## A PLAIN, EVERYDAY MILLIONAIRE.

**Jay Gould's Lack of Style Surprises the Observers at the Hot Springs.**

One of the shabbiest hacks in Hot Springs bumped and rattled along the road in front of the Park hotel just as the small band of baseball cranks were returning with hoarse voices and perspiring hands from the field where the St. Paul team had snatched victory from the Cincinnatis. The hack was open, and on the back seat sat a little man with a great many wrinkles in his face and gray hairs in his dark beard. Beside him sat a very pretty girl with a sailor hat and a jaunty air to match. Then vis-a-vis was a young man of very small importance if appearances were to be trusted. The dust raised by the shuffling horses and rickety rig had not subsided before a New Yorker among the baseball cranks said irreverently, "There goes old Jay!"

Everybody turned at once, and as if to gratify the curiosity of some of his subjects Mr. Gould hooked his umbrella into the hackman's neck and signaled him to wheel about. Then as they passed we all had a good look at the "Little Wizard," and the New Yorker further identified the pretty girl and the commonplace young man as George Gould and his young wife, about whom thousands of young men raved when she adorned the stage as Edith Kingdon.

Another hack of equally plebeian aspect—the climate will be colder here when the supply of motheaten chariots and spavined steeds runs out—followed in the wake of Jay Gould's, containing Miss Helen Gould and Dr. John P. Munn, of New York, the physician who accompanies the railroad magnate on all his journeys. The Gould party arrived on their special car, and they got into the hackman's hands of course. Even the wonderful strategic skill of Mr. Gould could not save him from the common fate of all who get out at the Hot Springs terminus.

It is my belief that Mr. Gould visits Hot Springs from time to time to study the hackmen, the druggists, the hotel keepers and the rest of the financiers here. Anyhow he drove all over the town and looked at the new hotels, the building boom, of which many new stores are the result, and paid the hackmen without a protest, which astonished them no doubt.—Cor. Pittsburg Dispatch.

### Equivocal Sentiments.

There is an old story about the merchant of Milwaukee, who, during the war of the rebellion, being an excellent hand at sketching, drew most admirably on the wall of his store a negro's head, and underneath it wrote, in a manner worthy of the Delphic oracle, "Dis Union foreber." Whether the sentence meant loyalty to the Union or not was the puzzling question which the gentleman himself never answered, always replying to inquiries, "Read it for yourselves, gentlemen." Thus it came to be a saying in the town that "no one knows how dat darkey stood on de war question."

Another similar story of more recent origin is about a question which is puzzling the young ladies who attend a western female college. It seems that one of them discovered that some person had written on the outer wall of the college, "Young women should set good examples, for young men will follow them." The question now perplexing the heads of several of the young ladies of the college is whether the writer meant what was written in a moral or in an ironical sense.—Boston Gazette.

### A Spider Barometer.

One of the simplest and at the same time one of the best barometers is the common garden spider. When there is a prospect of rain or wind the spider always shortens the stays or filaments from which his web is suspended, and leaves things in that state as long as the weather is variable. If the insect elongates his threads it is a sign of fine, calm weather, the duration of which may be judged by the length of the webs. If the spider remains inactive it is a sign of rain; but if, on the contrary, it keeps at work during a shower the rain will be of short duration, followed by fine weather.

Other observations have taught naturalists that the spider makes changes in its web every twenty-four hours, and that if such changes are made in the evening, just before sunset, the night will be clear and beautiful, and the thoughtful spider will stand a fair chance of getting some tender night flying insect for his breakfast, the repairs of the spider's net being made with that point in view.—St. Louis Republic.

### The Historic Nile

The Nile is a remarkably different stream now from what it was in the days of the ancient Pharaohs. Its waters are still wanted for making the land of Egypt fertile each year, but they can no longer be depended upon—at least not to the extent desired. During three months of the twelve the river does not flow into the Mediterranean at all, and the department of public works is engaged on the question of storage reservoirs which will hold back some of the surplus water at flood time and let it out more leisurely as needed by the agriculturist. But a survey shows it to be impracticable to store water north of the first cataract, and the government design for building a dam at Philoe at a cost of $3,640,000 would only give one-third of the water wanted, while it would involve the submergence of the ruins at that point.—Chicago Tribune.


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