

HIS LAST TRICK.

Why Ted and His Mother Left the Circus.

Everything had seemed to come to Ted by instinct until he was taught the great "ring trick."

When he was five years old he used to perform regularly with old Benny, the famous "bareback rider," in the "wild Indian" act.

He was indeed, really amazed that anybody should not be proud to know the distinguished people he was used to.

He stood for a moment measuring the supports and frames with a knowing glance, then with a bound caught the lowest ring, spun round, and light as a squirrel leaped to the opposite one.

He couldn't get up to-day," he would mutter in alarm when anybody came near him; "but I'm getting rested, and perhaps by to-morrow."

He was so used to playing his part that he was ashamed to lie and eat the bread of idleness. But he and old Benny used to plan the wonderful feats he would accomplish as soon as he got well.

It was just at this time that Ted was learning the "ring trick," and certainly there was plenty of hard work about that.

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old Benny about the farm which was to him such a wonderful fairy tale.

"Pity, now, your mother couldn't go home and take you to see her folks," said Benny.

"Go home and take me?" said Ted. "Why, could she?"

"Why not?" said Benny. "This new and startling idea dawning on Ted's mind took his breath away."

"Mother," he cried, running to her, "Why don't you take me down to see grandfather and grandmother and the flowers and the apples?"

"Ah, why not?" burst out the homesick woman, with a bitter cry. "Because I gave that all up when I ran away with your father."

"Why wouldn't they speak to you?" said Ted, aghast.

"Because I belong to a circus," she replied.

Ted comprehended the pain behind his mother's words, although he did not understand the words themselves. He was, indeed, really amazed that anybody should not be proud to know the distinguished people he was used to.

He longed to climb the hill and meet the wind ready to buffet him when he reached the top, and to dabble his feet in the cool stream where his mother's brothers used to swim on summer afternoons.

"Mother," he burst out, "why don't they like the circus?"

"Who?" said his mother, startled. She sat late on her sewing as usual; but she had supposed the boy was fast asleep.

"Why, grandfather and grandmother and the rest of them."

"Some people don't like a circus, Ted," she said, gently. "It's just a feeling."

"But it's the greatest show on earth."

"I know it's a great thing in its way," said Mrs. Llewellyn, "but you see, Ted, my family are quiet people and their way is different. I suppose it is partly the tights and the spangles and the crowns, the gaudy make-believe, which made father feel that nothing is modest and honest and real about anybody who belongs to a circus."

"I'm not hurt," said Ted, "really, I'm not!"

Then he faintly averted, and was carried out in old Benny's arms. Word was passed round that the boy was not hurt, and the show went on to its close, although all the performers were flurried and everything went badly.

Ted had broken no bones, strange to say; he had fallen on the cushion; yet somehow he was hurt and badly hurt. Nobody quite knew why they were afraid it was his back.

He was so used to playing his part that he was ashamed to lie and eat the bread of idleness. But he and old Benny used to plan the wonderful feats he would accomplish as soon as he got well.

"You see," the doctor said, "he is shattered. His age is in his favor, and if he could have a good home in the country—"

"He shall have a home in the country," said old Benny, and he did not lose an hour. He set off to Mrs. Llewellyn's old home, he saw her father and mother and pleaded her and Ted's case with them, but he did not need to plead long.

Ted got his first glimpse of the house and the river and the road within a week. The sight of it brought the color to his cheek and the light to his eyes.

"Why, mother," he cried, raising himself up. "It paid. It paid to have the fall. Perhaps we couldn't have come home if I hadn't been laid up."

—Ellen Olney Kirk, in St. Louis Republic.

FEELING IN THE BONES.

They Are Hampered with Delicate Nerves Sensible to Every Injury.

People usually imagine that their bones are of solid mineral construction, without any feeling in them. No one who has ever had a leg or an arm cut off is likely to indulge in such a mistaken notion.

You see, as a matter of fact, there are blood-vessels and nerves inside the bones just as there are outside. Anyone who has purchased a beefsteak at the market knows about the marrow in the bone.

They all flattered and encouraged him, and Ted felt ashamed of his faint-heartedness. A regular salary was promised him by the manager as soon as he made a success of the ring trick, and this was what he and his mother had been looking forward to ever since he was ten years old.

It was odd how he disliked the ring trick, when it was simply a matter of swinging himself up to the top of a high, tall framework on rings which

hung on horizontal bars. The supports below were twelve feet apart, but met with another transom beam and ring on the apex. The way was to catch the lower ring, swing round on it, then with the impetus gained to leap the gap, seize the opposite ring a little higher up, and so on from right and left and left and right to the top ring and down again.

However, practice makes perfect, and by the time the new season opened in Brighttown Ted had mastered the ring trick. There was a famous programme, and Ted had six different parts; in the Indian act, the buffalo hunt, the chariot race and so on finally to the wonderful ring trick now exhibited for the first time.

The excitement was good for Ted. The dull, weary feelings he had suffered from of late vanished, his blood warmed with his wish, he liked the mad gallop, he felt the joy of his own youth and strength, and was ready to take wings and float in air.

He stood for a moment measuring the supports and frames with a knowing glance, then with a bound caught the lowest ring, spun round, and light as a squirrel leaped to the opposite one and thus zigzagging mounted the upper ring.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

ATLANTIC COAST LINE.

W. & W. R. R. BRANCHES

Condensed Schedule.

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

Table with columns: DATED JANUARY 4TH, 1892, No. 23 Daily, No. 27 Daily, No. 14 Daily, No. 78 Daily.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

Table with columns: No. 14 Daily, No. 78 Daily, No. 23 Daily, No. 27 Daily.

Daily except Sunday. Train on Scotland Neck Branch Road leaves Weldon at 4:00 p. m. Halifax 4:22, arrive Scotland Neck at 5:15 p. m. Greenville 6:52 p. m. Kinston 8:00 p. m.

Train on Nashville Branch leaves Rocky Mount at 5:15 p. m., arrives at Nashville 5:35 p. m., Spring Hope 6:30 p. m. Returning leaves Spring Hope 9:00 a. m., Nashville 8:35 a. m., Rocky Mount 9:15 a. m., daily except Sunday.

Train on Clinton Branch leaves Warsaw for Clinton, daily except Sunday at 6:00 p. m., and 11:15 a. m. Returning leaves Clinton at 8:30 a. m. and 3:10 p. m., connecting at Warsaw with Nos. 40, 41, 23 and 78.

Southbound train on Wilson and Fayetteville Branch in No. 21, Northbound is No. 56. Daily except Sunday.

Train No. 27 South will only stop at Rocky Mount, Wilson, Goldsboro and Magnolia.

Train No. 78 makes close connection at Weldon for all points North daily. All rail via Richmond and daily except Sunday via Bay Line, also at Rocky Mount daily with Norfolk and Carolina Railroad for Norfolk and all points North via Norfolk.

Trains make close connection for all points North via Richmond and Washington.

All trains run solid between Wilmington and Washington and have Pullman Palace Sleepers attached.

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ATLANTIC COAST LINE.

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Condensed Schedule.

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

Table with columns: Dated Jan. 4th, 1892, No. 23 Daily, No. 27 Daily.

Leave Petersburg, 10.10 am, 3.45 p m; Leave Stony Creek, 10.53 am, 4.18 p m; Leave Jarratts, 11.11 am, 4.36 p m; Leave Belfield, 11.30 am, 4.48 p m; Arrive Weldon, 12.10 pm, 5.23 p m.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

Table with columns: No. 14 Daily, No. 78 Daily.

Leave Weldon, 6.40 a. m., 3.15 p. m.; Le Belfield, 7.13 a. m., 3.52 p. m.; Le Jarratts, 7.29 a. m., 4.09 p. m.; Le Stony Creek, 7.43 a. m., 4.33 p. m.; Arrive Petersburg, 8.15 a. m., 5.12 p. m.

All trains run solid Weldon to Washington.

E. T. D. MYERS, T. M. EMERSON, Gen'l Superintendent, Gen. Passenger agt.

TO THE PATRONS

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NAVIGATION CO

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On and after Monday, December 17th, and until further notice, the Steamers CHOWAN, Captain Wither, will LEAVE FRANKLIN on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for EDENTON, PLYMOUTH and all intermediate points on arrival of mail trains from Portsmouth, say 10:15 A. M.

RETURNING the "Chowan" will reach Franklin on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9:15 A. M., in time to connect with Fast Mail train from Raleigh to Portsmouth and with Express train for the South.

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GIVE THIS ROUTE A TRIAL. Respectfully, J. H. BOGART, Franklin, Va., Dec. 14, 1891.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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