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King of Lion Tamers

Experiences of Julius Seeth who Enjoys a World Wide Reputation as a Master of this Dangerous Art.

There are many famous tamers of wild beasts in the world, but there is only one man who has a right to the proud title of "King of Lion Tamers." That is Julius Seeth, who has a world-wide fame for courage, strength and indomitable will-power with wild beasts. He is certainly one of the most remarkable men living, and the story of his career is a long series of adventures. To look at the man is to realize what human strength means, to appreciate what, from the merely animal point of view, a noble creature is man when he reaches his full development, and is not stunted by over-civilization or unhealthy conditions of life.

Julius Seeth is the son of a sea-captain, but he had an uncle who was a noted animal trainer, and it was with him that the boy was apprenticed at an early age. This uncle trained not only lions but leopards, wolves, snakes and other dangerous creatures. He was proud of his nephew, who was a big strong lad, and he had hopes that Julius would succeed him in the business.

"Now, my lad," he said when young Julius was first apprenticed to him, "look at me straight in the eyes (about flinching)." He glared at the boy with a strange magnetic stare, but Julius stared back without winking.

"Not bad," said the animal trainer, "but you must practice making big eyes, like how will you face your first lion?"

Young Julius was not quite sure whether his uncle was joking or not, but for hours he would practice making "big eyes" at himself in the looking glass.

DOES NOT KNOW WHAT FEAR IS.

Then the day came when the lad was to go through his first ordeal. His uncle opened the door of a cage in which stood a fine Nubian lion, whisking his great tail from side to side.

"Now, my lad, in you go," said the man; "and if you value your life don't show any fear."

Julius stepped in and faced the lion.

"Somehow or other," said the lion-tamer in describing the incident, "I suddenly knew by instinct that my uncle's 'big eyes' theory was all nonsense. But I had not the least bit of fear. In fact, I may say without any boastfulness, but as a plain fact, that I have not the least idea of what fear means. It has never attacked me in any form whatever."

He went up to the first lion as he has approached every lion since, with a friendly aspect, in perfect composure, with keen watchfulness, with

straight, steady-glancing eyes.

Julius Seeth's theory is that to be a perfect lion-tamer, the only necessity is that quality of fearlessness, coupled with strong will-power. An animal knows in an instant—the slightest wink of an eye, the smallest gesture of alarm tells him—when a man is afraid of him, and a wild beast is always ready to take advantage of this knowledge.

That first encounter with a lion (already tamed, of course, by his uncle, but not without danger to a strange visitor) was the commencement of a long career as a tamer of wild beasts. He soon surpassed his master in the courage of facing the fiercest creature, and his wonderful capacity for making friends with the animal world.

As a young man he travelled through Germany and other parts of Europe with his beasts, and it was in this way that he attracted the attention of a British officer who was attached to the suite of the Emperor Menelik in Abyssinia. When the Emperor heard of this remarkable animal-tamer, he sent an invitation to come out to Abyssinia, and Julius Seeth, seeing a fine opportunity before him, accepted at once.

ALONE WITH WILD LIONS.

When he reached the Emperor Menelik's barbaric Court, he was told that if all that he boasted was true, he would not doubt be able to tame, say, two forest-bred young lions that had just been caught.

Julius Seeth answered that he was quite willing to do so and asked to be taken to the cage at once. For a whole week, day and night, without leaving it for a single moment, this remarkable man stayed in the cage alone with the two wild beasts which had come straight from the Abyssinian forests. At the end of that time he sent a message to the Emperor that he was now prepared to show off his tame pets. Menelik assembled all his chiefs, and presently Seeth came out with a lion trotting on either side of him.

At the word of command each of them mounted a plank which had been placed across a log, and with Seeth in the middle they played a game of see-saw. It was a splendid victory of the human mind over animal nature. The Emperor was so much impressed that he invited Herr Seeth to stay with him until the end of his life as a lion-hunter and tamer. But the German was anxious to get back to the more profitable occupation of circus manager. As a parting gift, however, Menelik presented him with no less than twenty-four forest-bred lions.

A THRILLING EPISODE.

The most thrilling episode in the career of the lion-tamer took place a few years ago in Paris. The Parisians were a little disappointed with his ordinary show, and wanted something more sensational and blood-curdling. It was suggested to him that he should give a sham representation of a Roman amphitheatre with Christian martyrs thrown to the lions.

Herr Seeth said he had no objection if he were provided with dummy Christians. These were duly forthcoming, made of wood draped with white clothes and stuffed with pieces of raw meat.

"My lions enjoyed the game finely," said the tamer. "Every night they tore those dummy Christians limb by limb to get at the stuffing, and the Parisians were in a fever of excitement. But it was not good for discipline. At the end of a few days I found that my 'lads' were getting out of hand, and I decided to end the show as soon as the week was completed. But the following night a catastrophe happened. My lions in the heat of the moment took me for a 'dummy Christian.' It was quite a mistake, and I punished them severely for it, but when I had got them under control with the aid of my

found I wasn't dead they didn't take an interest in shooting at anything but me. That probably wasn't so, but that was the way it seemed at the time. Anyway, I made up my mind to get out, and crawled along toward the trenches where our men had gone over the top. As no one came back I thought they must have captured them. I hadn't more than started going until a bullet in my right shoulder rolled me over again. I got my gun in my left hand and kept on crawling. Then I got shot in the left leg just above the knee. Then two or three bullets got me in the right leg. I dropped my gun and helped myself along with my left hand. But they must have thought I was having too easy a time of it, for I got shot through the left shoulder, and that brought me down flat. There was nothing for it then but to wriggle along like a snake on my breast and stomach. I kept on getting shot in my right leg, but all the feeling had gone out of it, so I didn't mind that much. The last time I recollect getting hit was again in the left shoulder.

"It was just dawn by the time I got to the trenches, and when I finally wriggled over the top I thought they were full of Japanese. But it happened what Japanese un-



A BETWEEN-SEASON GARMENT.

For the early autumn days, when the first chill winds begin to blow, there are smart coats of three-quarter length and medium weight that fill in the interim between the winter and the summer wardrobe. Somewhat on the tourist cut is the coat of a medium brown prunella, with overlaid yoke that extends in straps to below the bust, loose back caught with half belt from the side seams and straight loose fronts. Smart pockets are a convenient feature. The collar and the cuff on the puffed sleeve are in coarse unbleached linen, braided in narrow soutache, and two sizes of handsome ivory buttons make for a smart finish.

sowhide whip, I was streaming with blood from head to foot, and the flesh of my right thigh was hanging down over my knee. For two years after that little game I was terribly lame, and had to hobble about with sticks. No more Christian amphitheatres for me."

HIT BY SEVENTEEN BULLETS STILL ALIVE

Kirichenko, a Russian, is probably the most thoroughly shot-to-pieces man who has survived the present war. He arrived at Moscow recently from Harbin, where, after weeks in the hospital, the doctors extracted seventeen bullets from him, amputated one leg, and discharged him as cured. He gave his experience as follows:

"It was at Liao Yang that I was put out of commission for good. On the evening of September 2 we had been ordered to attack some of the Japanese trenches. We had to cross a good piece of open ground under a heavy cross fire, and there were men falling every step from the time we broke cover to the minute we rushed the trenches at the point of the bayonet. Nothing happened to me until we were close to the Japanese lines, when I got a bullet in my right foot that brought me down. From that time I was no more good except as a target, but I must say I drew a good deal of Japanese ammunition, if that counted for anything."

"Our fellows went on and carried the Japanese trenches on the left in a hand-to-hand fight. But there was a long line of works on the right that we did not take, and where they kept on shooting. They were the people who did for me. I was on the ground with my teeth chattering, mostly with pain. Scared? Of course I was. It seemed to me when those fellows on the right

forms I saw were on corpses, and the live people were talking Russian, so I yelled for help. The men took me to a bandaging station two miles away, and the doctors didn't think I was much good keep. I had thirteen bullets in my right leg and side, and four scattered around other parts of me. But they tied me up and sent me on to Harbin, where they cut my leg off. So here I am, crippled; but that is better than being dead or a prisoner."

NEWSPAPER RECOVERS.

The Lafayette (Ind.) Journal recently sued a subscriber who, after reading the paper several years, refused to take it from the post-office. When pressed to pay the money due the Journal he claimed that he had never ordered it.

Justice Shaw, who tried the case, entered judgment against the subscriber, L. G. Ward, to the extent of \$30.50. This included costs of the suit.

The Journal's management introduced witnesses to prove that it had never received notification from Mr. Ward notifying it that he did not wish the Journal sent to his address.

This bit of information should prove interesting to publishers dealing with readers, who, after receiving the paper for some time, and when pressed to pay up, refuse to take the paper from the post-office.

ONE THING LACKING.

Yes, she's the society leader of the village. There's no doubt about that. And yet she isn't at all satisfied with her success.

Why not?

She feels there is something lacking in her social triumph. Nobody has ever asked her to join at "Florence" sextette.

To stamp out an evil it is sometimes necessary to be well heeled.

The Days of Auld Lang Syne

Interesting Events of Ye Olden Times Gathered from The Planet's Issues of Half a Century Ago.

From The Planet files, from May 30, 1861, to June 13, 1861.

Prince Albert arrived at St. Johns, N. B., May 29.

Wheat is worth from \$1.10 to \$1.18 per bushel.

France has consented to evacuate Syria on the 5th of June.

The British Government is building five new steamships for the navy.

A steel canon, invented by Louis Napoleon, has met with much success.

Photography has been introduced into the French army as a branch of education.

One hundred American ships are now engaged in the whale fishery in the Indian ocean.

The Paris police will not permit women, or children under the age of 15 years, to drive a carriage on the public streets.

Died—At the residence of Peter McMullen, Esq., Harwich, yesterday, the 12th inst., Mr. William Neil, aged 34 years, a native of Ayrshire, Scotland, lately conductor on the G. W. Railway.

Mr. Thomas Bennett has got his Union Distillery in this town in thorough working order, and the present prospects are that he will shortly be compelled to enlarge his manufacturing facilities.

Teacher Wanted for Central School.—A head teacher; salary \$500 per annum. None but parties having first class certificates need apply. Applications to be addressed to the chairman, C. G. Charteris, Esq. David Smith, Secy.

The County Council assembled in the Council room, the following members being present:—Warden J. Smith, and Councillors Coatsworth, Coutts, Coll, Edwards, Foot, Green, Houston, Laird, McIntyre, Rrdley, White, Young, Higgins, Johnson and Evans.

We are greatly pleased to note the rapid progress which the Messrs. Baxter are making upon the new St. Paul's Church, Wellington St. It will be completed by fall, when it will unquestionably be one of the prettiest edifices for public worship in Canada.

We are gratified with the accounts which reach us from all parts of Kent concerning the crops. Every kind of grain looks splendid—indeed, it never looked better; and if nothing serious now befalls this county until after harvest our farmers will have great reason to rejoice.

A meeting of the Agricultural Society of the County of Kent was held at the "Chatham Arms," the president, Geo. Young, Esq., in the chair, and the following directors being present:—Messrs. Israel Evans, R. J. Earl, Stephen White, Thomas Pardo, Robert Smith, James Purser, Duncan McVicar, Matthew Martin, and James Hart, Secy.

The Harwich Township Council held a meeting in Blenheim on May 15th, in Sheldon's hotel. The following were present:—George Young, Reeve; Jas. G. Laird, Deputy Reeve; Councillors Wilson, McMichael and Hovey. A petition was received from William Ryan and others, praying for the opening of the 4th concession.

A Short Walk About Town.—Yesterday we took a little stroll around town and were highly pleased with the improvements that have recently been effected and other improvements which are now in progress. On King street Mr. R. O. Smith is erecting a fine brick building, 22 feet front by 62 feet deep. Mr. Smith, who is carrying on a cabinet trade extensively, will, when this building is completed, greatly enlarge his business. On the opposite side of the street Mr. John Hooper is putting up a wooden building for a harness shop. Further up King street Mr. John McDonald has erected a fine, two-story brick dwelling house. On King St. West Mr. William Berry has erected a fine building, which he now occupies as a grocery and provision store. Mr. Alexander Charteris' old and popular store has been greatly improved by the handwork of Mr. Thomas Dixon, who a short time since put a new and splendid front into it, also a new verandah. Mr. Kenneth Urquhart has also greatly enlarged and beautified his store by an addition of about 30 feet to the rear and a handsome front.

Mr. Cornwall, merchant tailor, has had a new front put into his shop, which is next door to Mr. Urquhart's. Miss Gibb, fashionable milliner, is also a great improvement to King St. Indeed, the windows of Miss Gibb's store present as fine an appearance as any in town. Down the street, at

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No! all of the new wraps are in full length garments, that one bears so much about. Some short coats are much in vogue for the younger set, and an excellent model is displayed in the full coat of a yellowish white chiffon cloth. There is the usual concealed yoke to effect a fit over the shoulders, and to this the full, circular folds of the coat are applied, these hanging full and loose almost to the knee. The sleeve is one of the new full, fluffy patterns with a plain, shallow cuff of good width. There is a cape effect over the shoulders, with a smart point in the back, and extending in further points over the sleeve to the elbow, the fronts falling in scarf ends to the waist. This in a braided line with little irregular pieces of ermine tails at intervals with a very piquant effect.



A deep shade of amethyst velvet has concentric rings printed in satin effect upon the velvet pile, the pattern showing up lighter against the velvet background. The blouse is plain almost to severity, but the richness of the material gives it a very dressy appearance indeed. The shoulders are broad, the requisite pleats being placed close together either side of the front fastening, this being accomplished invisibly beneath a box pleat. The sleeve is the usual shirtwaist pattern, gathered into a straight band cuff, and the plain stand-up collar is daintily trimmed with a handkerchief point turnover.