

accommodate their diminutive proportions. The Rev. Dr. Taylor and the Rev. Mr. Junius M. Wildey officiated at the ceremony, and at the request of the parents the petite bride was given away by the Rev. Mr. Palmer.

Then, to see them in their tiny chariot drawn by ponies, speeding to the Metropolitan hotel, where again they were placed upon a dais that they might be seen and met by the friends who thronged to the reception, was another view to be remembered. It is said that over two thousand boxes of wedding cake were distributed at this "big little" wedding, and when at ten o'clock that night the New York Excelsior band screened the bridal party the climax of the event was reached in the response of the little general, who, stepping out upon the balcony, made a speech that was characteristic of his affability and intelligence.

Mrs. Tom Thumb, as all the world knows, was Miss Lavinia Warren. Her real name was Mercy Lavinia Bump. She descended from a French family, but when she entered upon her theatrical career she assumed, at the suggestion of Barnum, the name of Lavinia Warren.

The alliance between Charles S. Stratton, known as General Tom Thumb, and Lavinia Warren is said to have been purely a love match, having taken place just a year after Mrs. Thumb's connection with Barnum's shows. The subsequent life of the famous couple is of course familiar. A house of Lilliputian proportions was built for them, where they proceeded to live happily ever after, having been satisfied with travel and public life. It was hoped that the two might some day be remembered as the ancestors of a long line of dwarfs, but today the line is extinct. One child was the result of this marriage, but it died when an infant.

Minnie Warren, the younger sister of Mrs. Tom Thumb, was also a native of Massachusetts. Her correct name was Huldah Peirce Bump, and it was in the year of the famous wedding at Grace church that she entered the ranks of the side-show attractions. It was not long before she married Major Edward Newall, commonly known as Commodore Nutt and General Grant, Jr., with whom she served as attendant at her sister's marriage. She died in 1878.

*

Less famous than the race of Thumbs, although more remarkable in point of size, was the now forgotten "Hop-o'-My-Thumb." Despite the similarity of the names, he claimed no relationship with Tom Thumb. This little chap was only twenty-two inches in height. In his day he was well-known from one end of the country to the other. During his stage, or rather side-show, career, he formed a successful partnership with the gentle giantess Annie Bates. The two proved to be, commercially speaking, indispensable to one another. The accomplishment upon which each depended for success, the height of one and the lack of it for the other, naturally gained by the comparison. Hop-o'-My-Thumb never looked smaller nor Annie larger than when the two stood side by side. Occasionally to assist the contrast the genial giantess would take her business partner in the palm of her hand and hold him at arm's length, but the pair never attempted any performance.

*

Another of Barnum's early freaks, although not one of the first, Admiral Dot, is still living. His real name is Leopold Kahn. He was born in San Francisco of German parentage, and when only six years of age began his career with Barnum. An interesting

incident of his first engagement with this showman is related by his mother.

It seems that Barnum represented Admiral Dot as a child of twelve years instead of six, his correct age, to the distress of his mother, who loved the truth. To pacify her, and with his usual ready wit, Barnum explained that since there was a fat girl who was twelve years of age and passed for six, it was all right to represent a six-year-old boy as twelve.

In all, Admiral Dot traveled for twenty-two years—first with Barnum throughout the United States and Canada, and later with the Lilliputian company. Twelve years ago, in Victoria hall, New York, he was married to Miss Swartwood, who is just one inch taller than himself, and whom he met while with the Lilliputians. Her career upon the stage was brief, extending over only one season. Two children have been the result of this marriage—a girl of twelve and a boy of seven, both of whom are of normal size.

Having tired of show and stage life, the admiral took his family to White Plains, New York, and has kept a hotel there for the past nine years. He was recently re-elected deputy sheriff of his town. Admiral Dot has a pleasant, gentlemanly bearing, and is a man of considerable intelligence.

Today the largest of the midgets is actually smaller than the smallest of the midgets of fifty years ago. And also, the modern midgets must be able to sing and dance and offer a creditable performance of a theatrical nature.

*

The original Barnum fat girl, the head of a long line of similar exhibits, was Annie Wood, who tipped the scales at just four hundred fifty pounds. Like most of her companions of the side-show, Annie was an American girl. Her weight has since been surpassed many times, although in some respects her reputation is secure. Annie had remarkably small hands and arms, feet and limbs, for her size—they were almost normal. She was, besides, rather undersized. Her weight depended largely upon her breadth of shoulders.

As a result, Annie, probably, came nearer to being as broad as she was long than any other fat girl who has ever graced the circus ring. The ponderous Annie married when she was quite young. She died thirty-four years ago.

*

It was to the same famous showman that the world owes the discovery of the human skeleton, a feature which scores of museums all over the world have since included in their attractions. The precedent for thinness established by Barnum has rarely been equaled, certainly never surpassed. The original thin man was Isaac Sprague, a native of Massachusetts. From the curious old-time photograph, which is still preserved, it is possible to gain a good idea of how far leanness may be carried even for show purposes. Sprague's arms were literally no bigger than walking sticks, while the bones of the knee were the largest diameter of his legs. Despite this lack of personal attraction, Sprague was twice married, and when he died left a large family of strong, healthy boys, not one of whom inherited the father's thinness.

*

The charms of the bearded lady were also first made known to the public in this famous freak show. One of the first was Miss Annie Jones, a name familiar enough to the last generation of circus patrons. Annie was "discovered" when she was only a child, and as the years passed her beard grew and her income naturally increased. Her appearance at the time of her first engagement is still preserved in an early photograph. She was advertised widely as the "Female Esau," and was exhibited in Europe as well as in all parts of the United States. Annie was twice married to circus property-men.

Another bearded lady, Madam Meyer, was among the earliest freaks, and won her share of popularity. Her beard was considered much the more attractive, since it was somewhat longer and of a finer quality than the one Annie Jones wore. Madam Meyer married, and raised a large family, and throughout her connection with the show led a particularly quiet, domestic life. She was a charming woman, and fond of her home and its environment above all else.

*

The most famous of all the original freaks were of course the Siamese twins. No freaks have ever been so well advertised as they. Their fame began in 1829, when the captain of an American ship touching at Bangkok discovered them leading the lives of fishermen and duck raisers. They were then eighteen years of age, and until just previous to that time had lived in obscurity.

Rearing in poverty, they had at last found a means of gaining an audience before the king, who at once recognized their unusual peculiarities. Therefore he had bestowed some favors upon



Annie Jones, the Bearded Lady



Annie Jones at Eight



Isaac Sprague



Annie Wood



The Invisible Lady



The Soldier Automaton