

MRS. MARY ELIZABETH JONES OF NEW YORK IS PROBABLY WORLD'S WEALTHIEST WOMAN



MRS. MARY ELIZABETH JONES.

NEW YORK—The richest woman in America—or in the world—may not be Mrs. Hetty Green. The greatest landowner in America may not be one of the Astors. These are the conclusions that probably would be reached if the Green and the Astor possessions could be valued correctly and the figures compared with those which would represent the vast wealth of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Jones of New York and of Cold Spring Harbor, L. I.

Further than that, the social crown of America, long held by the Astors by reason of their wealth, would belong to Mrs. Jones if she chose to claim it, for her fortune is doubtless greater and her lineage in this country runs a century further back. She is related also, far and near, to nearly every one of the great families in New York and New England whose names are written large on the pages of American history from the days of the Colonial wars to now.

Probably no one, not even Mrs. Jones herself, could say accurately how great is her fortune. It is mostly in land. She acknowledges that she owns and pays taxes on land in every school district on Long Island, in nearly every county in New York state and in every state in the union except Texas. The property immediately surrounding the old manor house at Cold Spring Harbor, where she lives in summer, is worth millions of dollars.

Her husband, Dr. Oliver Livingston Jones, is also a great land-owner, but his possessions fall far short of his wife's. Then there is the Jones estate, which is owned by some 25 heirs, which also runs up into scores of millions in value. Three or more theaters in New York city are owned by her, and it is said to be her ambition to own property in every city in the

the Jones family goes back to Queen Anne, so it is likely Mrs. Jones will retain possession.

Founder of the Family.

The foundations of her vast fortune were laid by Maj. Thomas Jones, who came from Strabane in the kingdom of Ireland and settled with his young wife near what is now called Oyster Bay, L. I., in 1633. He brought with him a comfortable fortune, won on the seas through privateering privileges granted him by James II., whose cause he fought for in the battle of the Boyne. This fortune has been handed down from the eldest of one family to the eldest of the next through five generations, until now the bulk of the vast accumulations rests with Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Jones.

Mrs. Jones is the daughter of Charles Hewlett Jones and of Elizabeth Gracie Gardner. She was born July 5, 1854, and was married to Dr. Oliver Livingston Jones, her cousin, when she was 19. They have six children, two daughters and four sons.

In summer, and in fact at intervals during the winter, the family live in the old Jones manor house, at Cold Spring Harbor, L. I. There is nothing ornate or especially striking about this country home of the woman who is perhaps the richest of her sex in America. It is simply a large, well-built mansion of the later colonial style of architecture, of which it is one of the best examples in this country.

The rather battered surrises, driven by the son of the owner of the "hacking" business at Cold Spring Harbor, stopped in front of the main entrance to the mansion and remained there during the hour and more that the reporter was talking to Mrs. Jones.

The richest woman in America was gowned quite simply in something light blue, comfortable and well worn.



ENTRANCE-MAIN HALL

United States. She owns property in most of them now and each year gets nearer to a realization of her ambition. The other day she had a controversy with the city of New York about the ownership of the sunken meadows up in the East river. They are estimated to be worth \$1,000,000. The grant to

CUSTOMS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Show an Exceedingly Primitive Stage of Development.

Of the survival of curious Malay customs in the Philippines Judge Charles S. Lobinguer said before the anthropological conference at Baguio: "The Philippine archipelago offers a fertile and fascinating field for the student of historical and comparative jurisprudence. It is probably the only country in the world where the three cosmopolitan legal systems—Roman, English and Mohammedan—exist side by side. But these are all exotic and underneath their thin veneer lies a substratum, which may be found all the way from Aparri to Zamboanga.

The family law is usually the oldest branch of any legal system, just as the family itself is the oldest of human institutions. And as the basis of the family, the marriage relation is one of the earliest subjects of archaic law. Survivals of Malay marriage customs throughout the Philippines indicate an exceedingly primitive stage of de-

velopment. One very prevalent custom is that which requires a suitor to serve the parents of his intended bride for a period more or less long before marriage. It is really a survival of the purchase stage in the evolution of marriage, is universal in extent and is typified by the account in Genesis of Jacob serving Laban.

"The remedial law, or that which pertains to the enforcement of rights and duties, is usually the slowest in development and in its origin is invariably connected with superstition. Our Anglo-Saxon forefathers tried causes not by evidence, but by the ordeal, usually a test, in some form, of physical endurance, which is also a universal institution, in England lasting till 1215. In some form it is in use among probably all the primitive Malay tribes to-day and at least one form, the boiling-water test, is identical with that employed by the Anglo-Saxons. Gov. Knight of Nueva Vizcaya tells me that among the tribes of his province the ordeal, or trial by battle, which was not abolished in England until the nineteenth century, is still in vogue."

Property in Many States.

"Is it true that you own property everywhere in the United States?" was asked.

"Yes, almost everywhere," she answered. "I pay taxes in every school district in Long Island, in every or almost every county in New York state, and in every state in the union. No, that last isn't so, I forgot about Texas. I used to own some property in Texas, but I was down there a while ago and concluded to sell it. No, I don't care to say what the reasons were.

"That is the only property I have ever sold, except an acre of land that I sold to a very dear friend a while ago. My rule is to always buy and never to sell. In fact, that is the rule that has been handed down to us from generation to generation, and was originated by the founder of the family in America, Maj. Thomas Jones. Our policy has been to lease the lands we own for terms of years and to keep investing the surplus income."

"How large an estate have you here about the manor house?"

"I don't know the exact number of acres, but I own for two miles nearly all around it."

This would mean that the lands directly adjoining the manor house grounds form what in real estate parlance would be called a "parcel of ground" which would contain about six square miles. Now, a square mile has just sold in fact, that is the rule that has been handed down to us from generation to generation, and was originated by the founder of the family in America, Maj. Thomas Jones. Our policy has been to lease the lands we own for terms of years and to keep investing the surplus income."

Record of History.

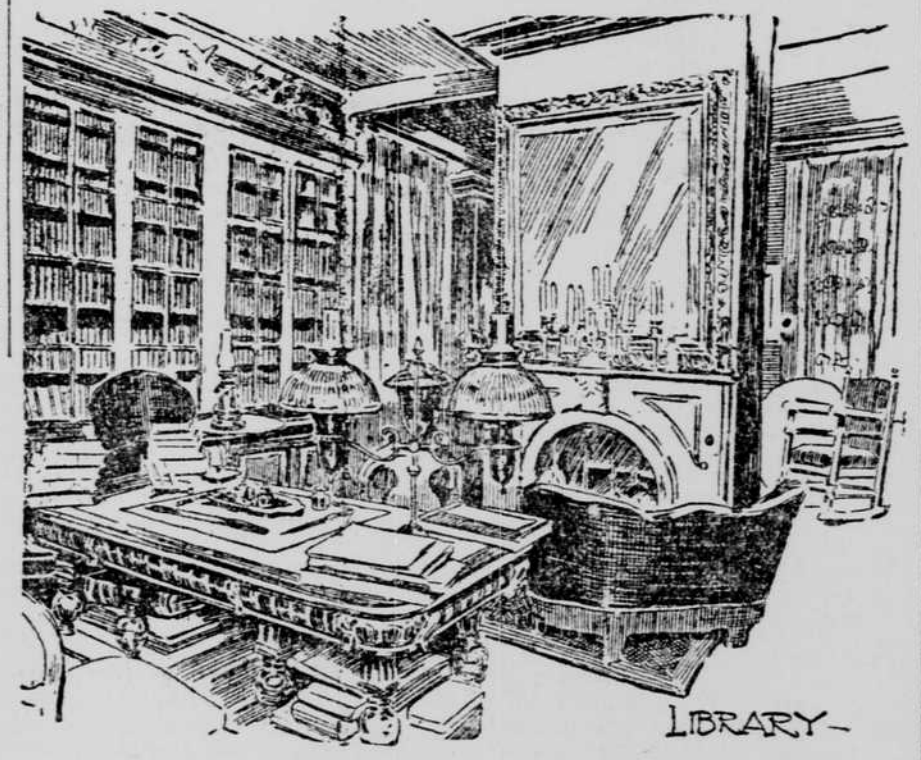
About Maj. Jones being a pirate little is known. There is extant a letter from Lieut. Gov. Colden to his son, written in 1759, in which he says: "While Col. Fletcher was governor the inhabitants of New York carried on a trade to Madagascar while that island was frequented by pirates, and many of the pirates came and dispersed on Long Island and around Delaware Bay. It is also known that James II. granted Maj. Jones, in 1690, as a compensation for services rendered, a commission to cruise against Spanish property. At any rate, the privateering business did not last long, but was immensely profitable while it did. It was considered a legitimate business in those days.

Among the many well-known and richest families who are related to the Jones family in America and her husband are the Willetts of Flushing; the Van Wycks of Flatlands (prominent in the colonial wars); Dr. Valentine Mott, the great surgeon; the Underhills, famous mariners; the Remsens, who intermarried with the De Peysters and

Antedate the Astors.

"Your family is older and has greater possessions than the Astors—isn't that so?" hazarded the reporter.

Mrs. Jones laughed. "We're certainly older by a hundred years or so in this country. As to which is the greater I couldn't say, for I know as little about what the Astors have as they do about what I own. I hardly know the latter myself—accurately, that is. But, speaking of the ancestry of our family, there is much that is interesting to me. In fact I always have been fond of and proud of the men and



LIBRARY

women who were our ancestors. I have several volumes of histories that have been written about the family, but, as is usually the case when one has a home in the city and one in the country, the things one wants at the moment always are among those left behind. That is why I haven't any of them here to show you. No, I think there is one over there. "The Jones Family of Long Island." You may take it to look over if you wish. The edges are a little tattered. I guess one of the puppy dogs must have been playing with it."

Mrs. Jones was disinclined to talk specifically about the details of the various holdings which make up her own vast possessions in New York and throughout the United States. She acknowledged that her husband and herself were interested in almost every branch of industry to a greater or less extent. But when the conversation would approach anything that related particularly to her personal business affairs or those of the great Jones estate, of which she is a sharer, she invariably shifted the conversation to matters genealogical or to generalities.

The most interesting of the many famous ancestors of Dr. and Mrs.

Thrones of Russian Rulers.

For centuries it has been custom of Each Czar to Have New One.

For 500 years it has been the custom for each of the czars of Russia to have new thrones, new crowns, new scepters, and new coronation robes, and at the close of each successive reign these have been deposited in what is called the treasury of the Kremlin, together with the valuable gifts each has received at the time of his coronation and during his reign from his fellow sovereigns or his subjects, says the Detroit News Tribune. Exhibited with them are the thrones, and crowns, and coronation robes of their consorts and those of the rulers they have overthrown in battle and whose domains from time to time have been annexed by conquest to the Russian empire. Thus, in the treasury, a visitor can have an epitome of its history written in gold, silver and precious stones.

There is a succession of crowns upon pedestals standing before the empty thrones of those who wore them; also the crowns and thrones of

Poland, Siberia, Georgia, Astrakan, Kazan, the Crimea, and other nations, which were formerly independent, but by force of arms have been added to the Russian empire. All are covered with jewels, some of them among the largest and most precious in the world. "Crowns upon crowns, thrones upon thrones, scepters upon scepters, rivers of rubies, cascades of diamonds, oceans of pearls," some one has said. The present czar sensibly decided not to have a new throne. From the large assortment of those belonging to his predecessors he selected one made of ivory filigree work and exquisite carving which was captured from India in 1473. The czarina selected a gorgeous throne of ebony, heavily incrustured with jewels, which was captured from Persia in 1696. It bears 876 diamonds and 1,223 rubies, besides many other stones of lesser value.

Chinese Sacred Number.

Five is the sacred number of the Chinese, who have five planets, five cardinal points, five virtues, five tastes, five musical tones, five ranks of nobility and five colors.

PROMINENT PEOPLE

PROHIBITION CANDIDATE



Eugene W. Chafin, who has just been nominated by the Prohibitionists for president of the United States, is an attorney of Chicago. He was not a candidate for the nomination at the Columbus convention, for he had already been named by the Prohibitionists of Illinois as their candidate for governor. Under the circumstances, he will have to resign the latter nomination and let another be named in his place.

Before going to Chicago seven years ago he was a resident of Wisconsin, and was counted one of the leaders of the "dry" party in that state. In two different campaigns he was the candidate for attorney general in the Beaver state, and in 1898 he headed the state ticket there.

The candidate is not tied to the Prohibition party in his zeal for the elimination of the liquor evil. He has been aligned with practically every movement that has for its object the wiping out of the saloon. He was the state president of the Wisconsin Epworth league for two years, and for four terms was grand chief templar of the Order of Good Templars, an organization which was quite strong throughout the country a score of years ago and still wields considerable influence in some quarters.

He is 56 years old and worked on a farm to pay his way through college while studying law. For 25 years he practiced his profession, when he was not working for temperance, in Waukesha, Wis. He is a ready speaker, and an orator of some ability. In fact it was a speech that he made in the Columbus convention which carried that impressive body off its feet and resulted in his nomination over men who had been avowed candidates for months and who had made a campaign to land the place. In that respect his nomination was a fair replica of the first Bryan nomination in Chicago.

Mr. Chafin has dabbled in literature somewhat, and has written two volumes: "Lincoln, the Man of Sorrows," and "Lives of the Presidents."

WILL GATHER THE COIN



George R. Sheldon, newly named treasurer of the Republican national committee, is very little known to the public generally, although in New York his is a name to conjure with, particularly in business and financial affairs. There was a time when he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for lieutenant-governor of the Empire state, on the ticket with former Governor and former Boss B. B. Odell. When it came time for the convention at Saratoga, however, and it looked as though Sheldon had delegates enough on his list to make him a factor in the convention, Odell balked.

"Not with his trust connections," declared the boss. "He'll swamp the ticket."

So the nomination went elsewhere. Sheldon never kicked, but went back to his world of business.

What Sheldon does not know about trusts and great corporations it would be little use for a tyro to study. He is actively connected with 22 different important corporations, located in nine states, with large interests in another score of states. Besides, he is one of the confidential representatives of J. Pierpont Morgan in Wall street and acted for him in the organization of a number of the large corporations promoted a few years ago. As an indication of his taking away, it may be mentioned that he induced that same Gov. Odell to invest \$200,000 in the shipbuilding trust. Sheldon was treasurer of the state committee and Odell was governor at the time.

Banks, locomotives, street car lines, iron and steel, electric light, heat and power—these are some of the lines in which his interests lie. Incidentally, it might be considered that Detroit had something more than a passing interest in the man, since he is a director in the Detroit Edison Co.

Socially, he belongs to 22 different clubs of high standing and is president of the aristocratic Union League club of New York city, with Carnegie, Rockefeller, Morgan and a score of other financiers and men of affairs as well known.

Sheldon was born in Brooklyn 51 years ago and was educated at Har-

GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



Gov. Walter F. Frear of Hawaii stepped into the limelight in connection with the visit to Honolulu by the battleship fleet. The people of Honolulu and other cities of the islands broke all records in the welcome extended to the fleet, and no money nor time was spared to make the occasion a notable as well as a pleasant one. As the governor of the territory and chief representative of Uncle Sam in his jurisdiction, Gov. Frear was naturally put in charge of all arrangements for the event.

If it were not for such little things as this, the average newspaper reader would be likely to forget that there was such a place as Hawaii on earth, or that it is a regular territory of the United States with its own territorial government and organization. The Hawaiian islands are so far away from homeland, and the revolution which carried the government all the way from monarchy to republic and then to annexation are of such comparatively recent date that only in the year of presidential conventions do we recollect more than the name of the islands.

Gov. Frear, although of American birth, has spent nearly his entire life in Hawaii. Born in California 45 years ago, he graduated from Oahu college, Honolulu, and Yale. After graduating in law, he was made a circuit judge for Hawaii in 1893, and a few months later he was advanced to the supreme court of the islands, then under the provisional government. He was made a supreme court justice of the republic when it was organized under President Sanford B. Dole, and was offered the position of minister of foreign affairs and public instruction in 1899, but declined the change to the cabinet, preferring to retain his place upon the supreme bench. He was made chief justice, and held that place until the annexation of Hawaii was carried out. Since 1907 he has been territorial governor.

A FIGHTING ENGLISHMAN



It is no secret that Reginald McKenna, who was president of the English board of education in the Campbell-Bannerman ministry, has been promoted to the post of first lord of the admiralty to get him out of the way. Not that this strenuous son of an Irish father is an undesirable colleague in the eyes of the new prime minister; on the contrary, he is looked upon, and with good reason, as one of the conspicuous successes of the late government. But he is a born fighter. He does not know what the word compromise means, and these are days when the spirit of compromise is very much needed in the department which Mr. McKenna has just vacated. The new education bill, which he brought into parliament, has aroused no end of antagonism in many quarters and it has been evident for some time that it were best for the government to meet the objectors at least half way. Mr. McKenna obviously was not the man to hold out the olive branch; he was for fighting it out to the last ditch. So he was conveniently shifted. Incidentally his wages were raised from \$10,000 to \$22,750 a year, and he has just been married on the strength of his advance.

In his new position Mr. McKenna will have plenty of opportunities for putting his fighting qualities of mind into play. For some time past a large element in England has bemoaned the weakness of character of the retiring Lord Tweedmouth and has sighed for a successor strong enough to give battle to the very active opponents of the government's naval policy.

ORIGINAL CONVERSATIONS.

One for dogs. I don't see—"Here—here! Come here sir! You brainless little mutt! Have I got to lick you every day to teach you to quit nosin' those scraps on the bar-room floor? Go over in the corner and lay down!"—Puck.

One of 'em goes like this: "Yes, sir, that dog can do anything but talk."

"Well, it's wonderful the intelligence they have. Why, I had a fox-terrier once—"

"And yet they say dogs can't reason! Why, a friend o' mine—"

"That's right. You can't tell me—"

"And when he was killed, it was just like losing one of the family. My wife—"

"Well, sir, I believe if there's a hereafter for human beings, there's

EVE'S EPIGRAMS.

The pinnacle of fame—but would it be comfortable?
Success too often digs the grave of genius.
The three Fates are devotion, divorce and death.
Wisdom sits in the market place and weeps because she's such an everlasting bore nobody wants her even to chaperon a Sunday-school picnic.
At least Eve had the satisfaction of knowing that she was the only girl in the world.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

A misfit truth is the worst of all lies.
The average woman is a good actress off the stage.
A good neighbor is as great a blessing as a bad one isn't.
Warm language is sometimes used in demonstrating cold facts.
The poorer a man is the less likely he is to be called a grafter.
For every patient that swears by a doctor at least a doctor swears at him.
Occasionally a couple marry and live happily ever after they are divorced.

A CLEVER WOMAN.

A writer gives the following definition of a clever woman:
A clever woman is one who always makes the best of any situation.
A clever woman is one who looks well after the ways of her own household.
A clever woman is one who undertakes nothing that she not understand.
A clever woman is one who is mistress of fact and knows how to make the social wheels run smoothly and well.
A clever woman is one who makes the other woman think herself the cleverest.

A clever woman is one whose ability is never unpleasantly felt by the rest of the world.
A clever woman is one who acts like hot water on tea—she brings the sweetness and strength out of every body else.
A clever woman is one who acknowledges her neighbors' right to live, who doesn't believe that she alone is the motive power of the world.

BY THE WAY.

It is lucky to do right.
Justice doesn't drop stitches in her knitting.
We must learn to think to learn what we think.
If we have reason for an act we don't need an excuse.

WITH THE SAGES.

Nothing can atone for want of truth.—Ruskin.
Goodness thinks no ill where no ill seems.—Milton.
The best workman is he who loves his work.—T. T. Lynch.
There is nothing little to the really great in spirit.—D'Almeida.
Habit, if not resisted, soon becomes necessity.—St. Augustine.
Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.—Jefferson.
Greatness and goodness are not means, but ends.—Coleridge.
It is one thing to see your road; another to cut it.—George Eliot.
Labor bids us of three great evils; poverty, vice and enul.—Voltaire.
A man must stand erect, not be kept erect by others.—Marcus Aurelius.
The reward of one duty is the power to fulfill another.—George Eliot.
The most important of all is the education of the will.—F. W. Farrar.
Habit has more force in forming our characters than opinions have.—R. Hall.
We hand folks over to God's mercy and show none ourselves.—George Eliot.
Each man has his special duty to perform, his special work to do.—Smiles.

Starch, like everything else, is being constantly improved, the patent Starches put on the market 25 years ago are very different and inferior to those of the present day. In the latest discovery—Defiance Starch—all injurious chemicals are omitted, while the addition of another ingredient, invented by us, gives to the Starch a strength and smoothness never approached by other brands.

The Comparison.
Towne—Yes, my wife is able to dress on comparatively little money.
Browne—Oh, come now! Comparatively little?
Towne—I mean a little compared with what she thinks she ought to have.—Philadelphia Press.

Omaha Directory

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