The art of trapping is as old as man. The prehistoric human skulker in caves and chance-made natural shelters was surrounded by monstrous forms of life, some of which he fed, in all probability, and others he fed upon. Inferior as this unwritten man was in mental powers to his descendants of to-day, he still possessed brains and reason, and aided by these he encompassed the downfall of creatures his superiors in strength and activity. In fine, he trapped; and he, in the persons of his increasing progeny, has trapped, more or less, ever since.

Time was when trapping consisted mainly of setting traps and taking therefrom the easily secured captives, but now it demands the closest study of wild creatures and their ways—has become, in fact, a strategic game between the highest form of reason and an instinct often so closely approaching reason that the dividing line is problematical. The very difficulty of successful trapping, the keen observation and close study it demands and the delightful contact it insures with Nature's purest charms, form its greatest attraction. There is more excitement (of a certain kind), more pleasure and more genuine sportsmanship involved in trapping than in shooting game with gun or rifle, simply because the one demands more knowledge and closer and longer continued relations with Nature than does the other.

The successful trappers, the last few representatives of the hardy, picturesque race who blazed the trail for civilization across this mighty continent, know the ways of beast and fowl as a lawyer knows the intricate mesh of the net he will weave around or disentangle from a disputed point. Such men can read the "sign" of forest, plain and sky with microscopic eye; to them the marvelous page of Nature is indeed an open book, filled with words plain and readable. And while no amateur trapper will ever attain their skill, yet possibly some of my readers may find pleasure in dabbling in the craft in an amateurish way, and by its means rid themselves of furred and feathered pests and save some valued pet or property from destruction.

Most boys, especially village and country boys, have a natural tendency for capturing wild creatures. I myself was a born trapper, and as my early life was spent in a small town from which the woods could be reached in a quarter of an hour, many and many a furred and feathered victim filled my snares. If there happened to be a particularly cunning gray old woodchuck in a sand knoll, he was mine ere the game was through with; was there an unusually destructive rat about the premises, one that laughed at traps, I, and I alone, was allowed to tamper with him, and to me was paid the inevitable "quarter" when the dead rascal was finally produced, My respected Dad, a second Jack Russell, could hold true and ride straight, don the mittens, land a fish, trap a "varmint," or stuff a bird, with the best of 'em, and in a sneaking sort of way he gloried in the fact that one of his sons had inherited his tastes. During my youthful days he had a regular scale of prices for trapped vermin—so much a dozen for mice, so much apiece for rats, etc., with a most liberal emergency fund for the capture of any chance freebooter. Did a falcon nail a carrier, or an almond tumbler, a dollar or more was bid for the pirate's body; and a mink, or coon, or owl attacking his choice-bred poultry, or a rabbit cutting his raspberry canes, simply meant extra cash for me.

With such encouragement, it is hardly surprising that I trapped pretty nearly every creature about the place, from my sister's beaux to the humming-birds in the trumpet-flowers. In after years fate led me to the grand old woods of Michigan's northern peninsula, and under the
crowding, whispering pines and hemlocks, I and a scarred old waif from the western Rockies trapped together for two memorable seasons. In those days ('75 and '76) wild pigeons nested in Oceana County, and at the close of the summer we took our full share of azure-backed, pink-breasted beauties with the nets. But the old-day countless myriads of pigeons have vanished for aye, and with them the "stool-birds" and netted "stools," the "bough-house" and taut spring-rope, the salted or baited beds, and all the rest of it.

And now to consider a few useful traps. Let not the reader be disappointed with the paucity of my devices, which include the easiest made, or set, and the most effectual of almost countless contrivances. I describe no appliance or scheme for taking bird or beast that can be classified under the broad head of "game"—and I do this for reasons good. Claiming to be a sportsman, I am inclined to the belief that only the sultriest kind of a hereafter awaits the man or boy who will deliberately set to work to trap any form of life which, under the creed of sportsmanship, should only be shot. I never in my life intentionally trapped a single head of game proper, nor do I ever intend to. The law of the land and the unwritten law of sportsmanship forbid the trapping of game, and while I know well enough how to snare and trap deer, turkey, wild goose, duck, grouse and quail, I believe in "lead us not into temptation," and refrain from explaining.

Many traps sometimes used are unworthy the consideration of any civilized mortal, on account of the barbarous torture they inflict upon captives. Notable among these are all the devices in which fish-hooks, or any style of hooks, play a part—this statement, of course, does not apply to the capture of fish. The ordinary steel trap, too, is vilely cruel, unless so set that the captured animal can plunge into water and speedily drown. I remember days when in the woods, that stress of weather would prevent us visiting a line of traps, and forty-eight hours later we would find wretched animals cowering in the snow, or frozen stiff with the metal jaws gripping savagely a broken limb—or not infrequently we would discover only a severed paw, where the unfortunate beast had gnawed its own flesh and so gained freedom. I always hated to think of how those tortured things must have suffered as they slowly froze to death. Think of the agony of steel jaws biting living flesh in a winter atmosphere, O! would-be trapper, and temper your trapping with merciful consideration. Unfortunately, certain furred depredators, such as foxes and raccoons, must sometimes be caught far from water, and there the traps must needs inflict their tortures; but it behooves the humane trapper to make those tortures as brief as possible, and no trap should be set that will not be visited regularly at proper intervals.
In all likelihood few of my readers will ever penetrate the wilderness upon a regular trapping outing, so I need not devote much space to the capture of the greater carnivora. For such game as black bear, puma, wolf and lynx, several styles of traps are used, among which are the spring-gun, steel trap, poisoned baits and the dead-fall. The first and second are sure enough, but very dangerous if used in a locality where there is any possibility of a sportsman wandering about; the third is an inhuman method of killing, and may perchance kill the wrong creature. Poison in any form, is, in my opinion, a mean thing to use; strychnine is most frequently used, and anyone who has seen a dog die from the effects of the deadly stuff knows what a horrible, muscle-racking death follows the swift effects of the poison. Only for the destruction of the wolf, or the thievish wolverine is such a method defensible.

A well-known and excellent trap is the last mentioned above—the heavy dead-fall. It is sure enough, if properly constructed, and will kill animals as large as the black bear speedily, and without injuring the fur. There is a style of trap which takes large animals alive; it is made like a gigantic box-trap, but I conclude that none of my readers intends to supply a menagerie—and who the mischief else wants to catch bears and "sich" alive?

The best dead-fall is constructed as follows: In a swamp, or bit of woods, where the "sign" says bears are working, build a pen about three feet wide, four deep and five high, of moderate-sized timber, for the cutting of which a keen axe is needed. Select soft ground and form the pen of three-inch saplings, pointed and riven firmly into the soil. When the pen is complete a couple of logs about six feet long are placed across the front. Outside, on either side of these logs, and in line with the sides of the pen, four stout poles are driven, as shown in diagram. The principle of the trap is that a heavy log shall fall upon the back of the bear and crush the body against the lower logs fixed across the front of the pen. The heavy log, or "fall-log," should be nearly a foot in diameter and about twenty feet long. The working parts of the trap consist of a stout stake (1) driven firmly just inside the "bed-piece," or short logs, and projecting above ground nearly three feet; a straight stick (2) about two and a half feet long and flattened slightly at one end; a "bait-stick," (3) notched at each end on opposite sides; two stout forks (4) (4) driven firmly into the ground, and the short, straight cross-piece (5). The diagram will explain how the thing works. The weight of the "fall-log" rests upon the short projecting end of (2), which is supported by (1) and kept in position by the grip of the notched "bait-stick," (3) the reverse notch of which grips the cross-piece (5) held down by the forks (4) (4). The bait, either a bit of smoked fish or flesh smeared with honey, is fixed near the lower end of the "bait-stick" (3). In order to reach the tempting morsel bruin must enter the trap at least halfway. A slight forward pull at the bait will release the lower end of (3), which at once allows the fall-log to crash down across the back of the unfortunate black fellow, who will possibly think the burden that lays upon him is greater than he can bear. In any event his career will be seriously incommoded by limits when he is once pinned between the logs. There are many other methods by which the fall-log can be worked, an excellent one being the figure 4, but perhaps the one described is the best, all things considered. As will be noticed in the illustration, the weight of the fall-log can be increased by resting one or more logs on it.

A good trap for taking coon, mink, squirrel, and the smaller furred creatures, is the little dead-fall. It is much used by professional trappers, and, of course, much lighter timber is employed in constructing it, as the animals are more easily killed than a bear cub. The pen can be made of small sticks and the fall-log can be eight feet long and about six inches in diameter. A useful method...
of setting it is explained by the illustration. The forked bait-stick is about a foot long and the fall-log is released by the animal pulling at the bait. The cross-piece upon which the fall-log rests is about fourteen inches long. The best baits are: for mink, a fowl’s or bird’s head, or a bit of fish; for muskrat, bits of carrot or apple; for skunk and coon, part of a dead fowl or bird, the first preferred.

The young trapper’s favorite game, and one of the easiest trapped animals, is the wild rabbit, and one of the easiest trapped animals. is the wild rabbit, and for the taking of poor bunny there is no trap superior to the old reliable “twitch-up.” Rabbits have regular runways, especially in swampy places, and keen eyes can discover the little paths through the cover at any season, and they are betrayed to the most careless observer as soon as the first snow falls. When the runways are located the capture of the rabbits is assured. The needful outfit comprises a sharp hatchet and knife, and a coil of fine brass wire from which the snares are made. The “twitch-up” can be set many different ways, but my favorite method years ago was as follows: Upon either side of the runway drive a notched stick until the two project about eight inches above the ground. They should be about six inches apart, and, say half an inch in diameter. The rest of the “twitch-up” comprises a springy sapling about five feet long, a foot of cord, a round twig long enough to rest in the notches of the sticks driven in the ground, and lastly the noose of brass wire. A glance at the accompanying figure will explain how the twitch-up is set. The rabbit hopping along his runway in either direction runs his head into the wire noose, which grips his neck, very few struggles suffice to release the cross-piece, the spring-pole straightens, and bunny is lifted off his feet and strangled in short order. It is a humane trap and very effective, and if the spring-pole be made strong and long enough it will lift the rabbit so high from the ground as to be beyond the reach of reynard and other chance prowlers. If it is desired to take a rabbit alive by means of a snare, the noose alone should be fastened to a small tree so that the loop covers the runway. The rabbit will get it about his neck and pull hard until half choked. The moment effort to escape is relaxed the noose will expand enough to allow the animal to breathe, and the trapper will probably find bunny squatted quietly, literally tied to a tree. Needless to remark this method is rather too cruel for general use.

These two snares require no bait, and must be set in the regular paths of the game. Among the devices which depend upon an attractive bait—and the trapper will often have to use them—are two excellent styles, the old box-trap and the bait “twitch-up.” The pole, noose and string for the latter are as just described, and the drawing will show how it is set, the bait being half a sweet apple. Instead of two notched sticks, an arched switch is used, and the bait is protected by a pen of twigs from any attack save through the arch. The pen may be about a foot broad and the same distance in height; with an opening six inches wide left in one side. In this opening the arch and noose are placed, the switch to form the arch being about twenty inches in length. The method of setting with two tapered sticks, of which the upright one has a bit of apple tied near its center, is so simple that it requires no further explanation than a glance at the drawing. If the lower end of the upright stick be placed upon a little flat stone, or bit of smooth bark, the trap is rendered more sensitive, but it will go in any event.

Wire snares can also be used to take rats, gophers and fish. For the first-named the snare can be arranged vertically or horizontally, according to the position of the hole. For the gopher the snare should be laid flat above the burrow; but a more curious way, and one which will afford the boys no end of fun, is as follows: To the end of a stout rod affix a few feet of strong cord, exactly as for fishing tackle; to the free
end of the cord attach a wire noose, and the trap is ready. The gopher has a habit of diving into his burrow upon the close approach of a pedestrian; he will remain below a moment or two and then invariably pop up suddenly, and sit bolt upright with his hind quarters just within the burrow. It is supposed that the trapper has walked near a gopher. The little pest suddenly disappears—now run softly to the burrow, place the snare around the entrance, slip away to the length of rod and line, and lie down on the grass and wait, holding the butt of the rod meanwhile firmly in hand. The instant the gopher pops up, heave smartly on the rod and a capture is assured. I have caught lots of them this way, and frequently with merely a string noose tied to a buggy whip, and the fun was rare and the killing of the gophers joy to the souls of the farmers. In taking fish—"sniggin' a fish," we boys called it in the old days—considerable skill and a quick, responsive arm are required. Sometimes we used a snare with a long end fastened to a short stiff rod; but the favorite method was to mouse about the banks of the river until a good fish was discovered lurking in a shaded hole, and then work the snare gingerly until it was around him, and just about his gills, when a lightning jerk would generally land the prize. Only cunning observation and some practice can insure success. With a longish rod we had great fun sniggering the slender gar-pike from their lurking places among the river weeds. Trout, pickerel, bass and mullet are also easy game enough after the snigger has once caught the hang of the thing.

Another form of snare I hardly approve of (as it is used to capture little birds, which I hold to be too beautiful, gladsome creatures to be either trapped by boys or caged by grown people who ought to know better), is made of long horse-hair, a single hair being used for each snare. To make the noose the two ends of a hair from a horse's tail are brought together, and the double hair twisted slightly between the thumb and finger. When properly twisted, the loose ends are passed through the little loop formed by doubling the hair and made fast with a knot. Fifteen or twenty of these snares can be made in a few minutes, and tied at short intervals along a piece of fine, strong twine; or, according to an old-fashioned method; the hairs may be attached around a barrel hoop. In setting, the hoop or string is pegged to the ground, the hairs arranged to best advantage, and bait scattered inside the hoop or about the string. The kind of bait to be used will depend upon the variety of bird to be caught. For sparrows, bread crumbs are as good as anything, while snow-birds, snow buntings, shore larks, and other winter birds are easily attracted by a few handfuls of chaff, or clover tops scattered on the snow. But if youthful readers of Outing will accept my advice they will leave horse-hair snares and our beautiful small birds severely alone.

The old-fashioned box-trap is one of the best for taking rabbits and such small deer alive. Any boy at all handy with tools can construct this trap out of inch boards. The best dimensions for rabbits are—bottom board, twenty by seven inches; sides, twenty by nine inches; lid board, nineteen by seven inches; end-piece affixed to lid, seven inches square; tail-piece, roughly tapered at one end from a bit of board sixteen by seven inches. When put together these parts will fit smoothly and form a box large enough to hold a rabbit quite comfortably. The way the boards should go together is explained in the drawing. For the hinges for the lid, bore a hole with a brad-awl half an inch below the upper edge of each side-piece at a point our inches from the
high end-piece. Two pieces of pointed wire, two inches long, or a couple of nails of suitable length, driven through the awl-holes into the edges of the lid, will form a smooth-working hinge, as good as could be purchased anywhere. A couple of inch auger holes bored through each side, and through the lid, will assist ventilation and enable the trapper to see his captive when the trap is closed.

To complete the trap a half-inch hole is bored through the middle of the high end-piece three inches above the bottom of the trap, and in a line sideways from it about three inches away is driven a short piece of wire or smooth, headless nail, until the end projects outside the end-piece half an inch. A piece of whipcord or hard-finished string is fastened to the front of the lid, as shown, and carried through a slight groove notched in the top of the high end-piece. To the free end of the string is affixed a straight stick of a length sufficient to allow one end to catch beneath the point of wire or nail, while the other passes across below the hole, through which the all-important spindle is to pass. The spindle should be three eighths of an inch in diameter, so as to work freely in the hole, smoothed round, five or six inches long, and pointed at one end. When setting the trap the lid is raised, the spindle, with half an apple driven firmly on the pointed end, is pushed, from inside the box, through the hole in the end-piece until it projects half an inch; then the cord is passed over the high point and the cord's cross-piece caught delicately at either end by the point of wire and the end of the loose spindle. A slight pull or movement of the bait inside the trap will release the cross-piece from the spindle, when the lid will at once fall and the rabbit be secured. The same style of trap, made smaller and of lighter material, answers admirably for trapping squirrels, if baited with a nubbin of corn and placed in a tree or on a fence top favored by the bushy-tailed scamps. The little striped ground-squirrel, or chipmunk, makes an interesting pet, and while he should be trapped for no other purpose, he may legitimately be made captive if he is to be well taken care of. A small box-trap, set near his hole among the roots of some tree, is almost certain to take him, and the remembrance of a trap employed in youthful days calls up a smile even now. It was a very crude device, but it worked like a charm. Chipmunks are very fond of running along the lower rails of snake-fences, and this habit can be taken advantage of. My trap was simply a small, hollow limb, about two feet long, picked up in the woods, and I carried a wooden box or cage from home to hold the captives. When after chipmunks, I, and a boon companion, hied away to a rail-fence in the woods frequented by the little striped fellows, and one or more were soon discovered on the lower rails. They were suffered to run along the fence as far as they chose (never very far), while we quietly removed the third rail from the ground in a certain panel, thus, as it were, making two rails on either side lead to the second one from the ground in our chosen panel. Upon this second rail was laid the hollow branch; then one of us raced forward, at a safe distance from the fence, to head the chipmunks and turn them back, while the other retreated along the fence ten or fifteen yards from the hollow limb. Each of us carried a short stick, used to tap on the rails in driving the game, and also to plug the two ends of the trap after a chipmunk had entered. The driven animals would run to and over the hollow limb, only to be turned
back every time they passed it. Finally, when we had drawn within three panels of each other, with the quarry and trap half-way between, the chipmunks had no choice but to bolt from the fence or hide in the convenient hollow limb. One or more would surely accept the latter chance, whereupon one of us would yell, “He’s in!” and the limb would be promptly plugged. One end of the branch was then inserted in the box, possible outlet guarded by cap or handkerchief, and the victim was pushed out by a switch from above. If the chipmunk proved obstinate, and could not be pushed out without injury, we carried the branch to the first bush-pond, and after bagging a handkerchief loosely over one end, sunk the other in the water until our game climbed into the handkerchief, for reasons good.

The figure “4” contrivance is a time-honored and, for certain purposes, a very useful trap. The commonest method is to support a heavy flat stone with the “4,” or to use a piece of two-inch plank, weighted with a stone, if required. Miniature “4s” can be used for mice, or, if the game is to be captured alive, a box takes the place of the stone. The different parts of the “4” and the method of setting are shown in the drawing; and a little intelligent experimenting will teach the young trapper what length of sticks are best suited to his purpose. The lower end of the upright stick should always be placed upon a small flat stone, smooth chip, or hard surface, and the upper point of the “4” should be as near the front edge of the stone, or whatever “fall” is used, as possible. An apple or nubbin of corn is good bait for rabbit and squirrel, while a bit of flesh or fish affixed to the inside point of the bait-stick will tempt rat, mink, or flesh-eating “varmints.”

For owls and hawks too fond of poultry, two methods answer very well. The great horned owl is a determined foe to feathered denizens of the barnyard, and, of course, hunts only by night, when fire-arms avail little against him. But the owl is very easily trapped, and the best device for taking him is the common steel muskrat, or mink trap. Both owls and hawks are given to alighting upon the highest convenient point from which they can safely scan the barnyard, and the trapper has only to study the surroundings carefully and then prepare a few high “convenient points” for the benefit of the free-booters. Nail a board platform, large enough to hold a steel trap, firmly to the end of a long pole; tie a steel trap to the platform, set the trap and fix the pole upright at a point which judgment decides an owl or hawk would deem convenient for observations. If three or four such traps are used, the chance of success amounts almost to a certainty, and they answer for hawk by day and owl by night.

Another deadly hawk trap, certain to work the ruin of the falcon in particular, is made as follows: The foundation is heavy plank, about two feet square, into which fifteen or more stiff, needle-pointed, upright wires are firmly fixed. These wires must be stiff enough to withstand a smart shock and have points as fine as the file can make them. The bait is a young chicken tethered by the leg to the central wire, a short bit of soft leather or cloth serving to tie it, The contrivance is then placed where the chicken can be displayed to best advantage. If upon grass, a few handfuls of green should be scattered over the plank; if upon bare ground, a quantity of earth sprinkled over the board will conceal it perfectly. A small quantity of grain or other food may also be placed in reach of the chicken. This method is a trifle rough on the bait, which should never be kept tied longer than an hour. If a falcon is haunting a certain neighborhood and kills a prey, it will return at nearly the same hour (generally early in the morning or toward evening) when it desires a fresh kill. Therefore the bait need suffer no more than an hour’s confinement. While the crying and movements of the tethered live bait render it perfectly irresistible, it is not absolutely necessary to the trap. A more humane and very sure bait would be a stuffed chicken, set up in life-like position, and with the stuffed bait the trap is always set and ready for business, save when occupied by a predatory gentleman.

Another capital device for hawks and owls is the combination of steel trap and stuffed bait. Years ago I bred fancy pigeons, and one morning that pest of feathered aggressors, a female sparrow-hawk, swooped from a tall pine and killed a beautiful little almond tumbler which I greatly prized. It was about eight
o'clock, and early in the winter, and I determined to have that hawk at all cost, as I had no intention of feeding her during the cold weather. I at once killed a white pigeon of no special value, stuffed it carefully, and fastened to its back a light steel rat-trap, which I had previously dipped in liquid whiting. At dusk I closed the dove-cote, so that no live birds should be about, and fixed the stuffed pigeon on the roof with the trap set. Next morning I was on the qui vive by seven o'clock, and had a gun ready in case the trap failed. About eight o'clock there was a rush of wings as a dark shape darted from the pine. Then came a shock and a sharp click, a few shreds of cotton batting floated in the air, and I had my lady fast enough. This trap was frequently used afterward for owls and hawks, and worked the doom of a number of feathered foes to pigeons. If the bird is properly mounted it can hardly fail.

An easily arranged, sure-working trap for mice is the "old-wife's favorite," the delf bowl and table-knife. To use this device to best advantage an old shingle, or bit of strong pasteboard a foot square, should be laid upon some shelf or floor frequented by the mice, and a few morsels of cheese scattered upon it. The rodents speedily find the cheese and learn that the shingle or pasteboard is perfectly harmless and run over it with impunity. In setting the trap, all that is necessary is to place a bowl on the shingle or board and support one edge of the bowl with an ordinary table-knife. A bit of cheese-rind is fixed firmly on the point of the knife, which should project a couple of inches inside the bowl. A faint pulling at the cheese will throw the knife out of balance and let the bowl down, when bowl, shingle, mouse and all can be carried safely to the nearest water-barrel, and there be dealt with as the court may decree.

A capital trap for rats can be made with little trouble by using a barrel and paper as indicated in the diagram. A sheet of stout paper is dampened and fixed over the open top of a barrel, and made fast by tying with cord below the upper hoop. The paper is then allowed to dry and draw taut, and the barrel is placed near a shelf or some point from which a rat can jump upon the paper-head. Cheese, or other attractive bait, is then placed on the paper and renewed several times as the rats devour it, until they have become thoroughly accustomed to the paper. Lastly, pieces of bait are glued firmly to the paper, and two cuts made with a sharp pen-knife to form a cross, and the diagram shows how it works—the rat jumps, the paper yields, lets the victim through, and springs back into position. This trap is always set, and will catch any number of rats. If preferred, six inches or more of water may occupy the bottom of the barrel, but this demands the use of a perfectly tight barrel. A variation of this trap is sometimes made, in which a tilting head is used instead of the cut paper, but the latter is, in my belief, the better plan.

Many winters ago, I used to trap blue-jays about the corn-crib with rather a cute device. An auger hole large enough to admit the head of a jay was bored in a quarter section of a shingle, and short slips of basket stuff were fastened around the hole on one side of the shingle, with their points bearing toward each other. The shingle was then placed over a space in the crib so that a jay looking through the hole could see a nubbin of corn within easy reach, and a handy perch was provided below the hole. It was a simple matter for a jay to thrust its blue head through the hole and between the yielding points of basket slips, but it was an altogether different matter when the head was to be withdrawn, and usually the luckless bird and piece of shingle fell to the ground together, and some very comical antics resulted ere the screaming captive was secured.

Another amusing, yet effectual trap, for crows, is termed appropriately the "foolscap." Small cones of stiff paper (white for snow and dark for earth) are made and fixed in shape with gum. They should be four inches across the larger opening and an inch across at the point. The insides of them are smeared with bird-lime (to be purchased at bird stores), "tacky" slow-drying varnish, or linseed oil boiled down to the greatest degree of stickiness, and the cones are then
sunk to their edges either in snow, or in loosened earth in a fresh planted corn-field. A few grains of corn are then dropped to the bottom of each cone and the traps are ready for business. A crow spies the corn and drives his head into the cone, whereupon the "stickum" promptly fastens the paper to his feathers and he raises his head, lifting the cone with it. Some outrageous crow talk and some astonishingly funny antics follow, as the blinded bird strives vainly to free itself of its novel head-gear.

Something of the same principle may be used to trap those winged jewels, the ruby-throated humming-birds. A little stiff treacle can be smeared inside the long blossoms of the trumpet-flower, and this will hold the wee honey-hunter by the feathers. Varnish, or birdlime, do not answer as well as treacle, the birds apparently detecting the treacherous stuff and refusing to creep into the prepared blossom.

My young readers must bear in mind that I have no desire to encourage trapping of birds other than destructive or obnoxious varieties. There is no glory in capturing beautiful, sweet-voiced creatures, fitted only to enjoy the freest of lives; and, in my humble opinion, there is no sense and much cruelty in caging any wild bird.

THE WATCHER.

Deep in the "Vale of the Shadow,"
Down through the gloomiest dense,
There glimmers the sheen of a halo,
In the heaviest night of suspense.

Trembling it hangs in the silence,
Faint as a quivering wraith,
Elusive even to science;
But there to the keen eye of Faith.

Slowly it gathers and lengthens,
And fades as it were with a breath.
Yet ever and ever it strengthens,
And out of the Valley of Death

There glints the soft beams of the dawning,
And hope is restored with the light.
A loved life comes back with the morning,
And sorrow has flown with the night.

C. TURNER.