

greatest show on earth, which we propose to establish as a permanence, with a reserved capital of several millions of dollars. At an early date we intend to establish in several of the largest American cities permanent museums containing many thousands of natural, artificial, mechanical, and scientific curiosities. . . . The Barnum and Bailey show will present to this and future generations a world's fair and a moral school of object teaching of unexampled variety and superior excellence, more amusing, instructive, comprehensive, and vast than was ever before seen or dreamed of.—*Phineas T. Barnum.*

Barnumise, to (American), to act as Mr. Barnum, a showman, impresario, and a public character, in so many phases famous, or notorious, that his name has passed into the established list of Americanisms. The word humbug does not express so much as that of Barnum.

Barnum had made himself so extremely conspicuous in so many ways even thirty years ago, that a Paris editor suggested that when his engagement as manager for Jenny Lind should come to an end, she would make quite as much money if she would go about exhibiting *him*. Long ago not a soul in the United States put the least faith in Barnum's curiosities, but this made no difference in the receipts, people thronged in "just to see how he humbugged the greenhorns." In one advertisement the great exhibitor admitted with beautiful candour that what he exhibited might *not* be genuine, that he himself with all his experience might have been taken in by un-

scrupulous deceivers—"all that we ask," he said, "is that the public will come and judge for themselves, and we promise faithfully to abide by their verdict." The public did come, paying twenty-five cents (or one shilling) per head and passed their verdict, and Mr. Barnum *did* abide by it (and the dollars), and at once got out something new. At last nobody put any faith in his curiosities. Then it became a source of intense delight to him to exhibit objects which were really remarkable, and to make the public believe they were frauds. Having once a real bearded woman, Barnum ingeniously contrived to have it reported that she was a man, and to get himself prosecuted for imposition, the result being a medical examination, an acquittal, and of course an increased rush of sight-seers. It should be added that Mr. Barnum has always been noted for very great though always judicious generosity, that he is exceptionally honourable and honest in his private dealings, and that he has built up Bridgeport, Connecticut, from a small town to a city. Barnum's colossal show was destroyed by fire a short time since.

Barrack hack (army), a girl who prowls about barracks for purposes of prostitution, generally the lowest of the low. French soldiers call these "pailleuse de corps-de-garde." *Barrack-hack*