

# Famous Men's Sons Who Have Made Good



GEORGE GOULD AT HIS DESK

BY PAUL DANBY

**H**ELL never amount to anything for a rich man's son. He might, if he have half a chance, but he is overshadowed completely by his father's reputation. Besides, as the son of his father, his head has been turned probably, and he'll never try to cut much of a figure.

Remarks like this, often heard when the son of an eminent man is under discussion, indicate accurately the public attitude toward the youngster whose father has made a name and a place in the world for himself. This is especially true if the father is president of the United States. But the facts do not justify the attitude.

Strictly speaking, only twenty-one presidents' sons, concerning whom there are available records, have grown to manhood. Six presidents—Washington, Madison, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan (a bachelor) and McKinley—left no children. Two—Jefferson and Monroe—left daughters only. President Johnson had two sons, but both died before he was president, and so do not count. The sons of thirteen presidents—John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, Tyler, Taylor, Fillmore, Lincoln, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur and Benjamin Harrison—have lived to man's estate. The sons of Cleveland and Roosevelt are still boys.

Of the twenty-one presidents' sons who have reached manhood, there are but one who have bulked large in the public eye on their own account, and all but one or two have stood well among those who knew them best; have been solid, substantial citizens. The prominent nine are John Quincy Adams, president, diplomat and congressman; Charles Francis Adams, publicist and statesman; Robert Tyler, register of the Confederate treasury; Richard Taylor, who served with distinguished gallantry on the Confederate side of the Civil war; John Van Buren, prominent in state politics and just entering national politics when he died; Robert Todd Lincoln, cabinet minister, diplomat and president of a world famous corporation; Frederick Dent Grant, diplomat and general in the army; Henry A. Garfield, lawyer, banker and professor of politics in a great university, and James R. Garfield, state senator, United States civil service commissioner and commissioner of corporations in the department of commerce and labor.

Besides the nine who have climbed so high there is John Scott Harrison, who had the unique distinction of being the son of one president and father of another. He was a man of force and with great influence in his own state, though he was not a prominent figure in a national sense. Counting him in, and he surely "made good," ten, or only one less than half the presidents' sons who have reached manhood are entitled to be named on the roll of honor.

### The Greatest President's Son

Unquestionably, John Quincy Adams was the greatest president's son. Even when a boy he was the closest friend and companion of his eminent father, with whom he went to France at the age of 11. At 13 he taught English to De La Luzerne, a French ambassador. Soon afterward he went to Holland with his father and set the Dutch on fire with the knowledge he displayed of Bevarian antiquities. At 15 he was secretary to his father in Russia. He was graduated from Harvard at 21, studied law and practiced it awhile, but soon entered public life. He served as minister to Portugal and afterward to Prussia. Recalled because of political changes, he entered the state legislature and later the house of representatives. He was inaugurated president in 1825, and is the only president who ever sat in congress after the close of his term as chief magistrate. His whole life was one of great usefulness to his country, yet as he tried to lay out a middle course between the conservatism of the old regime and the radicalism of the new, he was at times condemned impartially by almost everybody. Possibly his greatest services were rendered in the negotiation of treaties in the ten years from 1809 to 1819, when the United States was new and stood in need of a great treaty-maker.

Charles Francis Adams, son of John Quincy, a lawyer by profession, was a member of the Massachusetts legislature and the national congress, minister to England, member of the Geneva tribunal in 1871-72, and ran for president on the Free Soil ticket in 1848. His son, Charles Francis, was a soldier in the Civil war, coming out a brigadier general and later was president of the Union Pacific railroad.

Sons of Van Buren and W. H. Harrison. There are some who would object to the admission of John Van Buren's name to the list of presidents' sons who have made good, and it is not so many years since his career was the subject of frequent newspaper discussion. It is true that he was a bon vivant and something of a man about town. Also, he was somewhat swept off his feet by the adulation he received as his father's son, long being known derisively as "Prince John." But later he entered upon a serious political career, and being a highly effective speaker, soon made himself a power in New York. Had he not been suddenly cut off while at sea he would surely have made himself felt in national affairs.

John Scott Harrison served two terms in congress, but the one cir-



(DODGING BEHIND A TREE THAT HIS FATHER SHOULD NOT SEE HIM)

cumstance that made his name best known to the country at large occurred after his death. Soon after his burial, his son, Benjamin Harrison, later to be president of the United States, went to Cincinnati to search the premises of a medical college there for the body of a neighbor that had been stolen from a cemetery at North Bend. At Mr. Harrison's demand the janitor showed the cadavers awaiting dissection. The first one raised from the well was the corpse of his father, John Scott Harrison, his naked body and snow-white hair bedabbled with blood.

### These Two Were Confederates

The name of Robert Tyler is not well remembered now, but he was a man of marked ability in many ways. He wrote very well, but preferred the law to literature, and, after his admission to the bar, settled in Philadelphia where he established a fine practice in the days when to be a "Philadelphia lawyer" meant a great deal. When the Civil war broke out he went South, became register of the treasury at Richmond and went down with the Confederacy. He lived till 1877, but was never able to recover his place in the world. His brother, Maj. John Tyler, had a variegated career as soldier, politician and writer, but he was not such a public figure as Robert.

Richard Taylor, "Dick," as he was known the country over during and long after his father's presidential service, was a true chip of the old block. He was born in New Orleans, educated in Scotland and France and passed through the Mexican war with his father, who was then identified as a daring general officer. At Palo Alto and Resaca the youngster attained to something like fame because of his own dashing gallantry. After winning considerable prominence in civil life, he went into the Confederate service as the breaking out of the Civil war as colonel. He fought in the early Virginia campaigns, was then appointed major general of the Trans-Mississippi, and in 1864 was made lieutenant general. It was too late then to do much, though more than one Northern general officer had reason to remember him. Like Robert Tyler, "Dick" Taylor was not able to rejuvenate himself after the close of the war.

President Pierce's only son was killed when a lad in a railroad accident. Millard P. Fillmore never rose to prominence, though for many years he was clerk of the United States court at Buffalo, and died a rich man, the contest over his will having only lately been closed.

### Robert Todd Lincoln and Frederick Dent Grant

President Lincoln's surviving son, Robert Todd Lincoln, "Ted," his father's idol in Civil war days, died when only a boy—has won higher honors than fall to the lot of many men in the law, in the public service and in business.

His mother wanted him to go to

West Point, win distinction as a general and then be president, like his father. The young man didn't like the programme; neither did his father, and though, at Mrs. Lincoln's request, he served for a time on Gen. Grant's staff as captain, he finally carried his point and went to Harvard, where he studied law. He was twenty-two when his father was shot, and soon afterward went to Chicago, where he speedily built up a practice in chancery and other cases involving careful search and profound knowledge of land titles. The destruction of a large portion of the real estate records of the city in the big fire made such a practice very valuable, and he had an exceptionally good income for years before he was made secretary of war by President Garfield in 1881. He returned to the practice of law when Cleveland assumed the presidential chair, but in 1889 was made minister to England by President Harrison. After his return to America he became identified with the Pullman Palace Car company; on Mr. Pullman's death he was made president of the corporation, and now, at sixty-one, is a great capitalist.

Of President Grant's sons, the eldest, Gen. Frederick Dent Grant, is now in command of the department of the East at Governor's Island. Ulysses S. Grant spends some of his time near Purdy Station, N. Y., where he has a farm and where he says he would rather "sit on the fence and whittle in the sunshine than be the emperor of the whole earth." He spends much time, too, in California, and Jesse R. Grant, the third brother, also lives in the Golden State. Like Ulysses S., he has never made a prominent place for himself. But both have always been solid, reliable citizens, a credit alike to themselves and their countrymen.

The sons of President Hayes are all

engaged in the law business. Webb C., who attained brief prominence as a volunteer captain in the Spanish war, is located in Cleveland; R. B. Hayes is a citizen of Asheville, N. C.; Burchard is in Toledo, and Scott A. is in Pittsburgh. Neither Alan Arthur nor Russell B. Harrison has ever essayed to shine in public life.

### Sons of a Martyred President

Two of Garfield's sons have made good and there is time for the other two to forge to the front. Henry Abram Garfield, the eldest, is now professor of politics at Princeton, where he succeeded John H. Finley, the first incumbent. Although it is an honorable thing to be professor of politics at a great university, his acceptance of the chair was a surprise to many of his friends and admirers, for he had had many opportunities to enter public life, and had made both reputation and wealth at the practice of his profession, the law, and as a banker, being president of a big trust company and connected with several other financial institutions in Cleveland.

In 1902 he was offered a place as national civil service commissioner by President Roosevelt, but declined it; the post was then given to his brother, James Rudolph Garfield, who still holds it. This young man—he is still under 40—seems to have inherited the political tendencies of his father. He has been a senator in the Ohio legislature and was the author of a particularly stringent election law, which possibly was the cause of his defeat when he sought the nomination for congress from his father's old district. He still cherishes the ambition to serve the district in the house as his father did before him. He is now commissioner of corporations in the department of labor and commerce.

Irvin McDowell Garfield, the third

son, is a lawyer in Boston. Abram, the fourth son, "the baby of the White house," when his father was president, is of a scientific and practical turn of mind. He was educated at the Boston School of Technology and may be heard from by and by.

### Sons of Congressmen

It would be hard to find any other class of prominent Americans whose sons have done as well as those of the presidents. Certainly, no such proportion of the sons of eminent senators and representatives in congress have won distinction.

Simon Cameron's son, Don Cameron, succeeded his father as the political prime of Pennsylvania. Blaine's son, Walker, would have made a noteworthy place for himself probably if he had lived. Senator Hearst's son has won great prominence in the newspaper world, is a congressman, and has had the distinction of being a candidate before the convention for the nomination to presidential honors.

The first Bayard to sit in the senate from Delaware, James W., was succeeded by his sons, James A. and Richard H. The latter's grandson, Norman F., was also a senator for many years. The Stockton family of New Jersey furnished five senators, the term of the first, Richard, who was one of the "signers," being preceded by service in the Continental congress, and the term of the last, John P., concluding in 1875. The Frelinghuysens, also of New Jersey, gave three senators to the country; the Colquitts, of Georgia, as many, and members of all four of these families have served in other ways with distinction, though no member of any of them is now in public service. The son of the late Speaker Crisp has done better than any other speaker's son, having succeeded his father in congress. Uncle Joe Cannon has no son, neither has Thomas Brackett Reed. Col. Henderson's son has not made an appearance in public life.

Of the captains of transportation who created America's great lines of rail in the second half of the nineteenth century, Jay Gould and Commodore Vanderbilt only left sons who have been able to hold up their end. Whether William H. Vanderbilt, son of "Commodore" Cornelius, would have shown force enough to make his way unaided by his father's money is a moot question. His father appeared to have little faith in him, and for years after William H. was a full-grown man, he kept him on the farm. Yet when the Commodore died, and William H., then fifty-five years old, was left in charge of the property, he speedily made good. He had only nine years of control, for he died at sixty-four in 1885, but in the nine years he increased the Vanderbilt fortunes from \$100,000,000 to at least double that vast sum.

### Vanderbilt Sons

It was while William H. and his family were living on the Staten Island farm that Cornelius the second showed what stuff he was made of. Though his grandfather was one of the richest



CORNELIUS THE THIRD TOOK A COURSE IN PERSONAL LOCOMOTIVE FIRING

### PRESIDENTS' SONS OF UNUSUAL DISTINCTION

1. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, Congressman, Diplomat and President.
2. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, Diplomat and Congressman.
3. "PRINCE" JOHN VAN BUREN, Orator and Politician.
4. JOHN S. HARRISON, Son of One President, Father of Another.
5. ROBERT TYLER, Register of the Confederate Treasury.
6. RICHARD TAYLOR, Lieut. General in the Confederate Army.
7. RICHARD TODD LINCOLN, Cabinet Minister, Diplomat, Captain of Industry.
8. FREDERICK DENT GRANT, Diplomat and Soldier.
9. HENRY A. GARFIELD, University Professor.
10. JAMES R. GARFIELD, Civil Service Commissioner.

men in the country, young Cornelius still in his teens, knew that his father was short of funds. So one day he crossed the ferry from Staten Island to Manhattan and applied for a job as a clerk in one of the banks. He had some difficulty in reaching the president of the institution, but persisted and was finally led into his presence. After listening to the application the banker asked the lad's name.

"Cornelius Vanderbilt," was the reply. "Possibly related to Commodore Vanderbilt?" questioned the banker somewhat quizzically, whereupon the boy said he was a grandson of the famous railroad magnate. The banker, who had wanted to be employed, if at all, on his own merits, and not because he had a grandfather, he was taken on and made good as a bank clerk. Later when his grandfather heard about it and asked the young man to accept a minor place in the offices of the New York & Harlem railroad at \$2,200 a year, he made good there, too.

William K. Vanderbilt and his son, "Willie K.," also the sons of Cornelius the second, are all prominently before the world, but only Cornelius the second made good on his own initiative, though the abilities of William K.—both initiative and executive—are of a very high order.

Cornelius the third, whose invention of an improved locomotive firebox, made some stir in the railroad world a few years ago, is the only member of the fourth generation of Vanderbilts who have ever seemed to take life seriously, and even he appears to have dropped out of the running, being now inclined to live chiefly for the pleasure of an amusement. It is likely, though, that he is one of those who would have made good with the "half a chance" that is supposed to be the portion of the youngster born with plenty of ambition but no money. When he was planning his firebox he showed energy and pluck enough to take a personal course at stoking a locomotive, just to see how steam was kept up and to find out how improvements might be made.

### Goulds, Belmonts, "Jack" Morgan

None of Jay Gould's four sons—George, Edwin, Howard or Frank—has made a failure, but only one, George, has attained to anything like the fortune of his father. It is likely, though, that he is one of those who would have made good with the "half a chance" that is supposed to be the portion of the youngster born with plenty of ambition but no money. When he was planning his firebox he showed energy and pluck enough to take a personal course at stoking a locomotive, just to see how steam was kept up and to find out how improvements might be made.

J. P. Morgan Jr.—"Jack"—promises to become a fine example of the successful son of a great financial magnate, but it is yet too early to set him down as an unqualified success. John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Harry Payne Whitney, son of William C. Whitney, are practically in the same class. As all three of these young men have the advantage of vast wealth and almost boundless prestige behind them, however, enough success to keep them permanently in the public eye is virtually assured to them.

The Belmonts are very generally familiar as the prominent sons of a prominent man, but only one of them, Augustus W. Belmont, son of Augustus W. Belmont, James Gordon Bennett, of the New York Herald, is one of the few great newspaper men's sons who have carried along their father's life work with credit. This he has done certainly. His paper was great in the elder Bennett's time, and it still holds its place.

Many governors of states have left behind them sons who are as great as

### HOW THE SHELLS FALL IN PORT ARTHUR



Diagram Showing the Comparative Danger From a 12-inch Gun at Various Ranges

their sires, though not many of them have chosen politics for their field. Richard Yates, son of the great "war governor" of Illinois, is an exception. He also served Illinois as governor, his inauguration coming some thirty years later than his father's. The Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, rector of Trinity church, bishop over an episcopate, is the son of that New York governor, John A. Dix, who said: "If any man attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot!"

Bishop Potter, of New York, is the son of one bishop and the nephew of another. Dr. Lyman Abbott, editor and divine, is the son of Jacob Abbott, the historian and member of a New England family that has made good for generations. Peter Cooper Hewitt, son of Abram S. Hewitt, publicist and captain of industry, has made good at thirty; thereabouts most remarkably in the yet infant service of electricity. He bids fair to enroll his name on the list of inventors along with Watt and Morse and Edison, and Tesla. Ambassador McCormick, whose name has been in the forefront a good deal of late because of his delicate position at the Russian court, is a son of one of the McCormicks made famous by his reaper.

Alexander Agassiz, son of Louis Agassiz, the scientist, has made good in more than one way. Because he knew his geology so well, he has made a big fortune in copper, and this has enabled him to prosecute his scientific researches with absolute independence. Though not all scientists are—most, though not all scientists are—their own mind of their own fame, and the other day when Andrew Carnegie offered to give him the expense of the latest Agassiz expedition, on condition that it should be known as the Carnegie-Agassiz expedition, he declined the offer with spirit and finality.

Though most of the famous men's sons who have made good have done so along lines similar or akin to those marked for success by their fathers, others have followed lines entirely new to the family genius. Oliver Wendell Holmes, the son of the "Autocrat of the Breakfast table" is a case in point. His father devoted himself to medicine and literature; the son preferred law, and by reason of his legal acumen and profound knowledge has been made a member of the supreme court of the United States.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, eminent physician and novelist, belongs to both classes. His father was a famous physician in his day, and the son was divided for a time between medicine and literature. Finally he determined to work for success with one eye single to literature, and, curiously enough, was Oliver Wendell Holmes, the poet-physician, who induced the young man to do so.

"You cannot win success in both," said Holmes to him one day when breakfasting at the Mitchell home in Philadelphia, apparently forgetting his own case. "Win in one, or the other first, medicine preferred. After you have won, take to literature and win in that." Weir Mitchell took the poet's advice, made himself one of the world's greatest nerve specialists, and then at fifty set out to win in literature.

To mention the sons of American military and naval heroes who have made good and tell how they have done it would fill pages of newspaper space. Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, the son of Commodore Sydney Smith Lee, Lieut. Gen. Wenden Phillips, the son of Lieut. Cushing, son of the Cushing who distinguished himself in the Civil war, are among them, and the army and navy registers are full of the names of names as Rowan, Perry, Winslow and Crowninshield that recall the deeds of fathers and forefathers which shine with imperishable light on the pages of our national history.

It is worth noting that many of the successful sons of great Americans have had in their youth the equivalent of the training that comes to the young man without money or influence who sets out to win. When, as told above, the lad Fred Grant was with his father before Vicksburg, he endured hunger, thirst and all the discomforts that come to men in the ranks. Though forbidden on one occasion to leave the comparative safety of a gunboat on the Mississippi river, near the Grand Gulf, he slipped ashore on pretense of chasing a rabbit, followed the sound of the guns and watched the battle well within range of the Confederate shot and shell, dodging behind a tree that his father should not see him when the general rode up.

George Gould never went out and got a job as Cornelius the Second had, but he was made his father's assistant when only seventeen or eighteen, and had to work harder than any clerk. He learned telegraphy then and sat at his desk in his shirt sleeves, a habit which he has never given up. Young Rockefeller had to work, too, going into his father's office as soon as he was out of college and plugging away for dear life hours and hours every day. Tom Morgan had to work, too, both at Annapolis and West Point, as the sons of the most obscure citizen in the land.