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MARC CATOZZE,

BORN WITHOUT ARMS OR LEGS,

CALLED the Little Dwarf, was born at Venice, in the year 1741, of tall and robust parents. He had several brothers, all of whom were tall and well made; his body was not deformed, and appeared to belong to a man of five feet six inches; he had neither arms nor leg, the pectoral members consisted of a very prominent shoulder, and a perfect hand; the lower part of the body was very flat, terminating in a mis-shapen foot, but complete in all its parts.

This man was well known; he had spent the greatest part of his life in traversing almost all the states of Europe exhibiting himself to the public curiosity. He attracted the multitude, not only by the singularity of his form, but likewise by the astonishing strength of his jaws, and the dexterity with which he threw up into the air, sticks and other things with one of his hands, and caught them with the other.

As he could scarcely reach his mouth with the ends of his fingers, his greatest difficulty would have been to feed himself without assistance, if nature had not furnished him with the extraordinary power of protruding, and at the same time lowering his under jaw, as was discovered in dissecting his body after his death.

Though Catozze could walk and stand upright on his feet, yet he would have experienced great difficulty in reaching objects situated above, or at a certain distance from his hands. He had therefore contrived to lengthen them, as it were, by a very simple instrument which was to him of the utmost utility. This was a hollow piece of elder, about three feet in length, through which passed a cylindrical iron rod, fixed so as to slide up and down, and terminating in a very sharp hook. If he wished to lay hold of an object at some distance from his hand; for instance, to button his clothes, to take up or set down his metal goblet; to pull the clothes upon him in bed, he took his tube (which he always kept near him) in one hand and pushed it between his fingers, till he brought the hooked end towards the hand that was at liberty; then seizing the object that he wanted with the hook, he drew it toward him, turning it any way he pleased, without letting go the stick, but drawing back the hooked piece of iron, as into a sheath. The habit of using this instrument had rendered him so dexterous, that by means of it he has frequently been seen to take up a piece of money from a table, or from the ground.

It will scarcely be credited, that a man of this description should have met with several women whose affections he had the art to gain; at least, he frequently boasted to that effect.

In his youth, Catozze travelled on horseback: for this purpose, he had procured a particular kind of saddle, and usually appeared in public, holding the reins, beating a drum, performing his exercise with a musket, writing, winding up his watch, cutting his victuals, &c. He possessed a very robust constitution; he was gay, and even merry, and took a pleasure in relating his travels and adventures; he spoke very well, and wrote English, German, French, and Italian. The vivacity of his disposition rendered his conversation very interesting; but he was addicted to wine and spirituous liquors, and was fond of good living. He was very obstinate, had much self love, and a ridiculous haughtiness. When he went abroad for instance, he was drawn in a small vehicle, by a man whom he called his horse, and to whom he gave a few half-pence; but he never suffered this man, whom he considered as his servant, to eat with him.

The lower extremities, as has been already observed, consisted only of his feet; yet he could use them for walking in an upright position. More than once he has been seen walking in the court of his abode, and even to go nearly three quarters of a mile on foot. In order to rest himself, he turned out his toes as far as he could, supporting himself before on a stick, and behind against any place that he happened to be near; and thus remained whole hours conversing with strangers that called to see him.

He expired at Paris, the age of 62, of an inflammation of the bowels; having for two years previous to his death, complained of violent pains of the cholic.