

COCKROACH RAVERS.
New York Men Who Set Monthly
on Speed Contests.

[New York Press.]

Cockroaches furnish excellent sport when raced. At least one man in New York makes a business of this pastime, and those who have attended his exhibitions in long room on the top floor of an East Side building care no more for poker or horse racing, roulette or faro bank. Two tin troughs, with vertical sides, 30 feet long, constitute the course. The roaches—usually large Croton bugs—being started at one end, sprint to the other, the one arriving first capturing the stakes and his backers all the money. It is no remarkable circumstance for \$1,000 to change hands in an hour. Men have trained roaches, which they enter against all comers. One is named Longstreet, after the Dyer horse, and he is a whopper, about three inches long. I believe he holds all records, and needs to be heavily handicapped now. When he gets under way he touches the ground only in the high places. The handi-spring is done by sprinkling fine sand in the trough, the deeper the sand the more difficult the progress. Any number of troughs and racers may be arranged, but it is difficult for the eye to keep track of more than two thoroughbreds at a time.

COUNTRY IS GROWING.

Immensity of the 4-Paw Sells
Consolidated Shows Proves
That Fact.

Historians have said that the last decade of every century is marked by great activity, social upheavals, war, pestilences and other unusual things being bound to occur. This country has had its wars and with the glorious results already known. The world is growing better, and only dyed-pepper pessimists will attempt to maintain that it is not. Improvement is the order of the age, and reverence for established things outside of religion is almost a thing of the past. As it is in other walks of life, so it is in the amusement world. Theatres are now built at an expense which would have made the managers of twenty-five years ago stand aghast. Shows are conducted upon plans of such enormous magnitude that anyone who would suggest a possible future existence, under the present size and shape, only a very few years ago, would have been regarded as a visionary dreamer. Perhaps there could be no better illustration of these deductions than the Adam Forepaugh and Sells Brothers' great consolidation of circuses, which will exhibit here Thursday Oct. 5, 1899.

Until two or three years ago each of these shows was considered large enough in itself to be exhibited in any city in the country. The growth of the country, however, has been so rapid, particularly in the urban centres of population, that many cities have been built up that have grown so large that they demand shows in keeping with their size. It is only a few years since the cities west of the Mississippi could be counted on two fingers of the hand—St. Louis and San Francisco. Now there are nearly a dozen cities that are quite as much a metropolis as New York was twenty-five or thirty years ago. They two, demand entertainment on a massive scale. It is for the purpose of providing circus diversions for these larger cities, both East and West, that the consolidation of these two shows was effected. The Barnum and Bailey show, which so long reigned supreme in the Eastern country, is now a fixed British institution, and it is not likely that it will be seen in this country again for a period of several years if ever. Mr. James A. Bailey, its owner, is one of the directors of this new consolidation, and it is his purpose as well as that of the other operators to make this consolidation take the place in the Eastern country of the Barnum and Bailey show. That it has been properly equipped for such a purpose there can be no question. Its owners are business men who would not take any sort of chance by placing an inferior show before the country. When such men state that their enterprise is the largest ever known, their word may be taken by the public in absolute reliance. So it is that there is more than ordinary pleasure aroused in the announcement of its coming here, and it ought to be, and doubtless will be, favored by one of the largest crowds that has ever been seen in this city.

A young bachelor sheriff was called upon to serve an attachment against a beautiful young widow. He accordingly called upon her and said: "Madam, I have an attachment for you." The widow blushed and said his attachment was reciprocated. "You mistake me," said he, "you must proceed to court." "I know it is leap year, but I prefer you to do the courting," replied she. "Mrs. P., continued the sheriff, "this is no time for trifling, the justice is waiting." "Oh I had rather have a parson if you don't mind it."

Why He Could Not Help Her.
He climbed aboard the car slowly and with evident weakness, says the later Ocean, and dropped into the only vacant seat, notwithstanding the fact that several women who had entered with him were left standing, and that one was so heavily loaded with bundles that she could not even make use of a strap.

This woman planted herself directly in front of the weak-looking man and swayed to and fro grimly before him glaring angrily down into his emaciated countenance the while.

Presently the car lurched suddenly round a corner and one of her bundles fell to the floor with a great sound of breaking glass and china. The indignant woman gathered the fragments of her ruined household treasure with hasty, impulsive movements, and straightening up fairly snorted at the man before her.

"You might at least have put out a hand to save it," she told him contemptuously. The man colored, hesitated, and then spoke quietly:

"I have no hand on that side, madam," he said, while all the other passengers stopped talking and listened with sympathetic interest; "I left it on the hill at San Juan."

Are You Nervous.

"Overwork and under-exercise result in nervous diseases," said a physician, recently. "Preventive measures may be summed up in two words," he continued: "Physical development. Worry actually kills more people than work. One should strive, however, to avoid all things that tend to distract the nerves. Throw away the pen that scratches and a pencil that has a hard spot in it. Discard a needle that squeaks and a basin that leaks. Use sharp tools, wear soft garments that do not rustle. Oil the hinges of the rheumatic door and fasten the creaking blind. Those may seem trifles, but such trifles irritate the nerves as much as a piece of woolen does a sore. Charles Lamb once said: 'That a carpenter hammer on a warm summer noon would fret him more than midsummer madness.'"

Made It Useful.

"I saw Fle Weston do an awful thing yesterday."

What was that?"

"She used her lace handkerchief to blow her nose."—Chicago Times-Herald.

A Sure Sign.

"What makes you think your husband doesn't love you any more?"

"He is beginning to tell me how much he does."—Detroit Free Press.

"Is the editor in?" asked the caller. "No, sir," answered the sad-eyed man at the desk. "Do you wish to leave any word for personally?" "No I want to see him personally. I will come again. But you might tell him I called." "Yes sir. What name, please?" "My name is Dunston." The man at the desk jumped up wildly and grasped him by the hand. "Found!" he exclaimed, in a voice trembling with uncontrollable excitement. "Thank heaven!" "What do you mean?" "You're the missing rhyme for 'Funston'!" The sad-eyed man was the office poet.—Chicago Tribune.

Will East lives west,
James West lives east,
Will South lives north,
Alex North lives south,
John Black is white,
Erastus White is black,
And the war goes on
In the Philippines.

Says an exchange: "We always feel sorry for a girl who is stuck on a fellow who will spend a dollar for ice cream chocolates and three for a Sunday buggy ride for her, on a six dollars a week salary. Somehow we see visions of barefooted children, a fronye headed woman over the wash tub, tin cans for dishes on the table and a combination of a corn-cob pipe and a man in the kitchen corner. The young man who lives within his means single will do so after he's married."

This is the season for golden rod and asters. There are no fall flowers (especially wild flowers) that makes such bold and tasty decorations both for the house and church as these two. The asters are white, purple and of intermediate shades, and combined with the yellow of the golden rod makes a combination that is hard to beat. One beauty about these flowers is that they are hardy and will last over a week.

In is strange that the golden rod is not used more for lawn decoration than it is. The brilliant yellow of the flower, its alert, businesslike foliage, and the erect stems, make a great combination for a lawn. Just now the country roadsides are lined with these flowers and city people are taking advantage of the fact to gather the plants for home decoration. The extreme dryness of the season does not bode well for brilliant autumn leaves this year and already there have been light frosts. The leaves are already falling and are as sure as in November.

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