

SNAKES THAT REALLY WALK

Scientists Assert They Have Method of Locomotion of Which Few Are Aware.

Appropos of the recent discovery in Africa of the Gigantophis Africanus it is interesting to note the many facts which point to the conclusion that snakes swam before they took to land. It is not impossible that the traces of former snake locomotion which are found in the python and other snakes are the remains of former fins. It is said that when the reptiles came to land and learned to burrow in the sand they lost these.

There is one explanation of the rudimentary foot of modern times in the snake world, and that is in the remains of the flying dragon. When the dragons ceased to fly and came to earth it is said that some of them survived as snakes and that the remains of their feet and wings survive in the species that tempted Adam and Eve.

The usual method of walking in the snake tribe is peculiar and is more like walking in a bag. A snake walks; he does not crawl, as the average layman imagines. Snakes walk on their ribs.

The old Germans or Teutons used to have a warlike custom of proclaiming their kins. The sturdy warriors would lock their brazen shields together, lifted high above their heads, on which the future king was elevated. The snake's belly is in some respects like the interlocked shields. His feet are his ribs, which he is capable of working forward or backward, at the same time bending them.

Over each rib there is a shield, and as the foot moves the point of the foot is lowered and digs into the ground or takes hold of any projection on the surface over which it is going. This moves his bulk along. He also curls himself up and thus moves along more swiftly. Grabbing with his front ribs, an ugly snake can hold fast while he pulls up his other half. Scientists do not believe that snakes can spring, but that they sometimes jump.

Dining Early.

Lord Shaw told a good story at a dinner to the Bench and Bar, given recently by the Fishmongers' company. He said that in the old days the Scottish bench in Edinburgh were accustomed to dine at four o'clock in the afternoon and sometimes these convivial gatherings were prolonged to a late or early hour, as the case might be.

At two o'clock one afternoon a client called at the house of a distinguished lawyer and asked to see the master.

"He's at dinner," replied the maid.

"At dinner?" gasped the caller. "Dinner at two o'clock in the afternoon! Surely your master dines early?"

"No," replied the maid. "It's yesterday's dinner he's still eatin'!"

May Be a Romney.

A recent picture find in England is believed to be a lost Romney, and the advertising it is now getting may enable the "finder" to sell it, because of its historical significance, at a great price. The story goes that its owner bought the picture, torn and dirty, from a dealer who thought so little of it that he let it go for 11 shillings (about \$2.75), and that he had already refused \$2,000 for it. The picture has been declared to be a study of the notorious Lady Hamilton, mistress of the immortal Nelson, taken in the nude. The subject is a female figure reclining upon drapery of which one part is raised above the head by uplifted arms, throwing a soft shadow on the face and bust. It is alleged that, though no signature of Romney appears, there has been found a record that he did once paint such a portrait of the frail lady.

Smartly Rebuked.

It is not often misbehavior gets such a straightforward rebuke as is recorded in this story.

In the early days of Primitive Methodism there traveled in England an eccentric minister named Nest, who was famous for his plain talking. On one occasion he was preaching missionary sermons at a village so noted for its small collections that he determined to pass the plate himself. On his round he came to a farmer who was, as Mr. Neale well knew, the richest man in the place. This individual placed a penny in the plate. Mr. Neale stopped immediately, and said in a loud voice:

"Take your penny out, man! Take it out! Don't you see you've covered up your laborer's sixpence?"

The rebuke was effectual, and a much more valuable coin was placed on the plate.

Served 'Em Right.

Norman Haggood, the editor-reformer of New York, was talking about a political mutineer.

"Such fellows," said Mr. Haggood, "ought to be served as Dr. Steenthly served his congregation."

"Dr. Steenthly, on a sultry September morning, preached with sincerity and vigor a sermon that he had prepared with great pains.

"But, for all the force of his argument and delivery, the good doctor was much vexed to see that a large part of his congregation slept. Several of his leading parishioners even snored.

"Dr. Steenthly, at the end of his discourse, pounded on the lectern, and when all were at last awake, he said, very frankly and mildly:

"My friends, this sermon cost me a great deal of trouble, and I don't think you have paid it the attention it deserves. I shall therefore repeat it. My text I take from—"

"And for a second time Dr. Steenthly preached his sermon from beginning to end."

Joked With Christian Names.

Some parents seem unable to resist the temptation to make a joke with the Christian names of their children. The Somerset House (London) registers testify to the existence of a Mineral Waters, a Frosty Winter and an Alfred Day Weeks. There is something to be said in favor of naming children in the order of their arrival—Primus, Secundus, etc.—but it is unfortunate for a well-known Canadian named Cumber that it should have fallen to his lot to be Quintus. His name is always appearing in the papers as Mr. Q. Cumber.

The Old Oak Tree.

By William E. Griffin.

One warm spring day a few years ago, an old man and his young grandson sat upon the ground in the grateful shade of an old oak tree. The man's face was haggard and wrinkled and his brow was sad and reflective, as if some unpleasant thought had crossed his mind.

"Grandpa," inquired the boy, "what makes you look so sad, to-day, when you have come so far to visit us?"

"Just then," he answered with a shade of sadness in his tone, "I was thinking of this tree, which was planted by my grandfather, your great-great grandfather. It reminded me of his unselfish life and thoughtful care. It has been venerated by our family for five generations. Around its massive trunk no ivy has entwined, but instead there have grown the ever-green vines of family tradition. Your forefathers have watched its slow and steady growth with patient, tender, loving care. That sturdy oak is the same old tree as when I played under its spreading branches, a care-free boy looking into the mists of the future. My memory clings to the events of my boyhood no closer than the bark to that massive trunk."

"When I was a boy about your size, in the balmy days of spring, I have sat for hours beneath its leaf-dotted boughs and listened to the carol of the birds whose delicious music descended upon me like a shower. The sighing of the breezes thru the manifold branches sounded the requiem of winter. I wondered if the voices of angels could be filled with sweeter melodies."

"In the bleak and dreary days of autumn, the mournful howling of the frost-laden winds thru its naked branches was nature's lament for the departed summer."

"In my golden childhood days I gathered the acorn fruitage from its ample boughs, and with my youthful sweetheart played on this same spot. Those acorn cups and saucers then seem dearer to me now than your mother's costly china-ware. To that bough just over your head was fastened a swing, and no pleasure was dearer to me than swinging my golden-haired, blue-eyed sweetheart of the long ago. When her sweet young life was brought to an untimely end, I mourned her as sincerely as I would a sister. Just over this wall," he said, pointing to a grassy mound, "she sleeps in the shade of her favorite tree. For many years, every spring, I planted flowers on her grave, and those flowers symbolized the purity of her young life."

Just then a tear stole down the old man's cheek. Who shall not pardon that evidence of emotion?

There is no man or woman with a soul to feel and a heart to understand, that does not like to live over again the days of childhood. A person who lives in the present for self alone is friendless and heartless. Few, there are, to mourn his loss, and in the hearts of his survivors, no monument will be inscribed to his memory.

[Mr. Griffin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Edward Griffin of Halcottville, and is preparing to enter High School next fall. We trust that he will continue to develop his ability as a writer.]

ARENA ITEMS.

Harley Edwards has engaged to work for the summer to Charles McLean on Dingle Hill and began his duties there on Monday.

Among those from here, who attended the funeral of Peter Shaver at Shavertown on Monday were: Mr. and Mrs. Norman Miner, C. E. Miner, James Murdock and August Goerke.

Alvern Hunt has engaged as clerk in Harry Gregory's store and began his duties there on Monday.

P. O. Hess of Jacksonburgh made 40 gallons of maple syrup during the warm weather in February.

A series of special meetings are being held in the Advent church every evening this week.

Mrs. Polly O'Connor and Miss Prudence O'Connor of Kelly Corners were in town on Monday to attend the Old School Baptist meeting, conducted by Elder Vaill in E. H. Dickson's Hall.

Mrs. Minnie Butler is slowly recovering from her recent severe illness being able to sit up a short time each day.

Mrs. William F. Dickson went to Livingston Manor the first of the week to spend a couple of weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Davidson.

Jerome Rickard and Perry Thomas were home from Corbett Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mann and Mrs. Jack Hoag of Turnwood were visitors in town on Monday.

Arthur Rickard visited his brother, Kenneth at Hobart last week.

W. H. Brown of Margaretville was a visitor in town on Sunday.

Mrs. Dewitt Whitney of Arkville was a visitor at George Merritt's last week.

Mrs. Mary White visited her daughter, Mrs. John Caswell near Margaretville a few days last week.

Dr. Hubbell of Grand Gorge was called here one day last week to see Mrs. Margaret Faulkner, who is still confined to her bed by illness. Mrs. A. S. Carroll of Hobart is staying with her now, assisting her daughter Miss Lida to care for her.

Howard Grey and wife and little daughter Beulah, of Hobart were guests last week of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Grey.

Mrs. J. Keator of Union Grove was a guest of her daughter, Mrs. John Hunt on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Merton Signor spent the past week with Downsfield relatives.

VILLAGE MONEYS.

Report of What has been done with the Money Raised by Corporation Tax During the Past 12 Months.

The following is the yearly report of the village board of trustees for the closing with the first of March.

ORDINARY FUND—Receipts.

Balance March 1, 1914	\$ 19.91
Taxes 1913	17.37
Show licenses	3.00
Mortgage tax	28.05
Bank tax	129.59
Notes discounted	300.00
Fines	50.00
Received from Collector	241.44
	\$789.36

Disbursements.

Notes and interest	\$101.00
E. V. Woolheater, Assessor	6.00
J. B. Archibald, Assessor and inspector	8.00
E. Kelly, labor	2.00
S. Kelly, labor	2.00
Paid Fire department	100.00
Thos. Edwards, police	8.00
Swart Mercantile Company supplies	27.90
Stanley Bussy, police	8.00
P. A. Cramer, repairs	7.20
Olmstead & Co., supplies	2.99
Al Moore, labor	5.00
Mary E. Dwyer, damages	62.50
G. C. Grant, Justice	12.35
Thos. Edwards, constable	13.50
W. T. Austin, disbursements	9.00
N. D. Olmstead, Treasurer salary	25.00
Inez K. Lynn, stenographer	5.00
E. E. Howe, Attorney fees	6.70
Fred Ayres	25.88
B. L. Searle, supplies	4.00
B. L. Searle, Assessor	4.00
J. W. Telford, health officer 1913 and 1914	66.90
J. W. Telford health officer 1915	52.42
C. A. Sanford, printing	32.00
A. C. Fenton, Attorney and disbursements	60.00
Wilson Gorsch, supplies	1.00
Wilson Gorsch, Assessor and inspector	8.00
R. W. Mungle, insurance	9.75
T. Winter, insurance and disbursements	10.06
T. Winter, salary and registrar	60.00
March 1, 1915, bal. on hand	28.93
	\$789.36

HIGHWAY FUND—Receipts.

Bal. March 1, 1914	\$ 12
From commissioner	6.07
Fencing sold	11.32
Received from collector	425.00
	\$442.51

Disbursements.

Maintaining State road	153.02
John W. Hewitt, sidewalk	13.20
D. L. Todd, castings	5.36
G. E. Gladstone, sidewalk	14.80
J. S. Archibald, Supt bridge	50.00
Amos Allison, commissioner	175.00
Amos Allison, salary	25.00
March 1, 1915, balance	6.13
	\$442.71

HIGHWAY FUND—Receipts.

Received from collector	\$392.50
Disbursements.	
Margaretville Gas Light Co.	392.50
Received from collector	\$524.00
Disbursements.	
Margaretville Water Co.	\$524.00
Total receipts	\$2148.37
Total disbursements	2113.31
Balance on hand	35.06
Dated March 1, 1915.	
W. T. Austin, President.	
J. B. Archibald, E. V. Woolheater, and Wilson Gorsch, Trustees.	
N. D. Olmstead, Treasurer.	
Thomas Winter, Clerk.	

SCHOOL COLUMN.

Continued from page 3.

- 2—Organ or piano.
- 3—Phonograph.
- 4—Especially valuable pictures.
- 5—Projection apparatus.
- 6—Miscellaneous.

(Points to be subtracted from score)

- 1—Desks marked or cut.
- 2—Desks marked obscenely.
- 3—Any other school property or furniture defaced.
- 4—Out houses marked.
- 5—Out-houses marked obscenely.
- 6—Water on floor about drinking fountain.
- 7—Double out-houses under same roof.

Peacock in Andes.

From our Andes correspondent.

Rev. Peacock, the evangelist, preached in the U. P. church Tuesday.

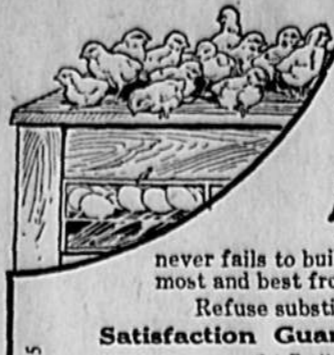
Piano Bargains.

A well-known Piano Manufacturer being affected by the present dull times, having a large stock of finished pianos on hand, for 60 days will make the following offer. New pianos in oak or mahogany case \$150.00, player pianos in mahogany case 255.00. Guaranteed by the manufacturer for 5 years. Will pay expenses to New York and return should you purchase. For particulars and catalogue, Address JOHN H. DAKIN No. 312 Lafayette Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.—adv.

A LIFE IN A DAY.

Let every dawn of morning be to you as the very beginning of life; let every setting sun be to you as the close of that life; then let every one of these short lives leave some sure record of some kindly thing done for others or some goodly strength or knowledge that you have gained for yourselves.—John Ruskin.

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Special attention to cleaning, altering, repairing and pressing ladies' and gentlemen's garments at reasonable prices.

Thanking you for past patronage and hoping you will favor me with a visit, I remain
Yours truly,
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Main St., Margaretville, N. Y.

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No stockholders looking for profits. The profits are for the Policy Holders. They get them in reduced premium charges.

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Plows and Farm Machinery Parts a Specialty.

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EXCHANGE COLUMN.

Advertising in this column is free to all subscribers. Advertisements must be limited to three lines and will be inserted for two weeks only.

For Sale—Two double sheet sap pans also castings for arch and some pipe. George Sanford, Margaretville.

Wanted—Work for sawing mill and two teams. Crago Brothers, Belleayre, N. Y.

For Sale—Quantity potatoes, 50 cents while they last. Hubbell Bros. Kelly Corners.

For Sale—Two peacocks; also four seated wagon. C. M. Ballard, Griffin Corners.

For Sale—Two 2-year-old, 1 3-year-old, 1 5-year-old cows, all fresh. H. Bird-sall, New Kingston.

For Sale—Four fresh cows. James Murray, Fleischmanns.

Wanted—Half a pig. W. H. Brown, Margaretville.

For Sale—About 15 tons of hay. Leon Bass, Margaretville.

For Sale—Dog part Collie and part hound. Cheap if sold at once. Geo. H. Owens, Hardenburgh.

Wanted—Work horse about 1100. Also want a bronze gobbler. Ziba Sanford, Dunraven.

For Sale—Mare with foal or will trade for good road horse. H. B. Kelly, Margaretville.

For Sale—Pair gray horses 6 and 7 years old, first-class workers and drivers, bargain for quick sale. E. J. Gavett, Turnwood.

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VAL SPAR VARNISH.

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"The same price the world over."

STYLE - Always Right. QUALITY - Always Guaranteed. PRICE - Always \$17.

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One of the big makers several years ago decided to see how big values he could turn out at a medium price by specializing throughout his whole organization. \$17 was the price selected.

By centering their great buying power on one class of woolens, by introducing scientific methods in the making, they are able to produce a high grade, guaranteed fabric with hand tailoring to add to the shapeliness and the finish of the garment, and then to the skill of a recognized fashion artist, all for \$17.

Thus you know the style is right, you know the quality is guaranteed and you know the price is the same everywhere.

We introduced this suit to this town. You cannot buy it anywhere else. We have it in all the new styles and fabrics.

Come in and see how easily and economically you can dress well on the Styleplus basis.



MEN'S UNDERWEAR
MEN'S RIBBED UNDERWEAR, NOT TOO HEAVY, JUST THE KIND YOU WANT FOR MARCH WEATHER.

Per Suit of 2 Garments. **75c.** Per Suit of 2 Garments.

Extra Special

For This Week Only
67 PAIRS OF MEN'S Goodyear Rubbers
SIZES 8 TO 10.
50c. pr.

REGULAR PRICE 85c. FIRST QUALITY

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Signed
Samuel Korn