## JAMES VAN ALEN TO SPEND LOTS OF MONEY ON RUSHTON HALL

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American Multi-millionaire, Who Intends to Become a British Subject, Busy Overhauling His New English Residence-ls Prepared to Exgend \$500,000 on Structural Alterations and Will Refurnish the place From Top to Bottom-Mrs. Spender-Clay, William Waldorf Astor's Newly Wedded Daughter, Astonishes Her Friends by Her Knowledge of Lace and Exposes a Fraudulent Dealer.

special Correspondence,

ONDON, Nov. 24.-James Van Alen, who intends to become a British subject, is clearing out all the furniture that remained in Rushton Hall, his newly acquired mansen in Northamptonshire, Second and furniture dealers from London and Birmingham have been examining ererything, from pletures to tapestry, in the place during the last few days. It was generally believed that the new occupier would retain some of the best of the furniture, but when the whole and been catalogued he gave a wholesale order that the lot be cleared out. He found that the furniture would not harmonize with the scheme of decoration which he means to introduce so that the hall will be newly furnished from floor to ceiling. He has expressed almself ready to spend half a million collars on structural alterations alone, and it is understood in the neighborheed that there will be hardly anything but the outer walls left when these alerations are complete. He is considering a number of estimates and speci-feations, and it is not anticipated that he will be able to take up his permanent residence there for another six or nine months. An architect from New York has been exploring the mansion for the past fortnight and it is considered most likely that the alterations will be carried out under his directions. The builders in the neighborhood of Kettering, which is the nearest town to the hall, are competing keenly for the work because it is understood

AUTHORITY ON OLD LACE.

It has just been discovered by her theads that Mrs. Spender-Clay is one of the best judges of old lace in Eu-The dealers have known it for a long time because she has frequently exposed their impositions. Shortly after the announcement of her engagement an American friend who knew of Miss Aster's partiality for specimens of good old lace was enlarging on the beauty of a sample which she had just beight from a dealer. It was the lady's latention to present the piece of lace to the bride as a wedding present. Miss but a poor German copy of a genuine Irish design. The friend collapsed. She Irish design. The Iriend cond paid an laid Miss Astor that she had paid an laid Miss Astor that she had paid an laid. enormous price for it. "Go and get your money back," said Miss Astor; "if the dealer is worth powder and shot he will not hesitate; if he is not you can consider your money lost,'

Few people know how she ob-tained her extraordinary knowl-edge of lace. She has paid fre-quent visits to Limerick, the center of the lace industry in Ireland, and has ing could sat for hours at a time watching the America. girls in the convent schools there while ther were at work. She has made some and if she re not a millionatre's daughter she residearn a handsome living as a lace weeker. While she is an expert in Irish law it would be difficult to deceive her in Spanish, Maltese. Egyptian or Armian specimens. Her admiration for lrish lace workers has caused her to apport the industry most generously

ACTIVE INTEREST IN CHARITIES

Following the example of Lady Crasa, young Mrs. Bradley Martin has Aready commenced to take an active derest in charitable institutions that derest their efforts towards the relief distress among indigent old people She has no sympathy with the English porthouse system by which old marled couples are separated immediate they become chargeable to the rateure of Christmas cheer for the poor in o obtained only through voluntary upport because the government will so; sanction any extra expenditure that the general rate-pay When Miss Phipps was appealed o a few weeks ago, for a subscription to pravide an entertainment at Christhas for the inmates of one of the Scotch poorhouses she dufetly told the collector that she would be always hoppy to contribute if there was a

Marine ma guarantee that husbands and wives were allowed to share the same table on Christmas day. The collector could give no such guarantee and had to go away without any assistance. Mrs. Bradley Martin and Lady Craven have always responded to such charitable appeals liberally, but it would appear that Mrs. Bradley Martin, Jr., profess to support places like Nazareth House where old married couples are allowed to enjoy each other's society within atipulated hours. She will not be found among those who indulge in indiscrim-imate alms-giving which has been de-nounced as a "demoralizing luxury."

LORD FAIRFAN FAILED.

Lord Fairfax, the representative of that Maryland family which has long held the Scotch peerage, is looking forward with pleasant anticipations to his speedy return to the land of his birth where he will be able to assume once more the simple dignity of a plain Amerlean citizen who recognizes to the full his obligations to make a living for himself. His business mission, in con-nection with some American banking institution, has been far from successful, I am teld. The fault was probably none of his, for money is scarce in these days and British capitalists are very shy of making foreign invest-ments. Apparently those who sent him here thought that his title would atsented. If anything it has had quite the contrary effect. So many scandals have resulted of late years between the association of coronets and commercial ventures that the public generally refuse to bite at the company promoter's hook when it is baited with a peer-age. For his title Lord Fairthat Mr. Van Alen is a most liberal and fax really seems to care not a jot. He has so long lived in America as plain Albert Kirby Fairfax that he has no notion how to assume the airs that are here supposed to be the appropriate and necessary accompaniment of it. He prefers "Mr." to "My Lord," but people have insisted on giving him the full benefit of his title. At the swell functions, which he found it impossible to shirk, he always looked bored and much out of his natuval element, among those with whom fushionable frivolity constituted the chief business of life. A cynical critic of our aristocracy has remarked that it is a great pity Lord Fairfax cannot take back with him a ship load of young titled idlers that in America they Aster, without a moment's hesitation, | young titled idlers that in America they described the sample as not lace at all | might undergo transformation into usewage-earners like himself. Lord Fairfax's visits to England seem associated with failures. When all the peers of the realm were being rounded up to grace the coronation of King Edward VII he crossed the Atlantic and had a costly set of peers robes made for him. but the king's illness and the consequent postponement of the coronation compelled his return to America before he had had an opportunity to make a ing could induce him to don them in

HOW HE BROKE THE ICE.

Amusing stories the return of the Olympia to America and be enjoyed as much as they are in England when the experiences of the American visitors are being recounted. At the Pilgrim's Dinner Lieut, Le Bretton of the Olympia was determined in spite of British stiffness to have a good time and cheerly took the seat placed for him at a table with four other young fellows. No one spoke and the quietness somewhat daunted him but he determined to thaw these Britishers. "I'm Lieut Le Bretton of the Olympia," he remarked pleasantly nodding to them all. "Oh." timidly ventured one of his auditors in an un-dertone. And the silence fell again deeper than ever. At last Le Bretton could stand it no longer "Well now, say," he burst out, "If we go on like this we shan't enjoy our dinner. payers. It has been the custom in reus introduce ourselves to each other
us introduce ourselves to each other
and have a good time. Who are you?"
he asked, turning to the young man
next him. This one happened to be the
workhouses. Such "luxuries" can
be obtained only through voluntary.

Hims we shall tenjoy our dinner, her
us introduce ourselves to each other
he asked, turning to the young man
next him. This one happened to be the Kinnaird, and thus breaking through the ice the American visitor roused the whole table and made a jovial, merry party of it instead of a dull set of silent

Everywhere there is a great deal of regret in society at the recall of the Olympia, for interesting American visitors always give occasion for smart and piquant entertaining.

LADY MARY.

## AS LAWSON'S STORIES STRIKE ONE OF NEW YORK'S CRITICS.

MUNICULAR DE LA CONTRACTOR DE LA CONTRAC

an announ announ announ announ announcement

which Thomas W. Lawson, his eye in a fine frenzy rolling, has en printing in a magazine, have bethe a literary and social phenomenon extraordinary interest. They are wared with avidity in all parts of country. Go into the backwoods of Michigan, and the first question you will be asked is, "Have you read Law-Ma's last article " Look out of the window when the train stops for in Arizona, and the inquiry will red at you by a native, "What ley think of Lawson in New in sagebrush and mining as well as in brokers' offices and dies' Homes, Lawson is the chief or of matter for reading and

cossip. If Macaulay supplant-his history the latest novel on

THE articles on "Frenzied Finance" | the sensational prints and the flashy penetrating the lowest stratum of readthe highest, and making of himself in a few months o veritable literary prodigy—r terror.

Yet this effect defective comes by cause. Lawson's tremndous audience, so suddenly acquired, his clean sweep of the field, should not lead profession-al writers to renounce a craft in which any upstart may appear and carry off the laurels. The wonder is explicable. Lawson has taking literary qualities. Leaving out the prime requisite of truth, which is neither here nor there in his articles, he has nearly all the elements which the big-wigs declare necessary in a popular style. His frank and pungent slanginess is the precise medium for his tale. It yields a spien-did touch of verlsimilitude. Then he abounds in minute detail. Defoe did not heddolr table, Lawson has displaced | surpass Lawson in the art of buttress-

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LOS ANGELES

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**CHRISTMAS** 

NEWS.

of apparently veracious incident which rakes unbelievers anhamed of them-seives. The close observer who need an angry magnite's eyes poss through all the colors of the spectrum cannot be altogether wrong one faels in his exact account of millions stolen. Law-son is also overwhelmingly concrete. Names are blurted right out. Places and dutes are set down with the ac macy of exaracts from a detective' note book. A society novelist could not exceed him in faithful description of the surroundings of his criminal mil-lionaires. He is highly dramatic too. None of the sedious oratio oblique for him. Everything is in the first person, or direct discourse. His articles bristle with quotation marks, and racy dis-legue fills its pages. Neither Aristotle nor Horacs quintilian nor Sainte-Beauve, could have laid down more in-fallible rules for attaining immoose

literary vogue than those which Law-son has found in his mother wit. To so lucky a style, Lawson has add-To so licky a siyle, Lawson his added the further advantage of a theme which ever lies near the heart of the masses in a democracy. Vast wealth is the subject of his story; and the editors of popular magazines long since discovered that no topic is dearer to the great body of locent readors. An account of "How the Crossuses Bring Up Their Children" will be read with eagerness in hundreds of thousands of poverty stricken homes; while a huge poverty stricken homes; while a huge edition will be carried off by an article, supposed to be a solution of the servant problem, on "Mrs. Fitzboodle's Eighty Servants, and How She Manages Them." We do love a lord, but even better love a multi-millionaire. As Talleyrand found out that the most interesting map. teresting man in this country, to judge by the way rumor and small talk played about him, was the rich Robert Morris of Philadelphia, so ever since has Dives been a national admiration. President Roosevelt, in his sermonette of yester-day, spoke of "the brutal envy and hatred feit by a poor man towards a rich man;" but our observation is that gaping curiosity, fathomiess toudying, and silly uping make up the commoner at-titude of the poor in the presence of

those having great possessions.

With a subject taus as broad as hu, mun folly, Mr. Lewson has also the good fortune of being able to add crims to great wealth. If the very rich are to great wealth. If the very rich are interesting per se, the criminal rich are doubly fascinating. And Lawson pitched upon a public predisposed to believe. The sublime fervor of faith is nothing to the credulousness of a losse in Wall street. Crede quis impossible. Thousands all over the land had been bitten in the financial operations which Lawson-pretends to describe. They knew that it was through no fault of tain that his own judgment is excellent his financial shrewdness beyond dis-pute, and that nothing but the machinations of wicked men could have parted him from his money. Lawson shows him the millionaire schemers at their nefarious work. The victim pores over the story of the unscrupulous manipulation of stocks and the heartless floor ing of investors, and takes comfort to his soul. Now he sees it all. He was aken in by a set of villains. Thus, be-sides the agreeable filly to a morbid imagination, which Lawson gives in his narrative of crime in seven figures, he makes his appeal to the multitude which no man can number of luckless investors and ruined speculators. In such circumstance, Instantaneous liter ary fame and circulation above 600,00 are no longer a mystery,

The serious part remains. Mr. Lawson may be the most prodigious har that ever put pen to paper. His lies may be like the father that begut them-gross as a mountain. That is not the thing which really signifies. People do not greatly erre whether his particular stories are true-whether this and that plunger in the market actually piayed the infamous part alleged: whether brazen promoters really bought a legis. lature in the way described; they be-lieve that other stories of the kind are true, if Lawson's are not. He gains the credit of a millionaire turning state's evidence. The impression made is as unmistakable as it will be indeli-ble. That there is a class of rich men who carry into enormous operations the methods of the sneak thief and the card methods of the sheak ther and the card sharper; that they rob the widow and take away the portion of the orphan with no more scruple than a burgiar; that honor and good faith are a unknown among them as among jailbiras—this is the popular conviction upon which Lawren has so skillfully played. which Lawson has so skillfully played. He has heightqued it, but he did not create it. Now, the existence of such men is the great social menace. They are the blackest embodiment of that spirit of materialism which fears not is our immense task today to resist and drive from us, if we would not see and drive from us, ir we would not see it drag our whole civilization into the pit.—New York Evening Post.

Cured Paralysis.

W. S. Baily, P. O. True, Texas, writes:
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RUBAL WISDOM.

The Rev. W. S. Rainsford of New York fishes every summer in the Ca-nadian salmon rivers, and from the quaint people whom he meets in out-ofthe-way Canaditan places he brings home many wise saws and sayings. home many wise saws and sayings.
"An old farmer," he said recently, "urged his sons in my hearing to be up and doing. It was night, and we sat about a big log fire, the farmer in the middle, where the firelight fell waveringly upon him, the sons in the shadow on the right, and I in the shadow on the left.

"Be energetic, boys," said the old man. Hustle and push and push if ye want to get along. Don't ye ever

want to get along. Don't ye ever-speckilate, and, above all, don't ye ever-walt for suthin' to turn up. As for-waltin' for suthin' to turn up, why, ye rock in the middle of the medder with

n pall atwist yer legs, and walt for a cow to back up to ye to he milked.

ON THE WRONG SIDE

mer head of the London detective and police force, was talking in Washington Your juvenile course are excellent

would be if there was no payants

What is the cause of Juvenile crime "A very potent easies of crime is lit-trature," Sir Charles repiled. "I mean. y crime Hierature, beaks shoul deler-They are written as it to benieve

THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE

A story, you see, may deal with a lander given a Radia orner and parent

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