

OLE BULL A WIZARD

His Son Relates Some Interesting Stories About Him.

WAS CRADLED IN A 'CELO CASE

His Method Inimitable and Why—A New Anecdote About Ole Bull and Edwin Booth.

Mr. Alexander Bull, son of the great Norwegian violinist, is now in New York. He is himself a great performer and possesses the great old Joseph Guarnerius Violin that his father so loved and treasured.

I think one of the great sources of my father's power was his magnetic influence. After long years of family



OLE BULL AT THIRTY-FIVE.

erty with his playing I am almost persuaded that he exercised a species of hypnotism with his violin. There is a tradition that very few people could hear him render such a piece, for instance, as "Home, Sweet Home" or his own composition, entitled "A Mother's Prayer," without being moved to tears.

These was a woman in Spain, who, during one of his performances, fell so completely under his mastery as to betray all the outward signs of membership. My father was a man of immense physical strength, and from this I have



OLE BULL AT FIFTY.

no doubt his magnetism proceeded. He had a very deep chest and long, sinewy arms and a nervous not easily disturbed. On one occasion, while he was playing in Madrid, he was visited by a newspaper writer who had been misinterpreted him in the public prints.

When he was in England during his early life an incident occurred which illustrates this remarkable strength with which God had blessed him. Mallbran was to sing at a great festival in Liverpool. Shortly before its occurrence, however, she died, and the management sent in great haste for my father to take her place as the star of the occasion.

I think, also, that a great deal of my father's power came from suffering. While he was a very young man he went to Paris to make his way with his violin. There he met with many and great disappointments, as is the case with nearly every great artist at some period of his life.

"You look very sad, young man. What is the matter with you?" My father's answer was that he had had everything stolen from him, even his violin. Then Vidvok asked him if he had a five franc piece. He then told him to go to Frascati's and to lay his wager upon the red color, and that he would win. He did so and won eight hundred francs. A lady was about to draw it in when the man at the counter said: "No, it does not belong to you, madam, it belongs to this pale young man," and off he went with his eight hundred francs in his pocket and was happy.

My father was a born violinist. As a child he imitated the motions of a fiddler with two sticks, accompanying his movements by humming the air that was passing in his mind. Later he began to take lessons on the violin during his visits to his uncle's house.



OLE BULL'S HOME AT VALESTRAND AND HIS ROOM.

had been imbibing too freely, and my father, half in jest, was invited to take his part, which he did, to the great amusement of the audience, upon which his uncle gave him a new violin as a reward for his skill.

Over twenty years ago, when father played for the New York Philharmonic society, after the presentation of a silk flag, combining the Norwegian and American emblems, a magnificent emerald ring was sent by Mr. Edwin Booth to be returned to the one he esteemed to be the rightful owner, Ole Bull.

The ring had been given to Mr. Booth after a performance of "Hamlet" by a lawyer, who said he had received it from Mr. Ole Bull.

After accepting the ring from his dear, beloved friend, Prof. R. Ogden Doremus, the president of the Philharmonic society, further narrated the history of the ring, which he had received thirty years before in St. Petersburg.

Early Sunday morning following the concert he called on Prof. Doremus, and in a most enthusiastic manner asked "how it would do for him to offer to play for Mr. Booth at his theater between the acts?"

At the following Philharmonic concert Mr. Edwin Booth read Byron's "Manfred" at the Academy of Music. The large orchestra of over one hundred performers played Schumann's music, and the Liederkreis society and various artists sang.

The society offered to repeat the music at Mr. Booth's theater. Prof. Doremus learned that father was in Cincinnati giving concerts, and a telegram



ALEXANDER BULL.

was sent to him asking if he could arrange to play at this performance of "Manfred."

The reply stated that he was on a concert tour and would not return to New York for two months. It was signed by his impresario.

An hour later another telegram was received, saying: "OLE BULL."

"I will be there. He broke up his concert tour to accomplish the desire of his generous heart and to reciprocate the favor of Mr. Edwin Booth." ALEXANDER BULL.

WASPS AND SPIDERS.

Why "the Stars" Are Not Disturbed by the Miners.

The miners of Colorado who have built cabins on the mountain sides know what a pest the small brown wood spider proves to be, says the Great Divide. They throw their webs over our best clothes, cooking utensils, in every corner where you can get them in your eyes and mouth. Not only that, but they will drop into the frying pan, water bucket or upon the table where you are eating.

But nature furnished a remedy and a friend when she gave the spider hawk. The name is given by miners to a small steel-blue wasp, about three-fourths of an inch in length. He can easily be recognized by the quick, nervous strokes of his wings. They build a nest up among the rafters of your cabin of wood pulp or furze from the outer coating of old dead trees. Then they are ready for business. Every few minutes you can see four hawk's climb up the rafters

with a spider, sometimes carrying one four or five times its own weight. Sometimes they get a spider so heavy that they will fall many times before they succeed in reaching their nest. They never give up, but keep on trying until they succeed. When the spider is safely placed in the nest the female hawk deposits her egg in the dead body. The hawks live only in pairs as far as my observation goes. They become rather tame and seem to be obliged to you for building the spider trap for their benefit.

HE HAD NERVE.

Shown by the Fact That He Let a Hotter Water on His Head.

"About two weeks ago I was standing with a party on the shore of Lake Erie, not far from Ashtabula," said a mill worker to the Syracuse Standard.

"Shortly after we had retired one evening I heard a peculiar whirring sound, which I recognized at once. 'There's a rattlesnake in camp!' I exclaimed. 'I am going to get up.' 'Hush!' came the word, slowly hissed through the teeth, from a companion near me. The snake has crawled into my shirt bosom." This was very softly said and we were almost paralyzed with fright at the prospect. We were afraid to stir for fear the reptile would take alarm and strike its victim. It crawled over his body good naturedly, evidently enjoying the warmth, for the night was a little raw.

"At times the snake's head was close to his face, and he told us afterward he feared the motion of his chest up and down in breathing would stir up the reptile, and tried hard to breathe as little as possible. Finally the snake crawled toward the fire, and in an instant the whole camp was up. One seized a club and broke the reptile's back before it could make a spring. It measured nearly five feet.

"The man who had the terrible experience collapsed like a rag after it was over. During the ordeal we were all surprised at the coolness and nerve he displayed. With all danger passed he fell into a faint, but he soon revived."

CUPID AND THE SACAGIOUS CAT.

How Tabby Carried Tender Messages Between a Lover and His Sweetheart.

It was in the spring of the year 1899 when I met my husband, says a writer in the New York Recorder. I held a position as artist for one of the large firms in New York city, and he held a position as bookkeeper for the firm two doors below the one we occupied, and I became acquainted with him, and soon our acquaintance ripened into a close friendship, and many were the notes he would send upstairs. At last he hit upon the novel idea of using the large office cat for a messenger boy, and the first thing in the morning I would see Tommy at the door of my room crying to be let in. As soon as the door would be opened he would walk into the room and wait patiently for me to take the note that my friend had tied to his collar from him, and after I would answer it he would stand still until I gave him a little petting, and then off he would go and deliver the note to my friend.

Strange as it may seem, that cat would not allow anyone to touch him while he was carrying the note. Through these notes friendship ripened into love, and we called Tommy our messenger boy.

Just before we were married Tommy disappeared and we could find no trace of him, but my husband declares he must be still living and carrying love messages for some other happy ones.

FULL OF REPTILES.

In Our Geological Formation Creeping Animals Once Predominated.

There was a time "in the wide revolving shades of centuries past" when our globe was wholly in the possession of walking, swimming and flying reptiles. Being of the dominant type they were divided into three great classes. In the ocean they became gigantic puddling enclousurians; on dry land, or rather wet land (for the whole face of the earth was doubtless a quagmire at that time), they became monstrous ichthyosaurians, some of which had legs fifteen feet or more in length; those which inhabited the regions of the air were the terrible flying pterodactyls. For a vast but unknown length of time these awful creatures literally ruled the earth. Finally, after they had "seen their day," they began to grow less and less. One by one they died out in the face of the younger and more vigorous fauna, until at the present time only a few miniature alligators and crocodiles, a few toy snakes as reminders of skulking lizards and geckos remain of the enormous reptilian types that once crowded land and sea.

Glass Eyes Are Cheap.

Glass eyes can now be purchased at less than one dollar each, although at this price there is not much choice in the matter of shade. The cheapest grades are manufactured in Germany, but in some parts of England they are produced at very trifling expense. The highest priced grades are made in Paris, whither very sensitive people who want to avoid detection of their loss have been known to travel from great distances in order to insure the greatest variety to select from. There are hundreds of shades, both in the white and the dark portions, and deception is quite easy. A costly glass eye will last nearly a lifetime, especially if it is taken good care of and not worn day and night.

An Insurance Agent's Check.

On the strength of his remarkable resemblance to ex-Senator Miller, a Philadelphia insurance agent gained entrance some time ago to the floor of the senate chamber at Washington. He was at first challenged, but when he indignantly said to the speaker: "Don't you know me?" that official made a profound obeisance and opened the door forthwith. It is said that this interesting Philadelphia was once introduced to Gen. Grant as Senator Miller, and the general did not discover the mistake.

Calculation Extraordinary.

Some people who are not harassed by the "daily bread" problem seem to delight in researches which have no other effect than to settle a point which was never disputed. Sir Archibald Geikie, of the British association, after much careful thought and patient investigation, together with a deal of figuring, has come to the conclusion that the world is between 73,900,000 and 630,000,000 years old. Rather a wide margin, it would seem.

A GREAT JAM AT THE TOWER THIS WEEK. YES! THERE WILL BE A BIG SALE OF OVERCOATS!

The largest and finest stock of Overcoats in the country. That's a large statement, but it is more than borne out in the stock. Overcoats of every kind, for everybody, at every price, from \$3.88 to \$30.00.

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- Our \$10 line embraces thousands of stylish garments and includes in materials at least a score of fashionable fabrics \$10.00
Our \$12 line includes blue and black Beavers, Chevots, Cassimeres, choice shades of brown, Melton (both single and double breasted) of stylish cut and handsome make \$12.00
Our \$15 line contains garments that no custom tailor would think of matching for less than \$22. Any material you can ask for (in any shade and all the latest materials in make and trim \$15.00

Our Men's Suit Stock Is the one spot in Grand Rapids in which to quickly find a suit that will please you at the time of purchase and please you yet more in the wear. Thousands to select from—from the cheap working suit at \$5.00 to the finest custom made and tailor trimmed at \$25.00.

BIG BOYS' SUIT SALE THIS WEEK.

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Unloading Sale. THIRD WEEK.

As we predicted, we broke the record on sales last week—never before in the history of the store was there such a week's trade—never before in Grand Rapids were there such crowds of pleased buyers. Our progressiveness in knocking off profits now and unloading when you must buy, instead of waiting in the old-fogy way, till January or February, when you've bought your clothes, has caught the town. But we're not satisfied yet—this week must show still greater results—prices like these will bring them!

- Men's Kersey Overcoats, velvet collars, \$ 6.88
flannel lined, worth \$12.....
Men's Storm Overcoats, Freize and Chinchilla, worth \$15..... 10.88
Men's Blue and Black Fine Beaver Overcoats..... 7.50
Children's Cassimere Cape Overcoats, worth \$4.00..... 2.50

- Men's Fine Double Breasted Black Cheviot Suits, were \$15..... \$10.92
Men's Worsteds, Cheviot and Cassimere Suits, were \$12..... 8.99
Men's all-wool Pants, warranted not to rip..... 1.25
Men's Jersey Overshirts, black and fancy, worth \$1.25..... 69c

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