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Wall Street Speculation

ITS TRICKS AND ITS TRAGEDIES

A LECTURE

BY

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Proverbs.—"He that hasteneth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him."



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WALL STREET SPECULATION

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PART I—ITS TRICKS.

I.

WALL Street speculation is the most stupendous game known to the world of chance; as compared with it, the game at Monte Carlo pales into utter insignificance; in no other game are the stakes so high, is success so transitory and failure so overwhelming. It is a game in which the wealth of Cræsus changes hands in a single hour, a game in which a few manipulators behind the scenes pile up millions on top of more millions year after year; but in which the vast majority of the outside public, who tamper with it, go to financial and often to physical and moral ruin.

Many, who are unacquainted with Wall Street methods, regard speculation in stocks, on a margin, as legitimate business; this however is an error, which we may as well acknowledge first as last; it is, as I say, a game, run by Wall Street's millionaires and multi-millionaires, who since the organization of the Stock Exchange have succeeded in filching from the pockets

of the general public, without giving any equivalent whatever, untold millions.

The public's annual average of loss to Wall Street has usually been estimated in former years, at \$100,000,000 per annum; but owing to the more recent enterprising methods of the "Street," in manipulating the game, this estimate is now far too small, as we shall see.

Beginning with September, 1902, we witnessed for over a year thereafter an almost continuous decline in the stock market, a decline manipulated by the Standard Oil party and largely superinduced and made possible by the dishonest organization and overcapitalization of trust properties by the so-called "great captains of industry." These corporations were not only overcapitalized, until the ciphers ran out, but were bled of vast sums, generally by their organizers, for underwriting their securities or, in other words, for unloading their stocks and bonds, at inflated prices, upon the unsuspecting public.

On this decline, the shrinkage in market value of stocks and bonds on the various exchanges amounted to the unprecedented sum of approximately three billion dollars; and the proportion of this vast amount fleeced from the public in cold cash is so large, that the public's annual average of loss is now certainly far beyond the one hundred million dollar mark.

The general public seldom have any opportunity to become familiar with the inside workings of Wall