

# Great Fortunes of Today Not Computed Under Nine Figures

**Not Far Behind Rockefeller, Who Confesses to a Quarter of a Billion, Come Not a Few Estates and Private Fortunes Which Run Into Nine Figures—Impossible to Estimate Greatest Holdings—Andrew Carnegie, Senator Clark, Mrs. Walker, the Astors and the Guggenheims, the Vanderbilts and the Goulds Probably Do Not Know What Sums Their Riches Reach**

New York—John D. Rockefeller's fortune, according to Frederick T. Gates, his almoner, "cannot exceed \$250,000,000 to \$300,000,000." This statement was made on Mr. Rockefeller's own estimate. While this figure indicates a smaller sum than Mr. Rockefeller has been popularly supposed possessed of, it leaves him still the richest man in America, although many believe Senator William Clark may prove eventually to be the richest man in the United States. Owing to his great undeveloped mining properties his fortune cannot be accurately estimated.

Furthermore, great fortunes which may be placed in the same class as that of Mr. Rockefeller's are by no means infrequent. The great fortune of today hovers around the \$100,000,000 mark. Half a dozen men and estates are rated at sums ranging anywhere from that figure to Mr. Rockefeller's \$300,000,000. Such fortunes are sufficiently numerous to fix the standard in sums of nine figures.

## Mr. Carnegie's Vast Accumulation.

When the Carnegie company was formed in New Jersey in March, 1900, as a preliminary to the formation of the United States Steel corporation, Mr. Carnegie was credited with \$86,382,000 in stock and \$88,147,000 in bonds, or \$174,529,000 in all. He retired from business in the following year. At that time his fortune was estimated at sums ranging from \$166,000,000 to \$250,000,000, and his income at from \$24,000,000 to \$26,000,000 a year. His income is now about \$15,000,000 a year, according to a recent estimate. Conceding that his income for six years has averaged \$20,000,000 or \$120,000,000 in all, he could have given at least \$100,000,000 without impairing his capital.

## Astor Millions Are Inherited.

The Astors, Vanderbilts, Goetts and Goulds represent a class in which inherited wealth has been preserved and

given to John Jacob II. and \$60,000,000 to William. Both devoted their attention, like their father, to the family real estate. When William died, in 1892, he is said to have left about \$70,000,000, although the fortunes of his wife, Mrs. Astor, and his son, the present John Jacob Astor, are now considered larger.

Although William Waldorf Astor is an Englishman by adoption his wealth represents an American fortune. His father is said to have bequeathed to him a fortune of between \$100,000,000 and \$150,000,000. The present value of the William Waldorf Astor estate is fixed at the latter figure.

## How Vanderbilt Wealth Grew.

Commodor Vanderbilt believed in the concentration of the family wealth in competent hands. He left \$90,000,000, the bulk of his estate, to his son, William H. Vanderbilt, and one-half of the remaining \$15,000,000 to the latter's sons. When William H. Vanderbilt died in 1885 he had increased his inheritance to \$200,000,000. His sons, William K. and Cornelius Vanderbilt the second, received \$50,000,000 each. Each of his eight children received \$10,000,000, one-half in trust and \$20,000,000 was distributed in private bequests. Thus their two sons acquired an inheritance the present value of which is difficult to estimate.

In this story of great wealth, two women appear as strangely pathetic figures. They are probably the richest women in the world, yet are radically different from each other. Each is well past the meridian of life and their money is more of a responsibility than a pleasure. One is Mrs. Russell Sage with at least \$75,000,000. She has difficulty in spending it. The other is Mrs. Anne Weightman Walker, with \$120,000,000. She has to fight to keep it.

## Mrs. Sage's Fund for Charity.

Aside from Mr. Rockefeller and Mr.

heir to the bulk of his property. Twenty-six relatives were the beneficiaries of legacies of \$25,000 each, which have largely been increased since then. After paying small private bequests it was announced that the rest would be given away by Mrs. Sage. Before the will was filed, one estimate of the size of the fortune was \$60,000,000. This was declared to be much too low. The estimate of Wall street was \$100,000,000. Other estimates since the will was filed have varied from \$63,000,000 to \$93,000,000. The balance which Mrs. Sage will distribute is said to be more than \$75,000,000.

## America's Richest Widow.

The story of Mrs. Anne Weightman Walker's \$120,000,000 is not without its elements of tragedy. Most of her fortune came from her father, William Weightman, of Philadelphia. Starting as a penniless boy in a laboratory, Mr. Weightman laid the foundation of his wealth in the quinine trade during the civil war and by introducing sugar coated quinine pills. It was swelled rapidly by real estate investments in the heart of Philadelphia, including a theater, hotels, office buildings, and business and residential blocks.

His friends were amazed when he died, leaving his entire fortune, except for a few small bequests, to Mrs. Walker, his daughter.

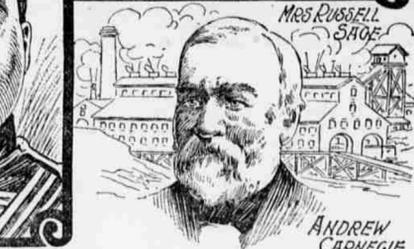
There were absolutely no restrictions on her use of the money. The will contained no charitable bequests. His other descendants were practically ignored in the will. They were the two sons and five daughters of his

this at best is a hazardous guess. Equally hazardous would be an estimate of the wealth of Edward H. Harriman, the giant of Wall street and master of 29,000 miles of railroads extending from ocean to ocean, and valued at more than \$2,000,000,000. A man of nearly 60 years, taciturn, secretive, even among his associates, unostentatious in his many benefactions, Mr. Harriman's wealth has been estimated at \$150,000,000. Probably no one but himself knows how nearly his fortune approximates this sum.

## Great Gould and Field Estates.

The estate of Marshall Field, the great merchant, has been valued at more than \$100,000,000, and this is considered a conservative estimate. The stores belonging to the estate in Chicago transact business amounting to more than \$50,000,000 a year. The real estate includes not less than 20 building sites in the heart of Chicago, block after block of land near the University of Chicago, hundreds of acres in the Calumet region, further south, and iron lands in Michigan. Of the stocks are large holdings in the Baltimore and Ohio, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and Chicago & Northwestern.

Jay Gould followed the example of the Vanderbilts and Astors in seeking to concentrate and conserve his vast fortune. It consisted chiefly of stocks and bonds of the various corporations in which he was interested when he died, 15 years ago. They had at that time a market value of \$81,000,000. His real estate was valued at \$2,000,000. The net value of the estate was



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dead sons, John Farr Weightman and William Weightman, Jr., and three grandchildren, Mrs. Jones Wistar, the widow of William Weightman, Jr., since remarried, started to contest the will on behalf of her children—a suit which created a sensation in Philadelphia society and dragged for months through the courts.

## Hetty Green's Millions Grow.

A third woman must be added to this list, Mrs. Hetty Howland Robinson Green, the woman financier. Mrs. Green has passed her three score years and ten, and spent more than 40 years in active business life. She is probably the second richest woman in the country, her wealth being estimated at \$100,000,000. She inherited \$6,000,000 in 1865 from her father, a whaler of New Bedford, Mass. An aunt subsequently added \$6,000,000 more. She nearly doubled it before she married Edward H. Green. Her most important property is the Chemical National bank and her heirs are her two children, Edward Howland Robinson Green, who lives in Texas, and Miss Sylvia Green. Mrs. Green's frugal life, her skill as a financier, her ability as a money lender, and many eccentricities have resulted in innumerable anecdotes that have made her personality familiar.

## Millions from Railroad Deals.

James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railroad, and one of the masters of American railroads, is reputed to be worth \$100,000,000. He is 68 years old, and owns transportation facilities covering almost the entire continent and steamship lines to the orient. His rise has been swift and comparatively recent. He saw his first opportunity in 1879, when he gained control of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad, reorganized it, and started to develop the northwest. In 1893 he completed the Great Northern to the Pacific coast, with its 6,000 miles of lines and 1,000 miles of yards and sidings. He owns a superb fleet of steamships on the great lakes, including the boats of the Northern Steamship company.

Several of the great fortunes of the country must remain largely a matter of speculation. To this class belong the accumulations of J. Pierpont Morgan, H. B. Rogers, and E. H. Harriman. Mr. Morgan's fortune was recently estimated at \$50,000,000, but

\$77,000,000. This money was placed in trust under certain conditions for his children.

## Senator Clark's New Palace.

Another multi-millionaire from the west is Claus Spreckles, the sugar refiner of San Francisco, for many years known as "the Sugar King of the Hawaiian Islands." He is generally credited with being worth about \$50,000,000. He joined the so-called "millionaires' colony" on upper Fifth avenue last August, when he purchased the marble house of Isaac Stern, near Sixty-seventh street.

No residence in this neighborhood attracts more attention than the elaborate, even fantastic, mansion of Senator William A. Clark, Fifth avenue and Seventy-seventh street. It has been in course of construction since 1899. Its cost has been estimated at sums ranging from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000. Senator Clark, the "Copper King" of Butte, will add a unique personality to the millionaires of New York. His purchases of pictures have attracted no less attention than his business and political contests. A recent estimate of Senator Clark's fortune at something over \$150,000,000 was considered not excessive.

## Two Great Foreign Fortunes.

Passing to the great fortunes abroad, the Rothschild millions appear as a Colossus, to be measured with a foot-rule. Their united properties pass far beyond the hundred millions. In 12 years they loaned nearly \$450,000,000 to European governments. Some idea of their riches may be gained from the fact that since 1815 they have raised for Great Britain more than \$1,000,000,000; for Austria, \$250,000,000; for Prussia, \$200,000,000; for France, \$400,000,000; for Italy nearly \$300,000,000, and for Russia more than \$125,000,000.

Compared with American fortunes, most of the other estates held in Europe seem small indeed. The property of the Duke of Portland, for example, is the second in point of importance in England. His estates comprise 182,200 acres, including the famous Welbeck Abbey and Sherwood Forest, and London properties in and around Regent, Welbeck and Wimpole streets, Cavendish square and Portland road. The duke's income is estimated at \$1,500,000 a year.

# THE CALL OF GIDEON

A STORY OF THE PERIOD OF THE JUDGES IN ISRAEL

By the "Highway and Byway" Preacher

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Scripture Authority—Judges chapter 6:1-24.

## SERMONETTE.

"Gideon threshed wheat."—This is our first introduction to our hero. In the face of danger, and notwithstanding the difficulties Gideon was in the place of duty, and for this reason God's angel knew where to find him.

Now the reason the call to service does not come to a great many people is because they are busy here and there and miss the angelic visitor.

Gideon might have been in town swapping stories with his companions, or he might have been lying under the shade of that same oak tree where the angel found a resting place, saying to himself as he wasted the precious hours: "Well, what's the use of threshing out this wheat? Just as I get it done the Midianites will come along and take away the fruits of my labors."

You may be sure it was the sound of that flail upon the hard threshing floor which caught the ear of God's messenger and caused him to pause in his journey through the oppressed land of Israel.

God uses busy men. There is music in the hum of their busy hands as they labor over the tasks lying first at hand, and God knows that he who is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.

That is the kind of men God

picks. That is the reason God called Gideon. He knew he was the man who could be faithful in the small everyday task and he did not fear to intrust to his hands the larger responsibility of delivering a nation.

Gideon threshed wheat because that was the right thing for him to do at that time, and it made no difference to him what the difficulties and dangers might be, he was going to thresh wheat and he did until the voice of God called him away to the greater task.

What doest thou, friend, who art looking off in the distance for some large task to do commensurate with thy abilities, as thou dost think? Art thou neglecting to thresh the wheat that lies before thee? Does the flail rest unused within thy hand because it is not a sword with which to lead an army?

In the stillness of thy dreaming, while the task remains undone, God's angel may come nigh thee, but hearing no sound of busy hand, he will surely pass thee by. For God always picks his workers from among those who serve in the homely duties of the moment as faithfully as though they were the only things to be done.

## THE STORY.

THE sun had set and the evening shadows were creeping over the landscape. To the man who was picking his way across the fields the darkening face of nature seemed quite in harmony with his inner state of mind. He kicked with ill-tempered impatience at the clods of earth lying here and there as he passed, muttering as he did so:

"That for the thieving Midianites. Are we always to suffer at their hands?" And he lifted his eyes towards the heavens as he spoke as though he looked for answer from the stars which were at that moment coming out one by one.

"Well," he continued, as he hastened his steps, "they will not get the grain I have secreted hard by the threshing floor. They would not think to look behind a wine press, and we will be able to save at least this much of the crop."

He had reached the great oak which stood by the lofty rock out of which had been hewn the huge wine vats, one above the other, and he paused and leaned against the gnarled trunk.

"I am glad I came, after all," he continued to himself. "I gave the Midianites the slip that time, I am certain. Not very pleasant spending the night here in this place, but I shall be ready to begin the threshing in the early morning. It would not have been so easy to get away to-morrow, for those rascally Midianites are always on the watch to discover our secret stores." And a heavy sigh escaped him at the thought of all the distress and oppression which Israel was suffering at the hands of their strong enemy.

"But I suppose it is as the prophet said: Israel hath sinned and forsaken the God which brought them up out of Egypt," and Gideon remembered with troubled conscience the altar which his own father had set up to Baal, and the grove he had planted. To be sure it had won the favor of the people of Ophrah who came thith-

er to worship at the idolatrous shrine, but he knew his father had not done right, and he had held aloof from the iniquitous worship, notwithstanding the importunities and even threats of his father.

In fact that very afternoon his father had urged him to remain to the festival which was being arranged for the day after the morrow, for it was hoped by this recognition and worship of the heathen gods that they might win the favor of the nations about them, and secure relief from the hardships they had been forced to endure. But Gideon manfully withstood the pleading of his father, saying:

"Thou well knowest we cannot secure deliverance from our troubles by plunging further into sin. Didst not the prophet who passed through our town yesterday declare plainly that because we had disobeyed our God who led us out of Egypt and gave us this land all this evil had come upon us? Let us consider his words."

But his father, fearing the displeasure of his neighbors, and knowing that if he gave fresh offense to his enemies he and his household would become the special object of persecution, he refused to listen to the voice of his son. And Gideon had slipped away soon afterwards and had come to the place of the wine press, where he had secretly placed a portion of the wheat harvest.

Bright and early the next morning he began the threshing cheered by the thought that even if the enemy did discover his hiding place and seize it, it were better for him to be thus occupied than to be mingling with the worshippers of Baal at home.

Along towards noon as he paused in his work and looked out from behind the rock he was startled to see sitting under the oak a man. He had heard no one approach, and he had kept sharp lookout all morning to see that no one crept in upon him unawares. And yet in some mysterious way this stranger had gained his retreat and was reclining under the tree as though he had been there all morning. The newcomer caught Gideon's startled look, and before the latter could ask who he was or whither he had come, he greeted him with the salutation:

"The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor."

Who was this man that he should speak so familiarly and so reassuringly? Surely he was not of the enemy, as his face and raiment plainly showed. Recovering his composure, Gideon said: "Sir, if the Lord be with us, why, then, is all this befallen us? and where be all his muscles which our fathers tell us of, saying: 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

As he spoke Gideon felt the eyes of the stranger searching him and even while he was charging God with desertion he became conscious of the sin of Israel which had brought all the evil upon them. In confusion and shame he let his eyes fall and stood silent. Why should he be so abashed in the presence of this stranger? he asked himself, and then the thought came to him: This must be some one sent from God. But the voice of the stranger roused him.

"Go in this thy night, Gideon, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites; have not I sent thee?"

"Wherewith shall I save Israel?" exclaimed Gideon incredulously. "Behold my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

Again came the confident reply of the stranger:

"Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man."

The heart of Gideon leaped within him as the stranger thus continued to address him. "Could this be the Lord himself?" he asked himself, and then eager to test him and know that of a surety it was the Lord who was speaking with him he looked up half appealingly, and said, in faltering voice:

"If now I have found grace in thy sight, then show me a sign that thou talkest with me. Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee and bring forth my present and set it before thee."

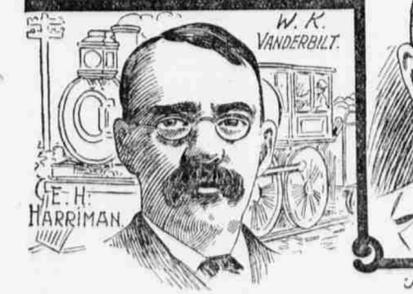
With quiet dignity came the reply: "I will tarry until thou come again."

And Gideon hastened away and made ready a kid and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket and he put the broth in a pot and brought it unto the stranger under the oak and presented it to him. Then in accordance with his instructions he took the flesh and the unleavened cakes and laid them upon the rock and poured out the broth, and then while he beheld the stranger reached forth his staff and touched the offering and behold there rose fire out of the rock and consumed it. And even while Gideon beheld, the Lord—for now he knew it was none other than he—arose and departed out of his sight.

Gideon fell upon his face, a great fear being upon him, and he cried out:

"Alas, O Lord God! for because I have seen thee face to face."

But even while he lay there trembling there came a voice from above him, saying: "Peace be unto thee; fear not; thou shalt not die." A quiet peace and confidence stole into his heart. He arose and built an altar and worshipped, saying: "For inasmuch as he hath called me to deliver his people."



largely increased by succeeding generations. By this method and, in some instances, by the creation of trust funds, a substitute has been found for the law of primogeniture and entail in England—a system which is forbidden in America.

John Jacob Astor, the first, died in 1848, the richest man of his day. His estate was worth \$40,000,000. The bulk of it was left to his son, William B. Astor, who devoted himself sedulously to the family real estate business. On his death in 1875 he left \$130,000,000 to his sons, \$70,000,000

Carnegie, Mrs. Sage is the wealthy giver most in the public eye. Many have heard of the gentle-faced, childless woman in her seventy-seventh year, who cares nothing for society and in whom dignity and humor are dominated by a kindly spirit and grave responsibilities which she keenly regrets. Her declining years reflect the simple life she lived so long with her husband, Russell Sage, the "Dean of Wall street," the so-called "High Priest of Puts and Calls."

When Mr. Sage's will was filed on July 27 last, Mrs. Sage became the