

into poetry and produced an original style of essay known as the "Autocrat" series. Both wrote novels, though Froude will not be remembered by his fiction so vividly as Holmes. Both were manly. Both became professors in their own alma mater.

Holmes was born Aug. 29th, 1809, and at the time of his death had entered his 86th year; his father was a Congregational minister, the Rev. Abiel Holmes, author of the *Annals of America*. His mother was a Miss Wendell, who was lineally descended from Evart Jamieson, who went to America from East Friesland so long ago as 1640. This Dutch origin may have helped to impart that matter-of-fact tone which pervades much of Holmes' imaginative work. He was a commonplace philosopher, and a poet of the commonplace. We do not say this to depreciate him, but to fix his individual position. He who can in the commonplace find materials for poetry has a true insight; we know that one of the commonest of the elements sometimes takes the form of a diamond; he who can present us with the materials of our everyday life, in a transparent and crystalline form, in a setting which shall reflect beautiful colours and shall embody inspiring thoughts in a suggestive form is an alchemist of a high order, is in fact a true poet. But the greatest poet of all will be the one who can connect the here with the everywhere, the now and the past and the future, the temporal with the eternal; he who shall not only present the common element in its most attractive form but shall also connect that element with other elements and shew their mutual relations and possibilities of combination. Let us pay all respect to the man who will shew us the divine side of common things, as also to him who shall show us the divine allies that are invisible to common eyes, who will teach us the good that there is to be found in everything, not that everything is good we can still choose the good and the evil eschew. Yet we may fairly lean to the optimistic vein as does our Autocrat. But we are anticipating; brought up in Cambridge within sight of Harvard College it is no wonder that young Holmes should become a Harvard student, and we find him graduating in 1829, the same year which saw Phillpotts, (afterwards Bishop of Worcester) Senior Wrangler in Cambridge, England, the late Duke of Devonshire second Wrangler, and Alfred Tennyson, of Trinity, winner of the Chancellor's Medal for English verse written on the Subject "Timbuctoo." We have not seen this poem published in Tennyson's works; a story used to be told that the prize was given by mistake, that one of the Examiners scored on the manuscript in puzzled wonder the words "Look at this" and that the other exa-

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