SOCIETIES.

Masonic Regular Meetings. Minden, No. 253, on Monday, May 6th at 7:30 Ancient St. John's, No 3, on Thursday, May 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. Cataraqui, No. 92, on Wednesday, April 10th,

I. O. O. F. M. U. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GRAND

LODGE OF MANCHESTER, ENGLAND, meet every other Friday in the Sons of England Room, Princess Street. Next meeting APRIL 18TH. W. BUSHELL, Recording Secretary.

Sons of England. LEICESTER LODGE, No. 33, of the Sons of England Benevolent Society, will meet in their new Lodge Room, correr Montreal and Princess Sto., over Strachan's Hardware Store, the 2nd and th Tuesdays of each month.

Canadian Order Foresters. COURT STANLEY, No. 199, C.O.F., meets the second and Last Tursday of Kach MONTH in the 'Prentice Boys' Hall, King Street. T. T. RENTON, Recording Secretary.

Independent Order of Foresters. COURT FRONTENAC, No. 59, REGULAR MEETiwg. Thursday evening. April 18th. J. S. R. Mc-CANN, Secretary.

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Two Reporters of The New York Evening Sun Risk It.

A VERY FOOLHARDY TRICK.

The Mutual Banter-Ashamed to Back Out. Face to Face with the Lions-Not Quite So with the Tigers, but Too Near for Safety.

N. A. Jennings and W. J. Rouse, youthful reporters on The Evening Sun of New York, dare devils by nature and reckless by profession and habit, have lately been urging each other into all sorts of foolish and dangerous proceedings by the system the boys call "giving a dare." As, boy like, neither would "take a dare," they have done some very foolish things, including a ride through the streets of New York on Barnum's big ele-



IN VERY CLOSE QUARTERS.

phants, Fritz and Gyp. They have, however, eclipsed all former exploits by actually entering the cage with two enormous lions and the middle compartment of the "tigers' den, in reach of the paws of two "man eaters, The following is condensed from The Sun's

They were conversing with Superintendent George Conklin. of the animal department of Barnum's, when the "dare" was given and the challenge accepted. They Mr. William H. Winner, the noted li-

"Do you mean to say that if a division door is closed the animals can reach a man in the empty compartment?"

"Certainly they can get you. They can reach about three feet. The middle compartment is only three and a half feet wide, and if you move out of the way of one the tiger in the other end of the cage will have a picnic with you."

Superintendent Conklin placed two small stepladders inside the railings in front of the cages, and then placed one of the ladders in front of the cage containing the lions and the other in a similar position at the tiger den. He unlocked the doors, but still left them fastened and cailed to the first reporter to get ready. The lions were to be visited first, and they evidently knew that something unusual was about to happen.

Mr. Kellar and fully twenty gentlemen who were interested in the welfare of the reporter who was to go in came to a stand in front of the cage. Kellar bade him a grave good-by and Superintendent Conklin swung back the heavy iron door.

"You had better take your overcoat off," said Manager Conklin to the writer. "It's best to be free if anything should happen."

The reporter looked at those two lions in their cage long and earnestly. The male lion, with his great mane and noble, kingly face, was lying at full length near the front of the cage. His nose was resting between his outstretched paws, and he met the reporter's gaze with such a mild, calm, dignified look that at the time it did not seem as though he would condescend to be ugly and savage under any circumstances. The lioness was not so lazy nor so dignified in appearance. She was pacing back and forth in the little compartment of the big cage just behind her royal spouse, and she seemed restless and fill at ease. Every now and then she opened her mouth in a most prodigious yawn, and thereby disclosed two rows of great white, glistening teeth in anything but a reassuring manner. She didn't seem to notice the reporter

In another instant he was in the cage beside Manager Conklin, and that gentleman had closed the door. Keeping as near the center of the middle

compartment of the cage as possible, the reporter looked about him. On his right, in the casternmost compartment, was a great man eating Bengal tiger. He was lying close to the bars which separated him from the middle compartment, and the bars were so wide apart that he could easily have thrust his paws between them and reached the reporter. There was a wicked gleam in the big tiger's great green eyes, and it seemed to gain in ferocity when Manager Conklin casually remarked that he was the most savage tiger he had ever seen in a menagerie in all his experience. The reporter would have shrunk away from the terrible animal if he had had room, but the middle compartment was only about four feet wide, and in moving away from the tiger be would have been obliged to get close to the lions' end of the cage. This was not to be thought of for a moment, as the lions had become greatly excited as soon as they had seen the stranger come into the cage, and they were snarling and leaping about as though they smelled fresh meat and wanted to get at it.

"Stand still there against the back of the cage in the middle," said Manager Conklin in a low voice.

The reporter took one step backward, and felt the bars at the rear of the cage touch his back. Manager Conklin stepped to the door which separated the middle compartment from that in which the excited lions were confined, and, pulling the bolt, opened it.

As soon as Manager Conklin had pulled the bolt of that door from its catch the lion sprang against it and forced it open. He was closely followed by the lioness. The two great animals bounded eagerly into the middle compartment where the two men whom they could have killed at one blow were awaiting them. The presence of a stranger seemed to excite them to fury. They threw their tawny bodies against the sides of the cage and snarled and growled in rage. The lion's body rubbed against the reporter's leg, and as the monarch of the forest felt the contact he roared with all the power of his

Swish! and the rawhide whip which Manager Conklin carried cut full in the lion's face. It was a cruel blow, but it was a necessary one. As the lion felt its sting he snarled and showed all his teeth, but he knew that it was his master who had struck him, and he bounded back into the compartment from which he had come. The lioness followed

close after him. As soon as they had leaped in Manager Conklin sprang for the door to close it, but before be could do so the lion had dashed

against it again and was back in the middle compartment more enraged than ever. This time the lioness-she had followed close after her mate-showed her ugly disposition.

She backed into the corner of the compart-. ment by the bars of the tiger's den, and showed all her teeth as she swayed her body from side to side as a cat does when about to spring upon a bird. Her mate was bounding about the compartment like a rubber ball. Twice he sprang into the air as high as the reporter's bead.

But Manager Conklin knew where the greater danger lay. He appeared not to notice the lion at all. The lioness claimed all his attention. Lifting that terrible rawhide whip again he dealt the crouching lioness a blow across the eyes which brought her to her senses in short order. With a howl of rage or pain she leaped back into her compartment, followed this time by the lion.

Manager Conklin had failed to fasten the door before, but not so this time. With a movement as rapid as that of the lions themselves he was at the door in a flash and had sprung the bolt. The lions were in a towering rage when they found that they could not get out again, and they dashed their huge bodies against the bars in a vain effort to break through them, while they howled and snarled and spit with impotent anger.

All this performance had been watched with terrible interest by the man eating tiger in the other compartment only two or three feet away. The terror of the Indian jungle was almost beside himself with excitement. His long claws were unsheathed and his fangs were running with saliva. His jaws worked convulsively.

If he could only have broken into where the lion tamer and the reporter stood, he would have torn them to pieces in the twinkling of an eye. It would have needed red hot irons instead of a rawhide whip to have subdued him, and it may be marked that red hot irons are not kept continually on hand in Madison Square garden. As the reporter left the cage the tiger thrust one great paw between the bars and tried to reach him, but the distance was a few inches too great,

The reporter reached the ground to be frantically hugged by the showmen, with tears in their eyes. It was the reaction from the awful strain upon their nerves. Then he suddenly awoke to the fact that he was smoking. Mechanically obeying the force of habit while in with the hous, he had lighted a cigarette without knowing it.

It was now time for the other reporter to enter the middle 'compartment of the tigers. He had been told by the superintendent that it would be impossible to release the tigers so as to allow them in the same compartment with himself and the reporter, for the reason that they were fresh animals, unbroken to the sight of strangers in their midst, and that it would be suicidal to attempt to handle them in a manner similar to that in which the lions had been handled. He further allayed the reportorial fears by assuring him that tigers were of a much fiercers and more treacherous disposition and were twice as quick in their movements. The reporter thought that if this latter was a fact, a Bengal tiger could give chain lightning a handicap and outrun it.

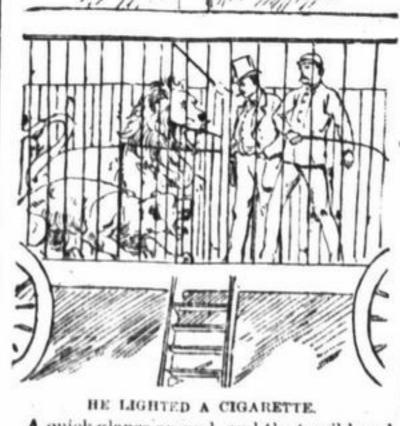
"Now, when you get into the den look out for their claws and see that they don't catch you, or they'll tear your arm or leg right out of the socket. Be particularly careful to keep in the rear of the cage, and look out for this big male tiger over here; he's a vicious devil."

They entered, the door was closed, and the heavy rawhide carried by the superintendent was soon at work on the tigers. That particularly fierce gentleman who occupied the second floor front made himself felt before the visitors had been inside the cage two seconds. A light iron grated door-or more properly a barred door, for it was constructed of half inch round iron rods, running vertically at a distance of five inches apartwas all that separated the beast from his coveted prev.

The door was made to swing open in the middle, and it didn't reach to the top of the cage by about a foot. It was a weak looking sort of an affair, and was fastened by a drop bolt, also of half inch iron, which fitted into a niche in the floer. It was plain to be seen that it would open easily under pressure.

The reporter took a position in the rear of the cage and tried to look both ways at once. Do as he would be couldn't keep track of all the tigers. Their big striped bodies bounded hither and thither, and they seemed anxious to have a taste of his flesh. While he was gingerly stepping an inch or two to the right to escape the formidable claws of a giant paw thrust through the partition bars on his left he felt a hot breath in his face, and a growl or roar sounded in his very ears that fairly made his hair stand on end.





A quick glance around, and the terrible red

jaws of that particularly ferocious tiger of the second floor front were seen within less than a foot of his face. The animal had sprung at the swing doors, caught them at the top with his forefeet, and was trying to get his head through the opening over them. And he all but succeeded, too. To describe the thoughts that flitted at lightning like speed through the reporter's brain in that second of time would be an unending task.

The danger and terror were further added to by the fact that the superintendent accidentally let slip the bolt on the bad tiger's door in trying to secure it more firmly, so that the ferocious animal so far succeeded in his effort to get at the reporter as to force the doors far inward and part them sufficiently to get his head through, but was beaten back by the heavy rawhide in the superintendent's hands. The bolt shot to place, and the reporter shot out the instant the outside door

A strange, nervous faintness followed. 'Both men testify that, while they were in the cages, everything in the pavilion seemed strangely distorted. The opposite side seemed to stretch away into infinity. Points of light glowed in unnatural brilliancy in red and white, and the men in front seemed distant as another world and yet as large as giants. They saw all this even while the hot breath of the animals was in their faces. It was altogether the most extraordinary, foolhardy performance any American reporter has been guilty of. "They were the first to ever propose such a thing," said the superintendent, "and they will be the last."

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