PROGENY OF FREAKS.

SOME RESULTS OF ROMANCES IN THE SHOW BUSINESS.

The First Real Living Skeleton, His Wife and Their Three Skin and Bone Sons An Old Museum and Side Show Man ager Taps His Memory Tank.

According to Manager T. E. Sackett of the Bijou theater, Isaac W. Sprague was the first unnaturally or abnormally thin skin and bones man to be exhibited to the public under the title of a "living skeleton." It was during the palmy days of Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth, and while that celebrated showman was raking the continents in search of curiosities in 1864. Incident ally Mr. Sackett was in those days with Tony Pastor. Mr. Sackett was acting as doortender, manager and all around man for Pastor. He had previously been out with Millio Christine, the two headed girl, and had an eye out for freaks. When the Tony Pastor show reached Florida, Stone & Murray's cir cus came there. The old inhabitants will remember Stone & Murray's show. It was contemporaneous with Dan Rice's, Thayer & Noyes' and afterward with the John Robinson circus. With Stone & Murray was Isaac W. Sprague the living skeleton. Mr. Sprague had been discovered by Barunm in Massa chusetts. He was the first living skele ton on record since the discovery of the world by Adam. And Sprague was a real living skeleton too. He was nothing but skin and bones, yet he was healthy and jolly.

In 1865 Barnum collected several curiosities, including Sprague, and scut them for a tour of the world. Sprague the big card. Next to him was a skeleton woman, nearly as attenuated as Sprague, whose name has escaped wonderful memory of Showman Sackett. Among the other freaks with which Barunn expected to and did astonish the world was Joyce Heth, the colored woman he picked up in the south, supposed to be 125 years old; the "woolly horse," and Annie Swan, the first giantess ever on exhibition.

Sprague, on the steamer going over to London, fell desperately in love with the skeleton woman. She returned his affection, and, according to Manager Sackett, who was on the voyage, it was a sight for the sentimental to observe the billing and cooing of these attenuated specimens of Pharaoh's "lean kine."

The ontre love affair gave Barnum a business hint, which he was not slow to take advantage of. On their arrival in dear old "Lunnon" the showman advertised and heralded the astounding fact far and wide that on a certain day there could be seen at St. James hall (where they were showing) something that the world had never before witnessed, namely, the marriage of two living, breathing skeletons. He also announced the fact that never before in the annals of show business had such a thing as the wedding of freaks been performed in public. This was a fact too.

Of the enthusiastic crowds which such a unique announcement drew, or the interesting conduct of the living skeletons, wedded in the presence of "as-sembled thousands," Manager Sackett is silent. But he tells of a fact, however, which is of such interest that it was recorded in medical works, but never before has seen the light of newspaper publication. That was that a year after the marriage of the skeletons the wife bore a child which also was a "living skeleton."

Stranger still to relate-but Sackett stakes his fortune on the truth of ittwo other children were also born to Mr. and Mrs. Sprague, and they were also of the skeleton mold. For many years afterward the parents traveled

AN ENGLISH JAIL CHAPEL

A View of the Prisopers at the Sunday Morning Service.

After breakfast nothing much happens until the chapel hour. Now those prisoners who have "gone sick" are visited by the surgeon or his assistant, and if the cases are urgent are sent across to the infirmary at once. There is no regular cell inspection; the governor or his deputy makes no round; there is no "taking of reports," no adjudication of pains and penalties for misconduct. All this will stand over until Monday; even those awaiting punishment, unless it is for outrageous acts of violence or defiance, turn out to go with their fellows to chapel. About 9:30 the chapel bell rings for the first service, that of the Roman Catholics, who in large prisons are usually "located" or lodged in one part of the prison, near their own chapel. The bell for the Church of England service follows at about 10 a. m.

Both on marching to chapel and when seated within it the various classes and categories of prisoners are kept strictly separate from each other. Males and females approach the chapel by different roads, enter by different doors and occupy different divisions, pews or places apart. Among the males, too, the convicted are kept from the unconvicted and the debtors from both. The women are generally seated first, behind a screen or within a curtained off, railed in inclosure. They are, of course, visible to the chaplain, but to no one else but their own officers. Except for their treble voices heard in responses and hymns, their presence at the service would be unknown. Now and again, however, an attempt to signal or communicate has been tried by individuals of opposite sexes; when a dry cough, persistently repeated, in the female pew finds an answer in another part of the chapel, it affords a shrewd suspiciou that friends are trying to use some code made up outside before imprisonment.

One other class is unhappily to be found at times in the jail chapel-a very distinct class, but seldom containing more than one representative. This is sometimes a "condemned" man in prison-one on whom the extreme penalty has been passed, and who, by the usual custom, is allowed "three clear Sun-days" before the awful sentence is accomplished. A condemned convict, although he is never left alone, being associated day and night with two war dens as guardians, is never permitted to see or be seen by other prisoners.-Lon don Quiver.

Not the Place For the Soup.

A famous French prima donna when acting delights in a big basin of soup smoking hot and well flavored with grated cheese. On one occasion she was engaged for a few nights at Marseilles, and her first thought on arriving there was to inquire where she could order her favorite dish. She was recommended to patronize a humble restaurant just by the theater, and going there gave her order in person. At 9 o'clock, as arranged, mine host

called his serving maid, and placing a gigantic tureen in her hands told her to take it to Mme. C--- on the stage. He added that orders had been given to let her pass with her bowl, and on the girl's assurance that she would recognize the cantatrice sent her off with the soup. Everybody gave way before the servant carrying the sacred meal of the star, when suddenly between the wings she caught sight of the prima donna, who was singing the finale of the first act of "Lucia."

Ravenswood and his betrothed wer just about to begin the passionate scene which brings down the curtain when the maid entered and placed the tureen on the mossy bank in front of the fountain. Then lifting up the cover and plunging in a spoon she exclaimed to the stupefaction of actors and audience alike : "Begging your pardon for interrupt-ing you, sir, and the lady, but here's the soup. "-London Tit-Bits.

MAGIC OF THE WOODS.

What Hunters Say About the Spell of an Otter's Eyes.

By the Adirondack woodsmen along the banks of the West Canada creek the otter is regarded as quite as sly as the fox, inasmuch as it is very difficult to trap in any kind of contrivance. There are fewer stories about the creature's intelligence, as the animals are scarce and have not been so much observed as have the foxes.

There has been, and probably is, an otter that for six years anyhow, and per-Anps longer, has traveled down the creek winter and summer about every two weeks. In the winter it left a running, sliding trail in the snow on the ice, seldom leaving the creek bed to go into a cove or overland for a dozen or 15 rods. In summer weather it fished and caught frogs in the coves of the flats. A good many shots have been fired at it and a lot of traps set for it, but none was ever successful. It is believed by woodsmen that the otters, like the hell divers, loons, mink and others, dodge shot or I saw this otter once some years ball. ago in the summer time, and while only one feature of the animal is distinct in my mind, I do not recollect any other wild animal so well. The body is a mere glimmer of black in waving swale grass. Even the head is a burly, rusty gray shadow, a sort of background for the two eyes.

I have seen deers when they were standing still looking at me, have looked at squirrels, rabbits, partridges, foxes and other wild animals alarmed by my presence, but their forms, rather than their eyes, are more or less distinct. In fact, the eyes seem secondary in the mind pictures, except in the case of the otter. It seems to me that the otter did not merely look at me; it was more as if it looked into me, the same as the sensation one has when some one-a man or woman-"reads your innermost thoughts." These eyes were large and full rounded, dark brown with a shimmer of light gray skating across and around the center, and , with a lively beauty as different from the dead beauty of a deer's full eye. It sent precisely such chills up and down my back as dark human eyes have done. It was a tense, particular look, and not the general gaze of a bird or other animal. The otter, I think, hypnotized me, for I did not shoot, although my impression is that we looked at one another for a minute or two.-Forest and Stream.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN IN CHINA.

He Would Have Been Likely to Get Himself Into Trouble.

One dark evening I was returning home from a call on one of our English neighbors in Taiyuenfu. When not far from our compound, the road crossed an open space of several acres in extent. As I was finding my way along by the rather dim light of a Chinese lantern I nearly stumbled over the body of a man who had fallen by the way. My first impulse was to take hold of the person and ascertain if help was needed, but for some reason I did not, but hurried home to get aid. Mr. X. was still with us and on hearing my statement said :

"Yes, I know. The man is dead, and it is fortunate that you did not attempt to touch the body. Should we now try to remove it or even to go to it we should no doubt he seen and at once suspicion would attach itself to us, and none could tell the consequences. W might cause a riot before morning." It should be said that this suspicion

would not have been because we were foreigners, for a native under similar circumstances would likewise have ran the risk of being charged with the murder. The good Samaritan would have fared hardly in China, or most likely would have been suspected of doing the kind deed for some ultimate gain, while 543 11 58 Arr. Kerrmoor. Lvc. 537 4 58 538 11 53 Mew Millport. 542 503 the priest and the Levite would been accounted not hard heart prudent. -Professor C. M. Cady tury.

Close Shave With a Leopard.

I walked a little nearer the edge of the ledge to listen if I could hear anything in the gap, as we could not tell where the dogs or the leopard had got to. I heard a slight rustle below, whether in the bush or on the ledge I could not tell, and there was no time to find out, for with a rush and a bound the leopard threw himself against the krantz, clutching at the grass roots on top with the claws of one fore paw-the other was broken just above the wristand I could hear his hind claws scraping on the rocks in his endeavors to scramble up. I knew that he was very close to me. His great blood smeared paws were within six feet, and I could see his wicked yellow eyes glaring sav-agely and the saliva, red tinged, dropping from the gleaming tusks.

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Able Articles

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The Weekly

As Nogwaja ran in with uplifted assegai I fired down into the brute's mouth, and with a savage gasp he fell down on to the ledge below. The plucky Swazi, without waiting to see if he was dead, jumped down on top of him and gave him a final thrust with his assegai ere life had sped.-Kirby.

Able to Read Writing.

"I never will forget the queer incldents and experiences I had when I first bought a typewriter and sent out in print my correspondence and hills to my customers who lived in the rustic regions about me," said a merchant from a backwoods town, "Several of my patrons dropped me, and I was at a loss to count for their manner, which changed toward me. At last the mystery was solved. A burly young farmer drove up to the store, tied up his oxen and stalked

into my office. "''Mr. Blank,' said he, 'I'd have you know that I know how to read writin, and you don't have to print your letters and bills when you send them to me. I don't propose to be insulted in such a manner.

"He then threw down the letter on my desk and stalked out."-Louisville Courier-Journal.

Worth Enowing.

Many thousand people have found a riend in Bacon's Colory King. If you have never used this great peelile for the prevailing maladies of he age, Dyspepsia, Liver Complaint, Rheumatism, Costivoness, Nervous Exlinustion, Nervous Prostration, Sleeptessness and all diseases arising from dorangment of the stomach, liver and kidneys, we would be pleased to give you a package of this great nerve tonic free of charge. W. B. ALEXANDER.

On entering a room where many guests are assembled go at once and speak to your hostess before addressing friends who are invited guests. The first LIFE and INSUPANGE. and last salutation should be to those who offer you hospitality.

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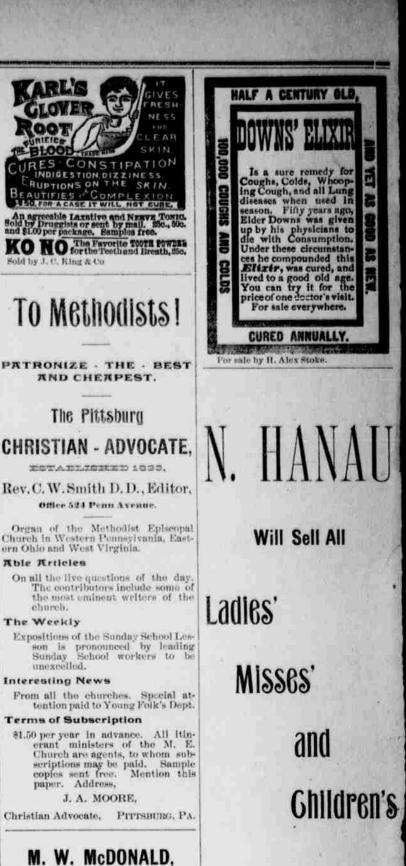
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with their unnaturally thin offspring. and added to the stock of the world's astonishment, including both crowned heads and those that were bald. The original Sprague and his wife are dead, but the three skeleton children, now young men, are showing about the country, healthy, happy and rich.

This is the only case or succession of cases in medical annals where a father and mother transmitted the disease of wasting atrophy to their offspring.

Mr. Sackett also tells of another weird case that came under his observation in his peregrinating show days. Major Burnell, a celebrated showman of the sixties, found a pair of freak twins in the south, the offspring of colored peo-ple. One of the twins, a boy, was black as Kongo stock. The other, a girl, was a pure albino. The major engaged the twins for his show and exhibited them for years The albino girl grew up and married an albino in the west. The offspring of the marriage was a baby as black as the ace of spades. Of course this enhanced the showing price of Charley and his albino wife, and Major Burnell increased their salaries accord-

D. K. Prescott was the discoverer of D. K. Prescott was the discoverer of the far famed Sleeping Beauty, whom he found in Tennessee in the sixties. He brought her to St. Louis. She was a young girl of surpassing beauty, with but one fault discoverable. She slept mine tenths of the time. She was the greatest purpose the modical men had greatest puzzle the medical men had ever seen. It was one of these latter who deprived her mother of a fortune and Prescott of one of his most popular curiosities. The young doctor was left alone in the showroom one day while the beauty was sleeping as usual. His curiosity prompted him to take out his lancet and puncture her arm. The blood started out and the beauty awoke with a scream. Her mother rushed in from an adjoining room. Seeing the blood flowing from her daughter's arm, she fainted away. This ended the showing of the Sleeping Beauty. Her mother took her home, and she never slept in weblic away more a Barfielo Contier public any more. -Buffalo Courier.

The most easterly point of the United ates is Quoddy Head, Mo. ; the most sterly, Atto island, Alaska ; the most Point Barrow, Ala rly, Key Weat, Fla.

To Name Springfield's Four Hundred.

It has been seven years since a Blue Book was printed, and in that time there have been many social changes. Some have dropped out of the charmed circle, some of the buds have developed into matrons, while others are still serving as bridesmaids. And some of the plebeians have acquired property or gained culture and are knocking for admission at society's gate. All that is needed is official recognition. We need a Blue Book, the stars to indicate the grade of patricians. It will be well for the compiler to remain unidentified until the book has been published, and then, as in the previous case, to promptly leave town-to go far away and stay away. The Price & Lee company, which has been compiling dry and accurate direc-tories of Springfield, has the temerity to announce that it is prepared to classify Springfield society. The preliminary circulars are out. Now is the time to get into line if you want a three star grade in the firmament of the Four Hundred. The Blue Book enumerator has not started on her rounds yet. Entertain and go to entertainments. The sheep and goats are to be divided, and it may again be seven years before an-other Blue Book division is made.— Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

Puszling to Wheelmer

Take a bicycle, balance it with one hand, having one pedal at its highest point, the other at its lowest. To the lower one tie a string and pull it toward the rear of the machine

the rear of the machine. Which way will the bioycle go? It will go backward. Most people think it will go forward, because the string tends to move the pedals in the direction they move when the machine is going forward.—Phila-delwhite Becourd delphia Record.

For Example.

-Wise mon make proverbs and fools repeat them. She-Yes : I wo

Parrots I Have Known

It is very curious to observe the iar way in which these birds lea lessons. When a fresh word is be quired, at first (though not alway word is miscalled, and the par constantly repeat it, just like practicing a lesson, becoming pe degrees. Then, when quite mast word is put away, as it were, back of its memory, to be broug ward when required, two or thr sometimes elapsing before the arises. Some easy words it is quite useless to endeavor to te bird; for instance, for years th "Thank you" have been said to h giving her food, but she never nttered them on receiving it. occasion though, on seeing some cy being given to the cat, she re-in a reproving voice, "Thank "Good morning" and "Good nig constantly said at the proper tim a heavy London fog perplexes h hesitates which to say sometime ing the matter on a dark more ing the matter on a dark mor remarking, "Good night."--Ch Journal.

The Minister's Furnace Fi

Plumbers tell some laughabl about people who don't know run furnaces and steam heating "We put in a furnace for a once," says an Auburn plumbe the next day he came down and about it. He said that it wouldn and he either wanted it taken put in working order right a went up, and after examining th ney carefully I looked into the What do you suppose the troul Well, sir, the minister had been or has the house by building. so heat the house by building the ash box."-Lewiston Journ

Alarmed For His Safety The Professor's Wife—The p is in the laboratory conductin chemical experiments. The expects to go down to posterity. (From the laboratory) Br-r-The Visitor—I hope the p hase's gone.—Harlem Life.

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