

## HIS RECREATIONS.

Sir William Van Horne One of the Most Enthusiastic Botanists and Admirers of Art

Few people outside of his own immediate circle know that Sir William Van Horne, Chairman of the Canadian Pacific, Director of the Postal Telegraph and Commercial Cable, and President of the Cuba Company, is one of the most enthusiastic botanists on the continent, and also one of the most ardent admirers of art.

Sir William, though he wears with grace a British title, was born in the United States. He sold books on the Chicago and Alton Railway many years ago, rose in time to the dignity of selling oranges on the Illinois Central, and later in life assumed the many high positions he now holds. His title he won for eminent service to the British Empire in the building of the Canadian Pacific.

As a boy he worshiped nature. When on the Illinois Central Road he was the butt of his companions because he was always armed with a hammer for the breaking of any queer rocks that happened in his way, and carried a book for the discovery of the identity of those unknown rocks and flowers he encountered.

In later life he established at Montreal a splendid conservatory and an excellent art gallery. He is himself an artist with the brush and of no mean reputation. He has at all times three or four botanists in his employ in the far-off corners of the world, whose business it is to find and bring to his Montreal conservatory all the new flowers that they can find. He hears of a new orchid in South America. Immediately his men are sent in search of it. He hears of a new lily in Central Africa, and never rests easy until he has captured it.

These things are his dissipations. His offices are no mere honorary affairs. He is the practical working head of the Cuba Company, a very active participant in all the affairs of the Canadian Pacific—in fact, one of the most busy of the big men of the continent.—New York Times.

## Above Their Business.

Educated women of gentle birth, says The London Daily Mail, instead of devoting themselves to the ill-paid work of governesses, are now embracing the calling of cooks. Many mistresses have lately specially asked at the registry offices for lady cooks. The secretary of the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women in Southampton street, Holborn, says there is a demand for cooks who are gentlewomen by birth and education. But there are difficulties in the way unless mistresses are able to promise certain privileges which the ordinary cook, much as she may appreciate them, does not stipulate for. Some lady cooks, for instance, object to mix on terms of equality with domestics who are possibly grades beneath them educationally and by birth. Hence, as a rule, lady cooks accept situations only in houses where there are lady parlormaid and housemaids. There are, however, a few cases in very large establishments where the cook is a lady and the rest of the servants are of the usual domestic class. A very desirable situation was refused by one lady cook recently because her employer stipulated that she should take the head of the table in the servants' hall.

## Greatest Living All-Round Man.

Lord Kelvin, whose declaration in favor of creative design has come to stimulate waning faith among men of science, has felt a certain shyness in coming forward as an apologist, says The Chronicle. He is admittedly the greatest living all-round man of science. As a physicist and a mathematician he has dealt over a long course of years—he took his degree in his early teens, and he is now nearly eighty—with all problems and puzzles except those of life. His methods fail him when he faces the secrets that no physics or mathematics can solve. He estimated the age of the earth, rather to the confusion of geologists and many years ago he made the famous guess that the first life may have been brought to our earth by a meteorite. Fifty-four years of a professorship of natural philosophy in Glasgow have not supplied Lord Kelvin with a theory of life, such as Haeckel's exploded carbon theory, that dispenses with a first cause. Lord Kelvin, though soon to be four-score years of age, is generally recognized by scientists to be in his intellectual prime.

## A Benevolent Hen.

In The Illustrated Sportings News a writer says: A naturalist friend of mine tells this story: "I recently saw a curious thing in my poultry yard. The cat was playing with a live mouse which she had caught, when a broody hen, taken off her nest, was put into the yard. She stretched herself and had a good shake, then she caught sight of the cat. With outspread wings the hen dashed at poor puss, knocked her over, tweaked the mouse from her mouth, and then attacked her with the utmost fury. The cat was so frightened and demoralized by this sudden and unexpected attack that she bolted, and meanwhile the mouse had made its escape. Whether it was maternal instinct which prompted the hen to rescue Brer Mouse or whether it was antipathy to the cat is doubtful, but I favor the first suggestion."

## Shamrock III's Horoscope.

An astrologer in the new English Journal of occultism, Anubis, has

been casting the horoscope of Shamrock III. Shamrock III. took the water at 1.20 p.m. on St. Patrick's day, but apparently all the saints in the calendar would be unable to avert the sinister aspect of the heavens, "The moon," who governs everything aquatic, "was then in the middle of Scorpio, in conjunction with the evil south scale," absolutely the worst position in the zodiac she could occupy. Already a serious accident to the yacht sustains and comforts the astrologer.

## Straight Up.

"Jimmy! Didn't it make you feel like 30 cents when the footpads stopped you?"

"Well, I guess. And I must have looked like 12 o'clock."

"How do you mean?"

"Hands up."—Philadelphia Press.

## One or the Other.

"Gee whiz," exclaimed the nifty caller, "I haven't another match, and my cigarette has gone out."

"Well," replied the polite young woman who could stand it no longer, "you would have had to if it hadn't."—Catholic Standard and Times.

## Nice and Encouraging.

"Would you marry a Chinaman?" he asked.

"Oh, dear," the girl who is sarcastic replied, "this is so sudden! But I always supposed you merely looked like one."—Chicago Record-Herald.

## Those Girls.

Nell—Yes, we're engaged, but I took my time about accepting him.

Belle—Indeed? Waited until he actually proposed, did you?—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

## Servants.

First Housewife—Some days I undo about everything the servant does.

Second Housewife—Gracious! How do you dare?—Detroit Free Press.

## September.

On the Chesapeake, remember, Where the bivalve has his cloister, There the R that's in September Is as silent as the oyster.

—Chicago Tribune.

## Terrible Revenge.

Husband—You don't appear to like Mrs. Sweetie.

Wife—The horrid thing! I hate her! Next time we meet I'll kiss her only once, and I shan't ask after her baby.

## The Finish.

Flanagan—Phwat did yez do whin McGarry hit yez wid the pie?

Pinnegan—O! done McGarry.—Exchange.

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