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MAN AND MONKEY SHOW DISAPPROVED BY CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. MacArthur Thinks the Exhibition Degrading.

COLORED MINISTERS TO ACT

The Pygmy Has an Orang-Outang as a Companion Now and Their Antics Delight the Bronx Crowds.

Several thousand persons took the Subway, the elevated, and the surface cars to the New York Zoological Park, in the Bronx, yesterday, and there watched Ota Benga, the Bushman, who has been put by the management on exhibition there in the monkey cage. The Bushman didn't seem to mind it, and the sight plainly pleased the crowd. Few expressed audible objection to the sight of a human being in a cage with monkeys as companions, and there could be no doubt that to the majority the joint man-and-monkey exhibition was the most interesting sight in Bronx Park. All the same, a storm over the exhibition was preparing last night. News of what the managers of the Zoological Park were permitting reached the Rev. Dr. R. S. MacArthur of Calvary Baptist Church last night, and he announced his intention of communicating with the negro clergymen in the city and starting an agitation to have the show stopped.

"The Person responsible for this exhibition degrades himself as much as he does the African," said Dr. MacArthur. "Instead of making a beast of this little fellow, he should be put in school for the development of such powers as God gave to him. It is too bad that there is not some society like that for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. We send our missionaries to Africa to Christianize the people, and then we bring on here to brutalize him.

"Our Christian missionary societies must take this matter up at once. I shall communicate with Dr. Gilbert of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church and other pastors of colored congregations, that we may work together in this matter. They will have my active assistance."

Colored Ministers Will Protest.

Dr. Gilbert said he had already decided that the exhibition was an outrage and that he and other pastors would join with Dr. MacArthur in seeing to it that the Bushman was released from the monkey cage and put elsewhere.

Any suspicion that the exhibition was the result of error was contradicted by yesterday's developments. Benga was removed from the chimpanzees' cage to the crescent-shaped construction in the southwestern end of the Primate House, and on the cage was posted this sign:

<p>The African Pigmy, "Ota Benga." Age, 23 years. Height, 4 feet 11 inches. Weight, 103 pounds. Brought from the Kasai River, Congo Free State, South Central Africa, by Dr. Samuel P. Verner. Exhibited each afternoon during September.</p>

To increase the picturesqueness of the exhibition, moreover, an orang-outang named Dohong, which has been widely described as showing almost human intelligence, was put in the cage with the Bushman, and with them the parrot which Dr. Verner brought from Africa with Benga.

The Bushman and the orang-outang frolicked together most of the afternoon. The two were frequently locked in each other's arms, and the crowd was delighted.

There was always a crowd before the cage, most of the time roaring with laughter, and from almost every corner of the garden could be heard the question:

"Where is the pygmy?"

And the answer was, "In the monkey house."

Perhaps as a concession to the fact that it was Sunday, a pair of canvas shoes had been given to the Bushman to wear. He was barefooted on Saturday. He seemed to like the shoes very much. Over and over again the crowd laughed at him as he sat in mute admiration of them on his stool in the monkey cage. But he didn't mind that. He has grown used to the crowd laughing, has discovered that they laugh at everything he does. If he wonders why he does not show it.

Properties Ready for the Show.

The exhibition of man and monkey was scheduled by the park management for the afternoon. Even before that time there were inquiries from the curious, but according to the sign put up the exhibition is to be a *matinée*. Some time before 2 o'clock little Benga was allowed to go into the arenalike cage, where already the appurtenances for his exhibition, such as his bow and arrow, his parrot, a new target made of malleable clay in a box, and his net had been placed. Dohong was let out later, and then the show began.

The crowd before the cage yesterday fluctuated in size from hour to hour, but there was hardly a time when there were not from 300 to 500 persons standing there. The throng was greatest in the later afternoon.

The performance of man and monkey is not easy to describe. Certainly Dohong is a very patient beast. Many times Benga grabbed him by the forepaws, swung him as though he were a bag, and then dropped him. Then man and monkey grinned. On other occasions Benga pushed the monkey before him. In this attitude the pygmy was not much taller than the orang-outang, and one had a good opportunity to study their points of resemblance. Their heads are much alike, and both grin in the same way when pleased.

Sometimes the man and the monkey hugged each other. That pleased the children, and they laughed uproariously. Next they did individual tricks; the monkey swung on ropes, the pygmy shot his arrow. Occasionally the pygmy mimicked the laughter of the crowd. In one instance a boy yelled, "Shoot."

"Shoot! Shoot!" aped the little Bushman.

Soda for a Ruffled Temper.

From time to time it looked as though the little Bushman was growing out of patience. Then his keeper led him to the soda-water fountain.

The money? Benga is a mercenary person already. He has learned that money will buy soda. Yesterday afternoon hands were often thrust between the bars, to give the monkey peanuts and to give the Bushman coins. By evening he had quite a little pile. Many of those in the crowd who watched Benga's antics doubted if he was a human being, and one heard questions in various languages.

“Ist dass ein Mensch” a German woman asked, for instance.

Director Hornaday, who recently returned from a trip abroad, was asked last evening whether he saw no impropriety in exhibiting Benga in the monkey cage, and if he was allowing it with the acquiescence of the Directors of the Zoological Society, to which he replied:

“Yes, what is being done in the matter with the acquiescence of the society. The Secretary, Mr. Madison Grant, was in fact present when I made the arrangement with Dr. Verner for the keep of the little African savage.

“The idea is not exactly new. Zoological societies in Europe frequently resort to it, sometimes to recoup their finances.”

“But not in the monkey houses, in a monkey cage?” It was suggested.

“No,” replied Mr. Hornaday: “but the little black man is really very comfortable there. The keepers have given up the room to him, and he seems happy.”

“Haven’t you heard some protest because of the exhibition?” the Director was asked.

“No,” he said, “we haven’t heard much of that.”

When told that the reporter had heard persons at the cage commenting unfavorably on the exhibition, the Director explained:

“Well, there may be persons who object to the performance on moral and ethical grounds.”

Asked how long the little black man would remain on exhibition, Mr. Hornaday replied:

“Our understanding is until late in the Fall. Dr. Verner does not propose to go back to Europe until the Spring, however, and it is just possible that he may want us to keep the little savage until then.”

Dr. Verner was not at the park yesterday.