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ANTIQUE BEAUTIES.

The Marvellous Mountain Tributary of the Colorado River.

Cliffs and Howlers Which Bear the Print of Artistic Hands of a Mysterious Race—Homes of Pre-Historic Cave Dwellers.

Western newspaper correspondents have for years, at irregular intervals, discoursed at some length upon the wonders of the Rio San Juan, and in the category of the marvellous this mountain tributary of the great Colorado has taken its place by the side of the far-famed and mysterious Gila. The cliff ruins of the San Juan valley have been the center of attraction, have been viewed from all sides, and their wonders have been told and retold to the world, time and time again. Scientific men have visited this region, have penetrated southeastern Utah, and have considered this valley a place of especial interest, because these cliffs and cave dwellings are probably the oldest in this strange country, being the first built in that mysterious journey southward of a great and unknown people.

For twenty years the prospector has followed this bold little river and grazed with careless unconcern on the rough and broken walls, so full of interest to the archaeologist; but the mind of the prospector has no room for curios, and he has no time for archaeological investigation, says a Phoenix correspondent of the Cincinnati Tribune. He sees only the glitter of the gold in the sand, and thinks only of the time when he shall have made his "stake." In November of 1882 hundreds of gold hunters rushed madly into the canyon north of the Navajo mountain, traveled three hundred miles over bleak, desert tablelands, suffered terribly from cold, hunger, and the long, wearisome journey; in a few days staked off all the available land for fifty miles up and down the river, and then returned home without having obtained so much as color of gold, and to-day have nothing to show for it but the stakes.

Whether this is a region that will ever show rich pay dirt the writer knows not, but he can say, without hesitation, that it is one of the most wildly picturesque and beautiful regions in the world. The bleak old Navajo mountain rises abruptly and towers like a grim sentinel over the surrounding mesa, while in a canyon gorge, more than 3,000 feet below its base, the Rio San Juan appears like a silver thread. The canyon is several miles wide, and a descent can be made to the river by a precipitous trail, but as the river approaches the great Colorado the canyon becomes more narrow and the walls more perpendicular, and when it merges into the grand canyon it is scarcely more than a deep, dark channel.

The Navajo mountain, the jutting buttes that line the canyon's verge, the huge howlers that are lodged on the canyon's side, and the straight walls of the canyon proper are all points of wonderful interest, for they are the canvas upon which are depicted some of the most strange and beautiful pictographs that have ever been discovered in this country. Nearly every howler is a picture gallery, and nearly every smooth surface is covered with weird and fantastic figures.

On the mountain these continue to the very summit, and, as the crowning piece, a huge block of sandstone stands on the top, the four sides presenting smooth surfaces. These faces are more than one hundred feet square, and on each face is a picture of the sun, with the figures of seven warriors bowed, as to the earth, in prayer. Beneath the warriors are many hieroglyphic characters, probably a prayer to the sun god. On a howler, by the verge of the canyon, is the picture of a woman kneeling in prayer to the sun.

On one of the canyon walls, more than one hundred feet from anything that could have furnished the barbaric artist a foot or handhold, there is a weird panoramic view in three scenes. Under a tree a child is sleeping. One little hand lies across its breast, while the other has fallen carelessly by its side. A few feet from the sleeping babe, a large snake, evidently a rattlesnake, is coiled to strike. Down the canyon, toward the west, is scene two. The snake is crawling away, and the limbs of the child are drawn as though in the last convulsions of death. The snake has done its deadly work. Still further down the canon is scene three. A warrior, evidently the father of the child, with one arm clasps his dead babe; with the other hand he holds a club. Upon his face the rude artist has depicted a look of mortal anguish and lute. A snake lies dead at his feet. This is probably the most beautiful picture ever executed by savage hands.

On one of the canyon's walls a warrior and a maiden are represented, gayly tripping along, hand in hand, while two doves are circling around their heads. Pictographs of the bear—in one place a bear followed by two cubs—the dog, the mountain lion and the catamount are all to be found. Many of these are evidently of recent date, and have probably been executed by the Navajos, but here and there one meets with a dim pictograph that bears evidence of great age.

Emperor William and His Gun.

The German emperor frequently has a week's retirement from the bustling world, and hides within the depths of the forest of Prockelwitz, where a small cottage is his abode, nestled beneath a splendid oak, with forest around him for miles. There, while the dew is on the forest, he starts forth gun in hand, with a brace of dogs and a sturdy forester, and at four o'clock he is at the best spot for sport. Then his majesty bangs away till eleven, when he winds his way homeward to his cot, eats and sleeps awhile, after which he puts his signature to all the documents which require it, and have been duly forwarded to his lonely retreat from Berlin.

AN UGLY CREATURE.

The Venomous Gila Monster of Arizona.

Although Many Fabulous Stories Are Told About the Strange Reptile It is in Reality Very Fierce and Deadly.

The gila monster is a rattle concerning which much has been said and lots of little stories have been written, but its habits, nevertheless, are not well known, even where it most frequently found. It was no uncommon sight in former years, and the San Francisco Chronicle, to Mexican and Indian boys trailing their hideous things at the ends of strings along the streets of towns and settlements of Arizona, taking care always to keep their bare feet out of the way of the unenvy-looking lizard. Sometimes, too, gila monsters, strapped a board like planked shad, would be offered for sale at prices ranging from medio to a toston (fifty cents), with few or no buyers. In the event that nobody wanted to increase his menagerie with one of the wicked-looking rascals, it was generally stoned to death by its owners as a protest against its general uselessness.

Several years ago gila monsters became somewhat in demand between collectors, and stuffed or in the flesh they command better prices than large specimens, presumably wanted for zoological gardens, being paid for at good figures. Strangely enough, since the interest in the reptile has risen it has become somewhat scarce. In fact, the capture of one and its transport to a wire rat trap in the shop of a taxidermist in an Arizona town is considered worthy of an item by the local reporter. No sooner has the news of the distinguished arrival been heralded than it is gravely inspected by every tenderfoot in town, who peters its owner with so many "damn fool" questions that he is glad to hide his acquisition in the back yard.

Most of the fabulous stories circulated about the gila monster have had their origin in the minds of the curious sellers, who were thus bored to death by the seeker after information who was not willing to buy something and thus recoup the business man for his loss of time and the ennui that answering greenhorns produced.

Whatever may have been said about the looks of the gila monster, it is a fact that it is a repulsive, crawling, uncanary reptile, perhaps not so ugly as many another lizard—the iguana, for instance—but instinctively abhorred because it is so slow. Flight being a matter of impossibility with the gila monster, and as it lacks the cunning to feign death, it must necessarily assume a bold front when threatened with capture or injury.

The length of the monsters usually captured varies from one foot to two feet and a few inches, but specimens a foot and a half in length are those most generally brought in. Of this the big, conical tail forms one-third. The weight will average from three to five pounds. The head is more lance-shaped than that of any other lizard found in Arizona, the consequence being that the narrow neck is very pronounced and imparts to the head while it moves something very much like the rattlesnake's performance.

When attacked the gila monster retreats about half his length and crouches close to the ground, but rearing head and neck in a fierce manner, while a black, forked tongue over an inch in length, darts swiftly out of a mouth abnormally wide and cavernous. At the same time it emits a hiss, jointly with a creaking noise, which is made by scraping either its claws, which are pointed and sharp, or the rough scales of its body upon the stones or gravel beneath it. If this demonstration fails to repulse the aggressor the gila monster will not hesitate, when thoroughly angered, to make a snap at the foe, be it man or beast. But it will never attack anything that it does not require for food unless first interfered with. If escape be near in the shape of a burro in the ground or a hole in the rocks large enough for its accommodation, the monster will discreetly retire from view and remain hidden until the enemy has retired.

If the reptile manages to get a grip with its horny mouth, as hard and cutting as that of a snapping turtle and filled with sharp needle-like teeth, upon the yielding flesh of an aggressor, the vice-like jaws can only be pried apart by great muscular action with some instrument. The wounds show all the indication of blood poisoning by means of venom, the limbs swell, failure of the nervous system becomes apparent, and death may ensue, unless prompt medical assistance brings relief.

The story that the bite of the gila monster is incurable is not true, but help must be obtained quickly, as several well-authenticated cases have proved. Curiously enough, in the case of men who have been bitten, it was found that those who were strictly temperate recovered far more quickly than those who were in the habit of taking stimulants. It turned out also that, unlike many cases in which bites had been inflicted by venomous snakes of the North American species, whiskey did not act as an antidote at all, rather aggravating the symptoms.

A taxidermist of Tucson who has dissected many of these lizards, says he has been unable to discover where the venom which they undoubtedly inject into the wounds they produce comes from. In poisonous snakes it exudes from sacs above the fangs, but in the gila monster the closest investigation has failed to show any such glands connected with the teeth. Undoubtedly it is the saliva of the monster, lubricating its sharp incisors, that produces the chemical change in the blood. For that reason it is believed that in the salivary glands the venom will be found, but that is the extent of what is known of the gila monster's dangerous power.

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Notice For Publication.

Land office at Bloomington, Neb., Aug. 24, 1893. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the clerk of the District court, Webster Co., at Red Cloud, Neb., on Monday, October 9, 1893, viz: Richard T. Payne, Hd. App. No. 2414, for the $\frac{1}{2}$ sec. and $\frac{1}{2}$ sec., sec. 24 1/2 p. 2 n. R. 12 w. 4th p. 2 n. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land: viz: John C. Wilson, Albert N. Wilson, Clarence H. Wilson, James A. Wilson, all of Otto, Neb. O. G. BAILEY, Register.

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