

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

The author of this memoir of Cowper was born in Reading, Berkshire, England, on August 13th, 1823. He was educated at Eton, and at Christ Church, Oxford, displaying a brilliant and versatile genius, winning in the university the prizes for Latin verse, Latin essay, and English essay. On his graduation in 1845, he was elected fellow of University College, and resided for a short time in Oxford, acting as tutor in the university. He studied law, was admitted to the bar, but never practised. There was far more attraction for him in the political movements of his time and in the study of history, especially the political history of England. When the movement for the reorganization of the Universities took shape in a Royal Commission, Goldwin Smith accepted an assistant-secretaryship, helping the committee so materially that when a second Commission was issued he held the post of secretary.

In 1857 Goldwin Smith was appointed Regius Professor of Modern History in Oxford, lectured with success, while taking an active part in current politics by the contribution of important articles in support of the Liberals. His Liberalism showed itself, as well, in the support he gave the North in the American Civil War and in the aid he lent to the prosecution of General Eyre, who had ruthlessly put down the Jamaica rebellion.

When Mr. Smith came to America on a lecturing tour in 1864, he was received with much enthusiasm. In 1868, Cornell University offered him the chair of English and Constitutional History, which, having resigned his post in Oxford two years before, he accepted, and came to America.