

PLAYING HOOKEY.

I remember when in boyhood,
When a step advanced from my school,
When in through the schoolroom windows
floated sweet the wild birds' call.

And to-day a robin twittered
Through the window, and my littered
desk beneath the ink-splattered one
my schooldays used to know.

THE MAN AND THE SNAKE

By E. MIRRIELES.

All round the circle of the hills,
The dawning sky pressed down unclouded
to the touch of the parched rim-rook.

haunted, his convulsed body fell
back to quiet, the bird was gone.
Shudderingly the man raised his eyes.

The man lay stretched on the hot
earth, stark naked, his face turned
to the sky. A buckskin thong passed
across his throat and was drawn
tight between two roots of sage-brush.

"Hey, rattler!" he called cheerily,
and scraped some grains of sand
toward the recumbent body.

In this last freedom the final
ingenuity of savage captors had found
expression. With the left hand tight
clenched, the snake's wild stroke fell
just short of its aim.

Sometimes, indeed, the growing heat
drew from his lips a broken sigh.
Sometimes birds, many now, swooped
low around him with hoarse cries
and flapping of heavy wings.

Since early morning, through the
increasing heat of the day, the man
had lain there, grim and silent as the
gray hills around him, save when now
and then he raised his hoarse voice
in defiant shouts.

Not for his reason's sake dared he
again give way to the expression of
fear. It was a comfort to him in
these moments that the snake showed
no apprehension of their gruesome
neighbors or eyed them only with the
avid eyes of hunger.

The man had been placed there to
die. He knew it and the knowledge
tinged his thoughts with a strange
curiosity. There were three ways in
which death might reach him.

But as the morning passed a new
anxiety should die first? It seemed to
waken with every hour and the man
trembled. He spoke to it soothingly
at times and had, or believed he had,
the power of quieting its paroxysms.

There was one other chance. An
unexpected rain-storm, a heavy night
dew in that barren place, would so
stretch the slender buckskin thong
which held the rattler that unaided he
might reach and strike his victim.

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On one of these weary journeys of
slight a tiny speck of black above the
western hills attracted him—a steady
pin-point in the dazzling blue.

A buzzard had risen at his cry and
perched on the sage-brush at his head.
He studied it quietly for a while, its
course, draggled feathers, its filmed,
eyes and cruel beak.

At last, when the sun lay low on
the horizon, he ceased the movement
and again looked about him. Overhead
a cloud of birds, scared by the sudden
quiet, hung high in air.

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For a long time he waited. Then,
with a sobbing breath, he flung round,
straining his body against the cords
which held him.

The snake too had moved. The
thong that bound it was drawn taut
and painfully it had thrust its swollen
head across its fingers. It lay thus,
outstretched, not striking, its glazing
eyes on the man's face.

For an instant they stared thus, man
and bird. Then with a cry the man
flung himself against his bonds,
struggling and straining at them for
escape from this new horror.

Between the cries the man could
hear the abrupt stopping of the wagon.
The confused exclamation of men's
voices. Next instant the dog's moist
breath whiffed on his forehead and a
man's face bent to his own.

neath them, its cool blade searing like
fire on the blistered flesh. Hands
dragged him from his place. A man on
either side he was held erect. Through
a maze of pain and weakness, he could
hear the comment of his rescuers.

Helena Objects to Great Big Bald
Hill—Will Make a Park on It.
The strangest and most interesting
park project ever undertaken in
this country is to be found at Helena,

In China women have some
"rights" they do not have with us.
They have the privilege, for instance,
of going to war, and in 1853, no less
than 500,000 women were mar-
shalled as soldiers, under women of-
ficers.

European newspapers have been
printing advertisements declaring it
to be to the advantage of Count
Montecarlo to make known his
whereabouts. At last he was brought
to light in Siberia, acting as a rail-
way guard.

Once Abundant—Attempts Made to
Reintroduce Them.
Among the exhibits at a meeting of
the Zoological Society last evening
was the almost perfect skull of a wild
boar which was recently dug up dur-
ing building operations in James
street, Oxford street.

The Lights of London in A. D. 1903.
The decision to use gas in preference
to the electric arc for the artificial
lighting of the new station at
Victoria marks another stage in the
duel between the two illuminants.

Government Had No Objection.
The late Nat. Head, once Governor
of New Hampshire, sometimes sur-
prised those who approached him to
gain his political influences by his
witty parrying of their requests.

Too Big a Field.
Years ago, while Reverend Shan-
daloupe was a student at the seminary,
he undertook, one vacation season,
to sell fire-extinguishers.

Tennyson Variation.
"Bills to the right of us, bills to the
left of us, bills that are ruinous" papa
dear thundered.

Earl Cromer is one of the most
thorough students of the Bible whom
the English public have among their
prominent men.

THINGS WORTH KNOWING
Reindeer are more numerous in
Norway than horses.
The modern telephone, the inven-
tion of Alexander G. Bell, is said to
have been developed from principles
discovered in 1864.

GOOD ROADS
Earth Roads.
A road should not be wider than
twenty-five feet. An ordinary rain
will never hurt a road, but the storm
waters and snow thawing in spring
will cut and wash out the roads;

WHOLE FAMILY AT SCHOOL
Kansas State Senator and His Wife
Taking University Course.
When the University of Kansas
closed its doors for the summer vaca-
tion this week all the members of
the family of State Senator C. I.
Martin, of Fort Scott, including Mr.
Martin himself, were freed from their
books. It is somewhat unusual for a
man of middle age to go to school,

Household Matters
A Novel Sandwich.
If a novel sandwich is wanted,
butter alternate slices of brown and
white bread and pile them one above
the other into a loaf. Cut the new
loaf across the slices, butter them
and pile them so that when the second
loaf is cut the slices will be in
white and brown blocks. Press the
slices very closely together before
cutting at all.

"Friends of Germany in America"
have presented \$25,000 for the support
of the Germanic museum at
Harvard, in honor of Emperor William's
silver-wedding anniversary.

If one were asked to name the
most patient man on earth, the reply
would probably be—Paul Cinque-
vall. The famous feat of throwing
up a hen's egg and catching it on a
plate without breaking it necessitated
nine years of constant practice.

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How to Train Your Dog.
In managing your dogs there will
not perhaps be much fun unless you
can follow your individual notions
on what constitutes enjoyment. There
is not perhaps a single thrill in twist-
ing your soul to carry out processes
which rasp against the grain.

Wild Boars in England.
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