

instances. They are implied, however, in many of the cases of relationship that I have mentioned. It was, moreover, with a lady that my record began—a lady from whom some of the greatest writers, statesmen and military leaders in the pages of American history were proud to be descended. But she was the eldest of a goodly sisterhood. There is no nation in the present or the past, perhaps, in which the gentle sex have taken, in the entire domain of human effort, so honourable a position. It would be hard to find a distinguished American family in which a female member did not wear the well-won crown of public esteem. Mercy Warren, the historian, shares the fame of that fiery patriot, her brother James Otis. It was to Mrs. Greene that Eli Whitney was indebted for the encouragement and shelter that stimulated his inventive powers to put together the cotton gin; and she subsequently became the wife of his partner, Phineas Miller. Whitney himself, with others of his variously distinguished name, was of the line of Ann Bradstreet. The Beechers would not be complete without Mrs. Stowe. Amos Bronson Alcott is invariably associated with his talented daughter, Louisa May. Jefferson's domestic biography has been written by his great-granddaughter, Sarah N. Randolph. The sweet, sad strains of the Careys will hand down the memory of both gentle sisters. Miss Julia Clinton Jones dedicated her "Valhalla, or the Myths of Norseland," to the memory of her grandfather, De Witt Clinton. Mrs. Alice King Hamilton, author of "Buttons," and "One of the Duanees," is the granddaughter of Chancellor Livingston, and is married to a descendant of Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr's illustrious victim. Emma C. Willard, *née* Hart, was a descendant of Thomas Hooker, the founder of Hartford, Connecticut. Her hymn, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," will perpetuate her memory, even though her life-long labour in the cause of education should be forgotten. Another of her name and race, Frances E. Willard, also eminent as an educationist, and whose lectures on the "Educational Aspects of the Woman Question" were the fruit of much experience and thought, is still more popular for her "Nineteen Beautiful Years," a touching tribute to the memory of a beloved and accomplished sister. It was to the prompting of his niece that the people of the United States owed Mr. Vassar's munificent gift. Mrs. Agassiz was the valued help-meat of her illustrious husband, as she is his fittest biographer and the worthy mother of his worthy son. President Cleveland's statesmanlike talents are well matched by the literary skill and taste of his gifted sister, Miss Rose Cleveland. And if I pause at that high eminence—at the foot of the throne, so to speak—it is not that I have exhausted the realm of letters and art and all high endeavour, but rather because the field of choice is perplexingly vast.

Mr. Julian Hawthorne, speaking of the "Genius of Emerson," in a lecture delivered before the Concord School of Philosophy, said: "Possibly, indeed, that little original band of the *Mayflower* Pilgrims has not greatly multiplied since their disembarkation, so far as their spiritual progeny is concerned. We do not find a succession of Winthrops and Endicotts in the chair of the Governor, and on the floor of the Senate." I have been trying to show that, as it is, the world has no reason to complain of the successors. Mr. Hawthorne himself is an admirable instance of it, from my point of view. Nor is he an isolated instance, as I hope my readers will allow. Both in literature and science, as in statesmanship, in military skill and every kind of superiority, examples of heredity abound. The Drapers, the Agassizs, father and son; the Lowell and Curtis brothers; William Ellery Channing and his son and namesake, whose poetic merit exceeds his fame; Prof. Youmans and his daughter, Eliza Youmans; the three or four generations of Quincys; the Rebles, the Harpers, the Dixes, the Washburnes, the Peabody family; the Appletons, the Lippincotts, the Ticknors, may be cited—some of them as evidences of transmitted capacity for the same kind of work, others for ability more varied and sporadic.

Reference has been made to the descent of Franklin from a Quaker rhymester and to his own early turn for verse-making. It sometimes happens that where a son, a grandson or a nephew succeeds by a different path from that by which the elder generation reached the goal of success, inquiry has revealed the fact that the younger worker has merely returned to the first love of his ancestor. No one thinks of Judge Story as a poet, but when we ask where the artist author of "Cleopatra" learned to pay such acceptable court to the Muses, we are reminded that the great American jurist, like Sir William Blackstone in England, began his career by publishing a volume of poems. Though Audubon's father was an admiral, his boyish bent may have been toward the study of nature. At any rate, he could hardly fail to catch the contagion of an enthusiasm which was shared by the artist naturalist's wife and descended to his sons. Robert Fulton was originally a painter, and in early life supported himself and his mother by his profession. The father of Richard Hoe was by trade a builder; but his more famous son took to the business which was an invention of his brother-in-law, Peter Smith, had suggested to the elder man. He derived his mechanical genius, therefore, from both sides of the house. John Brown, of Ossawatimie, was the grandson of a brave Revolutionary soldier, and could trace his lineage back to one of the passengers of the *Mayflower*. Zachary Taylor, "Old Rough and Ready," as he was nicknamed, had soldier's blood in his veins, his father having served in the struggle for independence. Commodore Wilkes was the fearless nephew of the equally fearless John, who defied all the might and majesty of the official England and won his battle. Ethan Allen, the leader of the "Green Mountain Boys," and Major-General Ira Allen, the historian of Vermont, were brothers. John Randolph, who had so many "noble kinsmen," had untameable Indian blood—the blood of Pocahontas—in his veins. Morgan Lewis, Chief Justice, Major-General, Governor, author and President of the New York Historical Society, was the son of Francis Morgan,

a Welshman, educated at Westminster School, a merchant, a British soldier of recognized distinction, an active patriot, and a Signer of the Declaration of Independence. Robert Edmund Lee was the son of "Legion Harry," whose mother was Mary Bland, the sweetheart of Washington's youth. Richard Henry Lee, who from his seat in Congress proposed the resolution that the American Colonies should be free and independent, was one of five brothers, every one of whom won a niche in America's temple of fame.

If with Mrs. Martha Lamb, the historian of the city of New York, we could enter many "historic homes" of the United States, one by one, and ask of these "departed houses" what report they had to give of those who once tenanted them, or, if we had many of such pedigrees as that of the Griswold family of Connecticut, published in the *Magazine of American History* for April, 1884, what a wealth of revelation in support of the theory of "hereditary genius" in the American Republic would be placed at the disposal of science! Even without such aid I have succeeded in compiling a list of eminent family groups which satisfies me that America is in this respect in no wise behind Great Britain. Of these I have placed a few before the readers of this journal, and I shall consider my labour as well rewarded if I have only indicated to those who have better opportunities for prosecuting it successfully an interesting and not unfruitful path of historic research.

JOHN READE.

GEORGE ELIOT AND GEORGE HENRY LEWES.

THAT Marian Evans, whom the world knows best as "George Eliot," lived for years as the wife of George Henry Lewes, who had besides her a living wife, and that, not long after his death in 1878, she married Mr. Crosse, a rich man much younger than herself, and that soon after her death he put forth a eulogistic biography of her, are facts well enough known in literary history. But this at the best questionable relation between Marian Evans and George Lewes is very gingerly touched upon by those who have treated biographically of the woman. And indeed one may wish that had it been possible that the whole affair might have been suppressed altogether. Mr. Richard A. Proctor, in his periodical entitled *Knowledge*, for August 14, 1885, undertakes to set forth the precise facts in the case of this "union" between Miss Evans and Mr. Lewes. His statement of the facts in the case are called forth by a published assertion to the effect that "George Eliot and Mr. Lewes were somewhat young persons who fell hopelessly in love with each other, and thus tempted disobeyed the laws, moral and social, regulating the relations between the sexes"; and furthermore, that "it was George Eliot, author of 'Adam Bede,' who had set herself up as a teacher, who was the person that thus offended." Mr. Proctor undertakes to set this matter in its true light. He writes: "George Eliot was a middle-aged lady, in delicate health, and of narrow means; not as yet the author of any work which had attracted attention, when she made the acquaintance of Mr. Lewes, then well advanced in middle life, and a valetudinarian." His age was forty; hers a couple of years less. "I need not touch," says Mr. Proctor, "on the unhappy circumstances of Mr. Lewes' married life at that time. Suffice it, that his wife, who had gone off with a man of wretched nature, managed so that a legal quibble prevented him from obtaining a divorce in this country, to which he was morally entitled. It was during this season of affliction that George Eliot's sympathies were excited by the unhappy condition of Mr. Lewes' children. On his side there had been great interest in her literary and philosophical work; and she had recognized the necessity which existed for guidance and sympathy, even though her powers were higher in most respects than his own. That under such circumstances they should decide to seek under the laws of another land the union which a quibble of our divorce laws forbade here [in England] may be regarded as injudicious, regrettable, unfortunate, and so forth; but certainly not as guilty or immoral. The passions had nothing to do with this decision; the interests of others besides George Eliot and Mr. Lewes were thoughtfully considered. And so far as the world is concerned, all the best of George Eliot's writings and a large part of the best of Mr. Lewes' later works, would probably have had no existence had their decision been different. This may seem to some a small matter; weighed indeed against a strictly moral obligation it might well be thought so. But George Eliot and Mr. Lewes offended, if at all, against a legal, not against a moral, obligation; nay, against only a quibble. I have," says Mr. Proctor in conclusion, "diligently cancelled every letter or part of a letter bearing on the private life of George Eliot, including some already in type, and several which expressed very just and kindly views. I wish what I have said myself to be regarded simply as expressing my regret that matters with which none of us have the least concern should have been permitted—accidentally—to appear in these columns. Not another line on the subject from me, or from any one else, shall appear here. George Eliot's philosophy is another matter; and when not touching on dogmatic religion may be freely considered."

THE views on marriage of Dr. Johnson were not romantic. When Boswell said to him: "Pray, sir, do you suppose that there are fifty women in the world with any one of whom a man may be as happy as with any one woman in particular?" Johnson answered: "Ah, sir, fifty thousand." "Then, sir," said Boswell, "you are not of opinion that certain men and certain women are made for each other, and that they cannot be happy if they miss their counterparts?" "To be sure not," replied Johnson. "I believe marriages would in general be as happy, and often more so, if they were all made by the Lord Chancellor, upon a due consideration of the characters and circumstances, without the parties having any choice in the matter."