

[CONCLUDED.]
I breathed. That peril was averted. My spirits rose as the merry feast proceeded, and I began to see more distinctly the humorous side of my little misadventure. The atmosphere was warm and pleasant. Why, I had been present at many a dinner in the north where men dined, from preference, without their—that is, in kilts. True, I had not exactly a kilt; but, even were I compelled to stand forth from my present retirement, the exhibition of knee, the publication of calf, would be no greater than is legally sanctioned within five hundred miles of this spot.
Ha! sensation. "Pray silence," etc. grace. "Non Nobis." Then the usual loyal toast, and we drank properly to several collateral branches of the reigning house (the Lumpers were nothing if not loyal), before we arrived at the great toast of the evening—the Baron de Bete Fauve. This was given by the chairman himself, and counter proposition of the ladies, and received with the greatest enthusiasm.
The excitement was just settling down when—
"Hullo!" exclaimed Skelton, "what's up now? Is any one expected, I wonder? They are putting a big velvet chair next to Bete Fauve. It must be a swell. Can the prince of—"
"So long as it is not intended for my humble person," I replied, with an easy smile, "I am perfectly—"
"I beg your pardon, Mr. Charteris," said the voice of the head steward, who, followed by two attendant waiters, had approached us unobserved. The chair, sir, presents his compliments, and begs you will do him and the Baron de Bete Fauve the favor to occupy the seat that has been placed for you between them."
My heart stood still. My hair rose. A chill of horror shot through me.
"The Baron, sir, speaks no English, and though him and the chair has been hard at it all dinner, neither of 'em has understood a word," said the steward confidentially. "The chair, sir, and the company generally," said Mr. Charteris, "with poetic exaggeration, would all witness with pleasure the spectacle of your introduction to the Baron."
"The Baron b—" I know not what I was about to say. My voice faltered. I had caught a glimpse of the fair occupants of the gallery, leaning over the balustrade in their eagerness to examine the favored individual for whom the chair of state had been so ostentatiously prepared, and a vision of myself marching up the hall, clad in my burlesque Chinese trousers, the mark of every eye, almost made me reel in my chair.
I shuddered, strove to speak, conceived a wild thought of diving under the table, when, whilst with a lurid, fitful swirl went the enormous luster, with all the minor lights following suit. We were in total darkness. I will not describe the confusion that succeeded, the screams of laughter from the gallery, the scramble and crash below. Torches gleamed in the doorways almost before we knew what had happened, and the accident that had caused the extinction of the light was remedied within a few minutes.
But when order was restored, one chair stood vacant at that hospitable board. Whether its occupant had been trampled under foot in the disorder, or had vanished with the lights, was never known. My private opinion is, that, while anxious inquiries were being made in the Lumpers' hall, the missing gentleman was warming his legs at his domestic hearth, sipping his grog, and smiling at the peril he had so narrowly escaped.—All the Year Round.

A FRIGHTFUL DEATH.

A LION-TAMER TORN TO PIECES BY FIVE LIONS.

A series of farewell performances were being given prior to the menagerie proceeding to Bury, and an extra performance was announced and took place at 10:30 o'clock. Attached to the show was a man named Thomas Macarte, whose professional appellation was "Macarte, the Lion-tamer," and he at this extra performance entered the lions' den for the last time. Macarte was a young man not more than 34 years old, but he had been associated with travelling exhibitions of this kind from a very early period. He had previously lost an arm when performing with Messrs. Bell & Myers' Circus at Liverpool. He had previously been trained by Messrs. Batty as a lion-tamer, and having joined them for a short time, he was engaged by the late Mr. Manders to succeed Macartimo. He was a very bold and adventurous man, and had been frequently cautioned respecting his rashness. The unfortunate man commenced his performance on Wednesday evening, when he was hardly in a proper condition to do so, and having exhibited the gorilla and the asp, he entered the lions' den. At this time it is calculated 500 or 600 persons were present, and the five lions in the den were put through their paces with the usual success and applause. On all general occasions heated bars of iron and iron scrapers are in readiness, but on this fatal evening the matter had been neglected.

THE FIVE LIONS.

were all powerful, animals, and the unfortunate man, entering the cage noticed that a black-maned African lion, which had only so recently as Monday last bitten his hand, appeared very restive, and consequently fixed his eyes on it, and this in some degree diverted his attention from an Asiatic lion known by the name of Tyrant, against whom he had been cautioned only that morning to keep carefully to his instructions. It is necessary to note that when performing lions are tamed there is a line drawn, or what is known as "the office," in technical phraseology, by which the beasts are taught to regard that line as a limit beyond which the performer must not pass, knowing, if he does so, the consequences to be expected are most dangerous. The presumption is that this line was overstepped, and Macarte, who was attired as a Roman gladiator, was returning his falchion to sheath, slipping he fell on the floor of the den. Tyrant fastened on him, seizing him by the haunches, and then the African lion fastened on to his armless shoulder. Macarte immediately called upon the keepers for help, and meanwhile to fire. He then drew the short Roman blade which formed a part of his costume and commenced dealing desperately with the lion Tyrant, thrusting the sword into its face, mouth, and eyes. The crowd, crowded around and effectually prevented the approach of the men who were used to the habits of the animals. The shouts of the audience, the desperate and manful struggle of the tamed lion, and the smell of the blood which was streaming from Macarte incited the other animals and their savage instinct was awakened. A third lion—an Abyssinian one—seized him by the ribs, and then a five-year-old lion, and an especial favorite of the lion-tamer, caught him by the head, literally scything him, the flesh hanging down his neck. The treacherous favorite had no sooner accomplished this work than he returned quietly to his corner.

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JOHN MACARTIMO, Administrator.
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