

THE PANTHER.

The following account is abridged from Mr. Doughty's Cabinet of Natural History and American Field Sports, an interesting work, published at Philadelphia in a quarto form and embellished with plates. The 12th No. of the work is now just published.

AN ADVENTURE.

It was on as beautiful an autumnal day, as ever ushered in the Indian summer, that I made an excursion after game among a group of mountains, or rather on a link in the great chain of the Alleghany range, which runs in a north eastern direction in that part of Pennsylvania which bounds the New York line.

I had kept the summit of the mountains for several miles, without success, for a breeze had arisen shortly after sunrise which rattled through the trees, and made it unfavorable for hunting on high ground; and indeed the only wild animal I saw, was a bear, that was feeding on another ridge across a deep valley, and entirely out of reach of my rifle shot; I therefore descended the mountain in an oblique direction towards the salt springs, which I soon reached, and after finding others had preceded me here, I left the spot for another mountain on which I intended to pass the remainder of the day, gradually working my way home.

This mountain was covered with chestnut trees, and here it was that I caught a glimpse of the bear from the other ridge, and found he had disappeared but a short time previous to my arrival on this mountain: I followed his track for three miles, for chestnuts lay in abundance on the ground, and bears, like hogs, root up the leaves in search of food beneath, and it no doubt had fingered about here eating its food until my near approach gave warning of its danger; this I could discover, as the leaves having been wet by the melted frost on the top, a path could be traced where the bear in running had turned the dried part of the leaves uppermost. I quickened my pace along the mountain side and around the turn of the mountain, with the hopes of surprising the bear, and after a rapid chase for the distance above mentioned, all proved fruitless, and I relinquished further pursuit. Warm with this exercise, and somewhat fatigued, I descended the mountain side, and took my seat beside a stream of water which gently washed the base of the mountain, and emptied itself in the head waters of the Susquehanna.

I had remained sitting on a fallen tree, whose branches extended considerably into the water, for perhaps an hour and a half, when of a sudden I heard a rustling among the leaves on the mountain immediately above my head, which at first was so distant that I thought it merely an eddy of wind, whirling the leaves from the ground, but it increased so rapidly, and approached so near the spot where I sat, that I instinctively seized my rifle ready in a moment to meet any emergency which might offer.

That part of the mountain where I was seated, was covered with laurel and other bushes, and owing to the density of this shrubbery, I could not discover an object more than ten yards from me; this, as will afterwards appear, afforded me protection; at any rate it conducted to my success. The noise among the leaves now became tremendous, and the object approached so near, that I distinctly heard an unnatural grunting noise, as if from some animal in great distress. At length a sudden plunge into the water, not more than twenty yards from me, uncovered to my view a full grown black bear, intent upon nothing but its endeavours to press through the water and reach the opposite shore. The water on an average was not more than two feet deep, which was not sufficient for the animal to swim, and too deep to run through; consequently the eagerness with which the bear pressed through the water, created such a splashing noise, as fairly echoed through the hills. Without scarcely a thought, I brought my rifle to my shoulder with the intention of shooting, but before I could sight it correctly, the bear rushed behind a rock which shielded it from my view; this gave me an momentary season for reflection, and although I could have killed the bear soon as it had passed the rock, I determined to await the result of such extraordinary conduct in this animal; for I was wonder struck at actions which were not only strange but even ludicrous,—there not appearing then any cause for them. The mystery however was soon unravelled.

The stream of water was not more than ten rods in width, and before the bear was two-thirds across it, I heard another rustling, on the mountain side, among the leaves, as if by jumps, and a second plunge into the water convinced me that the bear had good cause for its precipitation; for here pressing hard at his heels, was a formidable antagonist in an enormous Panther, which pursued the bear with such determined inveteracy and appalling growls, as made me shudder, as with a chill.

The panther plunged into the water not more than eighteen or twenty yards from me, and had it been but one third of that distance, I feel convinced I should have been unheeded by this animal, so intent was it on the destruction of the bear. It must indeed be an extraordinary case which will make a panther plunge into water, as it is a great characteristic of the feline species always to avoid water, unless driven to it, either by necessity or desperation; but here nature was set aside, and some powerful motive predominated in the passions of this animal, which put all laws of instinct at defiance, and unlike the clumsy hustling of the bear through the water, the panther went with bounds of ten feet at a time, and ere the former reached the opposite shore, the latter was mid-way of the stream. This was a moment of thrilling interest, and that feeling so common to the human breast when the strong is combating with the weak, now took possession of mine, and exposing the cause of the weaker party, abstractedly from every consideration of which was in the wrong, I could not help wishing safety to the bear, and death to the panther, and under the impulse of these feelings, I once more brought my rifle to my shoulder, with the intention of shooting the panther through the heart, but in spite of myself, I shrunk from the effort—perhaps it was as well I reserved my fire, for

had I only wounded the animal; I might have been a victim to its ferocity.

The bear, finding there was no possibility of escape from an issue with so dreadful an enemy, on reaching the opposite bank of the stream, shook the water from its hair like a dog, and ran about fifteen feet on the bank, and laid directly on its back in a defensive posture; this it had scarcely done when the panther reached the water's edge, and then, with a yell of vengeance, it made one bound, and sprang with outstretched claws and spitting like a cat, immediately on the bear, which lay in terror on the ground, ready to receive its antagonist; but the contest was soon at an end. Not more easily does the eagle rend in sunder his terror stricken prey, than did the enraged panther tear in scattered fragments the helpless bear; it appeared but the work of a moment, and that moment was one of unrelenting vengeance; for no sooner did the panther alight on its victim, than with the most ferocious yells, it flung its hinder claws deep in the entrails of the bear, and by a few rips tore its antagonist in pieces. Although the bear was full grown it must have been young, and in want of energy, for it was so overcome with dread as not to be able to make the least resistance.

Satisfied in glutting its vengeance, the panther turned from the bear, and came directly to the waters edge to drink, and allay the parching thirst created by so great excitement, after which it looked first down then up the stream, as though it sought a place to recross, that it might avoid the water; and then, as if satiated with revenge and enjoying its victory, stood twisting and curling its tail like a cat and then commenced licking itself dry.

The animal was now within thirty-five yards of me, and seeing no prospect of its recrossing the stream, I took rest for my rifle on a projecting limb of the tree on which I still sat, and fired directly at the panther's heart. The moment I discharged my rifle, the monster made a spring about six feet perpendicular, with a tremendous growl which reverberated among the rocks, and fell in the same spot whence it sprang with legs extended, and lay in this situation, half crouched, rocking from side to side, as if in the dizziness of approaching death. I saw plainly that my fire was fatal, but I had too much experience to approach the enemy, until I could no longer discover signs of life. I therefore reloaded my rifle, and with a second shot, I pierced immediately behind the ear; its head then dropped between its paws, and all was quiet.

On examining the panther, no marks of violence appeared, except where my rifle balls had passed completely through, within a foot of each other; but on turning the animal on its back, I discovered it to be a female, and a mother.—From this circumstance, I supposed the bear made inroads upon her lair, and more than probable destroyed her kittens. I was the more convinced of this from the fact that I never knew from my own experience, nor could I gather from the oldest hunters among my acquaintances, an instance wherein a panther and a bear came in collision with each other or entered into deadly strife; and again no circumstance but the above would be sufficient to awaken that vindictive perseverance in the passion of a panther, which would lead to the annihilation of so formidable an animal as a bear.

THE FUCIA TREE.—Mr. Shepherd, the respectable and well informed conservator of the Botanic Garden at Liverpool, gave the writer the following curious account of the introduction of that elegant little flowering shrub, the *Fucia*, into our English greenhouses and parlour windows:—Old Mr. Lee, a nurseryman and gardener, near London, well known fifty or sixty years ago, was one day showing his variegated treasures to a friend, who suddenly turned to him and declared, "Well you have not in all your collection a prettier flower than one I saw this morning in Wapping." "No! and pray, what was this phenix like?" "Why, the plant was elegant, and the flowers hung in rows like tassels from the pendant branches; their colour, the richest crimson, in the centre a fold of deep purple," and so forth. Particular directions being demanded and given, Mr. Lee posted off to the place, where he saw, and at once perceived that the plant was new in this part of the world. He saw and admired. Entering the house, "My good woman, this is a nice plant—I should like to buy it." "Ah, Sir, I could not sell it for no money, for it was brought me from the West Indies by my husband, who has now left me again, and I must keep it for his sake." "But I must have it." "No, Sir!" "Here," (emptying his pockets) "Here is gold, silver, and copper" (his stock was something more than eight guineas) "well a day, but this is a power of money, sure and sure!" "Tis yours, and the plant is mine; and my good dame, you shall have one of the first young ones I rear, to keep for your husband's sake." "Alack, alack!" "You shall, I say, by—." A coach was called, in which was safely deposited, our florist and his seemingly dear purchase. His first work was to pull off, and utterly destroy every vestige of blossom and blossom bud; this was effected on the spot. Arrived at home, the plant was tended and cherished with his best care; it was divided into cuttings, which were forced in bark beds and hot beds, were redivided and subdivided. Every effort was used to multiply the plant. By the commencement of the next flowering season, Mr. Lee was the delighted possessor of 300 *fucia* plants, all giving promise of blossom. The two which opened first were removed into his show house. A lady came, "Why, Mr. Lee, my dear Mr. Lee, where did you get this charming flower?" "Hem! 'tis a new thing, my lady, pretty, is it not?" "Pretty! 'tis lovely! Its price?" "A guinea, thank your ladyship," and one of the two plants stood proudly in her ladyship's boudoir. "My dear Charlotte! where did you get it?" &c. &c. "Oh, 'tis a new thing, I saw it at old Lee's; pretty, is it not?" "Pretty, 'tis beautiful! its price?" "A guinea, there was another left." The visitor's horse smoked off to the suburb; a third flowering plant stood on the spot whence the first had been taken. The second guinea was paid, and the second chosen *fucia* adorned the drawing room of her second ladyship. The scene was repeated as new comers saw, and were attracted by the beauty of the plant. New chariots flow to the

gates of old Lee's nursery grounds. Two *fucias*, young, graceful, and bursting into healthy flower, were constantly seen on the same spot in his repository. He neglected not to gladden the faithful sailor-wife by the promised gift, but ere the flower season closed, three hundred golden guineas clinked in his purse, the produce of the single shrub of the widow in Wapping. the reward of the taste, decision, skill, and perseverance of old Mr. Lee.—W. H. S.—*Birmingham Midland Representative.*

ANECDOTE.

From the Custis' Recollections and Private Memoirs of the Life and Character of Washington.

In 1781, when the combined armies reached Williamsburg, preparatory to the siege of Yorktown, the General in chief accompanied by the Marquis de Lafayette, Gen. Rochambeau, Knox, and others, repaired on board the *Ville de Paris*, the flag ship of the Count de Grasse, to consult on those combined operations which were speedily to take place. The Admiral, in his great enthusiasm for the American Hero, no sooner beheld the object of his admiration upon the quarter deck of the *Ville de Paris*, than he hugged him in his arms, rapturously exclaiming.—"My dear little General, my dear little General." The person of De Grasse was gigantic, but the term petit, when applied to the noble and commanding form of Washington, produced an effect upon the risible muscles of all present which took some time to subside. The foreign officers made great efforts to compose their visages within the bounds of true politeness, while our own jolly Knox shook his fat side in boundless glee.

The fate of De Grasse and the *Ville de Paris* is well known to history. That magnificent ship was a present from the City of Paris to the French King. She rated 100 guns and 1300 men. On her arrival in the Chesapeake, it is said that on her quarter deck flowers and tropical plants were interspersed, amid engines of war; while her sides, covered with a bright varnish, gave to this superb vessel a most brilliant and imposing appearance. On the memorable 15th of April, De Grasse, deserted by some of his captains, his own ship totally dismantled, a large portion of his officers and crew killed or wounded, nobly maintained the unequal contest, and refused to yield to any ship carrying less than an admiral's flag; at length the *Barfleur* 98, Sir Samuel Hood, ranged along-side, the colours of France were lowered on the poop of a bravely defended vessel as hath adorned the annals of the French marine, either before or since the 12th April, 1782.—Let those who would put their trust in princes, mark the fate of the gallant De Grasse. When he struck, but three men remained alive on the quarter deck of the *Ville de Paris*, one of whom was the Admiral; yet, on his return to his native country, the King, whose colors he had so nobly defended, turned with coolness from the unfortunate brave, leaving him to languish in retirement and disgrace. How different was the conduct of the enemies of De Grasse, the English sailors, who, on the arrival of their prisoner at Portsmouth, hoisted him on their shoulders, and honoring high courage in misfortune, carried him in triumph to his lodgings, bidding him adieu with three hearty cheers. "Tis thus the brave should honor the brave."

ANECDOTE OF THE LATE MR. CANNING.—Fourteen days before Mr. Canning's death, Mr. Gallatin spent six hours with him, two before dinner, all in talking about political affairs, and much of Mr. Canning's own situation amid conflicting parties. Mr. Gallatin told him he could never live amid so much business. To be Secretary for Foreign Affairs in fact, First Lord of the Treasury in fact and name, and not only Prime Minister, but sole Minister. Mr. Canning explained, that Lord Dudley only took the place of Secretary for Foreign Affairs to oblige him, and *pro tempore*; but that he had been induced to come out of that office, with all the details of which he was acquainted, and to take the Treasury, by having received a letter from an ancient friend of Mr. Fox, who told him that Mr. Fox always regretted he had not taken that, as there lies the patronage; and (said Mr. Canning,) although I might have put a friend there, it is very different my asking a favor, or a favor being asked of me; and I am determined, (said he, moving his hand with a most emphatic gesture of ambition,) to hold the reins while I live." He lived fourteen days. He told Mr. Gallatin he had not been free from great pain since the Duke of York's funeral, when they kept him in the cold dark vault two hours, nor slept a whole night since Lord Liverpool's illness. Such is worldly honor, and the best thing the world's possession does for us!—*Memoir of Bruen.*

In the reign of George II. General Guise became a distinguished collector, and his pictures were subsequently bequeathed by him to Christ Church, Oxford. He was extremely jealous of his connoisseurship; and having expended much of his private fortune, he delivered his opinions, concerning his own collection, in a decisive and caustic manner. When showing his pictures to Prince Frederick, he pointed out one of the most excellent to his royal highness, who slightly looked at it, and then asked the cost. "Two hundred guineas," replied the General. The Prince observed "that it was a great deal of money for so small a piece." "And does your royal highness suppose I buy my pictures by the yard?" "Showing a portrait of himself by Sir Joshua, which, from some material he had used, remained sticky, the General, in his usual blunt way, exclaimed—"There's myself, by—, like Domitian in his own hall, catching flies." Then proceeding to the next, he said—"That's a Guido! Little Hugh Howard, the painter, 't'other day said it was not. Now the next man that says so, by—I will knock him down. Pray, sir, have the kindness to favor me with your candid opinion."

A tavern has recently been built on the summit of Mount Faulhorn, in Switzerland. It is an elevation of 5140 feet above the level of the sea, and is therefore between five and six hundred feet higher than the Hospice of the Great St. Bernard.

PROPOSALS

For carrying the Mails of the United States for two years, from the first day of January, 1833, to the 31st day of December, 1834, on the following post routes, will be received at this office until the second day of November next, inclusive; to be decided on the 9th day of November.

IN NORTH CAROLINA.

No. 2187. From Columbia to Springfield, in Tyrrel county, and back once a week.

Leave Columbia every Monday at 6 a m, arrive at Springfield same day by 6 p m.

Leave Springfield every Saturday at 6 a m, arrive at Columbia same day by 6 p m.

2188. From Kinston to Trenton, 20 miles and back, once a week.

Leave Kinston every Wednesday at 12 noon, arrive at Trenton same day by 6 p m.

Leave Trenton every Thursday at 6 a m, arrive at Kinston same day by 12 noon.

2189. From Greenville to Stantonburg, 30 miles and back, once a week.

Leave Greenville every Wednesday at 9 a m, arrive at Stantonburg same day by 7 p m.

Leave Stantonburg every Thursday at 5 a m, arrive at Greenville same day by 2 p m.

2190. From Gravelly Hill by Lisburn and Taylor's Bridge to Clinton and back, once a week.

Leave Gravelly Hill every Thursday at 6 a m, arrive at Clinton same day by 3 p m.

Leave Clinton every Friday at 6 a m, arrive at Gravelly Hill same day by 3 p m.

2191. From Belford by Shoco Springs to Warrenton, 28 miles and back, once a week.

Leave Belford every Thursday at 7 a m, arrive at Warrenton same day by 3 p m.

Leave Warrenton every Tuesday at 8 a m, arrive at Belford same day by 4 p m.

2192. From Hillsboro by Pickett's Oil Mill, Thos. Benchairs, Hester's Store, Ric'd. Bullock's and Potter's Bridge to Oxford, 40 miles and back, once a week.

Leave Hillsboro every Tuesday at 6 a m, arrive at Oxford same day by 6 p m.

Leave Oxford every Wednesday at 6 a m, arrive at Hillsboro same day by 6 p m.

2193. From Blakely by Stokesburg to Germantown and back, once a week.

Leave Blakely every Monday at 1 p m, arrive at Germantown same day by 5 p m.

Leave Germantown every Monday at 6 a m, arrive at Blakely same day by 10 a m.

2194. From Roxboro by Hugh Woods to Black Walnut, Va., 22 miles and back, once a week.

Leave Roxboro every Thursday at 7 a m, arrive at Black Walnut same day by 1 p m.

Leave Black Walnut every Thursday at 3 p m, arrive at Roxboro same day by 9 p m.

2195. From Leasburgh by Hightowers to Caswell c. h., 15 miles and back, once a week.

Leave Leasburgh every Wednesday at 6 a m, arrive at Caswell c. h., same day by 10 a m.

Leave Caswell c. h. every Wednesday at 11 a m, arrive at Leasburgh same day by 3 p m.

2196. From Rockford by Judsville to Bower's Store and back, once a week.

Leave Rockford every Thursday at 3 p m, arrive at Bower's Store next day by 6 p m.

Leave Bower's Store every Wednesday at 9 a m, arrive at Rockford next day by 12 noon.

2197. From Concord by Mill Grove and Hickory Grove to Beatty's Ford and back, once a week.

Leave Concord every Wednesday at 6 a m, arrive at Beatty's Ford same day by 6 p m.

Leave Beatty's Ford every Thursday at 6 a m, arrive at Concord same day by 6 p m.

2198. From Lawrenceville to Wadesborough, 26 miles and back, once a week.

Leave Lawrenceville every Friday at 6 a m, arrive at Wadesborough same day by 3 p m.

Leave Wadesborough every Thursday at 7 a m, arrive at Lawrenceville same day by 4 p m.

FOR SALE,

THAT pleasant and healthy residence, situated in the town of Newbern, on Broad-street, (Lot No. 262), formerly the property of Frederick Jones, and now owned by the subscriber.

CHARLES SHEPARD.

August 17, 1832.

CHEAP GOODS.

THE subscriber intending to quit Newbern, inhabitants, that he will sell the articles composing his Stock in Trade, at prices so low, that he hopes that those persons who will honour him with their presence, at his Store adjoining Mr. Bell's Hotel, near the Market, will be able to make choice to their satisfaction.

M. BONHOMME, FOR A. BONHOMME.

Newbern, 17th August, 1832.

FLOUR AND MESS FORK.

5 BBLs. and 10 Half Bbls. New York Western Canal FLOUR, fresh ground from new Wheat. 15 Bbls. Mess Pork, New York city inspection, received this day per schooner Susan Mary, and for sale by

JOS. M. GRANADE, & C.

Newbern, Sept. 4th 1832.

NOTICE.

THE copartnership heretofore existing in the town of Waynesborough, under the title of RHODES & JERNIGAN, was dissolved on the 2d day of July last, by mutual consent, and the business transferred to James Rhodes, one of said partners, with full power and authority to settle up and close the business of said firm.—Waynesborough, 11th August, 1832.

NOTICE.

The subscriber is desirous of selling his Lot and Houses in the town of Hillsborough, N. C. known as the Union Hotel. The establishment consists of two 2 story houses, and one of one story, the whole containing 22 rooms. There are stables sufficient to hold 40 horses, a large smoke house, a 2 story kitchen, with all other conveniences required about a tavern. There is but one other establishment of the kind in the town, The terms will be easy and accommodating to the purchaser.

SAMUEL CHILD

Hillsborough, Aug. 14, 1832.

NOTES.

1. The Postmaster General reserves the right to expedite the mails, and to alter the times of their arrival and departure at any time during the continuance of the contract, by giving an adequate compensation, never exceeding a *pro rata* allowance, for any extra expense which such alteration may require.

2. Seven minutes shall be allowed for opening and closing the mails at each office, where no particular time shall be specified, but the Postmaster General reserves to himself the right of extending the time.

3. For every ten minutes delay in arriving at any point after the time prescribed in the contract, the contractor shall forfeit five dollars. If the delay shall continue beyond the time for the departure of any pending mail, the forfeitures shall be equal to twice the amount allowed for carrying the mail one trip. If it is made to appear that the delay was occasioned by unavoidable accident, of which the Postmaster General shall be the judge, the forfeiture may be reduced to the amount of pay for a trip; but in no case can that amount be remitted. The forfeitures are otherwise unconditional, and will in all cases be enforced.

4. Persons who make proposals will state their prices by the year; payments to be made quarterly; in the months of May, August, November and February, one month after the expiration of each quarter.

5. None but a free white person shall be employed to carry the mail.

6. Proposals should state whether the person proposes to carry the mail in a 4 horse coach, a 2 horse stage, or otherwise.

7. If the person offering proposals wishes the privilege of carrying newspapers out of the mail, he must state it in his bid; otherwise he cannot enjoy that privilege.

8. Propositions for any improvements in transporting the mail, as to the manner of carrying, increase of expedition, extension of routes, frequency of trips, or any other improvements, are invited to be stated in the proposals, and will be duly considered.

9. The number of the route, and its beginning and termination, as advertised, should be stated in every bid; and the proposals, must be sealed, directed to the "General Post Office, Office of Mail Contracts," and Superscribed "Proposals."

The following is a proper form for a proposal:

"I will convey mail, agreeably to advertisement, on route No. from to for the yearly compensation of dollars."

He must state the place of his residence; and if not a contractor, he must accompany his bid with satisfactory recommendations.

10. The distances, as stated, are estimated and may not be entirely correct; but if any errors have occurred in relation to them, no increase of compensation will be allowed on that account. The contractor will inform himself on that point.

11. The Postmaster General reserves the right of annulling any contract whenever repeated failures to arrive within the contract time shall occur; or whenever one failure shall happen amounting to the loss of a trip; or whenever any direction which he may give shall not be promptly obeyed.

12. No bid shall be withdrawn after the time for receiving it has expired; and should any person refuse to take a contract at his bid, he shall forfeit all other contracts that he may have with the Department, and be held responsible for all damage that may result from his failure to comply.

13. No contract nor bid can be transferred without the special and written approbation of the Postmaster General; and an assignment of a contract, or bid, without his consent, first obtained in writing, shall forfeit it. This rule will never be departed from.

14. If a contractor or his agent shall violate the Post Office law, or shall transmit commercial intelligence by express more rapidly than the mail, his contract shall be forfeited; and in all cases when a contractor shall run a stage, or other vehicle, more rapidly or more frequently than he is required by contract to carry the mail, he shall give the same increased celerity and frequency to the mail, unless the Postmaster General shall otherwise direct, and without increase of compensation.

15. The Postmaster General reserves the right of curtailing or of discontinuing any route, when, in his opinion, the public interest shall require it; and in such case the contract shall cease, so far as relates to the part curtailed, or to the whole, if discontinued—an allowance of one month's extra pay being made to the contractor.

16. All contracts for routes embraced in this advertisement shall commence on the first day of January next, and continue two years. Decisions on bids will be made known on the 9th day of November next.

WILLIAM BARRY.

Post Master, General Post Office Department, July 4, 1832.

VALUABLE SOUND LAND FOR SALE.

The subscriber offers for sale, that well known Plantation formerly belonging to Col. Richard Nixon, lying on Topsail Sound, in front of the Inlet, about twenty miles from Wilmington, containing between 800 and 1000 acres, 300 of which are cleared and under good fence, and about two hundred well worth clearing; the remainder well timbered and an excellent range for cattle and hogs. The quality of the Land is equal to that of any other tract on the Sound, and the situation is healthy and pleasant. The improvements consist of a good Dwelling and all necessary out houses. Persons wishing to purchase, are requested to call and view the premises, which will be shown by Mr. Oliver, who resides on the place. For Terms, which will be accommodating, apply to the subscriber in Newbern.

DANIEL Y SHINE.

Newbern, May 25, 1832.