

room, where a liberal application of soap and water made him more presentable. Then a good, warm meal satisfied his hunger, and the boy fell asleep. When Chicago was reached, Mr. Carleton telegraphed to Pittsburg, but nothing could be learned of the little fellow's folks. It was plain he was telling lies about himself, but he stuck firmly to his story and no amount of cross examination could shake it. A neat suit of clothes was provided, and just when Mr. Carleton was deeply puzzled what to do with him the lad found the way out of the difficulty.

"Turning to Mr. Carleton with his bright eyes shining with expectancy, he said:

"Say, boss, ain't you got a mule in your show?"

"Mr. Carleton explained that it was a donkey, and Murphy asked:

"Well, can't you take me with you to take care of him?"

"It was a solution of the problem. Mr. Carleton did not want to turn the boy adrift, and yet he had seen no way out of his difficulty. The child, for he was nothing more, was accordingly engaged to look after the donkey. His duties consisted in leading 'Baby Anson' from his stable to the theatre and back again at the close of the performance.

"On Monday night, after he had made his trip to the theatre, this 9-year old bundle of precocity presented himself in line in front of the box office of the theatre, and when his turn came, he removed a hat many sizes too large for him and, in a childish treble, squeaked out:

"Say, boss, d'ye pass the perferesh?"

"The ticket seller stuck his head out of the window in order to get a better look at the boy, and replied:

"Yes, sonny, what do you do?"

"I'm wid Carleton's Opera Co. and I tend de donkey!"

"What donkey?" was asked.

"Baby Anson," came the reply.

"Why do you call him Baby Anson?" the ticket man queried.

"Aw, because, he's such a kicker," replied the boy.

"He was given a gallery seat, which he occupied every performance. The boy is much attached to Mr. Carleton, and swears he will ride on an axle but what he will travel with the company. Mr. Carleton is of the opinion that his youthful protege escaped from some reform home, although he has been unable to discover anything of the boy's previous life. Murphy is still with the company and quite a pet."

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