

later it was whispered here and there in Camille that Leon Suchet had found courage enough to commit suicide.

\* \* \*

“When The Greatest Show on Earth” made its first tour through France the city of Rondeau considered itself lucky that the show would stop there. The village of Camille considered itself very fortunate that it was so near to Rondeau. Pierre Lavant, the postmaster of Camille, knew more about the show than anyone else in the village, for he had closed up the postoffice and spent a whole day inspecting the huge show bills posted all over Rondeau.

He was very enthusiastic about the show when he returned home. Half the village of Camille met him at the post office on his return from the city and there he harangued them for over an hour about the show. “Yes, the whole show will be fine,” he shouted as he closed his speech, “but the best act will come last, when the Prince of the Lion Tamers will give an exhibition with the three fiercest lions and tigers in captivity. The Paris papers call him ‘the bravest of the brave’, and I shall consider myself unfortunate indeed if I miss seeing him in the last act.”

On show day the population of Camille moved over to Rondeau en masse. They were among the first to go in, and, under the direction of Pierre Lavant, they all sat together, opposite the middle ring.

It was the first large circus they had ever seen and before the show had lasted ten minutes not one remembered a thing about the last act. ‘The Prince of the Lion Tam-