

### GISELE'S CAPRICE.

have departed. I do not wish to give a public exhibition of my courage," he added, with a tinge of sarcasm in his tone.

"Oh! I knew you would consent!" exclaimed Gisèle, with apparent delight.

"I will arrange the matter at once," said Robert.

He went to Bidel, with whom he held a short conversation, then returned, saying:

"The lions will be fed in a few minutes. I will enter the cage then with Bidel."

By this time the spectators had departed. Robert Langie and Gisèle approached the President of the lion-tamer joined them. He told Robert that he was ready to feed the lions and invited him into the cage.

"No, no, no, do not go," said Gisèle. "I do not wish you to enter the cage. I asked you to do so only because I wanted you to seem ready to expose

"Pardon me, Gisele, for not acceding to this new caprice of yours as to the first," replied Robert. "I have resolved to enter the cage and I shall to so."

Robert turned away from Gisele, and a moment afterward he and the lion tamer entered the cage. The lions, eight in number, moved hither and

father, obedient to the command of their master, but their large golden eyes showed their astonishment at the presence of this intruder who accompanied him.

Gisele and Langle looked on in silence and in agony. Gisele, who was very pale, was only prevented from giving voice to her anguish by the fear of aggravating her lover's peril. Her eyes, which were big with fright, were fixed on Robert. He, on the other hand, was

Robert was in the cage about five minutes. Then he left it and rejoined Gisele, who, radiant with joy, her hands extended, exclaimed:

"Oh, Robert! how I admire you! how I—"

Robert took one of Gisele's hands in

"Do not praise my exploit so much, for the act which you applaud was performed for my own sake rather than yours. If I am brave, as you now evidently think me, I confess that I am not without fear that I shall not always be able to accede to your desires, and as it would pain me to cross so charming a woman, I renounce the honor of being your husband."

As soon as they returned to the cottage the party started for Paris. When they reached Gisèle's home Robert bade her good-bye with a profound bow. On entering the house Gisèle found the superb bouquet which she was accustomed to receive each day from Robert; it was the last.

Gisèle has never married.

**A Florida Phenomenon.**  
From Putnam county, Fla., comes word of a remarkable

far from a remarkable occurrence. Some farmers in the field heard a tremendous rushing sound over their heads, and looking up saw something "that looked like a solid column of fire passing with tremendous velocity through the air with a whirling, hissing sound. It appeared to be from eight to ten feet in length and from four to five feet in diameter. When first discovered it seemed to be several hundred feet above the earth and was inclining in its course toward the ground."

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