

THE DYNASTY OF THE ROTHSCHILDS.

(Translated from the French of the Baron.)

Above all things, dear reader, permit me to present to you a young man, who certainly is worthy of exciting your attention and interest. He is 22 years old, bears an honorable name, and wears only since a short time the official robe of a French lawyer. He lives in Paris, in the Rue Lafitte, and his name is Nathaniel James Edward de Rothschild. The enthusiasm with which he devotes himself to his profession, and his fortune, induce him not to ask for fees; nay, he is able and willing to advance money to his clients.

Baron Edward is the son of Baron Nathaniel, and a nephew of Baron James de Rothschild. He found a very decent annual income in his cradle; nevertheless, he did not forget that no member of his family is allowed to spend his money in idleness, and as he had no taste for financial affairs, he resolved to devote himself to jurisprudence.

The fortunate young lawyer has only one misfortune to bewail: for seven years past his father has been confined to his easy chair, for Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild is blind and paralyzed. Baron Nathaniel is the nephew and son-in-law of Baron James de Rothschild; he married the great banker's daughter, who bore to him two sons, the elder of whom is our wealthy young lawyer.

Baron James de Rothschild, the head of the famous family, possesses in the Rue Lafitte one of the greatest banking-houses in the world. He is 73 years old, and still strong and active—so much so, indeed, that he has hitherto always declined to leave the management of his immense business to his children. His will alone decides everything, and his two sons, Alphonse and Gustave, are only the Secretaries of State of their lord and father, His Majesty James I. King of Millionsaires, and lender of millions to the kings of this world.

Baron James de Rothschild married the daughter of his brother Solomon, for the Rothschilds do not intermarry with other families. A rare exception was the marriage of Baron Gustave de Rothschild, who married Miss Anspach, eldest daughter of a judge of the Supreme Court of France. His young bride brought him a dowry of 500,000 francs. On the evening of the wedding day, when Baron Gustave took his bride to his mansion, he handed her a small package, and said to her: "The first request of your husband (and you know you must not refuse such a request) is, that you may take back these 500,000 francs and add them to your little sister's dowry."

So much do they care for a million in the house of the Rothschilds. It is generally believed that the Rothschild family consists only of men who care for nothing but to amass money. Nothing can be more erroneous. They are men of heart, and also hard working men. When, two years ago, a personal affair obliged me to request an audience of Baron James de Rothschild, he fixed his clock at the hour when he would receive me. I rose at the hour of 7 o'clock in the morning; it was in mid-winter and the windows were full of snow, and I drove to the Rue Lafitte.

I found the Baron in his cabinet, his hair carefully dressed, he wore a full suit of black broad-cloth and a white cravat. He was just drinking a cup of tea and giving his orders to his Secretary, a very young Prussian named Benari, who was always dressed almost penniless to Paris, and has since then obtained a highly important and lucrative position in the great banking-house of the Rue Lafitte.

Baron James de Rothschild, who might live very comfortably on his interest, is, despite his 73 years, one of the most active and energetic men. He rises at 6 o'clock in the morning, and while Felix, his son, Bondeville, is shaving and dressing him, Bondeville, a teacher of elocution, reads to the Baron the most important passages from all the morning papers. If Rothschild is in good humor, Bondeville, who is very familiar with what is going on in the different theatres of Paris, relates some stage anecdotes to him.

At 8 o'clock James de Rothschild goes to work. His Secretary arrives and opens the private correspondence of the Baron, who receives every day about two hundred mendacious letters from all parts of Europe. Every letter is read attentively, and the Baron gives instructions as to what is to be done about it. For behind the pleasure of making money, Rothschild knows no greater pleasure than giving away money.

At half past 8, M. Benari commences, in the Baron's presence, and under his supervision, his daily calculations in regard to the different money markets of the world. At the close of this important business, the Secretary retires, and the Baron, who has just earned his daily bread, thinks of the best way of spending a portion of his abundant money. He receives the dealers in paintings and curiosities, whom he instructed to discover rare objects of art for his most remarkable gallery at Ferrieres, his beautiful country seat; for James de Rothschild is one of the most indefatigable collectors in Paris.

When one of these dealers in curiosities sells a "plain-looking" piece of earthenware, the value of which is known only to connoisseurs, for the pittance of 20,000 francs, one may be sure to find it on the following morning in the collection of Baron James de Rothschild.

At 11 o'clock he goes to his bureau, where, with the exception of an hour for lunch, he remains until 9 o'clock. Then he goes to his club, where he plays a comfortable rubber of whist. At 8 o'clock the whole family assembles at his table to take dinner with him.

The daily reign of the Baron is over; now commences that of the Baroness. And here we perceive how fortunate this man really is. In addition to his many millions, heaven has given to him in his wife one of the most sensible, elegant and accomplished ladies. Among the guests at the dinner-table are often seen Thiers, the great orator and historian, and General Changarnier, the illustrious Captain.

From time to time the Baron rises at the dinner-table, and repairs to the small theatre in the Rue de la Tour d'Auvergne, where he applauds the performance of the pupils of M. Bondeville, his reader. But no matter at what hour he may go to bed, he will always be found at his post by 7 o'clock in the morning.

Although Baron James de Rothschild

is known to be inexorable in business matters, his heart is a very soft thing. Whenever he returns a somewhat stern reply, or even a rude refusal to an exchange broker who presents orders of him, the ill-treated man may wish that he had sold his shares in the Rothschild family already on the morrow, with the pleasant balm called brokerage. No sooner has Rothschild left his cabinet and got through his business affairs, than he becomes the most amiable and accessible man in all Paris.

He is well acquainted with, and very fond of authors and artists. Last fall, for instance, he met with a celebrated painter at an official dinner party.

"How do you do?" asked the millionaire.

"Very well, thank you, Baron."

"What I never see you any more. Pray come and see me at Ferrieres. Draw their a bead on some of my game."

"Baron," replied the painter, laughing, "it would be more agreeable to draw on Baron James de Rothschild for 10,000 francs."

"Well, you may do so," said the Baron, but do not draw before the close of the month; for, on the 15th inst. I have to pay already more drafts than I like to see come in."

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The great stove trial was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock, before a large and increasing crowd over the day preceding. The utmost good-will seemed to prevail, both among the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly imbued with the good old F. principle of "may the best stove win." Promptly to the time the committee appeared on the judges' stand, Sanders, particularly glowing with excitement and responsibility. The entries were the same as at the previous trial, and the same rules were observed.

At ten minutes to one the drum tapped, and all lights up. Norton's Furnace, run by Mr. E. Wood Perry, was in smoke, and amid cheers of the crowd and loud cries of "Go it, old one!" Charter Oak followed, and the rest gave vapor immediately after. In four minutes, just as they were about to quit, the Cotton Plant started, and the trial was quickly brought to a close. The trial was a very close one, but the Cotton Plant, which had been in the lead, was the victor.

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