

miners thought this meant admiration, and so voted the prize to Tennyson. Both Mr. Gladstone and Lord Tennyson were born in 1809 the same year which saw the birth of Dr. Holmes. Harvard has been famous for its law school, and we find Holmes first studying law for a year and then giving up that branch for the study of medicine. This he found more congenial. Some of his classmates at Harvard afterwards became distinguished, such as Charles Sumner, a great lawyer, Wendell Phillips, a partial namesake, W. H. Channing, nephew of W. Ellery Channing, and the well known historian of the Dutch Republic John Lothrop Motley whose life Holmes afterwards sketched. Holmes soon proved to be distinguished in the study of medicine and would probably be remembered as a physician if he had not already secured a measure of immortality as a writer.

We find in Holmes an all-round excellence, as well as the most remarkable and enduring common sense. As a youth he is fond of classical study and was known as a spirited translator of Virgil and in one of his stories he makes several latin quotations such as "*Scindentur vestes, gemmae frangentur et aurum carmina quum tribuent fama peveunis erit*" this is when Mrs. Hopkins tells Byles Gridley that if her son Gifted lives till the old man is in his grave, he will write a poem to illustrate the old scholar's goodness. I may be wrong but I do not think we often find classical quotations in contemporary stories either in Old or New England.

Hence we are inclined to claim for Holmes a superiority to many of his contemporaries on this side of the Atlantic as a classical scholar. It is said that Oliver was once destined to be a minister himself like his father Abiel, but this possibility did not come to pass. How many notable men have thought of this profession and have finally passed it by Milton and Wordsworth for example, others have entered it and then have withdrawn as J. A. Froude and Edward Carpenter whom some call the English Walt. Whitman. We are far from wishing that all the able and bright men should become clergymen, yet we would that this profession, than which is no nobler, were more attractive than it seems to be to original and independent minds. We have heard of the great festival of the sons of the clergy and the society, which celebrates it, and we know one great denomination in which ministers' sons claim a freemasonry with one another which is interesting and inspiring. We fancy Holmes was influenced somewhat by being the son of a minister and we find various types of