

# Edgefield Advertiser.

THOS. J. ADAMS, PROPRIETOR.

EDGEFIELD, S. C., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1894.

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## A CAMPAIGN MEETING OF A DIFFERENT KIND, BUT ALMOST AS LIVELY AS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

### Exciting Battle Between Two Big Boas in Brazil—Old Dollar-a-Foot Tells the Story.

The Chicago Times.

"Brazil is the home of the most gigantic boa constrictors in the world," said Henry Closer, of Neopolis, Ohio, the professional snake hunter and dealer, known to circus and museum managers throughout the country as "Big Doc" and "Old Dollar a Foot," that being his market price for ordinary snakes.

"On my last trip to Brazil after snakes I didn't meet with the success I expected to, but I brought back one of the best snake stories that ever came from the land of serpents.

"I was out taking a business look around after some rare specimens of monkeys. I had chased a choice long-tailed fellow up a tree and was trying my wiles on him, when I was startled by a loud hissing sound that came from another part of the forest, like a gust of wind escaping from some narrow space. I looked in the direction of the sound, and to my surprise saw two enormous boas on the ground, locked together and writhing and twisting in such a desperate struggle that big bunches of leaves were sent flying about in the air as if they had been disturbed and lifted by a whirlwind. Then it was that I groaned aloud and metaphorically kicked myself because I had not gone forth loaded for snake, for I would have corralled both of those gigantic serpents before they knew it.

"The fierce struggle on the ground lasted five minutes, and then the boas suddenly separated. One serpent glided to a large tree near by, and went up its trunk like a spiral of lightning. The other snake flashed in the same way up another tree fifteen feet distant from the first one. I feared that the fight had come to an end, because one of the snakes seemed to be afraid and the other one dared not.

"But I soon saw that I was mistaken. The snakes had hardly settled themselves among the branches of their respective trees when the foliage of both trees began to quiver as if a wind were passing through and agitating them. Suddenly each boa coiling its tail around a branch high up in its tree, dropped like a plummet toward the ground and hung at full length, its head raised but a few inches above the ground. For a moment their great bodies swayed to and fro like slowly moving pendulums. Their eyes glittered like fire. Then each serpent drew itself quickly half its length above the ground. Like an arrow each head shot forward, and instantly the two enormous reptiles were locked in each other's coils like immense cables twisted together.

"Up and down, to and fro, the writhing mass moved in quick undulation, each serpent struggling for an opening that would place the other at a disadvantage. Their forked tongues darted in and out of their mouths like jets of flame, and their hissing was incessant. The troops of chattering monkey spectators had been joined by hundreds of harsh-voiced but brilliantly-plumed birds, which flew frantically about and added their excited cries to the deafening monkey chorus.

"The desperate midair struggle between the boas continued for several minutes, when they separated again as suddenly as they had rushed together, and each drew itself back among the branches of its tree. For two or three minutes the snakes lay quietly, each glaring at the other.

"Suddenly in one of the trees a hiss like escaping steam was heard, and the boa in that tree shot his great length toward the ground again. The challenging hiss was answered by one still louder from the other boa, and it flashed down to its former position and confronted its foe. The boas did not rush together at once. One would strike

## DIAMOND-BACK RATTLES.

### THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM IN FRIO COUNTY, TEXAS.

#### LIE ABOUT EVERYWHERE, Night and Day, and You Must Be Careful Not to Step on Them—Adventures With the Reptiles.

Dilley (Tex.) Letter to The Philadelphia Times.

I have read stories by hunters, prospectors, and others of the venomous nature of the seven-foot diamond-back rattlesnake found in Arizona. Whether or not there are any seven-foot rattlesnakes in Texas I am not prepared to say positively, as I have never seen one, but we have the genuine diamond-back, which is, no doubt, fully as venomous as those of Arizona, and when it comes to numbers Southwest Texas will compare with any portion of the country.

Walk where you will, day or night, you are liable at any moment to tread upon or step in dangerous proximity to one of these venomous creatures, curled up in your path, or gliding noiselessly across it. If it should be immediately after one of the cool night rains, the snake may be enjoying a siesta, in the morning sun after its cool bath. In this case the danger is doubly great, for the fatal step may be taken too late to retreat after the warning rattle is given.

The writer has spent two months in this neighborhood. His host's house stands three-fourths of a mile west of the station, which consists of a post-office, store, station, and two or three dwelling houses. A few days ago, after a cool norther the previous night, an eighteen-inch diamond-back was discovered curled up asleep near the woodpile. The conversation of two persons in ordinary voices failed to wake the sleeping reptile for several minutes, though the creature lay almost at our feet. On another occasion a two-foot diamond-back was found asleep within a short distance of the front gate, almost directly in the path-way. This snake, together with the patch of earth on which it lay, was picked up on the blade of a large cotton hoe and carried several steps before the slightest evidence of animation was manifested.

There can be no gamer snake, large or small, than the Texas diamond-back rattlesnake. Prod it with a hoe or rake, or even impale it with a pitchfork, inflicting a dangerous wound, release it, and the diamond-back will still make surprising jumps in its efforts to strike any object presented.

One day last April, when the air was still chilly at times, an itinerant Mexican was employed to clean out the smokehouse, a small frame structure 12 by 14 feet, which stands within ten feet of the south door of the house. During this process six diamond-backs, ranging in length from eighteen inches to two feet, were found in the smokehouse. When a snake was discovered, the Mexican would impale it on his bay fork and throw it into the yard, where, after a fair test of its courage, which in no instance was found wanting, the reptile was killed.

One of these snakes, somewhat darker in color than the others, and next to the smallest in size, after a prong of the fork had passed through its body, made a considerable jump, striking the heavy sole of my outing shoe, which was presented. Another in its rage and frantic efforts to strike the inverted blade of a cotton hoe, actually hung itself by the fangs on the blade, where it remained suspended for several seconds, finally disengaging itself by its violent convulsions. When laboring under excitement the bodies of all these snakes would flatten out and appear to enlarge to almost twice their true dimensions, while their bead-like eyes would follow my every movement, as if seeking some vulnerable point of attack and the opportunity to make it.

Decapitation does not immediately deprive the rattlesnake of its power. The fangs will frequently strike any object inserted in the

## RATTLESNAKES' PARADISE.

### HALF AN ACRE OF THE BEAUTIES IN MOTION.

#### EVERYBODY WEARS BOOTS

There is a Spot in Delaware County Which No Rational Man Dares Enter Unless He Be Snake-Proof.

The Port Jervis Gazette.

The creek comes rushing down through a ravine, at the head of which was built a dam for the storage of water to furnish power for a sawmill, situated on a small bluff on the river bank, which manufactured into lumber the original forest nearly a century ago. The land about the mill, perhaps a half acre, was then thoroughly cleaned of stumps and roots for the storage of logs and manufactured lumber, and now produces a luxuriant growth of native grass. This cleared spot reaches back to a perpendicular cliff, fully 200 feet in height, of shale rock, divided into layers lying at an angle of about forty-five degrees. These layers of rock are separated by crevices, appearing, at a safe distance, to be about ten inches in width, with a table foot wide extending in front of each crevice, making the mountain-side a series of steps twenty or twenty-five feet apart.

These crevices, the depth and area of which no man knows, are the homes of the "rattlers"; the ruins of the mill (known in the legendary lore of that section as the "Old Blue Mill") and the dam and the grass are their playgrounds. Meeting a native who had stopped in at the signal tower, I made inquiry of the cause of the great growth of grass, and why the owner did not gather the hay. He first asked me where I hailed from, because of my seeming ignorance of the snakes, and then said:

"Say, mister, do you know there ain't no man on the river who'd cut that grass if you'd give him this railroad? Why, man, that grass hasn't been cut in mine and my father's day, and it just grows up and falls down year after year, and the ground has a right to be rich. I wear boots," (he had on boots with the tops reaching to the knee), "but I wouldn't walk through that grass for the best farm in this county, for there's snakes there with fifty buttons on their tail, I don't doubt, and every button means a year, and them big fellers could strike way above your boot tops."

"Do all the men hereabout wear boots?" I asked.

"I should remark they did," he said. "No women ever come about here unless they walk on the railroad, and they shuffle by here pretty rapid."

"Do you see them boots? They're daisies!" pointing to the station telegraph operator, whose nether limbs, I then discovered, were incased in snugly-fitting cavalry boots. "Everybody wears boots but them Eyalyns that works on the track, and a rattler thinks too much of hisself to bother with such critters."

"Say! Do you want to hear the snakes sing?" Not waiting for an answer, he ran down from the tower to the railroad tank and threw a good-sized stone over into the thick growth of brush bordering the shore of the creek, and instantly an alarm was sounded and from the old mill and the dam and the grass the war cry of defiance and warning was rattled, and the snakes in the dens in the cliff took up the "refrain," and for fully ten minutes the air was filled with the noise as of a million seventeen-year locusts singing their native song.

"They're there, you see," he smilingly remarked, as he turned to walk away up the railroad track, "and you'd better not fool with them."

I did not need any further "advice" than the snakes had already given me, and I then made inquiries of the operator, who, by the way, is a native of that region. He said that he and his partner had a dead cinch on that job; that when the tower was first erected operators were sent out from the Port Jervis office; that the

## WOUNDED SOLDIER'S DREAD COMPANION.

### Forest and Stream.

A perfectly truthful man once told me that he knew the following to have occurred: An officer had his arm shot off at the battle of Gettysburg, and when he regained consciousness after a fainting spell a very large rattlesnake was sleeping upon his bosom. He simply swooned off again, and after a while when they began to collect the wounded, another officer found the two sleeping there, and killed the snake with a skillful sword cut, and the wounded man recovered, with the loss of his arm, but with as much sand in his craw as he ever had.

mouth several times in rapid succession, even three minutes after the head has been severed from the body. None of these six snakes had more than five rattles or fangs exceeding a quarter of an inch in length.

On May 9th a three-foot two-inch diamond back was discovered within six feet of the east door of the house, where it was dispatched by a shot from a 45-calibre Colt's revolver, fired by my host's son. This snake had but seven rattles and no button, but the broken and ragged edges of the last rattle showed that some were missing. The fangs, which were extracted, are now in my possession, are quite half an inch in length.

In addition to the diamond-back, there is also the "ground" rattlesnake, somewhat different in appearance, smaller and shorter in proportion to its size than the diamond-back, and possessing fewer rattles, but equally as venomous. I am told, though not so plentiful. A "ground" rattler was killed at the station. J. A. Roberts reports killing a monster diamond-back a short distance east of Dilley.

The killing of rattlesnakes in this part of Texas is of such common occurrence that mention of it is rarely made by those who kill them, unless questioned on the subject, or an unusually large one is dispatched. I have interrogated numbers of respectable farmers and ranchmen residing in this neighborhood on the subject of snakes, and the reply is: "Oh, yes, we kill them almost daily."

Deputy Hide Inspector W. H. Smith states that eighteen diamond-backs have been killed in and about his house during the past few weeks, some of them approaching four feet in length, and one of the reptiles being found under a bed in a sleeping apartment. The same story is told by every arrival, magnified in some cases to an incredible extent. We have several rattles presented by residents of the country where the snake had measured very nearly five feet in length, while six-foot rattlers, we are informed, have been killed. So numerous are the snakes, and so prevalent the fear of them, that walking after night-fall, unless over a beaten path or well-defined roadway, is never attempted, some mode of conveyance being always employed, even for the most trifling distances.

The presence of so many rattlesnakes, the small number of persons bitten, and the rare instances of fatal consequences to the victim struck me at first as being singular. These facts, however, are explained by two causes: First, the rattlesnake is usually in the "open" in warm weather, where it may be seen and avoided, and where, if not seen, the warning rattle proclaims its presence, unless the snake is asleep or blind, as in August; second, the bite of the rattlesnake, though dangerous in the extreme, is not always necessarily fatal, the result to a large extent depending on the location of the wound. If the fangs should reach a large vein or artery, recovery is always doubtful, but if no vein or artery is penetrated the effect of the poison is generally overcome by large doses of whiskey when available. I am told of two or three instances, though, where neglect or inability to obtain counteragents had resulted in frightful deaths among the Mexicans, where the fangs had entered a thumb, a finger, a fleshy part of the hand. The simple method of extracting the poison by sucking the wound when practicable, though known and practiced in some cases, is not popular, owing to the existence to some extent of an incipient stage of scurvy. A curious anomaly is the presence of scurvy among a people whose chief pursuits are cattle raising and agriculture.

Wounded Soldier's Dread Companion.

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## HEADLESS SNAKES.

### The Monroe (N. C.) Enquirer.

A correspondent writing from Euto, New Salem Township, informs that a few days ago Mr. B. L. Tarleton was plowing, when he found a nest of reptiles resembling snakes without heads. There were about seventy-five of the reptiles. Mr. Tarleton says that the reptiles, when coming to an obstacle, divide and go around it, and then come together again, and when struck with a stick fly to pieces and afterward gather the fragments together and go on their way in peace.

## An Animated Fishpole.

The Rangoon (Burmah) Times.

A Barberton man, who goes to church regularly, was one day walking along the banks of Concession Creek eating a sandwich, and on account of the usual disparity between meat and bread, he threw the redundant piece into the water. Immediately a swarm of yellow fish bubbled round it, fighting for the mouthful. The man searched his pockets for fishing tackle, but all in vain, and he was just beginning to despair when his eyes lighted on a blacksnake. At that moment he remembered how his father used to tell him that blacksnakes were very expert in catching fish. He, therefore, grabbed the reptile by the tail, carried it to the river, and held it over the struggling fish. The snake proved itself a born angler, and in the course of an hour the man had captured forty fine fish.

A few days later, as he was walking in the same place, he felt something rub against his leg, and looking down, he saw his friend, the blacksnake, eager for more sport.

Managers and Clerks of the Democratic Primary, Aug. 28.

Bacon Club—M DeLoach, S M Smith, N L Broadwater, T G Smith, Clerk.

Big Creek—J W Mack, J L Sample, R M Bleas, M M Payne, Clerk.

Cooper No. 1—S M Cooper, J H Coleman, Frank Ellenburg, D S Haltiwanger, Clerk.

Cooper No. 2—C P Smith, J O Smith, Johnson Burnett, J T Webb, Clerk.

Central—Dr J J Kirksey, J H McClellan, C F Rudd, W O Carson, Clerk.

Cleveland—Colliers—S G Hammond, J R Hammond, J L Miller, J N Crafton, Clerk.

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Photographs taken in CLOUDY WEATHER.

R. H. MIMS.

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Examine your gin ribs and see if they are worn, and if they are replace them with the

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it prevents notes from being pulled through with the lint and cotton from collecting between the ribs which causes nearly all fires in gin houses, it also cleanses your seed much cleaner. Gives you a better sample thereby increasing your custom. They pay for themselves in one season's ginning.

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has a removable wearing plate just where the saw pass between the ribs, this plate is made of hard steel and can be removed by simply pressing down a spring, and at a cost of only FIVE CENTS. So when you put in the Lemain Rib you never have to buy another set, and can always renew for only five cents. It will be money in the farmers pocket to gin his cotton on these ribs.

For particulars address,

P. J. BOATWRIGHT

DARLINGTON, S. C.

If you need new ribs in your gin write to P. J. Boatwright and he will send an agent to see you.

Sample rib can be seen at G. B. Courtney's Gin Shop, Edgefield, S. C.

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If not kept by your local druggist, send \$1.00 for a large bottle, or \$5.00 for six bottles, and medicine will be sent free paid by BLOOD BALM CO., Atlanta, Ga.

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Cures Tear Drops, Granulations, Stye Tumors, Red Eyes, Matted Eye Lashes, and all eye troubles.

Also equally efficacious when used in other maladies, such as Eczema, Fever Sores, Erysipelas, Salt Eruptions, Itch of the Scalp, wherever inflammation exists. **MITCHELL'S EYE-SALVE** may be used advantageously. Sold by all Druggists at 25 Cents.

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