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TO SHINE IN SOCIETY.

WARD M'ALLISTER GIVES ADVICE TO WOULD BE SOCIAL LEADERS.

How to Form a Four Hundred in a Small Town—You Will Make Enemies, but That is One of the Penalties of Greatness.

[Special Correspondence.] NEW YORK, April 14.—Almost every mail brings a batch of letters to Ward McAllister, the leader of New York's celebrated Four Hundred, asking for advice on "How to become a society leader."

Pretty nearly all of these letters are from ambitious young gentlemen in small towns who are desirous of forming a Four Hundred of their own. Invariably they are of good family, enjoying excellent social privileges, but, not knowing the ropes, they are unable to establish themselves at the head of the procession. Hence they turn to the great arbiter of American society for counsel, and in such numbers do their missives come that Mr. McAllister, if he attempted to answer them all, would be compelled to hire a secretary to look after this class of correspondence alone.

Since he issued his famous ukase, dividing the original Four Hundred into an "inner circle" of 150, an "outer circle" and a "fringe," these communications have been particularly numerous. The incident served to revive general interest in the peculiar hold which the chief of the Four Hundred has on his followers in the giddy whirl, and naturally requests for instruction as to the best means of climbing the ladder of social fame have increased. For the benefit of his numerous correspondents, none of whom could otherwise be instructed at his hands, Mr. McAllister consented recently to an interview on the subject of how society and society leaders may best be built up.

"It is the easiest thing in the world," said he, "for a man, young or old, to become a society leader and to build up a distinct society. But it requires a great many uncommon qualities, and unless he possesses these he will be wiser if he leaves the task alone. He must possess push, the faculty of organization and administration, fine powers of diplomacy, perfect tact, a thorough knowledge of men and the capacity to make enemies with equanimity."

"Certain people of wealth and influence will be found in every community who are in every way ineligible for admission into good society. These persons are absolutely certain to visit all their resentment on the head of the man who is looked upon as the organizer of the set from which they have been excluded, and naturally they will do all in their power to injure him. Therefore, the ability to bear the attacks of enemies is particularly essential to a man who wants to assume society leadership. Given this ability, and being in possession of the other qualities I have enumerated, the goal can be reached by following a very simple line of procedure."

"In the first place, the aspirant wants to be particular in his dress. I don't mean that he shall be a dandy or dandy, but he wants to be always well dressed and cultivate especially a habit of wearing evening attire with ease and grace. There is nothing that tends so much to the pleasures of society as the dress coat. In America the people are far behind Europe in this matter. There it is realized that nothing helps so much in throwing off the cares of business as evening approaches as the changing of one's clothes, the laying off of one's workday uniform as it were. No Englishman who pretends to be at all fashionable will think of sitting down to dinner unless he is attired in his swallow tail, even when he dines in his own house surrounded only by his family."

"Of course this is not to be looked for here for some time to come yet, especially in small communities, but it will be found pleasant as well as polite to change one's coat for dinner at home and put on a fresh shirt. This will lead naturally to the dress coat as an habitual easy evening attire, and the men who want to step out of the social ranks to the front will do well to set a good example to the persons whom he wishes to lead by wearing a dress coat on all suitable occasions. The others will follow in much less time than seems possible, and the change in bearing and deportment that will come over the company is certain to be most marked."

"But as a matter of course the wearing of a dress coat and the habit of dressing for dinner will not in itself make a society leader. They are only incidents, though very essential. The main thing is to create the best elements of a place into a distinct and, as far as permissible, an exclusive circle. This can be done without the possession or expenditure of wealth by the proper person, by the organization of subscription entertainments—that is, entertainments where everybody pays his or her share of the expenses. These entertainments may take a wide range and are to be adapted to the season. In summer they can take the shape of picnics, excursions, outdoor luncheons and dances."

"When fall and winter arrive, balls, dinners and other suitable affairs may be substituted. It is the duty of the person who desires to be looked up to as a leader to start these entertainments and see that they are made permanent. Once the beginning is made they will run along of their own accord, almost without an effort, and become recognized social institutions of the place. To inaugurate them a list of the most desirable people should be carefully prepared. In this work it may be found necessary to exclude a great many people who have money, but are otherwise vulgar and unfit for intimate social relations with careful ladies and gentlemen. Unless this is done the attempt to form anything like an harmonious society set will prove a failure."

"On the other hand a large number of people who are poorer than their more fortunate neighbors will be found de-

sirable acquisitions because of superior manners and attainments and family connections. It is here where the tact and diplomacy and knowledge of human nature will be called sharply into requisition. The list being made up and revised a number of times, the next step is to circulate among the people concerned and secure their active co-operation and support. This is the easiest matter in the world. The people are only too happy to help along an undertaking of this kind and will eagerly aid a man who has the force and push to lead them. Subscriptions to the different events will come almost without an effort, and each successive event will be easier to manage than the one that has gone before."

"After the first affair has come off it may be desirable to weed out the list of eligibles, and this should be done relentlessly, though the ill feeling on the part of those set aside may be greater and harder to bear than if they had been left out in the first place. But that must not deter the man who has set the task of creating a Four Hundred before his eyes, and if he is only steadfast and determined and politic, he will soon feel that the wrath of the slighted will glide over him as easily as other petty troubles of life. Additions to the ranks may be made from time to time as circumstances may dictate, but they should only be made with the greatest circumspection—with more circumspection in fact than the formation of the original list, for it will be found much more difficult to weed out newcomers than it was to weed out the old."

"This point reached, the man who has been the active spirit in organizing these subscription affairs can rest assured that the battle is won, and unless he spoils it all by some imprudence or by letting go his hold, his position as the recognized society leader of the place is assured. But eternal vigilance is the price of success in the social world as well as elsewhere, and if he wants to retain his leadership he must make up his mind to sacrifice a great deal of time and to submit to a great many annoyances at the hands of the jealous and disappointed. He must adapt himself to changes that are constantly occurring, and be wideawake generally." And with that the great McAllister excused himself to give audience to a number of New York society reporters who were waiting in the drawing room outside, thereby furnishing another good point for would be creators of "select circles," namely, cultivate the society reporter.

PAUL LATZKE. CHIEF OF THE VANDERBILTS.

He is a Gentleman of Ability, Good Intention and Great Wealth.

[Special Correspondence.] NEW YORK, April 14.—Cornelius Vanderbilt, who was named after his grandfather, the old commodore, has nothing in common with him but financial ability (the commodore's whole life was consecrated to the accumulation of money), being a well rounded, large minded, highly estimable character. He is at forty-five the head and controlling spirit of the present generation of Vanderbilts, his brothers, William K. and Frederick H., following usually in his lead; while the youngest brother, George, is not in business at all, confining himself entirely to study.

Imagine what a recreant scion of monetary stock the original Cornelius would consider George, and how he would proclaim, as he did every man not a money maker, a blank sucker. The commodore very early recognized Cornelius' rare financial ability, and admired him accordingly, showing the highest appreciation of which he was capable by leaving his grandson by will \$5,000,000 as a special gift. He made him, soon after attaining his majority, treasurer of the Hudson River railroad, and trusted implicitly whatever official statements he made, saying, in his peculiar English, "That 'ere boy, Corneel, is allus right, sure as shootin'."

No millionaire in New York (our millionaires are as a rule notorious niggards so far as public benefactions go) is so inclined to be generous in every way, though he does not parade his giving, as some others do. While very orthodox in creed, he commands the respect of the most heterodox and rationalist, for they believe him sincere and conscientious in his professions. A man of his immense future feels obliged, for social considerations, to give elaborate and expensive entertainments, notwithstanding which he is simple and unpretending in ordinary life.

He is accessible in his office and at home to everybody, save eccentrics, bores and impertinent interviewers, and is free from the assumption and formalism that mark some of his kinsmen. No man is more industrious, even laborious, as he must be having charge of so many millions, of interests so vast and far ramifying. He works on an average ten hours a day; is punctual in all his engagements, and considerate of everybody worthy of consideration. He takes pains not to overwork, which is not difficult for a man of so great executive power. J. E. J.

Politics and Ballet Dancers.

BOSTON, April 14.—Maurice Low, the Boston correspondent, told how he had interviewed Attorney General Garland on the election of Sadi-Carnot to the presidency of the French republic. "Good morning, Mr. Garland," said Low; "what do you think of Sadi-Carnot?" "I haven't seen her for several years," replied the attorney general, "but the last time I saw her, out in St. Louis, I thought her the finest dancer that ever balanced herself on one toe." E. T. C.

Wesley's First Charge.

It is pleasant to turn back the leaves of history for two centuries or more and read that several preachers who tried their pretence band in America afterwards became famous in England, and it should not be forgotten that John Wesley held his first independent charge at Savannah in 1736, and admitted that he did not comprehend the work of grace in regeneration until the Moravians of the New World explained it to him.

The Maid of All Work.

After all, the servant girl, whatever may be her shortcomings, increases the gayety of nations. Mary, green as a shamrock, was sent by her mistress to go to the Grand opera house to see "Mafurmen." It was an evening of mingled pain and pleasure. The first place she went at 4 o'clock and was tired before the doors opened. Then there was a snowstorm in one act which troubled her greatly, as the evening was fine when she left home so she put on her Sunday clothes and brought no umbrella. But the play was lovely; there was as fine a young man as you ever saw who saved a beautiful lady from a bad villain, and Mary knew that that would be a match yet.

"But, Mary, the young man is married. He has a wife at home—a nice lady." "That young man! A wife at home! The Lord be betune us and harm!" Mary answered a ring at the door. "Have you any furnished rooms?" "Sure an we have, plenty av them." "I'd like to see them." "It was an English basement house and the lady was taken up stairs, where the mistress found her walking through the house."

"I was looking for furnished rooms." "This is a private house." "But your servant said"— "It is a mistake." The lady retired indignant, and Mary was called up for explanation. "She asked, ma'am, if we had furnished rooms. An they is furnished, ivery wan of them. She could see that fur herself." A young couple went down to Castle Garden to engage a girl of all work. A tidy, trim little Swede attracted them. "Can you cook?" they asked. "No," she answered, demurely. "Can you wash and iron?" "No." "Can you sweep and make beds?" "No." "Well, what can you do?" "I can milk reinder." "She was not engaged."—New York Evening Sun.

Alas! Alas!

"If you want me for your wife, Albert, and are afraid to say so," softly whispered the blushing girl, "there is no other way than for me to take the matter in my own hands, as I have a right to do this year. If you will promise to be mine, Albert, I will be a good wife. I will cherish you, care for you tenderly, bear my share of the burdens that may fall upon us, and do all that a faithful, loving wife can do to make smooth the pathway of our married life." "Noble, generous, beautiful girl!" exclaimed the young man rapturously. "You have anticipated the proposal that my cowardly lips dared not utter! There is only one other thing I can ask you to promise," he added with trembling eagerness, "be upon that one thing hinges all our happiness." "What is it, Albert?" "Will you pay the gas bills?"—Chicago Tribune.

Brotherly Kindness.

A London paper says that a young man had a younger sister by the name of Jessie, who was sent to a fashionable boarding school. When she went away he remarked that he hoped she wouldn't acquire any of the affectations so often learned in such places. For almost a year he had no fault to find upon this score. Then came a letter signed Jessica instead of Jessie. He replied as follows: "DEAR SISTER JESSICA—Your welcome letter received. Mamma and papa are well. Aunt Mary and Uncle Georgia started for Glasgow yesterday. I have bought a new horse. You ought to see it. It is a beauty. Its name is Maudica. Your affectionate brother, SAMICA." The sister's next letter was signed Jessie.—Youth's Companion.

Bid for a Hat.

They were about going out, and she sat down while her husband got into his overcoat. "I don't believe you love me any more," she said with a sigh. "I'm convinced of it," and her voice trembled a little. "Not love you, my dear? Why, how absurd! Must I tell you every moment that I love you—love you with all my soul?" "Oh, that will do to say, but I know you care for me no longer. How can you love me in this old hat?"—Buffalo Courier.

Unavoidable.

Reporter—Was that accident unavoidable? Railroad President—Certainly, sir, certainly. No one to blame. You see the watchman had two crossings to look after, half a mile apart. You can't expect a man to be in two places at once, can you?—New York Weekly.

Something New.

Dressmaker—How would you like your costume made, madam? Mrs. Clowrich—'Spose you make it with one of those vestibule trains that I've been talked of lately.—Boston Bulletin.

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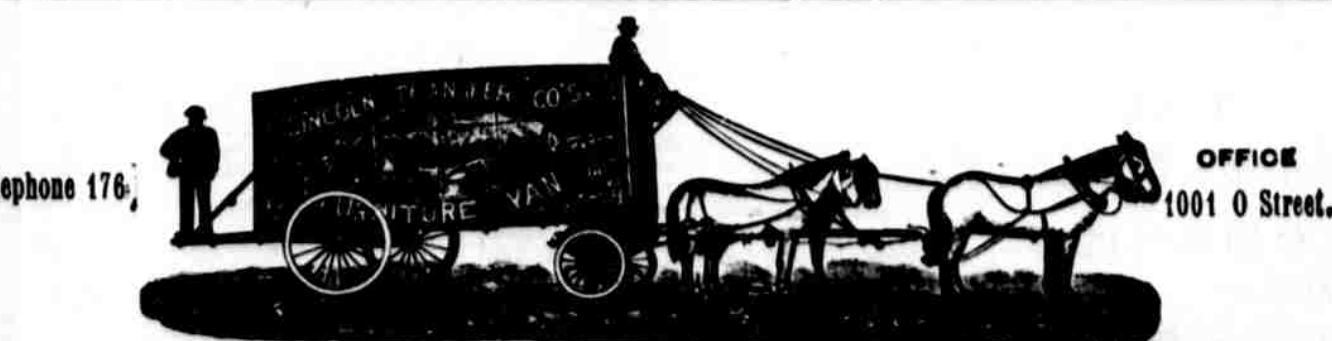
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