# DOES DE MEDICIS SPIRIT ANMATE MORGAN?

Lorenzo' de Medici, the Patron of Italian Art

Remarkable Parallel Between the Magnificent Florentine and the Modern

# Financier

H the most recent expansion of J. Pierpont Morgan's financial resources, in securing con-

trol of the Equitable Life Assurance Company and establishing his undisputed leadership in American banking, the remarkable parallel between him and Lorenzo de' Medici, equally famous for his love of power and passion for the arts, has centered in the two great figures unprecedented interest.

The resemblance between them has been shown to extend far beyond any ordinary similarity of tastes. To those who are prone to believe in the theories of reincarnation they might almost be the same spirit, working out its preferences, its ambitions and its imperious will under conditions of social, artistic and political exigencies of vastly different periods. In minor subjects the two embodiments of that omnivorous and imperious spirit differ sufficiently to make the resemblance lack absolute completeness. But in their major aspects, if they do not incarnate the identical soul, they present themselves to the modern student of history as the carnal abiding place of spiritual twins.

anty, the Mercantile and the Standard-In all, \$317,-943,600.

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There remained no single banker and no group of bankers who could dispute the pre-eminence of the man who controlled capital amounting to \$1,884,524,558, besides his holdings in the National City Bank and the New York Trust Company of \$346,598,271.

And even that approach to money's omnipotence has not contented him. It is believed to be serving merely his stepping-stones to broader power.

If it were humanly possible for any individual to acquire domain over a nation's art as Mr. Morgan has



of the Medici in Miorence these basty notations of character and Iraits would have been instantly identi-

erpont

Converger 1909 by Pack Drawy

fied with the dominant figure of the powerful Lorenzo, after his emergence from the maze of cabals and assansins' plots through which he had to fight his way to an even higher eminence than Morgan boasts, Those were the days in Italy when politics preceded

inanciering as the desirable means to the end of ambition. The public purse was open to the tyrant who could command the public government.

Lorenzo de' Medici, inheriting genius as great an has been displayed by Morgan, and fertune and position far greater than Morgan began with, displayed carlier his fondness for luxury and art, but on the same scale of munificence exhibited by this modern Midas.

Morgan had to acquire wealth to indulge his tastes. Lorenzo de' Medici inherited it under two guises. One was the immense hoard accumulated by his famous grandfather, Cosimo de' Medici. The other was the public atrong box at his disposal could he keep his power.

He kept it, and having devoted his talents to surrounding himself with the most distinguished writers and the most brilliant artists of his period, to the neglect of his commercial affairs, unhesitatingly dipped into the public funds for as many thousands as he happened on occasion to require.

### CULTIVATED CULTURE

His gorgeous villa at Fiesole was the assembly place of the wit and poetry of Florence and, indeed, of cultured Italy. He made only modest pretenza to being a gourmet, just as Morgan today betrays no unusual fondness for the refinements of the cuisine. But, as Morganiz one passion of the senses is for good tobacco-\$1.25 aplece is the price of his inseparable cigar-so Lorenzo relished and prided himself upon his wines, the ballmark of the gentleman of his era-He wrote to Marsilio Ficino:

"Come to me. You shall not sup worse, and per- . chance you shall drink better. For the paim of good wihe I am ready to contend, even with Pico himself." There, installed in the Fiesole villa, above cellars stocked with the rarest of vintages and amid statuary. paintings and books which, like Morgan, he had assembled from every source available in his time, Lorenzo de' Medici played the Maecenas role to all the arts, and turned a very pretty sonnet himself when-

HE two main lines of character along which the modern Morgan and Lorenzo the Magnificent present absolute parallelism are love of power and love of luxury. A third, less characteristic because it is somewhat less peculiarly temperamental, is the relentless, persistent will energy inspiring both men to the attainment of their ultimate purposes.

To those who know J. Pierpont Morgan only by the continually concurrent reports of his financial activities and his more than lavish indulgence of his taste for art, including, as the art bent does, conspicuously splendid gifts and loans for public purposes, the esthetic instincts of the man seem to be always far more salient than his longings for riches.

But those who know him intimately have been aware that his basic aim in his career has been to become the country's foremost banker, ever since, in Pebruary, 1895, he handled the famous Cleveland bond assue required to replenish the treasury's gold supply. At the time there was much talk, in print and in private, of the Morgan magnanimity, just as there has always been when some fresh occasion arose when he could exercise his genius for financiering large enterprises. But Morgan himself made no pretense to anything except rapacity-the achievement of his lifelong ambition for leadership and power.

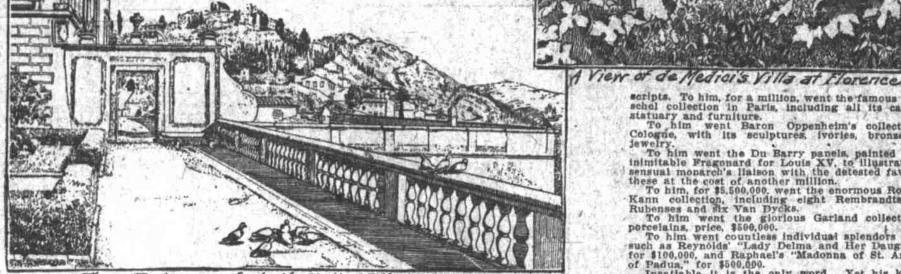
"I won't make any profit," he told President Cleveland; "I want to be considered the nation's banker." Even though he profited not a millionth of 1 per cent. In actual money, the prestige attaching to such a reputation, in but a solitary transaction, was valuable enough to compensate for all the trouble. And as avery man in finance knows, the prestige he got fed right merrily the flames of his ambition.

### APEX OF ACQUISITION

It was nearly fifteen years later, in December last, when that ambition of leadership was realized by his nequisition of the Equitable. It was a fitting crown to his career-a grab that marked the spex of acquisiilveness.

Those intervening years were crowded with finan-fini battles which eliminated practically all other Americans who might have entertained a like purpose; some, like the indomitable Harriman, by sheer fail-urs of the vital energies in the stress of the titanic struggie; others, like Thomas F. Ryan, quitting from meet distaste for the unending conflict which Morgan's insattable ambition kept unfailingly strenuous. Morgan survived in the modern arena, triumphant because the secret, mysterious forces inspiring him to in a structure is those which inspired his famous Florentine prototype. Those intervening years were crowded with finan-

releatiess nature as those which inspired his famous Piorentine prototype. At the time of his capture of the Equitable he was carctulity estimated as the banker in control of the astounding combined capital resources of the New York Life Instrance Company and the Equitable, amounting to \$996.737.516-mearly a billion of capital is those two sions. He controlled, besides, the capi-tal of half a dozen national banks: the First, the Chase, the Fank of Commerce, the Mechanics, the Copper and the Liberty-in all \$559.535.542. He controlled seven trust companies: the Bankers', ins Asior, the Equitable, the Fifth Avenue, the Guar-



The Balcony of de Medici's Villa

Japanese Journalism that Is flighly Up-to-date

acquired it over the capital; if a valuable painting were as like to Davy Crockett's coon as a bank or a trust company, a railway or a life insurance organiza-tion appears to be with Morgan, the Morgan pre-eminence in art, would already have the treasures of private collections pouring into his capacious-or is it

rapacious?-lap. Europe's art lovers tremble now at mention of his name. He has the appetite of a Gargantua, swallowing

whole collections at a single gulp. To him went the life work of S. H. Wakeman, of New York, devoted to the assembling of rare and valuable American manu-

scripts. To him, for a million, went the famous Hoent-schol collection in Paris, including all its carvings, statuary and furniture. To him went Baron Oppenheim's collection in Cologne, with its sculptures, ivories, bronzes and isweiry.

 To him went Baron Oppenneum's collection in fewelry.
To him went the Sculptures, ivories, bronzes and jewelry.
To him went the Du Barry panels, painted by the inimitable Fragonard for Louis XV to illustrate that sensual monarch's liaison with the detested favorite—these at the cost of another million.
To him, for \$5.500,000, went the enormous Rodolphe Kann collection, including eight Rembrandts, four Rubenses and fix Van Dycks.
To him went the glorious Garland collection of porcelains, price, \$500,000.
To him went the glorious Garland collection of porcelains, price, \$500,000.
To him went countless individual splendors of art, such as Reynolds. "Lady Delma and Her Daughters," for \$100,000, and Raphael's "Madonna of St. Anthony of Padua," for \$500,000.
Tastiable-it is the only word. Yet his keenest pleasure, as his intimates know him, is to find himself alone in his own private library and museum, adjoin-ing his residence in New York, and there pass hours appreciatively studying the rarities he has reserved for his exclusive delectation. At most, he admits to that fane only those who are his most congenial, appreciative friends. In the earlier, fiercer, less scrupulous, bloodier day

### ever his muse caught a pleasing inspiration. Not only was his palace the resort of the illustrieus, but it became their veritable school. Michelangelo there first essayed the chisel under Lorenso's generous encouragement; the "Morgante" of Pico della Mirandola had there its first reading.

Inspired by no philanthropy such as creates the Inspired by no philanthropy such as creates the beneficent autocrat, but rather by the artist's longing to surround himself with a whole world of comforts, luxuries and refinements, he did in his generation for the people of Florence what Morgan now does in art for popular education, both at home and abroad. Under his sway, industry, commerce, public works, art generally and public education advanced with giant steps. Unlike Morgan, he was acting on a little stage, and his energies could expend themselves on a wider diversity of matters. But like Morgan his eminence

and his energies could expend themselves on a wider diversity of matters. But, like Morgan, his eminence was ultimately so assured that the entire world of power and culture came to pay to him the tribute of deference and admiration. The verdict passed upon Lorenzo de' Medici by Guicciardini would not be so wholly unfitted to Mor-gan, if a composite could be taken nowsdays of all that is thought of him by enemies and friends: "If Florence was to have a tyrant, she could never have found a better or more pleasant one." Yet one would be more certain of De' Medici than Morgan.

Morgan.

# **Curious Facts**

ANADA'S available water powers represent a combined energy which, if maintained by steam force

generated from coal, would involve an annual ceal consumption of 582,455,632 tons. On an average a man requires 1600 pounds of food per annum, a woman 1260 pounds and a child 500

pounds. Bled eight feet from the ground a rubber-yielding tree of fifteen inches diameter gives three pints of tree d

Hould. Boys over 14 and girls over 12 are legally entitled to get married without the consent of their parents or guardians in Scotland. Just closed, the Yarmouth and Lowestoft herring season has yielded \$00,000,000 herring, which sold for There are an ar

\$5,600,000. There are five admirals of the fleet, thirtsen admirals, twenty-two vice admirals and fifty-five rear admirals, on the active list of the British navy. In Germany marriages by any foreign consular officer are strictly prohibited—except where there are special treaty stipulations. In Ceylon the manufacture of salt is a government monopoly, and yielded, in 1908, 1,760,561 rupees (\$586,850) to the revenue. The London General Omnibus Company find that

The London General Omnibus Company find that the average profit on a motor bus in London is \$31 per month, while on a horse bus there is an average loss of \$13.50.

Prison rations in England give 51 2-5th ounces of food daily to the prisoners doing hard labor, but only 46 4-5th ounces in the case of a prisoner doing light

On a ride of 1250 miles, at an average of 44 miles daily, a Russian cavalry officer lost only & pounds in weight, while his horse-nearly twenty years old-lost 45 pounds. One day eighty miles were covered.

## A Curious Moss

HE material so closely resembling horsehair, which

is extensively used for stuffing carriage cushions, is not horsehair at all, but a curious kind of moss

Is not horsehair at all, but a curious kind of moss which grows in Alabama and Louisiana. The moss is satisfied mostly by negroes, and after a free is stripped it is allowed to rest for seven years, during which time the moss renews itself. Cypress moss is preferred, as it is the longest and most tenacious of all the varieties. After the moss is sathered it is placed in a sunny spot and left to the sc-tion of the wind and weather for a month. At the end of that time the grayish bark peels off, leaving the hair almost clean. It is then sold to the plantation store-keeper or country groceryman for from one to two cents a pound, according to quality. The next move is to send the material to New Orleans the factory it is subject to the action of the washer, which is a large cylindrical arrangement, with a wheel inside, which pulls the moss hither and soap until the stuff is cleaned.

It infolgs a vat of boning water and soap until the stuff is cleaned. Then it is hung out upon the rocks to dry. This done, it is put into the duster-a fan-mill which entirely re-moves all the dust that may have survived the washing process. As a result the moss comes into the factory yellow in color and goes out inky black. The article is then made into bales and marked according to quality. The highest grade can bardly be distinguished from the finest horse sair.

F AN American were to put in a year in Tokio or another of the larger cities of Japan, he would be likely to account as the heaviest

penalty he pays for expatriation that one which deprives him of his daily newspaper, all alive with the happenings of his town, his county, his state, his nation and-not to assume any air of impertinent proprietorship-his world at

And unless he should become well versed in the ways and means of living as it goes in modern Japan, he would be very liable to imagine his new neighbors as badly off as himself.

Only when he achieves Japanese to the extent of reading it without a lexicon will he be able to

appreciate the strictly up-to-date journalism that titillates the intellectual palate of the Japs.

They may not be quite so strong on fine, artistic murder stories as a metropolitan American sheet, or so close to omniscience as the multifarious corps of trained correspondents enables the American editor to appear; but they get there fairly well.

M. Zumoto, who edits Tokio's English newspaper, the Times, told not so long ago about journalism as it is now developed in Japan, with some inside hints that would have made Mark Twain long for the balmy peace of the Orient when he was journalizing in the excitable West:

H, NO," he observed thoughtfully, "in Japan 66 A we never shoot up the editor. Nor do we sue in the courts for libel damages. We

A sue in the courts for libel damages. We give no more nominal damages for libel in Japan, holding that the libel practically defeats itself. And, as a matter of fact, that is what largely happens, for nobody pays any attention to newspaper statements obviously inspired by malice. "Our law on the subject is an adaptation of the French principles of legal procedure. Yet there is a rowing opinion against them and in favor of the Anglo-Saxon principle that a libel does inflict sub-stantial injury to its victim and demands substitutian demage compensation." Such an indifference to the "power of the press" as may enable the cultured and courteous, yet haughty the account of how he poisoned his mother-in-law would seem to augur utter powerlessness in the press in the sub-

would seem to augur utter poweriessness in the press ittelf. Not so, emphatically declares Mr. Zumoto. In Japan the press is the aegis, the palladium, the great white light and all the other grandeurs that are em-bodied in the press elsewhere. Modestly to avoid mention of the unequaled and forever precise Tokio Times, of which he is editor, there are other papers, like the Asabi, of Asaka, that sell at 1 cent per copy or 25 cents per month, with

immense circulations. The Asahi alone has a daily circulation of 250,000. The journalists themselves manage to scratch

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A letter and rarely publish what they are told. Such men are Pokutomi, editor of the Kokumi, a morning daily in Tokio: Ikebe, editor of the Yokio Asahi, and Chikami, of the Tokio Nichi-Nichi. They are on inti-mate terms with those who are highest in our politi-cal affairs and, of course, nave the discretion of the mate terms with those who are highest in our politi-ate and important confidences." The mark its fakes and its scoops fike the jour-mission of all the world; and sometimes a scoop is too true to be good, because the auspicious Japs sus-tor the to be good, because the auspicious Japs sus-tor the to be good, because the auspicious data scoop is to true to be good, because the suspicious data scoop is to true to be good, because the suspicious data scoop is to true to be good, because the auspicious data scoop is to true to be good, because the auspicious data scoop is to true to be good, because the suspicious data scoop is to true to be good, because the suspicious data scoop is to true to be good, because the suspicious data scoop is to true to be good, because the suspicious data scoop is to true to be good, because the suspicious data scoop is worked between geoge, because the suspicious data scoop worked beth ends dogen into the middle. If cut out cash advertising to get it all in! And the data so it may have the they read it, simply and the data scoop of the scoop is pournalistic true of the data scoop is to be state in the scoop of the scoop

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