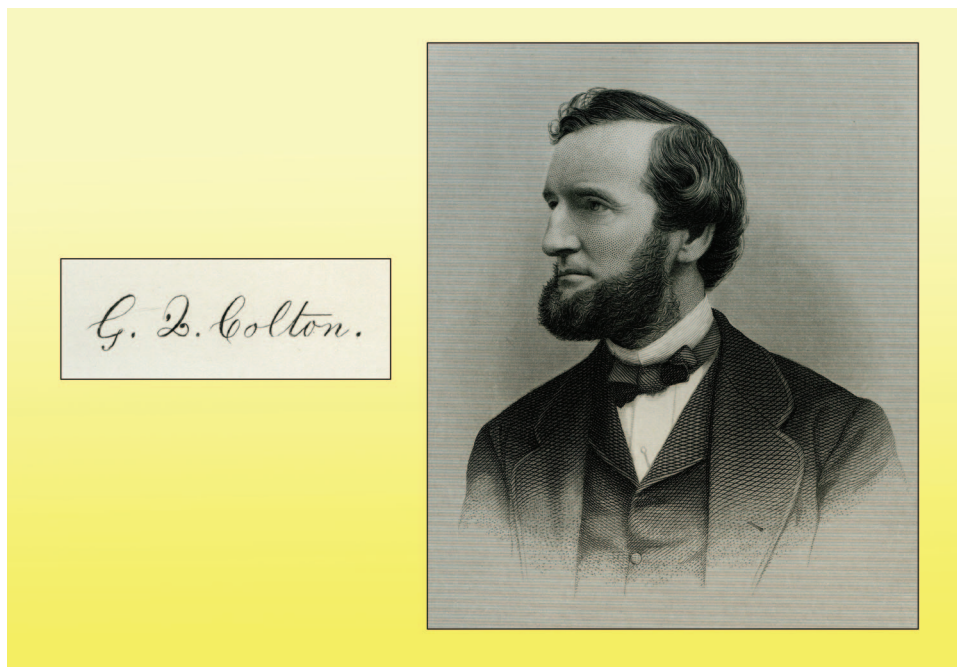


Gardner Quincy Colton, a Man of Mark



In 1871 the New York and Hartford Publishing Company released a book of portraits and biographies of “eminent self-made men,” a volume titled *Sketches of Men of Mark: Written by the Best Talent of the East*. The tome was “beautifully illustrated with steel portraits by the finest engravers in the United States.” The steel engraving (*right*) of Gardner Quincy Colton (1814–1898) was accompanied by a six-page biography highlighting Colton’s early efforts as an itinerant lecturer and demonstrator of the recreational use of nitrous oxide. In Hartford, Connecticut, on December 11, 1844, “Dr. Colton took a bag of the gas to the office of Dr. [Horace] Wells and Dr. Colton administered the gas to Wells, when Dr. Riggs [Wells’ dental partner] extracted a large molar tooth.” As the visionary volunteer, Dr. Horace Wells, regained consciousness, he remarked, “I did not feel it so much as the prick of a pin.” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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