

## A LEADER OF SWELLS.

### HOW WARD McALLISTER WON HIS FAME.

Lawyer and Fond of Genteel Society, He Established an American Aristocracy--New York's Four Hundred and How It Was Made Up.

It was his statement that New York society consisted of four hundred people that made Ward McAllister a national character, whose fame soon spread to Europe and made him a more unique personality than civilization in its slow evolution had hitherto produced.

Ward McAllister was the product of New York conditions, and he was proud of the factors that made and kept him prominent. He fitted into the tastes and peculiarities of no other community. He was the offspring of the metropolis in which he lived for thirty-five years.

He never made any mistake with regard to his own talents and functions. To estimate him as a literary man, as a thinker, a reformer, a doctrinaire, is manifestly unjust, for there is even in his writings a continual protest against such judgments.

He was a social, not an intellectual influence. He had a profound belief that a really good society, in the social sense, must be founded, even in a republic, on something better than mere wealth; that it must have character, distinction, conservative cohesion, and must be in a sense exclusive. He has said over and over again that what is known to us as the best society does not get its warrant from birth or from money, but from the ability to separate itself from everything that is vulgar and ignoble, and to exercise with absolute independence the privilege of refusing to associate with anything that did not come up to its own standard--no matter how arbitrary that standard might be.

He was the spokesman of this set. Self-elected, perhaps, but tolerated, recognized and looked up to by the set itself.

He rode into popular recognition on a phrase. And his limitation of the genuine society of New York to "four hundred" was the first intimation of his set views of the exclusiveness of that society. He was travestied and abused a great deal for that phrase, but although he defended it with modifications afterward, he never for a moment gave up the conviction that it embodied.



WARD McALLISTER.

His authority for so many years as a master of ceremonies was the result, first of a somewhat variant and confused notion of "proper form" in our society, and, second, of the absolute need in all fashionable functions of an expert who had made a study of details, who knew to perfection just where the cross currents of the different sets touched, and who could with masterful adroitness bring together the right people and so manipulate the function that everybody would feel at ease and know that the viands and the wines and the service were invisibly selected and consummately handled.

He was a member of various clubs, a connoisseur in wines, a gourmet and an arbiter of elegance. His name was known to everybody with in the portals of society, and his good offices were sought by those who desired admission to the charmed circle, but the multitude had never heard of him.

Through him all news about the great subscription balls had been given to the public, and to him a reporter went one day in the spring of 1888 to obtain information about the number of persons who actually composed New York society. Mr. McAllister separated in his mind the 400 sheep from the million and three-quarters of goats and gave the facts to the world.

The public was amused and surprised. Nobody had imagined that New York's society was composed of so limited a number. The interview was republished throughout America, was made the subject of comment and criticisms all over the world, and Mr. McAllister was famous. "The upper ten," the approved abbreviation of "upper ten thousand," fell into innocuous desuetude, and the "four hundred" became the conventional designation of Mr. McAllister's flock.

This limitation of society took a firm hold on the imagination of the people at large, and the sensation it created did not die out in a day. The endless discussion of Mr. McAllister seemed to please him. A flattering offering was made to him to write a book. The ridicule that followed the publication of "Society As I Have Found It" did not discourage him in the least. He continued to write about his set, and consequently tarished his prestige to some extent with those who had

formerly looked to him for their social law.

Although recognized as the great society leader, Mr. McAllister was not particularly fastidious about his attire. He usually wore sack coats in the street, and was not "dandified." He was stout, weighing probably 200 pounds, and about 5 feet 10 inches tall. He was quite bald; his hair was light brown and inclined to be curly, his heavy mustache and imperial sandy and streaked with gray. His eyes were blue and shaded by thick eyebrows.

He was born in Georgia more than sixty years ago. His grandfather was chief justice of the State, and his father a judge of the United States circuit court. Ward McAllister was admitted to the bar in California in 1851, and for a time practiced law with his brother, Hall McAllister, who subsequently became the leading lawyer of the Pacific slope.

## HOW TO RIDE A BICYCLE.

### Hints That Will Prove Useful to a Beginner.

The proper position for a bicycle rider is, in the first place, an upright one. He should push nearly straight downward with his legs--not backward, as one must do who leans far forward. His arms should not be rigid and extended to their full length, but a little bent, and the handles can be easily adjusted to bring this about. The reason for the bent or slightly bent arm is evident after a moment's thought. If the arm is stiff, rigid and extended to full length the pull which you give the handles on going up hill or, indeed, while running along a level road, is a dead pull. There is no life in it. Each jar to the machine is a jar to your body, your head and neck, and consequently a jar to your whole system. On the other hand, if you ride with the arms a little bent, and acting as a kind of buffer to all jarring influences, they will save you an injurious though unnoticeable shaking up each time you go out. The only way in which you will notice a change will be after you have become accustomed to the bent arm method. Then you will find you can ride longer without becoming tired.

Another feature of this stiff arm is the position into which the shoulders are thrust. Try it; grow a little tired with a long ride and then see where your shoulders are. You have gradually come to lean on your arms for rest. Both shoulders have been thrown far back; your head and neck are stretched far forward, and your chest has, so to speak, sagged forward out of its natural position. Keep this up long enough and you will be a fine looking specimen.

No; the weight of your body should never come on the hands and arms, but on your thighs, and thence be transferred to the seat, with the unconscious springy action of your legs, which in a measure allows some of your weight to come on the pedals. In this position your hands are free to guide your wheel; your body is erect; you do not then get into the habit of swaying from side to side to put more weight first on one side and then on the other, and your whole muscular movement is regular and normal. Try riding without putting either hand on the handles and sitting erect. If you ride well you can easily keep your balance, and in an instant you will be in the correct position. Once in this position place the hands lightly on the handle bars and you will be in a healthy, proper situation to gain benefit from your riding.

In riding ten miles, for example, I should never go the whole distance at one pace. Slow, steady riding has its merits, so has sprinting for short distances. When a good clear road looms up ahead have a brush for two or three hundred yards with the boy who is with you. These little races are good things. They quicken your movements, and they keep you from forming bad habits or letting your body sag into set, immovable positions. They also bring the muscles into a different kind of play.

In fact, in bicycle riding as in about everything else, you should remember that there is a right and a wrong way; that you need not only endurance, but speed, and that changing from one to another, keeping up variety, is one good way of avoiding bad habits.

### Meat Eaten by Parisians.

The municipal authorities of Paris have just published some statistics on the subject of the meat that city has eaten during 1894. It shows that 22,322 horses were slaughtered for food and sold at 185 shops and stalls where no other meat is to be had. There were also 245 donkeys and fifty-one mules; 1,058 of the horses were condemned as unsound, but the balance of the horse meat, 4,708 tons, was passed. The price ranges from 4 cents to about 18 cents a pound as fresh meat, but two-thirds of the total is not so used, being utilized in sausages.

### Indian Institutes.

The question of holding institutes in the West for the benefit of teachers and others in the Indian service is now under consideration at the Indian bureau. There were five of these meetings held last year, but this year the number will be reduced at least to three, which will be held during the latter part of July and early in August, probably in South Dakota, in Oklahoma and in Oregon or Washington. The institutes are believed by bureau officials to be of great benefit to the Indian schools, but the lack of funds for the purpose may result in a decision to abandon the plan this year.

## TO DEFEND THE CUP.

### YACHTING EVENTS OF THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY.

Yankee Talent Has So Far Held Supremacy Against British Persistence--Personelle of the Contesting Syndicate of 1895.

When all minor questions at issue in the matter of the international races are put aside, one thing stands out in the most pronounced manner to the credit of the British yachtsmen--that is, their courage and persistence in the face of continued defeat. It is doubtless a national characteristic to be brave and determined under reverses, but repeated assaults after repeated failures stamp them as foemen worthy the steel of their Yankee victors. It is a long list of disasters when the record is gone over. It begins in the year 1870, when the Cambria, owned by James Ashbury, was beaten. It finishes in 1893, when the Valkyrie, the property of Lord Dunraven, lowered her colors to the Vigilant. And in the years intervening there is seen that the Livonia, also owned by James Ashbury; the Countess of Dufferin, represented by Major C. Gifford; Atalanta, in charge of Alex. Cutbush; the Genesta, owned by Sir Richard Sutton; the Galatea, belonging to Lieut. Henn,



E. D. MORGAN, C. O. ISELIN, W. E. VANDERBILT, LORD WOLVERTON, LORD DUNRAVEN.

and the Thistle, owned by James Bell, crossed the ocean to be repulsed by the vessels defending the cup. The races which those challengers sailed number eighteen, and the period covered is almost a quarter of a century. Still, the leaders of the sport in England do not seem to be discouraged. They are just as anxious now as in the past to win back the trophy which the America captured more than forty-four years ago. So courage and persistence must, in truth, be marked against their names and their efforts.

When Lord Dunraven left America, after the failure of the Valkyrie's mission, he intimated to a few friends that he had not given up trying to win the cup, but, on the contrary, was more determined than ever, and within a year or two he should again be heard of by the New York Yacht club. He has kept his word in the most positive way. Throughout the Vigilant's races abroad last summer he and his yachting friends and private designer were engaged in the pleasant duty of studying the performances of the bronze boat, and the more they studied the more they became convinced that British skill and enterprise could at no distant day reach the end in view--the building of a craft that would defeat America's best in their own waters. For this they are working. The craft is being built on the Clyde, and Lord Dunraven is her representative owner and leading spirit in the challenge which has been accepted for the ninth of these international matches.

Lord Wolverton is a member of the Valkyrie syndicate. He is not more than 30 years old, but has long been a yachtsman and is noted for his extensive travels. He has owned several well known boats and is now cruising in the Mediterranean.

The syndicate owning the cup defender now building at Bristol, and which, in all likelihood, will be the New York Yacht club's champion in the match for the trophy, are three in number. These gentlemen are William K. Vanderbilt, Commodore E. D. Morgan and C. Oliver Iselin. When the question of providing the money to build a proper boat with which to meet the challenging yacht was being agitated there was much anxiety manifested on the part of the club's officials. Matters did not assume a satisfactory shape until Mr. Chester Griswold, member of the regatta committee, called upon Mr. Vanderbilt and explained the situation to him. In less time than it takes to tell the result of the interview Mr. Vanderbilt assured his caller that he would build the boat required. The generous and patriotic offer was hailed with delight by the officers of the club. Subsequently Commodore Morgan and Mr. Iselin signified their desire to co-operate with Mr. Vanderbilt, and the syndicate was thus announced, with Mr. Iselin in charge of the craft from now until the races are finished in September next. It is a model syndicate. Mr. Vanderbilt was one of the number that built the Vigilant, and has always taken the keenest of interest in the yachting affairs of the country and in the club's welfare. His steam yacht Alva was a representative ves-

sel, and his twin screw steamer Valiant, now in the Mediterranean, one of the grandest pleasure craft afloat. He expects to return to America with his steamer in time to witness the cup races, and there isn't a yachtsman in the land but that will wish that he may have the great pleasure of seeing the boat which he so quietly and promptly assured Mr. Griswold he would build defeat her British antagonist.

## TOO SOCIABLE A WHALE.

### Experience of a United States Cutter With a Finback.

Longest of all the whales, the Finback is regarded by all mariners as the least desirable to fall in with. He yields no bone and very little oil, and is seldom pursued by the whalemen on account of his dangerous propensities. He will smash more boats, run out more line and carry off more harpoons than any other whale. But sometimes he is found to be curious and sociably inclined. He will range up astern or beside a ship and appear to examine the bottom. This always causes more or less uneasiness aboard, since but a few planks intervene between the sailor and deep. Butts with the head or strokes with the tail, should the whale be disposed to give them, might cause the loss of a vessel.

It was in the Behring sea that one afternoon as the United States revenue steamer Corwin was forging slowly along under sail alone, through a long rolling swell, a finback came up astern. He rose and sank with great regularity, and gained steadily upon the ship. He presently reached the rudder, at which he seemed to smell; then giving a loud puff or blow he showed some fifty feet of his great back above the surface of the water and sank slowly, ranging as he did so along the starboard side. He next was seen close to her bows slowly rising to the surface to blow. He came up with scarcely three feet between him and the vessel, and the spray from his spouting fell upon her deck. He slowly sank again, passed beneath the keel, and rose on the other side. He blew once more, settled, and again passed beneath, accommodating his speed to that of the ship.

It was altogether too companionable for those on board, many of whom had heard of the fate of the hapless whaleship Essex, sunk years ago by the attack of a whale in the South Pacific ocean. This finback seemed to take the Corwin for a monster of his own species with whom he wished to scrape acquaintance, and it was not certain what demonstration he would next make. Officers and men were closely watching him from the rails, moving from side to side to view his successive appearances as he passed and re-passed beneath them. Whether belligerent or merely playful, there was an unpleasant element of danger in his familiarity, and various suggestions were made for ridding the vessel of his company.

"Get up some rifle, Mr. Howison," said the captain to the first officer, as the whale continued his movements, showing no signs of departure. "This whale is too sociable. Let's sting him with a few bullets, and see if we can't get rid of him."

Soon half a dozen sailors with breechloaders at a "ready" were ranged along the rail eager to begin at once the work of ballasting the finback with lead.

"One ball only at first," commanded the captain. "Don't pelt him so that he will go wild at once. Why, men, if he sends that tail up among you, you are gone; not to speak of the boats and davits that would go with you. Fire, he comes; now, Johnson, you there. Hit him just about the blow hole, and let's see what he'll do."

"Crack went the rifle, and 'sput' went the bullet as it sunk deep in the blubber. The whale seemed not to mind and settled as before.

"Give him two next time. Stand by on the other side," cried the captain. "There he rises. Now put them into the blow hole. Try to hit a bone."

The anxious eyes of all on deck were watching every motion of the whale as his shimmering bulk came toward the surface. At forty feet depth his color was nearly black. As he rose this tint was successively replaced by dark green, light green, silver green, until as he reached the surface in a wash of foam he displayed the actual dark green gray of his huge back.

"Pough!" went the spout just beside the bridge, and the rifles cracked. The whale gave a heave and went down rapidly, edging as he did so some 50 feet away.

"Aha! He doesn't like it! He'll soon be up again. Stand by and give him a volley next time, and let's see him throw himself," said the captain.

Soon the monster was seen coming to the surface, and six heavy rifles were aimed, each marksman anxious to beat the others. The whale was evidently startled, and meant to go down for a good while next time, for as he came up he gave a heavy blow preparatory to drawing a deep breath. His plans were rudely interfered with.

Crash went the volley. Every bullet seemed to take effect. Up went the huge head for an instant, showing some 40 feet of the body. Down it came with a splash, and into the air went the great tail or flukes, until over 40 feet of that end of him rose perpendicular from the water. In that position it seemed to pause an instant ere it went straight downward into the depths. He had got enough of the Corwin, which had sailed miles away from him when he reappeared at the surface, and he did not attempt to follow her.

## PEARLS A MYSTERY.

### The Method Used to Drill Round and Polish.

Nearly all of the molluscous animals that are aquatic and reside in shells are provided with a fluid secretion which they make use of to line their shell homes, and thus give to the hard substance of which the shell is formed a smooth surface that can in no way irritate the very tender body of the animal. The exact nature of this secretion has never been satisfactorily determined, but it is evidently deposited in thin, semi-transparent films, which overlie each other irregularly, and to this peculiar arrangement of the films is attributed the iridescent luster of pearl.

In some species this pearly lining is quite thick, and is used for making many beautiful and useful articles. The material is called mother of pearl by dealers and nacre by zoologists.

Frequently, when the shells are opened, detached parts of the nacre are found. These loose orbs are thought to be the result of accidental causes. A grain of sand or other substance, for example, may in some way get into the shell and irritate the tender body of the occupant. Until, in self defense, it covers the intruding particle with nacre. As the secretion goes on regularly to supply the wear and growth of the shell the foreign body constantly receives its full share, and thus increases in size until it becomes a pearl.

The Chinese very cleverly make use of their knowledge of this fact to compel one species of fresh water mussel, uniohyria, to produce pearls. They keep the unios in tanks, and insert little spherical pieces of mother of pearl or small leaden shot between the shell and the mantle of the animal; these regularly receive their coatings of the nacreous secretion, and after a time they look like pearls formed under ordinary circumstances.

In many of our museums small pearl images of Buddha are to be seen, and are considered great curiosities. The Chinese obtain these images by imposing on the much-abused unios. They insert small images of metal, and leave them in the shell until they are thickly coated with nacre.

The formation of pearls seems to have been a great puzzle to the ancients. Pliny and Dioscorides mention the very pretty belief that they were drops of dew or rain, which fell into the shells when opened by the animal, and were then changed into pearls by some power of the owners of the shell homes.

The most famous pearls are those from the East. From very early times the coast of Ceylon has been the chief locality for pearl fishing; now, however, pearls of nearly the same quality are found in Panama, St. Margarita, in the West Indies; the Bahrein islands, the Caromandel Coast and in other places.

When the pearl divers have obtained a boat load of the pearl oysters they return to the shore and there pile the precious cargo to die and rot, so that the pearls may be easily found. When the occupants of the shells are sufficiently decomposed the washing process begins, and the loose pearls, which are always the most valuable, are carefully watched for.

The large pearls of good color and form are the best; the smaller ones are sorted into sizes, the very smallest being known as "seed pearls." If any pearls are found attached to the shells they are handed over to the clippers, who, with pinners or hammers, skillfully detach them. Such pearls are, as a rule, used for setting, while the loose pearls are drilled and strung and are used in many ways.

The method employed to hold the pearls while the workmen drill, round and polish them is very singular: A number of holes of small depth are made in a dry piece of wood, and in these the pearls are fitted so that they are only partly beneath the surface of the wood; then the wood is placed in water. As it soaks up the water and swells the pearls become securely fixed and are then worked upon.

### Sound of a Sunbeam.

One of the most wonderful of the many discoveries in science that have been made during the past few years is the fact that a ray of light produces sound. A beam of sunlight is caused to pass through a prism so as to produce what is called the solar spectrum or rainbow. A disk, having slits cut in it, is revolved swiftly, and the colored light of the rainbow is made to break through it. Place the ear to a vessel containing silk, wool or other colored material. As the colored lights of the spectrum fall upon it sounds will be given by different parts of the spectrum, and there will be silence in other parts. For instance, if the vessel contains red worsted and the green light flashes upon it loud sounds will be given. Only feeble sounds will be heard if the red and blue parts of the rainbow fall upon the vessel, and other colors make no sound at all. Green silk gives sound best in a red light. Every kind of material gives more or less sound in different colors and utters no sound in others.

### Setting the River on Fire.

"Setting the Thames on fire" is an oft heard saying, but probably few people know its origin, concerning which the following explanation has been given: In the time of our forefathers corn was ground in a rough

instrument called a "temse." This was merely a stone hollowed out to receive the corn, with a piece of wood passed through it, which being rapidly turned, ground the corn to flour. If the wooden handle was turned with sufficient force the friction of the wood against the stone would cause the stick to catch fire, but as it required considerable energy to produce this effect the person who could accomplish it was thought smart, and he who could "set the temse on fire" was pretty sure to be a good worker in other ways. After a time the "temse" was superseded by better machinery.

### Ginseng a Good Crop.

Ginseng thrives only in elevated and cool regions, and is most abundant in the rich northern woods in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and westward. Wherever you find the sugar maple, beech, and similar hardwood trees it is safe to look for ginseng. The stems grow about one foot high, and at the top there are three divisions or slender leaf stalks. At the end of each of these are five leaflets, thin, green and of an ovate oblong form. The plants flower in summer, the two sexes, or male and female, on separate plants. The fruit is a small red berry, ripening in autumn. The seed does not sprout until the second year, or about eighteen months after it is ripe, even if sown immediately. The roots are spindle shaped, about as large as a man's thumb, but longer, and it requires from four to six years for them to grow large enough for market if raised from the seed. The best way to get up a plantation would be to collect the roots in the forest and plant in a half shady position those not large enough for sale. We send about \$1,000,000 worth of these roots annually to China, and it is said that the Chinese would be willing to buy more; if they could get them at a reasonable price, or from \$2 to \$3 per pound.

### How a Special Practice Pays.

The recent death of Dr. Loomis, the specialist in lung diseases, reveals that he left an estate valued at more than \$1,000,000, half of it personal property. Dr. Loomis was a good business man, it is said, and knew how to invest his earnings. But his special practice brought him an enormous income--one of the largest of any professional man in New York city. Specialists generally enjoy lucrative practices and escape many of the hardships which fall to general practitioners. Of all the professions that of medicine requires perhaps the severest labor, and it deserves high remuneration.

It is stated that the average annual income of physicians, even in our large cities, is not more than \$2,000, and in the rural districts it rarely exceeds \$1,000. Dr. Loomis was one of the three physicians in New York whose practice was said to yield over \$100,000 per annum. It is estimated that only half a dozen others make as much as \$50,000 a year, while more than a hundred earn \$10,000 or thereabouts and three hundred more than \$5,000 each. The remainder of the physicians in New York do not average more than from \$1,000 to \$3,000 apiece, and of these there must be in the city several thousand patient plodders.

### The Telegrapher's Ear.

The sense of hearing is developed in the modern telegraph operator to an abnormal degree owing to the use of the typewriter in his work. In former years, when he copied his messages with pen or pencil, his ears were accustomed to only one kind of sound--that of the telegraph instrument--while in these days of the typewriter he must distinguish between the sharp click of the ticker and the almost similar rattle of the copying machine. According to an old operator, the sense of hearing soon becomes so developed that the distinction is easily made. With a little experience in the use of the typewriter along with the telegraph instrument the operator ceases to notice any similarity of the sounds.

### The Japanese Officers.

A war correspondent, writing after familiar association with Japan's leading soldiers, says: "The Japanese officers are a mixture of the French officers and the German sous officers. They lie right among their men, sleep near them, eat the same food in sight of all, expose themselves to all kinds of danger and hardship. No wonder the soldiers have the greatest confidence in them! I found every Japanese general I met to be brave, generous, kind, polite, ready to give his life for his men and for his flag. When the detailed history of some of these men is written it will undoubtedly call forth the admiration of the world."

### The Dangerous Parrot.

A report from the Berlin Veterinary school gives some interesting facts about diseases among small domestic animals. Cats show 1 per cent. as having symptoms of tuberculosis, dogs 4 per cent, and that interesting bird, the parrot, appears with a record of at least 25 per cent. This report has caused not a little stir in families where these pets are found. Several valuable birds have been diagnosed as dangerous to the lives and health of the family, and must be killed. Tuberculous animals are fruitful sources of disease and death, and those showing any symptoms of this condition should be put out of the way without delay.