

Railroad Secrets

Chapter One



WATT, Stephenson and Fulton—the mighty trinity whose presence has girdled the globe with bands of steel—have been justly called the creators of our new commercial world. Stephenson's "Puffing Billy" was the first clear conception, however crudely expressed, of the powerful locomotives which haul trains at such a terrific speed that they are aptly termed: "The Overland Flyer," "The Cannon Ball Express," etc.

And it would seem that association with these potential, although tamed, monsters, had bred a race of men of iron will and steel sinews—men who coolly carry out their policies and build their roads with the almost inexorable accuracy of natural law, despite myriad difficulties strewn across their path.

The railroad magnates of our day are just as picturesque characters as any in all history. Shaugh-essy, Ill, Arriman, Hertz, Van Hone and Graham—the very names are magical because their owners have accomplished seemingly impossible tasks. Strong, confident, bold and sometimes unscrupulous these men may be; but they compel our respect and admiration because they are strugglers first, last and all the time. Whatever their motives may be, and they are generally splendid, these men are working steadfastly and with cool determination to knit states, provinces and nations together. They are bound to ultimately enthrone Commerce as king of our world and posterity will deservy virtues in this breed of iron men which we but vaguely discern to-day. And just as Napoleon stands out a warrior of gigantic stature amongst many great warriors,