

PROMINENT BRITISHERS.

Goldwin Smith

The subject of our sketch, Goldwin Smith, author and professor of history, was born August 23rd, 1823 at Reading, England, where his father was a practising physician. His family originally

resided at Wybunbury in Cheshire.

He received his early education at Eton. On proceeding to Oxford

he first entered as an undergraduate of Christ Church College, but being

elected to a demyship in Magdalen he completed his

course in that college. He gained

in 1842 the Hertford scholarship for Latin and in

1845 the scholarship founded by Dean Ireland for

Latin and Greek. In the latter year

he graduated B. A. as 1st classics and

subsequently he proceeded to the

degree of M. A. He gained the

chancellor's prizes for Latin verse in

1845, for the Latin Essay 1846 and

for the English Essay 1847. In

the later year he was elected a

fellow of University College. In the

same year he was

called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, but he has never

practised law. He is an honorary fellow of Oriel

College and of University College. In 1850

he was appointed by the Government as Assistant

Secretary of Royal Commission on the state of the

University of Oxford. He was secretary to the

second Oxford Commission and was a member of

the popular Education Commission appointed in

1858. The same year he was appointed to the

Regius professorship in Modern History and he held that chair until 1866. During the American Civil War he became an active champion of the North and in furtherance of that cause, wrote "Does the Bible Sanction American Slavery?"

"On the Morality of the Emancipation Proclamation." (1863), and other pamphlets on the same

subject. In 1864 he visited the United States. He met everywhere with warm and enthusiastic

reception and had the degree of LL.D. conferred upon him by Brown University. On his return to

England he published "England and America," (1865) and "The Civil War in America," (1866.)

In November 1868 having resigned his chair at Ox-

ford he again visited the United States and gave

lectures on England's Constitutional History at the newly formed

Cornell University Ithaca, N. Y. In 1871 having

changed this post for an non-resident professorship

he moved to Toronto where he has since resided. On

coming to Canada Prof. Smith at once took a prominent

position in literary and educational circles. He was

appointed a Senator of Toronto University, and in

1874 was elected to the Council of Public Instruction

Ont., by a large majority to represent the public

School teachers of the province. He became also

president of the Provincial teachers Association. In

these and other public positions to which he has

been called he found opportunity for rendering

useful and important service as well to education

and letters as to the cause of political morality. For some years he contributed articles under the

heading of "Current Events" to a magazine published in Toronto under the name of the "Can-

adian Monthly." Later he was the mainstay of the "Nation," a weekly journal devoted to Liter-

