

one fellow, bolder than his comrades, came up to the mouth of his subterranean domicil and began to bark angrily at us, much as a very small dog would do, which afforded a good deal of amusement. Presently another appeared, who received his visitors with all the politeness of which he was capable, and was rewarded for his confidence with sundry bits of crackers, cakes and candy, with which he appeared to be well pleased. In their eagerness to see it, many of the party, especially the ladies, pressed closer and closer around. This soon became too much for his courage, and he darted back into his burrow. Hereupon Mr. Wells, of the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, took it upon him to be master of ceremonies, made a mock-heroic speech, assuring "the audience" that it was essential, in a performance of this kind, that the circle be fifty feet in diameter, and that he would continue to "swing around the circle" until it had expanded to that amount. This he did, talking as he went, and the thing was soon accomplished. Then our little friend ventured out again, and exhibited his courage and agility by dashing off from his place of refuge a yard or two to pick up bits of cake. It was a pretty and unique spectacle to see a circle of perhaps a hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen standing in a ring, gazing well pleased at the gambols of the funny little animal. We stayed here about half an hour, and all the time our angry one kept barking at us.

These "dogs" were about half domesticated, and were fed by the families who live beside them, and it is probable that the young are sold for pets. A member of our party asked one of the ladies resident where they came from. "Oh," said she, "they were brought *from the West*." In another place we saw a similar village or colony, apparently more numerous, in a perfectly wild state. They are exceedingly gregarious, and, it is said, harmless. There is a notion widely prevalent out here, that in every dog-hole are to be found a rattlesnake and an owl; but no one has ever been found who ever saw the last two inhabitants in the burrow. The probability is that the reptile and the bird are apt to be about in search of the young "dogs" as prey. Whether their habitations communicate one with another under ground, I could not find any one able to tell; but probably they do. I was told by a young man that he poured one hundred and thirty buckets of water into a hole before he forced a "dog" to come up. It then came and he caught it.

## RAMBLING OBSERVATIONS.

There are birds here, but they are not very numerous. I have seen some of beautiful plumage. When the country is settled, and trees