

ENTERPRISE

EVANSVILLE, WIS., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1891.

LOUIS ST CYR IS A GIANT. Canada's Strong Man Distances all Competitors.

LONDON, Nov. 18.—An enormous crowd gathered at the South London Palace in order to witness the attempt of the famous strong man, Louis Cyr, to break the weight-lifting record of the world. Cyr's backer offered a 1,000 pounds to any man who would do the feats that Cyr was about to perform. The modern Goliath then lifted 104-pound dumbbell above his shoulder with his right hand. Then he lifted one weighing 242 pounds in the same way with both hands. His third feat consisted in elevating a barrel contain-



LOUIS ST. CYR.

ing 280 pounds of cement with his left hand, and, aided by the thigh, he raised it to his chest and then to his shoulder. This evoked a tremendous degree of excitement and drew forth cheer after cheer.

Finally, putting on a harness to which a frame was attached, he lifted a weight of 2,619 pounds, at which everybody became still more excited, and so contagious was this feeling that even Samson, a rival strong man, became imbued with it. He, however, declared that Cyr's right-hand lifting was not the same as Sandow's, as the former bent his arm. Cyr's backer offered Samson £100 to rival either feat; but that worthy declined the offer, saying he was obliged to go away.

cl
w
at
pi
dr
or
he
He
Pa
Fi
Mr.
T
anc
go
its
col
the
siri
opi
T
fol
P
thi
fin
upo
all
loo
duc
Fif
Ea
the
pr
lo
la
—
Yo
tha
eve
stat
col
put
silt
for
of
par
I
000
bar
tio
str
col
of
pri
to
sal
to
ty
las
res
pos
by
ev
va
opi
tion
thes
know

THE SPORTING LIFE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1891.

NEW FEATS BY LOUIS CYR.

Quite a representative gathering went on the South London Palace stage last night to test Louis Cyr's dumb-bells, and among them was a young man named William Cassidy, who lifted the 242 lb dumb-bell a couple of feet off the floor with his right hand. He was warmly congratulated by Cyr on his natural strength. The Canadian introduced a new feat last night. While lying on his back the Canadian picked up the 104 lb bell, and after twisting about with it for a little while he rose to an erect position without the least exertion. The horses gave him a great tussle, and when he let go of the animals he could scarcely move his arms, so great had been the strain. Those who got on the platform were—James Mcnaman, George Thomas, Thomas Rowe, W. Hancok, W. Cassidy, J. Dennis, T. Browning, D. Balaudine, T. Webb, W. Rose, G. Smith, B. Hyams, H. Beardmore, and H. Cooke. Frank Hinds officiated as M.C. with his customary efficiency.

THE FOOTBALL

THE SPORTING LIFE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1891.

AMPTON MAIDEN vs. for horses that have

MANCHESTER NEW YEAR'S STEEPLE

that W. G. East is the best of our scullers, but it is doubtful whether he would have much chance with those from Greater Britain.

The Wingfield Sculls did not produce a contest this year. For J. C. Gardner, the holder, resigned, and Guy Nickalls, being the only challenger, rowed over, and is once again the amateur champion of the Thames.

On the Continent, an Amateur Sculling Championship of Holland was won by Mr. J. K. Ooms, Mr. F. Beddington, of the Thames Rowing Club, being one of the competitors at Amsterdam.

The obituary of the year has, unfortunately, been a heavy one. At the extreme end of last December the death occurred of Mr. Charles Hammersley, who was one of the best known frequenters of the river. For some years he entertained the Oxford crew while they had about a week's practice on the Cookham waters, after leaving the Isis, and before coming to Putney.

THE SPORTING LIFE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1891

CYR'S HORSES ARE POOR PULLERS.

For the first time in his life Louis Cyr, the powerful Canadian, found his great strength set at naught at the South London Palace last night. The "Kannok" was advertised to pull two horses weighing 1,600lb each, but when it came to the crucial test one of the animals would not pull at all, and the other having things all his own way, made Cyr slip all over the stage.

We shall best deal in detail with the performances of both professionals and amateurs.

WEIGHT LIFTING.

LOUIS CYR AT THE "SPORTING LIFE" OFFICE.

HE CALLS A MEETING FOR TO-DAY, AND CHALLENGES ALL THE WEIGHT LIFTERS.

Louis Cyr managed to find his way to our Office yesterday afternoon, despite the dense fog, of which he had to tell a tale as dismal as the weather. Naturally, upon a stranger to our fickle and wretched climate at this time of the year the terrible atmosphere has a most depressing effect, and, in consequence, Cyr, with his enormous bulk, suffers greatly in mind and body, having lost two stone in weight, as well as his appetite.

KIKI AND PROFESSOR ATTILA.

A gentleman wishes to back Kiki, the amateur weight lifter, for £100 against Professor Attila, and has deposited £10 as forfeit on the part of Kiki.

A CHRISTMAS BOX FOR SAMPSON.

Romulus, a pupil of Attila, aged nineteen, has deposited a bar and two dumbbells at the Sporting Life Office, either of which he undertakes to lift over his head. Attila will wager Sampson £100 that he cannot lift the bar, weighing only 270lb, three feet from the ground.

Anyone interested in weight lifting can call at this office and test the weights. Attila informs Sampson once for all that he will not meet him at the Westminster Aquarium, but is open to do so anywhere else. In the event of a match being ratified between them the whole of the gate money is to be given to some charitable institution.

LOUIS CYR IN HAMMERSMITH.

During the past ten days Louis Cyr has been delighting and instructing the Hammersmith people by his marvellous feats of strength. Night after night he has gone on breaking records until it makes one's head swim to keep track of them.

INTERNATIONAL TUG OF WAR.

(DAILY MAIL'S CHALLENGE)



excused himself, and had evidently just done justice to a solid repast.

On the table was the remains of what had no doubt been a Porterhouse steak.

And, without a word of exaggeration, that steak must have been three inches thick.

"Good appetite, Mr. Cyr?" I inquired.

"Well, yes; I can peck a bit. Have to keep up the stamina, you know. Have been over at the hall practising all the morning. Rare work to make you hungry."

He asked me to take a bite, and, when I declined, he said, "Well, just take a cigar, and we'll have a quiet little chat."

Cyr speaks English capitally, with just a slight French accent, and a pronounced American twang.

He is of pure French extraction.

Born in St. John's, Quebec, in 1863.

That makes him twenty-eight years of age.

His grandfather, on the maternal side, was born in Paris, and weighed over twenty-three stone, whilst his mother's weight is only a trifle under nineteen stone.

She is immensely strong, and only a few years ago was able to pick up a barrel of flour and carry it up two flights of steps.

So you see, as far as the mother's side goes, he comes from a pretty sturdy stock.

His father's family were not quite so colossal, although fairly big men and women.

His father, however, would bring down the scale at sixteen stone, so he was no pigmy.

It was only natural then that Master Cyr should turn out an exceptionally strong offspring.

That he did so was very soon discovered, for when at school, as quite a youngster, he was master of all the lads.

At the age of fourteen there were few men who could cope with him, and at that early age his muscular development was extraordinary.

His parents were living at Montreal when he left school, and the question was what should they make of this young Hercules.

Well, ultimately it was decided that he should enter the police service.

He was about seventeen at this time, and his strength had increased in a marvellous manner.

He soon showed what a valuable acquisition he was to the force. Therefore, they sent him to do duty in the roughest and most disturbed district of Montreal.

St. Caneyonde, I understood him to say.

A place something like our Ratcliffe Highway in the rough old palmy days, when the pubs remained open there all night.

He made so many captures, and quelled such a number of disturbances, that he soon received substantial recognition from the authorities.

He was paid double salary, and used to do the work of three.

Naturally, he was not very popular amongst the roughs.

So they made up their minds to settle him.

Accordingly, six or seven picked men waited upon him one dark night, and went for him with sticks and belts.

He was frightfully cut about, and can show you the scars of the wounds he received about the forehead now.

It must have been a desperate fight, but in the end his pluck and superior strength was too much for the cowards.

Three out of the six made their escape more or less hurt.

One of the others he had picked up and dashed upon the ground rendering him senseless.

The other two he nipped round the waist until they screamed in agony.

He was just making off with the two he had captured, when he compassionately thought of the poor injured devil on the ground.

He therefore changed over his prisoners to the left hand, and holding them both firmly with one hand by the collars,

Picked up the senseless man with his right arm and threw him over his shoulder.

It must have been a curious sight to see this marvellous man with his senseless burden and captives going down the dark streets of Montreal on that dark night.

The blood from the wounds in his forehead running down and nigh blinding him.

He dropped the injured man in at the hospital as he passed, and took his prisoners to the station.

St. Cyr, however, was very much cut about, and had himself to go to the hospital.

This, and many other episodes during his service with the police, made him very popular, and, after the event described, he was left unmolested.

He had been a custodian of the police for nearly two years, when an incident happened which called attention to his immensity of strength.

One day he was on duty in one of the chief thoroughfares when a cart laden with bricks came to grief.

The horse fell down and the shafts were broken.

They succeeded in getting the horse free from the harness.

But what was to be done with the cart.

There it stood right in the line of traffic.

It was suggested that the bricks be unloaded.

"Stand on one side," said the muscular young policeman.

Divesting himself of his coat, and handing his hat to somebody standing by,

He crouched under the cart, and, pressing up with his great broad shoulders,

The bricks, cart and all were lifted foot by foot until they were moved right on to the side walk.

The applause of the crowd collected was tremendous.

Some gentlemen who had witnessed this performance were so astonished that they had the whole lot weighed.

The weight that he had lifted was found to be a little over 2,100 lbs.

That feat of strength determined his career.

He left the police and at once entered into show business.

By steady practice with the dumbbells and proper training, his muscular powers gradually increased to the enormous dimensions of to-day.

He related many adventures of his show life throughout the continent of America.

For until now he had never been away from there, and he told me of the many strong men who have attempted to compete with him.

All unsuccessfully—every one.

The toughest customer he ever had to deal with in lifting to the shoulder was a Captain Burst.

Good name that.

On one occasion, when in New Brunswick, Burst offered to bet him 200 dollars that he would not lift the same weight on to his shoulder that the Captain would.

"Done," said Cyr, and the money was put up.

This feat was not to take place at an exhibition, but on board one of the ships laying off where they were.

Now, Burst, was what you might call a "wopper."

He stood 6 ft. 7 in.,

And, unlike the generality of giants, he was a broad-shouldered, muscular individual.

So to the ship they repaired with the stakeholder, referees, and a few acquaintances.

Aboard the vessel was an anchor weighing exactly 800 lbs.

Burst picked up this pretty little toy, and placed it with apparently not much difficulty on to his shoulder.

It remained there for about a minute, during which time the wonderment and applause was great.

The anchor was then taken from his shoulder by six men, and replaced upon the deck.

Then came St. Cyr's turn, and the betting was 2 to 1 against him.

He had never attempted such a feat before.

Yet, nothing daunted, he grasped the anchor, and,

Just off the London Road there is a quiet, respectable thoroughfare known as Gladstone Street.

Last Friday afternoon I knocked at the door of one of the neat little houses there, and asked for M. St. Cyr.

My card was taken into the front parlour, and immediately I heard a cheery voice shout out:—

"Come in, sir; come in."

As I entered, a great mass of humanity arose from a chair, and greeted me with a hearty shake of the hand.

It was very hearty, I can assure you, and I have not quite got over the grip yet, as the printer can testify by my scarcely legible copy.

This was the first time I had seen Louis Cyr.

He was sitting in his shirt sleeves, for which he politely

THE LICENSED
 VICTUALLERS'
 MIRROR

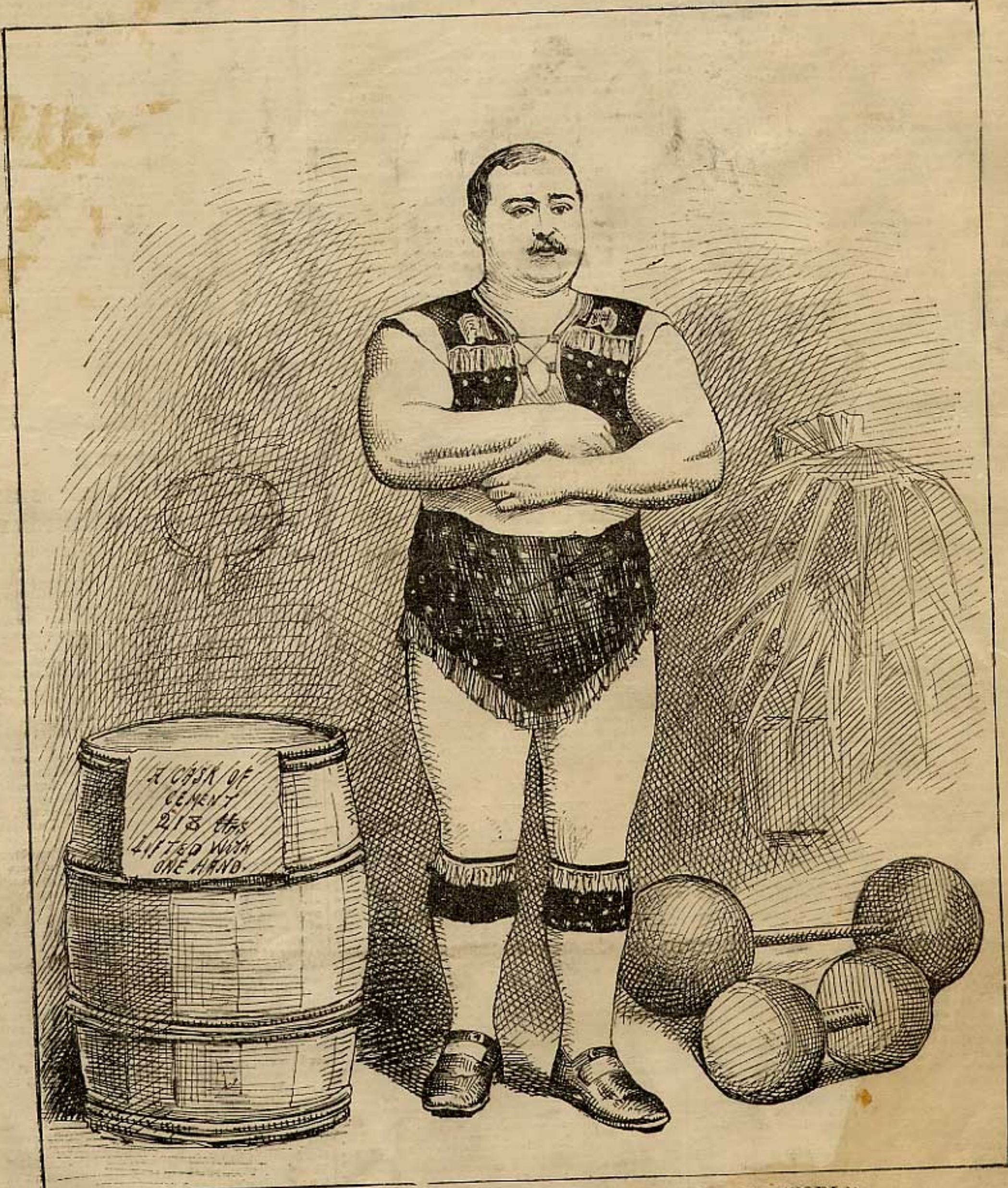


REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

Vol. IV.—No. 290.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1891.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
PRICE ONE PENNY



M. LOUIS ST. CYR, THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD
 SEE "FLASHES FROM THE FOOTLIGHTS," PAGE 563.



Dec. 5, 1881

MOND... hustle ever since he signed his contract. He has corralled King, the Pittsburg pitcher—a good catch—and he has now started to get Hess, the crack-catcher of...

MODERN SAMSONS' FEATS.

Some Wonderful Performances of Strong Men.

LOUIS CYR IN ENGLAND.

The "Police Gazette" Champion Backed by Richard K. Fox.

BRITISH PUBLIC INTERESTED.

(SUBJECT OF ILLUSTRATION.)

One of the branches of athletic sports in which great interest is manifested is heavy-weight lifting and other feats of strength. Nearly every country is represented by a champion strong man. The modern Samsons, like actors, writers and professionals of all classes, have their specialties. One of these champions' forte is breaking cable chains, another catching a cannon ball, while another can only lift dead weight or bend iron bars. Very few can successfully accomplish every feat of strength that has been performed; for instance, Chas. P. Blatt excels in breaking steel horseshoes with his bare hands, and consequently he blooms during his season as a champion. Blatt also catches cannon balls fired from a howitzer. The cannon ball is heavier than the one Sparks, Holten and other athletes, who have gained fame by the feat, catch, consequently he is a dual champion at horseshoe breaking and cannon ball catching. Blatt could not compete with many of the other strong men in their species of feats of strength, neither would they stand any chance of defeating Blatt in his line.

Sebastian Miller, the German Hercules, has his own specialty; that is breaking heavy paving stones with his fist, and he has no equal. Miller is also a heavy lifter. He can lift 1,000 pounds with a cross bar and chain, put up 200-pound dumbbells, but in a general competition he would not win the championship, but he would be able to score a few points.

Sandow (Montgomery) is an English Hercules, who has a specialty of bending coins and performs very

up by Richard K. Fox for £500 to £1,000, has created quite a furor on the other side of the Atlantic. Should the American champion succeed in arranging a match with Eugene Sandow, Samson or Hercules, the result will be looked for with considerable interest. Sandow is the strongest man in England or the European continent.

The following special cable will give an idea of the sensation Cyr is creating in England:

LONDON, Nov. 15. An enormous crowd gathered at the South London Palace last night in order to witness the attempt of the famous strong man, Louis Cyr, to break the weight lifting record of the world. Cyr was backed up by Mr. Richard K. Fox, who offered £1,000 to any man who would do the feats that Cyr was about to perform. The modern Goliath lifted a 104 pound dumbbell above his shoulder with his right hand. Then he



SANDOW.

lifted one weighing 242 pounds in the same way with both hands. His third feat consisted in elevating a barrel containing 280 pounds of cement with his left hand, and aided by his thigh he raised it to his chest and then on to his shoulder. This evoked a tremendous degree of excitement and drew forth cheer after cheer from the delighted spectators.

Finally, putting on a harness to which a frame was attached, he lifted a weight of 2,619 pounds, at which everybody became still more excited, and so contagious was the feeling that even Samson, a rival strong man, became imbued with it. He, however, declared that Cyr's right hand lifting was not the same as Sandow's, as the former bent his arm.

Upon this, without a moment's delay, Mr. Fox offered Sandow £100 to rival either feat, but that worthy declined the offer, saying he was obliged to go away. And he went accompanied by jeers, hisses and ironical cheers of the audience, which was convinced that Cyr is beyond doubt the champion strong man of the world.



LOUIS CYR.

clever tricks at lifting dumbbells. He gives a first-class exhibition but would not secure a prize in a general competition.

Cyclops, the Polish champion's, forte is putting up dumbbells of all sizes, description and weight. He is no doubt one of the best at this competition, and he can put up a dumbbell weighing 232 pounds with one hand, but there are strong men who could probably best him in this competition. Cyclops performs other feats, and he may be classed as one of the leading strong men of the present time.

Ajax, whose correct name is John Whitman, is a veritable wonder. His specialty is lifting heavy weights with his teeth and pushing heavy weights. Whitman has lifted 400 pounds with the aid of a strap and mouth piece with his teeth. He has pushed a freight car weighing 24,000. In these feats Ajax has no equal, but in a general competition he would have no chance of winning the championship except in his special line.

Samson, the strong man who made such a sensation four years ago in this country and in England, has a specialty among his other feats of dumbbell lifting, that is chain breaking, but there are other athletes who can compete with him in this specialty. Nevertheless, Samson has the reputation of being one of the foremost strong men of the present time.

J. W. Kennedy is a native born American strong man. His specialty is breaking leather thongs by chest inflation and heavy weight lifting. It was Kennedy who won the heavy weight lifting championship trophy offered by Richard K. Fox by lifting the "Police Gazette" dumbbell, which weighed 1,030 pounds, after all other athletes who tried to raise the ponderous iron failed.

Probably the two strongest men in the world to-day in all-round competition of heavy weight lifting are Louis Cyr, the American champion, and Eugene Sandow. Cyr has demonstrated his claim to the championship by putting up a 265-pound dumbbell and lifting nearly 4,000 pounds with the use of his hands and his back. Besides he accomplishes other wonderful feats of hand lifting, and he is credited with lifting 3,240 with harness, and lifting 380 pounds with one finger. Sandow performs similar feats and probably ranks next to Cyr as the strongest man in the world.

Louis Cyr's arrival in England, the wonderful feats he recently performed in public in London, and his challenge to lift weights against Sandow, Hercules, Milo, Dubois, Samson or any man in the world, backed

Appreciation de la Police Gazette sur rivant de Cyr - Voir illustration, page 85.

Handwritten notes and signatures, including '3 times' and 'Duro'.