

The Man-Cat.

(Translated from the French of Fulbert-Dumontell, for The Mirror, by A. Fenalle.)

We are at London, in one of the sordid suburbs, where the man-cat is giving his performances in the open air.

The following is a description of him: A shock of red hair, surrounded by two erect, pointed ears. Under a low forehead, green, luminous eyes, a semblance of nose, and, over a wide mouth, decorated with sharp fangs, an indescribably peculiar moustache of coarse bristles. A supple nervous body, with feline undulations, nails like claws and, arranged over his back, a fur skin artistically tiger-striped. This is fastened around the waist and body with straps.

Around the enclosure pressed a curious crowd. In the circle stood a black wooden box, upon which was seated a young woman with sweet, melancholy eyes; Henriette, the man-cat's wife.

While a consumptive trombone announces the performance, a bizarre dwarf, with an enormous beard, and attired in a Hungarian costume, is amusing the crowd with his diabolical grimaces and extravagant buffoonery.

Henriette never ceases to watch him and smiles with caressing sadness. As for the dwarf, he has eyes only for the man-cat's wife, and seems to perform only for her approval, laying at her feet all the popular triumphs gained in his comedy role.

At length the trombone is silent, and the dwarf, leaping like a toad, salutes the audience with a final grimace. Then Henriette rises slowly and opens the box, from which seven or eight monstrous rats jump forth, running around the arena mad with fright.

The man-cat quickly places himself on all fours and, bristling his fur, emitting fierce miaulings, pounces upon the rats and breaks the backs with one snap of his formidable jaw.

Sometimes a rat turns, jumps on his body, runs up his shoulder and, jumping at his throat, lacerates the flesh and, at the streaming blood, the crowd presses closer, shouts, laughs and applauds.

The last rodent, with broken back, lies motionless.

"Bravo, the man-cat! bravo! bravo!"

Seated on the empty box, still smiling at the dwarf, who, with his long, bony fingers, caresses the beard that covers his breast, Henriette seems totally indifferent to the abject combat that so excites the crowd.

Henriette is the passion, the life of the man cat. One fierce winter evening, alone, abandoned, dying of hunger, she threw herself, despairing, into the River Thames. The man-cat, emerging from a tavern, plunged into the waves, swam toward the young girl, waited till she rose, and, seizing her by the waist with his teeth, drew her alive onto the bank, sustaining her like a child in his Herculean arms, and carried her to his cabin, where he revived and cared for her, watching over her till morning.

For three months Henriette never left the chamber of her preserver, who guarded her with paternal tendernees, till, one day, having realized a small heritage in the country, he asked her hand in marriage.

Being alone in the world, Henriette accepted, and, today, all that the man-cat earns is for her. He obeys her like a queen, and adorns her like an idol. Her silver collar, her gold bracelet and ring, upon which sparkles an emerald—all these he has gained for her by his horrible profession, by the strength of his jaw, breaking the backs of numberless rats, and applauded by the masses. His love for Henriette is written on his visage in terrible wounds and hideous scars.

Behold him now, victorious, bowing to the acclaiming crowd, holding in his

hand—hung like bloody trophies—the hideous rats that his jaw has slaughtered.

Suddenly a bulldog, with hanging chops and blood-rimmed eyes, clears the barrier that separates the ring from the crowd with one prodigious leap.

The dog belongs to a farmer in the neighborhood. Dog and man stand regarding each other defiantly.

"I will wager," declares the man, "that without the use of my hands, I will strangle this dog with my teeth."

"Faken," replies the farmer.

And on all sides bets are exchanged.

Awaking from her reverie at last, even Henriette makes a wager with some one.

Between the man and the dog an atrocious conflict wages.

The dog begins the attack by hurling himself on the man-cat with a hoarse, fierce bark, to which the other responds with shrill hisses.

The man receives the assault of his adversary, kneeling, his hands tied and protruding head, like a snail.

The bulldog buries his fangs in the man's neck, tearing the flesh from it. But the man-cat, who may not use his hands, rises, bends, rolls about and shakes himself furiously, releasing himself from the enemy, to which he delivers a violent kick.

Blood flows, the crowd applauds, and the dog, that his master urges on, returns to the charge, more blood-thirsty and vicious. The man again kneels, reddened with blood, and white with rage.

"Enough! enough!" cry a few timid voices.

"No! no!" shouts the excited crowd. "There are bets as to the finish."

The struggle is renewed. Again the bulldog is floored with a terrible kick, and the man-cat groveling in the dirt, shivering like a seal, launches at his adversary's head, and tears his nostrils frightfully.

In return, howling with pain, the dog springs upon his enemy, burying his teeth in his arm. The crowd applauds more loudly, and new bets are scored: "I bet on the man"—"I bet on the dog."

The man-cat's wife is now thoroughly aroused from her stupor. Bending forward, with pale lips, she watches the combatants, waving her handkerchief.

With hideous face, eyes protruding from their sockets, and lacerated neck, the man-cat strains, ineffectually, to shake off the dog, whose teeth are, as it were, nailed into his arm.

With a despairing cry, he rolls in the dirt, dragging the dog down and crushing him with his weight, giving semblance with the informed, confused bodies, as of some apocalyptic, bleeding creature with the head of a man and the body of a dog.

"Hurrah! hurrah!" vociferates the breathless crowd, shrieking like demons.

And the bets increased.

Suddenly the dog lessens his grip on the man's arm and, with indescribable fury, starts gnawing his back, chest and abdomen. The fur that forms but a miserable protection, is in shreds. The blood flows in streams.

"Victory! Victory!" cry all those who have bet on the dog.

All seems lost for the man—a mass of quivering, torn flesh.

He cast a despairing look at his wife, as though to say: "See what I have done for you! Why does my strength not equal my love? I fear this is my last fight."

But Henriette, with her languishing regard lavished on the dwarf, is unaware of this unspoken farewell.

At this moment the man-cat drags himself up, dislodges the bulldog with a supreme effort, and, desperate, overturns

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First Publication February 10, 1900—4

Notice to Creditors. In the County Court of Lancaster County, Nebr. In the Matter of the Estate of Charles R. Millington, Deceased.

To The Creditors of Said Estate: You are Hereby Notified, That I will sit at the County Court Room in Lincoln, in said county, on the 2nd day of July, 1900, and again on the 2nd day of October, 1900, to receive and examine all claims against said estate, with a view to their adjustment and allowance. The time limited for the presentation of claims against said estate is six months from the 2nd day of April, A. D. 1900, and the time limited for the payment of debts is one year from the 2nd day of April, A. D. 1900.

Notice of this proceeding is ordered published four weeks successively in The Courier, a weekly newspaper published in this State.

Witness my hand and the seal of said county court this 7th day of February, 1900.

FRANK R. WATERS, County Judge.

First Publication February 17, 1900—4

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE AUTOMATIC CYCLE PUMP COMPANY OF NEBRASKA.

The name of this corporation shall be the Automatic Cycle Pump Company of Nebraska. The principal place of transacting the business of this corporation shall be in the city of Lincoln, county of Lancaster, and state of Nebraska. And it shall be empowered to carry on business in all counties, cities and towns in the state. The general nature of the business of said corporation shall be the selling of counties, cities and towns for the disposing of the Automatic cycle pump throughout the state of Nebraska and handling and dealing in same. The amount of capital stock of said corporation shall be \$50,000, fifty thousand dollars, divided into fifty thousand shares of \$1, one dollar, each and non-assessable. The entire amount thereof shall be subscribed for and payment thereof made in full, at or before the date herein fixed for the commencement of business by said corporation. The time of commencement of this corporation shall be on the first day of February, 1900, and shall terminate on the first day of February, 1920. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which this corporation may at any time subject itself shall not exceed five thousand dollars. And the stockholders shall not be personally liable for the corporate debts of this corporation. The management of this corporation shall be lodged in a board of directors, consisting of five members, selected from and by the stockholders of the corporation at their annual meeting. The officers of this corporation shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, and they shall be elected by and from the board of directors. The manner of conducting the business of this corporation, the time of holding the meetings of the stockholders and board of directors shall be as prescribed by the by-laws. These articles of incorporation may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the stockholders.

Adopted this first day of February, 1900. Signed, C. M. JAGUES, LANDY C. CLARK, ROBT. C. DRUSEDOW, CYRUS E. SANDERSON.

First Publication February 17—4

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

In the county court of Lancaster County, Nebraska: In the matter of the estate of James C. Kier, deceased.

To the creditors of said estate: You are hereby notified, that I will sit at the county court room in Lincoln, in said county, on the 2d day of July, 1900, and again on the 2d day of October, 1900, to receive and examine all claims against said estate, with a view to their adjustment and allowance. The time limited for the presentation of claims against said estate is six months from the 2d day of April, A. D. 1900, and the time limited for the payment of debts is one year from the 2d day of April, A. D. 1900.

Notice of this proceeding is ordered published for four weeks successively in The Courier, a weekly newspaper published in this state.

Witness my hand and the seal of said county court this 13th day of February, 1900.

[SEAL] FRANK R. WATERS, County Judge.

[First Publication, Feb. 24th—3]

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF FOREIGN WILL.

In the county court of Lancaster county Nebraska:

The state of Nebraska to Franklin Baker, Sarah Baker, Ira F Baker and to any other persons interested in said matter.

You are hereby notified, that an instrument purporting to be an authenticated copy of the Last Will and Testament of Samuel Baker, deceased, late of Portage county, Ohio, and of the probate thereof is on file in said court, and also a petition signed by Frank Baker, his son, praying for the probate of said instrument. That on the 19th day of March, 1900, at ten o'clock a. m., said petition and the proof of the execution of said instrument will be heard at the county court room in Lincoln, in said county, and that if you do not then appear and contest, said court may probate and record the same.

This notice has been ordered published for three weeks successively prior to said hearing in The Courier of Lincoln, Nebraska, a weekly legal newspaper of general circulation printed in Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Witness my hand and seal of said court this 21st day of February, 1900.

[SEAL] FRANK R. WATERS, County Judge.

By WALTER A. LEESKE, Clerk County Court.

First Publication Mar. 3—3

Notice of Probate of Will and for Letters.

In the county court of Lancaster county, Nebraska:

The state of Nebraska, to Mrs. Minnie L. Matthews, Lida A. Millar, John J. Millar, Frances J. Millar and to any other persons interested in said matter.

You are hereby notified that an instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of Richard P. R. Millar, deceased, is on file in said court, and also a petition signed by Mary F. Millar, his widow, praying for the probate of said instrument, and for the appointment of said petitioner as administratrix. That on the 24th day of March, 1900, at ten o'clock A. M., said petition and the proof of the execution of said instrument will be heard at the county court room in Lincoln, in said county, and that if you do not then appear and contest, said court may probate and record the same, and grant administration of the estate to said Mary F. Millar as administratrix.

This notice has been ordered published for three weeks successively prior to said hearing in The Courier of Lincoln, Nebraska, a weekly legal newspaper of general circulation printed in Lancaster county, Nebraska.

Witness my hand and seal of said court this 23d day of February, 1900.

[SEAL] FRANK R. WATERS, County Judge.

By WALTER A. LEESKE, Clerk County Court.

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1830	12,866,020	1880	50,155,783
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