

HAD LIVELY FIGHT

Man Found Coachwhip Snake No Mean Antagonist.

Mr. G. M. Robbins of Atlanta is Ready to Announce That He is Not at All Desirous of Another Such Bout.

Some folk say a coachsnake won't chase you and tie you to a pine tree and whip the everlasting daylight out of you. They scandalize this ancient tradition as unscientific and contradictory to the facts and the evidence.

The defense now calls to the stand one G. W. Robbins, whose initials may or may not stand for George Washington, and who watches at the Downman-Dozier plant in Atlanta, Ga., by night.

Mr. Robbins avers that the blamed coachwhip went as far as possible—he chased Robbins three times around his own garden to begin with, and when Robbins finally turned and gave battle he (the coachwhip) lassoed him and the ensuing wrestling match simply ruined a large part of an acre of excellent radishes and some fine young onions.

Robbins says he was out in the garden pulling some radishes when he discovered a six-foot coachwhip snake watching him balefully. Mindful of the tradition, and despite the absence of pine trees, Robbins turned and fled, and the coachwhip after him. Round and round the garden patch fled Robbins, the coachwhip still pursuing him.

The chase ended near the barn, where Robbins was forced to pause for breath. Whether the coachwhip also was shy of wind does not appear, but he started crawling under the barn to think it over.

Robbins, encouraged by this maneuver and angered at the damage already wrought among his gardens, grasped the snake by his delicately tapering tail and dragged him, resisting furiously, from beneath the barn. Instantly the coachwhip changed his tactics and looped himself about Robbins' neck.

Business picked up at once, and the warm spring atmosphere was shattered by rude exclamations of the rough-and-ready variety. The coachwhip had a combination grapevine and head hold on Robbins, who was striving to achieve the deadly toe hold made famous by the late Mr. Gotch.

The radish bed was used as a mat, and the grapple was fast and furious. It is always a difficult matter to put a toe hold on a large and scientific snake, but Robbins was battling for his life and a few remaining

radishes—and he got the hold.

The first thing Robbins did was to unwrap the snake from about his neck. The next thing he did was not strictly in accord with the wrestling regulations. Instead of pinning the coachwhip's shoulders to the radish bed, Robbins deliberately and with malice aforethought popped his enemy's skull vindictively against the side of the barn.

The battle ended there. The snake measured two inches over two yards.

Mexican Child Stealers.

Mexico's "child stealers" engaged in a regular business of stealing children and making them beg coins for them, according to a writer in the National Humane Review. The headquarters or central place of business for the biggest thieves are located in Gomez Farias street, Guadalajara. Here a regular market is held for the disposal of stolen children, either by outright sale or rent.

"After passing through the hands of this gang the innocent victim of this barbaric system is generally unrecognizable, and maimed or blinded is carried or hauled around with its poor little hand outstretched for coins to support its fiendish master," according to the writer. "Such children are seen any hour of the day or night in Mexico City, hovering around the theater doors, sitting around the streets and often among the beggars that line the church doors. The pleasure seeker, the passer-by or the communicant who puts pennies in the outstretched hands does not realize how well he is cooperating with the fiendish industry."

Another Degree.

Grandfather is a learned Indiana professor—one who is greatly respected by all his neighbors and acquaintances. But his little three-year-old granddaughter knows him quite another way from any other person, as the bestower of anything she may wish. The other evening his mother left her with grandfather while she went to a party. For a while everything went all right and then baby began to get sleepy. At the same time she longed for mother to tuck her in bed. Then she pitched her voice high and wailed loud and long.

Grandfather presented money, tickets and everything the house offered, but still the baby wailed. More presents, and finally the baby took enough notice to utter this rebuke: "I want oo to know I'm tryin' for my mudder."

Mastery of the Air.

The progress in the mastery of the air is moving so fast as almost to make it hard to follow every development. Just about the time that both the Americans and the British were making attempts to fly across the Atlantic an airplane carrying passengers landed on the roof of a hotel, left its passengers, and went on its way.

Contribution of Jimmy.

Jimmy is sly and he's "smart" for his age. Even his mother admits it. She fears he'll be whirled up some day in a pillar of fire or something. Others who know Jimmy well doubt the pillar of fire business. His father the other day caught him smoking a cigarette and whipped him soundly. Jimmy cried loudly and attracted the attention of a neighbor, a man chum of the lad, who, seeking to comfort the boy, said: "Jimmy, of course it was very wrong of you to smoke a cigarette, and your papa whipped you not to hurt you but to show you how wrong it was. Stop crying now and your hurt will soon be over."

"I ain't cryin' 'cause I was licked," said the child as he gazed through the tears, "but when papa grabbed me I swallowed my cigarette, and it was the last one I had."—Exchange.

A Wonderful World.

"Don't talk to me about the wonders of past ages," said Uncle Joe Cannon. "The world today is far more wonderful than ever before. Just think: It took Columbus as many months as it now takes days to cross the ocean, and we talk about flying and traveling a mile a minute as though they were nothing."

"Why, the other day I dropped into a country school just in time to hear the teacher ask:

"Johnny, into what two great classes is the human race divided?" And Johnny answered promptly:

"Motorists and pedestrians." "That's what I call progress. After awhile there won't be any pedestrians."—Los Angeles Times.

The Wonders of America

By T. T. MAXEY

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

JAMES SMITHSON, an Englishman, who died in Italy in 1829, left his property to the United States to be found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.

"A consultive library of objects" rather than an institution of learning in the nature of a college with a faculty and students, its educational activities are of the very broadest character. The several buildings are located in 38-acre Smithsonian park. The institution also maintains stations at other widely separated points. Its expeditions, surveys and explorations cover practically every country under the sun.

The Smithsonian park buildings contain collections of the belongings of Presidents Washington, Lincoln and Grant, and the heroes of our army and navy; the costumes worn by the ladies of the white house from 1789; the most complete collection of firearms in the country; extensive exhibits of medals, coins and stamps of historic value; time keeping and musical instruments, graphic arts, textiles, embroideries and what nots; several millions of natural history specimens; more than a million specimens of the world's flora and upwards of 5,000 exhibits of art—while the zoological park, occupying 167 acres in Rock Creek valley (Washington), contains more than 1,400 individual mammals, birds and reptiles.

It is needless to say that this great institution is well and favorably known to men of science the world over, and that those who come to study its wondrous collections are numbered in the millions.

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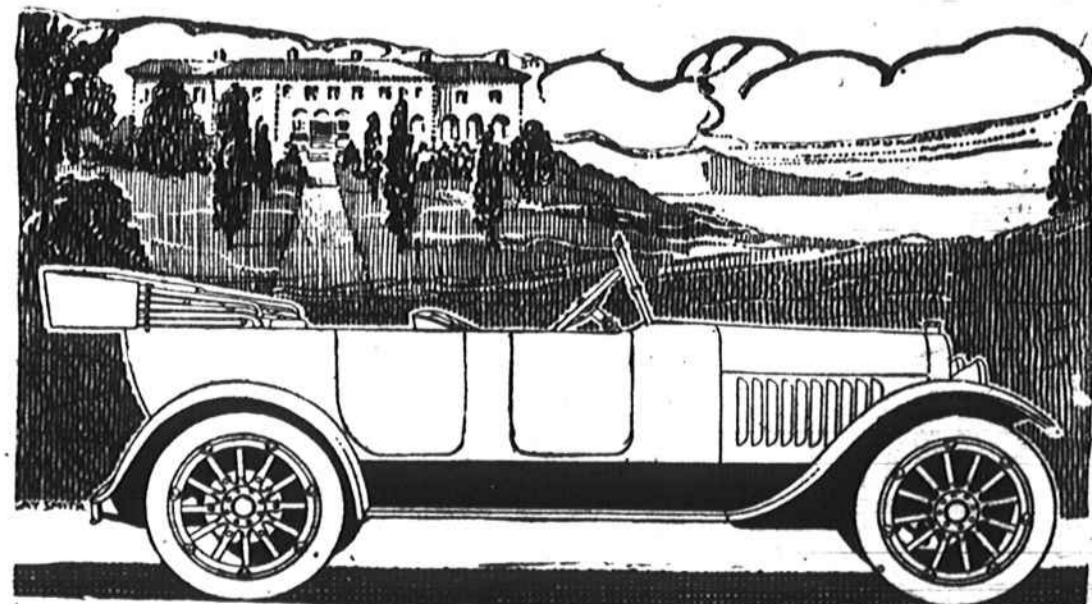
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