

Without any attempt at gorgeous display the institution bearing the title of the Centennial Circus entered our city yesterday. The bills announced modestly the merits of the concern, and people thought it would be "no great shakes." The first performance was given yesterday afternoon, before a fair attendance. The entree, representing a meeting in Central Park, differed materially from the entree of any other circus we have ever seen. The ladies were attired in black velvet riding habits, and the gentlemen in blue broadcloth coats, white breeches, topboots and dress hats. The dresses and horse accoutrements were bright and clean, and there were no tinsel and spangles. Act followed act in quick succession, and there was no tardiness nor lagging. Frank Melville, one of the best pad riders in the country, next appeared in a daring act of horsemanship. We will not attempt to mention all the acts performed, for they were all first-class. James Rowland, the acknowledged "king of the air," appeared in his trapeze act, which is simply wonderful. As a fitting final of the act he throws a double somersault from the trapeze to a mattress in the ring, a distance of about thirty feet. George Donald, the bare back rider, is also a wonder. Not satisfied with performing the ordinary feats, he makes what is termed a pirouette and a half while the horse is moving at a rapid gait, and as if that were not enough, throws a forward somersault, a very difficult feat to do on the ground, let alone on horseback. He is the only individual in the world who does this act. Of James Melville, the great bare back rider, we have little to say, as frequent allusions have been made to him in these columns. Suffice it to say that he has lost none of his grace and daring. Frank Robinson, the contortionist, put himself in every conceivable shape, and is among the first in his line. Mr. James Cooke thoroughly understands his business and is an excellent jester. John Trewolla, the clown, is one of the funniest of his class and creates much merriment. Ben Maginley is one of the happiest of mortals and devotes himself to the financial department. Pat Ryan says that "Ben" will appear in the ring this evening as clown. Everybody knows he is a good one. The entertainment closes with the equestrian drama of "Putnam, the Iron Son of '76." We heartily recommend the entertainment as a thoroughly good one, and as one of the best ever seen in this vicinity. Fully 2,500 people witnessed the performance last evening.—*Albany Argus.*