

A Baffled Ape.

A crowd of spectators were recently amused by the gambols of a large ape that was lording it over a number of small monkeys confined in a great iron cage in the Jardin des Plantes. Fruit and many other things were thrown into the cage and the ape was always the first to seize them. Some one threw in a small mirror. The ape flourished this like a hammer, but, suddenly perceiving the reflection of himself in the glass, he stopped, and for a moment looked puzzled. Then he darted his head behind the glass to find the other ape. Astonished at finding nothing he apparently thought that he had not been quick enough. He then proceeded to raise and draw the glass nearer to him with great caution, and then, with a swifter dart, looked behind. Again finding nothing, he repeated the attempt once more. He next passed from astonishment to anger, and began to beat the frame on the floor of the cage. Then the glass was shattered and pieces fell out. Continued to beat, he was suddenly surprised to see his image in the piece of glass in his hand. Then, as it seemed, he determined to make one more trial. More circumspectly than ever the whole first part of the process was gone through with—more violently than ever the final part was made. His fury over his last failure knew no limit. He crunched the frame and glass together with his teeth, beat them on the floor, and crunched them again till nothing was left but splinters.

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A. P. 161.

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