

These Circ's Bills.

She had one in her hand as she came up stairs, and she didn't say a word until after she had wiped her spectacles, placed them on her nose, unfolded the bill, and read a few of the head lines.

She was old-fashioned in look. There were strings to her bonnet, she had no bustle, her gray hair was combed down smoothly, and there were only eleven yards in her black alpaca dress.

"Young man, don't you know that circuses are awful bars and humbugs?" she finally inquired.

The man at the table leaned back in his chair and refused to express an opinion.

"Well, I know it," she continued in a positive tone, "and I believe they give us every day. Now see here—listen to this: 'A gorgeous panorama of amazing wonders—a gigantic combination of astonishing acrobatic talent.' That's all right on the poster, but hey they got 'em? I'd like to see one of them animals."

"You're laboring under a mistake, madam. It means a grand display of natural curiosities, and informs the public that the proprietor has secured many first-class acrobats—the clowns who stand on their heads, turn head over heels and cut up so many monkey-shines."

"It does, eh?" she mused; "well, do you believe it takes a smart person to fool over?"

"Well, one has to have a good deal of training."

"They do, eh?" she remarked, as she put her umbrella in the corner and spit on her hand; "I'll show you that you are deceived! I'm an old woman, but I can't—"

"Madam, hold on—don't do it!" exclaimed the man behind the table.

"I can flop right over there and never shake my bonnet," she said, as she rose up.

"I know you can, madam, but don't. I am here alone, and I—I don't want you. I'd rather you wouldn't. If you are determined on it, I shall leave the room."

"Well, you know I can, and that's enough. You may be right about what that means, but see here—read this: 'The highway ablaze with resplendent chariots—the grandest pageant yet on earth.' I've never saw a pageant yet. If they had one the door of the cage wasn't open."

"You are also in error there. The bill refers to the fact that the great number of wagons, chariots, etc., wake up a sight worth seeing as they pass along the street."

"Um-m-m," she muttered, as she folded the bill over; "I don't see why they couldn't have said so then. And now see here—read this: 'Sig. Govinoff, in his aerial flights.' Now then, is that a balloon or a condurango?"

"It is a man, madam—one of the performers. His real name is probably Jones, but that isn't grand enough, and so they put it down as 'Sig. Govinoff.' He is the man who jumps off a rope, turns over twice, and comes down all right."

"He is, eh? Well, if he's got an idea that he's the smartest man alive I want to disappoint him. I never did try to turn over twice, but I'll do it right here and now or break my neck! Get the things off from this table."

"Stay, madam—don't. I would not have you do it for fifty dollars."

"Just once!"

"For heaven's sake, madam, get down from off this table—here—here's a dollar if you won't do it."

"I don't want your money, and I won't try to 're-act,' but I don't want no circus going around talking about aerial flights and deceiving the people!" She sat down, and the young man wiped the sweat off his brow, and presently she remarked:

"And here's another thing here: 'A sparkling asterisk, flashing across the field of the cloth of gold—Mons. Gometerique in his great delineation of human character.' I'd like to know who she is?"

"Madam, that's a man—a man who delineates character."

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