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## SLEIGHING TO THE CIRCUS

### BARNUM'S NEW SHOW ATTENDED BY DELIGHTED CROWDS.

Sleighbing parties to the circus are something of a novelty in this city, but they were indulged in last night and formed a pleasurable beginning to the entertainment Phineas T. Barnum has provided for this Spring. The phoenix Phineas cannot be put down. A fire simply warms his enthusiasm to satisfy the masses and make the children happy, inciting him to newer and greater work. An arctic blizzard cannot freeze him out, and the circus has been going on as usual this week. A great sheet of white nearly envelopes the outside of the Madison-Square Garden, but inside it is as warm and pleasant as though southerly breezes were blowing outside and the park covered with a mat of green. The circus which has been evolved from the disastrous Bridgeport fire is truly bigger than ever, and, to tell the truth, if every one did not know that there had really been a fire they would have credited the statement as a circus story. It comprises all the best features of the old shows, coupled with a number of novelties that are excellent.

The arrangement of the Garden is a little different this year, in that a portion of the menagerie is placed in the circle outside the ring in a manner not to obstruct the view of spectators in the slightest. During the circus performance the cages are closed so that the animals are quiet and are not incited to join in the applause at the equestrian acts. The entrée at the beginning of the performance is cleverly arranged, while the trappings of the animals and costumes of the knights and their ladies are artistic and rich, making the scene a very pretty one. It is followed by another procession even more remarkable. The curiosities and human wonders at a dignified pace traverse the ellipse in single file, reminding one somewhat of the recent walking match. There are enough of them to equip a circus of their own. The mid-west sisters, tattooed men, dwarfs, armless lady, Austrian giant, Circassian girls, and spotted children, with the inevitable Yankee as a rear guard, all pass along, and in the centre a comely young woman twins around her 200 or 300 feet of pythons and other graceful reptiles.

From this time for two hours four rings and a stage are a kaleidoscope of wonderful acts. One of the amusing things is Watson's dog which turns somersaults. He is a bright, intelligent animal, full of fun in his face. He turns them for pleasure and would turn them all the evening if they would let him. The imported stallions are as graceful as ever. Miss Lilly manages four immense fellows whose steps are pretty and motion a study. The little ones have an avalanche of clowns in grotesque costumes to please them, who swarm into the rings and do not let an interval flag.

The equestrian part of the show is ably given by Miss Lilly Deacon, Annie Carroll, and Mme. Cordono, who does the four bareback horse act with her own white horses; M. Lowande, F. Morgan, George Gilbert, W. Showles, and the Mexican hurricane hurdle man, Jeronimo Bell. A troupe of Japanese folks do wonderful things in balancing and acts natural to the race. Among the specially new things is the dexterous knife throwing by Miss O'Brien and Miss Gilbert. One of the young women backs up against a wooden slab while the other, some 15 feet away, throws the knives on each side of her, ranging a dozen around about a half inch from her person. It is a somewhat trying feature to watch, but as the girl does not mind it perhaps the audience had better take it easy too. Among the other features that make up over two hours' entertainment are the midair dives and somersaults of the Silbins, the acrobatic work of the Shroude Brothers, lots of juggling, bicycle riding, feats of trained dogs, monkeys, goats, seals, William and Mme. Newman and their herd of performing elephants, the clown elephant Tom Thumb, and all the things that legitimately belong to a well-regulated circus. It all ends with excellent tumbling by an army of performers.

Mr. Barnum was present last night, and in his box were Gov. Lounsbury of Connecticut and family.