

THE NATIONAL  
CYCLOPÆDIA OF AMERICAN  
BIOGRAPHY

BEING THE

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIVES OF THE FOUNDERS, BUILDERS, AND DEFENDERS  
OF THE REPUBLIC, AND OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE  
DOING THE WORK AND MOULDING THE  
THOUGHT OF THE PRE-  
SENT TIME

EDITED BY

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REVISED AND APPROVED BY THE MOST EMINENT HISTORIANS, SCHOLARS, AND  
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the Hopkins Grammar School in New Haven and then entered Yale, in the autumn of 1867. During his college course he stood well as a scholar, took an active interest in athletics, was universally popular, and was honored by election to the Delta Kappa Epsilon and Skull and Bones societies. He was graduated in 1871 and immediately went into journalism on the staff of the New Haven "Daily Palladium." After a year's service in the U. S. navy as fleet paymaster's clerk, in 1876 he accepted a position in Japan as instructor in the government school at Tokio. Returning to America in 1878, he became editor of the New Haven "Morning Journal and Courier," but soon exchanged his position for that of Washington correspondent of the New York "Evening Post," remaining in the national capital until 1885, when he returned to New York and became editor of the "Dry Goods Economist." In 1894 he became the publisher of the New York "Evangelist," and as such personally conducted a party of American Presbyterians through Great Britain and the Continent, the object being to visit and fraternize with Presbyterians abroad and to study on the spot the historic development of the Presbyterian church. In 1897 he started and now edits "The Church Economist." In addition to occasional contributions to periodical literature, Mr. Elliot has written two novels: "The Bassett Claim" (1885), which had an extensive sale, and "The Common Chord" (1887). As the assistant secretary of the American Copyright League, he took an active part in securing the present International Copyright Act. He is an elder in the West End Presbyterian Church, New York city. In 1887 he was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Judge Thomas J. Johnston, of Washington, D. C., and had one daughter, Gabrielle. He died in New York, Apr. 19, 1906.

**DOWLING, John**, clergyman, was born at Pevensey, on the sea coast of Sussex, England, May 12, 1807. His birthplace is interesting as having been the landing-place of William the Conqueror in 1066. The ivy-covered walls of Pevensey castle, where the soldiers of King William took refuge, overhang the birthplace of John Dowling; and even in the days of the conquest, it was an ancient ruin of Roman origin. Dr. Dowling's parents and ancestors were zealous in their adherence to the established church of England. He was a studious youth. At an early age he removed to London, where, at seventeen years of age, he joined the Eagle Street Baptist Church, under the



pastorship of Rev. Joseph Ivimey, the historian of the English Baptists. In his nineteenth year he became instructor in the Latin language and literature at the Clapham Rise Classical Institute, in the vicinity of London, and at twenty-one taught Greek, Hebrew, Latin and French in a similar institution in Buckinghamshire, under the care of Rev. Ebenezer West. Dr. Dowling started a classical boarding-school in Oxfordshire in 1829, which was a prosperous institution; but, with the view of removing to America, he disposed of it three years later. Soon after the arrival of himself and family in the United States he accepted a call to the Baptist church at Catskill, where he was ordained, Nov. 14, 1832. Later, in August, 1836, he was installed pastor of the Baptist congregation worshipping in the Gothic Masonic Hall, New York; also he preached for two or three years in the Broadway Baptist Church, in Hope Chapel, and for a time was at a church in Providence. During 1844-52 he was pastor of the Berean Baptist Church in Bedford

street, New York. He then accepted a call to a church in Philadelphia, remaining, however, but a short time, as he resumed his connection with the Bedford street church at their unanimous request. After many years of acceptable service, he was pastor for a few years in a Newark church; but finally became settled as the pastor of the South Baptist Church, New York. Dr. Dowling was the author of "Exposition of the Prophecies" (1840); "Defense of the Protestant Scriptures" (1843); "History of Romanism" (1845); "Power of Illustration"; "Nights and Mornings"; "Judson Offering" and "Defense of the Baptists," besides contributing extensively to the periodical literature of the day and editing several important theological treatises. Brown University conferred upon him the degree of A.M., in 1834, and Transylvania University, the degree of D.D. in 1846. Dr. Dowling had a well-trained mind, a strong, inflexible character, and was a man of large heart and broad sympathies toward all forms of orthodox religion. His "History of Romanism" enjoyed an immense popularity, over 30,000 copies having been sold within ten years from its publication. He died at Middletown, N. Y., July 4, 1878.

**GOWER, Frederick Allan**, scientist, was born in Sedgwick, Me., July 25, 1851, son of Harrison Bartlett and Maria Susan (Dix) Gower. His father was a Baptist clergyman and editor in connection with the American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia. He died in 1859, leaving to his widow the care of supporting their three sons. Before her marriage, Mrs. Gower had been a teacher, and she now resumed her former profession, becoming principal of the Ladies' Collegiate Institute in Worcester, Mass.; and while there sent her children to the public schools of the city. When Frederick was ten years old he spent a year in the well-known Abbot school in Farmington, Me., after which his mother became a teacher in the Fountain Street Grammar School in Providence. While preparing here to enter college he was useful in assisting his mother in her duties, and thus early developed an industrious and self-reliant disposition. In 1869 he entered Brown University, but left the next year to engage in the lumber business with his uncle, George D. Gower, of New Haven. He also studied six months, intending to complete his college course at Yale, but pecuniary resources failing him, he returned to Providence in 1873, and was for the following three years connected as reporter and afterwards as editor with the "Evening Press." Being a member of the lecture committee of the Franklin Lyceum, it devolved upon him to secure popular lecturers, and this occasioned his first meeting with Prof. Bell, whom he engaged to give an experimental lecture on the telephone, then but recently invented. The result of this chance meeting was that Mr. Gower abandoned journalism and joined the professor in his lectures, and his subsequent effort to introduce the telephone. During that period he invented the "telephone harp," an instrument for producing loud effects upon the lecture platform; and this invention gained for him an introduction to the scientists of England, where he went, in 1878, to look after his interests in the Bell patent. In the same year he went to Paris and engaged with Cornelius Roosevelt, of New York, in introducing the Bell telephone in France; but soon invented one himself. At the end of two years he had succeeded in establishing a company with a monopoly of the telephone business throughout France, and using mainly the Gower instrument, which he brought out in that country. Severe tests of his telephone were made in Great Britain by prominent scientific men, government officers and committees of the army and navy, and the result was a complete recognition of its merits and its adoption in preference to all others. The Gower-

Bell Telephone Co., of England, was speedily organized, and large contracts given to Mr. Gower, so that he soon reaped a very ample harvest from his labors. In recognition of his scientific achievements he was elected to the Royal Institution of Great Britain. In 1883 he was married, in London, England, to Lillian Norton, known as Mme. Nordica, the opera singer. In 1884 he lost his life while attempting to cross from Cherbourg, France, to England, in a balloon.

**DÖME, Lillian (Norton)**, opera singer, better known as Mme. Nordica, was born in Farmington, Franklin co., Me., Dec. 12, 1859, daughter of Edwin and Amanda (Allen) Norton, and is of the best New England stock. When she was five years of age her parents removed to Boston, and when she was fifteen she entered the New England Conservatory of Music to study voice culture under John O'Neil. She developed a soprano voice of great purity, and at the age of eighteen was graduated with high honors. Meanwhile she had sung in choirs and concerts. On leaving the conservatory she sang with the Händel and Haydn Society, taking the leading part in the "Messiah" and other oratorios. The singer Tietjens, hearing Miss Norton, introduced her to Madame Maretzek, under whom she studied some months. In 1878 she went to Europe with Gilmore's band, and while there sang at the Crystal Palace, near London, and at the Trocadero in Paris. She confined herself to classical music, and her success in it was so flattering that she decided to remain in Europe and to attempt an operatic career. Accordingly, she settled in Milan to become a pupil of Sangiovanni, and in six months' time mastered ten operas. She made her début at Brescia in "La Traviata"; her stage name, Giglia Nordica, being her own Italianized. In October, 1880, she sang the part of Marguerite in fifteen performances of "Faust," and next appeared at Novara as Alice in "Roberto." At Aquila, Italy, she appeared in thirty-five performances, the operas being "Faust," "Rigoletto" and "Lucia." At St. Petersburg, the next city visited, she achieved her first marked triumph as Filina in "Mignon," meeting with great favor also in other parts, such as Inez in "L' Africaine," Cherubino in "Le Nozze di Figaro," Berta in "Le Prophète," Zerlina in "Don Giovanni," and Queen Marguerite in "Les Huguenots." In 1881 she went to Paris and sang before Ambrose Thomas and the impresario, Vancorbeil, who engaged her for the Grand Opera House. After a tour in Italy, she made her début in Paris in 1882, appearing as Marguerite in "Faust." In spite of the *claque* her triumph was complete, her voice being especially admired in the trio in the fifth act. Her American accent was remarked upon, but was conceded to give a piquancy to her tone, and her acting was considered to be equal to her singing. At the close of this engagement she was secured by Col. Mapleson, under whose management she made a tour in the United States and appeared at the Academy of Music, New York city. In 1887 she met with great favor in Berlin, a city not usually predisposed in favor of American singers, and shortly after sang in Drury Lane Theatre, London. She became a great favorite with the public; sang at a state concert at Buckingham Palace, receiving the personal thanks of the prince and princess of Wales, and was commanded by the queen to sing in Westminster Abbey, the selection being "Let the Bright Seraphim." Nordica gradually took up Wagnerian rôles, and in 1894 appeared at Bayreuth, singing the part of Elsa in "Lohengrin." She visited the United States several times as a member of the Abbey, Schoeffel & Grau Co., her name appearing with those of Calvé, Melba, Eames, Plançon and the de Reszkes. The part of Elsa in "Lohengrin" was one in which

she was greatly admired. Of her impersonation of Isolde, the musical critic, H. E. Krehbiel, wrote as follows: "Let one fact be pondered: 'Tristan und Isolde' was sung in tune throughout. Never before have we had a Tristan able to sing the declamatory music of the first and last acts with correct intonation, to say nothing of the duet of the second act. Never since Madame Lehmann left us have we had an Isolde capable of the same feat. But Mme. Nordica and M. de Reszke not only sang in tune; they gave the text with a distinctness of enunciation and a truthfulness of expression that enabled those familiar with the German tongue to follow the play and appreciate its dramatic value and even its philosophical purport. It was wonderful how Mme.

Nordica rose to the opportunity which Wagner's drama opened to her. The greater the demand the larger her capacity. In the climaxes of the first act, in which Isolde rages like a tempest, her voice rang out with thrilling clearness, power and brilliancy and forced upon all a recognition of the lesson which Walthar teaches Hans Sachs at the song-meeting in St. Catherine's Church—that ability comes with willingness and desire." In 1897 Mme. Nordica left the company and made a concert tour through the United States, supported by Madame Scalchi and Barron Berthold, a young tenor. She soon returned to the opera stage, however, and in New York and afterward in London sang the part of Isolde; Jean de Reszke taking the part of Tristan. During the season of 1898-99, in New York city, she appeared in Grau's company with Lehmann, Eames, the de Reszkes, Mantelli and Van Dyck, both in Italian and in German opera. Her Isolde and Brünnhilde were declared by more than one critic to stand the test of contrast with Mme. Lehmann's magnificent portrayal of those heroines. Mme. Nordica has about forty operas in her repertoire. She has received decorations from H. R. H. the duke of Edinburgh and H. R. H. the duke of Saxe Coburg and Gotha; also the title of royal chamber singer; while the queen of England presented her with a brooch composed of pearls, emeralds and diamonds. In 1896 she was presented by the stockholders of the Metropolitan Opera House with a magnificent diamond tiara. She was married, in London, in 1883, to Frederick A. Gower, of the Gower-Bell Telephone Co., a native of Maine. In 1884 Mr. Gower made a balloon ascension from Cherbourg, France, intending to cross the English channel. The balloon was found but the aeronaut was never seen again. In 1896 she became the wife of a Hungarian officer, Zoltan Döme, the wedding taking place in Indianapolis, where she was singing.



**LYMAN, Benjamin Smith**, geologist, was born at Northampton, Mass., Dec. 11, 1835, son of Judge Samuel Fowler Lyman and grandson of Judge Joseph Lyman. The latter was a son of Capt. Joseph Lyman, a revolutionary soldier, and descendant of Richard Lyman, who came from England in 1631, and was one of the first settlers of Northampton. Benjamin Smith Lyman was also grandson of Benjamin Smith, a leading citizen of Hatfield, Mass., who was brother to Oliver Smith, the founder