

## VI.—AN EXTRAORDINARY SUIT.

COLONEL ROBERT HALL, of Cotulla, Texas, may rightly be called one of the wonders of the West—that is to say, if the grand old Texan veteran has not, at an honoured age, already passed away.

Two years ago his tall and lithe figure was a common and welcome sight at all the Texas re-unions, and the stories that have been told of his prowess and the singular incidents of his romantic career would, if they were put in print, fill volumes.

But it is Colonel Robert Hall's suit, and not the man himself, which possesses special interest for this article. This suit is without doubt the most extraordinary wearing apparel that ever covered and protected the body of an old soldier. Colonel Hall proudly says: "I made every stitch of it." The coat is composed of over a hundred different pieces of the skins of wild animals which the old hunter has shot during a period of forty years. Each piece comes from the hide of a different wild animal, a reptile, or a bird; the skins of deer, bears, panthers, wolves, and wild cats making up the larger part of the costume.



COLONEL ROBERT HALL AND HIS EXTRAORDINARY SUIT.  
From a Photo. by Delfraisse, San Antonio, Texas.



BACK VIEW OF THE SUIT.  
From a Photo. by Delfraisse, San Antonio, Texas.

For trimming and ornamentation the hoofs of three hundred and fifteen deer, the claws of forty bears, the tails of innumerable smaller animals, and the rattles from hundreds of monster rattlesnakes are used. A cap composed of many pieces of pretty fur ornamented with a pair of antelope horns is as wonderful as the coat.

Eighty-five years of age and 6ft. 4in. high, the old warrior walks with a firm step, and when he appears on the streets of San Antonio or at some gathering of veterans, wearing this extraordinary suit, he is the cynosure of all Texan eyes.

He has been offered 500dols. for his frontiersman's suit, but he says he would not take 10,000dols. for it. The hunting-horn, which may be seen in our photograph, was given to the Colonel by General Sam Houston. The horn has a strange history, which perhaps is too long to detail here. Suffice it to say that the Colonel is so proud of it that nothing would induce him to part with it. "If I were out of bread," he once remarked, "it would take a million to buy that horn."