

# RISE OF THE BRITISH GYPSY

### Has Not Entirely Forsaken the Road, but is Becoming a Man of Affairs.

### SOME HAVE ACCUMULATED FORTUNES

#### Glimpses of Modern Gypsy Life in Sharp Contrast to the Romantic Existence of the Long Ago—Wanderers and Their Wanderings.

London, May 17.—[Copyrighted, 1893.]—The last quarter of a century has wrought a wonderful change for the better with a majority of all British Gypsies who have been content to remain in their own land. In 1867, while in England, I had means of knowing from personal observation that almost universal squar and wretchedness was characteristic of both the English and Welsh Gypsies of London Gypsies. No one can make of a Gypsy anything but a Gypsy, but a generation of change here has effected a more marked advancement in a rugged sort of prosperity with this than with any other lowly class.

It has not seized the Gypsy bodily and in a moment, or a year, or a decade, but fine clothing upon him and made him a man of affairs, but something, as with the destitute Italians who have landed upon American shores, who we directly find as hawkers, willing laborers, restaurant keepers, newsboys, bootblackers, controllers of retail and wholesale fruit and nut trades, and on the high road to prosperity, because they are quick witted and willing to labor—the British Gypsy has found along with old make-shifts for livelihood, many new though rude occupations and means of getting on in the world, all after his own mind and heart.

While the race characteristics of these folk will require many generations in which to undergo radical change, their conditions and environment are in the main entirely different from those in which Crabbe, Hoiland, Borrow and Simson found them, and of which they wrote. In other words, there is today little or nothing in book literature altogether true of British Gypsies. Of the four standard authors named, Borrow was the most romantic, Simson the most inexorably true. Yet both write of a time and a milieu of Gypsy life which, with few exceptions, have long passed away.

The exceptions comprise the poorest English and Scottish Gypsies of today; some families in the north of England whose members have continued abiding by the old form of wandering life by the roadside—the tinkering, the dicker, the dicker or fortunetelling, and often the tiny sales of imperfect deft and tawdry wares, with a "whummed" or upturned cart for a roof in summer, and any sort of a town tenement in winter; the tiny, straggling bands in Devonshire and Cornwall, where there has been little change in social conditions for the last fifty years; the few remaining Gypsies of Perthshire, Aberdeenshire and the highland districts of Scotland, and the Gypsies of Wales, where is found the most primitive and idyllic form of Gypsy life yet remaining in Britain. The Welsh Gypsies rarely leave Wales. All Welsh people are fond of them, and they are almost as much a part of the concrete rural social structure as are the Welsh people themselves.

The fact is that British Gypsies, as well as our American Gypsy countrymen, who I call name who are worth from \$20,000 to \$100,000 in landed property, have, during the past quarter of a century, developed a remarkable ability for certain lowly kinds of trade. These have been a natural outgrowth, in most instances, of the petty wayside tinkering, the rest fortunate times, but they are still pursued requiring the exercise of good thrift and judgment and of a genuine probity that make the Gypsy middleman wiser and more successful than the side customer. In the main they are wanderers in the summer time, as with us, traveling certain routes and carrying out surveying in villages and even in outskirts of towns and cities, articles whose annual aggregate value amount to a stupendous sum.

Their camped in the outset may comprise one or more vans. These are, briefly described, tiny houses upon wheels. They are drawn by donkeys or often by broken down city tram horses, which the gypsies get in the cities for a song and which with care are finally transformed into excellent cattle. Following these may be three or four, or a half dozen, tinney carts, after the fashion of the cosermongers city carts. These will hold the real resources of the band. An examination of the latter would reveal almost enough material in quantity, certainly enough in variety, to stock a little country store.

This stock in trade has not been picked up at random. In the London Whitechapel district there are great storehouses of "Travelers' Goods." Their owners, who I find include wealthy Gypsies, could not continue in business without the Gypsies' trade. The goods handled are somewhat similar to our American "bargain counter" odds and ends, especially in tinware, and metal goods, hardware, crockery, cheap clothing and household knickknacks, with the coarsest beads and gilded jewelry. It would be a revelation to ordinary English tradesmen to realize the enormous quantities of stuff annually disposed of in this manner throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and the integrity of these Gypsy wanderers where they ask and receive credit for their supplies, as they often do. "Smaller-Travelers' Goods" stores may be found near the Bull Ring in Birmingham, where carts may be refilled in the lazy hour, and that six tons of copper wire at a time are forwarded by rail from London.

I have friends in the fruit and nut trade in the Drury Lane quarter of London who have supplied Gypsies in all parts of the province for the past twenty years. Half of this trade is done on credit, and the fruiterers all inform me they have never lost a penny at the hands of these thousands of Gypsy small customers. All these goods, fruits and nuts are hawked in little villages and sold at fairs and market days. Indeed the English country fair of today would lose all its picturesqueness and most of its attractions for younger people were the petty Gypsy booth and Gypsy showmen withdrawn.

About the middle of the century, when the British Rural Police Act, which was directed against Gypsies and all wanderers of the road, came in force, we find Borrow mentioning that the "Gypsy had nowhere to lay his head." The oppressive measure undoubtedly sent American Gypsies, as well as within a period of ten years. Indeed it almost exterminated Gypsism in Great Britain. But the coming Gypsies soon saw a way to mend his fortunes. He took out a license to become a traveling merchant. "License" and "peace" gives him this right for the period of one year. He could still remain Gypsy in every other particular. Instantly, however, degrees he actually became the fellow whose vocation he originally assumed in order to merely exist.

More gradually followed a system among the wanderers of providing "Gypsy ground" on which to camp in safety from the raids of the mounted constabulary. Gypsies here and there who got a holding and could be trusted bought or leased bits of waste land, unused lanes, idle tracts at the outskirts of cities and towns, or camping rights in roomy old stable yards. These spots, by which to arriving pilgrims at from 1 shilling down to a penny a day. And thus, with Gypsy travelers who really have something besides "black arts" to sell, one can travel from Land's End to John O'Groats's house, or London to Oban, and return, and never upon the road by day, or underneath the tent or the van roof and the stars at night, be outside the comforting protection of watchful British law.

But the British Gypsy is something more than a "vagrom" trader. His kind are encroaching upon, or making for themselves, many other profitable pursuits and vocations. I have always held that in this world it has been the real evolution of the Gypsy; and that in just the degree he became like other men—not in religion, because you can no more reach a Gypsy with Christian missionary schemes—than you can secure an expression of belief from any other form of Agnostic—in vocations and the betterment to himself and family in material living, in like degree

# HARNESSING A MIGHTY POWER

### The Gigantic Work of Utilizing Some of Niagara's Energy.

### SUPREMACY OF STEAM UNDERMINED

#### An Industrial Revolution Promised the Cities of Western New York—Description of the Great Enterprise, the Quantity of Power and the Cost.

The development of water power at Kenney and Gothenburg, Neb., and the power canal projected by Hastings and Omaha capitalists leads a local and special interest to a description of a similar enterprise, but on a gigantic scale, at Niagara Falls. Hitherto the utilization of water power has been meagre and localized. The cost and loss in transmission to distant points have been insurmountable barriers to general use. The limitless energy running to waste could not be concentrated or made effective beyond its immediate vicinity. Even where the power was sufficient for a city of a quarter of a million people it became a monopoly of the few first comers. As an illustration the Falls of St. Anthony may be cited. That water power is ample for all the industrial needs of Minneapolis, yet a very small fraction of it is utilized, for the reason that all industries requiring power could not be located so as to take advantage of the power.

As a result, a great quantity of power is lost in the immediate vicinity, but to points remote from the central station. The question of distance resolves itself into one of cheapness of production, so as to overcome the per cent of loss in long distance transmission.

During a recent visit to Niagara Falls the writer examined with much care the great enterprise by which a comparatively small part of the energy of the outlet of the lakes is to be harnessed. The project is a mammoth one in its extent and the necessary cost, it is without precedent in its class, and is backed by many of the most sagacious financiers in America. The controlling company is a triple-ownership, the Niagara Falls Power company is the parent, with a land syndicate and a power distributing company as offspring. The parent company was formed in 1880, composed mainly of New York bankers having boundless means and credit. Several years were consumed in preparation of plans, procuring title to land and other preliminaries, including state legislation. The practical part of the work were three distinct undertakings—the tunnel to carry the waste water and without which it is impossible to control the flow of water and the pits for the turbines.

The tunnel was cut through rock under the center of the city of Niagara. It is one and a quarter long, twenty-one feet high and sixteen feet wide and 200 feet below the surface of the city. Drilling through a tunnel with a diameter of one foot and a half, in irregular shapes, and apparently hard enough to form the tunnel roof and masonry. When exposed to the air the rock soon crumbled to dust. This necessitated bricking the tunnel throughout. 14,000,000 brick being required for the work. To facilitate the work, two shafts, equidistant, were sunk to the tunnel level, and through these 200,000 tons of rock were removed. The rock proved useful and profitable. It was sold to the local masonry and brick industry.

The main wheel pit is a gigantic hole in the ground. It is 140 feet long, 18 feet wide and 12 feet deep. It is lined with heavy stone walls, has two vertical openings or sluice gates, each capable of admitting to the turbine pits power equal to 5,000-horse power. At present the mouth of the canal is closed with a concrete dam. In the canal is another dam. The former is to be opened shortly to furnish power to a new paper mill, while the latter will remain closed until the turbines are completed and the turbines in place.

The problems of tunneling, of pit drilling and canal building are practically solved, as compared with that of effectively harnessing the power. The development of such enormous hydraulic energy was undertaken with a courage and enterprise of strength to utilize the energy of a head or fall of nearly 200 feet had not been manufactured. Two thousand-horse power turbines were ordered, built and tested. A thorough examination of all methods of utilizing a fall of water in this country and Europe, double turbines of 5,000-horse power were ordered, built and tested. A thorough examination of all methods of utilizing a fall of water in this country and Europe, double turbines of 5,000-horse power were ordered, built and tested.

The amount of power available at Niagara Falls is stupendous. Looking at the cataract from either the American or Canadian side the present is the enormous amount of water that rolls majestically over the ledge of rock and envelopes itself in a cloud of vapor. Eminent engineers assert that the falling water, in its present condition, capable of developing 4,500,000-horse power. To put it in another light: It takes five pounds of coal to generate 1-horse power for one hour. The Niagara power is equivalent to 15,000,000 tons of coal per annum.

The plans of the Niagara Falls Power company are to develop the power of the falls. The plan is to build a power house on the American side, and a half miles of water front on the American side and controls the right for similar power development on the Canadian side. It is expected that within two years the company will develop on both sides of the river 450,000-horse power, provided, however, that the demand calls for it.

The cost of the power is an important consideration. Two contracts for power have been made which furnish a basis of calculation. The Niagara Power company's new contract calls for the inlet canal contracts for 3,000-horse power at \$24.00 per year, or \$8 per horse power. Assuming that the cost of the power delivered in Buffalo

is \$10.00 per horse power, it would be sufficient to force the latter power to the wall. The expense of steam power in that locality ranges from \$25 to \$40 per horse power for a ten-hour day. It will be seen the economy of electricity over steam will gradually bring it into universal use in the favored cities, not only for manufacturing purposes, but for light and heat. The figures of cost do not take into account the increment which distributing companies will exact, or the interest of capital, a species of evil inseparable from great public corporations.

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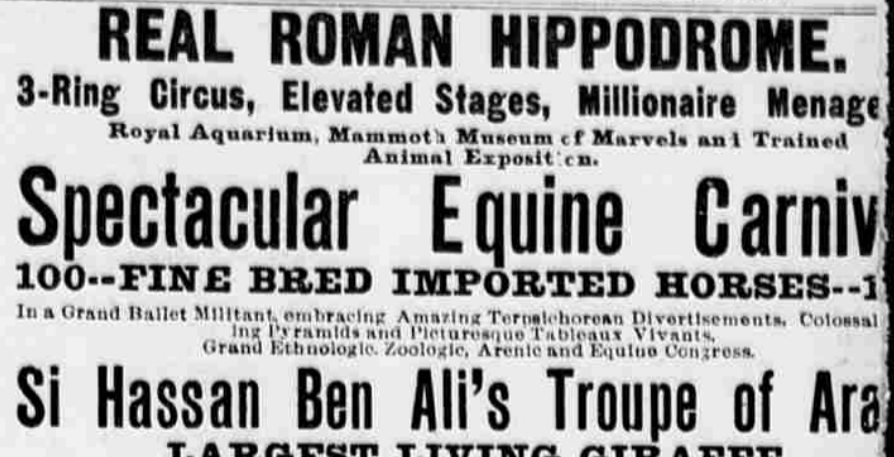
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# TALK OF THE YOUNGSTERS

Harper's Bazar: Bobbie was out driving with his father, and had hold of the reins. He had been told not to whip the horse, but persisted in doing it, until papa, finding that useless, took the reins from his hands. "Now don't you think it would have been better for you to buy me an ounce?" Bobbie was dumb.

"I'll tell you a story," said papa. "There was once a boy who climbed up into an apple tree to steal apples. The farmer came along and told the boy to get down from the tree. But the boy paid no attention. Then the farmer threw grass at the boy. But the boy did not mind that. Then the farmer threw apples at the boy, but even they did not bring him down from the tree. So finally the farmer took some stones and threw at him, and the boy came down the tree in short order.

"Now don't you think," said Bobbie's papa, "it would have been better for the boy to come down when first he did?"

"No, because he had the audacity of a 5-year-old; he had time to eat more apples."

"Mamma, does the dictionary have all the words in it?"

"Yes, dear."

"All the words there is?"

"Yes, dear."

"An' what they mean?"

"Can I look in the dictionary, mamma?"

"Yes, dear, but keep still while mamma talks with Dr. Antiquities."

Johnny disappeared into the library and was away twenty minutes. When he came back he was all right, but he had a long struggle with the weight of Webster's unabridged.

"I can't find it, mamma," he observed with a frown.

"What is it you want to find, Johnny?" inquired the good doctor.

"What papa said when I broke his shaving mirror. Was the innocent but suggestive remark."

Harper's Drawer: There is, as a rule, nothing more lofty than the ambition of a boy who has looked carefully over the whole range of human endeavor and made up his mind what he is going to be. A lad of that sort is never content with any job as a "goat-o'-dix" was asked the other day if he expected to become a lawyer like his father.

"No, no," said he with a positive shake of his head. "I'm going to be a captain of a big ship, and I'll sail out west and bombard the Indians on the plains."

Aunt—What became of the kitten you had when I was here before?

Little Niece (in surprise)—Why, don't you know?

"I haven't heard a word. Was she poisoned?"

"No, aunt."

"Drowned?"

"No, no, no. She was killed by a snake."

"Stolen?"

"No, indeed."

"Hurt in any way?"

"Well, I can't guess. What became of her?"

Little Boy—Papa, may I study elocution? Proun Papa—Indeed you may, my boy, if you wish. You desire to become a great orator, don't you?

"Yes, that's it."

"And some day, perhaps, have your voice ringing through the halls of congress?"

"I shouldn't care for that. I want to be an after-dinner speaker."

"Ah, you are anxious for social distinction, then?"

"No, I want the diners."

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# BEWARE OF THE FAIR

## Don't Go to Chicago or Any Other Place This Summer Without First Having Your Teeth Put in Good Condition

As any change of climatology bring on neuralgia, caused by a decayed tooth, and thus your visit and pleasure would be ruined. Visit your dentist, if you have one, if not, call on

# DR. R. W. BAILEY, PAXTON BLOCK,

and let him put your mouth in perfect condition.

Those who have roots and badly broken teeth that occasionally hurt or become inflamed, find that any change of climate is sure to bring them trouble. Have such roots, etc., removed immediately and new teeth put right in so you will be getting accustomed to wearing them before going away.

To those who remain at home this caution is essential. We are threatened with an invasion of CHOLERA this summer, and as a precaution our first duty is to attend to our MOUTH. Cholera is much less liable to attack one whose mouth is clean and healthy, than where such is not the case. Have those decayed teeth fixed. Have those ulcerating roots removed, for both can now be done

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