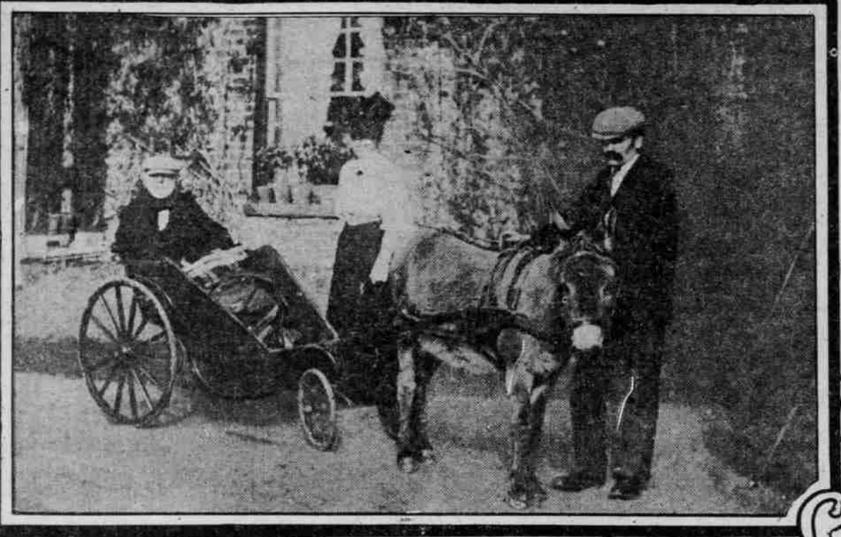


FAMOUS LINKS WITH OUR GRANDSTRES' DAYS

MEN AND WOMEN WHO DID IMPORTANT WORK AND WON WORLD FAME IN THE 30'S, 40'S & 50'S



GEORGE MEREDITH, IN HIS DONKEY CART, TAKEN ON HIS 80TH ANNIVERSARY



EUGENE AS EMPRESS (1865) AND EUGENE AS EXILE (1871)



LORD LISTER



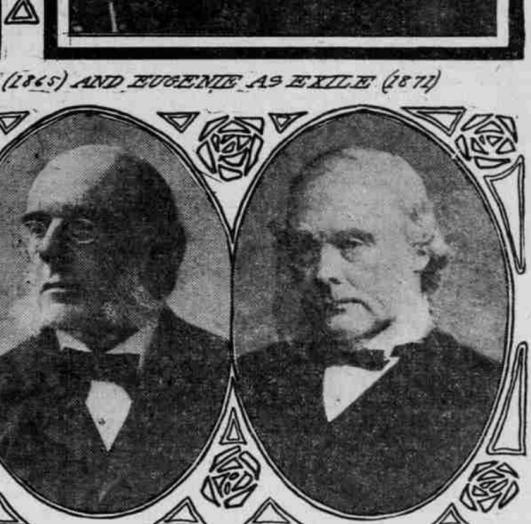
SIR CHARLES TUPPER ABOUT THE TIME OF HIS POLITICAL RETIREMENT



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, JUST AFTER THE CRIMEAN WAR



JOHN BIGELOW



TIMOTHY DWIGHT

THE thirties, forties and fifties of the nineteenth century seem a long way back in the dim and distant past to the most of us now in the thick of things. Yet, for all that, we are still blessed with the presence of a goodly number of prominent men and women who, not only by their years, but also by important works, link us with the simple days when our grandfathers and great-grandfathers were engaged in the task of running the world and its children.

Edward Everett Hale, Julia Ward Howe, Donald G. Mitchell, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Charles Elliot Norton and Timothy Dwight, all venerable and highly revered "institutions" of New England; John Higelow and D. O. Mills, of New York; Goldwin Smith, Sir Charles Tupper and Lord Strathcona, of Canada; Florence Nightingale, Sir John Tenniel, Sir Joseph Hooker, Lord Lister and George Meredith of England; James B. Angell, Victorien Sardou and Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary—these are some of the more famous links with the middle decades of the past century. With the exception of the two last named, all are either near the 80th milestones of have left it behind, one or two having done so by as much as ten years. The Emperor is 77, while the French playwright is a year younger.

Let us see just how these men and women by the works they did to the days of our grandfathers' power. It was in 1856 that Edward Everett Hale became pastor of the South Congregational Unitarian Church, of Boston, whose pulpit he has filled ever since. By 1882, when he published anonymously his most famous novel, "The Man Without a Country," he had gained fame as one of New England's leading divines and public men.

Donald G. Mitchell, who is quietly passing his remaining days at his farm home, Edgewood, with slight of Yale's towers, wrote "The Reveries of a Bachelor," in 1824. Two years later he produced his second great work, "The Revue," and he became assistant editor of Harper's when that magazine was founded.

John Bigelow, "the first citizen of New York," in 1849 assumed joint proprietorship of the New York Evening Post with William Cullen Bryant. From then on until the outbreak of the Civil War he was one of the country's famous newspaper editors and publishers.

den master." It was in the fifties, also, that Tolstoi took his first abroad, became bitterly disappointed with modern civilization and began to form the peculiar philosophy which marks him as a world-character today.

George Meredith, England's present day first man of letters, whose 80th anniversary was celebrated in February, produced his first, and what many critics hold to be his finest, novel in 1829. The same year "Adam Bede," George Eliot's first novel was published—and its distinguished author has been in her grave these many years. Eight years previously Meredith had published his first volume of verse.

Canada's Notable Links. Five years later than Dr. Dwight is the distinguished Canadian, Goldwin Smith. From 1850, three years after he was called to the English bar, to 1888 he was that country's leading champion of university reform, and he had a large hand in instituting the University of Toronto. Then he was named as a member of the board of trustees of the University of Toronto. This post he held until he took the presidency of the college.

Canada's other two notable links take us back to the 20s and 30s. It was in 1828, when he was 18, that Lord Strathcona, for years head of the Great Hudson Bay Company, entered the employ of that company as a clerk in Labrador. Then he was known as Donald A. Smith. During the 40s and the 50s he got to know the trappers' Canadian wilderness better than any other man in the company's employ—the company at that time was sole governor of millions of acres of snow-covered northland—and his selection as Resident Governor in 1869 was practically inevitable. From 1845, when at 24, he was elected to the Provincial Assembly of Nova Scotia, until 1900, when, at 75, his constituency for the first time called to return him to political life, Sir Charles Tupper was a great political power first in Nova Scotia and then in the Dominion of Canada, formed in 1870.

It was D. O. Mills, who will be 82 in September, who organized the finances of the Pacific Coast in the '60s and '60s. Francis Joseph's career as the head of Austria-Hungary dates back to the stirring days of the Kosuth revolution. In 1854 Sardou had accepted his first play, which he always has felt would have been a success had not the stage lights gone out at a critical moment and thereby roused the risibilities of the audience. It was the night of the third production.

From 1852, when she became the wife of Napoleon III, until she died from Paris in 1871, Eugenie, now one of the world's most pathetic figures, exercised an important influence on French history. The first time that she ruled as regent was in 1859, when her husband was warring in Italy. Her influence on woman's dress, first apparent in the '60s, is strongly felt to this day, as the average American husband could testify.

Punch. There he remained until the beginning of the present century. In that time he drew more than 2000 of his famous weekly cartoons. As Punch was only nine years old when Tenniel went with it, and as he was in charge of the cartoon department for nearly 40 years, it is no exaggeration to say that upon his work the reputation of Punch largely rests. Sir John was 29 years old when he began to draw fanciful initial letters for Punch, these letters, together with his weekly cartoon on some National or international event of deep importance, giving it its fame above all other features. Americans who were men and women during the Civil War will recall the cartoons that Tenniel drew against the North. These and his sympathetic cartoons following Lincoln's assassination established his name on this side of the Atlantic.

Ten years before Tenniel's attachment to Punch Sir Joseph Hooker, since the '40s among the leading botanists of the world, expedition to the Himalayas, making the most complete botanical museum in the world, the family devotion to botany reaches back a hundred years. Sir Joseph Hooker is 90, Lord Lister, father of antiseptic surgery, is ten years younger. Becoming assistant surgeon at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 1856, Lister insisted on absolute cleanliness and the use of deodorant solutions in the surgical wards; for at that early date he had arrived at the conclusion that the dread wound diseases following operations, which made every one look with horror on a surgeon, was caused in some way by the atmosphere. Thus he took the first step toward antiseptic surgery before the '60s.

In 1862, when Pasteur published his discovery that fermentation and putrefaction are caused by bacteria, Lister at once realized that the so-called wound diseases were caused by bacteria. He thereupon took steps to sterilize the air in the neighborhood of operation wounds—and to kill the bacteria in the wounds antiseptic surgery had arrived.

As a result of Lister's study of wound diseases, dating back to the fifties, most of the deadly hospital diseases of two generations ago have disappeared entirely. Formerly hospital gangrene was one of the most common of wound diseases. Today it is so rare that the average surgeon or physician now practicing never has seen a case of it. These links number, all told, 21. It is interesting to note that only two have

devoted themselves mainly to business during their long careers—D. O. Mills and Lord Strathcona. Two have put their greatest efforts in government—Emperor Francis Joseph and Sir Charles Tupper. The fame of two others—Florence Nightingale and Lord Lister—rests on their work for suffering humanity. One, Sir Joseph Hooker, is a scientist; another a dramatist, Sardou, and still another a dethroned Empress. All the other links can easily be classified as educators, college, pulpit, or literary—Angell, Dwight and Smith as college; Hale and Higginson as pulpit; and all five, together with Bigelow, Norton, Julia Ward Howe, Meredith, Mitchell, Tolstoi and Tenniel, as literary uplifters of a high order.

Just as they are stronger in number, so are the educators on the whole, more active at the present day than the other links. D. O. Mills and Baron Strathcona have retired, to all intents and purposes. So has Sir Charles Tupper, while Francis Joseph, weary though he undoubtedly is of the cares of state, is in such a position that he can retire only when death comes in at the door. At 90, Sir Joseph Hooker is very feeble.

On the other hand, Florence Nightingale, invalid though she has been practically ever since her return from the Crimea, was only lately deeply interested in promoting district nursing among the London poor. Edward Everett Hale is chaplain of the United States Senate, still preaches and still directs the work of the Lend-a-Hand clubs, which he originated. John Bigelow, in his 91st year, is engaged in important literary work. Tolstoi, to the constant regret of the Russian government, is very active, indeed, with both pen and voice. Goldwin Smith recently undertook a trip to the mother country, and his writings are continually appearing in newspapers and magazines on both sides of the water. Dr. Angell shows no diminution of energy as head of the University of Michigan. Since the beginning of the present century Thomas Wentworth Higginson has placed five books in his publishers' hands, and his shorter writings have been numerous.

For a man who is supposed to have retired George Meredith was extremely active mentally on his 80th anniversary, and only two or three years ago he made the world sit up and take notice by his advocacy of limited marriages. "And they'll come in time, too," he declared, "but first there'll be a devil of a row."

Since the beginning of the present century Sardou has produced two noteworthy plays, one a failure and one a success. The voice of Julia Ward Howe is still raised, when occasion demands it, in behalf of rights of woman and other features of her long life's work. Though he is now emeritus professor of the history of art at Harvard, Charles Elliot Norton proves through his magazine articles and other literary activities that he is not yet wholly on the retired list. Newspaper dispatches from Europe are rather frequent intervals offer similar

evidence regarding tender-hearted and modest Lord Lister, who balked when he learned of a newspaper's plan to name him as one of the 16 most famous men of England.

Deeds of Far-Reaching Results. Either during the days of our grandfathers' power, or later, nearly every one of these links performed works of far-reaching results. Julia Ward Howe stirred the world with her "Battle Hymn of the Republic." As a powerful influence over her husband, Eugenie caused the invasion of Mexico by the French and the subsequent death of Maximilian; and a few years later she had much to do with bringing about a change in the map of Europe, to France's discomfort and Germany's gain.

Kansas was saved from slavery by the work of Thomas Wentworth Higginson and those associated with him in popularizing the cause of abolitionists and other opponents of slavery. Sir Charles Tupper helped to bring the Canadian federation into being, and during the seventies, eighties and nineties held one high and responsible office after another in the ship of state, at one time being premier. The mere mention of the fact that Lord Strathcona is the head of the Hudson Bay Company is sufficient evidence of his far-reaching work; but in Canada he also is known as one of the men who made possible the Canadian Pacific, binding the two shores of the Dominion with the steel bands of commerce.

Timothy Dwight found Yale a college when he became president, and when stepped down from that post Yale was a university of world-wide fame. The University of Michigan, of today, is largely the result of the ideas of James B. Angell, and for years it has been the model for other state educational institutions to go by. Goldwin Smith, as already mentioned, helped to reform educational methods at Oxford in the sixties, and since then thousands of students have been trained along the lines laid down by his associates in the reform committee.

Edward Everett Hale's Lend-a-Hand Clubs have gone round the world, to the amelioration of the burdens of no one knows how many people. He, too, was one of the first promoters of the widespread Chautauqua movement. All this is in addition to his most famous novel which gave the world the phrase, "a man without a country."

It was John Bigelow who discovered Timothy Dwight's autobiography in a rubbish heap in France, when he was Minister to that country and, after editing it, gave it to the world. Without this autobiography the world would lack its present insight of one of the first great Americans. The plants that Sir Joseph Hooker has added to the botanical knowledge of the world number tens of thousands, literally. One of Lister's latter day classics is "The Reveries of a Bachelor." It is to be found in every library of the land, and it still profoundly affects its thousands as it did at the days of our grandfathers. D. O. Mills, through his famous Mills hotels, has shown how the respectable poor may be housed and fed at reasonable prices.

Two Workers for Mankind.

But important and far-reaching as have been some of the works of most of the links, it is undisputed that none other has done so great service for mankind as either Lord Lister or Florence Nightingale. The one has made the average surgical operation a means to health and not, as before antiseptics, a last resort to save life. The other has given the trained nurse, with all its attendant blessings, to the world's sickroom.

judging from the honors she has conferred on each.

When Florence Nightingale slipped quietly into England after the Crimean War, she was over 40 years of age. A great deal to make the medical world fall in line behind him without any delay.

The head of a certain Munich hospital had been greatly worried over the fact that 80 per cent of all patients in the surgical ward died of gangrene. Indeed, the ward had become so infected that there was talk of burning it down. About this time news of Lister's discovery reached Munich, the hospital dispatched a surgeon to Edinburgh. He returned enthusiastic, antiseptic surgery, as then practiced, was introduced in the ward, and in a few weeks there were no more cases of gangrene—the epidemic had been stamped out by spraying the atmosphere with a carbolic acid solution and flooding all wounds with a similar solution.

This was the first form of antiseptic surgery, the flooding of the wound being for the purpose of killing all bacteria placed in the body during the course of the operation. Today, of course, as is well known, antiseptic surgery means the prevention of infection—not the cure of infection—by the sterilization of operating instruments, operating rooms, operators, assistants, bandages, etc. This final step was not long in following the second—the first being Lister's insistence on cleanliness—and in it, as in the others, Lister himself was the leader.

It is rather interesting to note the widespread affectionate regard in which most of our prominent links are held. What reader does not feel a sort of reverence for Edward Everett Hale and Julia Ward Howe? To thousands of college men President Angell, of Michigan, and ex-President Dwight, of Yale, are known by affectionate nicknames. Any one who has ever read "The Reveries of a Bachelor" has conceived a strong regard for its gentle author. When Sir John Tenniel retired from the post of cartoonist, he was flooded with testimonials of affection from all parts of the British Empire. It is generally admitted that the love his people have for Francis Joseph has been a strong factor in keeping his patchwork empire together for over half a century. Because of his bold stand against Russian autocracy, and in spite of his queer philosophy, Tolstoi is seen through the world's spectacles as a lovable old man. And so on, pretty well through the list of links.

Musings of a Critic's Wife.

I recall so well a longing that I had when I was a child, which, though charged with high ambition, yet had much of faith as heaven: For 'twas then I saw a woman who my soul did first succumb. And I longed, oh how I longed, to wed the famous doctor's thumb. When they took me to the circus I was going on to fight. And the gallant blackback rider I considered simply great. As in spanned tight he vaulted nimbly through the atmosphere, I heard the love his people utter to the people as they sent him closer on cheer. At thirteen to Paderewski my young affection was led; when I saw him play, I was so glad to see him play. But when often brought Kyrle Belle all other hopes cast down. At sweet sixteen I heard the voice that almost broke my heart. 'Twas the De Reszke-jean, of course, in his grand piano that I saw him play. I recall the admiration that assailed me at eighteen. For a very gifted artist of a most peculiar kind, I sacrificed at twenty to a brilliant editor royal. Now I'm married and as merry as sweet marriage bells in June. Nevertheless will I give my heart to the moonlight for the moon; For my husband is a critic, and—although he's monstrous bright, just to show the faults of genius keeps him hustling day and night.

treatment spread throughout the medical profession. An incident that occurred in Munich a few weeks after the announcement by Lister of his discovery was a great deal to make the medical world fall in line behind him without any delay.

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