

THE SIAMESE TWINS,

CHANG AND ENG.

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH,

COMPRISING

THE STORY OF THEIR CHILDHOOD IN SIAM; THEIR TRAVELS IN AMERICA AND EUROPE; THEIR MARRIAGE AND DOMESTIC LIFE; THEIR MISFORTUNES OCCASIONED BY THE REBELLION IN THE UNITED STATES; THEIR PURPOSED SEPARATION; AND THEIR RECREATIONS.

A LECTURE

BY SIR JAMES Y. SIMPSON, BART., M.D., D.C.L.,

(Professor of Medicine and Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh);

AND

A PROPOSAL FOR EFFECTING THEIR SEPARATION,

BY JAMES STARTIN, ESQ., F.R.C.S.,

(Senior-Surgeon to the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin);

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF THE LIVES OF

MISS SWAN,

THE NOVA-SCOTIAN GIANTESS,

AND

ZOEBIDA LUTI,

THE LADY OF BEAUTY.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

London :

W. LAST, HEATHCOCK COURT, 414, STRAND.

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THE NOVA-SCOTIA GIANTESSES



MISS ANNA SWAN

THE SIAMESE TWINS.

CHANG and ENG, better known as "The Siamese Twins," have doubtless as wide a notoriety as has ever been obtained by a human being. In the entire civilized world it may be doubted if a single household of moderate intelligence could be entered where Chang and Eng, or, at least, "The Siamese Twins," are not familiar words. Of the strange freaks of nature, they are the most strange. Of the objects which powerfully excite the curiosity of man, they, of Nature's oddities, have the most intensely arrested the attention of the world. They furnish the only instance in which two human beings, bound together by a living ligament, have reached the years of mature manhood. For about sixty years each has, for every instant of time, been by the other's side. Each is a husband, and the head of a large family.

TWO BODIES: ARE THEY TWO MEN?

Numerically they are two; but with men of science it is a disputed point, if there is more than one *person*. Is it one *man* in two bodies, with a double set of limbs and organs? Is there but one life, one responsible will, one accountable being, only with double bodies, double heads, and a double set of arms and legs? Or, are they really two *men*—each as distinct from the other as Smith from Brown, with the exception of that one mysterious bond? Such strange questions were never conceived in regard to any other mortal or mortals. Yet they are questions which men of science would give much for the privilege of being able to solve.

EVEN FACTS SEEMINGLY DISAGREE.

The facts in regard to the vital relations of Chang and Eng, about which there is no chance for doubt or question, are seemingly of a contradictory character. On the supposition that they are but one person using two bodies, it would follow that a scratch of a pin on the arm of Chang would be felt by Eng. But as a matter of fact

physical contact is felt only by the body which experiences the contact. Yet if Chang is ill, Eng suffers in like manner! Sometimes they have had decided differences of feeling and opinion; yet not unfrequently they have the same thought, volition, and purpose. A carefully prepared article, written by a master in science, appeared in Silliman's Journal for 1830. This reliable authority will assure the reader that in respiration, circulation, hours for sleep, moods of joy, anger, and pain, Chang and Eng seem to be one. Yet a tooth extracted from Chang does not give Eng the quiver of pain. Here are two sets of undoubted facts; but the one set seems to deny the other set! If the disagreement of doctors puts the non-professional to silence, what can even doctors say, when the admitted facts are seemingly at variance?

There is a fact in regard to the sensibility of the connecting flesh, that puzzles the physiologist. That band on the upper side has a length of five inches, on the lower side of four inches; is about three inches in width, and two in thickness. Now here is the strange fact: pressure on the middle of that band is equally felt by both—seeming to say that there is essentially but one person; pressure, however, at any distance from the centre, is felt only by the one nearest the point of pressure—seeming to say there are two persons! Thus, at every turn, the attempt to solve the mystery is baffled. Nature has had its freak in Chang and Eng; and thus far it keeps up the freak with those who have sought to unfold the mystery.

CAN THEY BE SEPARATED?

The question whether Surgical Skill can, without harm to the subjects, sever the band, has ever been a matter of deep interest to Chang and Eng, of scientific importance to the physiologist, and of rational curiosity to the world. The obvious disadvantages of such constant companionship have made them eager to profit by such treatment, if the probability of a successful issue could be made to appear strong. But the doubt has thus far deterred them from seeking the experiment, and the surgical profession from seeking the practice.

But Chang and Eng are now nearly sixty years of age. If they are really two persons as well as two bodies, and if their physical distinction is such that the death of the one does not involve the death of the other, there is, as every one foresees, a shocking contingency at no very remote future. That a living man shall, even for a moment, find himself linked to a lifeless body, is a possibility on which the mind refuses to dwell. Every reader can understand why Chang and Eng feel that the question of separation is one that must be met. If it is a possibility, its much longer postponement would be a disgrace to the College of Surgeons. If practicable, the skillful hand that shall enable Chang and Eng to shake hands and bid each other a good night—each with health and strength—going his different way,—the hand wh

this, achieves an immortality of fame, and makes a reputation that insures many fortunes.

WHERE THEY WERE BORN.

An interest would attach to any land which had given to the world this couple of marvellous curiosity. But the Kingdom of Siam has an interest in and of itself. Siam of itself pays for study. Its vast and fertile plain, walled in on all sides, except the South, by mountain chains of vast elevation, extending to the Himalayas, owes its existence and its richness to the same cause.

SIAM THE EGYPT OF ASIA.

The River Menam (sometimes spelled "Manam," the generic name for river), flowing for near a thousand miles through that central region, is its Nile—it has made the plain. Like the Nile, the Menam has its annual inundation, when it brings from the mountainous regions of the North, the rich alluvium, which spread over the surface makes Siam even more fertile than "the land of leeks, onions, and melons," in Africa. In the month of August the waters of the Menam rise to a height of six feet above the average level. Between no other two countries are there such striking parallels as between Siam and Egypt. We ought to add, that, as by three channels or mouths, the Nile empties into the Mediterranean, so by three channels does the Menam find its way into the waters of the Chinese Sea.

THE CLIMATE.

To wonderful fertility of soil we must add that Siam has a singularly quickening climate. Siam is in the equatorial regions. In the coldest days the mercury does not get below 70° of Fahrenheit. Yet, despite this equatorial sun, such are the counteracting influences of breezes from the mountains, that the heat seldom rises higher than to 85°. The abundant rains in the wet season and consequent humidity of the atmosphere, sometimes bring ague and cholera. In other regards the climate is healthy. Cotton, spice, and especially pepper, are among its staples—the joint products of an Egyptian soil, and an equatorial sun.

In other respects, Siam is not like Egypt. It was not known to history prior to 700 of the Christian era. Nor was much known of the country before A.D. 1612, in which year an English ship first sailed up its great river. If it is true that "happy is the nation whose annals are dry," Siam has been a happy nation. It has indeed had its wars and civil tumults; but the current of its history has generally been equable. In this the Siamese are true Mongolians.

cheerfully conformed had they been born in Siam and always living there, is worthy of mention. The Siamese wife is a slave to her husband. It is seldom she goes with him abroad, but when that favor is granted, she walks at some distance in the rear. She does not eat with him, but, crouched on knees and elbows, serves him at the table. This is the wife's condition among the aristocracy. In the humbler orders, her subjection is not so abject; and not unfrequently she is treated with affection. The ruling classes have a plurality of wives. Some have a number that would make even Brigham Young stare in wonder. But among the common people, it is seldom that one man has more than one wife. Where there is more than one, the wife first married is mistress of the household.

THEIR NATIVE TOWN.

Not far from the mouth of the Menam, where it empties directly into the Gulf of Siam, is the town of Meklong. It is situated near a small river of the same name—a river which in the rainy season opens Siam to the Kingdom of Burmah. This town, of about thirteen thousand inhabitants, gave the world Chang and Eng. The Twins were born in Meklong, in the year A. D. 1811. The monstrosity of a ligament of flesh uniting the body of one near the end of the breast-bone, to a corresponding place in the body of the other, at once called attention to the infants. The mother suffered no unusual pain. Her strange progeny lived with her till they were eighteen years of age—the father having died when they were eight years old. In the year 1829, an enterprising American, Captain Coffin, conceived the notion of taking them to the United States.

An agreement was entered into with the mother, whereby, within a period of less than two years, they should be returned to their native home. They were then taken by the American navigator to the land which for forty years has been their home—the point of departure and return in their numerous and extended visits to all parts of the civilized world. It was by their own option that they did not return to Siam.

A biographical sketch of Chang and Eng comprises, for the most part, the particulars of their numerous journeys, and their domestic life in North Carolina. Yet their history in Siam, up to the date of their departure for America, has not a few interesting particulars.

THEIR LIFE IN SIAM.

We have had occasion to say that they were born in 1811. This was in the month of May. The mother had in all nine children, of whom four were older, and three younger, than Chang and Eng; but none others were twins, and only two remained alive when Chang and Eng left home—one brother and one sister. When their father died,

Chang and Eng were only eight years of age. Very soon after they began to assist in the support of their mother, who had been left in straightened circumstances, owing to the long illness of their father. The first business in which they embarked was the manufacturing of cocon-nut oil, which is such a very laborious employment that they found their strength unequal to it, and were compelled to relinquish it.

BECOME PEDDLERS.

They next engaged in peddling. This business is carried on in Siam almost as extensively as in the United States, with this difference, however, that whereas the Yankee peddler has to provide a wagon and a pair of horses, the Siamese has only to procure a boat and pair of oars. Pedlars in Siam are compelled to take out a license and pay a tax; but Chang and Eng were exempted by special favor. They say they were pretty keen at striking a bargain, and seem to think that the roving merchants of Siam are not a whit behind their brothers of Connecticut.

TRY THE DUCK AND EGG BUSINESS.

Not altogether relishing the peddling trade, Chang and Eng next turned their attention to the rearing of young ducks and dealing in eggs. The favorite food of ducks, in Siam, is a small shell-fish, for a supply of which Chang and Eng went a considerable distance to sea, generally twice a week, and sometimes oftener. Ever since then they have been very much attached to the sea, enjoy a voyage, and never recollect having been in the least sea-sick. The Twins remained in the duck and egg trade until their departure for the United States, when they left a very flourishing business to their brother.

AS CURIOSITIES IN SIAM.

Chang and Eng excited a good deal of curiosity in Siam, and many persons called at their father's house to see them, especially when they were very young. The King, having signified a desire to see them, they went to Bunkok, and saw not only his majesty, but also his seven hundred wives, some of whom made presents to the Twins, as did likewise the King.

IN AMERICA.

Chang and Eng left Siam on the 1st April, 1829, under the protection of Captain Coffin, of the American ship *Sachem*. At the time neither their mother nor they thought it likely that they would be absent longer than 18 or 20 months. They arrived at Newburyport on the 16th of August following, going directly to Boston. They remained in the United States until the middle of October, during

which time they visited Providence, Philadelphia, and New York, everywhere exciting the most lively interest.

THEY GO TO LONDON.

Before making a more extended tour in the New World, the curiosity in regard to them was so strong in England, that it was deemed expedient not to defer a visit to that country. Accordingly, they embarked for England, on board the ship Robert Edwards, Captain Sherburne, and were landed at Dartmouth, in Devonshire, in twenty-seven days. The ship was bound to London, and after having landed a great many of her passengers, she was a longer time going from Dartmouth to London than she had been from New York to Dartmouth, having encountered a succession of severe gales in the British Channel, and lost anchors and cables. Having arrived in the Great Metropolis on the 19th of November, the Twins were visited on the 24th, at the Egyptian Hall, in Piccadilly, by a great number of medical and scientific men, as well as by throngs led only by curiosity.

TESTIMONIALS.

The strange novelty very naturally excited the wonderment of the world. It seemed an impossibility in the nature of things that two human beings could be so strangely related. The non-scientific could hardly credit their senses. The public, at that time, seemed to need some proof of the reality of what their own eyes saw! And men eminent for scientific wisdom were more than willing to assure the public, that in regard to Chang and Eng, neither their eyes nor their fingers had deceived them. Accordingly, nearly the whole College of Surgeons investigated the peculiarity of the Twins, and sent forth a document, which, though not needed for the same purpose now, is worthy of insertion here, as a strange event in the career of the Twins from Siam. The document was signed by the Hon. Leigh Thomas, President of the Royal College of Surgeons; by the world-renowned Surgeon, Astley Cooper; by Thomas Copeland, B. C. Brodie, and thirty other Surgeons and Physiologists, hardly less distinguished. It read as follows:

"EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY, Nov. 24th, 1829.

"CHANG and ENG—two youths born in the kingdom of Siam, whose bodies are, by a wonderful caprice of nature, united together as one—arrived in London on Thursday, November 19th, and on Tuesday, 24th, were submitted to the examination of the most eminent professors of Surgery and Medicine of the Metropolis, as well as some other gentlemen of scientific and literary pursuits, in order that through their report (if favorable) the public may be assured that the projected exhibition of these remarkable and interesting youths is in no respect deceptive; and, further, that there is nothing whatever offensive to

delicacy in the said exhibition. These youths have passed their eighteenth year, are in possession of full health and extraordinary bodily strength; display all the faculties of the mind in their fullest extent; and seem in fact in every respect to enjoy a state of perfect happiness and contentment. The youths, having been thus introduced to the British Public, were visited on that day by the following distinguished persons, among many others, who testified their entire approbation of the exhibition, and obligingly gave it the sanction of their names."

The celebrated Joshua Brookes voluntarily sent forth the following: "Having seen and examined the two Siamese youths, Chang and Eng, I have great pleasure in affirming they constitute a most extraordinary *Lusus Naturæ*, the first instance I have ever seen of a double living child; they being totally devoid of deception, afford a very interesting spectacle, and they are highly deserving of public patronage."

A TECHNICAL STATEMENT.

A paper was read before the Royal Society, London, by G. B. Bolton, Esq., making a statement, in the phraseology of the profession, in regard to the ligament binding Chang and Eng together. (Though comparatively few readers can interpret the technical terms of this paper, we insert here a few extracts, as evincing the interest excited in the mind of the learned world by the presence of the Twins :) "The band of union is formed in the following manner: At the lowest part of the sternum of each boy, the ensiform cartilage is bent upwards and forwards, meeting the other in the middle of the upper part of the band, where moveable joints exist, which admit of vertical as well as lateral motion, each junction appearing to be connected by ligamentous structures. It is difficult to define precisely where the respective cartilages from each body meet, and whether a slip from one of the cartilages of the false ribs enters into the structure of these parts; but it is certain that the ensiform cartilages have assumed an extended and altered figure. The cartilaginous portion occupies the upper region of the band. The outline of the band is convex above and arched below. Under the cartilage, while they stand in their ordinary posture, are large hernial sacs, opening into each abdomen, and into which, on coughing, congenital herniæ are forced, probably in each boy formed by a transverse portion of the arch of the colon: generally, however, and under ordinary circumstances, these herniæ are not apparent. On the lower edge of the band, exactly in the centre, is situated the umbilicus, or navel, there being but one in common between them. Whether there is a communication between the two abdominal cavities, or a distinct peritoneal sac, belonging to each hernia, is by no means obvious.

TOUR THROUGH ENGLAND.

The fact that Chang and Eng remained in London seven months will indicate the profound interest felt in them in the metropolis.

After this long sojourn, they took a journey through England, stopping at Windsor, Reading, Oxford, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Bath, Bristol, Worcester, Birmingham, and Liverpool. Thence they went to Glasgow, and from Glasgow to Edinburgh, Dundee, and Perth. Returning once more to Glasgow, they took passage to Belfast, and went thence to Dublin. They staid two weeks in Dublin, and then crossed to Liverpool, from which place they went to Chester, Manchester, Leeds, York, Sheffield, Birmingham, and thence to London once more. They remained in the Metropolis a few weeks, and having embarked at Portsmouth, on board the *Cambria*, Captain Moor, they landed at New York on the 4th of March, 1831, to renew their career in the New World.

TOUR THROUGH THE UNITED STATES.

The Twins excited no less interest in America than in England. They found eager crowds awaiting them in every principal city and town in every one of the States. In making this tour, several times repeated, they frequently traveled in their own conveyance, which was much more pleasant for them, and enabled them not only to journey in any direction which was most agreeable to themselves, but also to stop at several places which they would not otherwise have had it in their power to visit. We may add, in this connection, that they also made the tour of the British Provinces, as in America, everywhere exciting a most profound interest.

THEY GO TO PARIS.

The continent of Europe was not behind England or America in its desire to welcome the strangest novelty in the form of man the world had yet seen. Accordingly, in the year 1835, they went to Paris, and remained in that city several months, during which time they enjoyed themselves very much—having seen as many of the public places as they could visit with comfort and convenience to themselves. They went twice to the Garden of Plants, in which is a splendid museum, a cabinet of comparative anatomy, containing a collection of sketches of various animals, from the mouse to the elephant, and also a very extensive and well-arranged collection of living beasts and birds, of all which the giraffe seemed to attract most attention. They also visited the celebrated manufactory of china, at Sevres; the palace and gardens of St. Cloud; the Church of the Magdalen; the Royal Mint; the Grand Opera, and they drove out repeatedly in the Champs Elysees, and Bois de Boulogne. In all their traveling they went to see as well as to be seen.

BRUSSELS AND ANTWERP.

From Paris they went to Brussels, and there visited the palace which a few years ago belonged to the Prince of Orange. From

Brussels the Twins went to Antwerp, which is a very strongly-fortified city, and has been celebrated in former times for the number of sieges it has stood. Antwerp is also famous for the number of painters who reside there, and for its museum, in which are exhibited specimens of paintings, beginning with the first attempts made in the infancy of the art, and ending with the elaborate and highly-finished works of living artists. The artists were interested in the Twins, and the Twins were interested in the artists. The Cathedral of Notre Dame is one of the noblest structures on the continent of Europe. It is 500 feet long, 230 feet wide, and the spire, which is remarkable for the beauty of its architecture, is nearly 500 feet in height. The Twins climbed to the top of it, but deemed the view very uninteresting, and scarcely worth the trouble of the ascent.

IN ROTTERDAM.

From Antwerp Chang and Eng went to Rotterdam, after having encountered much annoyance and delay, owing to the vexatious police regulations between the two countries, which rendered it necessary to procure from the Dutch government a special permission to enter Holland, and also a permission from the Belgian government to leave Belgium. Having obtained the requisite papers (as they supposed) they started for Rotterdam; but when they reached the Belgian frontier, and showed their passports to the commanding officer, they were informed that they could not pass the boundary, as their passport had not the signature of the chief of the office of public safety, which was indispensable. It was in vain that the Twins reasoned with him, stating that they had not come into Belgium with any traitorous design, and that allowing them to pass could not possibly endanger the safety of the state; and also stating how they had been misinformed by the passport officer at Antwerp, who assured them that their papers were correct. But to all this the officer replied civilly, but firmly, that he could not possibly take the responsibility of letting any one pass whose passport had not the signature of Monsieur François. Finally, they were obliged to go back again to Brussels, at a considerable loss of time and patience, not to say a word about the expense. Having obtained the requisite signature, they made a fresh start, and were then in considerable perplexity, until they had ascertained whether their Dutch passport was right. This, fortunately, was the case, and they at length reached Rotterdam, having passed through Breda and Dortrecht.

TWELVE STATEMENTS.

As soon as they had alighted at the hotel at Rotterdam, a paper was put before them to be filled up and sent to the police; the blanks having the following headings in the Dutch, French and English language

1st. The surname and christian name of the traveler. 2d. His age. 3d. His profession. 4th. Place of nativity. 5th. Usual place of abode. 6th. Whence he comes. 7th. Where he is going. 8th. To whom he is known in the place. 9th. Where he slept last night. 10th. The object of his journey. 11th. How long he intends to remain; and the 12th column is for general observations!

RETURN TO AMERICA.

Having completed their Dutch tour, visiting the Hague and Amsterdam, they took passage again for the land they had pitched upon as their home. Learning that an American brig, the *Francia*, Captain Edwards, was preparing to sail for New York, they engaged passage, and passing through the ship canal, had an opportunity of seeing that fine work. They landed at New York on the 7th of August, 1836, and were forcibly struck with the difference of bustle and business at New York, when contrasted with the quiet and stillness which prevail at Amsterdam.

MARRIAGE AND PRIVATE LIFE.

Having realized a competence, Chang and Eng concluded to retire to the enjoyments of private and domestic life. An attachment between them and the daughters of a clergyman of North Carolina led to marriage. November 13, 1842, Miss Maria Greenwood became Mrs. Maria Chang; and Miss Catharine Greenwood became Mrs. Catharine Eng.



Their home was selected in Mount Airy, in the County of Surry, State of North Carolina. From that day to this, Mount Airy has been to them a happy home—happy that is, in every domestic relation.

THEIR CHILDREN.

To Chang and Maria have been born six daughters and three sons, in the following order of age: Josephine, Christopher, Nancy, Mary

Ann, Victoria, Louise, Albert, Budd, and Lizzie. To Eng and Catharine have been born three daughters and six sons, in the following order: Catharine, Stephen Decatur, James Montgomery, Patrick Henry, William Oliver, Frederic Marshall, Rosella, Georgianna, and Robert.

TWO HOMES.

We have said that their home was happy. There is one exception to this, in that the two sets of children did not always agree. It is no uncommon thing for cousins to "fall out." For years there was but one house, as there was but one plantation. It was deemed best to have two houses—Mrs. Catharine, with her children, to be the mistress of the one, and Mrs. Maria, with her children, to be the mistress of the other. But as the Twins could not conveniently fall into this arrangement, they compromised: Chang's house being their home for three successive days; Eng's house their home for the three days next succeeding, and so alternately.

PERSONAL MANNERS.

Chang and Eng, having married American wives and made America their home, had the good sense to fall in with American customs. They adopted the American style of dress in everything. At first they made an exception in regard to their hair, which was three feet in length, and was worn by them braided in the Chinese style, in doing which, in washing, dressing, or any other occupation, they required no assistance, each acting for himself with as perfect ease as would one individual. While in bed they are not confined to any particular position, but rest on either side, as may best suit their convenience, generally, however, with their faces toward each other. They usually sleep quite soundly, and almost invariably awake at the same moment. They seldom speak one to the other; but this is not very surprising, when it is recollected that they have always been placed in the same circumstances, and that their sphere of observation has been bounded by the same limits. They play chess and draughts tolerably well, but it affords them no amusement to play these games in opposition to each other. They have learned to read and write sufficiently to amuse themselves during their hours of relaxation. They can drive a carriage with perfect ease, and prefer taking exercise in a gig to any other mode of conveyance; and although they have been upset very often, yet they have never received the least hurt. Their health has been almost uniformly good.

THEIR RECREATIONS.

They are fond of innocent sports. They can run a short distance with considerable speed.



They can handle the gun with great skill.



They row with vigor and ease.



They handle the axe, and fell trees without difficulty.



They love the plough.



They have a strong passion for fishing.

As matter of exercise and pleasure, they shingled the barn on their plantation, and did the work well.

THEIR HUMOR.

We could fill pages with anecdotes illustrative of their good nature, and relish for harmless jokes. One may suffice. A few years since, they were traveling over a Western railroad. They purposely covered all but their heads with their cloak. The conductor appeared. Chang handed *his* ticket. Eng declined, and then the following dialogue:

Conductor—"Your ticket, sir."

Eng—"I have no ticket."

Conductor—"Pay, or leave the car."

Eng—"I won't pay; but I will get out if my brother does."

Chang—"I have paid, and don't mean to get out."

Eng—"Then I won't get out."

Conductor—"Come, no trifling; you pay, or I'll put you out."

Eng—"If you put me out, you put my brother out."

Conductor—"I have nothing to do with your 'brother,' but I shall put you out."

The conductor called the brakeman, a stout Dutchman. As he approached to lay hands on the stubborn passenger, the Twins dropped the cloak, much to the horror of the Dutchman, who found the man he was to "put out" "*stuck in*" (as he expressed it) to the man he was not to put out! Eng paid, and all parties had their laugh.

THE WAR OF REBELLION.

Chang and Eng thrived as North Carolina planters till the breaking out of the great war. Previous to this, they had sold the bulk of their landed estate for notes secured by mortgage. But the Confederate Government made its paper money a "legal tender." With this worthless stuff the mortgage was canceled, and Chang and Eng paid—to them a total loss. They had large property in slaves,—the Emancipation Proclamation swept away this. Then the two contending armies found in their neighborhood territory for mutual ravage. In the aggregate result, they have lost their fortune, and are compelled once more to appear in public life. They have concluded to give a series of entertainments, which will be conducted on the same plan as those heretofore given with such marked success before the crowned heads and nobility of France, Germany, and England, where their series created a furore equaled only by the immense crowds who thronged to witness them in all the principal cities of the United States.

The rest of their history they are now to make. That another fortune awaits them we cannot doubt. The public will have something more than curiosity in regard to their prospective separation. May the surgeon's skill be equal to the problem.

THEIR HUMOR.

We could fill pages with anecdotes illustrative of their good nature and relish for harmless jokes. One man applied. A few years since they were traveling over a Western railroad. Their purpose was to over all but their heads with their hands. The conductor appeared. Chang handed his ticket. Eng, and then the following dialogue:

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Eng—"If you put me out, you put my brother out."

LECTURE ON THE SIAMESE AND OTHER VIABLE UNITED TWINS,*

By SIR JAMES Y. SIMPSON, BART., M.D., D.C.L.,

Professor of Medicine and Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh

UNITED twins or double monsters appear under a great variety of forms and under very diverse degrees of duplicity. Sometimes the two individuals are complete, or nearly complete, in all respects, and are found united by the fronts of the chest and abdomen, or by the backs, or by their heads and scalps, or by the pelves, or by the arms and sides. More frequently the two united persons are more or less incomplete, in consequence of their conjunction being more intimate and deep at the line of union. The degree of incompleteness which thus occurs varies infinitely. Thus, some monsters are altogether double above, and altogether single below; or, in other words, they possess two heads and four arms, but only two lower extremities. Others, again, are single above and double below; or, they have one head and four lower extremities. Every conceivable gradation is found in the intermediate part and organs in these varying degrees of double union. But the junctions, however diverse between the united twin individuals, are found to conform to the general teratological law that, in the two, the same parts only unite to the same parts; and not only muscle only to muscle, bone only to bone, but the same muscle in the one twin unites at the line of conjunction to the same muscle in the other twin; the same bone to the same bone; the same nerve to the same nerve; the same organ and part, as the liver, intestine, pericardium, nose, ears, etc., to the same organ and part in the opposite individual, whenever the conjunction extends to these and other organs and parts. This teratological law of the union of like to like—*eadem ibidem*—is, as I have said, a general law in the

* The Siamese Twins, when lately visiting Edinburgh, were good enough to allow themselves to be shewn to the students of the Midwifery Class in the University; and their presence led to this lecture.

A curious circumstance, which was noticed at a very early period by the twins, is, that the two inner eyes—the left one of Eng, and the right of Chang—possess a much clearer and more distinct vision than the two outer. In fact, when the two inner ones are closed, they say they are quite unable to distinguish any object clearly. I have ascertained, by experiment, that the right ear of Eng is more acute than his left; and the twins themselves know very well that Chang is much deafer than his brother. He does not hear a watch in contact with his right ear.

Professor Allen Thomson of Glasgow has shown it to be a general law in relation to double monsters, that the heart, liver, etc., are inverted in position, or on the reverse side, in one of the two individuals forming united twins. This does not seem to hold good in relation to either Chang or Eng. Dr. Atkin has carefully examined them for me in relation to this question. The livers in both, if we may judge from percussion, are situated normally on the right side of the abdomen; and their hearts on the left side of the thorax. The apex-beat of the heart in Eng is a little below and to the outside of the left nipple. In Chang, the apex-beat is not very determinable; but the heart-sounds are loudest on a level with his left nipple, and a little to the right of it.

Neither are the respirations or circulations of the two brothers synchronous. On one of the occasions in which Dr. Atkin examined their hearts, the twins were both suffering from slight influenza; but Chang's pulse was twenty-four beats in the minute quicker than Eng's.

In their chemical functions, if I may so call them, as well as in their organic, they are two separate and distinct individuals. In proof of this, let me state that Dr. Arthur Gamgee was so kind as to analyse for me specimens of the urinary secretions passed at the same time by the two brothers.† The urine in each differed as much in the relative amount of its solids, in its quantity of urea, uric acid, etc., as ever we see the same secretion differ in two different and unconnected individuals—one fact among many others proving that there is perfect duality in their unity.

Chang and Eng are married to two sisters, the daughters of an American clergyman. Each brother is the father of a large family. The family of Eng consisting of seven sons and five daughters; the family of Chang of three sons and seven daughters. Their first children were born within three or four days of each other; the others at irregular intervals. Chang's youngest child was born three months ago.

* Recently examined in London, in good health, by Sir Henry Thompson and Mr. Ernest Hart, the pulse of Eng marked 81, that of Chang 84.

†The following is Dr. Gamgee's report of the analysis of the urines of the two brothers. "The urine of Eng is of normal character, and has a density of 1015.7. Total solids per cent. 2.815; urea, 1.53. The urine of Chang is of a higher colour than that of Eng. On standing, a crystalline deposit of uric acid subsided. Density, 1025.1. Total solids per cent. 4.59; urea, 2.55. The urine of Eng is thus rather below the average density, whilst that of Chang is slightly above it. The percentage of urea in Eng's case was below the average, whilst that of Chang's urine was about the average. Chang's urine deposited uric acid, whilst Eng's did not."

In regard to progression, they walk readily and easily; can run and swim; and their movements are, from education, so harmonious as to seem at first as if they were directed by a single mind. In farming operations at home, they often work together, and with different kinds of tools. They are keen sportsmen and good shots. They are fond of chess, playing it always, it is said, with a stranger, and not with each other. They are intelligent and well-informed gentlemen, and good men of business.

These Siamese brothers are perfectly dual in mind, though mythical and incorrect tales of an alleged perfect unity in thought, sympathies, etc., have been long circulated by some and accredited by others. Educated constantly together for now upwards of half a century, in thought and word, in action and movement, it is not, perhaps, wonderful that their tastes and habits, their ideas and the expression of them, should conform so entirely as they do. Alike in moral character and disposition, and ever lovingly fond of each other, it is averred that throughout life they have never had a quarrel or any marked diversity of opinion; and hence apparently they think, act, and move like one individual. Always accustomed, when spoken to, to listen together to the same conversation, one or other almost always gives any required answer or observation; but, when tested, the two brothers can be so far separated and changed from their usual custom as to carry on a conversation with two different individuals. Having spoken English for thirty years, they are perfect English speakers, and scholars also; and, when reading history or poetry, etc., of which they are both fond, one usually reads aloud, and the other listens. But they sometimes read separately, each to himself. They usually go to sleep and waken at or near the same time, but not always so, and their night dreams, like their day thoughts, are quite independent of each other. Their feelings of hunger and thirst, and the calls of nature upon them, are generally responded to simultaneously, but not always so, or necessarily so. Their minds are, indeed, more dual than their bodies; for the latter are united together, while the former are not.

BAND OF UNION: ITS FORMATION.

The organic roundish band of union which connects the two brothers stretches in each from the xiphoid or ensiform cartilage or lower end of the sternum down to the umbilicus. In truth, the umbilicus is single, and its cicatrix can be felt upon the middle of the lower surface of the band. The measurements of the band are as follows. When it is put fully on the stretch, and the brothers stand face to face, as far as possible apart, its length is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In the centre, its circumference is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; while, close to each twin, it is nearer $8\frac{1}{2}$ or 9 inches; and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ in depth as it springs from the body of each. Consisting thus of a band about the thickness of the forearm,

it varies much in consistence in its upper and lower surfaces, in consequence of the diversity of its contained structures. Covered over, of course, by a continuity of skin, it is felt to be, on its upper surface, composed of a kind of arched hard tissue, jointed, and partially flexible. In fact, it is formed of the ensiform cartilages of each twin, turned at right angles forwards, so as to meet at their apices, and form a sheath or covering within the superior surface of the band. This hard sheath superiorly is increased laterally by apparently some of the adjoining rib-cartilages, being also extended or dragged forward. Below, the inferior surface of the band is, on the contrary, soft, thin, and elastic in its walls, like the integuments covering a large hernia. Indeed, when either brother coughs, the intestine can be felt projected forwards into the interior of the band.

The apices of the horizontally placed xiphoid cartilages feel close, but jointed, where they touch each other; but, when fully stretched out, the tip of the finger can be placed between them. The band still shows a considerable amount of flexibility, though nothing comparatively now to that which it is said to have possessed in the younger days of the twins. I have seen Chang, the shorter of the two, bend low enough to touch his foot, while Eng maintained the erect posture.

The Degree of Nervous Connexion between the two brothers, as shown in the sensibility of the band, is not great. When the middle of the band is touched, both feel it; and each brother feels every irritation applied to his own half of the band. But each seems also aware of any pricking or touching the skin of the band for about half an inch or more on the other side of the mesial line; this crossed sensibility diminishing from the centre outwards.

The Degree of Vascular Intercommunication between the Twins is a more interesting question. The pathological history of the brothers seemed to me at first sight to suggest that this vascular communication was greater than physiological inquiry has proved it to be. They have enjoyed, on the whole, excellent health; but have suffered under various diseases. When these were essentially blood-diseases, both brothers, as in other instances of united twins, suffered simultaneously. Thus they both at the same time laboured under small-pox, and again under measles. At one time they were attacked with ague; and the paroxysms of the cold, hot, and sweating stages went on simultaneously in each. I have seen both of them suffering under influenza, but one more severely than the other. Other diseases, not necessarily emanating from the blood and vascular system, have occurred in one and not in the other—as toothache. Chang jocosely complains that, when suffering from severe toothache, he has failed in getting any due sympathy from Eng, who never had the disease; but more, even when he required to have his tooth pulled out by the dentist, Eng had no fellow-suffering with him. They have had diarrhœa sometimes separately, sometimes simultaneously.

There is no vessel to be found beating in the walls of the band connecting the two brothers, and hence no large artery passing from the one to the other. Is there aught like a very free minor or capillary vascular intercommunication in the walls of this uniting band? To answer this question, and test the freedom of the sanguineous intercourse between the two brothers, I have tried the following experiment. One of them—Eng—was so good as to swallow, at my request, a draught containing about ten grains of iodide of potassium. The first urine passed by each brother an hour or two subsequently was carefully tested for me by that able chemist, Dr. Arthur Gamgee. Eng's urine showed very deep discoloration under the starch-test. Chang's showed no distinct trace of discolouration under it. When we consider the great delicacy of this test, and the small quantity of iodine that gives the necessary reaction, it is evident that the vascular connexion between the two brothers must be comparatively very small.

QUESTION OF THE SURGICAL SEPARATION OF THE SIAMESE TWINS.

Chang and Eng have themselves no desire to be surgically divided from each other. But some of their relatives have become anxious that they should be separated, if it were possible to do so; for latterly their two families have been living apart, and they have sojourned for a few days alternately in the two separated homesteads. The operation is certainly possible, and would be attended probably with little, or indeed no difficulty; but it would be so perilous in its character that the twins could not, in my opinion, be justified in submitting to it, nor any surgeon justified in performing it.

The cutaneous, cartilaginous, vascular, and other tissues composing the walls and mass of the band, offer in themselves no special obstruction to its surgical division. The interior of the band, however, contains, I believe, a canal or diverticulum of peritoneum, which passes from the abdominal cavity of the one brother to the abdominal cavity of the other. In modern surgery, we are by no means so afraid of dividing and opening into the peritoneum as medical men were ten or twenty years ago. In witness of this, we appeal, for example, to the marvellous success attending the now frequent operation of ovariectomy. Still the danger of cutting through a diverticulum of peritoneum is too great to be ever done without very grave and urgent reasons: and none such exist in this case. With them it is not a question of life or death; but a question merely of seemliness and convenience, and perhaps of pleasure and gratification to their relatives. Besides, if it were attempted in the Siamese twins it would be difficult perhaps to close up the exposed peritoneal cavity in each after the division. For, in the lower and inferior portion of the band, or in their umbilical region, the coats are

after birth Keonig applied a ligature to the middle of the connecting band, tightened it daily, and, at last, successfully divided the remnant of the band with the knife. In the two cut surfaces represented as left after this division, no appearance of peritoneum is seen. The only other point noted by Koenig in regard to this case of—as he terms it—*Gemelli sibi invicem adnati, feliciter separati*—is that the operation on the two sisters was not followed by convulsions in either.

[For a continuation of this interesting lecture, see the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, published by Mr. HARDWICKE, of 192, Piccadilly, London.]

THE SIAMESE TWINS: PROPOSAL FOR EFFECTING THEIR SEPARATION.

By JAMES STARTIN, ESQ., F.R.C.S.,

Senior-Surgeon to the Hospital for Diseases of the Skin.

From the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, February 20th, 1869.

The lucid description of the Siamese Twins and their band of union by my friend Sir J. Y. Simpson, has induced me to ask a place for a proposition which, as far as I am aware, has not been made before. This is to accomplish the separation gradually, imitating what occasionally occurs to a limb of the *fœtus in utero*. This I would propose to effect by applying to the umbilical or mesial line of the band a centrally divided disc of steel or aluminium, strongly gilt, of the eighth or tenth of an inch in thickness, which should have a central opening exactly corresponding in size and shape with the connecting band of the twins. The edges of the opening in the disc should be rounded and burnished, and each half should be constructed to slide smoothly and evenly on the other, which might be accomplished by grooves, as also by the pair of male and female screws with which each side of the two halves of the disc must be furnished. These screws are to be constructed with a fine thread, that will take three hundred or more revolutions to close the opening in the centre of the disc, and thus divide the band, in three hundred or more days; they should also have square heads, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and be moved by a key, so that a whole, a half, or a quarter revolution can be *diurnally* made by each brother, as may be found suitable. Twice a day the parts pressed upon by the disc should be lubricated by means of a camel-hair brush moistened with a little trag-

very thin and distended, and this condition runs onwards to the middle of the band.

I have spoken of the band containing a peritoneal canal, common to the abdomen of each brother. That a large segment of peritoneum enters into the composition of the band on either side is easily ascertained by touching it below or laterally, and feeling the full impulse of bowel sent into the band when the individual on that side coughs. That the peritoneal cavity, in the form of a canal, extends entirely through the band from one brother to another is more doubtful, and rests on this kind of evidence; viz., when you place your finger on the lower surface of the band, and upon the cicatrix of the umbilicus there, if the brother on the right coughs he sends an impelled portion of bowel not only up to, but *beyond* the point touched; and, in the same way, if the brother on the left coughs, the impelled bowel passes somewhat apparently to the right, beyond the site of the central umbilical cicatrix.

You are well aware that various attempts have been made of late years, by electric and other strong lights, to make portions of the body more or less translucent. By placing a powerful light behind the connecting band in Eng and Chang, I tried to make its thinner portions transparent, with a view of possibly tracing its contents better than by touch; but I failed entirely in getting any advantage from this mode of examination. If the band contains throughout it an extension of peritoneum, as I believe it does, then it is possible that—as in similar cases of the same type of double monstrosity united by a similar band in the same situation, and described by Otto, St. Hilaire and others—a portion of bowel or even of hepatic structure may intercommunicate; but I do not think that this is the case in the conformation of the Siamese brothers. When twins are united front to front, like Chang and Eng, the degree of union in the band has varied infinitely in *extent* and also specially in *depth*; being far more complete and intimate in some cases than in the Siamese brothers, and less perfect in others again than in them, as was probably the fact in united female twins, whose case is recorded by Emmanuel Koenig in the *Ephemerides* for 1690, and where he tells us he effected successfully their surgical separation. The uniting band in Koenig's case was in the same situation as in Chang and Eng, and extended, as in them, from the ensiform cartilage down to the thick and single umbilical cord (“coalitus a cartilagine ensiformi usque ad eorum umbilicos in unum funem summopere crassum contortos.”) There were four umbilical arteries and two umbilical veins in this double cord. The imperfect sketch which Koenig gives of those united twins (and which is copied in Fig. 2) represents the band as more narrow than we must hold it to have been from his own words, and from his account of its involving the ensiform cartilages in each twin (“contigit verò hic coalitus in ipsis cartilaginibus ensiformibus.”) He speaks of the measurement of the band in these new-born infants as one inch in breadth, half an inch in depth, and five inches in thickness. Shortly

after birth Keonig applied a ligature to the middle of the connecting band, tightened it daily, and, at last, successfully divided the remnant of the band with the knife. In the two cut surfaces represented as left after this division, no appearance of peritoneum is seen. The only other point noted by Koenig in regard to this case of—as he terms it—*Gemelli sibi invicem adnati, feliciter separati*—is that the operation on the two sisters was not followed by convulsions in either.

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as we know, unprecedented in all past generations. Had a ligature similar to theirs united two of the lower animals—dogs, cows, or monkeys—physiology alone would have been concerned in its investigation. But two human souls tied together opens up speculations of the strangest kind. Aristophanes' allegory told in Plato's Banquet, of the double human beings so cruelly severed by the anger of the gods, and ever more seeking each his other half, seems to take visible form before us; or rather our first sense is that of awe such as is wrought by some German legend, some Frankenstein; some man without a shadow—some creature, in fact, born outside the natural conditions of our race. But this feeling, dispelled as it is in a moment by the gentle and thoroughly human smiles of the brothers, soon passes into profound and not unsympathetic curiosity to know how life must seem to one who has never been alone. How must affectionate companionship, begun in the cradle, and never broken by even fear of separation before death, alter the whole nature of both mind and heart, leaving not one chink of space for all that world of loneliness which surrounds even the happiest of us, and makes the closest and dearest of our ties only new sources of fear for their stability? No separation by night or day—for nearly sixty years! Does it not speak somewhat for human nature that when subject to such a test the result is, not endless bickerings and struggles for freedom like those of hounds in a leash, but probably the most perfect fraternal affection ever known.

The unity of the minds of Chang and Eng is an equally curious subject for speculation with their feelings. It appears that they seldom converse together, and never play at any game against one another. But the first fact is easily explicable by the similarity of all their experiences and sentiments, leaving little to be spoken of; and the second is singularly illustrated by their pleasure in playing against a third person, and then consulting together on their moves. The visitor in conversing with them at once perceives that though one or other actually makes the desired reply, the other brother takes a sort of second to the speech of the first. The report which was circulated a few months ago that they had quarrelled at the time of the American War, one taking part with the Confederates and the other with the Federals, is, as the Italians say, "fully inexact." When asked yesterday the truth of the matter, both Chang and Eng answered, laughing, that the Americans had made fun of them by inventing such tales; and that they had both been, from first to last, attached to the cause of the South. Apparently, when their own inviolable Union was so rudely torn in two, the Americans imagined that even the unanimity of the Siamese twins must be rent asunder. But in truth the two men were involved in common losses and finally common ruin by the payment of their mortgages in the worthless paper of the Confederation and the subsequent emancipation of their slaves. Their present visit to Europe is intended to restore their fortunes, and it is

It will be seen that this plan can be employed without the slightest risk, as it can be continued or discontinued at pleasure, and it may be carried so far only as to consolidate the band and cut off what little circulation or nervous unity exists between the brothers, so that the stroke of a knife may finally effect their separation.

I enclose a rudely-made model in pasteboard, which will demonstrate my meaning at a glance. The elastic band taking the place of the male and female screws, of course one side only is shown in the model; but I think it may prove sufficient, not only to illustrate the nature of the apparatus to the patients, but also to enable an intelligent mathematical or surgical instrument maker to carry out the proposition.

THE SIAMESE TWINS.

From THE ECHO, February 13th, 1869.

THERE need be no greater proof of the intensity of our inner sense of solitude than the almost awful curiosity which attaches to the union of the Siamese brothers. The physical phenomena of the case are of course interesting to anatomists, and may perhaps excite some idle wonder even among the most ignorant as to the normal conformation of the human frame. But a far higher interest attaches to the state of two intelligent minds which have gone through more than half a century of mortal life, under conditions absolutely unique, and so far

as we know, unprecedented in all past generations. Had a ligature similar to theirs united two of the lower animals—dogs, cows, or monkeys—physiology alone would have been concerned in its investigation. But two human souls tied together opens up speculations of the strangest kind. Aristophanes' allegory told in Plato's Banquet, of the double human beings so cruelly severed by the anger of the gods, and ever more seeking each his other half, seems to take visible form before us; or rather our first sense is that of awe such as is wrought by some German legend, some Frankenstein; some man without a shadow—some creature, in fact, born outside the natural conditions of our race. But this feeling, dispelled as it is in a moment by the gentle and thoroughly human smiles of the brothers, soon passes into profound and not unsympathetic curiosity to know how life must seem to one who has never been alone. How must affectionate companionship, begun in the cradle, and never broken by even fear of separation before death, alter the whole nature of both mind and heart, leaving not one chink of space for all that world of loneliness which surrounds even the happiest of us, and makes the closest and dearest of our ties only new sources of fear for their stability? No separation by night or day—for nearly sixty years! Does it not speak somewhat for human nature that when subject to such a test the result is, not endless bickerings and struggles for freedom like those of hounds in a leash, but probably the most perfect fraternal affection ever known.

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doubtless not without some pain that they thus, after many years of ease and independence, repeat the exhibition of thirty-eight years ago. Let it be borne in mind, in considering the strange mental and moral aspects of this case that it is by no means *in corpore vili* that Nature has tried this unique experiment of a double man. Chang and Eng, though their countenances bear the strongly marked and rather ugly type of their race, are no barbarians. Their manners, voices and mode of address are those of persons of intelligence and cultivation above the average. Many a Yankee and many an Englishman who thinks himself well entitled to it, has less claim to the name of gentleman. The Siamese intellect, as Sir John Bowring describes it in his interesting account of his embassy, ranks high in the scale of Eastern minds. Mr. Grant Duff tells us that the present King would take a considerable place even among English mathematicians and astronomers, and that he habitually compiles the almanacs and ephemeridæ for his kingdom. In the remoter parts of the country where foreigners have had little or no influence, the Buddhist religion has been by no means a useless instrument of morality and charity. Of such a race were born these remarkable twins; nor were they either of them individually of a low class of intelligence, much less idiotic. They are, then, in all respects fair and average specimens of human nature, thoroughly capable of realizing all the peculiarities of their position, and exemplifying its influences upon both heart and mind. It is not, as we have said, to the credit of human nature, that under such a strain of endless, incessant mutual concession the result should be, not mutual hatred, but mutual tenderness and unbroken affection.

Approaching to sixty years of age—they were born in the great comet year, in 1811—Chang and Eng cannot but know that at no very distant date, unless, as may be hoped, a common sickness carry them off together, there must come a terrible trial. The old Mezentian torture, of the living man bound to the dead, will be before them; and the survivor must cry with anguish, "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" That the severance may then be effected safely may be expected, since the sensation of neither brother extends much beyond the centre of the connecting link. But what will life be to the one who is left "free"—free to a loneliness he has never even imagined aright from the first consciousness of infancy? No widowhood would bear any resemblance to such desolation. Let us hope for the Siamese brothers that their fate will be other than this, and that as, in a sense no other human beings have known, "their lives were united," so it may also be written on their common grave, that "in death they were not divided."

in the face of a fine woman might envy. The face is admirable in features and expression, and bears evident indications of a bright intellect and a genial, good-natured disposition. In conversation Miss Anna Swan is as much at home as any lady. We heard a kindly and lady-like her admiring and inquiring visitors. We heard a kindly and lady-like responses to each person who addressed remarks or queries to her, and in not a few a not a few the freest of wit and humour and keen observation.

Her manners are gentle and refined, and the impressions produced upon ourselves, when introduced to the fair Nova Scotian were that in the town of New Annan, in the province of Nova Scotia, British North America, was born, in the year 1849, the subject of this sketch, ANNA SWAN, now twenty years of age, seven feet eleven inches in height, 430 lbs. in weight, and beyond all doubt the tallest and largest woman in the world. Her parents were of average size; her two brothers and one sister by no means above the ordinary dimensions of humanity. The little Anna however soon lost all right to be so termed. Her infancy was, in regard to size, indicative of the coming greatness; her childhood was as another's womanhood; and now her maturity is as that of the daughters of Anak, above and beyond all her fair sisterhood. It is a curious illustration of the great task which, in this case, Nature set upon herself, that when Miss Swan was still at the age of a child in arms she was almost as big as her own mother, and when still, as one would say of any ordinary being, a little girl, she was as large as her father and mother together, whilst now it is doubtful if she would not weigh down the whole family. In short Miss Swan, like her sable namesake so often classically quoted, is in fact and indeed a very *rara avis in terris*.

Miss Swan has spent the greater portion of her life in her own home, but during the last two years has visited the principal cities of the United States and British North America, where her magnificent proportions have excited the utmost wonder, and her genial amiability of disposition and pleasing intelligence have won for her a host of friends. The Giantesses who have been seen in this country have appeared after a great flourish of trumpets, but have generally turned out little more than unusually tall women, made by various deceptions to appear taller than in reality. With Miss Swan it is otherwise. A positive and natural height of 7 feet 11 in. requires no exaggeration or deception to produce effect. Tall men walk with perfect ease below Miss Swan's arms outstretched horizontally. Tall women barely reach beyond her waist. This enormous body does not at first sight appear in its full greatness, the proportions of height and rotundity being so well balanced. We have never seen a real Giantess before with anything like so comely a figure. The finely shaped bust is surmounted by a head admirably poised upon shoulders which, in smaller propor-

tions, many a fine-made woman might envy. The face is admirable in feature and expression, and bears evident indications of a bright intellect and a genial good-natured disposition. In conversation Miss Swan is quite equal to the many trying demands made upon her by her admiring and inquiring visitors. We heard a kindly and lady-like response to each person who addressed remarks or queries to her, and in not a few cases pleasant repartees, which evinced the possession of the faculties of wit and humour and keen observation.

Her manners are gentle and refined, and the impressions produced upon ourselves, when introduced to the fair Nova Scotian were, first wonder, at her overtowering proportions, then admiration of her lady-like self-possession and deportment, her power of attracting our sympathies, her ready wit in conversation, and her general superiority as a wonder and as a lady, to any Giantess we had ever seen. This will be, we feel assured, the unanimous opinion of all who feel inclined to satisfy something more than curiosity, when they visit the **GREATEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD.**

In July, 1865, Barnum's Museum was totally destroyed by fire. Miss Swan was then its greatest attraction and being in the building at the time, was with great difficulty rescued in a swooning condition from the flames. She unfortunately lost all her wardrobe and a sum of twelve hundred dollars in gold, besides a large amount in United States Bonds. It would appear that fate has resolved to try Miss Swan by the ordeal of fire, for on a second occasion, in 1867, Barnum's re-erected Museum being destroyed by the devouring element, Miss Swan once more lost her property and savings, and narrowly escaped the loss of her life. She then, acting upon the double warning she had received, bade adieu to Mr. Barnum, and classically remarking with reference to her two hair-breadth escapes (*Absit Omen*), left the United States, which in this respect she had found to be too warm in its reception of her.

May we hope, that on visiting the home of her forefathers a better future may await her.



ZOEBIDA LUTI,

"LADY OF BEAUTY."



ZOEBIDA LUTI was born at Kizlaar, near the River Terek, which rises in the Caucassian Mountains. When she was still young Circassia was convulsed by a terrible Russian Invasion. Her parents beheld their fields desolated, their flocks destroyed, and their own lives imperilled at the hands of their remorseless foes. As so many thousands of their brave and noble race have done, they fled from their native mountains and sought refuge amid the mosques and minarets of Constantinople. Here the perfect beauty of their young child became the theme of universal admiration, the topic of many an animated conversation—the object of jealous forebodings to many a Harem into whose charmed circle the fame of the fair Circassian's beauty had penetrated. It was but too likely to happen that the lovely Zoebida had escaped from Russian tyranny only to fall into the luxurious slavery of the Imperial Harem. Her parents, indeed, were led to regard her as destined to become ere long the envied Queen of the Sultan's household. Happily the beauty and grace of the child attracted the attention and gained the sympathies of a distinguished American traveller, then on a visit to the Ottoman capital, Mr. John Greenwood. This gentleman exerted all his influence with her parents, appealing to them again and again to save her from a fate of which they could not realize the worst and most deplorable side. His efforts were seconded by Herr

Presnitz, the Austrian Consul, and ultimately proved successful. Zoebida was given up by her parents and placed under the guardianship of the gentlemen named, who thenceforth worthily and generously fulfilled their charge. Zoebida entered with spirit and intelligence into the excellent plans laid out for her education, and acquired, not only a more than usual store of general learning, but was soon perfected in the accomplishments of her more western sisters. She acquired several languages, which she still speaks and writes with ease, and she also became duly instructed in the Christian religion. Her personal attractions increased with her mental powers—the lovely child developed into a most exquisite and *ravissante* illustration of that special beauty which have made the fair daughters of Circassia renowned through the world. Her face may be taken as a type of perfect symmetry, which not even classic Greece could have excelled. The beauty of form and outline being, as it were, spiritualised by an ever-changing and delicate mobility of expression emanating from a mind at once educated and refined. The chisel of Praxiteles might nobly have been employed to copy the beautiful face; but not even the genius of Praxiteles could catch the languishing loveliness of eye, the exquisite play of light and shade which at each moment adds some new charm to features every one of which Venus might have envied. So Zoebida grew up into womanhood, remaining for some years under the kind tutorship of the ladies of Herr Presnitz' family, until about two years since, when on Mr. Greenwood's return to the East he prevailed upon her to pay America a visit. Under Mr. Greenwood's charge she visited the principal American cities, leaving in each a circle of charmed friends. Mr. Greenwood then having undertaken a mission to the Russian dominions in Asia, confided Zoebida to the friends with whom she is now, at her own earnest desire, travelling *en route* to Paris, where she intends to await her guardian's arrival from Bokhara and return with him to her new home in the United States.



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