

PECK'S BAD BOY WITH THE CIRCUS

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The Bad Boy Visits the Circus in Winter Quarters—He Meets the Circus Performers—Dad Rides a Horse and Gets Tossed in a Blanket—The Bad Boy Goes "Kangarooing"—Pa's Clothes Cause Excitement Among the Animals—A Monkey Steals His Watch.

April 15.—We are now at the winter quarters of the show, in a little town, on a farm just outside, where the tent is put up and the animals are being cared for in barns, and the performers are limbering up their joints, wearing overcoats to turn flip-flaps, and everybody has a cold, and looks blue, and all are anxious for warm weather.



Pa Was Suspended in the Air.

a frown on his forehead, and said he hoped his relations with them would be pleasant, one of the old canvasmen remarked to a girl who rides two horses at once, with the horses strapped together, so they can't get too far apart and cause her to break in two, said that old goat with the silk hat would last just about four weeks, and that he reminded the canvasman of a big dog which barked at people as though he would eat them, and at the same time wagged his tail, so people would not think he was so confounded dangerous.

The principal proprietor of the circus told Pa to make himself at home around the tent, and not be offended at any pleasantry on the part of the attaches of the show, for they were full of fun, and he went off to attend to some business and left Pa with the gang. They were practicing riding bare-backed horses around the ring with a rope hitched in a belt around the waist of the rider, and an arm swinging around from the center pole, so if they fell off the horse the rope would prevent the rider from falling to the ground, a practice that the best riders adopt early in the season, the same as new beginners, cause they



A Leopard Reached Out His Paw and Gathered in the Tail of Pa's Coat.

are all stiffened up by being out of practice. One man rode around a few times, and Pa got up close to the ring, and was making some comments, such as: "Why, any condemned fool could ride a horse that way," when the circus gang as quick as you could say scot, fastened a belt around Pa's stomach, that had a ring in it, and before he knew it they had hitched a snap in the ring, and Pa was hauled up as high as the horse, and his feet rested on the horse's back, and the horse started on a gallop.

Well, say, Pa was never so surprised in his life, but he dug his heels into the horse's back, and tried to look pleasant, and the horse went half way around the ring, and just as Pa was getting confidence, some one hit the horse on the ham with a piece of board, and the horse went out from under Pa and he began to fall over backwards, and I thought his circus career would end right there, when the man who had hold of the rope pulled up, and Pa was suspended in the air by the ring in the belt, back

up, and stomach hanging down like a pillow, his watch dangling about a foot down towards the ring, and the horse came around the ring again and as he went under Pa, Pa tried to get his feet on the horse's back, but he couldn't make it work, and Pa said, as cross as could be: "Lookahere, you fellows, you let me down, or I will discharge every mother's son of you."

But they didn't seem to be scared, for one man caught the horse and let it out of the ring, and the man who handled the rope tied it to the center pole by a half hitch, and the fellows all went into the dressing-room to play cinch on the trunks, leaving Pa hanging there. Just then the boss canvasman came along, and he said: "Hello, old man, what you doing up there," and Pa said some of the pirates in the show had kidnaped him, and seemed to be holding him up for a ransom, and he said he would give ten dollars if some one would let him down:

The boss canvasman said he could fix it for ten, all right, and he blew a whistle, and the gang came back, and the boss said: "Bring a blanket and help this gentleman down," so they brought a big piece of canvas, with handles all around it, and the rope man let Pa down on the canvas, and unhitched the ring, and when Pa was in the canvas he laughed and said: "Thanks, gentlemen, I guess I am not much of a horseback rider," and then the fellows pulled on the handles of the canvas, and by gosh, Pa shot up into the air half-way to the top of the tent, and when he came down they caught him in the canvas and tossed him up a whole lot of times, until Pa said: "O,

When Pa and I went into the barn where the cages were, to take an account of stock, and get acquainted with our animals, they acted just like the circus men did, when they saw Pa's clothes. The animals were about half asleep when we went in, but a big lion bent one eye on Pa, and then he rose up and shook himself, and gave a roar, and a cough that sounded like he had the worst case of pneumonia, and he snorted a couple of times, as though he was saying to the other animals: "Here's something that will kill you dead, and I want you all to have a piece of it, raw," and he brayed some more, and all the animals joined in the chorus, the big tiger lying down on his stomach and waving his tail, and snarling and showing his teeth like a cat that has located a mouse hole, and the tiger seemed to say: "O, I saw it first, and it's mine."

The hyena set up a laugh like a man who is not tickled, but feels that it is up to him to laugh at a funny story that he can't see the point of at a banquet, where Chauncey Depew tells one of his criddle jokes, and Pa was getting nervous. A big white bear was walking delegate in his cage, and he looked at Pa as much as to say: "Hello, Teddy, I was not at home when you called in Colorado, but you get in this cage, and I will make you think the Spanish war was a Sunday-school picnic beside what you will get from your uncle Ephraim," and a bob cat jumped up into the top of his cage and snarled and showed his teeth, and seemed to say: "Bring on your whole pack of dogs and I will eat them alive."

Pa threw out his chest in front of a monkey cage, and a monkey snatched his watch, and then all the animals began to laugh at Pa just like a lot of boys in school when visitors make a call. Pa went around to visit all the animals officially, while I got interested in a female kangaroo, with a couple of babies, not more than three weeks old, and I noticed the mother kangaroo made the old man kangaroo, her husband, stand around, and he acted just like some men I have seen who were afraid to say their souls were their own in the presence of their wives.

The female kangaroo is surely a wonder, and seems to be built on plans and specifications different from any other animal, cause she has got a fur-lined pouch on her stomach, just like a vest, that she carries her young in. When the babies are frightened they make a hurry-up move towards the pouch opens, and they jump into its hole, like a gopher going into its hole, and the mother looks around as innocent as can be, as much as to say: "You can search me, I don't know, honestly, where those kids have gone, but they were around here not more than a minute ago." And when the fright is over the two heads peep out of the top of the pouch, and the old man grunts, as much as to say: "O, come on out, there is no danger, and let your ma have a little rest, cause she is nervous," and then the babies come out and run around the cage, and sit up on their hind feet, and look wise. That kangaroo pouch is a success, and I wonder why nature did not provide pouches for all animals to carry their young in. I think Pullman must have got his ideas for the upper and lower berths of a sleeping car by seeing a kangaroo pouch. I am going to study the kangaroo, and make friends with the old man kangaroo, cause he looks as though he had troubles of his own.

Pa showed up without any coat, while I was kangarooing, and there was a rip in his pants, and I asked him what was the trouble, and he leaped that too near the cage of a leopard, that seemed to be asleep, and the traitor reached out his paw and gathered in the tail of Pa's coat, and just snatched it off his back as though it was made of paper.

Pa is a little discouraged about his experience in the circus the first day, but he says it will be great when we get the run of the business. He says every day will have its excitement. Tomorrow they are going to extract a tooth from the boss-constructor, Mr. Pa and I are going to help hold him, while the animal dentist pulls the tooth, and then we scrub the rhinoceros, and oil the hippopotamus, and get everything ready to start out on the road, and I can't wait any more in my diary until after we fix a snake, Gee, but he is as long as a clothesline.

Tongues Along the Danube. Fifty-two languages and dialects are spoken along the banks of the Danube,

and to the barn, where the animals are kept all winter, and Pa wanted me to become familiar with the habits of the beasts, cause they were to be in Pa's charge, with the keepers of the different kinds of animals to report to Pa. Nobody need tell me that animals have no human instincts, and I don't know how to take a joke. We are apt to think that wild animals in captivity are worrying over being confined in cages, and gazed at and commented on by curious visitors, and that they dream of the free life they lived in the jungles, and sigh to go back where they were captured, and prowl around for food, but you can't fool me. Animals that formerly had to go around in the woods, hungry half the time, and occasionally gorging themselves on a dead animal, and sleeping out in the rain in all kinds of weather, know when they have struck a good thing in a menagerie, with clean straw to sleep in, and when they are hungry all they have to do is to sound their bugle and they have pre-digested breakfast and breakfast brought to them on a silver platter, and if the food is not to their liking, they set up a kick like a star boarder at a boarding house. Their condition in the show, in its changed condition from that of their native haunts, is like taking a hobo off the trucks of a freight train and taking him to the dining car of the limited, and letting him eat to a finish. People talk about animals escaping from captivity, and going back to the jungles, and humane societies shed tears over the poor, sad-eyed captives, sighing for their homes, but you turn them loose at South Bend, and run your circus train to New Albany without them, and they would follow the train and overtake it before the evening performance the next day, and you would find them trying to break into their cages again, and they would have to be fed.

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Tongues Along the Danube. Fifty-two languages and dialects are spoken along the banks of the Danube,

MYSTERIOUS BANK ROBBERY SOLVED

Perpetrators of Daring Crime Now Serving Terms Behind Prison Bars.

WOMAN CAUSES ARREST OF THE GUILTY MEN

Divorced and Neglected Wife of Accessory to Deed Unearths Evidence Which Leads to Their Punishment—How National Institution at Lima, O., Was Plundered of Over \$18,000 Seven Years Ago—Officers Long Suspected of Taking Money.

Seven years ago the American national bank at Lima, O., was robbed of \$18,232, the money having been taken from the vaults sometime between Saturday night and Monday morning, but just when and by whom was unknown until the last few weeks. Now, Elijah Bowsher, the trusted janitor of the bank at the time of the robbery, and Thomas K. Wilkins, an insurance agent at Lima, are behind prison walls in the penitentiary at Columbus, O., serving out sentences of seven and five years respectively, for the crime, the former as principal and the latter as accessory, both convicted on pleas of guilty in open court and sentenced without a trial.

The story of the robbery and the final detection of the guilty reads like fiction. It is more interesting, because true, than any of the novels ever written by "Old Sleuth," the famous detective author.

Discovery of Robbery. The fact that the bank had evidently been robbed was first made known to the cashier, Gus Kalb, by Janitor Bowsher on the morning of Monday, December 26, 1898, then a holiday because Christmas of that year fell on Sunday. He went to the home of the cashier and informed him that he had found the door of the bank vault open.

An investigation followed and the robbery was discovered. The only suspicious fact, however, when Cashier Kalb entered the bank that forenoon, was that the outer vault door was open. The inner door was bolted securely, the time lock apparently not having been tampered with and the mechanism of all the combination locks working properly. How had the robbers secured an entrance? This was a mystery that it has taken seven years to unravel.

Cashier Kalb, with the vice president of the bank, N. L. Michael, had locked the vault doors and the safes the Saturday night before the discovery of the robbery, setting the time lock to run down on Monday noon, apparently defying an entrance until then.

When the cashier pulled the outer vault door open on that fateful Monday morning nothing within indicated that the other locks had been manipu-



lated. Nothing appeared to be disturbed. Yet when the inner vault was reached and the safe opened the \$18,232 placed there the Saturday night before was gone.

Who had taken it?

It seemed ridiculous to accuse Bowsher, the janitor, of manipulating the burglar-proof locks and then placing them again in the condition they were when found.

If not the work of skilled professional burglars, the robbery must, so it was reasoned, have been done by the bank officers, and during all these years the cashier and vice president, Mr. Kalb and Mr. Michael, have been under the ban of suspicion. Their names, spotless before, were tarnished unjustly with the crime of theft.

Officers Suspected of Crime. Immediately after the robbery the Pinkerton agency and a score of private detectives, some of them paid and others influenced by the large rewards offered, went to work on the case. Following the clue that it was the bank officers that did it, Cashier Kalb and

Vice President Michael were arrested and indicted by the grand jury.

While the cases against them were afterwards dismissed because of lack of evidence, they were believed by many to be guilty.

Finally Bowsher, the janitor, was arrested. Nothing, however, could be proven against him and he was released and the Lima bank robbery continued a mystery that baffled solution on the part of the best detective talent of the country.

Arrest Due to Woman. It remained for a woman, neglected, divorced and scorned—refused the money that, in part, had quieted her tongue—to unearth the evidence that led to the arrest of the guilty party, Janitor Bowsher and her husband, Thomas K. Wilkins, an accomplice in the crime. This woman was the divorced wife of Wilkins. Ten years ago she was a society woman at Lima, the daughter of a leading railroad official.

She was pretty and accomplished and, until some years after her marriage to Wilkins, did not know what want was. Wilkins was the son of a real estate dealer at Lima, a man of considerable wealth, and at the time of their marriage had but just been admitted to the practice of law and had a promising future.

During the first few years of their married life the young couple lived in luxury in one of the handsomest residences in Lima. But, as they do in so many married lives, the days of neglect and abuse came and then Mrs. Wilkins sued for and obtained a divorce. Then, denied the payment of her alimony, and denied money from Bowsher, she resolved to tell the secret she had kept so many years.

Janitor Is Accused. Her story was told to A. L. Freet, the deputy sheriff at Lima, who, of her own volition, she took into her confidence. She said that Bowsher committed the robbery and that Wilkins was an accessory before and after the fact. Her story, in substance, was that Bowsher had frequently told Wilkins what an easy matter it would be for him to rob the bank.

What to do with the money after he had secured it, to avoid suspicion, both-ered him, and for its investment and

handling he took Wilkins into his confidence. On the morning after the robbery, Mrs. Wilkins related, her husband came home with his pockets stuffed with money, several thousands of dollars in bills of different denominations and gold coin. He was somewhat under the influence of liquor at the time and did not know where to hide the money.

"Well, like has done the job," he said, "and this is my share of it."

Finally the money was hidden in a torn sofa at their home, and from this place it was taken as each needed it, from time to time—a fortune in their possession, and yet it did not bring them happiness.

In a few years the money was all gone. Finally, for neglect and cruelty, she obtained a divorce from him, leaving soon afterward to reside with an uncle near Fort Wayne, Ind.

Within a few months Wilkins followed her and for a time their differences were patched up and they lived together, only to be separated again by his dissipation.

He returned to Lima. Thither she followed him, vainly endeavoring to get money for her support. It was then the blow was struck that made her resolve to tell all.

Plan to Secure Evidence. The story she told Deputy Sheriff Freet, while presenting a strong case, lacked the convincing proof necessary to secure conviction. The deputy sheriff reported the matter to William Klinger, the prosecuting attorney of the county, and it was then the plan was formed to entrap Bowsher and Wilkins and secure evidence that would convict them on their own testimony, and in this act of the drama Mrs. Wilkins was to play the star part.

With the knowledge she possessed, it was not a hard matter for her to arrange a meeting with the two implicated men. The meeting was held in a



WITH WELL SIMULATED ANIMITY HE NOTIFIED AIRMAILS OF THE ROBBERY.



BOWSHER AFTER SECURING A ROOM MARKED HIS WAY OUT OF THE VAULT.

house at Lima which she was temporarily making her home. It was fixed up previously by the officers for the meeting and arranged so that they could hear the entire conversation between the three without being seen.

It was a story and a half house. A hole was cut through the ceiling above the room in which the meeting was held, the lath and plaster being removed, but leaving the paper on. This was, however, perforated with small holes so as to allow the sounds from below to come through. Located in this garret, one could hear a conversation held in the room below.

In this garret previous to the meeting of Mrs. Wilkins with Wilkins and Bowsher three men were concealed, Deputy Sheriff Freet, Walter M. Scott, the court stenographer, and a private detective. Each of them had megaphones. They could hear distinctly the slightest whisper, and the court stenographer could transcribe every word of the conversation.

Immediately after the arrival of Wilkins and Bowsher, Mrs. Wilkins renewed her plea to Wilkins for his payment of the monthly alimony allowed her by the court in the divorce proceedings. Both men were given to understand that this must be paid.

Then began a discussion between Bowsher and Wilkins as to the abilities of each to pay and what they had done with the stolen money.

How Robbery Was Executed. At last the payments of the alimony seemed to be arranged by Bowsher agreeing to fix it, and then Mrs. Wilkins, for the benefit of the auditors in the garret above, guided the conversation into a narration of how the robbery was planned and executed.

"Tell us, like," she said, "how you did the job at the bank. I have often wanted to know." And then Bowsher told the story of how he had taken the money from the bank vault.

He had been around so long as janitor that he had learned much about the mechanism of the vault locks. He was satisfied that he could allow himself to be locked in the vault and then work himself out again.

This is what he did on the night of the robbery, using as his tools only an ordinary wrench and a screwdriver of a common kind. When Cashier Kalb and Vice President Michael were preparing that night to close up the bank Bowsher slipped into the vault unobserved and was locked in. By unfastening thumbscrews and bolts to the inner and outer doors he worked his way to the bank office again within a few moments after the officers left it.

With the combination to the inside safe he secured the money, then, fixing the vault doors and leaving the outer one ajar, he had the scheme fixed to fasten suspicion on the bank officers.

"This was the story he told, given here in substance only. Every word of it, with the entire conversation between him and Wilkins and his wife, was taken down by the stenographer in the garret above and convincing evidence of the guilt of the two men was fixed.

Their arrest followed. For a few days each denied his guilt. Finally, seeing the web so closely woven about him, Bowsher confessed and, going with the prosecuting attorney and the sheriff to the bank, showed them just how he had committed the robbery.

He allowed himself to be locked in the vault, the combination locks to both doors and the time lock being set, and in eight minutes he had worked himself out.

Guilt Men Sent to Jail. On the following day he appeared in court, pleaded guilty and received his sentence. Wilkins held out for a few days longer and then confessed to having received part of the stolen money.

By reason of her having turned state's evidence, no action was brought against Mrs. Wilkins.

Bowsher has some real estate, part of it being in his wife's name. She, it seems, until his arrest, knew nothing of his guilt in regard to the robbery. Not long after it occurred Bowsher invested in Ohio oil lands.

They proved profitable and his prosperity and land holdings were thus explained, diverting suspicion of his guilt. It is believed at Lima that he has investments in such a shape as not to be reached by law.

He was never extravagant in his spendings and since the bank robbery has been industrious. He will serve his term in prison and then be a free man to get what enjoyment he can, with a guilty conscience, out of his stolen



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wealth. Possibly, long before his sentence expires he will make restitution to the bank of the money taken.

What money Wilkins received long since disappeared as a result of his dissipated habits. He will come out of prison, in five years, a poor man.

RETURNS AFTER 25 YEARS

Left Home When He Was Seven to Battle with the World—Fought in the Wars.

Marion, O.—After being separated from his parents for a quarter of a century, John R. Gorden returned to this city suddenly. Owing to some troubles in his home, Gorden left when seven years old. Going out among strangers to battle for himself, he located in West Virginia until the Spanish-American war broke out, when he enlisted and went to the Philippines. At the expiration of his time he returned to this country and secured employment. His anxiety in regard to his dear old mother, who, since his departure, has become the wife of Robert Thomas, gave him the feeling that he would again live to clasp her in his arms.

On arriving in the city he made his way to her home. Both wept for joy until the mother collapsed from the excitement.

EXPERIMENT WITH AIRSHIP

Professor Zahn of Washington Discovers the Best Shape for a Balloon Part.

Washington, D. C.—A grant of \$500 was made last year by the Smithsonian Institution from the Hopkins fund to Dr. A. F. Zahn, professor of physical science in the Catholic university, for a series of experiments on atmospheric resistance to moving bodies.

Prof. Zahn completed the experiments some months ago, but has not ceased his investigations of aerial resistance.

Dr. Zahn holds that Secretary Langley has proved that the aerodrome, as finally constructed, will not only fly, but will carry the weight of one man, the problem now to be solved being the mode of managing the craft when it is in the air.

Dr. Zahn proved that the best shape for the balloon part of the airship was that following the lines of the modern submarine torpedo.

Modern Animals.

"It is a great mistake to conclude that it is a law of nature that recent animals are all small and insignificant as compared with their representatives in the past," says a scientist. "That is simply not true. Recent horses are bigger than extinct ones, and much bigger than the three-toed and four-toed ancestors of horses. Recent elephants are as big as any that have existed, and much bigger than their early elephantine ancestors. There never has been any creature of any kind—mammal, reptile, bird or fish—in any geological period we know of so big as some of the existing whales."

Frozen Deep.

The soil of Siberia at the close of the summer is found still frozen for 56 inches beneath the surface, and the dead that have lain in their coffins for 150 years have been taken up unchanged in the least.

His Favorite.

First Insurance Magnate—What is your favorite theatrical production? Second Insurance Magnate—"Other People's Money."—Baltimore American.