

“The Man of Business as a Man of Letters:
William Dean Howells and the Paradox of Monopoly”

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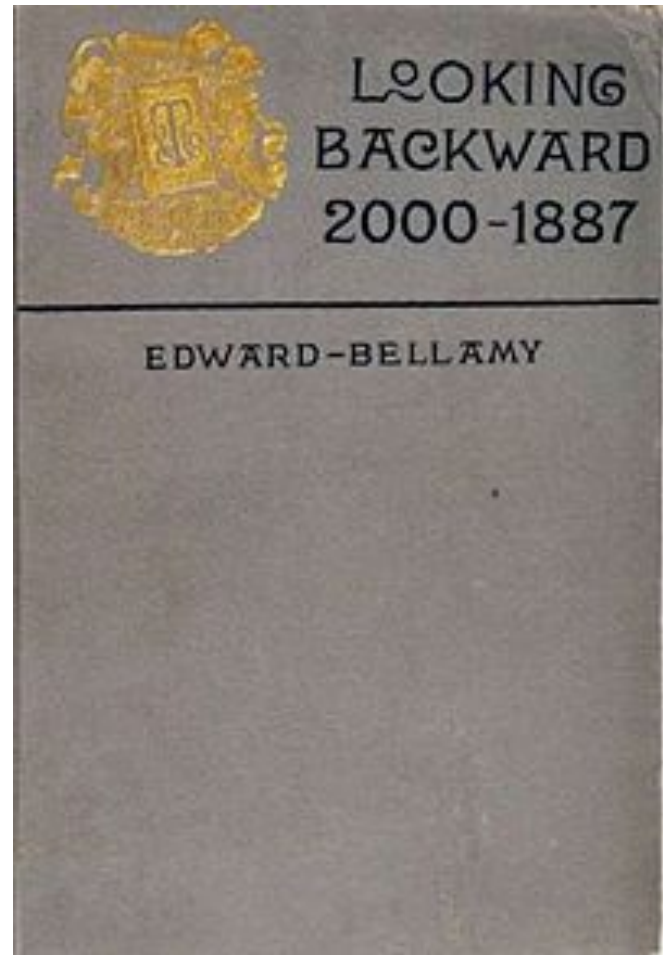
William Dean Howells
(1837 – 1920)



Daniel Coit Gilman,
president of Johns Hopkins University



Edward Bellamy, *Looking Backward*
(1888)



“Howells made money.”

Howells's net worth, according to Cady

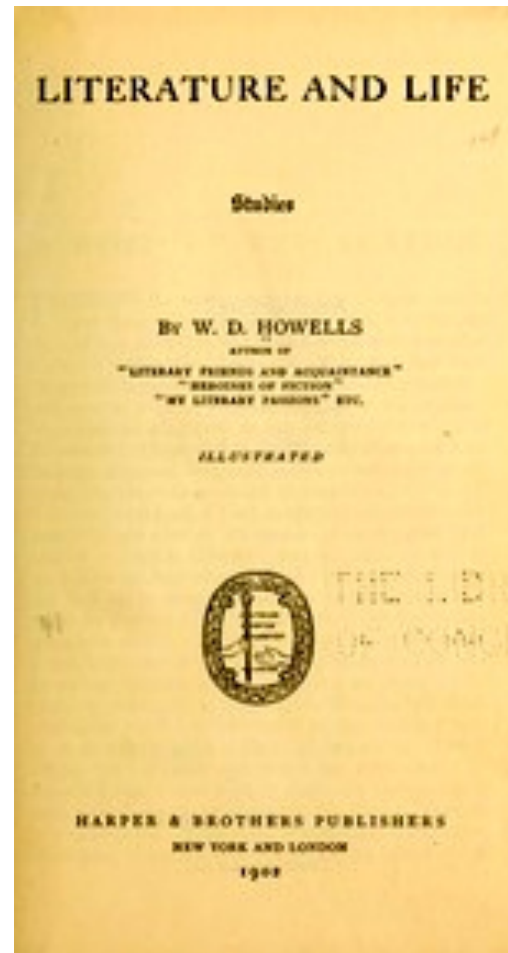
1890 \$60,000

1892 \$68,000

1894 \$84,000

1897 \$93,000

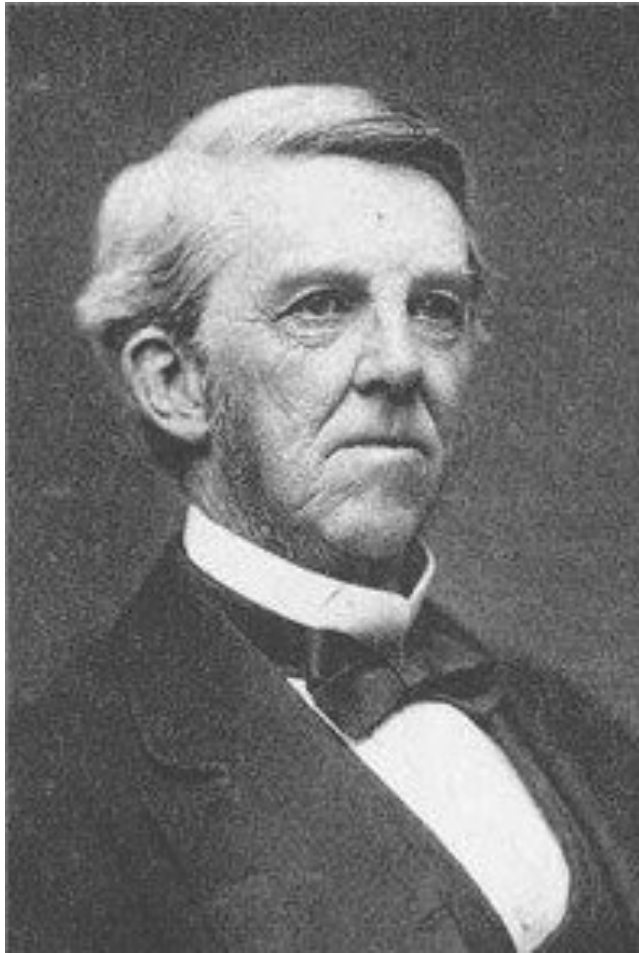
“The Man of Letters as a Man of Business” –
reprinted in *Literature and Life* (1902)



William Dean Howells, as he was introduced to all the leading literary men in the United States in 1860



Oliver Wendell Holmes, commenting upon
Howells's youthful arrival in Boston



“Well, James, this is something like the apostolic succession; this is the laying on of hands.”

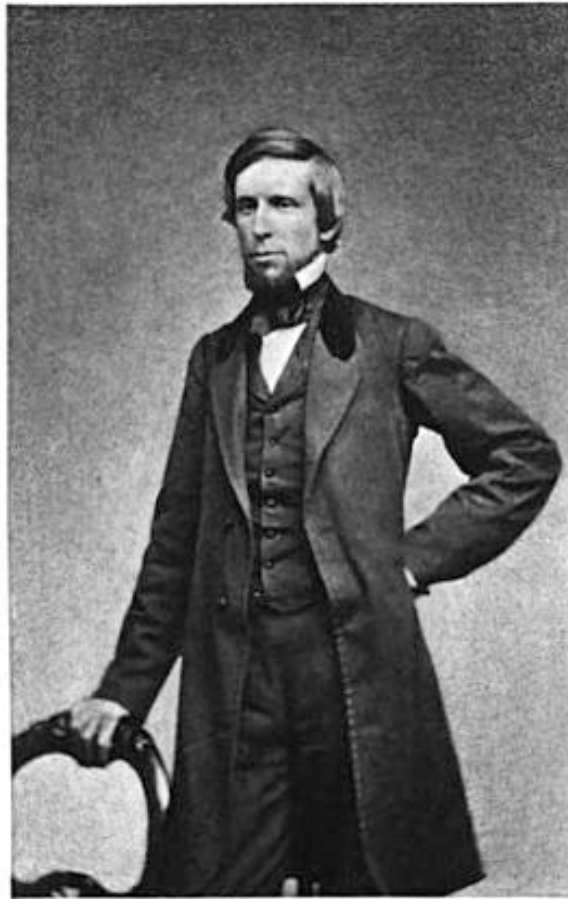
James T. Fields (1817-81),
legendary Boston publisher



James Ripley Osgood (1836-1892),
publishing impresario



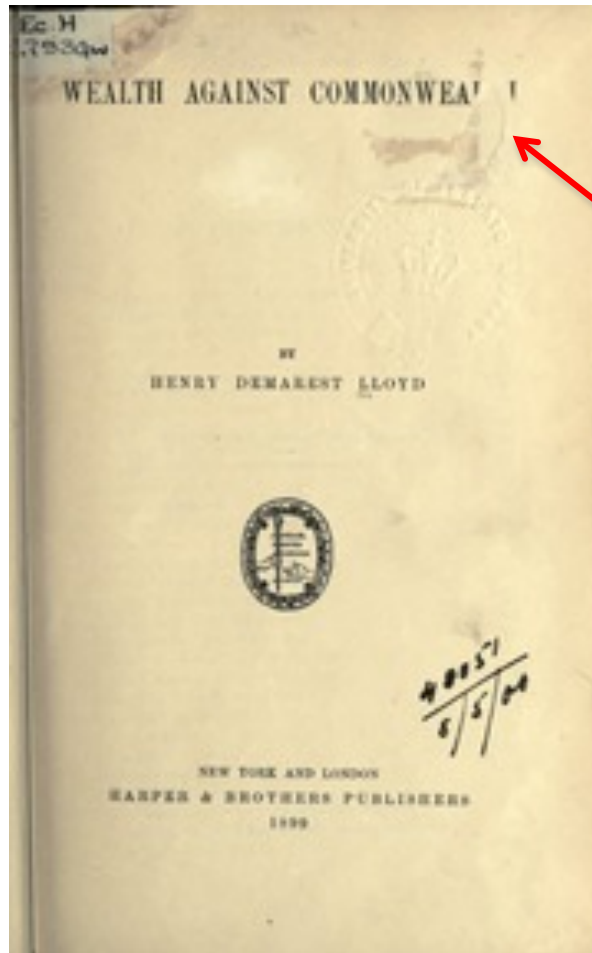
Henry Oscar Houghton (1823-1895),
Osgood's sometime partner – and eventual nemesis



Henry Demarest Lloyd (1847-1903),
precursor of the muck-rakers



Wealth Against Commonwealth
(New York: Harper & Brothers, 1894)



an obviously well-thumbed copy

Benjamin Holt Ticknor (1842-1914),
successor to James R. Osgood & Co.



Charles Scribner II (1854-1930)



Roswell Smith (1829-1892),
publisher of the *Century Magazine*



“Questions noted down to put to Mr. Roswell Smith,
in expectation of a conditional offer from him”

1. Whether he is ready to monopolize me.
2. Whether he could put all that I wish in *The Century*.
3. Could he leave me free in choice of subjects?
4. That I could not go on under O's contract except for the stories stipulated for.
5. What percentage on books?
6. Go abroad and write a history, when sick of stories.

Howells in his fur-lined overcoat



“we are theoretical socialists, and practical aristocrats”

