

HOW SHE LOST HER LOVER

There is a summer ago when he left me here, a summer ago when he left me here, a summer ago when he left me here...

THE SERPENTS' DEN.

In the year 1792 a man by the name of Job Slocum, together with his family, consisting of his wife and two sons, settled in the north-western portion of Virginia.

One day, in the spring of 1790, Job's two sons, Jesse and Thomas, in company with several of the neighboring settlers, had made up a hunting party.

As they approached the serpents' den, which, while the party were cutting their staves, had become a massive pile of logs, and assumed the appearance of a den.

On counting the number that had been killed, the hunters found that there were between fifty and sixty, some of them being nearly five feet in length, and in the largest part of the body were as thick as a man's leg below the calf.

None of the party having received any injury, they all proceeded on their way to the place where they intended to hunt. After prolonging the excursion for some three or four days, the company returned in the evening.

Having obtained the instrument referred to, which was nothing more than a large and heavy plane iron, lashed to the extremity of a long ash pole, he proceeded to the crevice where the reptiles had disappeared after the defeat.

In a few moments, two sturdy fellows by Job's order were clearing away the tangled growth of bushes, and other working hard for half an hour, they succeeded in solving the mystery, in the discovery of the hiding place of the reptiles.

of the pit was literally swarming with the loathsome serpents, which no sooner perceived the hunters than they set up a hideous noise, rattling and hissing violently.

The only entrance to the retreat was an opening in the side, some twelve feet below the ground; and in order that none of the reptiles should escape through this, the hunters, obtaining water from a neighbouring spring, made a tough paste of a quantity of the rich mud laying about, and dropping it down, rammed it very tightly into the opening, thus plugging it up.

And now the slaughter commenced. A volley, that did much execution, was fired down into the midst of the serpents, which redoubled their previous angry manifestations.

For some time, Jesse Slocum occupied his position, dealing death blow by blow; when one of his companions, noticing a peculiar swaying motion of the tree, called to him to come off it, or there might be an accident.

Jesse was a powerful, heavy built man; and when he saw his danger, he had, like lightning, managed to turn himself completely round and clasp the trunk with both arms.

Grasping them quickly, he turned Jesse, exclaiming in an encouraging tone, "Hold out a little longer, lad, and I'll save you!"

Carefully, very carefully, did Jesse Slocum follow his father. When he came within reach, every hand was extended, and he was almost lifted to a safe footing upon terra firma.

The food of the reptile consists chiefly of black or brown rye or barley bread, soup, milk, coffee, and fish, either fresh or dried.

FOR OUR YOUNG READERS.

MATTERS OF INTEREST AND INSTRUCTION.

A Bear-Back Ride--Afrald of Spiders--A Dog's Funeral--How Both Were Wrong.

In 1856 I moved from Conway, Livingston Co., Mich., to various places in the same state.

One afternoon, the sun being about one hour high, I went out, taking my rifle with me, to look for my cow, which had gone into the woods.

Then I heard some boys coming through the brush near where he lay, and I hurried on, without stopping to reload, fearing that if I were not in time to warn them and the bear should not be mortally wounded they would get hurt.

By this time the boys I have spoken of came out into the road. I slid down the tree and I called them to me. Then I reloaded my rifle and started in pursuit.

There he is, I called out, and hearing me, he turned and made for us. I had to laugh to see the boys, who had appeared quite courageous a moment before, fairly tremble.

Grasping them quickly, he turned Jesse, exclaiming in an encouraging tone, "Hold out a little longer, lad, and I'll save you!"

They are such hateful black things!" she said. "They are curious black things," Aunt Nellie. They have eight fixed eyes."

"What a queer thing a spider is!" said Carrie, beginning to forget her dislike. "Yes, and she has a queer sister, who makes a raft and floats on pools of water upon it, in search of flies for her food."

Good work!

HOW BOTH WERE WRONG.

"I say it is!" "No, isn't it!" "Tis!" "Tisn't it!" "Tis!" "Tisn't it!" "Tis!" "Tisn't it!" "Tis!"

"My oh my! What's this that is and isn't?" demanded Miss Hunter of her two bright pupils, who had, alas! fallen into a disgraceful dispute.

"A snake's tail doesn't die till sundown, does it, Miss Hunter?" said Fred. "Yes, it does, too. Doesn't it?" said Perry.

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Even a homely dog may win affection by being kind and loving. The New York Times thus describes a dog's funeral which recently took place in Dayton, Ohio.

A thoughtful boy. A little boy once had his leg badly broken. His mother was very sick, and when she heard about it she fainted.

Children are all the time holding up a mirror in which older people may see their own characters reflected.

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