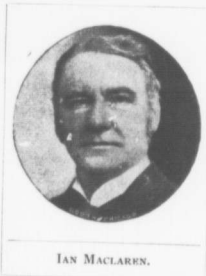


Americans as seen by a Britisher.

Ian Maclaren, who recently visited the United States on a lecturing tour, gives his impressions of the restlessness of Americans in the *North American Review*, as follows :—

If a slow witted and slow moving Englishman desires a liberal education let



IAN MACLAREN.

him take a journey on the steam cars in the United States. While an Englishman on a railway journey is generally dressed in rough and loosely fitting tweeds, suggestive of a country life and

of sport, the coat of his American cousin is of dark material and has not a superfluous inch of cloth. From his collar to his neat little boot the American is prim, spick-and-span and looks as if he had come out of a bandbox and were ready to appear in the principal room of any office. He is dressed, in fact, for business and looks like business from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet.



The immense repose of the English traveller is quite impossible for this mercurial man, whose blood and whose brain are ever in a stir. Very rarely will you see him reading a book, because he is not accustomed to read, and the demands of a book would lessen his time for business meditation. Boys with newspapers circulate through the cars and he buys each new paper as it appears at the different towns. Whether it be Republican or Democratic or a family paper or a yellow journal does not matter to him; he glances at the startling headlines, takes an accident or a political scandal at a mouthful, skims over

the business news, sees whether anything has happened at the Philippines, notes that the canard of the morning has been contradicted in the afternoon and flings paper after paper on the floor. Three minutes, or, in some cases of extreme interest, five minutes suffice for each paper, and by and by this omnivorous reader who consumes a paper even more quickly than his food, is knee deep in printed information or sensation.



For two minutes he is almost quiet and seems to be digesting some piece of commercial information. He then rises hurriedly, as if he had been called on the telephone, and makes for the smoking car, where he will discuss expansion with vivid, picturesque speech, and get through a cigar with incredible celerity. Within fifteen minutes he is in the sleeper again, and, a little afterward, wearying of idleness, he is chewing the end of a cigar, which is a substitute for smoking and saves him from being wearied with his own company. Half an hour before the train is due at his station he is being brushed and getting ready to alight. Before the train has reached the outskirts of the town he has secured his place in the procession which stands in single file in the narrow exit passage from the sleeper. Each man is ready dressed for business and has his valise in his hand; he is counting the minutes before he can alight and is envying the man at the head of the procession, who will have a start of about two seconds.



If he is obliged to spend two hours doing nothing in a hotel, when business is over, then he rocks himself and smokes, and it is a wonderful spectacle for an indolent Englishman to look down from the gallery that commands the hall of the hotel and to see fifty able-bodied fellow-men who have worked already twelve hours at least, and put eighteen hours' work into the time, all