

PLAYING WITH WILD BEASTS.

A Woman of Wonderful Nerve in a Cage of Lions. In front of the semi-circle of chairs in one of the mysterious recesses of the Royal Aquarium at Westminster was a vast iron cage, in which a huge lion and four lionesses were pacing up and down.

HOW HE SAVED HIMSELF.

Coolness of a Bicycle Rider Threatened with Arrest. The coolness of a well-known business man was all that saved him from being dragged to the police station, a few nights ago. He had bought a bicycle and decided to learn to ride it outside of an academy.

IN POVERTY FLAT.

An Incident of Actual Life in a Large City. From a window next to the roof in a downtown tenement, a baby face looked out upon the cold and dreary world below. But presently the gathering darkness drove the little one away from the broken pane, and he was moving disconsolately toward a ragged bed, whereon a quiet figure lay, when the attic door creaked noisily on its hinges, and with a gurgle of delight the little toddler turned that way, and was met on the threshold with a kiss and a gentle admonition to be more quiet lest he disturb the sleeping mother.

So, closing the rickety door as easily as the rusty hinges would permit, the two children, for the newcomer was but ten years of age, groped their way into a corner where a tiny, open-faced stove stood, and taking from her basket some bits of wood and coal which she had somehow managed to scrape together from the street without, the girl kindled a fire.

I was watching the beasts nervously and speculating what the chances were of surviving a blow from one of those paws, when a little lady in a low-cut black silk bodice and knickerbockers, came out from her dressing-room, and, with a smile to the audience, which necessarily included me, she ran up the steps and through the double door into the cage.

OWNERS OF NEW YORK.

A Few Men Who Possess a Large Amount of Real Estate. Twenty individuals and estates own nearly 18 per cent. of the real estate in the city of New York; with perhaps 150 others this score owns 50 per cent., and the remaining half of the metropolis of the western hemisphere is in the hands of a few of the 2,000,000 persons who live here and pay rent.

Gems in Macadam Paving.

The costliest macadam on record once paved the streets of Kimberley, South Africa. This celebrated road-bed was studded with diamonds, and hundreds of valuable gems were taken from it. A peddler, 30 years ago, while hawking his wares from farmhouse to farmhouse, found a shining stone by the wayside, and, thinking it might be of some value, sent it to a geologist, who at once recognized it as a fine diamond.

At her command the monsters crouched down or chased from one end of the cage to the other as if under some hypnotic influence from which they were striving to shake themselves. There was nothing of that heartrending humility that one sometimes sees in those unfortunate caged creatures. The ferocious animals had found some one more fearful than themselves, and submitted to her will, though it was with a very bad grace.

Increase in Gun Charges.

According to Sir Benjamin Baker, the charges of powder in guns have, since the time of the Crimean war, increased from 16 pounds to 800 pounds, the weight of projectiles from 68 pounds to 1,800 pounds, and the energies developed from 1,100 foot tons to 62,000 foot tons.

Bad for the Rats.

Young Wife—Oh, John, the rats have eaten all of my cake! John—What! All of it? "Every piece. I feel like trying." "Oh, don't cry over a few rats." Hartford Times.

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