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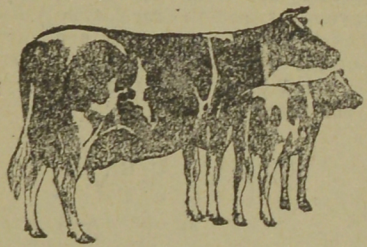
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SOME ANECDOTES OF LATE PIERPONT MORGAN

Since the death of the great financier, J. Pierpont Morgan, many anecdotes have been related about him and The New York Evening Post, a journal with which he was constantly in touch, recently published a number which throw light on the character of the man.

A firm of jewellers who had received a fine pearl, decided to send it down to Mr. Morgan and let him have first bid on it. The price was placed at \$5,000. The jewel was carefully sealed in a leather-covered box. Mr. Morgan read the firm's communication, opened the box, was delighted with the pearl and thrust it into his pocket. Calling his cashier, he instructed him to draw two cheques to the firm of jewellers—one for \$4,000 and the other for \$5,000. The \$5,000 cheque Mr. Morgan placed in the box that had contained the pearl. He had the package carefully tied and sealed.

The \$4,000 cheque he enclosed in a letter to the jewellers, in which he wrote that if the firm was willing to accept that amount for the pearl, the box might be returned to him at once and the transaction considered closed. In the event, however, that the firm was unwilling to accept less than \$5,000 for the pearl the \$4,000 cheque was to be returned without delay.

Mr. Morgan, with the pearl in his pocket, sent the messenger back, bearing his letter and the box. In less than an hour the messenger returned, fetching the box in which was the \$5,000 cheque. The jewellers had decided to accept the \$4,000 offer.

Mr. Morgan met one of the members of the jewellery firm at a dinner later, and told him the story of the two cheques. The jeweller averred that his firm had lost money by the transaction.

"If you were losing money," asked Mr. Morgan, "why didn't you keep the box, with my \$5,000 cheque?"

The jeweller answered: "I can understand now how it is that you have earned your place as the leading financier."

The way he dealt with a certain owner of coal lands in Pennsylvania who knew that Mr. Morgan must have his property was characteristic. The owner had come prepared to exact a good price. Mr. Morgan kept him waiting a long time and then allowed him to come forward. "I'll give you \$— for your property." And there the bargain was closed. His habit was to deal in ultimatums; he would say: "I'll do this," or "I'll do that." He seldom asked advice, even of his partners. No doubt his confidence in himself inspired confidence in others.

An incident worth relating occurred two years ago on one of Mr. Morgan's visits in Rome. Lloyd C. Griscom was then ambassador and through him Mr. Morgan sought an audience with the Pope and also with Queen Helena. There was some misunderstanding about the hour for the meetings and the result was that both were scheduled for about the same time. Mr. Morgan, not to be beaten, decided to go to both audiences with the aid of his swift automobile.

The difficulty of this task will be better realized when it is considered that etiquette prescribed that for the Queen's audience Mr. Morgan should appear in a frock coat with a fancy tie, and Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee his daughter, who was to accompany him, should appear in a light-colored walking gown with an appropriate hat, while the etiquette of the Vatican prescribed for Mr. Morgan evening dress and a white tie, and for Mrs. Satterlee a black

gown and a black veil over her hair, both to be ungloved and unjewelled.

The audience with the Queen lasted twenty minutes. The clothing of both were changed in another five minutes and they then motored to the Vatican, arriving there ten minutes late, which was excusable owing to a general strike in Rome, which impeded traffic.

Conversation with the Pope was carried on through an interpreter. The Pontiff ended by giving to Mr. Morgan for his autograph album several lines in Italian, written with Mr. Morgan's fountain pen. They read:

"We hope God will impart every prosperity to J. P. Morgan and his family."

Probably no one who was present will ever forget the meeting between the late John Bigelow and Mr. Morgan on the occasion of Mr. Bigelow's ninety-third birthday.

"I don't want to hurt your feelings Morgan," chuckled Mr. Bigelow, "but I'll have to tell you what I told Carnegie. I'm old enough to be your father. But you're a promising young man and you'll make your mark yet."

And John Pierpont Morgan, himself three score and ten, bowed in smiling acquiescence.

A year or two ago, when there were rumors of Mr. Morgan's approaching retirement, somebody asked Thomas F. Ryan who would make a good successor to the great financier.

"In my opinion, there will be none," replied Mr. Ryan. "There has been only one Morgan and there cannot be a second."

Mr. Morgan had many admirers, among them Bishop Potter. In one of his last books, "The East of Today and Tomorrow," the Bishop inscribed this dedication:

"To John Pierpont Morgan, Financier, Philanthropist, Friend, to whose munificence these opportunities for observation were owing, and whose constructive genius, which upbuilds and never pulls down, has indicated the tasks which await western civilization in eastern fields."

This may be partly explained by the fact that the financier took an active interest in Episcopal church affairs. He often attended gatherings of the New York diocese. At one of the annual church conventions in San Francisco he was guarded throughout his stay in that city by a force of detectives, who remained close to him on all occasions.

A saloon-keeper on lower Sixth avenue once bought an oil painting of Mr. Morgan at a public auction for \$35. The portrait was the work of a struggling Swedish artist, who had sent it to America, hoping that the banker would be flattered by the likeness and buy it. He asked \$25 for it, but Mr. Morgan did not offer to buy. When the news that the canvas had fallen into the hands of a saloon-keeper, who had placed it alongside of a stuffed monkey just above his bar, reached Wall Street there was much excitement among Mr. Morgan's friends.

But the portrait had not hung there an hour when the saloon-keeper received a visit from a stranger who came in a cab.

"Nice picture," said the caller. "Art with a big A," replied the proud owner.

"Sell it?" queried the customer. "He's had his chance."

"Who has?"

"Your friend downtown."

"You're up the wrong wall," said the stranger.

"No, your friend's picture is," said the owner, "but our friend can't buy himself off with a railroad."

"Never mind about that," said the stranger, and they repaired to a back room.

The stranger and the picture left in half an hour. The saloon-keeper did not get a railroad but he made a handsome profit on the transaction.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

APRIL 17

1790—Benjamin Franklin died in Philadelphia. Born in Boston, Jan. 17, 1706.

1806—William G. Simms, famous novelist, born in Charleston, S. C. Died there, June 11, 1870.

1837—J. Pierpont Morgan, world-famous financier, born in Hartford, Conn. Died in Rome, Italy, March 31, 1913.

1856—Quebec made the capital of Upper and Lower Canada.

1858—Dr. Simon Bernard acquitted of conspiracy against the life of Louis Napoleon.

1875—Boston celebrated the centennial of Paul Revere's ride.

1892—Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, premier of Canada, died. Born Jan. 28, 1822.

1912—United States senate ordered an investigation into the causes which led to the wreck of the Titanic.

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STRAY TOPICS FROM NEW YORK

According to a decision rendered the other day by Justice Kelby in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, a retired member of the police force can draw a pension. The decision was given in the case of former police lieutenant Thomas Mulvey, who had asked for a writ of mandamus requiring Commissioner Waldo to pay him two separate pensions: Mulvey served as a member of the old New York City police force and retired in 1893 with the rank of Detective Sergeant and a pension of \$1,000 a year. After retirement Mulvey became police captain of the old town of New Utrecht. When the latter was annexed to Brooklyn, Mulvey became a patrolman in the Brooklyn police department. After the Greater New

York consolidation he again became a New York City policeman. He was lieutenant when he retired the second time and entitled to a pension of \$1,125 a year. He tried to collect both pensions, but was refused. Then he began suit against Commissioner Waldo. Under the ruling of the court Mulvey is entitled only to the pension of a lieutenant, \$1,125.

BIG FERRY TRAFFIC

A proposition has been made to blast a few more tubes between New York and New Jersey under the Hudson River, to accommodate the enormous vehicular traffic between the two sides of the River. It is estimated that the ferries transport annually about six million vehicles of every description between New York and the New Jersey cities on the other side of the Hudson.

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