

**AMERICA'S RICHEST MAN**

**SOME FACTS ABOUT JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER AND HIS WEALTH.**

Said to be Worth More Than \$200,000,000—Gives Large Sums in Charity—\$10,000,000 to Chicago University—How He Acquired His Wealth—Means Employed to Crush Opposition.

John D. Rockefeller. He is America's richest man. His wealth is more than \$200,000,000. When a boy he had the reputation of being lazy.

His colossal fortune was made of oil—Standard Oil.

He gives away \$500,000 in charities every year, it is said.

He can play the violin very well, and has a fondness for pictures.

His income is a trifle more than \$20,000 a day—nearly \$17 a minute.

He gets less real enjoyment out of life, probably, than most \$12-a-week clerks.

He never attends the theater or opera, but occasionally goes to a concert.

He looks like a preacher. He has sloping shoulders and a melancholy face.

His highest ambition when a youngster was to be a trapeze performer in a circus.

He founded the Chicago University, and has given to that institution about \$10,000,000.

He pays \$10,000 a year to the person who looks after the distribution of his charities.

He saved money from the time he first began to earn it. In two years he had put away \$500.

Then he and M. B. Clark went into the commission business in St. Louis, and in eight years had saved \$5,000.

With this capital he started a little oil refinery, out of which grew the Standard Oil Company and his vast wealth.

In a short time the Rockefellers were near unto failure, and were rescued by Henry M. Flagler's father-in-law, M. V. Harkness.

Once safely established the Rockefellers started out to acquire the plants of their rivals. Some were acquired by purchase, others by other means.

So successfully was this plan of business carried out that to-day there is scarcely a rival plant—practically all the oil industries are in the control of the Rockefellers.

Some very ugly stories are told about the methods employed by the Standard Oil Company to acquire the plants of rivals or else to drive them out of business. Even arson has been mentioned.

It has been said that John D. Rockefeller gives millions to charities to atone for some—well, never mind what. However, the ruin of more than one business rival has, coincidentally, been followed by the gifts of thousands to some institution.

He has a number of residences—one at No. 4 West Fifty-fourth street, New York City; one in Cleveland, another in Greenwich, Conn.; and a very handsome place near Tarrytown. Connected with this house is a very good skating rink.

He is an iron king as well as an oil king. He practically owns all the Lake Superior mines, as well as the principal deposits in Cuba. During the financial depression a few years ago he bought all the iron mining property in who at once ordered me to be taken to sight—and at a bargain.

His parents were Scotch folks, who settled on a small farm near Moravia, N.Y. They moved to Oswego, and later to Cleveland. John D. Rockefeller married a Cleveland school teacher, Miss Lucy Spellman. They have four children. The two daughters are married.

Just now Mr. Rockefeller is having a deal of trouble with his parson, the Rev. Daniel C. Potter, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, of New York. Mr. Rockefeller some time ago gave to the church \$50,000. The Rev. Mr. Potter asserts that Mr. Rockefeller has wrecked the church because his conduct has not been such as to please the Standard Oil magnate. The case is now being tried.

**EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYED.**

Women are forced by various exigencies in life to take a very decided stand in the ranks of the great army of workers who battle for bread and butter. For a long time, selfish man was bitterly opposed to the supplanting of male labor by feminine help. But in the eternal fitness of things the situation is now more or less accepted, with the philosophic expression that the "survival of the fittest" has proved it to be a correct condition of affairs. It is noticeable, that women not only survive, when they take up occupations erstwhile monopolized by man, but they go to the front in science, literature, art, business.

With women, as with men, whatever must develop their talent, honor, conscience, energies, and skill, whatever gives him or her a higher aim and assists its realization, is of inestimable value throughout life. The efforts made by an honorable employer, to raise the character and the work of his agents, conduce alike to his prosperity and to the individual. The spirit is too often manifest to make gain of each at the other's expense. This is a short-sighted policy. The interests of each are in a measure identical, and the more this is realized in all business relations, the more harmonious and valuable becomes each integral of a business success. We wonder whether the selfishness of woman, generally, has not had a great deal to do with their success?

**BARRELS OF MONEY.**

There is a good reason for the expression "barrels of money." Old safes were made in the form of a barrel, iron-bound, with big rings for handles and a cover lifting with a hinge. There is one of German origin in the Art Museum. It is a little smaller than a flour barrel.

**MARVELLOUS MEMORIES.**

Some Examples of People Who Have Been Able to Retain Things in Their Minds.

There are many historical feats of memory that sound as impossible to you and me as would an account of the gymnastics of a Japanese acrobat if we had not seen them. Lord Macaulay found when by chance he tried it, that he could repeat the whole of "Paradise Lost," though he never tried to learn it; but then Lord Macaulay loved his Milton, and had read "Paradise Lost" many a time and oft. So what was that to the actor William Lyon, who flourished in Edinburgh about a hundred years ago, and who one day on a wager repeated the whole of the Edinburgh Daily Advertiser for that day, from beginning to end, advertisements and all. Lyon could have but a few hours at best to study the journal; the matter was characteristically disconnected, yet he rattled it all off without hesitation or mistake.

Magliabechi was the queer name of a Florentine, who was librarian to Cosmo III, Grand Duke of Florence, and though he never travelled he informed himself about.

ALL THE PRINCIPAL LIBRARIES, in the world to such purposes, that few of those who frequented them could have known as much about them. One day the Grand Duke sent for him to ask what were the chances for buying a certain particularly rare work.

"You can never get it," said the librarian, "your Highness's treasury would not buy it for you, for there is but one copy now in the world, and that is in the Grand Signor's library at Constantinople, and is the seventh book, on the second shelf, on the right hand side as you go in."

Sometimes these wonderful memories are gifts of nature, but some of the most wonderful have also been acquired, and it is worth while to enquire how, because a great memory is a wonderfully useful thing. Houdin, one of the most wonderful conjurors that ever lived, and a man of real scientific ability, performed some of his most marvellous tricks with the aid of a son whose memory he had trained to be miraculous. He would take the boy when he was a child past a toy shop, and then make him tell what he had seen in the window, and after awhile one glance would suffice to tell the youngster more about such a window than other people could find out in ten minutes. In this way his eye-sight, his power of seeing much accurately and quickly, was trained to be as wonderful as his memory. The father would write down the son's list of objects seen and then go back and verify it, but soon one rapid walk by such a window would enable the boy to mention forty odd articles, and he almost

**NEVER MADE A MISTAKE.**

One time Houdin was to give a performance in a private house, and when he and his son entered they were conducted through the library on their way to another room. Houdin made the boy a sign to see all he could, and after this brilliant performance he said to the company, "Now, my son has second sight, and can read through the walls of a house," and with that he, designating a certain shelf of books that they had previously agreed upon, asked him what book stood third from the left-hand corner.

"Buffon," the answer came quickly. "And the one by its side?" quickly questioned an incredulous spectator while a messenger was dispatched to verify the first assertion.

"To the right or the left?" said the lad.

"On the right," said the Travels of Avacharsis the Lounger," came the prompt reply, "but if, sir, you had asked what was on the left I should have answered Lamartine's Poems; a little to the right of this I see Cretilon's works, and below two volumes of Fleury's Memories"—and thus he went on to name a dozen books. As all were found just where he said they were this was the most successful feature of the evening. It was all the outcome of a trained eyesight and a trained memory.

**HOW TO BEAR GREAT SORROW.**

One day last spring, in purchasing a lot of fowls from her marketman, a lady in Philadelphia, got one little bit of a chicken that was almost too small to eat, and which made its escape through the wires of the coop and began to chirp and cry about the yard. The lady made no effort to recapture the little thing, thinking it would be better off running free about the place. But it soon became evident that the chick had been too soon taken from parental care and was totally unable to provide for itself. Two whole days passed, during which it neither ate nor drank, though the lady tried every means in her power to provide for its welfare. The chicken simply peeped and drooped till the lady gave up all efforts and left the little thing to die, which no doubt it would have done right speedily had it not been rescued in the following singular manner:

It chanced that the lady had a pet canary, of which she is very fond, and to which she devotes much care and attention. For instance, it is her invariable custom in mild weather to turn the bird out of his cage for a certain portion of each day, letting him have his bath in a sunny spot on the back porch. So that morning when the little chicken was so nearly giving up his life for lack of food and comfort, it happened that the canary was turned out of his cage for his hour of freedom in the sunshine. The lady was watching to see that no cats came around, and presently she saw the canary trip down the steps to the lawn, where the little chicken was crying. For a moment the two little feathered things stood and looked

at each other inquiringly. Then the bird chirped and made a dab with its beak. The chicken chirped and made a dab, too, and pretty soon the two were chirping and dabbing away mightily. What the chirps and dabs meant of course we may not know, but presently the bird came hopping up the steps, the chicken following behind. Making his way to the cage, which sat open on the floor, the bird went in, chirping and dabbing all the while, with the chicken following after, and presently the two little friends were eating and drinking together.

**QUEEN WILHELMINE.**

Although the Queen of the Netherlands is not but sixteen years old, and the regency continues, she is no longer officially classed as a child, having been received into the church, and having discharged her preceptor and her English governess.

Queen Wilhelmina has become accustomed to the homage which formerly paid her greatly, since it reminded her of the death of her dearly beloved father. She has the reputation of being of a somewhat regal disposition, and many stories are told of her habit of command. She is also extremely frank.

Some years ago, when, in her studies, she was told about the atrocities of the Duke of Alva and the cruel policy of the Spanish monarchs toward the Netherlands when they were an appanage of the Spanish crown, she exclaimed indignantly:

"If the King of Spain thinks that I shall ever invite him to my court he is quite mistaken!"

Later, when she visited in England, and was asked by the Prince of Wales what she was most impressed by in England, she answered:

"It's to find the English people so nice. I should never have guessed it from the specimens I have seen in Holland!"

The Prince laughed heartily at this response. Her countrymen appreciated greatly a rebuke which Queen Wilhelmina administered to a Dutch ambassador at a foreign court which she visited when she was much younger than she is now.

"Have you any little girls?" she asked.

The ambassador, much pleased, answered that he had.

"Oh," said the queen, "bring them to me so that I may talk Dutch with them!"

The ambassador explained that, as his little girls were not born in Holland, and had always lived in a foreign country, they could not speak Dutch.

The queen tossed her head. "Oh in that case," she said, "pray don't trouble them to come to me. I don't think I care to meet any young Dutch girls who cannot speak the language of their country."

**UTILIZING SCIENCE.**

Package, sir, said the agent as Mr. Sharp came to the door. There is \$2 express charges on it.

Be kind enough to wait a moment, said Mr. Sharp, as he disappeared indoors. Presently he returned. Just allow me to throw this X-ray on that package, please.

The tell-tale light revealed three bricks carefully done up in raw cotton, and, unopened, they were returned to the would-be joker, marked Refused.

**LARGEST FIRE ENGINES.**

The two biggest fire engines in the world are in Liverpool. These are the most powerful fire engines known, throwing 1,800 gallons of water a minute, and a jet 140 feet high. The force with which the water is ejected from them may be estimated from the fact that the jet was "warranted to kill a man at 350 feet."

**OFTEN DOES IT.**

Ever play whist with a dummy, Blinky? Times without number. My wife is always my partner when we're in the game.

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