old, keeps on animal and bird fancier's play, who was fleeing after having anywhere between 50 and 100 years among what he calls his pets has giv- Times. en him a most curious voice. It changes in sound and intonation as he talks to the different animals. His conversation with the Newfoundland dogs is carried on in a deep bass, while a shrill tremble answers the singing of his canaries. For forty years this man has bought and sold birds, fish, and four legged animals, and during that time had dealth with a variety of people. Anecdotes are his chief delight, and a Times reporter happened in upon him the other day just in time to hear one. The old fancier was reading an advertisement calling for an eagle for use on the stage, and in a short time had answered it, offer-

"Theaters," said he, lifting his parchment-like face from a writingdesk, "are my best customers, although you wouldn't think it. It isn't long since real animals began to be used on the stage, but the great improvement in scenery made it necessary. Just think of having a clump of woods on the stage and no birds in it." And the old man's face expressed much disgust. "What are they used for? Well, a good many things. In the 'Kerry Gow,' now, some carrier-pigons are sent of in the race track scene to carry home the news of the victory. When 'Youth' was brought out at Wallack's theater I sold a lot of canary birds for the scene on the river, and maybe you remember how pretty they sounded."

ing a bird.

"Have you had any demand late-

"Not since about a year ago. Then a young fellow, who had a play with a scene of a bird store in it, came here and bought the birds. He got some of nearly every kind, and when the show broke up I bought them back. That young man said then that the only thing that made him glad when he failed was that he could get rid of those birds. He never had so much trouble over anything in his life before. But the largest demand I ever Crook' was running at Niblo's Garhave a lot of mermaids on the stage. So I built some water tanks," and he pointed to four glass tanks, each three feet high, four feet long, and about a foot wide : "those are the very ones. Well, we filled them with water, put several hundred fish and a lot of shells and coral in them, and then stretched them across the stage on a long trap door. As the stage back of them was cleared, and there the 'mermaids' walked around. Each of them had a long fishy tail fastened on, and this tail stuck up above the level of the tanks. The mermaids all struck out as though they were swimming, and the effect from the audience was very fine. Pauline Markham was the fairy, and had to walk up from the water, but, bless your soul, she never got wet. Just walked up a little ladder back of the tank, and there she

"But how did you ever get the tanks back?"

"That's the best part of the whole story," and the man's face became a hugh wrinkle as he tried to laugh. "I had told the carpenter all along that the trap door wasn't strong enough to hold all that water, and one fine evening, just before the curtain went up, the whole thing broke down. The mermaids were all down under the stage and the shock knocked them down and the water flowed all over them, and the poor fishes got down their necks and freightened some of them almost to death, After that I bought back the iron frames, put new glass in them, and there they are."

"Did you see that owl over there? Well, that bird has died 1,750 times, shot in the head every time too. He belonged to a theatrical company that broke up, and all he had to do was to sit on a stone and be shot. When the gun was fired somebody from behind would pull him off the stone."

The old man had done a large business, he said, in selling lap'dogs, cats, and large tame birds for use in | 26 and 28 North William St., New York. | Hrs, seville, Pa.

drawing room scenes. The eagle that he had just agreed to sell would, A little dried-up man, who might he thought, be taught to sit on the be, looking at him from different points bough of a tree in some midnight scene and scream at the villain of the store on Fulton street. His long life mardered the heroine .- New York

A TEXAS BEAR STORY.

Mr. Meyer, of Meyer's Garden, has sold his bear. The inquiry "what bear?" will not be asked. This particular bear has made a character and reputation in Dallas for being as attractive as a paid fireman. He was introduced to his late quarters when a youth, and he put in all his time to the present moment in making acquaintances. He wore a smile at all times, and wanted to shake hands with every man, woman and child that came his way. He had funny ways too-the funniest that a bear ever had-and it was the the custom among our citizens to stand by his cage and see him loll on his back and slap at flies, dance a jig, feel around in the next cage to toy with the coon and do a thousand and one amusing tricks. A printer, one of those know. ing kind who corrects the editorials and expresses his private opinion by changing the headlines, was showing a country friend how much more he knew than the bear, when the animal seized his right index finger and bit it off at the first joint. That printer lost his case, and the bear became the warm friend of the newspaper reporter and editor. The man who bought our bear is a butcher. He didn't buy him to play with, and the animal seemed to know it, so when they came to pull him from his boudoir he kicked, as it were. Three Germans who had lived in a menagerie undertook to bring him out with a lasso and a rope and a hoe. They attempted it. He broke the rope, chewed up the rake, and made the hoe a concave. They shut the door quickly, called for chains, more men, and dogs. A chain was finally placed over his head four men got hold of it, and out he came. He felt the fresh air on his brow, and that day meat was good. He squeezed one of them until he was limp, broke anothers rib, and seizing a bob tailed country cur, that was tak. had for anything for the stage was for ing a hand in the fight, held him to fish. You needn't look as it you didn't his breast, with his head down, and believe it, because it's so. 'The Black chewed on the stump of his tail as if he was eating a sweet potato. Ropes were thrown over him, and thus shack den, then under Jarrett & Palmer, led and roped he was escorted to the and the Krally Brothers wanted to butcher pen, followed by 400 small boys and every dog in town.-Dallas

> MISTOOK HER FOR A BURGLAR Near Indianapolis, Ind., Henry Brown mistook his domestic, Ida Knauerr, for a burgler, and fired two shots at the supposed intruder. One of them penetrated the girls breast, passing clear through the body, inflicting a wound from which she is not expected to recover. Brown is greatly prostrated, and his condition is nearly as serious as that of his vic-

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