

### An Elephant Kills His Keeper.

Upon the arrival of John Robinson's circus at Charlotte, N. C., a scene of great excitement ensued consequent on the bad temper and escape of "Chief," the largest and most powerful of the elephants. The car upon which the animal was brought was standing near a crossing on Trade street. Quite a large crowd had gathered to witness the process of unloading the animals. "Chief" had been taken off the car. Nothing remarkable occurred till the keeper of the elephants, John King, was heard to cry out: "Look out, there! If that elephant hits any of you, I will not be responsible." Almost immediately after giving this warning, King, who was a powerfully-built man, stepped round to "Chief's" head and was in the act of turning him round when the people heard him call the animal by name in what they regarded as a 'rightened tone. In a moment more the monster, who was enraged, was seen by the crowd to turn upon the unfortunate keeper and crush him against the car. King sank to the ground without a groan, and the attendants who were with him fled in terror and dismay. The crowd scattered up Trade street and the wildest confusion followed. The men were afraid to approach the infuriated animal and King was allowed to remain for several

KING-JOHN  
CATHOLIC TIMES NOV 11, 1880

minutes on the ground where he had fallen. The elephant surveyed the scene for an instant, gave a short snort and started at a brisk pace up the railroad track. As soon as he was out of reach King was picked up apparently lifeless and conveyed across the street to a barber shop, where several doctors were summoned. In the meantime the elephant continued up the track, and the report getting abroad that he was loose in the streets, the excitement increased. The crowd which first collected about the crossing and the door of the shop into which King had been carried scattered up the street and all sorts of reports were afloat, no one being able on account of the darkness to determine the whereabouts of the elephant. It was suggested that a party be organized to start in pursuit with the view of shooting him, but before any plans could be formed it was learned that the circus men were following him, and would no doubt succeed in capturing him. To do this they had to take with them Mary, the female elephant, and The Boy. After considerable difficulty Chief was secured. King's skull was crushed and he died the same night. Nov 11, 1860