derbies.

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.



SPRING SUITS.

SPRING OVERCOATS.

SPRING PANTS.

OUR CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

CONFIRMATION SUITS.

WORLD'S FAIR BANK.

Presenting Each Patron of Our Boys' Department - OF \$2 OR OVER - WITH A BANK LIKE CUT OPPOSITE.

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.

WORLD'S EXPOSITION TIME SAVINGS BANK CHICAGO 1893



I'LL BET A THOUSAND

Dollars that there is no imitation of Diamonds that can compare in any way with VOLTAIC DIAMONDS. I'll bet \$2,000 that no Jeweler can sell you Voltaic Diamonds at less price. R. E. ARONS, Jeweler, Sole Owner, 65 FIFTH AV. ap8-xv79u



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Dollars that there is no imitation of Diamonds that can compare in any way with VOLTAIC DIAMONDS. I'll bet \$2,000 that no Jeweler can sell you Voltaic Diamonds at less price. R. E. ARONS, Jeweler, Sole Owner, 65 FIFTH AV. ap8-xv79u



SHOES.

Facts are the foundation of good advertising. They are also the ground floor and the second story of ours. It is the facts we have told about shoes and the facts in the shoes themselves that have brought us our immense shoe business. 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 our prestige.

