

PERFORMING ELEPHANTS IN A CELLAR.

The usually quiet neighbourhood of Kentish-town was on Sunday afternoon the scene of extraordinary excitement. The well-known establishment of Messrs Sanger and Sons had been advertised to give performances at Agincourt Park, leading out of the Mansfield-road, which unites Gospel Oak village with Lower Hampstead. A special train conveying the troupe of artists, a portion of the large equestrian establishment, and four of the five performing elephants arrived at the Kentish-town Station of the Midland Railway at 1:45 p.m. The artists having left the train at the passenger platform, the trucks containing the horses and elephants were drawn round to the cattle platform. These trucks were ranged alongside the platform; but it being necessary for the elephants to be taken out at the end of trucks, some sleepers were laid down between the end of the carriage and the yard, over which the two elephants, known by the names of Jim and Rose, which were in the nearest truck, safely walked, and were quietly ranged in the station yard, getting a welcome supply of water after their journey. The sleepers were then removed to form a passage-way between the first and second trucks, so that the two elephants in the latter (known as Palm and Ida) could cross over and be landed as the first were. They had reached the front carriage, and preparations were being made for their disembarkation by removing the sleepers that had been placed between the trucks to the end of the first carriage, as before. Whilst this was being done one or more of the sleepers was accidentally thrown, and the noise of the fall so frightened the two elephants that were waiting that they leapt over the intervening space—some four feet—rushed through the open gateway in the yard to the front gates, which were closed, in their headlong flight knocking down one of the keepers, named Charles Miles, whose collar-bone was dislocated. These front gates are very massive and heavily framed, but as Ida, followed by Palmer, charged the gates these gave way instantaneously, and broke off from the solid hinges as if made of matchwood. As soon as they reached the open they started along the Highgate-road, knocking over an unfortunate pedestrian who had not time to get out of the way. Happily he was more frightened than hurt, as he was seen to get up and run away, leaving his hat behind him. Pursuing their course along the Highgate-road, they presently left the main thoroughfare, turning to the right by the Vine public-house, which is close to College-lane. Here there was a knot of people, and in their hot haste to get out of the way, one of the party was knocked down and trampled on, not by the elephants, but by his friends, with the result of a broken collar-bone, it is said. The lane which the elephants had strangely selected for their route is very narrow, and terminates at the Highgate-road Baptist chapel in Carroll-road. Here Palm and Ida attempted to get over the chapel boundary wall. In this they were foiled, and rushing along the commencement of the Carroll-road, they turned to the right into Twisden-road, knocking down a child, who is reported not to have been seriously hurt. Coming out from Twisden-road they proceeded up Chetwynd-road, and when they reached the top, which leads into Dartmouth-park-hill they crossed over to a fence, which encloses a private road, Cathcart-hill. This fence they soon cleared, and at the bottom of Cathcart-hill proceeded along Junction-road until they arrived just opposite the tramway stables, when they turned down Francis-terrace. This is a *cul de sac*. At the bottom, however, there is a closed passage which leads into Pemberton-terrace, between Nos. 29 and 31. The boarding of this passage, in width about 6ft., was got over, and on their arrival at the other end they continued their course until they reached a flight of steps, which gave way under their weight, precipitating first Ida and then Palm into the cellar. Here they were stuck fast, and a large crowd, as may be supposed, soon assembled. The other two elephants—Jim and Rose—were sent for to draw them from their place of confinement, and in the meantime, after about one hour's working, the pavement was removed, and an incline made from the cellar. When this was completed, the keepers had provided themselves with a supply of bread, which they broke up and gave to the elephants, who quietly walked up the incline and allowed themselves to be coupled by the chains which they wore. They were then led four abreast to the camping ground at Agincourt Park.



1. They Break Loose, and Run Gaily Down Cathcart Hill.—2. They Enter a Passage Leading from Francis Terrace to Pemberton Terrace.—3. They Fall Into a Cellar in Pemberton Terrace.—4. Here They Remain.—5. Until the Arrival of Help.—6. When They are Pulled Out of the Cellar.—7. And Go Off Contentedly with their Rescuers.

THE STRANGE ADVENTURES OF TWO RUNAWAY ELEPHANTS IN KENTISH TOWN, LONDON