

# BARNUM-BAILEY CIRCUS OPENS WITH A WHOOP

Madison Square Garden Is  
Transformed Into a Scene  
of Splendor.

THRILLING, DARING ACTS

A Maze of Wonderful Fun  
and a Fund of Feats  
of Wonder.

Elephants to ride upon, popcorn to chew upon, peanuts for the monkeys and fun for the donkeys—hoopla! The circus is here. Opened on Saturday night in Madison Square Garden. Well, it did! Barnum & Bailey's the greatest, the only circus in captivity. Three rings and two platforms. Something doing every minute, and you need two pairs of opera glasses and a telescope to see everything at once.

Wonderful! You should wonder. Antony and Cleopatra. That's the way it started. Of course with Cleopatra in it. It had to be a great and gorgeous pageant. And it was, there on the banks of the Nile. You couldn't see the Nile, but when you saw Cleo's costume, you knew the river must be close by. Readers of Roman history and students of Egyptology will remember that Cleopatra had a crush on Marc Antony. If there are no readers or students present, read the libretto. Well, anyhow, the queen gave the Roman general a great fete, and won him with her wiles and smiles. The fete gives Barnum & Bailey's their great opening.

They put out the lights, but don't get frightened. You can't blame the management, with the monopoly there is on light and power. But they have spotlights, and oh! the beautiful panoramas—no, moving picture—of flower girls, dancing girls, Harlem-harem girls, ladies in waiting and ladies being waited upon, slave girls and men who would give slaves to 'em, peddlers, priests, fakirs and soldiers and musicians. Strike up the band!

**BRILLIANT FAIRYLAND WITH THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW.**  
Darkest Egypt was turned into Fairyland's brightest day. The spotlight shimmered and shivered and lent the tones of the rainbow to the costumes of the Orient, surpassing in brilliancy Joseph's justly famed benny of many hues. Never has there been, even in New York, witnessed such a mise en

scens. The harmony of the myriad colors was perfect, the grouping of the great array of people was like the coming together of the broken bits of glass in a kaleidoscope. The ballet was a graceful, beautiful picture. And, oh! they danced the hootchy-kootchy! Naughty, naughty, Cleopatra. Mighty hosts of soldiers they had—legions of legions from Rome, and some from Hoboken. Indians, they had, and Moors, Phoenicians and Persians—Egyptian soldiers from Little Egypt and Assyrians from Second avenue. And the band played Egyptian music arranged by Felix Effendi, late bandmaster of the Khedive of Egypt. It was all classical music though, and anybody who thinks he's going to hear "The Streets of Cairo," had better stay with the hurdy-gurdy. It was a pity that Antony had to die and lose all these good things and that Cleopatra must be stung by an asp as per history. But the end of the spectacle is only the beginning of the bewilderment and bedazzling show. Elephants there are that pray and play ball and horses to do turkey trots. Ladies in long skirts do flybacks, flappings and goldfraps. Ladies in short skirts do the barabacks. Skirts so short that Old Boreas can't blow about them and that would make the Platton wonder why it had ever been built.

Troupes of acrobats and knockabouts there are too numerous to mention. Three slack wires are going at the same time. One used to marvel in the old days when a man got up on a wire and balanced himself with a pole. Now they have companies on the wire, regular companies. Bird Millman, "the world's greatest lady wire artist," assisted by her troupe. What do you know about that? Bird's ma used to call her Birdie. But she's a bird on the wire, all right. She can balance and rock and reel on that slender thread of steel like a seagull on the foam of the halcyons of a ship in a cyclone. And she can trip over it like a ballet dancer. When she does the turkey trot you unconsciously look for the Excise Commission.

Maximo gives an imitation of a drunken man on the wire. No, he gives an imitation on the wire of a drunken man. He's true to the jug in all its

infants variety, from Jersey City's three sheets in the wind to Harlem's Saturday night "house."  
**HEIRESS, EIGHTEEN AND BEAUTIFUL RIDES BARBACK.**  
Of course Miss May Wirth isn't going to be alighted, the dashing, darling, daring barback rider. The darling and daring little lady is only eighteen years old, "eighteen years old and the greatest rider that ever lived." Graceful, symmetrical, beautiful face and figure, she sits, kneels, stands, skips, dances and turns somersaults on her horse as if she were part of him. And she turns a back somersault from his back to the back of another horse. Great! marvelous! And only eighteen years old, and now Miss Wirth is worth \$5,000,000. Left to her by an old uncle or aunt. There, Thompson, old boy, we got that story over at last. Miss Wirth received the first instalment of the \$5,000,000 on Saturday night from the lawyer who has her case in hand. It was a great big bunch of American Beauty roses, and maybe roses don't cost something at Easter time!

But one could write all night about the wonders of the circus and then leave half of them out. There are the funny clowns and the funny animals, the strange freaks, the automobile blown up and the driver levitated to the roof and gravitated back to where he belongs; the ground and lofty tumbling, the ladies of the trapeze performing with ease; the men on the horizontal bars, men turning a treble somersault in the air, and men turning single somersaults over and under each other on the trapeze—it's all to the peanuts and popcorn.

### HUNTS WIFE WITH KNIFE.

Man Just OK Island Hacks Her Face, It Is Charged.  
Charged with having tried to stab his wife to death yesterday morning, Edward Gaffney, fifty-nine, was held with our bail by Magistrate Dodd in the Manhattan Avenue Court, Williamsburg.

The police say that Gaffney, having spent several months on Blackwell's Island for beating his wife and refusing

to support her, was discharged a few days ago. He hunted for his wife and found her yesterday at No. 222 Drugs Avenue.  
"I came back to kill you," his wife says he snarled.  
She screamed. He grasped her by the throat, she asserted, and began to hack her face with a penknife. Patrolman Smith arrived in time to save her life. She was taken to the Williamsburg Hospital.

### Trains Kill New Yorker.

SYRACUSE, March 24.—The bodies of George Daly, twenty-eight, of New York, and Newton A. Wells, twenty-nine, of East Syracuse, were found beside the New York Central tracks, east of the city, last night. The men were killed while crossing the tracks.

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CEYLON TEA  
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Blue Serge is always in style whether fashion dictates or not, but it so happens that Dame Fashion does dictate Blue Serge for this Spring and Summer, so attend this sale and be fashionably dressed all season for \$14.75.

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