

YOUNG OLD MEN.

This is pre-eminently the age of "young old men," it has been said by a student of modern England, and it is certainly wonderful as we look around to note how much of the most energetic work in this country is being accomplished by those who have already exceeded the Biblical span.

Lord Stratheona, whose activity in business continues unabated, and whose appetite for hard mental exertion is as insatiable as of old, is 92. Lord Wemyss, though 94, still follows modern politics with all the zest of youth, and is a redoubtable antagonist with his pen.

Dr. Atkinson, the master of Clare College, Cambridge, is 98, and is fast approaching the record of Dr. Routh, the famous president of Magdalen College, Oxford, who lived into his 100th year. Earl Nelson, the Nestor of the House of Lords, is 89.

If there is any slackness in this country it is to be found in the rising generation, not in our old men. Earl Roberts puts our youth to shame by the splendid vigor and persistence of his services in the cause of national defence.

Lord Halsbury, for all his 86 years, is one of the strongest forces in his party; in his green old age his ardor for combat has rather deepened than decreased. Our greatest figure in literature is Thomas Hardy, who at 72 can yet produce poetry that will live.

The contrast with the 18th century is certainly extraordinary. Then, in the days of Pitt and Fox, men were counted old at 40 and sank to valetudinarianism at that age. Now they retain their health and strength and are young at 90. This does not suggest any loss of vigor in the race.—*London Mail*.

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