

JAMES VAN ALLEN TO SPEND LOTS OF MONEY ON RUSHTON HALL

American Multi-millionaire, Who Intends to Become a British Subject, Busy Overhauling His New English Residence—Is Prepared to Expend \$500,000 on Structural Alterations and Will Refurbish 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. LONDON, Nov. 24.—James Van Allen, who intends to become a British subject, is clearing out all the furniture that remained in Rushton Hall, his newly acquired mansion in Northamptonshire. Second-hand furniture dealers from London and Birmingham have been examining everything, from pictures 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 had 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 himself ready to spend half a million dollars on structural alterations alone, and it is understood in the neighborhood that there will be hardly anything but the outer walls left when these alterations are complete. He is considering a number of estimates and specifications, 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 few days and it is considered likely that the alterations will be carried out under his direction. 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 that Mr. Van Allen is a most liberal and generous man to deal with.

AUTHORITY ON OLD LACE. It has just been discovered by her friends that Mrs. Spender-Clay is one of the best judges of old lace in Europe. The dealers have known it for a long time, but she has frequently exposed their impositions. Shortly after the announcement of her engagement an American friend who knew of Miss Astor's partiality for specimens of good old lace was enlarging on the beauty of a sample which she had just bought from a dealer. It was the lady's custom to present the pieces of lace to the bride as a wedding present. Miss Astor, without a moment's hesitation, described the sample as not lace at all but a poor German copy of a genuine Irish design. The friend collapsed. She told Miss Astor that she had paid an enormous price for the lace 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 obtained her extraordinary knowledge of lace. She has paid frequent visits to Limerick, the center of the lace industry in Ireland, and has sat for hours at a time watching the girls in the convent schools there while they were at work. She has made some intricate designs herself, and if she had not a millionaire's daughter she would earn a handsome living as a lace worker. While she is an expert in Irish lace it would be difficult to deceive her in Spanish, Maltese, Egyptian or Armenian specimens. Her admiration for Irish lace workers has caused her to support the industry most generously from time to time.

ACTIVE INTEREST IN CHARITIES. Following the example of Lady Craven, young Mrs. Bradley Martin has already commenced to take an active interest in charitable institutions that derive their efforts towards the relief of distress among indigent old people. She has no sympathy with the English workhouse system by which old married couples are separated immediately if they become chargeable to the ratepayers. It has been the custom in recent years to solicit subscriptions from wealthy people to provide some measure of Christmas cheer for the poor in the workhouses. Such "luxuries" can be obtained only through voluntary support because the government will not sanction any extra expenditure that might involve the general ratepayers. When Miss Phelps was appointed a few weeks ago, for a subscription to provide an entertainment at Christmas for the inmates of one of the Scotch workhouses she dutifully told the collector that she would be always happy to contribute if there was a

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

THE articles on "Frenzied Finance" which Thomas W. Lawson, his eye in a fine frenzy rolling, has been printing in a magazine, have become a literary and social phenomenon of extraordinary interest. They are devoured with avidity in all parts of the country. Go into the backwoods of Michigan, and the first question you will be asked is, "Have you read Lawson's last article?" Look out of the window when the train stops for water in Arizona, and the inquiry will be first "Are you by a native, 'What do you think of Lawson in 'New York'?" In sagebrush and mining camps, as well as in brokers' offices and the Ladies' Homes, Lawson is the chief topic of matter for reading and debate gossip. If Macaulay supplanted his literary the latest novel on the boarder table, Lawson has displaced

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LOS ANGELES AND SALT LAKE. Story of the two cities told in pictures and paragraphs in the CHRISTMAS NEWS.

ing incredible romances with an amount of apparently veracious incident which makes unbelievers ashamed of themselves. The close observer who noted all the colors of the spectrum contained in the account of millions stolen. Lawson is also overwhelmingly concrete. Names are blurted right out. Places and dates are set down with the accuracy of extracts from a detective's note book. A society novelist could not possess him in faithful description of the surroundings of his criminal melodrama. He is highly dramatic too. None of the sedulous oratorical obliquities of the first person, or direct discourse. His articles bristle with quotation marks and ready dialogue like its pages. Neither Aristotle nor Horace could have laid down more inimitable rules for attaining true literary vigor than those which Lawson has found in his mother's pen.

To so lucky a style Lawson has added the further advantage of a theme which ever lies near the heart of the masses of 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 10-cent readers. An account of "How the Crosses Bring Up Their Children" will be read with eagerness in hundreds of thousands of 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. Fitzgibbon'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 man in this country, to judge by the way rumors 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 yesterday, spoke of "the brutal envy and hatred fed by a poor man towards a rich man," but our observation is that glaring curiosity, fatuousness, roasting, and silly aping make up the commoner attitude of the poor in the presence of those having great possessions.

With a subject thus as broad as human greed, Lawson has also the good fortune of being able to deal with 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 when the experience of a lawyer in Wall street. Credit quills impossible. Thousands all over the land had been bitten in the financial operations when Lawson pretends to describe. They knew that it was through no fault of their own. Every innocent who "takes a flyer" in the stock market is certain that his own judgment is excellent, his financial shrewdness beyond dispute, 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 notes the story of the unscrupulous manipulation of stocks and the heartless fleecing of investors, and takes comfort to his soul. Now he sees it all. He was taken in by a set of villains. Thus, besides the agreeable flip 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 literary fame and circulation above 600,000 are no longer a mystery.

The serious part remains. Mr. Lawson may be the most prodigious liar that ever put pen to paper. His lies may be like the father that begot them—gross as a mountain. That is not the thing which really identifies. Deceit does not greatly vex whether his particular stories are true—whether this and that plunger in the market actually played the infamous part alleged; whether brazen promoters really bought a legislature in the way described; they believe that other stories are true. They are. 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 indelible. That there is a class of rich men who carry into enormous operations the methods of the sneak thief and the cheat sharper; that they rob the widow and take away the portion of the orphan with no more scruple than a burglar; that honor and good faith are unknown among them as among jailbirds—this is the popular conviction upon which Lawson has so skillfully played. He has heightened 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 its own immense task, today to resist and drive from us, if we would not see it drag our whole civilization into the pit.—New York Evening Post.

Cured Paralysis. W. S. Bailly, P. O. True, Texas, writes: "My wife had been suffering five years with paralysis in her arm, when I was persuaded to use Ballard's Snow Liniment, which cured her all right. I have also used it for old sores, frostbites and skin eruptions. It does the work in 30 to 60 seconds. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept. B.

RURAL WISDOM. The Rev. W. S. Rainford of New York fishes every summer in the Canadian salmon rivers, and from the quaint people whom he meets in out-of-the-way Canadian places he brings 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 wait for suthin' to turn up. As for waitin' for suthin' to turn up, why, ye must first get well on and set down on a rock in the middle of the medder with

ON THE WRONG SIDE. Sir Charles Howard Vincent, the former head of the London detective and police force, was talking in Washington about juvenile criminals. "Your juvenile courts are excellent institutions," he said, "but how fine it would be if there was no juvenile crime." "What is the cause of juvenile crime?" a reporter asked. "A very potent cause of crime is literature," Sir Charles replied. "I mean, by crime literature, books about detectives, murders, assassinations, robberies, handouts, prizes and all sorts of things. These books are read by children every day. They are written as if to inculcate virtue, but really they inculcate vice." "A story, you see, may deal with a

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