

March 28-29-1894

PACKED THE HOUSE.

An Overwhelming Ovation Tendered the Cyr Bros. Specialty Company Last Night.

An immense audience visited the Casino rink last night to witness the great feats of strength performed by the Messrs Cyr, Louis and Peter.

The rush began at 7.30 and from that time until 8.15 a constant stream of humanity poured through the double entrance and blocked the platform and walk outside. They were a good natured crowd, but they struggled and pushed and shoved, in their anxious efforts to get inside. The giant form of Louis Cyr, however, acted as a check at the entrance and all were finally safely housed, though many were unable to obtain seats.

The performance opened with a clever balancing act by Mr. John Siror on the trapeze. Mr. Siror is now acting as business manager for Mr. Cyr, and his appearance on the trapeze last night was his first in many weeks. His work under such circumstances is worthy of the highest commendation and is indicative of the high class performance of which he is capable.

He was followed by the Leroux Brothers, Eddie and Arthur in their wonderful double wire act. They are clearly the original and only team of double performers on the slack wire in the country. Arthur afterward appeared in his great single dressing act on the wire, a feat so widely advertised by Barnum and performed in all the leading theatres of the country. The act consists in removing a complete suit of clothes, underneath which the performer wears a handsome trapeze suit. To do this on a slack wire requires a wonderful display of balancing nerve. Eddie Leroux also appeared in his contortion act in which the little fellow tied himself up in knots and made it hard to believe that he has any bones whatever in his body. He was warmly applauded and he deserved it. Having thus briefly reviewed the specialty acts THE TIMES now comes to speak of the modern Sampson and his brother Peter.

The two men appeared upon the stage in wide contrast as to personal appearance. Louis, gigantic, in build, massive in limb and looking every ounce of his 318 pound weight. Peter tall, compactly built and graceful, the muscles of his arms like knots and sinews standing out like coils of iron. He bears a perfect resemblance to John J. Corbett, the world's champion pugilist, and as he is but 19 years old there is in him possibilities that suggest that he will not soon be forgotten.

The great dumb bells which were yesterday the object of so much curiosity, were handled by the two men as though they were jackstraws.

They range in weight from 90 pounds to 273 1/2, which last enormous weight Louis Cyr lifted slowly to his shoulder then raised to arms length above his head. He then performed the wonderful feat of shouldering with one hand a barrel containing 285 pounds of iron ore, an act that must be seen to be appreciated.

Peter Cyr then broke all records, including his own of 525 pounds, by lifting with one finger 559 pounds. He lifted it squarely from the floor and with apparent ease. He then raised with a harness a platform containing ten men altogether weighing 1975 pounds. Louis Cyr then without harness of any kind lifted squarely on his back the platform with its human cargo of 18 men, the total weight being 3,403.

Then came the great test of the evening. A pair of heavy black horses were brought on the stage, the great giant calmly folded his arms, and a horse was hitched on either side. Then at a signal the whip was applied, and the team pulled every pond of which it was capable, to tear the embraced arms apart. "They can't do it! they can't do it!" exclaimed Cyr, and he was right. One of the horses pulled so hard he sank on his knees, and the other horse with its human connection literally dragged the fallen animal to its feet.

Throughout the performance citizens came upon the stage and tested all the apparatus, and closely watched the acts. In every case they found them square, with no attempt to deceive the public. Cyr Bros. don't have to deceive people as to their strength. They have the muscle to do all they advertise, and they do it in every act. The performance will be repeated tonight.

Reserved seats for the performance this evening are on sale at the store of Vannier & Bigelow's, and should be procured early to avoid the rush, last evening many people were utterly unable to get into the house, to say nothing about securing a reserved seat. Secure your seats before hand, and don't miss the performance this evening.

THE BAY CITY TIMES-PRESS, MARCH 23

THE CYR BROTHERS.

They Gave Their Closing Performance Last Evening.

Cyr brothers last evening gave their closing exhibition of marvelous feats of strength before a crowded house. Louis Cyr, among other tests, put up a 255 pound bar bell with his left hand, played with a 118-pound dumbbell as though it was a toy, picked up a barrel of gravel weighing 345 pounds from the floor and shouldered it with one hand, raised twice with his back a platform on which were the 14 largest men in the audience, making a total weight of 3,251 pounds and finally held his own against a 2,800-pound team of horses pulling at each arm. Peter Cyr, aged 19, took from the floor and put up with one hand a dumbbell of 196 pounds, being 28 pounds heavier than himself; picked up and raised the 255-pound bar bell above his head; put up the 118-pound dumb bell twice with his right and left hand; raised from the floor with the middle finger of his right hand 463 1/2 pounds, and in a kneeling position put up a 90-pound weight seven times each with his right and left hand, finally raising with a chain harness a platform with 9 men, making a total weight of 2,146 pounds. Three cheers were given the athletes at the close of the performance.





The Cyr Brothers.

The best satisfied crowd which ever poured out from the Casino was undoubtedly that which attended the performance of the Cyr Brothers' Specialty company last evening. There was an immense house and the general expression at the close was that at twice the price of admission the show would have been cheap.

All of the specialties were good but it is of the work of Peter and Louis Cyr that especial mention must be made. The former made a great showing for a middleweight, lifting with a harness 1,975 pounds living weight while he broke his record by lifting 559 pounds with one finger, his best previous record being 525 pounds.

But when it comes to Louis Cyr marvels begin. He weighs 318 pounds and arm, fore arm and leg are monstrous in size but no man can make a dent in his flesh. He is literally a man of iron. Sixteen men stood upright on a heavy oak platform last night, all that could be crowded upon it, and he lifted the whole outfit. As taken on the stage their combined weight, figuring in the platform, was over 3,400 pounds; as taken by parties in front, the weight being called off, the aggregate was 3,296 pounds. The most astonishing feat performed by this modern Samson, however, was his contest with George Reed's heavy team of blacks. They appeared on the stage in their regular working harness, each with a whippletree, and each was hitched on to a padded ring which was placed around one of the giant's arms above the elbow. He then folded his arms and the horses were started in opposite directions but failed to pull his arms apart. The horses laid right down to the work and tore the cleats from the floor but even when whipped to their utmost effort they were no match for the man and finally one horse fell on its knees, the other dragging horse and man about the stage without moving those massive arms. During the scene the wildest excitement prevailed and at its close the spectators cheered the victor loudly. After the performance Mr. Cyr said that he had never been so greatly fooled by a team before in his life. They weighed 2,600 pounds but his anticipated picnic with them proved to be one of the toughest pulls he had ever known for each horse pulled for every ounce there was in him. It was a wonderful scene, far eclipsing anything claimed of the giant in his advertising.

THE SAGINAW COURIER-HERALD: SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 1893.

Marvelous Strength.

The Cyr brothers made their second appearance at Teutonia hall last evening and gave a highly satisfactory entertainment. In the lifting of heavy dumbbells marvelous strength was exhibited, feats being accomplished that one would suppose to be out of the reach of man. The elder of the two brothers lifted with his back on a dead lift 15 men who weighed 3,240 pounds. The younger brother lifted with a harness 2,575 pounds. The work of the slack wire performers and contortionists' work were also excellent. They talk of a return engagement on the East Side.

ST. IGNACE NEWS.

ST. IGNACE, MICH., SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1893.

A GREAT SHOW.

The Cyr Brothers Specialty Co. held forth at Orth's opera house Thursday evening, when standing room was at a premium. The exhibition was one of the most wonderful ever seen in this city. The Cyr Brothers exhibition of strength was marvelous. Peter Cyr, under 21 years of age, the champion middleweight heavy lifter of the world, who weighs 168 pounds, put up with one hand a 196 pound dumbbell; put up with both hands a 255 pound barbell; lifted a weight of 463 pounds with one finger and with a harness, lifted 11 men weighing 1946 pounds. Louis Cyr, the Police Gazette champion of all strong men on earth, who weighs 318 pounds, put up with one hand a 273 1/2 pound dumbbell; put up with his left hand a 255 pound barbell, whirling it around above his head with his brother Peter hanging to it with all his weight; shouldered with one hand a barrel weighing 235 pounds without touching it to his knee; lifted without harness a platform on which stood 17 men weighing 3050 pounds and concluded by pulling against Joe LaFontaine's team—one horse hitched to each arm. The horses pulled so hard that their shoes cut through the stage floor, and still had not the slightest effect on the lock. Mr. Cyr had made with his arms and hands. The double wire performance by the Leroux Brothers was simply first-class and the doings of the boy contortionist were never equaled in this section. A leading feature of the Cyr Bros. Co. is that there is nothing "fake" about their performance—they do all they advertise—and have the wherewith to back their claims as champions of the world in their respective classes.

THE BAY CITY TIMES-PRESS: MARCH 23

THE CYR BROTHERS.

They Gave Their Closing Performance Last Evening.

Cyr brothers last evening gave their closing exhibition of marvelous feats of strength before a crowded house. Louis Cyr, among other tests, put up a 255 pound bar bell with his left hand, played with a 118-pound dumbbell as though it was a toy, picked up a barrel of gravel weighing 345 pounds from the floor and shouldered it with one hand, raised twice with his back a platform on which were the 14 largest men in the audience, making a total weight of 3,251 pounds and finally held his own against a 2,800-pound team of horses pulling at each arm. Peter Cyr, aged 19, took from the floor and put up with one hand a dumbbell of 196 pounds, being 23 pounds heavier than himself; picked up and raised the 255-pound bar bell above his head; put up the 118-pound dumb bell twice with his right and left hand; raised from the floor with the middle finger of his right hand 463 1/2 pounds, and in a kneeling position put up a 90-pound weight seven times each with his right and left hand, finally raising with a chain harness a platform with 9 men, making a total weight of 2,145 pounds. Three cheers were given the athletes at the close of the performance.

BANCROFT, ROMER & CO.'S NEW





**Cyr is After Sandow.**  
 New York, March 14.—Louis Cyr, of Montreal, who claims to be the champion strong man of the world, called at the Police Gazette office yesterday and left the following challenge to Eugene Sandow and all other strong men, and deposited \$500 in support of the challenge:

I see that Eugene Sandow claims to be the champion strong man of the world and he advertises himself in that way. How can Sandow claim to be the champion when I hold the record for putting up the heaviest dumbbell, lifting the most weight with one and two hands, and the record for lifting with hands and back, 4,000 pounds? It makes me think Sandow is imposing upon the American public. I put up a dumbbell weighing 273½ pounds in England when I went over expressly for the purpose of meeting Sandow, and he declined to compete against me. Now, I will make a match with Sandow, and I have travelled from Montreal expressly to try and coax him to compete against me, for from \$1,000 to \$5,000, in the following feats:

To put up the heaviest dumbbell with the left hand and also the right hand. My record is 273½ pounds.

To lift the heaviest weight from the ground with one hand and with two hands.

To lift the most weight from the ground with one finger.

Putting up the heaviest dumbbell above the head. My record is 301 pounds.

Holding out from the shoulder with right angle from the body the heaviest dumbbell or weight.

Shouldering with one or both hands the heaviest weight, that is, lifting it from the floor and placing it on the shoulder. My record for this feat is 314 pounds with one hand.

Lifting the most weight with the back.

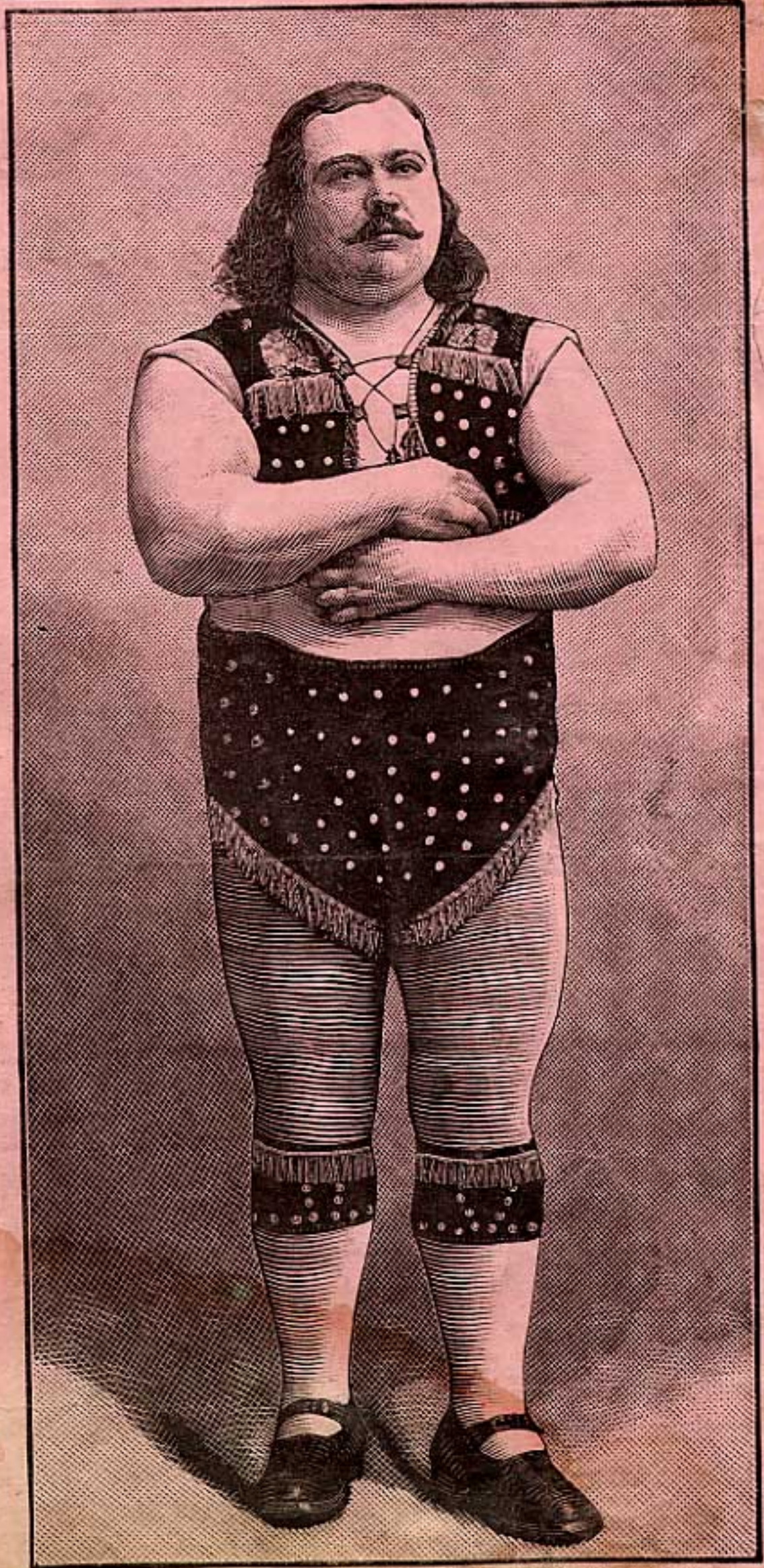
Lifting the biggest barbell while in a kneeling position.

Lifting the two heaviest dumbbells, one in each hand, at the same time.

This competition to be decided by the man lifting the most number of pounds at the end of the contest.

Sandow's feats are trick feats of strength, which do not prove real strength. I am not a mountebank or a weight juggler, but a man of strength, ready with money to compete against any man in the world, Sandow preferred.

*4* *J. L. Lette 18 1894* *April 12/89*  
 THE ILLUSTRATED POLICE NEWS.



(Specially Photographed for the POLICE NEWS by S. Labonte, Southbridge, Mass.)  
 THE STRONGEST MAN LIVING.  
 LEWIS CYR, THE CANADIAN SAMSON, WINNER OF THE RECENT GREAT CONTEST WITH SEBASTIAN MILLER, IN MONTREAL.

*Police Gazette March 15/89*

Louis Cyr of Montreal, the champion strong man of the world, called at the Police Gazette office yesterday, deposited \$500 and left the following businesslike challenge to Eugene Sandow and all strong men:

New York, March 14, 1894.

To whom it may concern—I see that Eugene Sandow claims to be the champion strong man of the world and he advertises himself in that way. How can Sandow claim to be the champion when I hold the record for putting up the heaviest dumbbell, lifting the most weight with one and two hands, and the record for lifting with hands and back (4000 pounds)? It makes me think Sandow is imposing upon the American public. I put up a dumbbell weighing 273½ pounds in England when I went over expressly for the purpose of meeting Sandow, and he declined to compete against me, although Richard K. Fox posted \$1000 with the Sporting Life to match me against Sandow or any man in England for \$1,000 & side. Now, I will make a match with Sandow, and I have travelled from Montreal expressly to try and coax him to compete against me, for from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in the following feats:

First—To put up the heaviest dumbbell with the left hand and also the right hand. My record is 273½ pounds.

Second—To lift the heaviest weight from the ground with one hand and with two hands.

Third—To lift the most weight from the ground with one finger.

Fourth—Putting up the heaviest dumbbell above the head. My record is 301 pounds.

Fifth—Holding out from the shoulder with right angle from the body the heaviest dumbbell or weight.

Sixth—Shouldering with one or both hands the heaviest weight, that is, lifting it from the floor and placing it on the shoulder. My record for this feat is 314 pounds with one hand.

Seventh—Lifting the most weight with the back.

Eighth—Lifting the biggest barbell while in a kneeling position.

Ninth—Lifting the two heaviest dumbbells, one in each hand, at the same time.

This competition to be decided by the man lifting the most number of pounds at the end of the contest.

Sandow's feats are trick feats of strength, which do not prove real strength. I am not a mountebank or a weight juggler, but a man of strength, ready with money to compete against any man in the world, Sandow preferred.

Louis Cyr,  
 Champion Strong Man of the World.

A dispatch was received at the "Police Gazette" office yesterday from Stanton Abbott in which he states that he will agree to fight Martin Denny, of the National Sporting Club, on May 14, as proposed. Abbott's only win was in England. Abbott and Denny are to fight for £2,000 a side and a purse of £500.







COMPETITORS FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP BELT.

- 1.—MR. RICHARD K. FOX, PROPRIETOR OF THE "POLICE GAZETTE" AND DONOR OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP BELT.
- 2.—LOUIS CYR, THE "POLICE GAZETTE" CHAMPION.
- 3.—EUGENE SANDOW.
- 4.—AUGUST W. JOHNSON.
- 5.—OSCAR B. WAHLUND.
- 6.—J. W. KENNEDY.
- 7.—CYCLOPS.
- 8.—SAMSON.
- 9.—PROF. ATILLA.

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zhtimen, 113 (Thorpe), 1 to 2, splendid health and see no reason why I should con-

# SANDOW WOULD RATHER POSE.

## He Refuses Cyr's Challenge to Compete for the Strong Man Championship.

### THE CANADIAN'S GREAT FEATS.

#### They Frightened the "Perfect Man" Out of a Match in Europe Three Years Ago.

### KENNEDY AND SAMPSON TALK

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]  
MILWAUKEE, Wis., April 10, 1894.



HERE is no chance of a meeting between Louis Cyr and Eugene Sandow, the strong men, at least not for several weeks, as the latter is en route for San Francisco, while Cyr is in the East. I saw Sandow at his hotel yesterday, and asked him if he intended to accept Mr. Fox's challenge on behalf of Cyr, published in the New York Herald. He said:

"There is a standing offer to Cyr on my part to give him \$1,000 if he will come upon the stage and lift one of my dumb bells high enough so that I can put a sheet of paper under it. This is not the first time I have heard of Cyr. He went to London to compete for the championship belt offered by the athletic institution for all round heavy weight lifting. He did not compete for the belt, because he saw my records and knew there was no use. I tried to arrange a match with him there for the belt after I had won it, but he would not compete.

"I have offered Cyr the money and belt if he would accomplish only my feats of strength, omitting the artistic portion of the



J. W. KENNEDY.

performance. I was in New York for eighteen weeks, and Mr. Cyr failed to turn up or make any answer, and now, knowing I am on my way to San Francisco, he again attempts to secure advertising through his challenge. My offer stands good at any time and at any place he performs, and if Mr. Cyr believes himself as strong as me, I shall be pleased to make an appointment for him upon my return to the East. He need make no deposit, as no forfeit is required."

Sandow stated that the report he had played in the People's Theatre two years ago is untrue. "This is my first engagement in Milwaukee," he said; "the report that I was here two years ago probably arose from the appearance here of 'Sandow,' a man named Montgomery, who uses my name with the letter 'e' added. He was in London when I was there, and I had a warrant out for his arrest, but he left the country to avoid it."

### "CYR IS THE CHAMPION"

#### So Says His Backer, Mr. Fox, and Produces Records to Prove It.

I showed Mr. Richard K. Fox Sandow's reply to his offer on behalf of Cyr last night. He read it over carefully and said:—"Sandow is pursuing the same tactics now to avoid a match with Louis Cyr, the real champion strong man, that he employed in England. If Sandow is really the premier strong man of the world, why does he not demonstrate that fact by deeds, not words, and cover the \$500 I have posted with the Herald to match Cyr to compete against Sandow in a competition for \$1,000 to \$5,000 a side and the champion-

shown by Cyr, who had brought the bell fairly out from his shoulder.

"There was quite a rumpus over Romulus' exhibition, but he had enough, and when asked to try the big bell, left the stage. Cyr then went on with his next feat, that of elevating the 242 pound dumbbell with one hand. This time the iron was brought to the chest without the aid of the knee, and then pressed up in very clean style. He asked Romulus to come back and put up the weight, but the Italian could not be coaxed. Some of those on the stage did try to lift the bell, however. Wehlan picked it up with his left hand and lifted it a couple of feet from the ground.

"The feat of lifting a barrel of cement, using but one hand, was next in order. Wehlan lifted the barrel about a foot from the ground with two hands. Cyr then lifted the barrel with one hand and surprised the talent, who never before witnessed such a wonderful feat of strength.

### ATTILA SPEAKS FOR SANDOW.

"At this point Professor Attila entered and asked for a hearing. Attila said that if Cyr was willing to arrange a match with anybody he could find an opponent for him. Turning to Cyr he said:—"I have here a pupil (meaning Sandow) who will do three of your feats which you do nightly, after that he will do three pure feats of strength and guarantee that you will be unable to perform one of them." Cyr replied:—"I will attempt the feats, but I must have the option of proposing three also. To which of my feats do you refer?"

"Attila said my pupil will elevate your dumbbell, then put up your barrel of cement and finally hold up your brother in incidentally the same manner that you do. Afterward I will bet you any sum that you will be unable to do the feats he will set you. You will do your enormous back lift, which I have seen and which I am assured that no man at present in England can do, but I will not risk my money in a match with the lift mentioned included.

"To my mind," said Mr. Fox, "Attila's action proved conclusively the lack of confidence in Sandow's ability and was a high tribute to Cyr's marvelous feats. Cyr's record is as a diamond unto a piece of glass compared with Sandow's. He holds the undisputed weight-lifting championship of Canada, and several world's records for dumbbell putting and weight lifting. His last match for the Canadian championship occurred at St. Henri, near Montreal, November 2, 1888, when he competed against Barre in feats of strength. At that time he put up a dumbbell weighing 265 pounds, raising it from the ground to the shoulder and pushing it to arm's length above with one hand. This is the world's record, the nearest approach to it being 245 pounds put up by F. Staehl, in Vienna, Austria, December 9, 1885. In this match with Barre, in which he was victorious, Cyr lifted a platform weighing 140 pounds, upon which were seven dumb bells weighing 725 pounds, a barrel of flour weighing 218 pounds and seven men, who made up the total weight to 2,328 pounds. Cyr put his arms around the platform and lifted this enormous weight with ease. Directly following this he lifted two dumb bells tied together with a cord, weighing 450 or 460 pounds, with one finger. December a year ago he lifted 3,662 pounds in an exhibition in Manchester, N. H.

### KENNEDY WILL COMPETE.

J. Walter Kennedy visited the Herald office last night and left a sketch of his many wonderful performances, some of which are records. Being physically disabled, however, he said that it would be impossible for him to take part in a competition at present. "I am perfectly willing to take part in a tournament such as Attila proposes," he said, "provided it takes place three or four months hence." He believes that this is the only way to ascertain the real champion strong man of the world. Said Mr. Kennedy:—

"I think Cyr is a very strong man, Sandow a fair all round athlete, and Sampson a magician under the guise of a strong man. Professor Herrmann could easily duplicate all of the latter's feats. I have had money posted at the Herald office on two different occasions to arrange a match with Sandow, but the latter refused to come to time. I hope Cyr will be more successful, but I doubt very much if he will. Sandow would rather pose than compete any time. As a poser he is probably without a peer, but as a strong man there are many men who can give him points and beat him."

A. H. Gott, the manager of Sampson, called at the Herald office yesterday. He said that Sampson is confident of his ability to defeat Sandow, Cyr or any other strong man, and to prove his earnestness in the matter Sampson has agreed to compete in the proposed strong man tournament. Mr. Gott also stated that the charge made by rival strong men to the effect that Sampson breaks coins with the aid of gloves does the latter an injustice. He claims Sampson performs the feat with his naked hands.

### ATTILA REPLIES TO SAMPSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

In answer to the threat of the so-called "strongest man on earth" to have me arrested if I publicly denounce his fake feats, he could not confer a greater boon on the public and sportsmen in particular, as the exposure of such street performances would be unrivaled and explained. He will, however, find it difficult to have me arrested for having spoken the truth. Let him remember that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. The fact that he challenges the winner of the Corbett-Jackson fight must make him a rank crank in the eyes of these two gentlemen, each of whom could best him with nine fingers in their pocket. Professor ATTILA.

Zala's "Lourdes" the w...



HERCULES.

ship of the world? It is of no benefit to me whether Sandow can defeat Cyr or the latter excel in feats of strength in a competition against Sandow. I have no axe to grind in the matter. I think Cyr is the champion, and I stand ready to settle the question if Sandow will only come forward like a genuine champion should do and defend his title. My money is posted and when Sandow covers it the match will be arranged. At the time I was in London I deposited \$1,000 with the Sporting Life to match Cyr against Sandow, and he shirked the contest the same as he is doing now. Any time Sandow means business Cyr is ready to meet him at the Herald office, and I stand ready to back up the challenge published in the Herald of the 9th inst.

### SOME GREAT FEATS.

"When Louis Cyr performed at the South London Music Hall, in London, on November 15, 1891, the place was full of strong men, and when Master of Ceremonies Frank Hinde invited every one on the stage to test the weights they swarmed there like a lot of bees. There were Sandow, Zuffranoli, the powerful Italian; Victrolina's husband and Frans Wehlan. When Cyr had gone through his performance of holding the 104 pound weight at arm's length a young Italian rejoicing in the sobriquet of Romulus picked up the bell and with a mighty jerk put it above his head. Then, allowing his arm to drop to a triangular position, he held the weight for a moment. It was a fine exhibition of strength, but nothing like that

