

# UNDER THE BIG TENT

## THE CIRCUS AND ITS MARVELOUS ACCOMPANIMENTS.

The Traveling Show in City and Country—Scenes When the Aggregation Stops for a One-Day Stand—Showmen as Benefactors.

**The Circus.**  
Tradition keeps the memory of the old one-ring circus green. It is like "the pie that mother used to make," and many a patriarch who visits the shows that come along occasionally and camp on a corner lot or the village green recalls a resemblance to the circuses that were rare, but delightful, when he was a boy. The clown, the ringmaster, the bespangled lady rider, the intelligent donkey, the tumbler, the trick elephant, the ferocious lion, the marvellous freak side tent—all come and go with the season, practically unchanged, yet new to the young generation, and fascinating as ever to the old fellow who so unselfishly attends every show that comes along, "for the children's sake," and for the memory of past days.

If you cultivate the proper spirit you



THE CLOWN'S BEST FRIEND.

can have an excellent time at the circus, even the little one-ringed one, and that spirit is the broad one prepared to applaud and enjoy; the intention of

work. Then comes the arena work. The principal acts lead. The riders do the common things with the grace of long practice, and as Champion So-and-so leaves the ring he stops to talk a moment with the tripping beauty who is about to essay the trapeze. The trapezists move to slow music by the band, which consists of a half dozen

very few become adept. Nor is it any small task to keep in proper subjection the conflicting interests and inclinations of the swarm of specialties, freaks, performers, and the like, who form an integral part of every show. They are always quarreling about nothing, and require constant manipulation to prevent them from causing



"WE WERE COMRADES."

uniformed musicians stationed by the entry. The children, who make up two-thirds of the audience, cheer as the daring people in fleshings "skin the cat" and perform other wonderful feats thirty feet above ground. Sometimes two sisters or brothers, rarely three of a family, poise themselves on the bars. The horizontal bar acts, the tumbling over the backs of stooping men, the jockey riding and the trained pigs, dogs and horses make up the rest of the program.

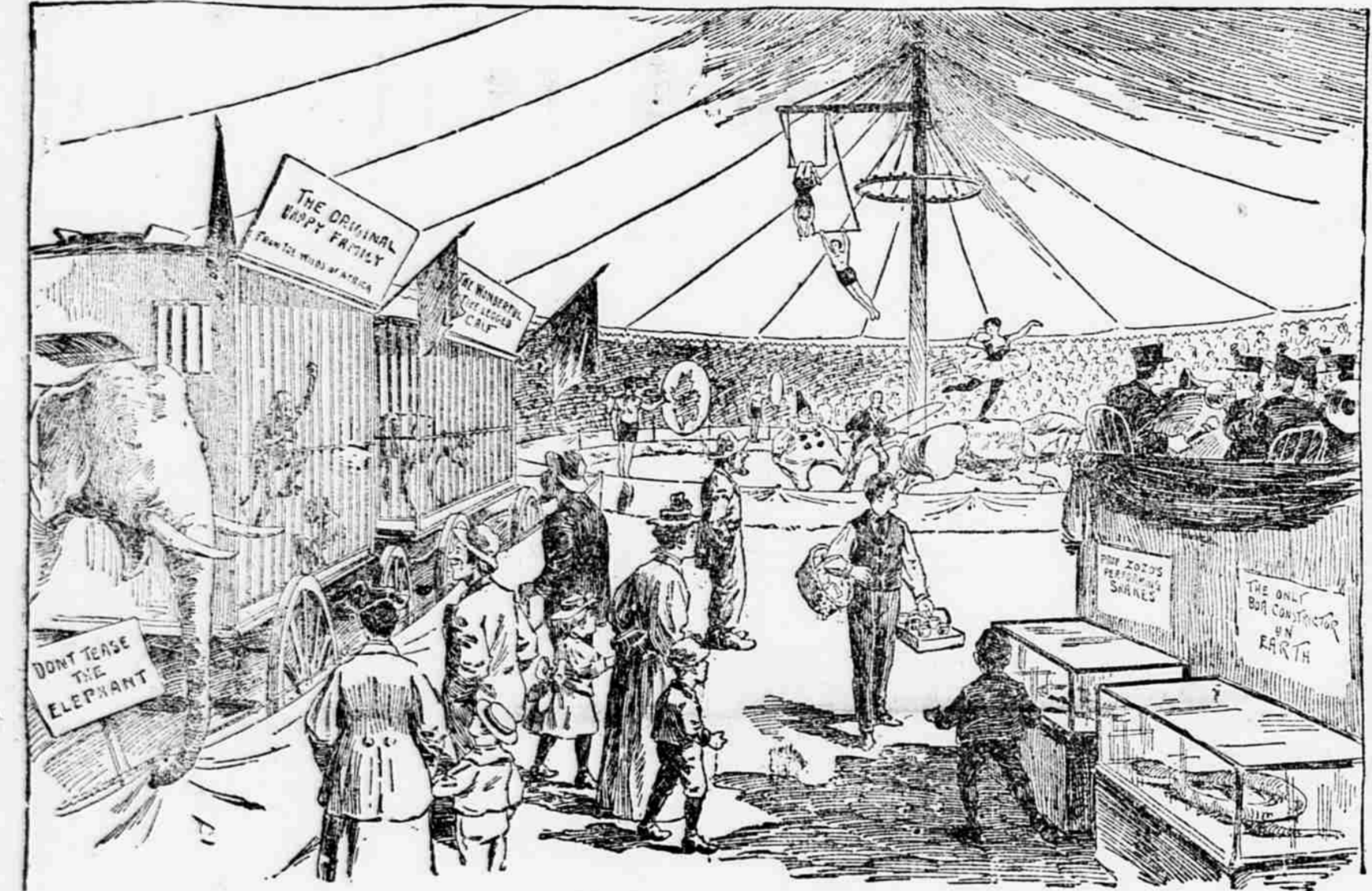
The advent of the big tent of the big show, with its marvelous accompaniments, is, of course, an event that comes to the rural districts somewhat infrequently, but it is appreciated there as nowhere else. The city, with its free shows, its constant excitement, cannot find the novelty in one of these exhibitions that appeals to the village

disturbances that would injure the success of the organization. It was an old showman who said: "As much



EDUCATING THE MONKEY.

brains are required to keep a set of freaks in order as to govern an empire." He was not far wrong, for the jealousies and bickerings of these people go on forever.



THE SHOW IN FULL OPERATION.

having a good laugh, the resolve not to pick flaws. You will find the riding lively, the dresses smart and dazzling. Looking at it with wondering little Johnny's eyes, you will get your full money's worth. These small circuses set themselves up in a night, wherever there is room for a two-pole tent and two long tents for performers and animals. Narrow blue seats

lad, who ordinarily leads a quiet life. Yet the latter is critical. He knows a genuinely good show when he sees it. The procession must be up-to-date, the menagerie must contain real wild beasts, the ring specialties must be new, or at least artistic and ingenious. A peep behind the scenes, in which he discerns the lady rider practicing for a Mazeppa ride; the leading horseman

The amount of money required to put a first-class show on the road is enormous. In some cases hundreds of thousands of dollars are laid out in animals, in wagons, tents, in advertising and other expenses before a cent is realized. This of itself is a matter of no small consequence, for a bad season means financial ruin to all concerned, and a succession of rainy days so seriously reduces the receipts that even a strong show may be crippled. At any moment the manager may be summoned to suppress a first-class riot in the freak department.

Add to the business and financial cares the dissensions that constantly arise within the organization, and between its various members and outsiders, the possibility of something going wrong at any moment during the performance, the chance of a snake getting loose or a lion escaping from his cage, or the gorilla striking for higher pay during the hottest part of the season because his clothing of hide and fur is too warm for comfort, and the manager's lot is far from being a happy one. But he gives the world a deal of



A FAMILIAR SCENE.

are forced into duty as steps. The single, gilded wagon of the outfit furnishes a stuffy cubbyhole for the ticket seller, and the small crowd pushes against the closed end in the good old way until the window opens. But then one does not see that lightning work by

teaching his boy to accompany him in a daring flight; the trainer educating the monkey to turn somersaults; the ringmaster painting spots in his favorite charger, all these give zest to the real finished entertainment, and the youthful spectator enjoys every act, from the hoop performance of the bespangled girl rider to the antics of the educated pig.

Few people, however, who see the grand aggregation of curiosities and varied talent displayed by a first-class circus have any idea of the trouble and labor of bringing such a display into working order and starting it out in the spring. The more important animals, such as lions and tigers, must of necessity be genuine, and, of course, if they survive the winter are ready for the spring trade. There must also be a real giraffe, for even the ingenuity of a showman has not yet succeeded in contriving an imitation of a giraffe that will pass muster with even the most guileless small boy, and a bogus elephant would be quite as difficult to palm off as a manufactured giraffe or hippopotamus.

Then the business of handling a great aggregation of men, animals and curiosities is of itself a specialty, in which



TRAINING THE LION.

ambidextrous men that one has seen at bigger shows. There is a difference between taking care of 20,000 sales at 50 cents and selling a thousand tickets at a dime.

The children gaze in amazement at the dazzling cavalcade of fine gentlemen and beautiful ladies, and do not recognize in the men of bright feathers the hustlers of "props" in the ring



LEARNING TO RIDE.

pleasure, such as it is; if the season is good he makes money; for months he and his are the admiration of all that portion of mankind that patronizes the circus, and these facts go far to recommend him to the hardships of his lot.

Lions and Tigers.

Caged lions and tigers, pumas and jaguars take no notice of the men and women passing in front of them, but if a dog be brought anywhere near the cage they show their savage nature at once.

No woman loves her honey boy when she has a headache.

## MANUFACTURE OF CANES.

Grown, Boiled, Warped, Fired, Polished and Ornamented.

The manufacture of canes reveals an interesting process connected with a growing industry. There are several large factories in Philadelphia and some in New York. These have recently been established. The cane is grown mostly in Austria, France and Japan. There are numerous species, among which are the Congo, Corrie, Penang, Bamboo, Furze, Whampoo and the Weischel. Many canes are partly shaped while growing. At the manufactory the crude canes are placed over a large steam vat. Cloths are wrapped over the sticks and they are left in this position until the wood has become perfectly soft and pliable at the end, where it is intended to form the handle. Having reached this condition, they are taken out separately and placed in a vise, around a mold of whatever shape it is desired to make

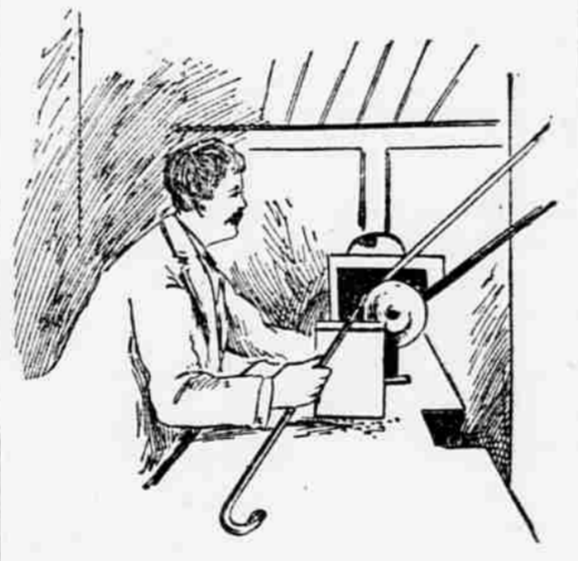


"FIRING" A CANE.

the curl. While the cane is grasped tightly in the vise, the upper end is placed in a steel spring having a cast-iron handle, which is drawn sharply around, warping the cane at this point into the precise shape desired. When taken out of the vise the handle is tied with cord, to prevent it from straightening out to its original shape.

After it has lain for some days in this condition and the curl is permanently formed, the cane is thoroughly scrubbed in a hot water bath. The next step is to either put it in the stain box or to finish it in some other desired manner. In the staining process quite a degree of skill is required, because if the cane is colored in a tasteful shade it will meet with a readier sale. To achieve this result the mixing of acids and color in the staining compound must be very delicately done. Some of the canes, instead of being stained by a liquid, are "fired." This operation is performed by moving the cane backward and forward in a gas jet flame, elongated by means of a blower, which forces a current of air through it. The work has to be done very carefully by hand, so that the heat produces a uniform effect upon the wood. Then the cane is ready either for varnishing or polishing by chemical process, whichever it may be.

After it is polished the cane goes into the hands of a trimmer, who prepares it for whatever additional ornamentation it is to receive. The handle is then carefully shaved down to fit



THE FERRULING.

the silver plate, which will be soldered onto it, and the foot is shaped ready for the ferrule. After this manipulation the cane goes to the finishing department, where the silversmiths put on whatever trimmings are required.

## Spider-Crabs of Japan.

The crab spider inhabits the ocean bed, terrifying the submarine world. It is hideous in appearance and habits. It is the most formidable and repulsive creature in the seas.

More than one daring pearl diver and coral hunter has battled with this hairy monster and been driven to seek the safety of a boat's deck.

Though frequently found in cool waters, the great spider-crab flourishes and attains his greatest size in the waters of the Japan seas. Though often encountered by coral and pearl hunters, the monster is seldom trapped, and so only four specimens of full-grown spider-crabs are to be found in this country.

A fine specimen is in Rutgers' College Museum of Natural History. Two are in the collections of the Leland Stanford and Cornell Universities. The fourth specimen is in a private collection in Philadelphia.

While the largest and most ferocious of deep-sea crustacea, the spider-crab is the most defenseless. Nature has not provided it with a single weapon of defense against its many enemies.

Still, the appearance of the spider-crab is his best defense, and he is master of the scaled and finned things that live in the ocean's depths.

The spider-crab is so named because of its strong resemblance to the familiar spinning insect. Its habits are, however, those of the crab family. The long legs, which often exceed forty feet in length, are thickly covered with coarse black hair. The body, often fifteen feet in circumference, is also covered with hair, in which barnacles, seaweed and tiny shellfish make their home.

The spider-crab when attacked exudes an overpowering odor, which permeates the water around it, while it lashes its long, hairy, fearsome arms until the water seethes.

The food of the spider-crab is for the

most part decayed animal matter. The creature is abnormally indolent. It will fasten on a clump of coral and remain there immovable for many hours.

The Japanese pearl divers assert that the touch of the spider-crab is as fatal as the sting of a cobra's fang, but the usual fighting method of the monster is to embrace its enemy, fish or human, in its huge, hairy tentacles, where death by smothering comes slow but sure.

The spider-crab's human victims are not numerous, though just how many coral and pearl hunters have been suffocated in its terrible arms no one will ever know.

## Spiders that Trap Birds.

Kangaroos are not the only curious animals to be found in Australia. Spiders of enormous size and strength grow there. W. J. Rainbow, the naturalist, who has devoted his attention to the animals of that country, tells of spiders as large as birds which construct webs of enormous size, some measuring as much as thirty feet across.

In building the webs the spiders use two kinds of silk. One white, dry and somewhat brittle, is used for the framework of the net and for the guys and supports. The other kind is yellow, exceedingly viscid and elastic. Sometimes the nets are close to the ground, and at other times several feet high, but they are always constructed so as to be exposed to the rays of the sun.

While the traps are set for insects, they are strong enough to hold small birds which become entangled in the clinging strands, and are soon helpless and are easily dispatched by the spiders.

Mr. Rainbow says that he does not believe that the spiders eat the birds after catching them. Spiders have been known to attack birds which have thus been caught and speedily put them to death, but it is thought that this is done to prevent injury to the webs, and not with a view of securing the bodies of the feathered victims.

It seems that these large spiders eat largely for the pleasure it affords them. They are exceedingly voracious, and will consume several times their own weight in food within twenty-four hours, when it can be had. But if forced to do without, they can live for many days without either food or water. This indicates that they disobey the old maxim and live to eat, instead of eating to live.

Nearly all tropical countries produce giant spiders, the Fiji Islands being particularly well stocked. Graffe tells of a net he found there which was more than thirty feet across, and must have contained several miles of silk. The labor of spinning the web as well as of arranging it was something enormous. The spiders are fairly intelligent and are easily tamed.

## The Ideal Female Arm.

"I find great difficulty in getting a model with good arms," said a well-known sculptor, "but very few women have arms that conform to the standard. A perfect arm measured from the armpit to the wrist joint should be twice the length of the head. The upper part of the arm should be large, full and well rounded. The forearm must not lie too flat, not nearly so flat as a man's, for example. A dimple at the elbow adds beauty to a well-proportioned arm.

"From a well-molded shoulder the whole arm should taper in a long, graceful curve to a symmetrical and rounded wrist. It is better to have an arm that harmonizes even if the parts do not follow the generally accepted lines. For instance, a full, round upper arm which is joined to a flat or thin forearm has a very bad effect. It is only a degree worse, however, than a graceful, well-molded forearm tacked on to a thin, scrawny upper arm.

"Correctness of form is not the only thing necessary for a good arm. The owner must possess the power of expression in her arms. As a general thing American women are deficient in this. Those nationalities which show the most expression in their arms are the Spanish, French and Italians. The warmest admirer of Sarah Bernhardt would not claim that she had beautiful arms, yet no one can say that the divine Sarah ever appears ungainly in consequence. Much more lies in the faculty of arm expression than is generally supposed."

## Napoleon and His Brother Louis.

From earliest childhood certain qualities of Louis had endeared him to Napoleon. The school of poverty, in which the younger brother had been the pupil of the elder, was likewise a school of fraternal affection. Throughout the Italian and Egyptian campaigns they stood in intimate relations as general and aide-de-camp, and one of the earliest cares of the First Consul was to bestow the beautiful Hortense de Beauharnais on his favorite brother. In 1804 Louis was made general, then councillor of state, and finally in 1806 he was elevated to the throne of Holland. His child until its untimely death was cherished by Napoleon as a son destined to inherit imperial greatness. But like the other royal Bonapartes, the King of Holland regarded his high estate not as a gift from the Emperor, but as a right. He ruled the land as signed him, if not in his own interest, at least not in that of the Empire, and from the outset filled his letters with bitter complaints of all that entered into his lot, not excepting his wife. Napoleon admonished and threatened, but to no avail. The interests of his own royalty and of the Dutch were nearer to Louis than those of the Empire.—Century.

## Uncle Bob—I hope, Tommy, you are a favorite with your teacher.

Tommy—I think I must be. She can't seem to get enough of me, or she wouldn't keep me in so much.—Harper's Bazar.

Every one is inclined to lie about the value of his wheel.

## GILBERT BOWICK.

Man Who Will Head the British Expedition to the Antarctic.

Gilbert Bowick will head the British expedition to the antarctic. Mr. Bowick is an expert antarctic traveler, and to his enthusiasm is due the success of the preliminaries of the expedition. Ever since the international geographical congress decided six months ago that antarctic discovery was a subject of even higher importance than exploration in northern fields rumors of this expedition have been in the air. When Mr. Goschen refused government assistance Mr. Bowick hit upon an ingenious plan of combining scientific research with commercial profit, and secured good backing in London. A whaler of 300 tons and a small steamer are being fitted out. These will leave Sept. 1 with a good crew and a dozen scientific men. The experts will be landed on the south polar continent and the ships will spend a year in catching whales and seals. The explorers will go inland with Lieutenant Peary's dogs



GILBERT BOWICK.

and gather a collection of botanical and mineralogical specimens while the sailors are landing black and blue whales and seals which are said to be plentiful in the neighborhood of Cape Adair. A voyage will also be made to the Campbell Islands, and in December of next year the ships will call at Cape Adair to look after the expedition. Much interest attaches to Mr. Bowick's venture, especially as magnetic observations are to be made, which, it is believed, will prove of the highest importance. Its commercial enterprise will be profitable.

## TO READ HER FATHER'S POEMS.

Mary French Field Preparing for Her Platform Debut This Fall.

Mary French Field, eldest daughter of the late Eugene Field, is preparing herself to carry on the platform work of her father, and will make her debut among her father's friends as "Trotty."



MARY FRENCH FIELD.

a pet name bestowed upon her in her infancy, is a tall, handsome girl, good figure, of rather blonde type, with fair complexion and blue eyes. She is 20 years of age and is the eldest of the poet's five surviving children. Miss Field will read exclusively from her father's writings and will probably give her first reading in Cincinnati in October.

## Barbers in the French Army.

The regimental figaro is quite a character. He is not always chosen for his skill in the tonorial art. He may have been a butcher, a baker or a candlestick maker before joining the corps. His good conduct has promoted him to the post, and given him a most enviable position, for he receives a slight remuneration monthly from the pay of each trooper. He also enjoys immunity from a certain number of drills, and has the right of remaining out of barracks until 10 o'clock every evening. He is responsible for the heads of his comrades. If a man's hair is found to be too long or if a soldier is not shaved in the regulation manner, the barber has to suffer.

## The Maldivian Islanders.

Maldivian Islanders eat alone. Before a meal they retire to the most secluded spot they can find and eat with drawn blinds or surrounded by a screen. The explanation of this precaution is more likely to be fear than modesty. In days gone by the savage no doubt concealed himself lest some man stronger than he should snatch the hard-earned food away.

## What a Dramatist Has to Put Up With.

His Wife (reading a Sunday paper)—Apropos of Hamlet they say that you and Shakespeare represent the very opposite poles of the dramatic art!

He—Ah, that's a nasty one for Shakespeare.—Punch.

## Ambiguous.

Elder—Why, Jock, I heard that ye were drowned.

Jock—Na, that wasna me; it was me brother.

Elder—Eh, mon, what a pity; what a most awfu' pity.—Tid-Bits.