

been said to possess the power of charming its prey into its mouth, and that the inhabitants of Pennsylvania have daily opportunities of observing the strange fascination. The circumstance has been thus related: “ This snake is  
“ often seen basking at the foot of a tree where  
“ birds and squirrels make their residence:  
“ there coiled upon its tail, its jaws extended,  
“ and its eyes shining like fire, it levels its  
“ dreadful glare upon one of the little animals  
“ above. The bird, or the squirrel, which-  
“ ever it may be, too plainly perceives the mis-  
“ chief meditating against it, and hops from  
“ branch to branch, with a timorous, plaintive  
“ sound, wishing to avoid, yet incapable of  
“ breaking through the fascination; thus it  
“ continues for some time its feeble efforts and  
“ complaints, but is still seen approaching  
“ lower towards the bottom branches of the  
“ tree, until at last, as if overcome by the po-  
“ tency of its fears, it jumps down from the  
“ tree into the throat of its frightful destroyer.  
“ In order, says the same author, to ascertain  
“ the truth of this story, a mouse was put into  
“ a large iron cage, where a rattle-snake was  
“ kept, and the effect carefully observed. The  
“ mouse remained motionless at one end of the