

#### MARRIAGE OF CIRCUS RIDERS.

Love and Life in the Sawdust  
Arena--An Old Showman's  
Opinion

New York World.

On the night after Barnum's circus opened at the Madison Square Garden an unostentatious marriage ceremony, in which Annie Carroll, the equestrienne, and Eddie Snow, an acrobat, were bride and bridegroom, was performed in a downtown church. Very few of the circus people were present. Annie Carroll is probably the last woman who was trauced to the ring in the old legitimate way. She was one of the many children whom it was customary for circus men to adopt, with the expectation of making them stars. No children are adopted now, as the laws forbidding acrobatic performances by children would render them unremunerative. Annie Carroll is eighteen years old and was born in England. She is good looking, of a dark complexion with black hair and black, sparkling eyes. Ben Carroll, a man famous among showmen, found her in an English village. She does not know whom her parents were, but it is thought that she was a gypsy. Carroll taught her to ride during winter months, while she performed in a circus during the summer. This year was the first time she has ridden a horse. The marriage was private, because the girl was not of age and under the control of Carroll, who, of course, took care of her salary (\$200 a week). She has consented to pay Carroll \$40 a week until the end of the present season. Her husband was with John Snow, the well known rider and contortionist, who picked him up, a bootblack in Pittsburg. The custom of circus performers marrying in their profession is widespread. At present contracts are not generally made for such and such a performer, but for a family. As a consequence there are at present in the Madison square garden the Roland family, the Melville family and the Baucher family. Mad Roland rides a horse; one ring Lizze, her daughter, in another, and the father plays in the band. By this means the family is kept together, and when it is remembered that all the expenses of the family are paid it will be seen that the weekly salary amounts to a good sum. Mad. Roland receives \$300, Lizze \$150 and the father \$25.

William Dutton, of the Garden said yesterday "This has always been the way for a family to go with a circus. When children are born they are immediately put on horse or made to bend and jump. It takes a long time before a child acquires the correct balance and his muscles become hard. Good riders are scarce now, because boys can not be taken from the streets and put at the business. Eddie Snow makes \$75 a week, and you see when Annie gets \$200 a week and all expenses paid they can live comfortable. Annie Carroll was once a child rider. The circus is not near so attractive now since child riders have been withdrawn. Women and children were always more delighted when a man would carry a child on a horse than at any other part of the show. No I don't remember many cases where men have left the ring, but when they have they always become religious. Ben Snow is a revivalist and his brother Bill is a preacher, and from what I hear, he is a 'stunner.' He used to lecture on the curiosities in the menageries and museums. Plenty of them make money and hold it. Johnny Nathan is said to be worth a million. He wouldn't be worth much, though, if he hadn't married a woman not in the circus and she kept him at home. Generally when a man gets money he starts a show and burns. Speaking about accidents, why, I don't remember a good square death. When you come to consider the number of people connected with a circus you get surprised at the few that die. There is no healthier work if it ain't overdone. But circus life isn't what it was ten years ago, when we went on wheels. As for me, give me a Pullman car. I don't believe in lying in a canvas-covered wagon for any number of wet nights just for the fun of saying when you get old 'I got this rheumatism in St. Louis when we were on the road.' No, I prefer the Pullman. It ain't so poetical, but it's a deal nigh more like comfort."