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REAL STORY OF JUMBO

HOW BARNUM GOT THE FAMOUS ELEPHANT "AS HE STANDS."

Caging the Monster Brute Was a Contest Between Strength and Strategy, In Which Jumbo Lost and the Great American Showman Won.

When P. T. Barnum anticipated the decline of the freak and other small stuff as a superlative drawing adjunct of the circus he dispatched agents to Europe to round up something that would startle American amusement lovers. That was early in the year 1882, before the magic wand of Tody Hamilton had transformed the abnormality into the prodigy. To use his own words, Mr. Barnum wanted "twenty camels, thirty ostriches or some other big stuff." He clearly foresaw the tangible possibilities of the menagerie, and, as was so characteristic of the great showman, he decided to "go after it." His agents, headed by a Mr. Davis, landed in London. After viewing the animals in the zoological gardens at Regent park they were ushered into the presence of the big elephant Jumbo, the superintendent inquiring with levity, "Is he big enough?" But London had no intention of disposing of Jumbo, for he had created no little stir in the British metropolis because of his enormous size. The agents departed for continental cities, and at Hamburg nine camels were purchased and shipped to New York to become the nucleus of Barnum's first menagerie.

Two weeks later the Zoological society of London received a cablegram from Mr. Barnum inquiring if Jumbo was for sale and how much money would buy him. The members of the society chanced to be in session at the time and the matter was given some consideration, though they probably thought that this fellow Barnum was just joking. However, Mr. Barnum received in answer to his inquiry the following: "You may have Jumbo for £2,000 as he stands." There was considerable meaning to that "as he stands" clause, because Jumbo was no ordinary elephant. He weighed something over six tons, stood over eleven feet in his stockings and possessed a mind of his own that could be so contrary at times that people often accused Jumbo of being quite human.

In due time Mr. Barnum's agents arrived with the £2,000 for the purchase of Jumbo and a huge cage in which to encase him and transport him to America. The cage was upon wheels, was powerfully constructed and weighed something over four tons. The transaction was made with due formality, and Jumbo became American property. Accordingly and with considerable pomp the big elephant was escorted from his spacious and almost palatial quarters in the garden up to the American constructed cage, but Jumbo smelled a mouse (they say that elephants are afraid of mice), and he refused with dignity to lend himself to such nefarious plans. Coaxing and threats were vain, and Jumbo, triumphant, was led back to his quarters for the night. He was given his usual supper and dreamed unmolested of the elysium where all good elephants go.

The agents began to appreciate the significance of that "as he stands" clause. But they had a plan. The next day Jumbo was again escorted to the cage. Again he respectfully declined to enter, complacently putting a foot forward and defiantly bidding the overworked men to move him. Thereupon stout ropes were obtained, and it soon became apparent that Jumbo was to undergo the indignity of being pulled into his new quarters. But all the king's horses and all the king's men pulled and worked in vain. Jumbo was immovable. He had blue blood in his veins, and he couldn't understand why he should be obliged to exchange his elaborate quarters for a cage 9 by 12. Again at night Jumbo dined and dreamed in peace.

The following day was strenuous. A large force was drafted into service. Jumbo was coaxed, pulled, beaten and coaxed again, but again he slept and dined in his quarters in the garden.

That "as he stands" clause was about the biggest proposition that the American showman had undertaken for a long time, and it soon became apparent that the Britishers did possess a streak of humor after all. The agents got busy. The next morning Jumbo was up with the sun and was somewhat surprised to find that his breakfast was not in its accustomed place. But he soon discovered it in an adjoining room—a new room by the way, but as Jumbo had been so victorious he evidently thought he was deserving of larger apartments, and he entered the new addition, said grace and enjoyed his breakfast. But that was the undoing of Jumbo, for no sooner had he begun to satisfy his morning appetite than the door through which he entered was closed and tightly bolted. Jumbo was at last in the cage, which had during the night been converted into an improvised room by the new purchasers. But Jumbo took his defeat philosophically. It was a case of strategy and diplomacy, and he had lost. The cage was wheeled away to the wharf, and soon Jumbo was bidding adieu and au revoir to old England, and P. T. Barnum's press agents were busy telling the people of America of the coming of the biggest elephant in the world.

Jumbo was born in Africa. When a wee bit of a pachyderm he was taken to Paris, and soon thereafter he was taken to the London zoo, where he remained for seventeen years. As mentioned above, he stood almost twelve feet in height and weighed about six tons. Following his departure Jumbo became the reigning sensation of London. The society was criticised for selling him, for it had just dawned upon the people of London that Jumbo was a "big thing." Children talked about him upon the streets. Grownups discussed him. The papers and magazines took up the subject. Parliament heard speeches on Jumbo; even the queen took time to discuss him. But the society in defense claimed that Jumbo was becoming ferocious and unmanageable, which proved to be true.

Once in America, Mr. Barnum advertised Jumbo to the limit. Americans went wild over the animal, and he was exhibited from coast to coast. As Mr. Barnum had anticipated, Jumbo became "it." But on Sept. 15, 1885, while the Barnum & Bailey show was at St. Thomas, Ont., the famous elephant was killed by a freight train while he was on his way to be loaded into one of the Barnum cars.

But that was not the last of Jumbo. By prearrangement noted taxidermists were engaged, and the skin and skeleton of Jumbo were prepared and placed in the natural history museum in New York city, where they are the cynosure of all that visit the great institution.—Billboard.

A Trick of Actors.

Most people know that the memory may be easily confused by learning a passage in two or three different ways or by having once heard an incorrect form of giving it. Working on this principle, actors are fond of putting stumbling blocks in one another's way. A stock joke dear to the hearts of all players is the regular thing to be inflicted upon a beginner in the first act of "Richard III." It is in the scene where the coffin of Henry VI. is borne across the stage. One of the men who carry it has been raised from the position of supernumerary to his first speaking part, which consists of a single line. Before the performance it is usual for some older actor to take him aside and impress him with the enormous difficulties of delivering that sentence correctly. The victim listens nervously.

"Now, most actors," says his tormentor gravely, "make this mistake the first time they play the part: Instead of saying, as it is, 'My lord, stand back and let the coffin pass,' they give it this way, 'My lord, stand back and let the parson cough.'"

And after he has heard the latter version, absurd though it is, the chances are that the poor supernumerary will give that to the audience on the first night.

Thomas Moore.

Measured by the popularity and market value of his poems when they were written, Thomas Moore has no rival among the poets of Ireland. While engaged at his Irish melodies, in which he was at his best—for they called forth the powers in which he most excelled—he was paid £500 a year by his publishers. Their immense and well merited success induced Longman to give Moore 3,000 guineas—the highest price that had up to that time been paid for a poem—for "Lalla Rookh," the gorgeous eastern romance which dazzled and delighted readers of that day, but is now rarely read. As a lyric poet Moore was, like Burns, one of the best writers we have ever had of "words for music," and, in his case at least, the words are inseparable from the music. Goldsmith, a poet of a different order and with a wholly different experience, got little popularity and less money for his poetry, but in "The Traveller" and "The Deserted Village" he has a better chance of immortality than his compatriot.—London Tit-Bits.

A Famous Old Building.

Evensong was held the other day on the site of the ancient oratory of St. Gwithian, one of the many Irish saints who descended upon Cornwall in the fifth and sixth centuries. In a waste of sand near the Godrevy lighthouse, which marks the eastern horn of St. Ives bay, lie what are regarded as the remains of the oldest Christian building in England. The nave bulges with sand to the level of the plain and through a grass covered hillock over the demolished altar protrude a few rough stones. During a stormy night of 1828 the sand shifted and revealed the lines of a structure about forty-eight feet long by twelve feet wide, with a priest's doorway, a small window, traces of stone benches and an altar of masonry now gone as the result of the building being forthwith used as a cowshed.—London Globe.

A Confusion of Names.

Although Scotia is now known to mean Scotland, it once was the name of Ireland. Two centuries before the birth of Christ Ireland was known to the Greeks as Juvenca. Caesar called it Hibernia, as did also Ptolemy in his map of that island. It is said the Phoenicians first gave Ireland the name of Hibernia, meaning thereby "utmost or last habitation," for beyond that land westward the Phoenicians never extended their voyages. Toward the decline of the Roman empire the coun-

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At length he began, "Dearly beloved Roger, the Scriptures moveth you and me in sundry places," and so proceeded to the end of the service.—Harper's Weekly.

Pepper.

Black and white pepper are from the same round seed of a tropical plant. The white is ground after the black outer skin has been removed. That is the only difference. The white is considered less irritating to the stomach. It is also preferred for dishes consisting of cream and milk, such as oyster stews, creamed potatoes and the like.

Always Flashing.

Tess—She certainly is the luckiest girl. Jess—You mean because she has an engagement ring? Tess—Not only that, but she's left handed.—Philadelphia Press.

Learning will give culture, but it will not give common sense.

IN A SHIPWRECK.

What Is the Time That Men Really Can Eat Their Boots.

Shipwrecked persons have been kept alive on the most repugnant and unwholesome of foods. Probably the hardest fare that six strong men and a boy of fifteen ever kept alive on was the daily menu of the Windsor's survivors, who were cast up on the Irish coast near Killegg. They lived for sixteen days on stewed rope yarn.

When they took the ship's small boat they had water enough for a month, but only a small amount of provisions. These lasted four days. After having nothing at all to eat for the following two days they tried boiling lengths of tarred hemp rope into pulp and swallowing it.

They had a keg of paraffin wax, which they boiled to add to the nourishment. The sickness they experienced as a result of the diet, says What to Eat, was only temporary, and they landed in comparatively good health.

Captain Maboly of the foundered steamer Gwallorfi and his second officer created a record by living for seventeen days on boot leather and a pint of water a day each.

Of course no teeth can tear cowhide boots; they have to be cut up and shredded with a knife and the shreds chewed and swallowed. Boiling, even when possible, it is said, does no good, but takes from the nourishment of the boots. A few ounces of leather, being very hard to digest, stay the stomach for fifteen or twenty hours.

A diet of boots and shoes is one of the commonest of last resource foods, and, though it is hard for a well fed person to imagine that any one could masticate and digest the leather, a pair of long sea boots will keep a man alive for a fortnight if he has a little water.

Two men who went to a small island off the Irish coast kept themselves going for ten days on a diet probably worse than this. They landed in a boat which was smashed by a wave on their trying to relaunch her, and they were kept on the bare rocky island without food.

Fortunately there was a spring on the island, but nothing in the way of sea gulls, which they could catch, and nothing with which to make a fire as a distress signal. There was not even any shellfish, as there was no beach, and the pair had to subsist for ten days on cold raw seaweed washed up by the tide.

The best known and most useful of starvation diets for wrecked or castaway people, however, is that of barnacles. Three Englishmen and a crew of lascars who had been forced to abandon the sailing vessel North Star kept themselves going for more than a week on barnacles, and only two of the crew died.

The worst of this diet is that the barnacles give one internal cramps and cause an insufferable thirst, but they do nourish the frame. You have to reach under the vessel's side and pull them off, taking care not to leave the best half of them sticking to the planks.—London Standard.

A Queer Story.

A city merchant once caused his friends much sorrow by disappearing in a strange fashion. He was last heard of at his banker's, where he deposited nearly £2,000 to his bank account. His subsequent whereabouts were enveloped in mystery, and years elapsed without any explanation being forthcoming. Ten years later his wife was driving through a west end district when she recognized in the figure of a crossing sweeper some semblance to that of her husband. She immediately stopped her carriage and found that the sweeper was indeed her missing husband. He was inclined to resent her persuasion to return to his home, but eventually succumbed. He afterward explained that he had amassed sufficient money to keep his family in comfort, and, tormented by the fear that he might be induced to speculate and lose the whole, he determined to disappear and leave them to its enjoyment. He had lived in common lodging houses and was content in his adopted business of a crossing sweeper. Often he had seen his wife pass him, and he had received many coppers and small pieces of silver from his family.—London Mail.

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