

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

Wednesday, December 27, 1888.

### JAY GOULD'S AMBITION.

HE ASPIRES TO BE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

Jay Gould is, if nothing, even more the architect of his own fortune than John D. Rockefeller, for his beginning in life was much humbler, in a pecuniary sense, than was the Standard oil magnate. Mr. Rockefeller, however, has ruled the world's oil market longer than it has taken Mr. Gould to accumulate his, and Mr. Rockefeller's is considerably the larger of the two. Yet Mr. Gould hopes to be richer than Rockefeller, but he is not so ambitious to be the greatest man in the world. He thinks that the opportunity to exert the coveted position is now offered.

There has been a tremendous decline in the value of stocks during the last year, which has never before so cheapened. Mr. Gould is credited with the most enormous purchases of stock during the last few weeks. His holdings, including his personal wealth and personal funds for investment, are more than twice as large as ocean-going steamship. Fifty-two men are required to man it, consequently the expense of running it is very heavy, and a man of means of Mr. Gould's would be compelled to go into the business when it assumes so large proportions. The yacht affords a pleasant means of going between New York and his summer residence at Irvington-on-Hudson, but he could go more easily by rail or boat, and there is no way a consideration of this.

On the long trip which he and his family make across the ocean and to the Mediterranean, they found that life in a first-class liner is preferable to that in the confined spaces of a yacht, even if the vessel were finely enough equipped to be denominated a "floating palace."

Mr. Gould's hobby is regular shooting. He goes to his gun shop up and eats his meals at certain and unvarying hours. His evenings are seldom spent outside of his own home. He usually takes with him a newspaper, reports of the movements of his securities, other documents, which he carefully studies. Whatever additional time he may have devotees to books. He is a great reader, and is well informed on every subject of history and the progress of science. He reads the newspapers thoroughly and thus keeps well informed on the events of the day. The politicians themselves are not better judges of the trend of politics than he. One of Mr. Gould's favorite pastimes is in taking in accounts of what is going on the world over.

George J. Gould, the prospective heir to the Gould millions, is a young man of very ability and a simple fortune of his own. His father lives in a large brown stone mansion on the northeast corner of Fifth avenue and Forty-seventh street, and he has his own house directly back of it. He is fond of outdoor sports. There are few good shots as young Mr. Gould. His favorite way of testing his marksmanship is in shooting clay pigeons. He has a schooner yacht, the Hildegarde, which formerly belonged to the Prince of Wales. He has a large collection of pictures in the stock market, and the famous addition that he has made to his fortune through speculations in the diminished valuations, only to repeat the selling operation when his figures have again been reached.

There are always fluctuations of greater or less proportion in the stock market, otherwise there would be no means of profit. By taking advantage of the rises and falls in the market, he can add a sum of 50 per cent. Mr. Gould's recent profits of 75 per cent., which would equal on his reported holdings of \$2,000,000 the colossal sum of \$1,000,000. Adding the present market value, he would in the meantime increase his actual value, his total fortune would be augmented to \$250,000,000.

How long it will be before the advance materializes which Mr. Gould looks for is hard to conjecture. There is no doubt in the mind of the stock market speculators that a great rise in stocks is coming, but there still may be considerable difficulty in reaching the conclusion that in this strange method streaks with it. We possess an interesting illustration of the little that will be overwhelmed. While he was out of the stock market, the interest on his bonds and dividends on his stock amounted to a hundred thousand dollars yearly. When he returned to the market, he had lost all his money. He was still when he last appeared recently that he had \$200,000,000 or \$250,000,000 in cash in the different trust companies of New York. He was, therefore, able to pay outright for the securities which he bought. Mr. Gould is a man of great energy, while from his resources and he will be able to ensure any financial convulsions that may ensue.

Mr. Gould has said that he would never again be the owner of money, unless he can get it back again. By realizing on the changes in the market he can keep himself in plentiful supply all the time. If the market offered to make an unusually large profit by the sale of great amounts of money than he possesses, it is difficult to believe that he will forego his resolution and take advantage of it. He would have no difficulty in obtaining money, no matter how large an amount he may require. He would at all times be in a position to collateral upon which to borrow. There is no doubt that at this time by employing all his resources Mr. Gould could get together almost if not quite \$100,000,000.00. This is the way he does not subscribe to a burrower is on account of the interest he would have to pay. If he has more money than he needs he can loan it out and secure the interest for himself.

It was not until he entered Wall Street that his fortune assumed any particular proportion. His earlier ventures, in fact, were failures rather than successes. Once in the financial market he soon became a popular leader for money making.

There were times when it seemed as if he were in a "corner," but he displayed the knack of extricating himself when other men under similar circumstances would have given up to the wall.

There never was as skillful a manipulator of stocks. His operations since he returned to Wall Street, less than a month ago, have shown the result of his absence. The market lately has been undeniably in his control. It must not be supposed that Mr. Gould is able to turn the whole course of speculation, for that would take about the world of the trading floor. The New York market is subject largely to the financial situation in Great Britain and other countries and to the yields of the earth. What Mr. Gould is able to do is to control the market and to accentuate the fluctuations in the general market. This power, it can readily be seen, may be utilized to his great personal gain.

It is interesting that Mr. Gould will now be the owner of Comstock, the Virginia and the British Columbia, and he leaves the bulk of his fortune to one person—his eldest son, George J. Gould, to whom he has given an excellent training in financial management. Gould, however, is not the only man on the Stock exchange, where his financial operations have principally been conducted. His son George and his next youngest son Edwin are also in the market. They are both little time on the floor. George J. Gould is not to be seen there once a year. He is steadily occupied at the offices of his father in the Western Union building directing

the whistling Gould interests. His details of the operations of the various companies controlled by him and leaves him free to develop new schemes.

None of the millionaires has fewer assets than Mr. Gould. He is, however, something of a schemer, and was seen nearly every day spending in the road to Macomb's Dam's bridge behind a fast animal, but after a time he was wearied of these long rides, and he now spends days riding through the parts with his daughters in a closed carriage. He goes to his office, takes a train on the Sixth Avenue elevated railroad, and alights at Cortland Street, one block below the Western Union building.

He has tires of the magnificent steam yacht, *Avalon*, which he took a few years ago, and he would consider it well worth the price if it is almost as large as an ocean-going steamer. Fifty-two men are required to man it, consequently the expense of running it is very heavy, and a man of means of Mr. Gould's would be compelled to go into the business when it assumes so large proportions.

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Mr. Gould will not content himself with merely holding the vast lots of stocks he has bought until they enhance in value to a degree that will make a sufficient profit.

He will then sell them at a slight or temporary loss, and proceed to repeat the selling operation when his figures have again been reached.

He has a palace full of logs in the midst of a tract of 500 acres in the woods, and most picturesque and commanding view of the surrounding mountains without rival. About the 1st of April he will sell his log cabin, and go to the West Coast, where he has a ranch, and almost generated me, because I was never used to go to see an attorney to put on my log cabin. A second after "I am not responsible for the damage to the property." A second after "I am not responsible for the damage to the property."

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