the genius of her son, who warmly returned her affection.* Schiller inherited his mother's nature, closely resembling her in face, form, and temperament. He had the same tall and stender figure the same light hair and weak eyes, the same broad forehead and melancholy expression of countenance. The mother, like her son, was pious, earnest, and enthusiastic, had a keen relish of the beauties of nature, and was passionately fond of music and poetry. But Schiller's father also was a man of singular probity and excellence of character, and in the midst of difficulties held on his way as a diligent cultivator of philosophy and science. Goethe, too, exhibited in his character the mingled excellence of both his parents. "I inherited from my father," he said, "a certain sort of eloquence calculated to enforce my doctrines on my auditors, and from my mother I derived the fancy of representing all that imagination can conceive, with energy and vivacity." She was a woman of strong good sense, brimful of affection, a charming letter-writer, and in all respects a most estimable woman. An enthusiastic admirer of her son, after a lengthened interview with her, said: "Now do I understand how Goethe has become the man that he is."

Burns, the poet, inherited his intellectual qualities from his father—an excellent man, full of good sense, and manly in character. Burns acknowledged that he was indebted to him for whatever wisdom he possessed. "I have met," he adds, "with but few who have understood men, their manners and their ways, equal to him." Burns resembled him also in his irritable and melancholy temperament, which cast so heavy a shadow upon his own life But he also resembled his mother who is described as "a very sagacious woman." Like the mother of Scott, she early kindled the genius of her son by reciting to him the ancient ballads of his country. And thus the boy's poetic nature was nurtured and expanded through the influence of parental example and affection.

* Moore, in his *Life of Byron*, says: "In many instances, the mothers of illustrious poets have had reason to be proud no less of the affection than of the glory of their sons; and Tasso, Pope, Gray, and Cowper are among these memorable examples of filial tenderness. In the lesser poems of Tasso, there are few things so beautiful as his description, in the "Canzone to the Metauro," of his first parting with his mother:—

"Me dal sen dalla madre empia fortuna
Pargoletto divelse," etc.

John Wesley was equally well endowed by his father and mother. The Wesleys* were a staunch, self-reliant, persevering breed of men. For four generations at least, various members of the family were eminent as ministers and clergymen, and stout vindicators of the rights of conscience. The Rev. Bartholomew Wesley, the great-great-grandfather of John Wesley, was Nonconformist minister at Charnmouth, near Lyme, in the time of the Commonwealth. He continued staunch to his principles, and was ejected from his living at the Restoration, and died shortly after. His son, the Rev. John Wesley, M. A., was an eminent oriental scholar. He was appointed vicar of Winterborne, Whitechurch, Dorset; and was also, like his father, ejected from his living at the Restoration. He had been frequently imprisoned, as well as fined; nevertheless he continued to preach; but after his last imprisonment he died at the early age of thirty-four. The Rev. Samuel Wesley, son of the martyr and of his wife, a niece of the Rev. Thomas Fuller, the Church historian, was the father of John and Charles Wesley, founders of the Methodist

* It is said that the blood of the Wellesleys runs in the Wesley veins. Garret Wellesley, Esq., of Dungannon, T. P. for Meath, considering the Wesleys to be of his family, offered to make Charles John Wesley's brother, his heir, provided he would go over and settle in Ireland and relinquish his intention of going to Oxford. The offer was not accepted, and Mr. Wellesley left his property and his name to his cousin, Richard Colley, afterwards created Baron Mornington, father of the first Earl of Mornington and grandfather of the first Duke of Wellington.

connection. Samuel Wesley was a man of vigorous mind and strong convictions. He went to Oxford with a few pounds in his pocket, entered himself at Exeter College as a sizar or servitor, obtained a scholarship, and got upon the foundation. He worked his way to a B. A., proceeded to London and was ordained. He served as a curate in London for a year; then as chaplain on board a man-of-war for another year; and after two more years' service as a London curate, he was appointed to the small living of South Ormsby in Lincolnshire. When James II. published his Order in Council commanding his Declaration for Liberty of Conscience to be read in all the churches Wesley was urged to support the measures of the court and to comply with the King's order; but he not only refused to read the royal Declaration, but preached a sermon against it, before an audience composed partly of courtiers, soldiers, and informers. The Revolution of 1688 took place, and he both spoke and wrote in support of the new order of things. In 1693 he was appointed to the living of Epworth in Lincolnshire, and it was in the parish parsonage that John Wesley was born.

Wesley's mother was also a remarkable woman. She was the daughter of another Nonconformist minister, who had been ejected at the Restoration—the eminent Dr. Samuel Annesley, a near relation of the Irish Earl of Anglesey. Like her husband she also chose her own path in religion, and after conscientious inquiry she left the Dissenters and joined the Church. She was a woman of strong convictions in politics as well as religion, and being an adherent of the Stuarts, she declined to say Amen to the prayer for King William, which occasioned the temporary alienation of her husband, who supported the Revolution of 1688. She was an exemplary and devoted mother, and trained her children (of whom there were nineteen in all) in the ways of honesty, virtue, and goodness. During her

husband's absences at Convocation, there being no afternoon service on Sundays, she prayed with her family at home, read a sermon, and afterwards engaged with them in religious conversation. The parishioners sought to be allowed to attend these meetings, and at last Mrs. Wesley consented. But more persons came than her largest apartment could hold. The matter was represented to her husband during his absence, in such a light that he wrote home, requesting her to desist from such assemblages, or at all events to obtain some recognized canonical person to read for her. She replied to his letter, vindicating her conduct in such a frank, sincere, and sensible way, that he offered no further objection to her Sunday readings and conversations. Such was the mother of the Wesleys; and there can be little doubt that her teaching and example exercised no slight influence upon the character of her sons. Southey, in his *Life of Wesley*, says, "John and Charles were at this time under their mother's care; she devoted such a proportion of time as she could afford to discourse with each child by itself, on one night of the week, upon the duties and the hopes of Christianity; and it may well be believed that these circumstances of their childhood had no inconsiderable influence upon their proceedings when they became the founders and directors of a new community of Christians."*

But although these and other instances might be cited to show that capacity and talent and character descend from father and mother, or from the mother alone, the cases are still more numerous where they are transmitted directly through the male line. "Like father like son" is an old maxim. The same features, as well as the same talents, are sometimes handed down for centuries. A singular statement was made in the *Times* by the late

*Southey, *Life of Wesley* (edition 1864), p. 13.

Mr. Tom Taylor, in his notice of a portrait of John Wycliffe in the possession of the Earl of Denbigh. Mr. Taylor says: "it is a curious incidental verification of the head, that a Yorkshire clergyman still living, one of the sons of the last Wycliffe of Gales, was accosted in Geneva by a German who had devoted himself to the study of Wycliffe's works and history; and asked whether he was any relation to the celebrated English reformer." The German was greatly delighted when he learnt the story of the Yorkshireman's descent. The transmission of a family face might also be illustrated by a comparison of the features of the first Lord Shaftesbury with those of the seventh Lord Shaftesbury, the distinguished philanthropist.

But we have already referred to the curious resemblances of faces and features in the portrait galleries of ancient families. Take, however, the descent of talents and artistic qualities—in painters as well as musicians. Raphael's father was a painter of merit, and the first teacher of his still more distinguished son. Titian's brother, son, and grandson, were all artists of merit. There were three Bellinis, Venetian artists, the father and two sons, of whom Giovanni, the second son of Jacopo, was by far the most eminent. The Sangallos were a family of Italian artists and architects, of whom four achieved high reputation. The three Caraccis, kinsmen, were amongst the greatest painters of Italy. Niccolo Abati, the celebrated Italian fresco painter, had a brother distinguished as a horse and battle painter, and his son and grandson were both artists of ability. The five Bassanos, father and four sons, were all painters of reputation. Canova's father worked in marble, and was also a sculptor.

It has been the same in France. The three sons of Jacob Sigisbert Adam, of Nancy, like their father, were all eminent sculptors in the early part of last century. So were the four Coustous,—Antoine Coysevox, and his two

nephews, Nicolas and Guillaume, while Guillaume the younger, son of the last, carried off the grand prize of the Academy. The Basires were a family of engravers, who handed down the art to sons and grandsons. The Picarts were another family of engravers, of whom Bernard, the last, was the most distinguished. There were four Vernets, all painters,—father, son, grandson, and great grandson. The first flourished at the beginning of last century, and last within our own time.

The same artistic lineage is traceable in the Low Countries. Thus Cuyp and Paul Potter were both the sons of painters. The younger Matsys had for his father Quentin Matsys; his mother also was the daughter of a painter. The two Teniers were father and son. The three Vanderveldes were father, son, and grandson. Rafaël Mengs was the son of a painter of moderate ability. Among ourselves there have been a few similar instances. Nollekens was the son of a sculptor. The four Stones were statuarists,—father and three sons.* The two Pickersgills were uncle and nephew. The five Nasmyths of Edinburgh, father and son, and three daughters, were painters; perhaps a sixth might be added,—the inventor of the steam-hammer, who is also an artist.

Then as regards musicians. The two Scarlattis, father and son, were alike distinguished; there was also a grandson, a musical composer, though of less distinction than either of his predecessors. The whole of the Bach family seem to have been musical. The founder was Veit Bach, the miller of Presburg, who lived early in the sixteenth century, and for six generations the musical faculty of the race was transmitted without a break. Down to the middle of last century there were fifty-eight male descendants of

* The following is on their monument in St. Martin's Church :—
"Four rare Stones are gone,
The father and three sons."

Veit, all of whom, according to Forkel, were professors of music.* The genius of the family culminated in John Sebastian Bach; four of his sons and five of his daughters were more or less eminent in the art. Beethoven's father and grandfather were musicians by profession. Weber's father was a musical fanatic, fiddling everywhere, in the streets and in the fields. Mozart's father was a musician of ability,—vice-capellmeister and composer to the Archbishop of Salzburg; but we shall afterwards find what a falling off there was in the son of Mozart himself. Haydn's father played the harp, "without," it is said, "knowing a note of music." Rossini's father was a horn-blower in the orchestra of a travelling company. Mendelssohn came of a family more distinguished for learning than for music; his grandfather being Moses Mendelssohn, the celebrated linguist and philosopher.†

In many families the talent for learning and politics seems to be hereditary. The Scaligers, father and son, were equally great as scholars and as critics. So were the two Struves, George Adam and his son Burchard Gotthelf; though several members of the family had held high offices in the state as lawyers and statesmen. Gerard and Isaac Vossius, father and son, were the greatest scholars of their time. So were the two Casaubons, father and son, alike distinguished for their learning. The two Aldinis, Giovanni and Antonio,—the one distinguished as a statesman and the other as a philosopher,—were the nephews of Galvani, the discoverer of galvanism. The Strozzis of Florence were celebrated for their eminence as scholars and politicians during three centuries. Another branch of the same family settled at Ferrara, was remarkable for the

* *Allgemeine Musikalische Zeitung*, 1823.

† It may be mentioned that Milton inherited his musical tastes from his father who was an excellent musician and composer, though a scrivener; some of his compositions being preserved in Burney's *History of Music*.

number of poets and critics which it contained. The Stephenses (Etiennes), orginally French, were great printers and scholars. No fewer than ten members of the family achieved the highest eminence in scholastic literature during more than two centuries. The Basnage family were equally eminent as preachers, lawyer, and scholars. The D'Aubignes of Geneva, originally French, produced, during three centuries, persons of great eminence as scholars, divines, and historians. The three brothers Schlegel were almost equally great as scholars and critics. In the United States we find three members of the Adams family—John Adams, President; John Quincey Adams, and Charles Francis Adams—all eminent for their ability as statesmen. The three Mathers—Richard, Increase, and Cotton,—father, son, and grandson—were alike eminent in connection with divinity. The tombstone erected to their memory in Dorchester churchyard, Massachusetts, bears the following inscription:—

> "Under this stone lies Richard Mather,
> Who had a son greater than his father,
> And eke a grandson greater than either."

The descent of heroic qualities in the male line is strikingly illustrated by the history of the members of the House of Nassau. They first emerged into historical notice in the middle of the eleventh century. The elder branch remained in Germany, ascended the Imperial throne in the thirteenth century in the person of Adolphus of Nassau, and gave to the country many electors, bishops, and generals. The younger and more illustrious branch led the Dutch in their struggle for freedom against the Imperial power of Spain and France. William I. of Orange, "William the Silent," as he was called, was the first to head the Dutch in their fight against the tyranny of Charles V. and his son Philip II. He had strong enemies to contend against in the Duke of Alva, Don John of Austria, and

Alessandro Farnese of Parma, supported by powerful Spanish and Italian armies. But he contended against them with success, and eventually established the famous Treaty of Utrecht, which formed the lasting basis of the Dutch Republic.*

A price was set upon his head, and he was assassinated by an agent of his enemies; but his work was continued by Maurice, Prince of Nassau, who was elected stadtholder in his father's stead, and with the help of the English forces he was able to rid Holland of the tyranny of Spain. His half-brother, Frederick Henry, succeeded him; and then came William III., Prince of Orange, the second conquerer of England. Indeed the two histories of Mr. Motley—the *Rise of the Dutch Republic* and the *History of the United Netherlands*—are the best of all monuments to the heroic valor of the men of the House of Nassau.

Statesmanship also seems to be hereditary. The Stanleys of the reign of Edward II. and III. have their representatives in the reign of Victoria; and the Cecils of the reign of Elizabeth are represented by the present Lord Salisbury. The Russells of the reign of Charles II. have still their modern representatives. The Scotch family of Beaton or Bethune continued statesmen, churchmen, and diplomatists for more than two hundred years. Among modern statesmen we find the two Pitts, father and son; the two Foxes, father and son—Lord Holland and Charles James Fox,—to whom might be added the late Lord Vassal Holland; the two Peels, father and son, and their successor, the Speaker of the House of Commons; the two Cannings,

* The talents and virtues of the Nassau family were continued in the female line. Charlotte, Duchess of Tremouelle, was the daughter of William second Prince of Orange; and it was her daughter, Charlotte, married to Lord Strange,—afterwards Earl of Derby,—who conducted the defence of Lathom House against the Parliamentary army,—one of the most remarkable exploits of that chivalrous age.

father and son, as well as "the Great Elchie"—Lord Stratford Canning (de Redcliffe). The Temples have also been distinguished for their hereditary gifts of learning, eloquence, and statesmanship, which culminated in the late Lord Palmerston, Prime Minister.

Distinction in law and literature also seem to run in families. Mr. Francis Galton has, in his *Hereditary Genius*,* given an elaborate account of the judges of England between 1660 and 1865 from which it appears that a large number of them possessed one or more eminent relations, though it must be confessed that the greater number, and those the most distinguished, had no relations likely to advance their position in society or in law.

Besides the above instances, the Sheridans seem to have possessed the most striking hereditary talent for several generations. The first man of reputation in the family was Dr. Thomas Sheridan, the intimate friend and choice companion of Jonathan Swift. He was a scholar, wit, and musician, but at the same time slovenly, indigent, and utterly ignorant of the value of money. His son, "Manager Tom," was celebrated as an actor and theatrical manager. He was also the author of a *Life of Dean Swift*, and of a *Dictionary of the English Language*.

The son of "Manager Tom" was the Right Honorable Richard Brinsley Sheridan, the author of some of our best plays—the scholar, wit, and orator,—who excelled his father and grandfather, and surpassed them in his reckless gayety and improvidence. But the line of genius did not stop with him. His son Tom was a man of great ability, though the sad fortunes of his father threw a blight upon his life; but his daughters, the Honorable Mrs. Norton and the Honorable Mrs. Blackwood, both women of genius, restored the intellectual reputation of the family, which is

* Francis Galton, F. R. S., *Hereditary Genius: an Inquiry into its Laws and Consequences.* 1869.

now represented by the Earl of Dufferin, the noble upholder of the reputation of England in India.

The Coleridges also have been a family of ability, in poetry as in law. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the poet and dramatic critic; his son Hartley, the poet, in many respects like his father; another son, the Rev. Derwent Coleridge, who rose to distinction as a clergyman and an author; and Sara Coleridge, the only daughter, who also achieved much fame as a poet and author. Henry Nelson Coleridge was a nephew of Samuel Taylor; he was distinguished as a scholar, author, and lawyer. But the most celebrated lawyer of the family was Sir John Taylor Coleridge, also a nephew of the poet, who, after a triumphant career at Oxford, embraced the law, and rose step by step to one of the highest offices on the bench of judges. He was a man of great literary attainments, and was for a time, until almost overwhelmed by business, editor of the *Quarterly Review*. The present legal representative of the family is Lord Coleridge, Lord Chief-Justice of England.

The Tytlers, of Woodhouselee, Edinburgh, have produced a like succession of men eminent as historians and lawyers. William Tytler, author of the *Inquiry into the Evidence against Mary Queen of Scots*, had for his son Lord Woodhouselee, the judge and historian and for his grandson Alexander Fraser Tytler, author of one of the best histories of Scotland. His two daughters are also well-known as writers of admirable historical tales.

The Taylors of Ongar have also been an essentially literary family, numbering amongst them Charles Taylor, the learned editor of *Calmet;* Isaac Taylor, who, though the inventor of the beer-tap and the perfector of a machine for engraving upon copper (which occupied him seven years), was also the author of the *Natural History of Enthusiasm*, and other works which had an immense reputation in their day; Jeffrey Taylor, author of the *Apostolic Age in Britain;* Anne and Jane Taylor, authors of many highly popular works; and the Rev. Isaac Taylor, eldest son of the author of the *Natural History of Enthusiasm*, and himself the author of *Words and Places* and other memorable works, who is now the living representative of the family.

The Kemble family presents perhaps the most remarkable group of actors and actresses ever known. Amongst them we find Roger Kemble (some say the original name was Campbell), manager of a theatre at Prescott in Lancashire, about the middle of last century. From him were descended John Philip Kemble, Sarah Kemble (afterwards Mrs. Siddons), George Stephen Kemble, Frances Kemble, Charles Kemble, and Elizabeth Kemble. They were all great actors and actresses. In the third generation we find Adelaide Kemble (afterwards Sartoris), and Frances Kemble (afterwards Butler), both of whom arrived at distinction as actresses, the latter also as an author. The old actor Macklin, when close upon a hundred years old, addressing John Kemble, said to him: "Sir, I have known your family from generation to generation. I have seen you act, young man; and I have seen your father, sir; and I have seen your grandfather, sir: he was a great actor." It may be added that John Mitchell Kemble, son of Charles, was one of the greatest Anglo-Saxon scholars of his age.

There are other cases where the hereditary talent has not lasted so long, but proceeded merely from the father to the son or daughter. For instance, there were the two Colmans, the two Keans, the two Wedgewoods, the two D'Israelis, the two Mills, the two Stewarts, the two Allan Ramsays, the two Macaulays, the two Charles Lyells, the two Stephensons, the two Brunels. We have also Necker the financier, and his celebrated daughter, Madame de Stael; Dr. Burney

and his daughter, Madame D'Arblay; Edgeworth and his daughter, the well-known novelist; Thackeray and his daughter, Mrs. Ritchie, author of *Elizabeth* and other novels. Lucas, in his work on heredity, says that the ascending movement of the exalted faculties of most founders of families is nearly always arrested at the third generation, seldom goes on to the fourth, and hardly ever transcends the fifth. And very often it never goes beyond the first generation, beginning and stopping there.

To most persons it might at first sight appear absurd that the talent for science and scientific research ran in the blood; yet there are many singular illustrations of this form of heredity. The Cassinis, whose names are so intimately identified with the history of astronomy, held the office of French Astronomers-Royal in succession for a hundred and twenty-two years. There were no fewer than eight members of the Bernouilli family, of different degrees of distinction, during four generations. Like the Cassinis, they were principally distinguished for their mathematical genius. The Gregories of Aberdeen—though connected with Rob Roy Macgregor—were distinguished during three generations for their ability in physical science. About the middle of the seventeenth century James Gregory, a proficient in mathematics, invented the reflecting telescope; while his brother David, also eminent in mathematics, was the first person in Scotland who possessed and used a barometer. The descendants of the two brothers extended the reputation of the family, more particularly in connection with natural science; and it is stated by Chalmers, in his *Biographical Dictionary* that not fewer than sixteen Gregories at different times held professorships, principally in Scotch universities. The Bells were another Scotch family, distinguished alike in law, surgery, and physiology, of whom Sir Charles Bell was one of the last but not the least eminent. The Monros of Edinburgh were distinguished as anatomists during four generations. The Hunters William and John, achieved a European reputation, their sister being the mother of the celebrated Dr. Matthew Baillie and of Johanna Baillie, the poetess and dramatist. There were six Sowerbys, all more or less eminent as naturalists.

The Herschels, father and son, were alike great as astronomers; and Caroline Lucretia, sister of the elder Herschel, was as close and as patient an observer as either, having discovered seven new comets by means of the telescope which her brother had made expressly for her use. In 1798 she published, at the expense of the Royal Society, a *Catalogue of Stars*, taken from Mr. Flamsteed's observations,—an astronomical work of great value. At the death of her brother, in 1822, she returned to Hanover at the age of seventy-two, to end her days there. But she was not idle; she continued her astronomical work, and in 1828 she completed a catalogue of the stars observed by her brother, for which the Astronomical Society of London awarded her their gold medal. She died in 1848, in her ninety-eighth year. The Darwins also have exhibited their talent for original investigation for four generations; Charles Darwin, the author of the *Origin of Species*, being the grandson of Dr. Darwin, poet and naturalist, as well as medical practitioner; while George Darwin, the son of Charles, came out second wrangler at Cambridge, and is distinguished, for his knowledge of natural history and physiology.

One might suppose, from these and other instances, that heredity was universal. In mere physical formation it prevails to a large extent. You find such things as warts and squints running in families; and not only so, but thick skins and thin skins; scaly skins; six toes and six fingers; blindness and color blindness; rickets and hare-lip; long arms and long legs; wooden heads and even wooden legs.