MEN OF MUSCLE.
feats that strong men have

Athletes Who Pulled Against Hor
-Tricks by Which striength is Pretended-Electro-

Many stories have been told of th strength of certain characters among the
ancients. Of this number one was of a Roman tribune who went by the name
of the Second Achilles, who is said to have killed at different times three hundred of the enemy, and who, whe
treacherously set upon by twenty-five of his countrymen, although then past $h$
sixtieth year, killed fourteen of them be fore he was slain. Milo, of Crotona, said to have lifted an ox weighing on
thousand pounds, and when he stood up right a number of men could not force
him out of his place. Pliny tells of one Athanatus who walked across the stage
loaded with a breast plate weighing 500 pounds and buskins of the same weight. Bounds and all the men of prodigious strength. of whom we have any account in history
is Maximin, the Emperor of Rome, is to be reckoned the foremost. Heme was by
birth a Thracian and a simple herdeman He was nearly nine feet in height, and the Empire. He used the bracelet of his wife as a ring for his thumb. In the
theatre, in the presence of all the citizens, he overthrew twelve of the strong-
est men in wrestling, and outstripped two of the swiftest horses in running
all in one day. He could draw a loaded chariot which two strong horses coul
not move. He could break a horse' jaw with a blow of his fist and his rib
with a kick. This giant gradually ros through all the gradations of office until
he came to be Emperor. He reigned for some years, hated by everybody, but so feared on account of his brutality and
his physical strength that no one dared to put him to death. He conspired
against Alexandér Severus and caused him to be murdered in his tent. He also
put to death a Roman Senator with four
thousand other persons for an alleged conspiracy. Finally the soldiers mutinied
and killed him A. D. 238 . executed by the Emperor Aurelian wa espousing the cause of Zenobia, was cele
brated for his strength. It is seid that anvil which was placed upon his breast. This he did by lying on his back, resting port, thus forming an arch with hi
body. In 1578 there lived in Lancashire, Eng.
land, a man by the name of John Midder ton, who was remarkable for the large strength. His hand was seventeen inches
long and his height nine feet three inches. A story is told of an English miner in
the eighteenth century, whose finger
being caught in a chain at the bottom of a mine, by keeping it forcibly bent he
supported by that means the whole supported by that means the whole
weight of his body (150 pounds) until he was drawn up teet. About the yeer 1770 a
six hundred feet
a native of Kent, England, by the name in London that he received the name of
the second Samson. His own personal strength was very great, but he also dis-
covered various positions of the body in could perform very surprising feats. H drew against horses and raised tremen-
dous weights, and exhibited himself successfully for eight or ten years, but his
methods were eventually discovered, and many individuals of ordinary strength exhibited a number of his principal per
formances. A German named Van Eckeberg
traveled through Europe in the early part of the eighteenth century under the ap
pellation of "Samson," which then a now, was a favorite name for strong men.
This man was of middle size and of ordinary strength, but by certain method
and devices he was most extraordinary feats. For in
stance, sitting upon
inclined than his hips, the latter leing placed against an upright board, well secured, a strong girdle with an iron ring in front
was placed around his loins; to this ring a rope was fastened; the rope passed be
tween his legs through a hole in the right board, against which his teet wer pulling on the rope were unable to draw him out of his place. Again, he fast
ened a rope to a high post, having passed of the post lower down, and secured $i$ gainst the post pianed his fee his legs contracted, and suddenly stretch
ing out his legs broke the rope and fell backward on a feather bed. He would
lie on the ground while a stone of hug brokè̈ with a blow from a breast an He wold lio dom ham
$\left|\begin{array}{l}\text { ground, and, a man being placed on his } \\ \text { knees, would draw his heees toward his } \\ \text { body, and raising his knees lift the man } \\ \text { gradually, till, having brought his knee }\end{array}\right|$ gradually, till, having brought his knees
perpendiculery under him, he perpendiculary under him, he raised his
own body up, and placing his arms
around the own body up, and placing his arms
around the man's legs, rose with him and set him down on a low table. Finally he
was elevated on a framework and a rope fastened to a scale which hung below was
attached to his girde, a heavy cannon ateached to his girdie, a heavy cannon
resting on the ecale which lay upon roll-
ers upon the floor. When all was ready ers upon the floor. When all was ready
the rollers were knocked away and the cannon remained supported by the
strength of his loins.
It is said that the porters of Constantinople will carry burcens of six hundred
and nine hundred 1 ounds weight with ease. Feats of strength have always,
whether in real life or in fiction, great whether in real life or in fiction, great
attraction and interest for the human mind; and one of the most strikingly
sensational scenes in any novel is that Victor Hugg's "Les Miserables, where
Joan Valjean lifts the weight of a wago under which a man is being crushed to
$\qquad$ Washington possessed great strength and was a noted athlete, especially in
leaping. Perhaps it is not as well known that the late General George B. McClellan possessed also unusual strength, remarka-
ble, particularly, for a man who, though compact, wiry and well built, was rather
under size under size. General McClellan could
bend a big old-fashioned cent double bend a big old-fashioned cent double
between his thumb and forefinger.
Standing on a table he could lift a man Standing on a table he could lift a man
weighing 160 pounds from the floor b
his coat collar and hold him at arm lengthand ind is related of him from the
best authority that on one occasion when riding a powerful charger in battle, the
horse got maddened with excitement and horse got maddened with excitement and
undertook to run away with him, when
the General stopped bim still in the General stopped him still in his
tracks by the terrible pressure which he pressing against them with his knees.
One of the oldest and at the same time
most remarkable exhibitions of mechanimost remarkable exhibitions of mechani-
cal strength and dexterity is that of sup-
porting pyramids. It is described by the Roman poet Claudian, and has beel
known in Europe ever since. The cele brated Egyptian traveler, Belzoni,
fore he began his career as an explore
in Egypt performed this feat in variou in Egypt performed this feat in variou
parts of Grent Britain. After all, one o
the most extraordinary feats of thi nature, seeming to be an exercise of
strength, and which is really nothing o
the sort, is that in which the sort, is that in which a heavy ma
is raised from the floo with the ereeatest
facility by several persons placing eac racility by several persons placing each
one or two fingers under him. The way
this is done is as follows. The heavies person in the party lies down, say upo
two chairs, his legs being supported b
one and his head by the one and his head by the other. Four
persons-each at one leg and one at eacl
shoulder-then lift the body, and the shoulder-then lift the body, and they
find the dead weight to be very great,
from the difficulty which they find in
supporting him. Now let the four per-
supporting him. Now let the four per-
sons take hold of his body as before, re-
sponding to two signals, to be given by
the person to be lifted, by clapping his
hands. At the first signal he himself

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