

Independent Herald.

"THE TROJAN AND TYRIAN SHALL BE TREATED BY US WITHOUT DISTINCTION."

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 We go to press on Thursday evening, therefore, all matter intended for publication in a given week's issue must reach us by Tuesday noon of that week.

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 INDEPENDENT HERALD,
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METHODIST.—Rev. W. D. Akers, pastor. Preaching on 2d and 4th Sundays at 11 o'clock, a. m., and at 8 o'clock, p. m. Sunday school at 9 o'clock, a. m.; J. G. Waldrop, Sup't. Prayer meeting every Tuesday night.
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A GLASS SNAKE.

A Serpent That Breaks Into Pieces and Comes Together Again.

From Eli Perkins' Texas Letter.

Along the Upper Brazos and in Western Texas, where flourish the horned frog, is the strangest snake known to naturalists. He is sometimes called the glass-snake. He is from two to four feet long, with a striped back. He is not poisonous. His way of defending himself when attacked by a powerful foe is similar to that of the possum or skunk. Instead of fighting back he breaks into a dozen pieces, and every piece distinct in itself, lies apparently dead on the ground. Sometimes the pieces are a foot apart. When the foe disappears the pieces gradually come together, unite into one snake and crawl off. The naturalist will naturally ask if the pieces are entirely separated. I answer they are. No film or tender holds them together. You can chop the ground with an axe between the pieces. Mr. H. Edwards, whose post office address is Montgomery, Alabama, showed me one of these snakes at Waco. He still has it alive, and will prove with the living snake or by answering a letter from any naturalist the accuracy of this story. The glass-snake which Mr. Edwards showed me had lost the tip of its tail. When I asked the owner how that happened, he said: "The snake went to pieces one day and before it got together a hungry kingsnake, which I still have, swallowed the tail." Mr. Edwards has several kingsnakes. Like the glass-snake, they are not poisonous; still they kill the largest snakes in the bottoms. They make a spring at a large snake or rabbit, coil instantly around its neck and strangle it—choke it to death. A kingsnake five feet long will strangle a dog or rattlesnake. The only snake able to defend itself against the kingsnake is the glass-snake. When the kingsnake springs at the glass-snake the glass-snake breaks into pieces and its foe might as well try to strangle a basket of clothes-pins or a pailful of sardines.

Here is a dialogue between a clergyman and a traveler: C.—I've lost my portmanteau. T.—I pity your grief! C.—All my sermons are in it! T.—I pity the thief!

Why is a turnpike toll gate like a dead dog's tail? Because it stops a waggin.