

ATHLETICS.

Cyr's Weight Lifting.

To the Sporting Editor of the GAZETTE.

Sir,—In answer to the few insinuations tending to show that weight of the bells lifted by Louis Cyr at the Lyceum were not correct, also the fine words (he simply kisses his hand and the world is his), I think that Louis Cyr could command the world quicker, by his lifting; than would the writer of that article by his fine words. It seems apparent that the writer is entirely gone on scales. We do not like to let the public know of that mean prejudice against Louis Cyr, but as by his own actions he pushes us to it.

We would like to ask him why did he not call for scales when strangers came to Canada. Cyclops and Sandow exhibited on the same stage, men who had no reputation whatever, and who pretended to be the strongest men on earth. They were not Canadians, no danger of scales; but here comes Louis Cyr, a Canadian citizen of Montreal, who has made a record in Montreal, beating the world. "The same can be found in the New York *Clipper* annual almanach." A man returning from a trip to England, the undisputed champion of the world, after making new records in public and against all the strong men of England and getting justice, and here is a man who carries his prejudice far enough to insult Louis Cyr and all Canadians in their own country. The writer of that article shows the smallest possible knowledge of sport. Just think, because a man has broken the world's record as a weight lifter he will be obliged to repeat these records every week to satisfy a man who would not give him credit even then. As to doing credit to himself and his nationality, I would like to have the writer to point out any athlete who has done as much for his country as Louis Cyr; he also done greater justice to the writer than he received for his hard toil and labor. But we will beg pardon for him towards the public, and we will try to think that the man was not himself when he directed his pen in writing the insulting line. I know that Louis Cyr's reputation is sufficiently solid to counterbalance that one man, who, I must say, is not a believer of the truth, and who would not like to see a Canadian stand at the head of the world.

In conclusion, I would beg to state that Louis Cyr will repeat, in Montreal, at any time, what he has done in England or anywhere else for any sum of money that the writer of that article or his friends chooses to put up, allowing them to use the so much talked of scales as much as they like.

ALPHONSE J. LABATTE,  
 Manager for L. Cyr.  
 Montreal, April 8, 1892.





tion of treasurer. The leading candidates were Thomas F. Bailey, '94, of Pennsylvania; George S. Farnum, '94, of Pennsylvania, and James M. Thompson, '94, of Albany, N. Y. Thompson was elected.

#### ATHLETICS.

##### Cyr Lifts Two Hundred and Seventy-Three And a Quarter Pounds.

That the spirit of emulation is rampant among the strong men goes without saying, says *Sporting Life*, and when Little Romulus made his great one-handed lift of 189 lbs. he set the other strong men practising feats which would also form records. Eugene Sandow was the first to break the ice by putting up a dumb-bell weighing 269 lbs. Then Louis Cyr announced his intention of showing the most marvellous one-handed lift that had ever been seen, and to the attainment of that end he had his biggest bell loaded up until it drew the beam at 273 1/4 lbs, and on Thursday night the Canadian essayed the task of putting these figures on the record book. After a representative committee had been invited on the stage at the Royal Aquarium, the weighing process was gone through. A Sinclair was installed clerk of the scales, and the weighing operation was watched by the Brothers Spencer, W. Bush (of the Athletic Institute), F. Pfau (the strong amateur), Professor Attila, Remus and Romulus, Achille, Milo, and "Privateer," representing the *Sporting Life*.

When the preliminaries had been gone through Cyr grasped the bell and lifted it on to his thigh, then with a mighty effort he raised the immense piece of iron to his left shoulder. It was quickly shifted to the right shoulder, and then the big bell was gradually raised in the air, and the athlete's body followed the weight. Before the body could be got perfectly straight the bell turned in Cyr's hand, and the big piece had to be dropped to the floor. The majority of those present were in favor of giving Cyr the record, but the Canadian stated that he wished the feat to go on the record books without the possibility of cavil, and so waived his claim to the record. After a short rest Cyr tried the feat again, and almost got upright, but his strength had been severely taxed, and he had to let the bell drop just as he touched the record. For the third time he grasped the mass of iron and held it between heaven and earth until it seemed as though the arm must break off short at the elbow. Shaking his head Cyr said:

"It's no use, I have done too much work to-day, besides I have not fully recovered from my recent accident. The next time I try this feat there will be no doubt about it. I will hold the bell up while the spectators can count ten."

When Cyr claimed that he had done too much work during the day he returned to his practice with the 273 1/4-pound bell, which he had put up four times, and when remonstrated with for his foolishness he replied:

"That's all right. I have not shown you what I can do yet; wait until some one makes a match with me. It will not be the 276-pound that will stop me."

Many celebrities have got on the Canadian's back during the past week, and on Wednesday night he came within a few pounds of his record. The weight lifted on this occasion was 3516 pounds. Among those who got on the platform were: E. F. Pfau, 20 st. 7 lbs.; E. Read, 14 st. 2 lbs.; W. Taylor, C. Morelton, W. Catter-Mole, H. Wright, G. Galloway, F. James, D. Cross, W. Sheppard, "Remus," H. Vernon, Peter Cyr, E. Smith, 13 st. 13 lbs.; F. Blundell and A. West, 20 st.; F. Carr, C. Thorn, A. Heusters, T. Parkinson, B. Paine, "Romulus," A. Spelden, E. Oxley, S. Waite, P. Saelly, Dan Sullivan and E. Romain.

##### Cyr's Four New Records.

When Louis Cyr failed to put up the 273 1/4 lb. dumb-bell at the Royal Aquarium on Thursday night, many people thought that he would have to take a long rest after his terrible ordeal, but instead of doing this, the gigantic Canadian practised the feat until he had it perfect, and last night he put the enormous weight above his head at the first trial. The *modus operandi* of getting the bell up, was as follows: Grasping the 273 1/4 lbs. of iron with the right hand alone, he raised it to his thigh, and then got it to his shoulder. Then, getting a good grip on the bell, he slowly pressed it in the air until the arm was perfectly straight and the athlete's body was erect. It was a splendid and clean performance, and the spectators and committee on the stage loudly applauded. Cyr for his great record, which beats that made by himself in America (265 lbs.) by 8 1/4 lbs. Cyr was not content with this performance, but he essayed another one—viz., that of elevating a bar bell weighing 301 lb, using two hands in the achievement of this new record. The bell was raised from the floor to the chest with one motion, and then slowly pressed to arm's stretch above the head. It is far ahead of anything ever shown by any other athlete.

After Cyr had taken a little rest he tried two more records. With one sweep from the ground he raised to arm's stretch above his head a dumb-bell weighing 174 1/2 lb. The right hand only was used. Then the same feat was successfully tried with the left hand, making two more world's records. The bells were weighed on the stage in full view of every one, and a committee of twenty-five gentlemen watched the weights and scales. Among them were: W. Graham Simpson (the artist and amateur strong man) who tested the weights in every possible manner, W. T. Montague, of the Duke of Westminster, York road, Battersea, and his son, T. Montague, also tested the weights and scales. G. Bennett, J. Martell, E. Chidley, 33, Whittington-road, Bowes Park, N., Professor Attila, J. Spelden, Greek George, the wrestler, Milo, the strong man, Archie Sinclair, and Mr. Ritchie, the Chairman of the Aquarium, watched the weights and scales, which were checked by "Privateer," representing the *Sporting Life*. In conversation with the mighty Canadian, after his great exertions, he was asked if he thought he had reached the limit of his powers, and he replied: "By no means. I will not rest until I put up 280 lb. with one hand from the floor, and 325 lb. with my two hands. I will beat many records yet, and when I leave England I will put figures on the record books that will take many years to wipe out. I have come to the conclusion that no one will make a match with me, so I might just as well wipe out all other people's records, and have an unbroken list all to myself."—*Sporting Life*.



Utica, Fonda, Schenectady, Albany, and then to this city. Relays of two men will be in readiness at each point to relieve the couriers and carry the messages to the following city. The distance by road is about 1000 miles. It is expected that the journey will consume five days. The men calculate at travelling at the rate of ten miles an hour, but in some places a rate of fifteen and eighteen miles an hour will possibly be maintained. Each relay will have from ten to fifteen miles to cover. The following is the schedule:

Date.	Cities.	Time.	Miles.
May 18.....	Chicago.....	1.00 p. m.	101
May 18.....	Elkhart.....	1.00 p. m.	126
May 19.....	Ligonier.....	1.00 a. m.	246
May 19.....	East Toledo.....	1.00 p. m.	357
May 19.....	Cleveland.....	12.00 p. m.	412
May 20.....	Ashtabula.....	5.30 a. m.	453
May 20.....	Erie.....	9.30 a. m.	484
May 20.....	Westfield.....	1.00 p. m.	501
May 20.....	Dunkirk.....	2.45 p. m.	549
May 20.....	Buffalo.....	7.45 p. m.	576
May 20.....	Batavia.....	11.15 a. m.	609
May 21.....	Rochester.....	3.35 a. m.	644
May 21.....	Lyons.....	8.00 a. m.	689
May 21.....	Syracuse.....	10.30 a. m.	728
May 21.....	Rome.....	2.00 p. m.	742
May 21.....	Utica.....	3.15 p. m.	829
May 21.....	Fonda.....	8.15 p. m.	875
May 21.....	Schenectady.....	11.00 p. m.	875
May 22.....	Albany.....	12.45 a. m.	875
May 22.....	New York.....	2.00 p. m.	875

ATHLETICS.

The World Champion, Louis Cyr, at the Lyceum.

Louis Cyr is evidently, and very properly too, still a great favorite with Montrealers. The large audience last night at the Lyceum gave him quite an ovation, on his first appearance in public since his return from England. The British public never tired of seeing him, and he will leave again for England on the first of October, having a seven-weeks engagement at the world-famed Alhambra, Leicester Square, London, commencing on October 17, after which he will cross the channel to France, at the city of which, Paris, he will exhibit his strength at the great Hippodrome. He will be accompanied by an apt pupil of his, Lebatte. The programme, last evening, was varied and most successful and pleasing from start to finish, and will be altered each night during the coming week. When the curtain rose for the first time Messrs. Barre and Lebatte came forward and gave a capital exhibition of weight lifting, the dumb bells and bar bells used by them weighing as follows: Barre used 210 lbs., 120 lbs., 135 lbs.; Lebatte, 175 lbs., 110 lbs. and 51 lbs. After some fine lifting by either, Barre mounted on Lebatte's ponderous shoulders and leaning backwards raised the 170 lbs. barbell from the ground, until he was almost upright, and then falling slowly backward replaced it on the floor. The last performance by the two was placing the same barbell at the balance on Lebatte's back. Barre stood upon his shoulders and easily raised the 110 lbs. at arm's length. Frank Piette next gave a very finished performance on the horizontal bars. Several of his feats were wonderful, and well deserving of the applause that greeted them. Louis Cyr then appeared in company with his wife. His appearance was the signal for great cheering. He was looking wonderfully well in spite of a severe cold from which he is suffering. It is unnecessary to repeat the high records he holds, as the readers of the STAR have already been made acquainted with them. Cyr was dressed in a light fitting costume of green, faced with red, upon which "Canada" is embroidered over the English ensign. After an introductory speech from Mr. Barre, Madame Cyr mounted a short ladder and Louis easily raised both at arm's length and balanced them on his chin. Dinelle, a newcomer from Quebec, next thoroughly amazed the spectators with his contortionist display. Louis Cyr then wound up the performance by a general exhibition of weight lifting. Commencing on his knees, he raised two bells, one weighing 104 lbs., the other 80 lbs. Holding the one at arm's length, he raised the other up and down from the shoulder. Then he raised the 251 lbs. easily with his right. This represents the world's record other than his own. Next he showed his wonderful strength from the ground, straight arms, raising the 181 lbs. bell with apparent ease. He next gave a splendid display with the 220 lbs. barbell in a kneeling position, before showing one of his old feats, that of loading a barrel of flour weighing 218 lbs. On this occasion, however, the barrel was filled with gravel and weighed 288 lbs. Nevertheless, the Canadian Hercules easily lifted this ponderous load upon his shoulder, and then proceeded gaily to exhibit a world's record by holding out 88 lbs. from his left shoulder. Before closing, fifteen of the audience were requested to come on to the stage and stand on a massively bound platform. They were very bashful, however, and only a dozen responded; in all these weighed 2512 lbs. Louis Cyr raised them three times easily. Fifty dollars is offered to anybody during the week by Cyr if he can disprove the weights as announced, but the STAR representative was favored with an inspection of the bells used, and it is needless to add that there is no "fake" in them.

In an interview with Louis Cyr after the performance, he explained his action in regard to various spurious challenges that are appearing from time to time in the New York papers. He wrote to Mr. Fox, of New York, yesterday, that he was anxious and willing to meet any man in the world at weight lifting if that gentleman would kindly guarantee his challenge, made by a deposit with Mr. Fox, which Cyr would at once cover, but, as the latter quaintly remarked, he was afraid that his rivals won't do it, so he must content himself by breaking his own records, as there was no one to rival him even nearly.

PISCATORIAL.

Small Catches Here and There.

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THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

Louis Cyr, the N.Y. Police Gazette champion, who is now appearing at the Grand Theatre, Liverpool, to crowded audiences, is voted by the Lancastrians the most extraordinary weight lifter in the world, and the Liverpool Football Echo of January 2 has published some interesting particulars respecting his career, which we extract, feeling assured they will prove interesting to many of our readers.

Louis Cyr, who is a British subject, was born in St. John's, Quebec, in 1863. That makes him twenty-eight years of age. His grandfather, on the maternal side, weighed over 23st, whilst his mother's weight is only a trifle under 10st. 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 far as his mother's side goes, therefore, 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, brings down the scale at 16st. It was only natural Master Cyr when at school 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 the time, and his strength had increased in a marvellous manner. He soon showed what a valuable acquisition he was to the force. He was sent to do duty in the roughest and most disturbed district of Montreal. 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 roughest. 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 were 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 ripped 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 throw 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 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. 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 sidewalk. 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 2,100lb. 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. The toughest customer he ever had to deal with in lifting to the shoulder was a Captain Burst. On one occasion when in New Brunswick Burst offered to bet him 200dols. 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 were they were. Now Burst was what you might call a "wopper." He stood 6ft. 7in., and, unlike the generality of giants, he was a broad-shouldered, muscular individual. So to the ship they repaired with the stakeholder, referee, and a few acquaintances. Aboard the vessel was an anchor weighing exactly 800lb. 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 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 little by little worked it up to his hip, and, after a desperate struggle, managed to get it on to his shoulder. It was a near thing, however, and nothing like so easily done as by his opponent. Never mind, he had got it there. "Now," said Cyr to the captain, "just you get up and straddle across my shoulders." After some persuasion, this he was induced to do, and Cyr, to the blank amazement of the crowd, especially his opponent, walked round the deck. This so astonished Burst that he shook him by the hand and said, "Well, now, you're the first man I've ever given best to on that feat." And the 200dols. were paid over to Cyr. There is only one man that he has met who was spiteful and aggressive through jealousy of his superior powers. That man was a man named Parker. Outside the hall where he was showing the heavy dumbbells were exhibited, Cyr offered to anybody who could lift with one hand the 100lb weight 10dols. Parker came along, and said he could do it, but failed. He was so mad about it that he swore that Cyr himself could not accomplish the feat. Of course our friend laughed at him. "Look here," he said, "I'll bet you fifty dollars that I'll put the weight up at arm's length over my head. Right here on this spot." "Done," said Parker, and the money was accordingly put up. And so was the dumbbell, much to the surprise and annoyance of the incredulous aspirant. He became so enraged that he was abusive, and after a wordy warfare, in which the weapons used were called from anything but choice language, Parker struck Cyr. In an instant he was in the arms of the modern Hercules. He gave him a squeeze that made all his ribs crack, then hurled him into the middle of the road. Crash he came down, and there lay until he was taken away to the hospital with an injury to his back. "And that's the only time," said Cyr, "that I ever came to blows and struggle since I took to exhibiting."

Burst





**THE MODERN SAMSON.**

Mr. Louis Cyr, the strongest man in the world, is making a tour of the Townships, giving exhibitions of his Samson-like strength. He has a lifting record of 3533 pounds and he plays with 245lb. dumb bells with the same ease that the ordinary man would with those weighing 25 pounds. His feats of strength are simply marvellous and they have surprised the wide world. Mr. Cyr was born at St. Johns 24 years ago. He has blonde hair, a frank, open countenance, is of a medium height, but has a giant frame and muscles like iron. He is a handsome man and popular with everybody with whom he comes in contact. Mr. Cyr has a capital troupe with him and gives a most attractive entertainment, one of the principal features of which is a sparring match between Mr. Cyr himself and Edmond Bellehumeur, the champion boxer of Canada. Another number of the programme is a sparring bout between Mr. Bellehumeur and "Samson" Cyr's brother. In addition there will be a flying trapeze performance by Messrs. Milton and Savard, two of the best performers in the profession. Music will be supplied by a good orchestra. Mr. Cyr may be sure of a good reception in the Townships, whither his fame has preceded him. He will give \$1000 to any person in the world who will duplicate one of his marvellous feats of strength. Mr. Cyr has made the following dates:—Knowlton Tuesday 27th March; Magog 28th March; Eastman 29th March; Granby 30th March; Waterloo 1st April; Cowansville 2nd April; Sutton, 3rd April.

**BELLEVILLE, ONT, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 1891.****The Strongest Man in the World.**

Louis Cyr's Combination gave the most marvellous entertainment last night ever given in this city. Mr. Cyr after exhibiting a fine Gold Champion Belt presented him in Montreal began his feats of strength by lifting over his head with one hand a dumb bell weighing 245 lbs then lifted with one finger the enormous weight of 477 lbs after which he shouldered a barrel of flour weighing 215 lbs with one hand without the help of his knees, Mr. Cyr then held out square angle with his shoulder a dumb bell weighing 107 lbs with one hand then juggled it up and balanced it on his hand after which he took a man weighing 160 lbs pushed him up at arms length then knelt down sat down and laid down without letting the man touch the floor then rose up again while holding the man in the same position. After juggling a 45 pound cannon ball, he balanced his wife on a ladder on his chin. Although Mr. Cyr weighs 318 lbs he is not clumsy. In a standing high jump he cleared 3ft, 8 inches. Among other specialties were marvellous contortionists, bar performers and clog dancing. Mr. Cyr closed the entertainment by lifting with his back, without harness, the enormous weight of 2,886 lbs. Everyone should go and see the strongest man in the world.

**LEWIS CYR, THE STRONG MAN.****He Breaks Four World's Records at Heavy Lifting.**

Louis Cyr, the French-Canadian, attempted to beat Eugene Sandow's record of lifting a 269-pound dumb-bell at the Royal Aquarium, London, recently. Cyr secured the largest dumb-bell that could be obtained and loaded it up until the beam tipped 273½ pounds. Archie Sinclair, the noted heel and toe walker, was the clerk of the scales.

Cyr grasped the bell and lifted it on to his thigh; then with a mighty effort he raised the immense piece of iron to his left shoulder. It was quickly shifted to the right shoulder, and then the big bell was gradually raised in the air. Before the bell could be got perfectly straight, the bell turned in Cyr's hand, and the big piece had to be dropped to the floor. He tried it again and again, but failed.

A few days afterward Cyr again attempted the feat and was successful. He put up the bell at the first trial. Grasping the 273½ pounds of iron with the right hand alone, he raised it to his thigh, and then got it to his shoulder; then, getting a good grip on the bell, he slowly raised it in the air until the arm was perfectly straight and the athlete's body was erect.

It was a splendid and clean performance, and beat his American feat of putting up 266 pounds.

Cyr was not content with this performance, but he essayed another one; namely, that of elevating a bar bell weighing 301 pounds, using two hands in the achievement of this new record. The bell was raised from the floor to the chest with one motion, then slowly pressed to arms' stretch above the head.

After Cyr had taken a rest he tried two more records. With one sweep from the ground he raised to arm's stretch above his head a dumb-bell weighing 174½ pounds. The right hand only was used.

Then the same feat was successfully tried with the left hand, making two more world's records.

The bells were weighed on the stage in full view of every one, and a committee of 25 gentlemen watched the weights and scales.

ATHLETES OF THE I. A. A. A.

**STRONGER THAN GIANTS.****One Man Lifted a Platform with 18 Men on It.**

There are 30 strong men at least now prominently before the public, says the New York Herald.

Louis Cyr, Samson, Sandow, Cyclops, Kennedy, Ajax, Herrmann, Sebastian Miller, Milo, Marks, Hercules, Dodson, Andrew Hull, Wilson, Ayres, Montgomery and Franz Staher are a few of the best known of the number.

At the head of the list, probably, is Louis Cyr, the Alsatian. Cyr has lifted more dead weight than any man living. He has put up weights in all kinds of ways known, and is believed to have demonstrated his superiority to his brother strong men conclusively.

Some of his most remarkable recent deeds of strength are these: Putting up a dumb bell weighing 102 pounds, lifting it with one hand with ease, and holding it out, horizontal from the shoulder at a perfect right angle to his body.

A little later the same day Cyr lifted a foot from the floor a 102-pound bell, a 212-pound bell and a man weighing 160 pounds with one finger, the aggregate weight of the lot being 474 pounds. This feat is the record of one-finger lifting.

Again that day Cyr balanced his wife, weighing 118 pounds, on his chin. More, Cyr standing on a ladder while he accomplished this act. Since that time Cyr has curled up with one hand a bell weighing 265 pounds, curled the bell fairly from the floor to a full arm's length above his head and not getting under the iron and pushing it up. That also is the record of one hand curling a bell.

But the Alsatian Hercules' most wonderful exhibition of strength was the lifting of a platform holding 18 men a foot clear of the skids, the entire lift registering 3539 pounds.