

Miscellaneous.

Tricks of Showmen.

HOW THE WHITE ELEPHANTS OF FORPENGH AND BARNUM WERE SECURED.

Old showmen who traveled with the late Adam Forpengh or were intimately acquainted with him for many years have

circus man and his long career under the canvas. Perhaps one of the most interesting

tales is that which gives the real history of the famous white elephant, which

is now a historic animal, but whose actual color has long been well known to those

who were attached to the Forpengh show. An old circus man, who was in Adam Forpengh's

employ for many successive seasons, tells the story.

"When Barnum announced that he had procured a sacred white elephant, Adam

Forpengh made up his mind that he must have one at once. Not long afterward he

proclaimed that he had secured a genuine white elephant from Siam with extreme

difficulty and at a cost of \$50,000. This so-called sacred white elephant was merely

a small elephant worth about \$3,500 that had been painted with a preparation devised

by a man that used to work for Barnum at Heidelberg, Conn. Of course, the elephant

was not pure white, but a dull gray, and in a manner that can hardly be accounted

for, even eminent scientific men who examined the animal were deceived into the

belief that the color was really white. Notwithstanding the expenditure of an immense

sum of money by Barnum's people in their endeavors to prove the elephant holy,

the elephant was touched off with the preparation about every other day, and on

Sunday it was fixed up for the coming week. On Monday morning the elephant

always appeared surprisingly bright, but along toward the end of the week the color

became so dingy that visitors often asked why the white elephant.

"In 1884, when Forpengh had his white elephant in the show, an embassy from Siam

visited the country for a tour through the states. The Siamese and the show

chanced to be in Chicago at the same time, and Forpengh saw a chance to

secure the foreigner for a big catch. The scheme was to get the Siamese

visitors to look at the sacred white elephant and thereby get a big advertisement

out of it. After four days of hard work the agent succeeded in getting the

foreigner to visit the show. They passed the white elephant without comment,

watched part of the performance and then went out, pausing in the menagerie tent

to look another look at the elephants. Adam Forpengh, in his excitement, ordered

the gate, and, seeing the Siamese gentlemen, he rushed to them and gave the Siamese

prince, who led the party, a rousing shout on the back, and said: "There, now, prince, ain't that the kind of elephant

you have in your country?" The foreigner, who understood English except the

interpreter, looked at Mr. Forpengh in amazement at his familiarity, and then

quickly departed. The agent, who had worked so hard to get the Siamese

visitors into the show, nearly fainted at what Mr. Forpengh did.

"The white elephant appeared on the bill and in the show until interest in the

animal began to flag, and then it was suddenly announced that the sacred white

elephant had died, having been unable to stand the climate. Mr. Forpengh fixed his

loss at \$50,000, and an admiring public gave him its sympathy. The truth of the matter

was that the elephant was washed off and turned in with the Siamese embassy

the show ever since, being billed of late as John L. Sullivan, and giving a boxing

act in the ring. The once famous white elephant is now in the winter quarters at

Front Street and Lehigh avenue. Barnum's white elephant was no more

than this one. They merely sandpapered off the rough outside hull until it looked

show pink."—Philadelphia Record.

A Hello Annihilator.

One of the most unique inventions of the age is being exhibited in this city, namely,

a telegraph which gives the message in the handwriting of the sender instead of in dots

and dashes.

The instrument is small and compact, takes up less room than the ordinary telegraph

and is claimed, has many advantages over the latter, the most important being that

after two parties communicate with each other they have a written record in their

own handwriting of the correspondence. The instrument is placed upon a stand or

desk, and the only parts of it visible are a fountain pen, a stylus attached to the box

and a narrow strip of paper.

The stylus is taken up, and the act of drawing the attention of the central office.

operator writes the number of the instrument of the person with whom he desires

to communicate. He is connected, and the narrow strip of paper begins moving.

The stylus is really the means of transmitting the message. It is attached to the apparatus below and as it moves in the

making of loops and lines of the letters it breaks and recombines currents, carrying

the little fountain pen to make the electrical characters on the strip of paper before

him and also causing the pen of the receiver's instrument to record the same

characters. When the receiver wishes to reply he simply takes up his stylus and

writes while the other remains quiet.

The instrument is designed to either take the place of the telephone or stand

in addition to it. It is cheaper, being let out at an annual rental, and, like the telegraph,

connected with a central office. Although probably most useful for use in

cities, tests have demonstrated its practicality for interurban use, one message having

been accurately recorded 800 miles away, and going 65 miles over an ordinary

wire with a single battery.—New Orleans Picayune.

A True Story of Abraham.

No patriarch of old was this Abraham, only a little black pickaninny living

down in the small village of Powelton, Florida. At least he lived there when I

made his acquaintance in the summer of 1882, but that is more than seven years

ago. The following episode in Abraham's life took place one Sunday morning, when

he had eaten his usual breakfast of hoe cake, bacon and molasses, then his daily

"mammy" had forced him to tin his mackerel, and he was sitting in a chair, his

day attire consisting of a new "dusky" shirt and a pair of jean trousers, and

started him off for church. The road to the sanctuary could not very well be

dignified by such a name, for it was only a path leading along through the fragrant

pine woods and across several fields, then into the woods again, until it ended at the

ugly frame building, but Abraham went along quite contentedly until he reached

the stubby fields where the subsoil came down in a decidedly uncomfortable

way. In the middle of one of the big fields stood an apple tree, and as the small

pickaninny halted under its cooling shade, he

Farm and Garden.

Points of Interest for Farmers.

One industry greatly neglected in this country is the breeding of large, strong

smiles. The farmer who would go into this systematically could get good prices for all

he could raise. The animals are in demand wherever there is fine grading,

railroad or otherwise, and in mining operations elsewhere. Northern farmers

select the honest, heavy, "New York" stock profitable in it, both for farm work at

home and for selling.

At a late Kentucky sale 400 horses brought an average of \$85 a head.

Not long since a dealer shipped eighteen horses from a station in Pennsylvania to

Newark, N. J., all in one car. Ventilated cars were expensive, new fangled devices,

and this economical man sent the horses in an unventilated one. When the animals

reached Newark fifteen of them were dead—had been suffocated. It was hard on the

horse, but it served the man right.

Man's lives in a stable of pressed brick and sandstone next door to Dr. John Hall's

church, at the corner of Fifth avenue and Fifty-fifth street, New York.

The day is not far distant when dairymen and creamery men will have ice machines

and make their own ice. The desideratum is now a machine on a scale small

enough for a single establishment, but one that manufactures 500 pounds of ice a day and

costs \$2,000.

I do not want a kicking cow, says John Gould, but I do want to see one with nerve

enough, when abused, to kick her master into the furthest corner of the barn so

severely that when he arrives there he will understand she has the better developed

brain.

Raise all the colts you can. It is an ancient saying. Horses, being better bred

did make half of the mortgage on many a poor man's farm.

Every farmer may and ought to have a fish pond on his premises. It will help take

away that lack of variety which is the bane of the farmer's life.

The Clyde horse and the English Shire are both descended from the old Flanders

horse, which used to be the war steed of Europe before gunpowder was invented.

It was of immense size and strength, and had long hair on its legs, "feather

legged," as it is termed. All European draft horses are descended from the Flanders

breed.

From a weak beginning, fifteen years ago, there is a color which increased till they

have become quite common.

There are some things that are beyond the control of the farmer, but the breeding

of stock of any kind or condition is not one of them. Nor is the raising of

comb crops, melons, peaches, etc., having trouble down barns or fences, or

dirty house yard, too many men, cur, or an absence of fruit on the farm. These and

many others are under his own control.—Field and Farm.

SHALL WE RISE AGAIN?—To tell the naked truth, I could say that my wife's

little flock of geese did me no more than any viable farm, at any rate not enough

to compare with my wife's poultry, and my attention, seldom anybody would

attend to them, and we never troubled about feeding them. They seemed to be a self

supporting bird. They furnish as a self

gouging ones in a while and now feathers all along to keep up my pillows and

new ones for the children. So that I acquired very quietly to my wife's ruling and

better judgment. It seems to me that every farmer in the country should have

his small flock of geese, especially when he has a running stream for them to

disport in.

Last fall I came up with one lady who supported a flock of about one hundred

geese and about fifty ducks. She had no farm but lived on the side of a big mill pond

and her husband was a miller. The waste of the mill aided in the support of the

geese and ducks. They in turn aided considerably in clothing and educating the

children.

These are little things, but you must remember that it takes a long time to get a

man to turn a country. Some farmers' fancies derive all their profit from their

fancies, poultry and eggs, and are as happy as larks in the enjoyment of such things

as they need. Feed fewer dogs and use a little more economy.—M. in Tennessee Farmer.

FARM HORSES AND COLTS.—Keep the work horses of farm colts in good repair

and complete. They must be kept in good, well fitting harness that is broken,

patched up, and there is greater satisfaction in handling them. See that the

collars fit properly, and always keep them clean, without which care sore shoulders

are sure to result. Collars should offer the result of care and indication of

carelessness in this respect than of anything else.

When training colts train them to fast walking. A work horse that walks

fast is a fast gait, and is not naturally and easily, as he will do if properly

trained, but twice as much as one with a slow lumbering gait. On these prairie farms

where there are no natural obstacles to encounter, it is a waste of time to drive

walking teams.—Indiana Farmer.

HOME FROM INDIA.—Send the children on three sides of the room, and let the

mother sit on the other side. He must be ready to get up and go to bed at

night. "What did he bring you?" "A

nut." "What did he bring you?" "A

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FRASER'S HARDWARE STORE.

QUEEN STREET, BRIDGE TOWN.

At this well-known Establishment are offered all the iron and steel

in all the usual forms and of excellent quality and at lowest cash rates.

A large and complete stock of all the best quality of iron and steel

is kept on hand, including Plates, Diapers, Sheets, Spades, Hand and Crosscut Saws, Hacks, Hoes, &c., and a full

assortment of all the best quality of iron and steel.

Also, Paints, Oils, Varnishes, Turpentine and Lead Pipe, and all the best

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