

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."  
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[OFFICE IN MARKET STREET, NEAR DEER.]

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The following lines, on the baptism of the Prince of Wales, as the babe is called, are copied from a Chartist paper. They breathe a spirit which will outlive the illusions of Royalty.

A Starvation Anthem for the Royal Charities.

Bring forth the babe in pomp and lace,  
While thousands starve and curse the light!  
But what of that!—on royal face  
Shame knows no blush, however slight.  
Bring forth the babe; a nation moans  
Will ring sweet music in his ears,  
For well we know a people's groans  
To royal ears were always dear.

Bring forth the babe—down, courtiers, down!  
And bow your leagued knees in dust,  
Before a child's beslobber'd gown—  
(Our children cannot find a crust!)  
A Christ was born, no servile throng  
Around the Saviour's manger met;  
No flatterers raised their fulsome song,  
But what was Christ to Albert's pet?

God, who has heard the widow's cry,  
God who has heard the orphan's wail,  
Thou, too, dost sit upon a throne,  
But none round thee of famine die!  
Things like this babe of royal birth,  
Who boast their princely "right divine,"  
Are but thy parodies on earth—  
Their's is oppression—mercy thine.

Bring forth the babe! From foreign lands  
Fresh kindly vampires flit to greet  
This new-born in my nation's hands,  
For royal mothers give no treat.  
Bring forth the mother of princely whim,  
And let your prayers mount high and gay;  
For ought you do to pray for him,  
Who'll prey on us enough some day!

O! who would grudge to squander gold  
On such a glorious babe as this?  
What though our babes be starved and cold,  
They have no claim on earthly bliss.  
Ours are no monarch's German brood,  
But English born and English bred;  
Then let them live and die in need,  
While the plump Coburg thing is fed!

Christen the babe, Archbishop proud,  
Strange servant of the lowly Christ;  
Thou sinner to your purse allowed;  
For him the smallest loaf sufficed.  
Though holy water's sanctity now,  
My lord you may dismiss your fears;  
Take, to baptize the infant's brow,  
A starving people's bitter tears.

The Dutch Solomon.  
There was a Dutchman,  
His name may have been Schmidt or may be Brown,  
I only knew there was 'n in the town.  
Another such a man.  
He had grown rich and fat, and full of grease,  
And so they made him Justice of the Peace.

Well, once upon a time  
A Spaniard and a Frenchman came before him,  
With a perplexing difference to lose him.  
The Frenchman's crime  
Was simple as a dance of *fiancée*,  
Which made the Spaniard in a passion dance.  
'Twas all about a pig.  
The Frenchman was a master of the fiddle,  
With which the Spaniard said, he tried to fiddle  
Folks small and big.  
The Frenchman taught the Spaniard's pig to dance,  
Neglecting to get the payment in advance.

Now education  
Is certainly a thing that should be paid for;  
For learned pigs, as well as men, are made for  
An occupation.  
By which to get a living; they should give  
The teacher, too, a chance to live.

But the Spaniard swore  
That his fat pig was taught a queer *chassez*,  
By which it broke the pen and waltz'd away;  
And what is more,  
He swore the Frenchman had secured the pig,  
Instructing it in a Swartwouter jig!

The fiddler stated—  
Senor Espanole was a pack of lies—  
A rogue—a nuisance—ack—otherwise  
Intoxicated!  
And so the two kept swearing at each other,  
Until the Dutch Judge got into a bother.

Against the diddler  
Six witnesses emphatically swore,  
And, what was curious, as many more  
Swore for the fiddler.  
This puzzled the Dutch Justice so much  
That he swore "Thunder!" in the best of Dutch.

The Judge got nettled;  
He said the pig to some one must belong;  
And which was right and which was in the wrong  
Was to be settled.  
Six swore to what the other six denied,  
Which made a ticklish question to decide.

'Tis all fudge!  
Six of you must be liar—dat ish true—  
Yaw, and de oder six are lyn' too."  
Exclaimed the Judge.  
"Dagner oud blitzen!" listen to the law:  
I find de little pig an owner—yaw!"

And then he closed the spot;—  
He sent the angry brigands away;  
Caused the twelve lying witnesses to pay  
The costs of court.  
And took the pig himself! So ends the rig—  
And not another word about the pig!"

PHAZMA.  
TOMATO FIGS.—These are certainly a luxury—one which comes within the reach of all, for every man who can put down pork for his family use, can put down a jar of them, and by so doing the utility of tomato pills, which now rank so high as a newspaper medicine, will be superseded, for in preparing the figs the medicinal qualities of the fruit are all concentrated. At the South they are already in high repute.—And at the north too, as far as they have been tried.

# SUNBURY AMERICAN.

AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JEFFERSON.

By Masser & Eiseley.

Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, June 25, 1842.

Vol. II—No. XXXIX.

## SERPENT HUNTING; AN ADVENTURE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

Business commenced rather with pleasure than profit had kept me roaming for some months among the West India Islands, that land of magnificence and discomfort; and from all that I had heard there, and more particularly from what came under my own observation, I can truly affirm that to Europeans in general it is a land replete with novelty and interest, and to writers both of fiction and truth, a field in which they may reap an abundant harvest of reputation. I at length found myself at Barbadoes, without any fixed resolution either to return or proceed farther on in my wanderings.—In such a wavering and unsettled state of mind, a little matter will sometimes turn the scale. I had carried a letter to a gentleman of the island, with whom I formed a most agreeable acquaintanceship; and in consequence of the description he gave me of the coast of South America I was induced to form the resolution of visiting at least a part of that country before I should think of bending my course homewards. Being furnished by him with letters to one or two individuals who might be of service to me, I took a passage in a ship bound to Demerara, and after a voyage in no degree remarkable for shortness or novelty, I landed there in safety. I will not stop here to describe all I saw. Suffice it to say, that having viewed all I considered worthy of being noticed, I set off across the country to deliver one of the letters I carried with me to a gentleman from whose attention and knowledge I had been assured I should obtain much information. After a journey of some days, I reached the place: and considering that I had been previously an utter stranger, I was received with a degree of warmth and kindness I could scarcely have anticipated. The estate, or rather plantation, on which I had been so kindly invited to take up my residence for some time, and where I had resolved to spend a few weeks in examining the local scenery and curiosities, lay upon the banks of a river that comes down from the mountains of Guiana. Mr. Heinvaunt (the proprietor,) although the superintendence of his estate occupied a great part of his time, contrived to devote no inconsiderable portion of it to my amusement. Accompanied by a couple of servants, and Cesar, a shrewd and active negro who held the post of hunter (a personage not only useful, but even necessary to those who reside on colonial estates distant from any town, as many of the delicacies of the table are furnished by him,) we made frequent excursions up the country, and committed occasionally sad havoc among the quadrupeds and feathered tribes with which that region abounds. At other times we manned a couple of canoes, and descending the river, we employed ourselves in fishing excursions, or in taking a shot at such birds as unfortunately for themselves came within range of our pieces. Those who are acquainted with the general appearance and topography of the northern coast of South America, know well that from the flatness of the country so it approaches the sea, many rivers of considerable magnitude divide themselves into numerous streams or canals, before mingling their waters with those of the ocean. The deltas or islands formed by these streams are sometimes of great extent, consisting, like most of that coast, of marshy or savannah land, partly bare, and partly overrun by tall reeds and canes, or other aquatic plants. In the thick and almost impenetrable recesses of these, reptiles of various kinds often find a retreat, from which they occasionally emerge in search of their prey. The streams are in many places frequented by aquatic birds of the most variegated and beautiful plumage, and the waters afford several kinds of fish, which from their delicacy and flavor, amply repay the labor employed in taking them.

I had been informed, both by Mr. Heinvaunt and Cesar, that serpents of a great size had been frequently seen by them crossing the lagoons from one island to another, and that by great exertion, and not without difficulty, they had succeeded in destroying a few. I confess I had been for some time anxious to discover one of these reptiles; not that I wished a close connection with it—far from it. The little I had seen of them had given me an aversion to them, and this feeling was much heightened by the numerous stories I had heard of their fearful powers of destruction and degeneration. I had no objections, however, to view one at a distance, "dragging its slow trembling length along." But in all our excursions nothing of this kind was to be seen, and I had begun to conceive some latent suspicions that Mr. Heinvaunt and Cesar had a little exaggerated the number and size of the reptiles they had seen and destroyed. But an adventure soon after this befel me, which made me entirely change my opinion of their veracity, and convinced me that their account rather fell short of than exceeded the truth. Occasionally, when pressing business detained Mr. Heinvaunt at his plantation, or called him to a distance, and when I

found time hang heavy upon my hands, Cesar was always willing to volunteer his services as my guide and assistant in any rambles which I wished to undertake; and a clever and active fellow I indeed found him. He was a capital shot, and unequalled in the success with which he contrived to hook his fish when not one would look at the bait belonging to another.

One day, about two or three weeks after my arrival, Mr. Heinvaunt informed me that he was under the necessity of going to a plantation distant about ten miles, and as the way lay partly through the woods, and trackless savannahs, he was obliged to take Cesar with him being the only one on the estate who had a thorough knowledge of the way, and who, from his dexterity and address, proved a useful and agreeable attendant. He added, that he should be back early in the afternoon, and that if I wished to take a stroll, or go on the water, any of the rest of his people should be at my disposal. After Mr. Heinvaunt had rode away, I strolled about the plantation an hour or two, looking at every thing to amuse myself; but getting terribly wearied with doing nothing, I told one of the people to get the lines ready, for it was my intention to go out a-fishing for some time, the day being rather warm and sultry for enjoying a shooting excursion. These being soon ready, I likewise sent for my gun and declining the offer he made to attend me, I pushed out into the stream, and dropped slowly down the river. The current being very slow, I was while in reaching the place where the river branches off into a number of streams. I guided my canoe into one of those in which I had formerly been along with Cesar, and where our sport had been very good. The stream in general was not above eighteen or twenty feet. I paddled my light canoe up and down this, trying to get a shot at some of the beautiful birds which often frequent these lagoons. But the birds were scarce and shy. Fatigued with this unsuccessful sport, I set the lines, and paddled about for some time, I drew them up; but whether they had not been baited as well as Cesar used to do it, or whether the fish were as shy as the birds, I cannot tell; but after a few trials I got tired of this sport likewise. Thinking I would be more successful elsewhere, I proceeded about a quarter of a mile farther down, and set the lines. By this time the day had become exceedingly sultry and oppressive. Seeing there was no prospect of a shot, I took off my stockings and shoes, and bathed my feet in the water, and, working my canoe to the other side, I had my gun ready loaded for a shot upon the benches, and stretched myself alongside of it, waiting till it was time to draw the lines which I had set. In this position I fell asleep, overcome, as I suppose, by the heat of the day, and the fatigue I had undergone.

I know not how long I may have slept; but I was roused from my slumber by a curious sensation, as if some animal were licking my foot. In that state of half stupor felt after immediately awaking from sleep, I cast my eyes downward, and never till my dying day shall I forget the thrill of horror that passed through my frame on perceiving the neck and head of a monstrous serpent covering my foot with saliva, preparatory, as I immediately flashed upon my mind, to commencing the process of swallowing it. I had faced death in many shapes—on the ocean—in the battle-field; but never till that moment had I conceived he could approach me in a guise so terrible. For a moment, I was fascinated. But recollection of my state soon came to my aid, and I quickly withdrew my foot from the monster, which was all the while glaring upon me with its basilisk eyes, and at the same moment I instinctively grasped my gun, which was lying loaded beside me. The reptile, apparently disturbed by my motion (I conceive it had previously, from my inattention, taken me for a dead carcass,) drew its head below the level of the canoe. I had just sufficient time to raise myself half up, pointing the muzzle of my piece in the direction of the serpent, when its head and neck again appeared moving backwards and forwards as if in search of the object it had lost. The muzzle of my gun was within a yard or two of it; my finger was on the trigger; I fired, and it received the shot in its head. Rearing up part of its body into the air with a horrible hiss, which made my blood run cold—and, by its contortions, displaying to my sight a great part of its enormous bulk, which had hitherto escaped my notice—it seemed ready to throw itself upon me, and to embrace me in its monstrous coils. Dropping my gun, by a single stroke of the paddles I made the canoe shoot up the stream out of its reach. Just as I was escaping, I could observe that the shot had taken effect, for blood was beginning to drip from its head. But the wound appeared rather to have enraged than subdued him. Unfortunately, all my shot was expended, otherwise I would most certainly, at a respectful distance, have given him a salutation of the same kind as I had just bestowed. All that I have

described passed in a much shorter time than I have taken up in recounting it.

As I went up the stream with all the velocity I could impart to the canoe, I heard the reeds, among which the animal was apparently taking refuge, crashing under its weight. I never once thought of the lines I had left; but hurrying as fast as the canoe would go through the water, I was not long in reaching the landing-place before Mr. Heinvaunt's house. Hastily mooring the canoe, I jumped ashore, and hurried up to the house, where I found Mr. Heinvaunt, who had just arrived. You may be certain I lost no time in communicating to him the almost miraculous escape I had made, and the wound I had inflicted on the animal. "In that case," said he, "it cannot escape; we must immediately go in search of it; and instantly summoning Cesar, he told him to get the guns ready, and to bring two of his fellows with him. "If you choose to assist us in finishing the adventure you have begun, and to have a second encounter with your novel antagonist, we shall show you some of the best and most dangerous sport our country affords." I protested that nothing was farther from my intention than staying behind, and added, that had not my shot been expended, we should not have parted on so easy terms. "In general," said he, "it is very dangerous to attack them at close quarters after being wounded, as they become extremely infuriated; and there are not wanting instances in which life has been sacrificed by doing so. But we now take such precaution in approaching them, that it is next to impossible that any accident can happen." Just as he finished saying this, Cesar re-appeared, himself armed with the club, one of those which he followed him carrying a weapon of the same kind, while the other was armed with a weapon similar to a bill-hook. This Mr. Heinvaunt told me was to clear a road among the reeds, if the animal should have retreated among them; the club being reckoned the best instrument for a close encounter. We were soon seated in the canoes, and glided down the stream as fast as a couple of pairs of brawny arms could urge us. In a short time we reached the spot where my adventure had happened. The small part of the bank not covered with reeds, bore, from its sanguine hue, evident proof that the wound the animal had received could not have been slight. Exactly opposite this the reeds were crushed and broken and a sort of passage was formed among them so wide, that a man could with little difficulty enter. Mr. Heinvaunt commanded a halt, to see that the arms were in proper order. All being right, we listened attentively, in order to hear if there was any noise which might direct us to our enemy. No sound, however, was heard. One of the negroes entered first, clearing with his bill-hook whatever obstructed our way. He was followed by Mr. Heinvaunt and me, with our guns; while Cesar and his fellow-servant brought up the rear. The reeds were in general nearly double our height, and at the same time pretty close. However, we easily made our way through them, partly assisted by the track which the serpent had evidently made.

We had penetrated, I should suppose, about thirty yards when the fellow who was in advance gave the alarm that we were close upon the animal. Mr. Heinvaunt ordered him behind, and, advancing along with me, we saw through the reeds part of the body of the monster coiled up and part of it stretched out; but owing to the thickness its head was invisible. Disturbed, and apparently irritated by our approach, it appeared from its movements, about to turn and assail us. We had our guns ready and just as we caught a glimpse of its head, we fired, both of us almost at the same moment. From the obstruction of the reeds, all our shot could not have taken effect; but what did take effect, seemed to be sufficient; for it fell; hissing, and rolling itself into a variety of contortions. Even yet it was dangerous to approach it. But Cesar, who seemed to possess a great deal of coolness and audacity, notomising his master and me not to fire again in the direction of the animal, forced a way through the reeds at one side, and, making a kind of circuit, came in before it, and succeeded in hitting it a violent blow, which completely stunned it; and a few repetitions of this gave us the victory. We could now examine the creature with safety. We found that a good part of our shot had lodged about its head and neck, and would probably have proved fatal to it, even if we had left it to its fate. I confess it was not without a shudder that I handled and examined it, when I thought how nearly I had escaped from furnishing it with a meal.

We set ourselves to work, and not without difficulty did we succeed in dragging the huge carcass to the edge of the stream, and in embarking it in one of the canoes, to which it formed a pretty fair loading. It was not far from sunset when the expedition landed on the bank near Mr. Heinvaunt's house. He soon got sufficient assistance in conveying the car-

case up, and in depositing it in a place of safety. On measuring it, we found it to be nearly forty feet in length, and of proportional thickness. Mr. Heinvaunt informed me that it was the largest he had seen killed, although he had often seen others under circumstances which convinced him that they must have been of a far greater size.

It was not until I was seated at a late dinner, that I felt myself a little overcome with the usual exertion I had undergone on so sultry and oppressive a day. But as the evening wore on, I completely recovered; and never do I recollect spending a more agreeable one. The adventure however and the consciousness of my escape, must have been deeply impressed upon my mind; for, during some months after, I often started from my sleep with the cold sweat upon my brow, imagining myself crushed and expired in the embraces of a horrid reptile.

A NEW METHOD OF PRODUCING CHOICE TREES.—We have seen the experiment successfully made of producing young trees by binding around the stalk of a thrifty shoot, fine rich mould, which is kept firmly in its place by cloth or other bandages. This should be sufficiently developed moist, and applied soon after the buds begin to expand in the spring. The bark in contact with earth, and ought to be punctured in several places which gives facility to protrusion of the new root. When these are sufficiently developed, the stalk may be cut off below the earth, and set out in a place congenial to its growth. D. J. Broome Esq., informs us he procured a choice orange plant in this way, in the short space of six weeks, having the earth around the stem by a single plantain leaf, at the expiration of this time it was transferred into a box of finely prepared mould, and brought from Brazil to this country, with a foliage and fruit upon it. We are not certain this plan would answer for the production of all fruits, but the simplicity and ease with which the experiment can be made, entitled it to a thorough trial.  
Amer. Agr.

TO PREVENT THE ROTTING OF POSTS IN THE GROUND.—Place ashes or lime on the surface of the earth around the post. This will render them twice as durable, and will prove a great saving where the fence is costly. Lime Mortar has been commended to encase all that part of the post which is under the surface; but this is not necessary, since the bottom of the post will often last as long as the top.

THE TRUE ENJOYMENT OF RICHES.—How much of truth and beauty is there in the following extract from a letter of Pope's. Those who are favored by fortune, would follow his example, then the possession of wealth would indeed be a source of happiness.  
"I am rich enough, and can afford to give away £100 a year. I would not *crave* upon the earth without doing a little good. I will enjoy the pleasure of what I give, by giving it alive, and seeing another enjoy it. When I die, I should be ashamed to leave enough for a monument, if there were a waiting friend above ground."

A LIBERAL PATRON.—Mr. Frederick Brown, druggist of Boston, pays \$1,000 a year for advertising his Sarsaparilla and Tomato Bitters. This may seem a large amount, but Mr. B. is no doubt convinced that it is "money well laid out."

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY.—The Porter of the Long Island Bank having received the exchange from the Phenix Bank this morning, while crossing the Fulton Ferry, had his coat tail cut off, which contained the whole amount, near \$25,000.—N. Y. American.

OLD AND VIGOROUS.—It is stated in a French paper that a woman recently died at St. Martin Valmeroux, in the Cantal, at the age of one hundred and ten years! During the last thirty years she had never laid down on a bed, and yet the day before she died she had sufficient strength to give a beating with a stick to her eldest daughter, who is seventy-two years of age!

THE VALUE OF LIFE AND DEATH.—The British Parliament gave to Dr. Jenner £10,000 for his discovery of vaccination, which has saved the lives of millions.

The same Government gave to Gen. Sharp an annuity of £1,200 a year for inventor of a new species of shells by which millions may be killed.

GOOD FOR HIM. At one of our fashionable watering places recently happened a self-important foreigner, who, upon leaving the dinner bell rung at half past three o'clock, exclaimed—"Is it possible you dine at this early hour in this country? Why, I have not been used to dining till 7 or 8 o'clock, in London."  
"Our second table folks dine here very late also," was the reply of a Yankee present.

A FISKMAN'S TOAST.—The Ladies.—The only incendiaries who kindle a flame which water will not extinguish.

## PRICES OF ADVERTISING.

1 square 1 insertion, - - - \$0 50  
1 do 2 do - - - 0 75  
1 do 3 do - - - 1 00  
Every subsequent insertion, - - - 0 25  
Yearly Advertisements, (with the privilege of alteration) one column \$25; half column, \$18, three squares, \$12; two squares, \$9; one square, \$5. Without the privilege of alteration a liberal discount will be made.  
Advertisements left without directions as to the length of time they are to be published, will be continued until ordered out, and charged accordingly.  
Sixteen lines make a square.

YANKEE WIT.—A Yankee, travelling in one of the Southern States, stopped at an inn for the night. He saw his horse well lodged in a barn, and entered the house where he found a party of Southern gentlemen assembled on their return from a horse race. The Yankee during the evening amused the company with jokes.

In the morning on preparing to mount his horse, to resume his journey, he found him too lame to proceed further. In this dilemma, the Southerners met him in the yard, where they were preparing to mount some of their fine racers. Says one of the Southerners to the Yankee:

"My friend, we have heard much of Yankee wit and tricks; do show us such a trick before you leave us."

The Yankee attempted to assure them that he was not witty, nor had any tricks to exhibit; but in vain.

Whereupon, says he, "well, gentlemen, if you insist upon it, I will just show you a trick. Let any of you start his horse as fast as he pleases, and I will bet you a 'five spot' that I will run and jump up behind."

"Done!" cried several voices at once. One rider immediately set forward at full speed. He found no yankee on the crupper behind him. He stopped to claim the bet; but then, he discovered that the Yankee had run after him, (on his starting,) for a few rods; and had afterwards continued jumping up in the air; he had jumped up behind!"—It was decided that the Yankee had won the bet.

"Who could net do that?" exclaimed the mortified Southerner, as he looked over the money.

"You can't?" said the yankee. "I will bet you my horse of that, my lad!—here, mount him Sir! There, start ahead!" The Yankee mounted the horse, and set forward at a steady pace. But just as the Southerner had run forwards some rods, and was about to "jump up behind!" to his infinite chagrin he saw the Yankee face about, on his horse's back riding with his back towards the horse's head! The Southern looked fire brands and daggers! And he continued to look until the Yankee and his horse were out of sight. And he has never seen either of them to this day.

DEWISHED THE DEER.—The Bay State Democrat writes, "the time must come when a man shall take weight in community in proportion to the size of his soul, and not in the weight and size of his money bags, or to the extent of his lands, or the value of his merchandise."

THE WESTERN BARKING.—The following sublime burst of eloquence astonished the natives in Arkansas (classical Ruckensack) some few weeks since. An overseer had killed a negro named Daniel. The advocate wound up his defence thus:

"Gentlemen of the jury—I know that Daniel will no longer pick the white cotting ball from the cotting stalk—no more enliven the midnight crowd with the patting of the romantic jawbone, and the playing of the sentimental jewsharp—will never again cast his angling line into the broad superfluous majestic and outrageous bosom of the eternal Mississippi. Yes, I know that he now reposes 'alone in his glory,' on the north corner of a bleak hillside, with his eyes turned towards the cerulean heavens, and his big toe sticking out a foot! Yet, is that any reason why my client should be hung! I think not! I rather suppose not!"  
Koch, Dem.

EATING A COAT.—An English paper contains the following tough paragraph—  
"A person went last week into a public house near Dudley, and after some conversation offered to bet a wager of ten shillings that he would eat the coat off his back if they would allow him to cut the buttons off. The wager was laid, and the coat was cut to pieces and put in a frying pan, and after well frying it in lard he ate every bit of his coat and won the wager."

THE LATE MR. GRIZZLE.—A very worthy fisherman by the name of Grizzle was drowned some time since, and all search for his body proved unavailing. After it had been in the water some months, however, it was discovered floating upon the surface, and taken to the shore whereupon Mr. Smith was despatched to convey the intelligence to the afflicted widow.

Mr. Smith.—Well, Mrs. Grizzle, we have found Mr. Grizzle's body.

Mrs. Grizzle.—You don't say so!

Mr. S.—Yes we have—the jury has set on it, and found it full of eels.

Mrs. G.—You don't say Mr. Grizzle's body is full of eels!

Mr. S.—Yes it is, and we want to know what you will have done with it!

Mrs. G.—Why, how many eels should you think there is in him!

Mr. S.—Why about a bushel.  
Mrs. G.—Well, then I think you had better send the eels up to the house, and set him agate.  
Boston Post.