

may be known by an instance near Crosswicks, 1748, An Indian hunting, discovered a large buck feeding, creeping to shoot, he heard something among the bushes, presently saw a panther with his eyes so intent on the buck, that he did not perceive him: the Indian watching his motions, observed, that while the buck had his head down to feed, the panther crept, but when he held it up, lay snug; he at last got unperceiv'd, within about twenty feet, and then making a desperate leap, fixed his talons in the buck's neck; after he had nearly kill'd him, he would cease for a minute, give a watchful look round, and then fall to shaking again; having done his work, and about to draw the carcass to a heap of leaves for future service, the Indian shot, and got both: They sometimes take their prey by suddenly jumping out of trees; so the wild-cats also commonly effect it; these fix on young cattle so eagerly, as to be sometimes brought home on their backs: Some instances of the wolves killing deer, have been known; tho' but seldom, and chiefly by accident: The bucks also kill one another in fighting, by entangling in the horns, and so die and rot; they have been taken alive so fasten'd, and the horns of others found: The deer are sometimes white, and sometimes spotted nearly like the common colour of fauns; but these are rare; brown is the usual colour.

The rattle-snake, as the country settles thick, are but little known; many old inhabitants have never seen them alive: The mischief they have yet done, is inconsiderable, their power and opportunities considered: This is remarkable; they have an astonishing charm *z.*

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z. A person having one taken alive, and brought in a small basket cover'd, the man that brought it, sat with the basket between his knees; he wantonly took off the cover; the snake caught his attention; he was immediately surprisingly affected, and express'd afterwards every thing attractive, as to the penetrating force of the snake's

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in their eyes; the venom of their bite is perhaps without comparison; yet their power is happily circumscribed in a way the most effectual, that is, by not having a will to mischief equal to the means, otherwise there would, in some places, scarcely have been any living among them; at least before antidotes were discovered by the Indians: Formerly they were thick and plenty in particular places; and yet in the new settled parts, are common, especially in the spring, when from their winter's retreat, they prepare for a summer's separation: A surveyor, with his eye on a distant object unawares among a parcel of these, one would think in a poor situation; yet an instance of this but lately happened: He had taken a long view in the spring on the south of a hill, and keeping his eye to the object, without attending so much to his feet, was first alarm'd with a smell rank and disagreeable, and then an unusual noise, on which, looking about, he saw the leaves in motion, and woods alive with rattle-snakes; y. he got off by care in his steps, without harm. They choose
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snake's eye, the snake all the while kept rattling with fury; the man's own action was lost in amazement and terror; and had not another present, put the cover on the basket, he had probably been bit.

y. Half a dozen or less, with their tails in motion, might answer this purpose; but he was too much frightened to count; there might however be many more, as there frequently are numbers together, when they first leave their holes in the spring. One Robins, in Amwell, Hunterdon county, at a spot on his own plantation, had upwards of 90 kill'd in each of three springs successively: The parties performing it, bark'd young chestnut trees of the size of their own legs, and tied them on; thus accoutred, they effected their business without much danger; but the snakes frequently bit the bark. Instances need not be multiplied in a case well known; or others where the snakes were much more numerous, might be given. At one of the quarries, where stone was got for Prince-Town college, the work-men came to an aperture in the rock, about eighteen inches wide, ten feet long, and six deep, in which they found near twenty bushels of snakes bones; they were supposed to have got in through winding crevices of the rock in the fall, and in their weak state in the spring, not able to get out again.