

GREAT FIRE IN NEW YORK!

Barnum's Museum Burned to the Ground!
DESTRUCTION OF THE GREATEST MENAGERIE IN THE WORLD!

NEW YORK, July 13.—A fire broke out in Barnum's Museum, and extended rapidly to the adjacent buildings on Ann and Fulton streets. The Museum was totally destroyed. A large number of the other buildings are also total losses. A New York paper gives the following graphic account of the burning of the Museum.

OUR REPORTER'S VISION OF LIFE AND DEATH.

Our reporter fortunately occupies a room on the north side of Ann street, corner of Broadway, the windows of which look immediately into this compartment; and no sooner was he apprised of the fire than he repaired there, confident of finding "items" in abundance. Luckily the windows of the Museum were unclosed, and he had a perfect view of almost the entire interior of the apartment. The following is his statement of what followed, in his own language:

CONFUSION AND STRUGGLE IN THE MENAGERIE.

Protecting myself from the intense heat as well as I could by taking the mattress from the bed and erecting it as a bulwark before the window, with only enough space reserved on the top as a look-out, I anxiously observed the animals in the opposite room. Immediately opposite the window through which I gazed, was a large cage containing a lion and lioness.

To the right hand was the three-storied cage, containing monkeys at the top, two kangaroos in the second story, and a "happy family" of rats, cats, adders, rabbits, etc., in the lower compartment.

At length crack went the glass sides of the great cages, and whale and alligators rolled out on the floor, with the rushing and steaming water. The whale died pretty easily, having been pretty well used up before. A few great gasps and a convulsive flap or two of his mighty flukes were his expiring spasms.

One of the alligators was killed almost immediately by falling across a great fragment of shattered glass, which cut open his stomach and let out the greater part of his entrails to the light of day. The remaining alligator became involved in a controversy with the anaconda and joined the melee in the center of the blazing apartment.

FAT WOMAN.

Mrs. Anna Swann, was only rescued with the utmost difficulty. There was not a door through which her bulky frame could obtain a passage. It was likewise feared that the stairs would break down, even if she should reach them. Her best friend, the living skeleton, stood by her as long as he dared, but then deserted her, while, as the heat grew in intensity, the perspiration rolled from her face in little brooks and rivulets, which pattered musically upon the floor.

At length, as a last resort, the employees of the place procured a lofty derrick, which fortunately happened to be standing near, and erected it alongside the Museum. A portion of the wall was then broken off on each side of the window, the strong tackle was got in readiness, the fat woman was made fast to one end and swung over the heads of the people in the street, with 18 men grasping the other extremity of the line, and lowered down from the third story, amid enthusiastic applause. To the right hand was the three-storied cage, containing monkeys at the top, two kangaroos in the second story, and a "happy family" of rats, cats, adders, rabbits, etc., in the lower compartment.

PROGRESS OF THE FLAMES.

The conflagration was, yet, confined to the upper part of the building. The lower walls, however, were becoming rapidly heated, and all of the animals began to manifest much uneasiness. The white or silver fox ran up and down his cage, whining pitifully and endeavoring to escape.—The lions also paced hurriedly up and down, moaning most dismaly, and all the other beasts manifested similar uneasiness. The serpents stuck their heads up above the sill of the windows and writhed in strange contortions.

When the fire had eaten its swift way down to the third floor, and the lurid glare burst through the transoms of the doors, the panic among the beasts became positively fearful. They sprang against their iron bars and strove to rend them with their teeth, at the same time sending forth savage and frightened cries which were almost human in their agony. At length, when the flames burst through the top of the door and commenced to lick the tops of the cages, the tumult reached its height. Yells, roars, howls and screams went up from the doomed brutes, which were heard to the distance of half a mile.

SELF-EMANCIPATION OF THE LIONS.

With a simultaneous bound, the lion and his mate sprang against their bars, which gave way and came down with a great crash, releasing the beasts, which for a moment, apparently amazed at their sudden liberty, stood in the middle of the floor fastening their sides with their tails and roaring dolefully.

FIRY DELIVERANCE OF ANIMALS.

Almost at the same moment the upper part of the three-storied cage, consumed by the flames, fell forward, letting the rods drop to the floor and many other animals were thus set free.

Just at this time the door fell through and the flames and smoke rolled in like a whirlwind from the Hadean river Cocytus.

THE LION AND TIGER IN CLOSE CONTEST.

A horrible howl in the right-hand corner of the room, a yell of indescribable agony, and a crushing, grating sound indicated that the tiger and polar bear were stirred into the highest pitch of excitement. Then there came a great crash as of the giving way of the bars of their cage. The flames and smoke momentarily rolled back, and for a few seconds the interior of the room was invisible in the lurid light of the flames, which revealed the tiger and the lion locked together in close combat.

PARTICIPATION OF THE SERPENTS.

The base of the rods of the serpents' cage had also crumbled; and the largest boa-constrictor—about 20 feet long and as thick as a man's body—was also engaged in deadly struggle with the lionesses.

THE POLAR BEAR IN A WARM PLACE.

The polar bear had shrunk to the coolest corner, with half his fur burnt from his snowy coat, and there sat wonderingly gazing upon the scene before him. Accustomed, as he had been, to deal with only the walrus and the seal in the cold blue waters of the Arctic regions, he was evidently considerably alarmed at the excessively torrid scene, which was blazing through the room. Under the circumstances he found it impossible to take it coolly.

THE SNAKES AND MONKEYS IN TROUBLE.

The monkeys were perched around the windows, shivering with dread and afraid to jump out. The snakes were writhing about, crippled and blistered by the heat, darting out their forked tongues and expressing their rage and fear in the most bilious of hisses.

THE HAPPY FAMILY BAPTIZED WITH FIRE.

The "Happy Family" were experiencing an amount of beatitude which was evidently too cordial for philosophical enjoyment. A long tongue of flame had crept under the cage, completely singeing every hair from the cat's body. The felicitous adder was slowly burning in two, and busily engaged in impregnating his agonized system with his own venom. The joyful rat had lost his tail by a falling bar of iron; and the beauteous rabbit, perforated by a red-hot nail, looked as if nothing would be more grateful than a corner in some Esquimaux farm-yard. The members of the delectable convocation were all huddled together in the bottom of their cage, which suddenly gave way, precipitating them out of view into the depths below, which by this time were also blazing like the fabled To-

CONTINUATION OF THE STRUGGLE.

Meanwhile the lion and the tiger were continuing their contest now with the advantage on one side, now on the other; and the bear was slowly tightening his fatal coils round the panting body of the lioness, which, however, bit and struggled, lacerating the striped skin of its adversary terribly. The floor was already crimson with their blood, while the commingling hisses, howls, yells and roars utterly surpassed all description.

THE WHALES AND ALLIGATORS IN TORMENT.

At this moment the flames rolled again into the room, and then again retired. The whale and alligators were by this time suffering dreadful torments. The water in which they swam was literally boiling. The alligators dashed fiercely about endeavoring to escape, and opening and shutting their great jaws in ferocious torture; but the poor whale, almost boiled, with great ulcers bursting from his blubbery sides, could only feebly swim about, though blowing excessively, and every now and then sending up great fountains of spray.

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THE LADY'S FRIEND.

This favorite of the ladies leads off in its August number with a beautiful steel engraving called "GRANDPA'S DARLING"—the face of the old man, with its deep, thoughtful eyes, strikes us as particularly fine. The literary contributions are, "What I looked for, and what I saw," by Frances Lee; "Ghosts Glycerine," by Miss Donnelly; "Waiting," by Mrs. Tucker; "Dark Fancies," by F. E. F.; "Stories of our Village," by Beatrice Colonna; "California Wooing," by Kate Howe; "The Rector's Love," by Mrs. Denison. Editorials, Fashions, Receipts, &c.

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