

fortunate enough to engage one of these men in conversation and is successful in "drawing him out," he is considerably surprised to find beneath that rough exterior a man fully his equal in culture and perhaps far in advance of him in practical knowledge. He is not answered rudely or boorishly as he may have expected, for these men are always polite, and though quick to notice the tone of superiority with which many at first address them, are too gentlemanly to show any resentment of it at the time. These men are the cowboys of the plain, than whom there are no men more misunderstood and maligned. In the sensational novel or newspaper report, almost the only means by which cowboy life has been described, he is pictured as a near approach to a fiend incarnate, reckless of his own life, regardless of the suffering of others, passionate and vindictive.

Most Eastern men have been content to accept these sensational descriptions as true, and almost shudder at the thought of meeting one of these man-monsters. It is with a shock of pleased surprise that he learns that the cultured gentleman he has been talking to for some time is a genuine cowboy. He may be more surprised to learn later that this same cowboy is a scion of some wealthy, often aristocratic, English or Scotch family, that he has harried at Eton or Rugby, and may have rushed along the bank cheering his college mates as they struggled to drive the light blue or the dark blue colors to the front in the yearly inter-University contest on the Thames.

The sensational novel cowboy is a thing of a vicious imagination, the real cowboy as he is met on our Canadian plains, at least is a splendid fellow, frank, manly, reserved certainly, but always courteous. He is not religious, he will probably tell you in Western Vernacular that, he doesn't go much on churches. But if he does go to church the preacher could not wish for a more attentive listener, nor will there be a more reverent worshipper present. He uses strong language, very strong sometimes, but never when any one is near to whom he thinks it is distasteful.

If you follow the cowboy to his home—the *Ranche*—he will give you a hearty welcome and treat you to the best at command. He expects you to use all he has as if it were your own. He may ask you to do so at first, afterwards you are expected to help yourself.