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Select Poetry.

THE UNIVERSAL CORNER.

BY CHARLES MACAY.

When little John is five years old, With cheeks like peaches growing...

And older grown, a year in years, When tastes and pleasures vary...

And later still, when past his prime, He's run his round of pleasure...

Still faithful to the place he sits, With wife and children round him...

Still faithful to the place he sits, With wife and children round him...

Narrative.

LIONS AND LION HUNTING.

(From the Westminster Review.)

1. La Tueur de Lions. Par Jules Gerard.

Paris: 1855. 1. La Chasse au Lion et les autres Chasses d'Algerie.

Par Jules Gerard. Paris: 1854.

We know very little about lions, considering centuries of observation...

Even travelers and naturalists, perfectly aware of the fact that he belongs to the feline race...

And because sometimes a traveler has found himself in daylight face to face with a half-grown lion...

Let us first sketch the story of the lion's life, beginning with his marriage...

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In this order they came up to the lion, on seeing him he halted, and would not approach till Saadi bou-Nar struck his corpse with his hand to re-assure them.

And these men who in battle field would fight like lions! Five minutes afterwards, men, women, and children rushed out to see their vanquished foe, whom they apostrophized in eloquent insults.

At the morning broke, hundreds of Arabs came from all sides; but even in presence of their dead enemy their terror was not quite allayed; they kept within ten paces of his corpse, the women standing behind timid and curious.

Gerard soon found that bullets were of no uncertain resource against an animal whose frontal bone sufficed to flatten one fired at no greater distance than five paces, and who, when mortally wounded, had still strength enough to despatch half a dozen armed men.

He therefore exchanged bullets for ingots of iron, and even with these he ran a terrible risk, as we see from his first employment of them.

At midnight, under the light of a full moon, he met a young lion, a mere puppy of two years old, who, on seeing him, lay down across the path and did not move, even when Gerard was within fifteen paces.

Believing this to be the animal's trick, he thought better not to advance nearer; kneeling on the ground, he fired, aiming just beneath the shoulder.

How it happened he knew not, so sudden was the onslaught, but before he could see anything he was knocked down, and his hand touched the leg of the animal standing over him.

"Lucky for me," he thought, "my thick turban, which he tore with his teeth; slipping from him and leaving him no burnous, I blew out the brains of this foolish youngster while he was spending his wrath upon my clothes."

My first ingot had passed right through his body, below the shoulder; the second entering at his left ear came out at the right; the third, which I thought very simple thing to do, was to strike the lion; you have only to be a good shot and to be perfectly cool."

To be a good shot is not rare; but you have to meet such an antagonist, to wait him, perhaps not to see him until he is about to attack, and then to know that your first bullet will not kill him.

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Imagine what terror such a roar would inspire, heard in the lonely mountain passes under the silent stars. Suddenly the lion roared for two hours without stopping, and then descended into the valley to drink; a long silence followed, and then he began again more vigorously than ever.

Soon after, Gerard saw the fires blazing in the distance, and heard the men, women and dogs yelling as if possessed with devils; for one instant an attacking lion in the night, and then a clap; and then the lion seemed to continue his route quite tranquilly, not in the least disturbed by all this noise, which only seemed like triumphant music accompanying the powerful monarch on his march.

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The curious reader is referred to the two books named at the commencement of this article for further information.

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Suddenly the sky, which had been bright, was overclouded; the moon disappeared; the thunder began to mutter in the distance, like a distant lion; large drops of rain falling on the Arab, awakened him, and made him urge Gerard to retire within the tents.

At this moment the Arab shouted, "Be on your guard; the lion will come when the storm is at its height." Gerard, who had been waiting for the burnous, Gerard waited, smiling to observe the heroic resignation with which Saadi-bou-Nar draped himself in his burnous.

The rain, like all storm rain, rapidly subsided. The sky was once more lighted by the brilliant moonbeams occasionally piercing through the masses of cloud; at the horizon a few flashes of lightning were seen. Gerard, grateful for the truce, peered anxiously into space, and in one of the sudden flashes, there stood the lion, motionless, only a few paces from the enclosure of the donkey.

Accustomed to find fires lighted, dogs howling in terror, woman frantic, and men throwing lighted brands at his head, the lion was perfectly motionless on the meaning of this silence and calm.

Turning carefully, so as to take deliberate aim without the lion's perceiving him, Gerard felt his heart beat as the last cloud passed over the moon. He was seated with the left elbow on his knee, the rifle at his shoulder, looking alternately at the lion, which presented only a compact mass to his eye, and at his feet. The lion was within three paces of the cloud that traveled slowly over the moon.

At last his heart leaped—the moon shone in all her splendor. Never was sunlight more prized. There stood the lion, motionless as before; a magnificent creature, superbly majestic, with his head aloft, his main tossed by the wind, and falling to his knee, as if a black lion of the grandest species. His side was turned towards his enemy. Aiming just underneath the shoulder, Gerard fired, and at the same time that the explosion was reached by the mountains, rose the roar of rage and pain, and through the smoke the lion bounded on his assailant.

It was an awful moment. Gerard was within three paces; there was no time to aim; the second barrel was fired at hazard, and struck him in the breast; he rolled expiring at the hunter's feet. "At first," says Gerard, "I could not believe that the animal I had just seen bounding upon me in fury, and rending her air with his cries, was the monster lying motionless and dead at my feet."

On looking for my balls, I found the first, which had not been mortal, placed exactly as if with his mother; and the second fired almost at random, had been the one which proved fatal. From this moment I learned that it is not sufficient to aim accurately to kill a lion; and I began to see that which the heart or brain touched that death is certain; and the quarrel he is to death the more dangerous he is.

During the fight, but before he is wounded, if he catches a man, he is satisfied with knocking him down; and the man, probably protected by his burnous, gets off with a mere flesh wound from the terrible talons. But after the lion has been wounded, he tears his victim, mangles him in his jaws, till he sees other men upon to spring and when mortally wounded, his rage is some-

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