“Amid the high grass or rushes by that meadow-side started a water adder. It was about three feet long “,” but large round in proportion “,” with about one hundred and forty abdominal plates and a long “,” slender tail. It was black above “,” with indistinct transverse brown bands. Under its head white; first half of belly white “,” with triangular or conical dark brown-red marks on sides; the white gradually become more narrow and yellowish for the latter half of the abdomen “,” bordered by more numerous and still darker reddish marks “,” becoming confluent and alternating with silvery ones “,” giving a handsome regularly mottled or spotted look.”

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