

SANDOW NOT HEARD FROM.

Cyr's Challenge Shakes Up the Athletic World, but Meets With No Response.

ATTILA ON THE STRONG MEN.

The Professor Says Sampson Would Have Little Chance with Mr. Fox's Champion.

A BIG TOURNAMENT PROPOSED



THE challenge of Richard K. Fox on behalf of Louis Cyr for a match with Eugene Sandow, the alleged champion strong man, resulted in visits to the HERALD office yesterday from several men of muscle, all willing to try conclusions with Sandow. They were unable, however, to back up their challenges with money, and as a consequence they were not considered.

Among the most prominent of the athletic visitors was the famous Attila, who has taught and trained Sandow and other well known strong men in the art of muscular development. Attila has a better knowledge of strong men and their ways than any other athlete. He has been with them in all parts of Europe and America in various capacities and what he says should be of interest to athletic enthusiasts. He admitted to me that if Sandow is really champion he should defend his title and not go around the country posing while stronger men are compelled to stand by and look on. In all other branches



PROFESSOR ATTILA.

of sport, said Attila, "athletes are compelled to defend their claims to championship honors. Then why should Sandow be exempt from these conditions if he is really the premier strong man?"

FAVORS A TOURNAMENT.

Attila says he is thoroughly in sympathy with the HERALD's movement to expose fraud where it exists because it has a harmful effect on the sport. He believes that the only way to find a solution to the question as to who is the champion strong man is through the medium of an international tournament. In this way the noted strong men of the world can be brought together and the relative ability of each thoroughly tested. Such a tournament Attila now has under way. The expenses of the undertaking, which will be enormous, will be defrayed by several prominent sporting men and several wealthy members of the New York Athletic Club. The affair will take place in Madison Square Garden within a few months, and, according to Attila's calculations, will last at least ten days.

Attila proposes to have each competitor meet the other in genuine feats of strength. To prove that the competitors will be strictly on their merits Attila will secure the services of prominent athletic clubs and Turn Verein members to act as officials. Strong men unknown to fame who aspire to championship honors and are desirous of participating in the proposed tournament will have to undergo a thorough preliminary test. Attila will take them in hand and put them through a course of lifting and other feats of strength at his gymnasium on Twenty-third street, and if they make a satisfactory showing their entry will be accepted. Otherwise it will be rejected. A certain percentage in each particular performance will have to be obtained in order to qualify successfully. This, Attila thinks, will result in keeping out cranks and impostors.

It is likely that the following strong men will compete: Sandow, Louis Cyr, of Canada; Turk, Peck and Wertessa, of Vienna; George Singer, of Munich; Romulus, of Italy; Wahlman, of Sweden; Hercules, of England; Kramer, of Holland; Mertens, of Belgium; Appolan, of France; Kennedy, of America; Kohler, of this city, and Nordstrom, of Brooklyn.

Regarding Sandow's match with Hercules, the British champion, which took place in the Royal

a great athlete, and his list of clever feats of strength is quite limited. On the contrary Sandow is very clever, and there is much to be admired in his performances. As between Sandow and Cyr, I favor the latter. He is a remarkably strong man and can execute moves with dumb bells and weights that none of the others can duplicate. He is a wonderful fellow, and some of his feats are really marvelous. I honestly believe that in a fair and square test of strength he can defeat Sandow.

"When I say that every strong man and every strong woman can break chains and can bear two or three horses on their chest and knees it ought to give an idea of the real value of this kind of work. Since I settled in this country last September I have developed several very likeable amateur strong men, all of whom can beat in solid feats of strength and development many of the alleged champions now before the public. I will only mention three of the youngsters: Otto Kohler, of the Clipper Athletic Club; Mr. Burnett, of this city, and Milo."

"STRONG MEN ARE FAKERS."

Arthur Moore, of the New York Athletic Club, said to me yesterday:—"The HERALD is on the right track. Nearly all these so-called strong men are fakirs, pure and simple. They are strong—that is, stronger than the majority of men, but many of their feats are tricks. Sandow is the greatest humbug of them all. His muscle moving exhibition in his velvet lined cab net is interesting, because it shows what wonderful control he has over his arm and body muscles, but the performance is no evidence of wonderful strength. Many of our old time amateurs could have lifted heavier weights than Sandow does. More than twenty years ago amateur W. B. Curtis lifted 323 pounds in harness. Cyr is probably the strongest of the strong men, as his pushing up 3,536 pounds of pig iron, with both arms and legs, in Canada six years ago attests. Whether he is still as strong I do not know."

SAMPSON HEARD FROM.

He Says Attila's Charges That He Uses Fake Materials Are False.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

CLEVELAND, Ohio, April 9, 1894.—C. A. Sampson, the strong man, says that Attila's charges are false. "Either Attila is seeking cheap advertising," said he, "or he has reference to my challenge exhibition with Sandow at London some four years ago in which I have positive proof that Sandow, who accepted my challenge of £500 to the man who would go through with my exhibition, used fake material. The story is too old now to go over in detail, but he used his own material, and it was afterward satisfactorily proven to be a fake, and, further than that, he never claimed the challenge money."

"As for Attila, I haven't seen him for over two years. About two weeks ago he issued a challenge to Sandow, who has paid no attention to it, and now it seems he has turned his attentions to me. If Attila will make the charges in my hearing or in public that are credited to him I will have him arrested and give him a chance to attempt to prove what he has said. I have a challenge open to the world and will meet all comers."

Incidentally Mr. Sampson was asked as to his athletic ability, to which he remarked:—"I have never been in the prize ring nor made any claim to ability in that direction, but I have my own ideas about meeting a professional fighter, and I shall challenge the winner of the Corbett-Jackson fight."

"Will you go into training for the event?" "No. I am in a good condition now as I need be. I am always in condition. My idea is to play for the arm muscles of a man and disable him."

"But don't you think your own person would suffer severe punishment from such scientific men?" "Not a bit. My body is as hard as iron and can stand any amount of pounding. Oh, it is experiment with me and I do not prophesy the result."

LOST THE MATCH BY EIGHT BIRDS.

Heiks and Peacock Defeated by Wolstencroft and Aggar.



CHARLES NORDSTROM.

Music Hall, London, in 1891, Attila said that Hercules won. "That was an expensive affair for Sandow. He lost the \$5,000 purse and stake money, as well as \$20,000 he bet on the outside. This match ruined him financially, and it is the fear of another similar defeat that probably keeps him out of a contest."

The event was decided strictly on its merits and was judged by a jury consisting of the Marquis of Queensberry and a veterinary surgeon named Atkinson. Although the latter voted in favor of Hercules he subsequently presented Sandow with a belt which the self-styled champion strong man of the world paid for out of his own pocket. This belt Sandow immediately claimed represented strong man supremacy and he is now parading around the country with it and exhibiting it as the championship belt. Its entire value consists of a bit of gold and a piece of blue leather. At the time he purchased his combination of gold and leather strap championship strong man belts were as numerous in England as mosquitos in Jersey in summer time. Not one of them, however, was earned in an actual contest of strength. They were all purchased by their owners for obvious reasons. Sandow never won the title of champion strong man and is as much entitled to it as the late Tom Thumb.

SANDOW STRONGER THAN SAMPSON. "Compared to Sampson, however, Sandow is a good athlete. Sampson possesses few qualities of



THE CHANCE OF SANDOW'S LIFE.

He May Make Good the Claim of Being the Champion Strong Man by Meeting Louis Cyr.

A CHALLENGE WITH MONEY UP.

Richard K. Fox Posts a \$500 Forfeit with the Herald on Behalf of the Canadian.

SAMPSON EXPOSES SANDOW.



It is an open question who is the strongest man in the world, and not until the self-styled champions meet in an all around competition can an answer be given with any degree of certainty. Nearly every "strong man" calls himself a champion, and if you dispute his title he parades before your eyes a championship belt, which most likely is a present from himself. Eugene Sandow, the "perfect man," claims he is the "champion strong man of the world;" Cyclops, who has made a tour of the United States giving exhibitions of strength, also claims the title; James Walter Kennedy, whom I saw lift a



LOUIS CYR.

dumbbell weighing 1,205 pounds, is another "champion," and still another is Sampson, who has a belt and an indefatigable press agent.

A man who has had a great deal to do with this class of athletes is Richard K. Fox, known equally well on Broadway and the Strand. He is a liberal patron of sports, and stands ever ready to give a champion his title. Mr. Fox believes there can be but one champion, and he thinks Louis Cyr, the French Canadian, is the one man who can acquire the title and honor in competition.

At present there are but three men who could compete in a competition in this city within a reasonable length of time. They are Sandow, Sampson and Cyr. Cyclops is in Europe and Kennedy recently met with an accident and could not compete if he wished.

AN OFFER FROM MR. FOX.
Now, to have the matter settled as far as possible, Mr. Fox offers to match Cyr against Sandow for \$1,000 a side and the championship. The fact that he picks Sandow is evidence that he considers him a better athlete than Sampson. Mr. Fox has posted \$500 with the Herald to show that he really desires a meeting between these big men. The deposit, which, by the way, is in the form of a certified check on the Park Bank of this city, was accompanied by the following challenge:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—
In order to settle the mooted question in regard to who is the champion strong man, which title Eugene Sandow claims, I will match Louis Cyr, the American champion, to contend in the arena against Eugene Sandow for \$1,000 a side and the championship of the world, at the following feats:—
FIRST.—To put up the heaviest dumbbell with the left hand, and also with the right hand.
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.
FIFTH.—Holding out from the shoulder in a 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.
SEVENTH.—Lifting the most weight with 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.
The above feats are fair tests, and the only ones that should settle who is actually the champion strong man of the world. Cyr has authorized me to arrange this match, and to prove I am in earnest I herewith deposit my certified check for \$500 with the editor of the New York Herald. If Eugene Sandow is eager to settle who is the strongest man and prove he is the champion, he will cover the deposit, and also name a day to meet at the New

acts performed by these strong men, but it would only be needlessly taking up your time and space.

"One feat I would like to say something about, however, is the coin breaking act which some of these men perform. It is a very simple feat, very easily done. If you have ever seen it performed you will recall that a glove was also worn. Inside the fingers of these gloves are pieces of metal, which make an unyielding surface, against which the coin is pressed and broken or bent.

"I regard Sandow as a very clever performer. He gives a good exhibition, but I do not think him as strong a man as some others I have in mind. I rank Cyr as his peer in bona fide feats of strength and I believe Sandow is of the same opinion as myself, but of course he would not acknowledge it.

"A contest between these men, if it could be arranged, would prove well worth witnessing, but an international contest in which all of the so-called strong men could compete would be the proper way to decide which man is honestly entitled to call himself champion."



EUGENE SANDOW.

York Herald office to arrange a match, when Cyr and William E. Harding, sporting editor of the Police Gazette, will be promptly on hand to sign articles subject to the above conditions. If Sandow can defeat Cyr, then he will be welcome to the stakes and the championship. Should Sandow fail to respond, then Cyr will be the champion, and I stand ready to defend his title.
RICHARD K. FOX.

I talked with a well known athlete, a man who has developed one of the strongest men, yesterday, about strong men in general, and Sandow and Cyr in particular. Said my informant:—"Nine-tenths of these strong men are fakirs. Each is afraid of the other, and if you will jog your memory you can recall but few contests between these champions.

A CONTEST IN LONDON.
"I remember a meeting in London in the autumn of 1891, between Sandow and Sampson. It was a highly sensational affair and caused no end of talk and newspaper comment at the time. The stage of the Royal Music Hall, where Sampson was exhibiting, was the scene of the meeting.

"Sandow appeared prepared to duplicate Sampson's performance. He succeeded in a number, and finally reached the chain-breaking feat. This act consists in snapping a chain over the biceps. There is no doubt that 'fake' chains were used by both, for it is an utter impossibility for any living person to thus break a perfectly sound chain.

"Sampson raised a cry of fraud after this performance, and refusing to continue Sandow was declared the winner and styled the champion. I could enumerate any number of fake

STRONG MEN TO COMPETE

Mr. Richard K. Fox Offers a \$2,500 Championship Belt

TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTES.

This Belt to be Won in an International Tournament.

SANDOW NOT LIKELY TO COMPETE.

[WITH PORTRAITS.]

There is an opportunity for the strong men to decide who is the champion. Mr. Richard K. Fox, the editor and proprietor of the POLICE GAZETTE, now offers to give a belt valued at \$2,500 for competition in a general tournament. This is his generous offer, which he made through the medium of the New York Herald.

New York, April 14, 1894.

Owing to the great interest now evinced in the question as to who is the champion strong man of the world, which title is claimed by Louis Cyr, the American champion, whom I have already agreed to back against Eugene Sandow for from \$1,000 to \$5,000 a side and the championship of the world, which offer is still open, I make the following additional proposition, as there are others besides Cyr and Sandow claiming the championship, viz.: Milo, Cyclops, Samson, Kennedy, Jefferson, Johnson, etc.

As there is no recognized trophy or emblem to represent the all round heavyweight lifting championship of the world, I have decided, besides backing Cyr against Sandow, to offer a "Police Gazette" Championship belt, representing the Championship of the World, to be made of gold and silver and valued at \$2,500. This trophy to be compared for by Cyr, Sandow, Kennedy and any strong man who may desire to compete in the following feats:

- First—To put up the heaviest dumbbell with the left hand and also the right hand.
- 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.
- Fifth—Holding out from the shoulder, at 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.
- Seventh—Lifting the most weight with back.
- Eighth—Lifting the heaviest barrel while in a kneeling position.
- Ninth—Lifting the 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. The trophy will shortly be on exhibition at the POLICE GAZETTE office.

I think this offer will conclusively settle the question as to whether Cyr, Sandow, Cyclops, Johnson, etc., is the champion strong man of the world.

RICHARD K. FOX,
Proprietor POLICE GAZETTE, New York.

In regard to Mr. Fox's offer to match Louis Cyr against Eugene Sandow, the latter has refused to consider any such proposition. Mr. Fox wished both of them to do several feats of strength in order to determine who was entitled to claim the strong man championship, but Sandow preferred to rest his claim to the title on his muscle-moving exhibition, which is a performance that is entirely his own. Mr. Fox's \$500 certified check, which he had deposited with the New York Herald to bind the match, will therefore be returned to him. It is, indeed, a pity that the champion strong man and the champion muscle-dancer cannot come together.

On another page we present a portrait of Mr. Richard K. Fox, who offers to match Louis Cyr against Eugene Sandow, and also donates the "Police Gazette" championship belt. Pictures also appear of Louis Cyr, the "Police Gazette" champion, Eugene Sandow, J. Walter Kennedy, who lifted the "Police Gazette" dumbbell, weighing 1,205 pounds, August W. Johnson, Oscar B. Wahlund, Cyclops, Samson and Prof. Atilla.

*Police Gazette & Co.
Illustrations*

