

CHAIRY (Cont'd)

tall tales about him.

(Before BARNUM can speak)

He's not a general and his name's no more Thumb than mine is.

BARNUM

I call that trimmin's, Chairy!

CHAIRY

Was Joice Heth's age trimmings too?

BARNUM

It was justice. I took all the years most women knock off their age and added it on to hers.

CHAIRY

Be that as it may, Mr. Barnum, if we have to be in the exhibition business, at least you could find yourself one respectable attraction!

WELL-DRESSED GENTLEMAN

(GOLDSCHMIDT):

(Starting across from Right to Left as BARNUM protests, "Now wait just a minute, Chairy....")

Mr. Barnum, all my congratulations.

(Handing BARNUM his card)

....Julius Goldschmidt. We met last autumn in New York and I caught your show here in Boston last night. Absolutely splendid!

BARNUM

Thank you, Mr. Goldschmidt. Chairy, you remember my mentioning Mr. Julius Goldschmidt. He's the gentleman who presented Mr. Booth on his last tour.

CHAIRY

Of course. What brings you to Boston, Mr. Goldschmidt?

GOLDSCHMIDT

Boston's home to me, Mrs. Barnum. I stopped off for a little visit before sailing off to England to sign up that Swedish girl who's made such a stir over there.

CHAIRY

Jenny Lind! I read all about her, two command performances for the Queen!

BARNUM

Lind -- Lind, of course! The India Rubber Lady who can tie a knot in her right arm.

GOLDSCHMIDT

(Laughing)

Jenny Lind's an opera singer, Mr. Barnum, and according to all the critics, her voice is the most glorious sound ever heard. But you'll get a chance to see for yourself when I present her first concert next Fall to Castle Garden.

(Looking at his watch)

....Better get started. That New York train's due in a quarter of an hour....

(shaking hands)

Mr. Barnum, Mrs. Barnum, a great pleasure and I look forward to seeing you in the Fall.

CHAIRY

(As GOLDSCHMIDT goes and BARNUM looks after HIM shaking his head)

What's the matter, Taylor.

BARNUM

Goldschmidt's a nice fellow and I don't like to see him lose his shirt.

CHAIRY

You don't think he'll be able to sign up Miss Lind?

BARNUM

That's just it, I'm afraid he will! And the American public's not gonna fill any hall just to hear a singer!

CHAIRY

I'm not so sure your right, Taylor. You heard what he said....two command performances! It's high time you found yourself an attraction like that.

BARNUM

Now don't get started on that again or we'll miss the Chicago train. And besides, I wouldn't know how to begin!

CHAIRY

It's very simple. We toss a coin. Tails we continue as we are -- Heads I run the rest of the tour and you go to England and make a deal with Miss Lind's agents.

BARNUM

(Shocked)

Chairy! What would I say to Mr. Goldschmidt?

CHAIRY

That you were afraid New York would never buy an opera singer and you didn't want to see him lose his shirt.

BARNUM

I call that a lie, Chairy!