

A DANGEROUS PLANT.

It Sucks the Blood of Whatever Comes in Contact with It.

Leroy Dunstan, the well known naturalist of this city, who has recently returned from Central America, where he had spent nearly two years in the study of the flora and fauna of the country, relates the finding of a singular growth in one of the swamps about the great lakes of Nicaragua.

He was engaged in hunting for botanical and entomological specimens in this swamp, which is known as San Sebastian's, when he heard his dog cry out as if in agony from a distance. Running to the spot from which the animal's cries came, Mr. Dunstan found him enveloped in a perfect network of what seemed to be a fine, ropelike tissue of roots or fibers, the nature of which was unknown to him.

The plant or vine seemed composed entirely of bare, interlacing stems, resembling more than anything else the branches of the weeping willow denuded of all foliage, but of a dark, nearly black hue, and covered with a thick, viscid gum that exuded from the pores. Drawing his knife, Mr. Dunstan endeavored to cut the animal free, but it was only with the greatest difficulty that he succeeded in severing the fleshy, muscular fiber. To his horror and amazement the naturalist then saw that the dog's body was covered with blood, while his hairless skin appeared to have been actually sucked or puckered in spots, and the animal staggered as if from weakness and exhaustion.

In cutting the vine the twigs curled like living, sinuous fingers about Mr. Dunstan's hand, and it required no slight force to free the member from its clinging grasp, which left the flesh red and blistered. The gum exuding from the vine was of a grayish dark tinge, remarkably adhesive and of a disagreeable animal odor, very powerful and nauseating to inhale.

The native servants who accompanied Mr. Dunstan manifested the greatest horror of the vine, which they call the saganas de diable, the devil's seine or snare, and were full of stories of its death dealing powers.

One of these stories was of an Englishman residing in Managua, who, while hunting in the swamp a few years ago, lay down beneath a tree where a large and powerful specimen of this singular plant was growing, and, inadvertently falling asleep, awoke to find himself enveloped in its web, and in spite of every effort made to extricate him, perished in its deadly embrace.

Another story was of an escaped convict who had hidden in the swamp, whose bones had been found in the folds of the saganas only a short time before Mr. Dunstan's visit. These stories, remarkable as they seem, are firmly believed in by the people, but the only three specimens which Mr. Dunstan was able to find were all small ones, though the meshes of the largest would probably, if extended in a straight line, measure nearly, if not quite, 100 feet. He was able to discover very little about the nature of the plant, owing to the difficulty of handling it, for its grasp can only be torn away with loss of skin and even of flesh, but, so near as Mr. Dunstan could ascertain, its power of suction is contained in a number of infinitesimal mouths or little suckers, which, ordinarily closed, open for the reception of food.

The gum exuded seems to serve the two-fold purpose of increasing its tenacity and overcoming a victim by its sickening odor. The plant is found only in low, wet places, and usually beneath a large tree, and while dormant seems only a network of dry, dead vines covering the black earth for several feet, but coming into contact with anything will instantly begin to twist and twine upward in a horrible, life like manner, breaking out with the gum like substance spoken of before, and envelop the object with a celerity almost incredible.

If the substance is animal the blood is drawn off and the carcass or refuse then dropped. A lump of raw meat being thrown it, in the short time of five minutes the blood will be thoroughly drunk up and the mass thrown aside. Its voracity is almost beyond belief, it devouring at one time over ten pounds of meat, though it may be deprived of all food for weeks without any apparent loss of vitality. Mr. Dunstan attempted to bring away a root of the saganas, but it died during his return voyage, growing so foul with a strong odor of real animal corruption that he was obliged to get rid of it.—New Orleans Cor. Atlanta Constitution.

No Snakes, but Mosquitoes.

There are no snakes in Alaska, perhaps, because no snakes would live there. The only frog ever discovered by explorers there was found by my own party some years ago. Probably, however, there is no part of the world where mosquitoes are more dreadful than in Alaska. The soil is of a soft, spongy character that holds water for days after a rain, and the insects are bred out of it in such swarms that it is hardly possible for man or any other animal to exist among them. They attack the moose with such ferocity as to drive the beasts into the rivers, where the natives attack them with knives. Bears and reindeer are plentiful. Perhaps the worst part of Alaska is that to the northwest, south of the Yukon river—crossed but once by a party of explorers, who nearly starved to death.—Washington Star.

Simple.

It is a fortunate boy that has an older brother to give him the benefit of his longer experience. One of our exchanges cites an illustrative example:

"Don't sleep with your mouth open in that way," said Fred to his younger brother, as the daylight began to peer into the bed chamber. "You should breathe through your nose." "Yes, but I don't know when my mouth is open. What do you do when you wake up and find your mouth open?" "What do I do?" answered Fred, desirously. "Why, I get up and shut it!" Youth's Companion.

TREASURER'S SALE

OF SEATED AND UNSEATED LANDS AND LOTS IN CAMBRIA COUNTY A. D. 1890.

I, THOMAS E. HOWE, Treasurer of Cambria county, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in pursuance of the several Acts of Assembly in said Commonwealth directing the time and manner of selling Unseated Lands for taxes, do hereby give notice that the following tracts of Unseated Lands and Lots of ground in the said county of Cambria, or such parts thereof as may be necessary to pay arrearages of taxes due thereon for one year or more will be offered for sale at the COURT HOUSE, in the BOROUGH OF EBENSBURG, on the SECOND MONDAY, being the

9TH DAY OF JUNE NEXT, and continue by adjournment from day to day until the whole be sold for such arrearages of taxes and costs necessarily accruing thereon:

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Martin McDonald, 27 28

Samuel Calvin, 99 30

Robert Hoss, 92 01

Jacob Clum, 92 01

Jno. B. Lilly, 52 56

E. Shoemaker, 15 71

J. T. Storm, 20 02

Thos. Smith Park, 47 63

A. Nichols, 3 39

H. M. Neal, 88 04

Same, 6 59

Dalton and Anderson (heirs), 61 33

BARR TWP.

Gray & Wyland, 32 76

Thos. Edwards (part), 15 48

Michael Snyder, 35 01

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Owen D. Williams, 3 39

May Bails, 12 55

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Cambria Land Co., 7 51

Gabriel Borng (Snyder), 17 73

Cambria Land Co., 17 73

William Cameron, 1 78

Emanuel Brailer, 35 84

J. Barker, 8 73

George Harf, 8 73

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John Boyd, 7 75

Andrew Buff, 13 76

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James C. Fisher, 3 38

Jno. J. Evans & Co., 13 78

Joseph Dunmyer, 17 28

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Henry Kepple, 22 06

Wm. Barton, 18 34

Garrick Cattinger, 27 23

J. H. Fiske, 7 89

Wm. F. Walker, 19 04

John Dean, 27 24

Samuel Haggerty, 93 88

James Dalton, 114 55

James Swartz, 14 55

Cambria Coal & Iron Co., 96 61

Israel Jones, 41 12

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Wm. Smith, D. D., 112 10

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Jno. Fulton, et al., 12 62

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Jos. M. Miller, 4 83

Joseph Thomas, 49 82

SECHLER & PEOLR, 4 42

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Sophia Hurl, 30 30

James Condon, 104 16

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Geo. D. Morgan, 76 03

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Henry Philips, 90 37

Fitch & Boyton, 19 37

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Charles Keastead, 96 23

Alex. Brown, 96 23

Thomas Brown, 136 68

Wm. Hinkle, 86 79

John Harris, 89 92

James Reed, 111 23

John Harris, No. 1, 51 29

Fred. Mollenaux, 93 94

White, Lentz & White, 131 94

Thomas Sanburn, 131 94

Simon Walker, 49 72

Henry Philips, 100 30

James McClay, 125 50

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Nathan Cowan, 3 90

John Dean, 12 54

John C. Gaudin, 104 16

Fred Mollenaux, 17 36

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Wallace and Krebs, 13 75

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Jno. M. Crane, 27 23

Wm. Decker, 7 89

Bradley Rhody est, 19 04

Wm. Kelly, 27 24

John McMillen, 93 88

J. C. McMillen, 114 55

D. G. Myers, 14 55

Wm. Reed, 96 61

C. A. Ager, 41 12

JACKSON TWP.

John Dunmore, 7 79

John Egar, 21 91

Jno. G. Miller, 1 18

Ediz Dishong, 7 78

Francis Lager, 1 87

Jas. A. Reigens, 7 05

M. S. Bush, 8 72

Chris Letter, Sr., 2 70

Richard Walker, 2 06

A. W. Zeligler, 9 83

Rose Croyle, 3 42

John Allison, 4 28

David Paul, mill, 1 55

Geo. Lager, 5 23

John D. Adams, 9 83

LILLY BOR.

Plack & Fogie, coal bank, 14 14

John Dumm, 7 76

MUNSTER TWP.

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Moses Leff, 7 29

Aug. Glass est., 3 56

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