

SUPPLEMENT.
THE - STAR.

What Esau Hunted.

"About noon we saw a beast standing on a mountain top looking down at us. When we saw it, we thought that it was a camel, but Calinus said that the beast was a rhinoceros or unicorn. It hath a horn set in the midst of its forehead 4 feet long, and whatsoever it butts at it runs him through and pounds him against the rocks. It is said by writers on natural history that they place a young virgin in his way, whereat he puts away from him all his fierceness and lays down his head and is held thus entranced until he be taken and slain."

Thus wrote that delightfully naive observer, Father Felix Fabri, who visited Sinai 400 years ago. Modern pilgrims who have followed in his footsteps with their eyes open will at once recognize that the animal he saw was the bedan, or Sinaitic ibex, which gazes down on passing caravans from the cliffs which tower above their route. He is seldom visible to them unless his shapely figure happens to be silhouetted on the sky line. This wild goat inhabits the mountains on either side of the Red sea and the steep gullies of Moab and is the only representative of the deer or goat tribes in these regions. Esau doubtless hunted it, and those few sportsmen who have followed his example will not be surprised that the uncertainties of the chase cost him his birthright.—Nineteenth Century.

Metal Railroad Ties.

A protest against the denudation of forests in order to secure material for railroad ties is made in a report issued by the agricultural department at Washington on the use of metal railroad ties and preservative processes and metal tie plates for wooden ties. It shows that about 20 per cent of the railroad mileage of the world, outside of the United States and Canada, is laid on metal. In the United States little practical progress in metal ties is reported. The proportion of track laid with metal ties to the total length of railways throughout the world has increased from 7 per cent in 1890 to 10 per cent in 1894.—Railway Review.

An Extremist.

Mr. Irving tells a good story of an old Scotchwoman living not far from Balmoral who criticised the queen somewhat hostilely for having ridden out on a Sunday. Met with the retort that Christ himself plucked ears of wheat on the Sabbath, the orthodox person exclaimed: "Ah, yes. I ken all about that, and I dinna think any the better on him for it!"—Westminster Budget.

Cicero had a voice so pleasant that whenever it was known he was to speak, though only in an ordinary law case, the court immediately filled with people.

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