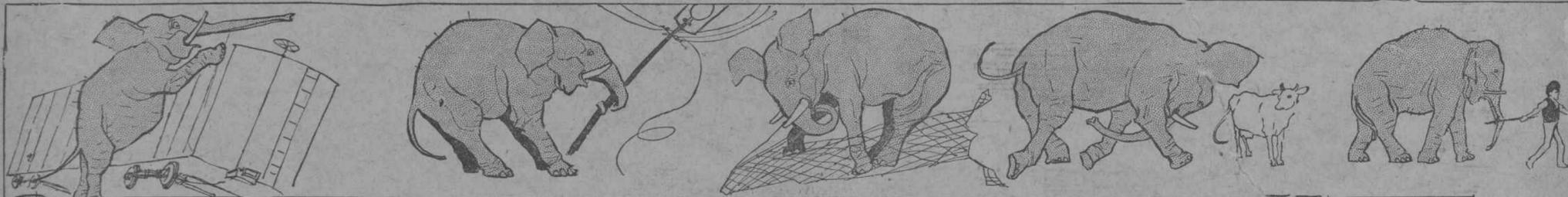


A Humorous Elephant Who Turned a Town Upside Down

How Rajah Broke His Chains, Knocked Down Another Elephant, Threw a Cage of Monkeys at the Royal Bengal Tiger, Let Loose the Wolves and Then Went on the Warpath, Smashing a Box Car, Breaking Open a Switch, Running Amuck in the Streets, Wrecking Everything in Sight and Terrifying Men, Women and Children Until, After Two Days and Nights, He Was Brought to Cover by His Pursuers, Who Were Armed with Rifles, Pitchforks and Other Weapons.

(Copyright, 1898, by W. R. Hearst.)



AN elephant produced a reign of terror in Argentine, near Kansas City, the other day. Rajah was his name and he belonged to Lemens' circus.

He broke three hundred feet of chain by which he was tied, threw the other animals' cages all over the circus ring, ran out to the railroad freight yard, smashed a couple of cars and ravaged the main street of Argentine.

For two days and a night he roamed unhindered around Argentine. It was decided to kill him. Two men fired ten shots apiece at him from Winchester rifles, but most of the shots glanced off his hide.

Suddenly he grew tired and allowed himself to be led quietly back to the circus.

PRODIGIOUS elephant named Rajah broke loose in Argentine, a suburb of Kansas City, last week, and tore the city up for two days.

He upset a railroad car and did other violent things. When fired at twenty times he refused to succumb or return. Finally he was captured single-handed by an unarmed man.

The people of Argentine watched the performances of Rajah from the roofs of their houses, which they considered the most advantageous position.

The outbreak of Rajah is attributed to an attack of fever in his feet, which makes him intensely irritable.

He began by wrecking Lemens Brothers' circus, to which he belongs. Three hundred feet of iron switch chain bound his legs. Like Samson, he broke his chains as a thread of tow is broken when it touches the fire.

First he charged on a smaller elephant named Albert and knocked him down. Then he picked up a cage of monkeys and threw it at the royal Bengal tiger. He smashed the wolves' cage and let loose two of those animals.

Rajah might even have set free the lions and tigers, had he not been seized with an intense desire for fresh air. He broke through the slight wooden partition that enclosed the menagerie and went out to explore.

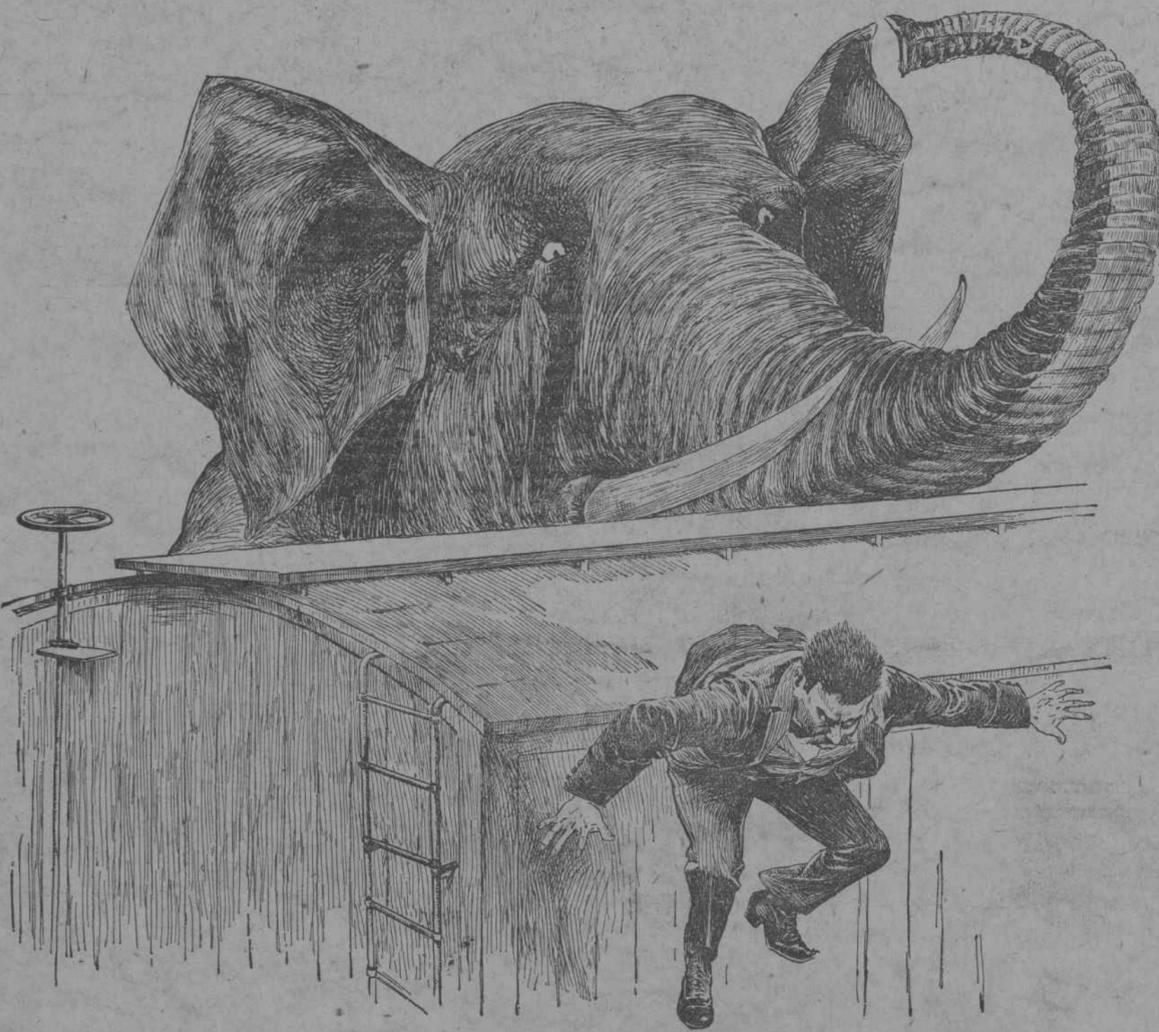
Soon he came to the Santa Fe Railroad yards. Many things here displeased him. He attacked a box car with his head and almost butted it off the rails, but finally allowed it to fall back to its original position. Then he smashed in the front end of the car.

Looking around for something more to break, he saw a switch. Although it was of the strongest iron, he snapped it like a twig.

Of course, there were plenty of circus men after him. They carried rifles, iron bars, pitchforks and other weapons, and made some plucky efforts to stop him. But when an elephant runs amuck no human power can stop him. He must have his run.

While Rajah was toying with the switch the men made an attempt to chain his hind legs. He noticed this, and ran north in the direction of the Santa Fe depot.

He saw a man on top of a box car. With his head lowered he charged straight at the end of the car. Instead of upsetting the car he drove his head through the wood work. The man was thrown down, but while Rajah's head was inside the car he had time to jump up and make his escape.



RAJAH SAW A MAN ON TOP OF A BOX CAR. WITH HIS HEAD LOWERED HE CHARGED STRAIGHT AT THE END OF THE CAR. INSTEAD OF UPSETTING THE CAR HE DROVE HIS HEAD THROUGH THE WOOD WORK. THE MAN WAS THROWN DOWN, BUT WHILE RAJAH'S HEAD WAS INSIDE THE CAR HE HAD TIME TO JUMP UP AND MAKE HIS ESCAPE.

He had time to jump up and make his escape. Rajah was surprised for a moment. Then he took his head out, put his fore feet on top of the car and looked around. He saw the man disappearing behind a row of cars and didn't trouble to follow him.

The main street of Argentine was near at hand. Rajah dashed into it. Men ran, women and children shrieked. Soon everybody was indoors and many were down in the cellar. Rajah did not seem bloodthirsty, but he was excessively violent.

He ambled along the street and tore up a couple of electric light poles. Then he wrenched a hydrant out of the pavement and hurled it through a saloon window. A

pleasing array of fresh vegetables caught his fancy for a moment, and he stopped and devoured the whole stock. The storekeeper offered no objection.

At this point a circus man rode past Rajah on a white horse. He was accustomed to follow this horse, and he started in hot pursuit. It was just what the circus people wanted. They planned to lead him to a field and have him chase this horse or some other round and round until he grew tired.

Rajah followed the horse until he reached a cornfield, just outside the city. But he did not chase. He changed his mind and went back to the circus headquarters. The

monkeys shrieked with fear, the tigers roared, and the lions lashed their tails as they saw him coming. Rajah threw the monkey house about fifty feet and smashed the glass front of the serpents' cage.

While the circus people were endeavoring to secure the serpents, Rajah proceeded to other business. He broke into the hall where the acrobats practice. One woman happened to be here, and watched him with dread from a trapeze up near the roof.

Rajah tried the trapezes with his trunk and sent them smashing against the roof. Then he put his foot through a big net, and finding himself tangled up he

tore it all to pieces. Once more he broke out into the open. An old cow gazed at him reproachfully, and he charged on her and trampled her to death. Altogether he left the circus three times within a few hours.

At 6 o'clock, when it was dark, he made his way to a small wood near the Argentine elevator. Evidently he wished to find something like his native jungle.

The keeper, on the faithful white horse, then rode forth, carrying a lighted lantern. He went within a hundred yards of Rajah and attracted his attention. Men wise in the ways of elephants said that he would follow the lantern for an indefinite time.

This turned out to be true.

Rajah's rage was somewhat abated, but he was in no condition to be handled. All night long he followed the lantern in a leisurely way. Sometimes he stopped, keeping his eye on the lantern, and then moved on again. Thus it was possible to lead him away from the city.

In the morning Rajah found himself in another cornfield with the tired keeper and the white horse. The other circus men gathered around and used all their cunning.

Their first plan was to build a fire around him, in the hope that it would keep him rooted to the spot with fear. They built the fire, but it had the reverse effect from that desired. Rajah sniffed at the fire, plunged through it, and started on another rampage. Civilization had taught him familiarity with fire.

By this time the excitement in Argentine was enormously greater than on the previous day. Curiosity overcame fear. Schools were empty and the streets full. City Marshal Lindenberg issued a proclamation warning the people to keep out of the streets while the elephant was at large. They studiously neglected his advice.

Rajah ravaged the country around Argentine. He took a light meal of young trees and then amused himself by tearing up a trolley line.

At noon he was seen just west of the city chasing four circus men on horseback. The elephant runs with what seems like a gentle trot, but he really makes excellent time. This was evident from the way the men were going.

By 2 o'clock in the afternoon the circus men were all nearly dead with fatigue. Several of them had fainted. The situation was very grave. To prevent more damage and perhaps a dreadful tragedy, it was decided to kill Rajah.

Frank Fisher and Frank Lemen were appointed executioners. Rajah then stood near the Argentine grain elevator and fears were entertained that he would attempt to pull down this structure, which is the pride of the city.

At a distance of about a hundred feet, and with the protection of heavy earthworks, Fisher and Lemen poured a steady fire into Rajah from their Winchester rifles. Their aim was to hit him in the soft skin behind the shoulder, but in this they failed. Each fired about twenty bullets. Those which struck Rajah glanced off his skin and buried themselves in other objects.

When the firing had gone on for some minutes Rajah ran to the river and took up his position on a sand bank. He trumpeted in an ear and soul piercing manner, a sign that he was intensely angry. Evidently some of the bullets hurt him. The situation became graver than ever.

Rajah was left to shriek for ten minutes with nobody as near as two hundred yards to him. He could then have gone wherever he listed. Everybody was in terror of him.

But gradually the trumpeting ceased, and the great elephant sank down into a dejected attitude. Ten or twelve bullets are a heavy dose for an elephant out of training. He was not disabled, but he was sore and tired.

Keeper Frank Fisher bravely seized the opportunity. He walked quickly up to Rajah with his ordinary small elephant goad, stuck the hook gently into his trunk and led him away. Rajah went along as quietly as if he had never wandered from his own circus. Soon he was chained up with 300 feet and more of chain.

So ended the worst of Rajah's periodical rambles. They are inevitable in a mature elephant, who leads a life of captivity. In a few years Rajah will certainly blunge here and there, but he may take an ample revenge before then.

A Christian at the Holy City of Mecca.

A CHRISTIAN gentleman, who has recently made a successful pilgrimage to the Mohammedan's sacred city of Mecca, into which no Christians are admitted, tells his surprising experiences in the Wide World Magazine for December. Curious Christians seldom get as far as the gates of the city, and almost never penetrate to the holy places. This man's narrative is unique as coming from one of less than a half dozen unbelievers who have ever witnessed the religious rites of this metropolis of Islam.

More unusual still is the photograph reproduced here of the Kaaba and the courtyard of the principal Mosque in Mecca. It was taken by a Turkish officer who afterward lost his life for his rashness.

The narrative of adventures that took the Christian pilgrim into the holy city bring many interesting points to light. It shows among other things that the foundation of Zemzem, long supposed to be the source of the world's cholera, has been confused with a bathing tank in the valley near Muna. The author of the adventure conceals his name as a safeguard for future pilgrimages.

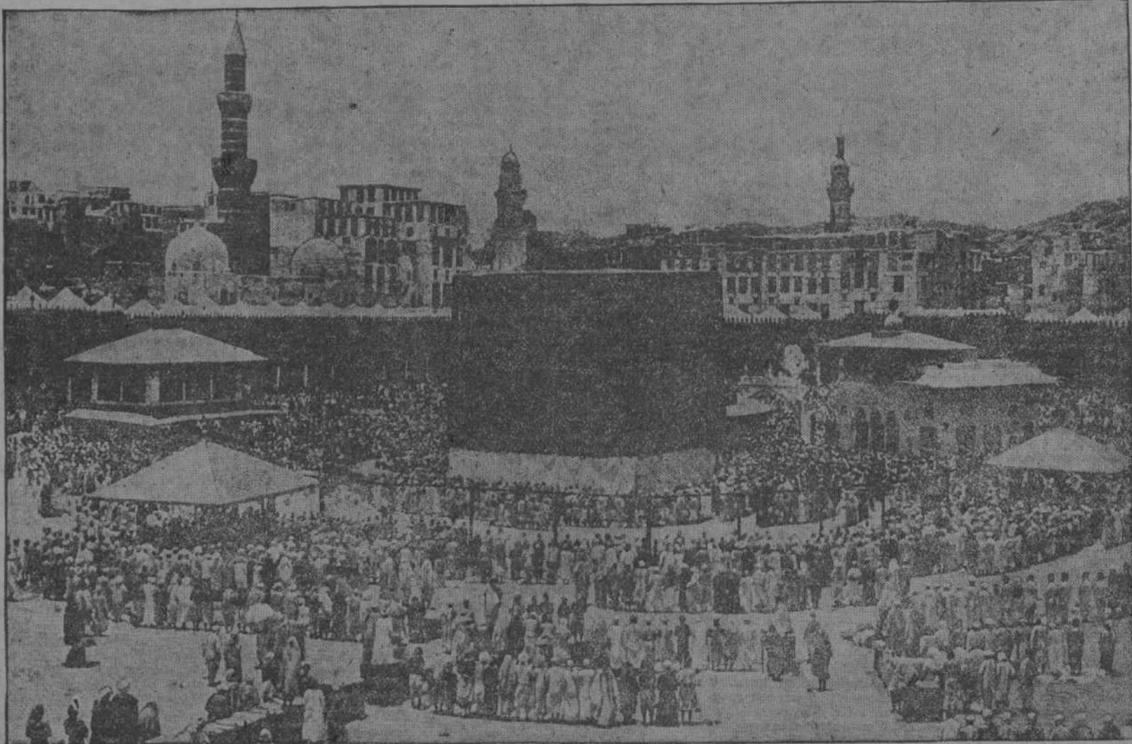
He was accompanied by an Arab teacher, Abdullah, to whose friendliness he owes his safe return and escape from detection in the disguise of an Indian Mussulman. He tells the story of his experiences within the city as follows:

"My first duty on entering the city was to present myself to my metwaf. This is a kind of authorized guide and landlord in one. There is a metwaf appointed for each of the peoples, nations and languages that congregate at Mecca—one for the Algerians, another for the Syrians, another for the Egyptians, another for the Persians, another for the negroes of Central Africa, another for the Indians, and so on.

"I found my metwaf very polite and accommodating, particularly after I had made him a present rather larger than the ordinary, and he promised to do all he could for my comfort. After seeing the metwaf I went to sleep during my stay. I set out with Abdullah to visit the great mosque, in accordance with custom.

"It is situated at the lower part of the town. The centre of attraction is the large courtyard, on three sides of which is a beautiful colonnade, surmounted by some seventy-five white domes. In the centre of the square is a circular white pavement, on which stand the Kaaba and other sacred edifices, enclosed with iron posts and a rope some twelve feet high.

"The Kaaba is a high cubic construction entirely draped in black. Some travellers have imagined that it was the tomb of the Prophet; but he was buried at Medina, and this appears to be merely a stone construction, known to Moslems as the 'House of Allah,' and supposed to occupy a site at the centre of the



COURTYARD OF THE PRINCIPAL MOHAMMEDAN MOSQUE AT THE SACRED CITY OF MECCA. FROM PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY A VISITOR WHO PAID FOR IT WITH HIS LIFE.

Photograph of Holy Zemzem that Cost a Life.

world. It is toward this building that all Mohammedans in every part of the world turn when they say their prayers.

"I found an immense mob of pilgrims congregated in the square. The greater number of them were lounging or squatting about, discussing the incidents of their pilgrimage. Some were reciting portions of the Koran, and new arrivals were going through the ceremony of marching solemnly seven times round the Kaaba. In this I had to take part. Then I was taken up by Abdullah to kiss the sacred black stone which is set in silver at one of the corners of the Kaaba. This is one of the most important parts of the ritual connected with a visit to Mecca, for the stone is supposed to confer all sorts of good fortune upon those who press their lips upon it.

"The next business was to accompany a band of pilgrims on a procession of some four miles, seven times round a holy portico outside the mosque. We went at a great pace, and the day was growing hot. I began to feel the consequences of my insufficient food during the pilgrimage. When the procession was over we came back to the mosque, and were each given a bowl of limpid water.

"I was so thirsty that I drank mine down at a draught and asked for more, which, I noticed, produced a very good impression, for, as I learned afterward, this was the sacred water of Zemzem, which an infidel cannot drink without being choked in the process.

"A detailed description of all the various ceremonies at Mecca would be beyond the scope of the present article, but I must not omit to mention my visit to Muna, which is one of the strangest and the most famous of the sights of the place. It is the place where, every year, on the festival of Kurban Baitam, each head of a family must slay a sheep in memory of the sacrifice of Abraham. Millions go through this ceremony all the world over, but it is their great ambition to perform it at Muna, and the great mass of pilgrims arrange their journey so as to be there on the right day.

"The ceremony there is probably one of the most extraordinary to be seen in the world. Hundreds of thousands of sheep are imported from all parts of Arabia for the purpose, and many people have asserted that the putrefaction of the bodies after the sacrifice is one of the main causes of the cholera which so often has its origin at the pilgrimage. This, however, I believe to be an error. As only one sheep is killed for each family, the meat is nearly all either eaten up or taken away, and the bones, which are left, though they suggest an immense open-air charnel house, do not cause any danger to health.

"If the holiness of sheep is not dangerous to health, the same cannot be said of the practice of bathing in the fountain of Zobaida, a kind of tank in a narrow valley near Muna. Every pilgrim, whatever his state of health, is expected to take a plunge here, and, as the water supply of Mecca passes through the tank, infection may be easily and rapidly spread. Many writers have ignorantly confused this tank with the fountain of Zemzem, but this, which is supposed to have supplied Hagar with water when she was perishing in the desert, is situated in the court of the big mosque, and is as clear as crystal."