

RISE OF THE VANDERBILTS.

How Foundations of the Colossal Fortune Were Laid—Sturdy Origin and Inherent Energy of the Family.

There are certain American families that owe their growth and importance to their inherent energy. The two that are most conspicuous by reason of their wealth are the Astors and the Vanderbilts. Both owe their consequence to their fortunes. These fortunes have been the growth of 100 years. They began their careers in the humblest way.

As illustrative of the manner in which the great \$100,000,000 estates in America have been created the Vanderbilts probably furnish the best example. The Duke of Westminster, furnishes the best equivalent illustration of the accumulation of great wealth by his class in Great Britain. But the growth of the Grosvenor estate in England has been the steady accumulation of the family of wealth for almost 1,000 years. When the founder of the mighty fortune of the Vanderbilts died in 1877 he was worth \$100,000,000. The first duke of Westminster died in December, 1890. He was worth as much as the founder of the Vanderbilt fortunes.

Cornelius Vanderbilt, "the commodore," was born in 1794. He was one of eight children. The Vanderbilts have had large families. The commodore's father lived in a little village on Staten Island. He was a poor man. He raised his big family, as did William H. Vanderbilt, on an eighty-acre Staten Island farm. And there his stern, hard old father, let his son live, until that day in 1877 when, from "a place that it took hard scuffling to make a living on," he moved into New York city, and took his seat among the moneyed men of Gotham, the heir to a goodly part of \$100,000,000.

And here a digression may not be out of order. The fortune of the Duke of Westminster is held under very different conditions from that of the Vanderbilts. The greater part of the English duke's estate cannot be sold at all. The free simple—that is, the property itself—cannot be parted with. It is entailed. Much of it is in the form of lands and houses in the city of London. Then there are three great landed estates belonging to the Grosvenor estate, as the Westminster property is called. The largest and probably the most valuable is Eaton hall, in the county of Chester. The others are Holford and Holford, both in Flintshire. Not an acre of all these great estates can be deeded away out of the duke's family. The Vanderbilt property, houses, land in New York city, and the great amount of stock and bonds of the New York Central & Hudson River railroad, and the other railroads the Vanderbilts own, can be sold just as any other railway stock is daily sold.

It is a notable fact that the Westminster estate does not bring in the income the great American property we are comparing it with does. Taxes are very high in England, especially in certain sections of London. The "city proper" of London, "the old town," as it is called, is only about a mile and a half long by a mile wide. Taxation is the heaviest in London. Thus it is that the \$100,000,000 estate of the Vanderbilts brings in a much greater income than does the British estate, valued on the same scale. Then the owners of the first-named can sell any portion or all of it if they choose. The other cannot be parted with, in fee simple. At the home life of the first generation of Vanderbilts was hard. Those who could endure hardships alone survived. That sort of system bred strong men and women physically. It was a condition not uncommon at that time. The revolution had not been over long. The country was new, crude, with great but undeveloped resources. There were not half a dozen families in New York city who were able to live without the income some of the men were able to earn.

The Vanderbilts quitted the paternal roof tree early. They had to live. Cornelius, the first, and his brother Jacob, both fought his brother's career, and Cornelius turned his attention to other fields. He ran a line of freight carrying sailing craft from New York to Albany. With the common use of steam, the vessels made the trip very quickly. Whenever the commodore sold out again his swift boats were making the 150-mile trips in fifteen hours. In 1849 the commodore made the greatest stroke of his life. With the discovery of gold, an immense emigration began to California. The commodore saw a chance. He put on a line of fast steamships, one sailing every ten days, from New York to Aspinwall, the last port on this side of the Isthmus of Panama. He established a fast line of stages connecting with his steamers from New York, carrying their passengers to Panama, the best port on the Pacific side, where his steamships met them and carried them to San Francisco. It was the management of this line that Cornelius became the commodore. The scheme prospered beyond his highest expectations.

It was in the sale of this line that the famous affair between himself and Commodore K. K. Garrison occurred. Vanderbilt had agreed to sell the line to Garrison, an old St. Louis and New Orleans steamboat captain and once owner of a famous line of boats from St. Louis to New Orleans. Garrison had some trouble in getting the large sum of money he had to pay Vanderbilt together. He finally did get it, in the form of three certified checks, each of \$25,000, but Vanderbilt flatly refused to sign the contract on a bill of sale conveying the property to Garrison. When the commodore found his line had increased in value, that he was clearing from \$25,000 to \$37,000 per month, he decided to decline the sale. One morning after Garrison had made half a dozen calls on the recalcitrant Vanderbilt, he again walked into his office.

"Commodore," said he, "I've come for the last time to keep your business promises and sign this contract. I gave you what you asked. Will you sign it?"

Garrison's face was very white. Vanderbilt did not know it then, but the reason Garrison left the Mississippi river was that he had killed a planter who was on board one of Garrison's boats. Knowing the relatives of the dead man would kill him to a certainty if he remained on the river, Garrison sold out and went to New York. So much in explanation.

"No, and by—I'll never sign it!" roared the fiery tempered Vanderbilt. Garrison walked to the outer door of the office, locked it, withdrew the key and put it into his pocket. Drawing from his hip pocket a 5-inch derringer, he cocked it and held it within six inches of Vanderbilt's ear.

"Sign that contract before that clock strikes 11 or I'll blow your brains all over this floor!"

derbilt picked up his pen and signed the contract of sale. Garrison took it carefully, blotted the signature and directed his agents to receive and receipt for the property.

Garrison made a great fortune out of the line, adding some new vessels, and improving the service in several respects. But Vanderbilt never forgave him, and though they met daily for thirty years they never exchanged a word.

By the time his children began to grow up Commodore Vanderbilt was a wealthy man. He had three sons, Cornelius, William H. and George. As is usually the case, one son was his idol. This was George W. Vanderbilt. When he was sixteen years of age and barely eligible, George was appointed to West Point. He graduated in 1860, in the only five-year class the United States military academy ever graduated. His father was delighted, and well he might have been, for no finer looking young officer was ever turned out from the military academy. Standing a little over six feet he was as straight as a lance. He went with the Tenth Infantry. He did some excellent work on the staff of the general commanding the Army of the Potomac from 1861 to 1863, when he was promoted to a captaincy on the staff of the regular army. But that fatal enemy of youth, consumption, struck him, and he asked for and got a long sick leave. He went abroad, thinking the mild climate of Italy would help him, but he died at Nice, Jan. 1, 1864, just a few days over twenty years old. His father was never the same after he learned of George's death. It well-nigh broke his heart.

Next to George, the commodore's favorite was Cornelius, named for him. Cornelius, too, had a brilliant career. Everything in life favoring him. Some how nothing Cornelius Jr. ever attempted seemed to succeed. He tried various projects, but nothing ever went well. He was the youngest of the three, or rather Mr. Greeley indorsed for him to that amount. Naturally, Mr. Greeley had it to pay. The commodore helped his son as long as it seemed to him to be a wise thing to do. He met Mr. Greeley one day and said:

"Greeley, I understand you've indorsed for Corney for \$15,000."

"Yes, I have," returned the great editor of the Tribune.

"Well, you needn't expect me to pay his debts," continued the commodore.

"Well," replied Mr. Greeley, in his peculiar, highly pitched voice, "who in h— has asked you to pay me?" But after Mr. Greeley's death, the sum was returned to his estate by some one of the family.

After his second marriage, to a Mobile lady, the commodore began to move out more into society than he had ever before. He was the youngest man in New York of his years. Tall, a little over six feet two, straight as a pine, he was the model of a well bred gentleman. About this time, too, he commenced that system of splendid donations to the church and charity, that have been so useful and valuable to New York and the south. Through the influence of the Rev. Dr. Deems he built the superb Church of the Strangers in New York and endowed it with a sum sufficient to maintain it and its pastor for all time. It is a place of worship for all strangers in New York. Then he gave \$1,000,000 for the university named for him in Nashville, and his sons and grandson have added \$1,500,000 to the original gift. The commodore died in 1877. Before his death, however, he had taken his grandson, William Kissam Vanderbilt, into the office of the New York Central and Hudson River railroad. An employee of the New York Central, if he is any good, is fixed for life. After thirty years of service he can retire if he wishes on a liberal pension. If he is injured in the road's service, he is taken care of as long as he lives.

The commodore never had any confidence in his son, William H. Vanderbilt's business ability or sense, but he turned out to be one of the best railway presidents and managers in America when he succeeded to that position for the New York Central and its connecting lines.

Just how much the Vanderbilt railway property is worth nobody but the Vanderbilts know. It consists of the New York Central, the Michigan Central & Southern and the Lake Shore. John Nevell was for many years the general manager of the entire system. His salary was \$75,000 per annum. The road of the lines has a general superintendent of its own. The employees of these roads receive the highest salaries that are paid to railroad men in America.

"I don't believe in cheap men," said the commodore. "I want the best, and in this world you can't get anything good without paying for it." The Central has a hospital of its own, where sick or injured employees are taken care of until they are again fit for duty. Very little of the stock of the Vanderbilt roads is on the market. When it does appear it is always bought up for the family. The result is that the stock of the road is not gambled in to any great extent. Its bonded debt is very small. It will probably remain in the hands of the family that own it for many generations. When it does appear on the market, it is usually bought up by the family. It will probably be through their collateral relations.—Washington Post.

The Best Remedy for Diarrhoea.

"Some years ago while at Martinsburg, W. Va., I was taken with cholera and diarrhoea. The doctor's medicine did me no good. I was advised to get a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which I did, and it cured me. I am now well. J. A. Morris, Emburyville, Pa. Sold by all Druggists."

B. R. THOMAS.

Great inducements to close out our entire stock of Children's and Ladies' shoes.

ARTISTIC JOB WORK.

And printing specially attended to at the Deseret Evening News. Estimates promptly furnished. Rush orders a specialty.

HAMILTON'S SPECIAL SALE.

Will sell for three days, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, of this week, their fine line of Tailor Made Suits, Coats, Jackets, and Trousers, at greatly reduced prices.

Our \$20.00 suits in Cheviot, Enameled and Broadcloth, at \$12.50.

Our \$22.50 suits in all the latest materials for \$14.00, and all fine suits reduced accordingly.

Our beautiful Kersey Coats at \$7.50, reduced from \$12.00, in tan, castor and black, and \$30.00 Coats reduced to \$15.50, \$25.00 to \$17.00, are unequaled values.

Our French Flannel Waists for \$1.95, \$2.25, \$2.50 and \$3.00 are of the latest styles and unequalled in price.

We make these special prices on account of the late opening of our new store.

HAMILTON'S—120 Main Street.

SALE OF UNDERWEAR VALUE.

Regular 75c heavy weight, non shrinkable wool, men and vests for women in light silver gray, while they last at the special price of—

49 cts.

SALE OF PILLOW TOPS.

A large line of Pillow Tops that sold at 50c, 65c and 75c, including beautiful Tapestry Tops, fancy tinted tops, floral and cross stitch patterns, the celebrated Foxy Grandpa series, etc., etc., will all be placed on sale this week at only—

25 cts. Each.



SPECIAL IN HANDKERCHIEFS.

At 15 cts. We offer tomorrow an immense lot of ladies' fine handkerchiefs in Swiss and Irish embroidered, lace trimmed, scalloped, hemstitched, embroidered and unlaundered initial handkerchiefs.

TOWEL SPECIALS.

250 Dozen Union Linen Huck Towels, size 18x38 inches, suitable for Hotels and Rooming Houses, actual value—30c. SALE PRICE 15c EACH OR \$1.50 PER DOZEN. 100 Dozen Bleached Initial Turkish Bath Towels, actual value 25c. SALE PRICE 16 2-3c OR \$1.75 PER DOZEN.

12 1/2c OUTING FLANNELS, 7c.

Thousands of yards of light and medium, soft fleeced outing flannels, the regular 12 1/2c grade, for one week only, per yard—

7 cts.

EXTRA VALUES IN Ladies' Capes.

FOR ONE WEEK.



Beaver cloth capes, shoulder cape and bottom of cape trimmed with three rows of braid and edged with fur, only—

\$2.45

Ladies' Kersey Cloth capes, Castor, Tan and Navy, with strap trimming, 30 to 35 inches long, regular \$3.00 capes, only—

\$4.48

Ladies' Plush Capes, Jet and Braid trimmed with edging \$3.98

Ladies' Golf Capes, made of pretty bright reversible plaids, 30 inches long, only—

\$5.18

AN UNPRECEDENTED SALE OF SILKS.

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