

THE VICIOUS JAGUAR

HE FINDS A DEADLY ENEMY IN THE PLUCKY PUMA.

These Fierce South American Brutes Fight Each Other, to the Death on Sight—Two Battles That Show the Characteristics of the Animals.

"On the Apure river, near its head, lives—or did live five years ago—a woman of mixed Spanish and Indian race named Maria Padilla, the wife of the mayordomo, or foreman, of a cattle ranch. I have talked with her and heard from her lips the account of the strange adventure she had when a child of 7 years.

"Her parents with their children were making a journey over a trail that led along the foothills of the Maritime Andes. They had encamped for the night, and this child, while her parents' attention was occupied, started into the forest to gather firewood as she had often seen her mother do. Her absence was not noticed until she had been gone some time from the camp. As she gathered dry sticks, in a thicket she saw a large, spotted animal stealing swiftly toward her.

"Every South American country girl of 7 knows a jaguar when she sees him, whether she has ever seen one before or not, for the dread of these animals is an instinct among the inhabitants of regions which they frequent. Overcome by fear the girl could neither stand still and watch her fate. With her eyes riveted on the jaguar she did not see where they came from, but of a sudden she perceived that he was savagely fighting with two huge, tawny animals that had sprung upon him.

"The fight seemed to her to last a long time, and once the brutes in their struggles came very near to where she stood. The jaguar at last, and after standing over the body a few minutes as if to assure themselves that he would not revive they for the first time turned their gaze toward the child, who had been too much terrified to improve her chance to run away while the beasts were fighting.

"They favored her with a long stare, and then, not offering to approach or harm her, turned to the depths of the forest and vanished. She was so much terrified that she scarcely had disappeared when her father, having missed the child and guided by the sounds of the fight, came running to the place with gun and machete and found her safe. He got a jaguar skin as a trophy, though it was cut too nearly into ribbons by the pumas' claws to be of value.

"In the Guarico country, at a village called Paraya, near the Merida trail, I saw an Indian named Jose Lobado whose face and head were deeply scarred and whose body was a network of similar scars from wounds received through being carried away by a jaguar when an infant in arms. Of course he could not remember the occurrence, but his mother, who had rescued him, described it to me.

"She had gone to a mata, or wooded spot, on the pampas for firewood, carrying her child, after the fashion of Venezuelan women of humble station, in a shawl looped from her shoulder. This shawl, with the small boy in it, she slung to a low tree branch while she gathered her bundle of sticks, and she did not perceive the approach of a jaguar until he had seized the child and was carrying it away.

"The mother grasped her machete and ran after the jaguar, shrieking. She managed to keep the beast in sight, but he was rapidly getting beyond her view when suddenly the jaguar stopped, put the child down and bristling for fight stood with his forepaws resting upon it.

"Then the mother saw that a puma was fronting the jaguar. She hurried on toward where the two beasts faced each other, growling and snarling. Before she got to them the puma sprang, and at once the two were fighting fiercely above the child. In the struggle the child was rolled to one side, but before the mother could get to it the jaguar broke away from the puma and springing into the air, crunched with his paws above him as before.

"The puma leaped again and the fight was renewed, but again the jaguar got clear and jumped to guard his prey before the mother could get a chance to snatch her child. Once more the puma attacked his foe, and this time as the beasts struggled and tore each other an accidental kick from one of them sent the boy 20 feet away, almost to the mother's feet.

"Catching him up she ran for home and got safe to the house. The boy, though covered with claw wounds from head to foot and bearing deep marks of the jaguar's teeth in the back, where the beast had seized him to carry him away, recovered completely from his injuries, although bearing the scars for his lifetime. The puma and the jaguar were found, both dead, at the place where they had fought."—Philadelphia Times.

A Quick Witted Baptist. One of the candidates for the state senate down in Jefferson county, Ala., was a prominent Baptist, and he expected his fellow churchmen to help push him along. The story goes that he was campaigning on a country beat and had the good fortune to fall in with a whole congregation of Baptists. Whether a prayer meeting had just been held or what the occasion of the gathering was is not known. About this time a light shower came up, and the candidate at once raised a large umbrella which he was carrying.

"You are not afraid of this little shower, are you, Brother?" remarked one good Baptist, standing near. "Not at all," responded the quick witted candidate, "but you know I am opposed to all forms of 'sprinkling.' He carried that beat solidly."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

France and Uncle Sam. The French papers are busily collecting instances of what they consider American unfriendliness toward France, in order to bolster up their campaign of hostility against the United States. The Figaro recently published George Bancroft's letter of congratulation to Bismarck on the result of the Franco-Prussian war, and follows it up with several other incidents of a like nature, among which is General Grant's telegram of congratulation to the emperor of Germany in 1870, and the fact that Victor Hugo refused to receive him on account of his visiting to Paris several years later.

CANON AINGER ON BURNS.

He Doubts That His Work Was Appreciated in England.

In the second of his lectures on "Some Leaders in the Poetic Revival, 1760-1820," delivered at the Royal Institution recently, Canon Ainger, discussing Burns, doubted whether his work, with the exception of a few pieces, was ever very widely known or appreciated in England. Reasons were given that would tend to support this view, and it was pointed out that Burns was not so much a poet as a dialectic writer, while in addition to the dialect difficulty there was a certain admixture of free speech on religious and other matters that might easily offend those who were particular in such things.

Burns' best and most characteristic work was written in the present speech of his native Ayrshire, and the English enthusiasm following the line of least resistance probably began with the poems written in English. In these the poet was not at his best, though the lecturer could not go so far as to say, with some critics, that English was a foreign language to him. His English poetic style was founded on a poetic school that was already in decay, and he wrote English verse under the influence of bad models. He was not indelicate or inartistic in his use of English, and it was no foolish literary ambition that led him to abandon the vernacular.

The alternation of English and Scotch in "The Cotter's Saturday Night," for example, was methodical and constituted one of the secrets of its beauty and effectiveness. Nor could the lecturer admit that the poem was sentimental, for sentiment was meant to be a trap. False sentiment did not last, but Burns' sentiment is as true and sweet and pure now as it was 100 years ago. It was as a song writer that he was best known to many, though he did not make his first appearance in that character. Of songs he wrote literally hundreds, naturally of differing merit. But the best were transcendental and almost unique.

They came as a reminder that in literature and art the difference between first and second rate was infinite, though between second and third and fourth rate it was insignificant. As a story teller in lyric measure Burns had no equal. In the development of poetic art he stood at the parting of the ways—the climax of the old and the beginning of the new. He was the greatest of Scotch poets, though not the last. His influence on English poetry was incalculable, and it was he, if any one, who broke up the frost that had settled on lyric poetry at the end of last century.

Keep an Eye on Russia. But let us examine closely for a moment the supposed friendship of Russia for the United States. It is not, it cannot be, other than mere words. States do not differ that are never brought in contact, and where there is no contact there is no rivalry, and professions of friendship may do no harm and can do little good. But what is there between the United States and Russia in common that can make them allies?

Russia aims at two things—to prevent an Anglo-American alliance, and to prevent the United States from ever acquiring any voice in the direction of affairs in the far east. The policy of Russia was not matured in a day. Russia did not withdraw from America until she had possession of the lower Amoor, until she had awakened the fears of Japan, had taken possession of one of the islands and had driven her into the family of nations, where Japan hoped she might find allies among civilized states. Russia intended that the Monroe doctrine should effectually stop the United States from having any voice in the settlement of any Asiatic question. She may say, "You can no more acquire by conquest the Philippine Islands than Russia or France can acquire Cuba."

Russia withdrew from Alaska for two reasons—to exclude the United States from having any voice in respect to questions touching the eastern shore of Asia and to prevent Alaska in case any future conflict with the United Kingdom should arise from becoming a part of British America, and it was so understood at the time by every Japanese statesman.—North American Review.

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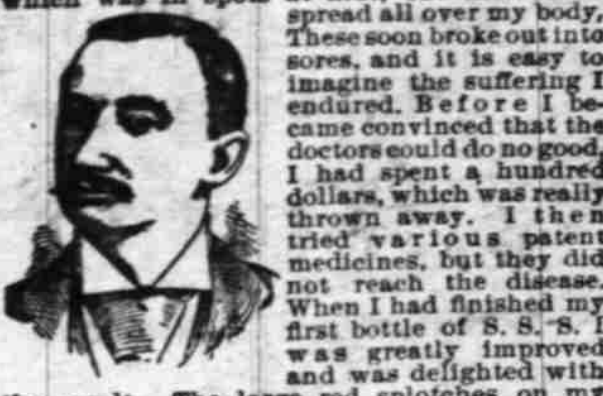
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NORTH CAROLINA. In the Currituck county, Supr Court, Before the Clerk. W. H. Cowell, V. S. Cowell and S. D. Cowell. vs. Mamie Goodman and Howard Walker. NOTICE OF ACTION. The defendants above named will take notice that an action, entitled as above, has been commenced in the Superior Court of Currituck county for sale, and division of the proceeds of a certain tract of land situated in Crawford township, in said county, bounded on the north and east by the lands of the heirs of Dr. W. H. Cowell, deceased, and on the south and west by the lands of W. D. Barnard; in which said lands the said defendants are tenants in common with the plaintiffs; and the said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court for the county of Currituck, on the 6th day of August, 1898, at the Courthouse of said county and State, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiffs will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This June 22, 1898. E. W. ANSELL, Clerk of the Superior Court of Currituck county, N. C.

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NORTH CAROLINA, Supr Court, Camden county, vs. Peter Clark, M. N. Sawyer, Plaintiff, vs. T. W. Dozier and Wiley Dozier, Def'ts. NOTICE. The defendants above named will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Camden county to sell for partition the lands known as Lucius Dozier land, bounded on north by Indian Town creek, east by the lands of heirs of C. C. Williams, south by the main road and west by A. M. Wiley, 126 acres more or less. Said land is the property of the plaintiff and defendant above named. Defendants will further take notice that a summons has been issued to them and returned by the sheriff "not to be found in my county." They will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of Clerk of Superior Court of said county on July 18, 1898, and answer or demur to the complaint or the relief therein prayed for will be granted. June 6, 1898. R. L. FORBES, Clerk San. Court, Camden Co. G. W. Ward, attorney.