

MILO M. POTTER.

TYPICAL CAREER OF A SUCCESSFUL CALIFORNIAN.

Plain American Citizen Whose Life is Worthy of Emulation—One of the Most Popular Hotel Men in the Country.

Milo M. Potter, capitalist and proprietor of Hotel Van Nuys, is a native of Michigan. His childhood days and early manhood were spent in the Peninsula State. With the class of '77 he concluded a scientific course in the State University and immediately entered upon an active and independent commercial career, upon his own responsibility.

In 1878 Mr. Potter went to Florida and engaged in fruit-raising. Finding this unprofitable he soon engaged in the cotton brokerage business, locating first at Crescent City. For five years he made a specialty of buying and shipping long staple cotton for the select trade of the market. In this enterprise he was eminently successful, and succeeded in accumulating \$75,000 in less than five years.

Mr. Potter's second venture was the erection of a hotel, which, unhappily, was soon after destroyed by fire, almost completely absorbing the accumulation at that time, the Mecca for hundreds of thousands of visitors from eastern

regions, as she now is, and the fashion of a winter trip to the Pacific had not then set in. Business in those days did not represent the high percentage of tourist patronage which it does today, and the present popularity of the State was then to be accomplished. But the possibilities of California, as a winter resort, were perceived by Mr. Potter very early in his career upon the Coast, and he set about developing the idea with the singleness of purpose and determination which characterize his personality.

From the moment at which Mr. Potter assumed management of the Westminster, the property became, for the first time in its history, profitable. The business methods which he introduced showed a margin of profit at once. With the growth of the tourist travel toward Los Angeles yearly, in which traffic Mr. Potter exercised a greater influence for the welfare of the city than any other one man. Hotel Westminster became the popular rendezvous and stepping place. Through strict adherence to a recognized policy in the management of his hotel properties, Mr. Potter succeeded then, as he has since in a larger enterprise, in forming acquaintances and business associations which spread the favor of his house throughout the East, and brought to him from year to year, constantly increasing numbers of guests. Under his management, Hotel Westminster advanced so far as to enjoy a national reputation, and its patrons at length came to demand more and better accommodations.

Two years ago Mr. Potter opened Hotel Van Nuys in this city. The character and magnitude of the build-

required in his great hostelry. From 5:30 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night, every day in the year, without interruption, he is on duty. Only occasionally does he allow himself the respite sufficient to take a brief drive.

The personality of Mr. Potter is typical of the highest standard of the American business man. His success is phenomenal; his charities are numerous and unostentatious, and his patriotism and devotion to the interests of the community in which he lives, paramount in his nature.

In private life, he evinces a love of luxury and aestheticism much beyond the average. His apartments are sumptuously appointed, evincing exquisite refinement of taste, scrupulous neatness and regard for perfect order. Though often importuned to do so, he persistently declines to engage in any enterprises aside from his immediate business, preferring to make careful investments of his surplus accumulations in other ways. His one penchant is for fine horse flesh, of which at one time, he owned the best private stable in Southern California. Finding the care of this, however, too burdensome to be compatible with his other duties, he recently sold the latter at auction, reserving only for his private use, one driving pair of the finest bred steppers in America.

GRIFFITH J. GRIFFITH.

ONE OF THE PUBLIC-SPIRITED CITIZENS OF LOS ANGELES.

Donor of Griffith Park to This City. The Largest Park in the World. Thoroughly Imbued With the Liberal Spirit of American Citizenship.

A well-recognized criterion of the culture and growth along the best lines of any progressive city of today is the extent and utilization of its park areas for the health, the pleasure and the education of its citizens. The city park, if made accessible by cheap car fare, is the common recreation ground of all the people.

Los Angeles is fortunate in having several small parks and in manifesting a spirit of enterprise in their development. She now has the distinction of possessing the largest city park in the world, the 3015 acres recently donated by Griffith J. Griffith, and of securing it by the princely generosity of a public-spirited citizen who asked only that his munificent gift should be made easily accessible to the humblest citizen, and suitably improved for the benefit of all.

Griffith Park readily lends itself to the most artistic treatment. Within its

below. Upon this soil, so abundantly watered, every variety of fruit and forest tree flourishes. Above the frost belt oranges and lemons may be grown successfully, while less delicate fruits would flourish in the colder belts. In short, this great park might be said to be made in part, a great horticultural display park, exemplifying the variety and luxuriance of growth of Southern California. Then, too, Griffith Park could be made, in part, a botanical garden, in which the almost endless flora of this region should be shown. This being emphatically a land of flowers, this opportunity should be taken advantage of as a means of showing to the world the beauty and variety of its flora in their perfection.

Another feature of this great park should be a zoological garden. The native animals of this State alone present a great variety, which would be a study of vast scientific interest. With an exhibition as extensive as is possessed by the leading parks of eastern cities Griffith Park might readily become not only a place of recreation for Angelenos, but an additional attraction for the traveling public from the East, which makes an annual tour of California.

But, over and above all other things, Griffith Park must be made a place of recreation and rest for the masses. In accordance with the broad democratic ideas of the generous donor of the park, this character must be maintained. The park must be preserved as a resort for the rank and file of the plain people, who make up the vast majority of the city's population. To subvert this prime purpose, which was foremost in Mr. Griffith's mind, transportation facilities to the park should be so far controlled as to insure a low car fare to its gates. In dedicating the park to the public use the donor made this one request, to the end, as he stated, that the public—the whole public—should enjoy recreation and rest at this beautiful spot. His request in this matter should be as scrupulously carried out as though it were a condition precedent to the transfer of title. In carrying out the purposes of the gift the city authorities should take steps to secure, through legislation, the necessary authority to regulate transportation facilities between the corporate boundaries of Los Angeles and any park property owned by it beyond.

Following out the controlling idea that Griffith Park should be a place of recreation and education, great care should be taken to make ample provision for the amusement and instruction of children. Playhouses and grounds, with all the accessories for games and entertainment, should be provided.

With plans completed for the establishment of the features hinted at above, Griffith Park would become, for the young, a school of nature. The beauty of cultivated lawn, the majesty of mountain and sea, and the deep interest of varied animal life would all combine to expand the childish mind and to awaken ideas and aspirations which could not fail to exert a benedi-



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of his former period of success. The new venture, however, gave promise of profit which proved sufficiently alluring to fix, for a long period of years, Mr. Potter's avocation. During the brief period of his first hotel venture, he began the foundation of that good name and personal esteem which has ever since been accorded to him, regardless of his place of residence.

With the destruction of the Florida property, Mr. Potter at once assumed the management of a magnificent hotel at Atlantic City. This venture proved successful, and rapidly advanced the name of its proprietor to the front rank among hotel-keepers in America.

At this time Southern California was in the midst of the boom, and the city of Los Angeles was eagerly looked to by all parts of the country as a place where liberal fortunes awaited everyone. Mr. Potter, though thoroughly imbued with the practical instinct, shared, nevertheless, in the popular belief that this city offered unequalled opportunities for a successful business career.

In 1888 he arrived here. After making a brief but careful scrutiny of the local condition in the Southern part of the State, he determined to locate in Los Angeles, assuming, at once, management of Hotel Westminster. From that time to the present moment he has been continuously engaged in hotel management and proprietorship in this city.

Within the period of Mr. Potter's activity here, the hotel business of Southern California has advanced to its present high standing from comparatively primitive methods. At the time when he assumed management of the Westminster, the house had but recently been taken out of the hands of a receiver, and its business had not been profitable. The new United States Hotel, then in the hands of a receiver, was the leading commercial house of the city. Southern California was not,

ing, together with its accessories and furnishings, clearly entitle the house to outrank any in this territory as a commercial or tourist hotel. With these points of superiority, coupled with a management that had long enjoyed popular favor, it is not surprising to know that this latest and best venture of Mr. Potter has been successful to a degree far beyond the most sanguine expectations of its projectors. The house today is the best piece of hotel property in America, judged from the standpoint of a financial enterprise.

The business career of Mr. Potter covers a period of twenty years. During that time he has accumulated two fortunes, either one of which would reflect credit upon the financial acumen of any man as the work of a lifetime. He has accomplished this work through the application of those methods of sterling manhood which recognize neither the possibility of failure nor compromise with other than the most pronounced and honorable motives. To a great extent, Mr. Potter's success is attributed to a singleness of purpose possessed by few men. From the time that he first determined upon pursuing the avocation of hotel proprietorship, his sole aim has been to elevate his business to the highest standard. Being a man of refinement and scientific attainment, he has never found congenial association in the free indulgences usually participated in by men in his line of business. On the contrary, he conducts his business with the same precision and dignity of a banking establishment.

As a young man Mr. Potter had in view the latter business as what he deemed to be the line of activity most in conformity with his tastes.

Milo M. Potter is now a man forty-three years of age. He is as he says he will always remain, a bachelor. His life is devoted entirely to his business, he being the most diligent and persistent worker of the entire force



GRIFFITH J. GRIFFITH.

3000 acres and more there is great variety of soil, and many picturesque eminences, which overlook the valley and sea, together with an inexhaustible supply of the purest mountain water. The source of a part of the water supply of the city is derived from that territory. Griffith Park possesses every natural facility for producing a veritable semi-tropical Eden. The richness of the soil, which is largely composed of disintegrated granite, is unsurpassed. Close beneath the surface of the earth, along the foothills, the water drained from the mountain sides runs through the gravel toward the valley

cent influence. To many, perhaps thousands, of children, this great playground would be the only chance of outdoor study and actual contact with the open book of nature.

Griffith J. Griffith, though not born in America, he nevertheless thoroughly imbued with the liberal spirit which makes up the ideal American citizen. His long residence upon the Pacific Coast has made him a thorough westerner in manner and feeling. His congeniality is his most conspicuous characteristic. His gift to Los Angeles is peculiarly fitting, he having spent the greater part of his successful business

career in this city, and having been closely identified with its growth and development for many years.

Mr. Griffith is a native of Wales. He was born near the Vale of Glamorgan, in Glamorganshire, in 1852. When a mere lad he came to America, and after spending five of his boyhood years in the schools of Pennsylvania he decided to make California his future home, and came to this Coast in 1873.

R. J. WATERS.

PROMINENTLY MENTIONED FOR CONGRESSIONAL HONORS.

Member of the Chicago Colony Which Selected the Site of the Present City of Redlands and Assisted in Its Advancement.

Just now the name of R. J. Waters is frequently mentioned, particularly in political circles, as a result of his unobtrusive candidacy for the Republican nomination for Congress from this district. His prominence, both in social and business circles, have caused his aspiration to be received with interest by all parties, and particularly by the Democrats, as Mr. Waters is recognized as being a formidable opponent. His prominence in the ranks of his own party is due, largely, to the recent joint letter sent him by leading Republicans, asking him to accept a nomination for Congress if given him by his party. The letter was such a tribute, as well might engender a feeling of just pride, as it was a voluntary expression of his fellow-citizens, and contained an unqualified indorsement of his fitness for an important public trust.

Mr. Waters has been prominent in the affairs of Southern California since 1886, at which time he was a member

a director in several banking enterprises, treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce, and president of the City Directory Company. At one time he was one of the City Park Commissioners, an office which he filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public.

Mr. Waters became a resident of Los Angeles in 1893. Since that time he has been identified with many enterprises and institutions, aside from his business connections. His connection with the Chamber of Commerce has been of great value to that institution. He is a man who thoroughly believes in the greatness of Southern California, both present and prospective, and finds time, notwithstanding he has many claims upon his attention, to devote much valuable service to public affairs. His intimate acquaintance with the needs of his section equips him with just such a fund of information as public-spirited citizens require for the realization of their highest usefulness.

R. H. HERRON.

ONE OF THE LEADING BUSINESS MEN OF THE CITY.

Identified With Every Movement Which Makes for the Improvement of Local Conditions—A Public-spirited Citizen.

Among the active business men of Los Angeles no one has taken a more effective part in all movements for the betterment of the city than R. H. Herron. Though he has been upon the coast only about four years, Mr. Herron has lost no opportunity to throw the force of his unmistakable ability into every well-considered plan that has been designed to improve local conditions, and to better local prospects.



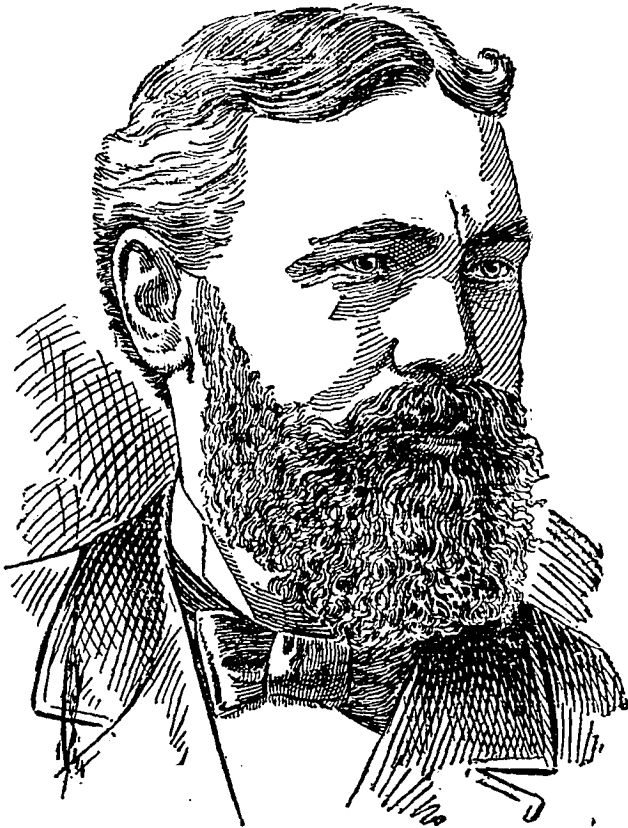
R. H. HERRON.

of all kinds. A better means to a more laudable purpose could not be conceived, and it was largely through the push and sagacity of Mr. Herron that the splendid exhibition was made possible.

R. H. Herron is a native of Pennsylvania and belongs to one of the oldest and best known families in Pittsburgh. For many years he was engaged in the brokerage and oil business of that city.

Mr. Herron sought the genial clime of California as a means of recuperating

his health, which, through close application and long continued business activity, had become somewhat impaired. His energies were at once employed in the establishment of a Pacific Coast headquarters for the handling of oil-well machinery and supplies. In this enterprise he has been eminently successful. The greater part of the machinery and supplies required by the important and growing industry in California now passes through his hands, and he maintains two business houses on this Coast.



R. J. WATERS.

of a committee representing the Chicago colony, which first settled at Redlands. It was due to his influence that the settlement was established where it was, and it was largely on account of his continued activity and business acumen that the beautiful little city rose to prominence and prosperity. For many years he remained a citizen of the town, becoming identified with its foremost enterprises, and remaining a faithful supporter of all undertakings which were designed to further local interests. He was a stockholder and director in a score or more of the prominent corporations of his city, and his counsel was regarded as being safe and conscientious.

By birth R. J. Waters is a Vermonter. He received his advanced education in Massachusetts and, after completing a collegiate course, accepted a Latin professorship and became an instructor in mathematics. Some years later, after removing to Chicago, he studied law, and became a practitioner. There he enjoyed a successful practice for a period of twenty years, which was terminated by his coming to California.

Mr. Waters is at present vice-president of the Citizens' Bank of this city,

Though his immediate interest is centered in the development of oil properties, and the supply of oil-well machinery and supplies, he has, nevertheless, found time to give much assistance to the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association, of which he is a director, and one of the most active workers. Three years ago he organized and became the first president of the Oil Exchange, an institution which served a useful purpose in the establishment of a fair market for the local product.

Mr. Herron was one of the foremost promoters of the movement which resulted in the establishment of the Hall of Industry of this city. The enterprise is one of the most significant which has been launched since the Chamber of Commerce exhibit was opened. The design of the enterprise was to bring together a permanent display of the manufactured products of Southern California, as an object lesson to those unacquainted with the industrial development of this part of the Southwest, and also as a means of fostering and promoting the home patronage of home products

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