FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 26, 1903

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT, LORD REAY

INCORPORATED by Royal Charter, bearing date of the Eve of His Majesty's Coronation, the Academy celebrates its first anniversary on the day of the public celebration of His Majesty's Birthday. And the first duty of the Academy is to express its loyal sentiments to the Throne.

Those who have watched over the birth of the Academy are naturally filled with hopes and fears on this occasion. Well nurtured and wisely directed, the youngest of the Academies will assuredly take its due place among its elder and more favoured sisters, learning by their experience, and profiting by their example. Its existence will, we hope, prove to be a blessing; it will not be content merely 'to be,' but will also strive to carry out the work which may be expected of it, and for which it has been called into being. At present it is in the happy condition of having no past. Perhaps the words of the poet Cowley addressed to the Royal Society in its sixth year may be adapted (with the necessary modifications) to our one-year-old Academy:—

> 'With Courage and Success you the bold work begin;
> Your Cradle has not idle bin:
> *Not even Hercules could* be
> At *one* year's age worthy a History.'

The British Academy may be regarded as embodying the recognition on the part of England, that she, too, at last recognizes that History, Philosophy, Philology, and kindred studies, call for the exercise of scientific acumen, and must take their place by the sister-sciences, the interpreters of nature's mysteries. But though England is the last of the countries of Europe thus to embody this recognition of literary studies, our country may claim to have

contributed marvellously to what might well be termed the Academic Learning and the Academic Spirit of the modern world, from the far-off days when the Monasteries of Northumbria were little 'academes,' shedding light not only over the land but far across the Continent. Is it not a matter of just pride for us to look back, on this occasion, to the venerable figure of Bede, whose almost encyclopaedic learning and whose enthusiasm for knowledge made him the very glory of our Island? It is significant that a movement is at last on foot to raise a monument to his memory, in sight of Monkwearmouth where his boyhood was spent.

And one is reminded that, if Bede himself did not actually found an Academy of Learning, another Englishman born in the year of his death, the illustrious Alcuin, carried out Charlemagne's famous Educational Reform, perhaps the first attempt of the modern world at the corporate organization of literary studies. 'Charlemagne's Academy,' as it is called, has not without some justification been placed among the very earliest of Academic Institutions, though it belongs rather to the History of Universities than to that of Academies in the narrower sense of the term. But from those distant days, right through the centuries, to the time of 'the large browed Verulam, the first of those who know,' there was never wanting in England the race of intellectual giants who attempted to cope with the forces of knowledge. By his efforts to systematize all knowledge, Bacon, the great representative of the New Thought, exercised a truly commanding influence on the whole course of learning in modern times; as Macaulay aptly put it, 'He moved the intellects which have moved the world'; and it was his influence which, directly or indirectly, helped the corporate organization of scientific learning in the seventeenth century, and led to the ultimate foundation of our own great 'Royal Society' established for the promotion of Natural Knowledge. But Bacon's plan for the advancement of learning was not limited to Natural Science; it included all learning, divine and human. Again, certain lines from Cowley's *Ode to the Royal Society* may fittingly be quoted in respect of Bacon's attitude towards those special subjects of study outside the scope of Natural Science, and which he would certainly have desired to subject to like scientific inquiry—the subjects which are to be our own special care:—

> 'Bacon at last, a mighty Man, arose,
> Whom a wise King and Nature chose
> Lord Chancellor of both their Laws,
> And boldly undertook the injur'd Pupils' cause.

Bacon, like Moses, led us forth at last,
The barren Wilderness he past,
Did on the very Border stand
Of the blest promis'd Land,
And from the Mountain's top of his exalted Wit,
Saw it himself, and show'd us it.'

For our own studies, perhaps, some such survey is now needed as Bacon attempted in his *Advancement of Learning* and his *De Augmentis*; and it is to be hoped that the Sectional Committees will place in the forefront of their programme systematic reports as to the work to be done, and the general condition of the several branches of learning represented by them. The Academy in its corporate capacity will not be unmindful of Bacon's dictum 'that all works are overcomen by amplitude of reward, by soundness of direction, and by the conjunction of labours'; though as regards 'the amplitude of reward,' that must rather stand for the encouragement and the fostering care which it is hoped the Academy will, in course of time, be enabled to bestow on *others*. Even as Bacon elsewhere aptly quotes from the poet:—

'Quae vobis, quae digna, viri, pro laudibus istis
Praemia posse rear solvi? pulcherrima primum
Dii *moresque* dabunt vestri.'

In many ways it would appear that the time had arrived for the foundation of an Academy of Learning in England—an Academy of 'Historico-Philosophical' Science in contradistinction to Natural and Applied Science. In this age of the practical, it is well to remind our countrymen, and to show other countries, that England, too, is not unmindful of the claim of the less utilitarian studies, and that we, too, recognize the necessity of corporate organization in the varied departments of Philosophy, Philology, and History.

It was something more than mere sentiment that made the modern world take a pride in connecting itself, in aspiration as well as in name, with the famous Academies which played so great a part in the history of Humanism, and which stretched back in direct line to the very groves where the great Humanist himself 'taught the truth.' Though, indeed, it might facetiously be said that for the time being we ourselves are rather *Peripatetics* than Academics.

It is noteworthy how great a part Academies played in Italy in awakening and keeping alive the new-born spirit of Humanism. According to Tiraboschi there were no less than 170 Academies of Belles-Lettres in the sixteenth century scattered throughout that land, doing signal service to learning, in spite of their fantastic titles, assumed perhaps, at times, to hide seriousness of purpose.

Like the early 'Accademia Lincei,' many of the Academies showed by name, symbol, or motto, that they were prepared 'to do battle with error and falsehood.' As in other matters of Humanism, the rest of Europe followed the example of Italy. Richelieu, in 1635, founded the 'Académie Française'; Mazarin, in 1648, the 'Académie des Beaux-Arts.' But before the foundation, in 1666, of the 'Académie des Sciences'; before the foundation, in 1706, of the 'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres'; and before the foundation, in 1700, of the famous Academy of Berlin, 'die Königlich Preussische Akademie der Wissenschaften'—England had already established its 'Royal Society of London,' incorporated by Royal Charter in the year 1662. From the first, the Society was more particularly devoted to physical, mathematical, and astronomical knowledge, and more and more in process of time it limited its work to these and kindred departments of Science. Its Roll of Honour during the two and a half centuries of its existence includes the names of many of the most illustrious Englishmen, and its record, starting from modest beginnings, is a source of pride to all, and of encouragement to us.

It was almost by a mere accident that an English Academy had not been called into being some years before Richelieu's 'Académie Française.' As early as 1617, Edmund Bolton had proposed to King James a design for a Royal Academy or College on a truly regal plan. In 1624 the project was nearing completion. The list of names of the proposed original members is still extant, and includes those of George Chapman, Sir Robert Cotton, Michael Drayton, Ben Jonson, John Selden, Sir Henry Spelman, Sir Kenelm Digby, Sir Henry Wotton: assuredly this was to be no mean Academy of Learning. The death of King James delayed the accomplishment of the scheme, and it ultimately collapsed. But its ambitious programme is not without interest. "It was to consist of three classes of persons, who were to be called Tutelaries, Auxiliaries, and Essentials. The Tutelaries were to be Knights of the Garter, with the Lord Chancellor, and the Chancellors of the two Universities; the Auxiliaries were to be Lords, and others selected out of the flower of the Nobility, and Councils of War, and of the new Plantations; and the Essentials, upon whom the weight of the work was to lie, were to be 'persons called from out of the most able and most famous lay gentlemen of England, masters of families, or being men of themselves, and either living in the light of things or without any title of profession, or art of life for lucre, such persons being already of other bodies.' The members of the Academy

were to have extraordinary privileges, and among others were to have the superintendence of the review, or the review itself, of all English translations of secular learning, to authorize all books which did not handle theological arguments, and to give to the vulgar people indexes expurgatory and expunctory upon all books of secular learning printed in English. The members were to wear a riband and a jewel, and Bolton even speculated upon the possibility that Windsor Castle might be converted into an English Olympus, and assigned to the members as the place in which to hold their Chapters[1]."

Bolton was also generally interested in historical work, and had some ambitious projects of research. But so far as the study of History and Antiquity is concerned, the learned Society whose hospitality we enjoy, though only incorporated in 1751, may legitimately trace its history to the 'spacious days of Queen Elizabeth,' when Englishmen's joy in England made them cherish and study its ancient records, its monuments, and such relics of the past as might help to give a better understanding of the History of their land. The Elizabethan Age was a great age for antiquarian zeal. It produced Archbishop Parker, the preserver of Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts, Camden, the 'nourice of Antiquity,' Stowe, Speed, Holinshed, Sir Robert Cotton, Spelman. This great age had its 'Antiquaries' College,' which was on the point of being incorporated as 'the Academy for the Study of History and Antiquity founded by Queen Elizabeth,' with a Library, to be called 'The Library of Queen Elizabeth,' to preserve the scattered treasures of the Monasteries. The death of the Queen delayed the Incorporation, and King James, 'having a little mislike of our Society,' as Spelman put it, the project of Incorporation was lost sight of, until at last the Society, which had practically been suppressed, rose again as 'The Society of Antiquaries of London.' Its work in the departments of Antiquity and Archaeology has been well maintained, and its prestige, always deservedly high, is as great now as ever.

But the existence of Academies of the type of the 'Académie Française' was not without influence on those Englishmen who dealt with the corporate organization of Studies, and Bishop Spratt, in his *History of The Royal Society*, has some interesting observations on a proposal for establishing an English Academy, which was to deal not only with the English Language, but also with greater works which might be found for it, more especially in the department of National History; there follow at the end of his digression some

[1] See *Dict. Nat. Biog. sub voce.*

noteworthy passages with special reference to a history of the Civil Wars to be undertaken by such an Academy:—

"There are only therefore wanting, for the finishing of so brave an undertaking, the united endeavours of some public minds, who are conversant both in letters and business; and if it were appointed to be the labor of one or two men to compose it, and of such an Assembly, to revise and correct it, it might certainly challenge all the writings of past, or present times. But I see, I have already transgressed; for I know it will be thought unadvisably done, while I was enforcing a weightier design, to start, and to follow another of less moment. I shall therefore let it pass as an extravagant conceit; only I shall affirm, that the Royal Society is so far from being like to put a stop to such a business, that I know many of its Members, who are as able as any others, to assist in the bringing it into practice."

'The Royal Society of Literature of the United Kingdom,' founded in 1820, and incorporated in 1825, represented an interesting effort, but possibly its range was altogether too wide.

It is not necessary here to recapitulate the successive stages in the history of the movement which terminated in the establishment of the British Academy. The anomalous state of affairs in England, as regards the corporate organization of learning, was brought into special prominence at the first meeting of the International Association of Academies, and the attention of the Royal Society was directed to the anomaly. The whole problem was carefully investigated by a special Committee of the Society. Scholars, representative of the departments to be organized, took part in the deliberations, but eventually it was decided by the Council that while sympathetic with the proposal to deal with the corporate organization of the studies in question, the feeling of the Society was against dealing practically with the problem within the Society itself, or itself initiating the establishment of a British Academy. Meanwhile, before the Council's final decision had been communicated, certain of those who had taken part in the deliberations, and others, met together to consider the situation, and at a Meeting held at the British Museum on Friday, June 28, 1901, it was resolved:—

"That a Society representative of Philosophical, Philological, and Historical Studies be formed, on conditions which will satisfy the requirements of the International Association of Academies."

From June to December of that year, those who were entrusted with the work laboured anxiously, and eventually on the 17th December, 1901, it was decided that the Petition and proposed Charter should be presented to His Majesty in Council. The public discussion

that ensued, the Petitions presented against and for, were the almost natural accompaniments of our Petition of Incorporation. But it is our duty to record our grateful obligation to the President and Council of the Royal Society for their generous help, and for the weighty Petition presented by them to the Lords of the Privy Council in support of the grant of a Charter. The Charter of Incorporation was ultimately granted, and bears the date of the eighth day of August, 1902—the eve of His Majesty's Coronation Day—a date singularly appropriate and of good omen. Those who received the Charter had to deplore the loss of three of their fellow Petitioners, namely, Professor Davidson, Dr. Gardiner, and Lord Acton ; one distinguished scholar passed away just before he was to have been invited to join the Petitioners, namely, Bishop Westcott. One other member of our body has been lost to us this year—the eminent Orientalist, Professor Cowell. To one more name it is my duty to allude; it is a source of greatest sorrow to us and to me personally that my friend the late Professor Henry Sidgwick, who had taken so deep an interest in the problem when first considered by the Royal Society, has not lived to see the establishment of the Academy. He, with Lord Acton and Sir Richard Jebb, gave his ripe wisdom to the idea when first mooted. Happily one of these three great scholars is still with us, to help us, let us hope, for long years to come, with his knowledge and discretion.

You are all familiar with the terms of the Charter under which we work. One clause has not yet been put into effect—the power to elect Honorary and Corresponding Fellows. Later on, no doubt, we shall join to us many a foreign scholar of distinction, and thus link ourselves with the great Republic of Learning. One such scholar, whom we had hoped to reckon among the first of our Corresponding Fellows, is now, alas! mourned by France, and the Academy has shown its sympathy with the *Institut* and the *Académie Française* by offering them the homage of its condolence on the death of M. Gaston Paris, and has received a touching acknowledgement, showing how deeply these international courtesies are appreciated. Indeed, I may say that the foundation of the Academy has been enthusiastically welcomed by the other Academies of Europe, and it has at once been admitted a constituent Academy of the International Association of Academies.

The first work of the Council of the Academy was the drafting of the Bye-Laws, in accordance with the terms of the Charter. The question of the number of Fellows was fraught with many grave problems, and the Council has reason to believe that the right course

has been followed in fixing the maximum number of Ordinary Fellows at one hundred. On the fifth day of February of the present year, the Bye-Laws were allowed by order of Council; and empowered by a special provisional clause, appertaining to the present year, the Fellows of the Academy have already, before this Annual Meeting, elected twenty-two new Fellows, thus raising the number from forty-eight to seventy. In accordance with the Bye-Laws, Sectional Committees have been formed, each Fellow of the Academy being assigned to one or more Sections. At present there are four main Sections:—

I. History and Archaeology;
II. Philology in its various Departments;
III. Philosophy;
IV. Jurisprudence and Economics;

with Mr. Bryce, Sir R. C. Jebb, Dr. Caird, and Sir C. P. Ilbert as Chairmen of the respective Sections. Much of the good work of the Academy depends on the organization and efforts of these Sectional Committees, to each of which will be referred the various questions coming within its scope.

The preliminary tasks of this first year of our existence have been so many, that it would be unreasonable to expect much as regards Papers and Publications. The question of the latter must remain in abeyance until we know what means are at our disposal. As regards the former, five valued contributions have been made, two Papers being read by special invitation. Mr. Sadler communicated a Paper on 'The Ferment in Education in Europe and America.' You have had the pleasure to-day of hearing His Excellency the Swedish and Norwegian Minister; further, Papers were read by the following Fellows of the Academy—by Professor Rhys on 'The Origin of Irish History,' by Dr. Caird on 'Idealism as a Theory of Knowledge,' and Professor W. M. Ramsay on 'Excavation in Asia Minor.'

The Academy was duly represented at the recent Congress of Historical Sciences held at Rome, and the Academy is generally becoming the recognized representative Body of Literary Science in the United Kingdom. Let us hope it will soon be representative of the Literary Learning of the Empire generally. Perhaps at some distant time, some future Imperial Academy of all the Arts and Sciences may satisfy the fondest dreams of those who believe in the strength and dignity and prestige of so imposing and all-comprehensive a foundation.

Meanwhile, the Academy has its work to do, if adequately financed and domiciled.

It will be one of our first important duties, with the Royal Society, to prepare a fitting welcome for the International Association of Academies when it meets in London next year at Whitsuntide, and to make that Meeting a success. We shall occupy the position of the youngest of the Academies, and I trust we shall display the charm of youth, and enjoy the happy position of being without history, but full of hope and vitality.

We are well aware that a British Academy does not represent a caste, does not presume to impose its authority on others. There has always been in English society an instinctive suspicion of learned monopolies. I think I am entitled to assert that whatever mistakes may have been made in the very difficult duty we had to discharge, we have not been guilty of placing this Academy on the narrow basis of any school of thought. We have sought and obtained the support of men who represent very divergent opinions, and we intend to guard ourselves against the appearance even of exclusiveness. Our desire is to obtain the confidence of our countrymen, and we have no reason to complain of the way in which this Academy has been received. I believe it has been fully understood that the mandate we indirectly received from the International Association of Academies through the Royal Society was of an imperative character, and that we should have been wanting in patriotism if we had not accepted it. We do not pretend that the studies we represent would not have flourished without an institution of this kind. But we think that the Corporate Organization which this Academy offers to the individual workers may give them the solidarity which they need, may stimulate younger men, and may elicit dormant activity. For the purpose of comparison of different periods of time, of different ideas in various countries, in the several branches of learning we represent, a most careful collection of facts is required. This collection can only be carried out by the Agency of a learned body and of an Association of Academies, working together with a view both to specialization and to generalization. The survey of a field of knowledge indicates gaps, co-ordinates inquiry, and prevents waste of energy. It is here especially that an Academy can be of practical use. Even as the Royal Society has been the incentive to discoveries in the scientific world, so the British Academy may look forward to the exercise of similar functions with regard to the branches of learning which it represents. Much less recognition by the State is given in Britain to original work than in foreign countries. All the greater is the need for the energetic impulse of private associations. There is no lack of latent intellectual vigour in the

younger generation throughout the Empire. It only requires encouragement to kindle the flame, and that encouragement we may do much to supply.

To a certain extent an Academy competes in the field of research with the Universities; but an Academy can give all its energy to research, whereas Universities are primarily teaching institutions, and their multiplication is due to this object in the first instance. We are as yet unable to judge of the consequences of this increase in the number of our Universities. No one could deny that there is a risk in the possible competition for students between rival institutions. I do not think I claim more than I ought for the influence to be exercised by us, if I say that we will directly and indirectly co-operate with the Universities in keeping up a high standard of teaching and research; and that the best results of the work done at the Universities will receive the recognition of the Academy. The Universities will be largely represented in the Academy, and naturally a mutual connexion will be established between them. I am inclined to think that this connexion will become more and more intimate, although it certainly will be to the advantage of the Academy to be in touch with the outer world.

You will perhaps allow me briefly to indicate the main lines of our activity in the various sections.

In our Philological Section many diverse branches of Study are represented. The national esteem for them has hitherto scarcely been so high in England as in some other countries where they have been organized by Academies of high standing. When international co-operation is required for the collection of inscriptions, of editions of great books, or for the compilation of great Lexicons, England has hitherto had no organ for such co-operation. We fully recognize the excellent work of Philological Societies, and the relation of a central Institution such as the British Academy to the existing societies will ultimately be adjusted for their mutual advantage. The Academy will have ample work to do in the various departments of Ancient and Modern Philology, and Comparative Philology generally. Only to-day we have been considering an invitation from the Berlin Academy to co-operate with it on a Corpus of Greek and Latin Medical Writers. But while active in all branches of Philology we shall not, I hope, neglect our primary duty to enterprises of a more national kind, though the monumental labours of Dr. Murray and his coadjutors, and the signal generosity of Oxford University, have happily relieved us of the serious task, well worthy of the energies of a British Academy, of engaging in the production of a great thesaurus

of our noble English language; while Professor Joseph Wright is gathering in from the nooks and corners of the Kingdom the rapidly changing folk-speech of England, ultimately destined to throw so much light on many vexed problems in the history of English speech —his results will, I hope, find an honoured place among the Publications of the Academy: but much still remains to be done, and at some distant day many a troublesome problem—possibly even the practical question of spelling reform—may require attention. Meanwhile the work of editing English texts should be encouraged by us, —more especially the remains of the oldest English Literature; we should supplement and aid the excellent work of the Early English Text Society, due to the whole-hearted devotion of our zealous colleague, Dr. Furnivall.

Also there remains our duty to that old Celtic Literature, of which many a treasure-trove still remains unclaimed. I feel sure that nothing but good will result, if the British Academy takes its full share in the work of Celtic research which is engaging the attention of great scholars both at home and abroad, but has so far been scantily aided by official recognition.

Oriental studies must be taken up by the Government with more seriousness than has been shown hitherto. A great Oriental Empire cannot discharge its duties towards its Oriental subjects without giving the fullest opportunity for higher research, and encouragement to those who are engaged in it. No one is satisfied with the present condition of things. Countries which have not the same direct interest in Oriental affairs which we have are much more alive to the importance of such studies from a purely scientific point of view. To us they are essential even from a utilitarian point of view. It will be our duty to see that justice is done, and fostering care substituted for long and undeserved neglect. Meanwhile we owe a debt of gratitude to that small band of eminent scholars who without any due reward have rescued us from the reproach which this neglect might otherwise have brought upon us. The Philological and Philosophical Sections of the Academy will have full scope for the development of their energies in this great field.

The International Association of Academies has determined to publish an Encyclopaedia of Islam, and a Committee has been appointed to give effect to this decision. The Academy will be represented on that Committee by our colleague, Professor Browne. It is not necessary for me to dwell on the vast importance of such a publication to this country; Englishmen count the greatest number of Mahommedans among their fellow subjects, and it would

be nothing less than a scandal if we shirked our share of this great scholarly undertaking. Another matter of great importance will come before the next meeting of the International Association. Scarcely any two of the manuscripts of the great epic of India, the Maha-Bharata, give the same text. A proper edition is urgently required. The only English translation (Roy's) fills fourteen large volumes. The co-operation of scholars will be essential, and also the collection of funds, as no publisher would undertake the risk. Our co-operation will be cordially given, and I trust we may obtain material assistance from the Government of India. I am quite sure that in India both these publications will be enthusiastically welcomed. We cannot but regret that the foundation of our Academy after these proposals were first entertained, does not permit us to claim the initiative which this country ought to have taken with regard to subjects in which it is more directly interested than any other. We shall now, however, be able to prove that we are keenly sensible of our responsibility.

In History we have to deal with the mutual interaction of different civilizations and to compare these civilizations. The task of the Historian is very similar to that of the explorer of Nature's laws. Our colleague, Professor Bury, in his interesting Inaugural Lecture, has eloquently emphasized the application of strict scientific methods to the study of History, as the study of 'all the manifestations of human activity.' Historical research with a view to obtain facts will be entitled to claim our most cordial support, and if a proposal is made to us for a Corpus of Inscriptions of the British Isles (which I believe to be the intention of Professor Bury), we shall I have no doubt welcome it. He has told us very emphatically that 'History is not a branch of Literature,' but, while this strict scientific attitude voices the very aims of our Academy, I need hardly state that, if the facts of History are placed on record in an artistic literary form, we shall not fail to appreciate such presentment, as long as historical truth is not sacrificed.

In the department of archaeological exploration, an understanding might be obtained through the International Association with regard to the spheres of scientific exploration which should be allotted to various nations, so as to arrive at a systematic distribution of archaeological research in the vast domain open to the explorers of different nationalities. We must avoid chaos of areas, chaos of unconnected research in the same sphere, chaos of financial contributions from various sources culminating in waste of means.

Economic and legal studies will receive from the International

Association of Academies the precise facts which they require. Economic tendencies in other countries, as well as legal enactments, affect our relations with those countries. The International Council of Academies will be in a position to influence those relations by the opportunity it affords of approaching international problems on the scientific side, before they enter on a more controversial phase in which diverging national interests come into collision. Economic problems are daily increasing in complexity, and so much depends on their right solution that no Academy can remain indifferent. Economic Science has to take into account all the facts which may cause a disturbance of prosperity, not only in one quarter but in many directions. Careful analyses of all accessible data over a wide area will be undertaken by the inquiries of the various Academies, and a comparison of results will be less difficult. Such questions as the housing of the poor, old age pensions, employment of children, hours of labour, are engaging the attention of all legislatures, and if the experience thus gained is collected and sifted by the Association of Academies a valuable contribution will be made to Economic Science.

In the domain of law I would point to the conferences which have been held at the Hague to promote the codification of private International law, at which I regret this Empire was not represented, although it will still be open to us at any time to secure to His Majesty's subjects the benefits of the conventions which have been concluded by the Powers interested. As regards public International law, it is not necessary to point out that its authority depends on the sanction which may be given to it by the various Governments on the advice they obtain from experts, whose presence in the International Association of Academies will be of great value in securing to International law an international sanction.

The growing tendency to assimilation in law, particularly in regard to matters of Commerce, is a significant fact. No fewer than one hundred legislatures of English-speaking races deal with legal problems. To compare their legal enactments transcends the power of any individual. The Academy will be able to co-ordinate individual efforts. A comparison of the Criminal law of various countries will deal with the measures, methods, and objects of punishment. The scientific treatment of law has been too long neglected in England, and it will be our privilege to give encouragement to those who are striving to place the scientific study of law on a footing worthy of the great traditions of English jurisprudence.

We shall approach the problems connected with education in

a philosophical and historical spirit. We are fortunate in having in the Academy many who are engaged in the actual work of higher education. They will bring to the discussion of educational problems the results of their own practical experience. The experience of other countries will be similarly brought to bear on the discussion of this great subject in the various Academies, and the International Association will enable us to reap the benefit of a comparison of results. Meanwhile, it will be our duty to consider how we can take part in the endeavour to improve our system of Education in order that it may be constantly adapted to the ever-growing intellectual needs of all classes of the community. There is no doubt, I think, that in this department waste of energy should be prevented and counteracted by concentration of effort.

There is another aspect of our activity; our Charter imposes on us the duty of dealing with questions which embrace the whole range of the moral sciences. We have to deal with the problems of the mind. The complex agencies which constitute the motives of our actions are subjects of our investigation. The forces which influence individual energy are open to our analysis. To discover the principles which regulate the progress of human society, which eliminate the causes of friction, which facilitate the attainment of high ideals—all these inquiries come legitimately within the sphere of our operations.

The keen and subtle intellect of the Hindu Philosophers can render great service to our Academy. The contact of the Western and of the Eastern mind lends to philosophical inquiry a peculiar charm. The influence of English thought and literature on Indian thought has not met with the attention of English students which it so richly deserves; I believe that in this Academy we can foster the intercourse of the leaders of Indian and of British thought. A vigorous impulse can be given to the better understanding of the tendencies towards ethical reform, and of the search for some methods of reconciling Vedic theology with the standard of morality which has been created by the aspirations of Indian reformers in recent times.

The science of religions, the historical development of religions, the mutual interaction of different religions, will be included in our programme. Philosophical and historical inquiries could not be properly conducted unless these subjects were dealt with in accordance with scientific methods which exclude all possibility of trenching on forbidden ground.

The unbiased attitude of the mind towards ethical and meta-

physical problems is one of the conditions of our existence as a scientific body. And I make bold to say that if at any time a shrewd observer of contemporary history were to detect anything likely to prove a menace to the free development of the human intellect, this Academy of Learning could not render a greater service to the cause of humanity than by supporting with its best strength all efforts to check the peril.

The acquisition of truth can alone satisfy the human mind, and slowly and surely each succeeding generation comes nearer to the object of its quest.

Bacon's eloquent warning against the idols of the tribe, of individuals, of the forum, and of the platform, may well be taken to heart by the present generation.

The tendency of all scientific study is to become international and cosmopolitan. A new discovery like radium flashes through the civilized world, and the newly discovered code of Khammurabi, as well as Mr. Evans's Cretan discoveries, enlarge our horizon. We may compare our Academy to a National Clearing-house, and the International Association of Academies to an International Clearing-house of ideas on these subjects.

The State is directly interested in these results of scientific discoveries; and in its relation to other States, the due representation of its own scientific development cannot be a matter of indifference. Our country will, through the Academy, secure its proper representation in this field of international activity.

The State gives encouragement to scientific studies. It may require advice as to what form of expenditure will lead to efficiency of research. In the Academy it will find men competent to give advice which may prevent the waste of public money by concentration and combination.

When the State desires to obtain information, the Academy will be able to collect such information or to indicate the channels through which it should be obtained.

The Academy may also stimulate private benefactors, on whose munificence we depend to a large extent in this country for the advancement of scientific knowledge, and protect them against indiscreet attempts to divert their benevolence to objects which are not calculated to promote the strict scientific development contemplated by the generous donors.

I trust I am not too sanguine if I give expression to the hope that this Academy may become a bond of union between the various parts of the Empire. If we can establish closer relations between the

intellectual activity of the various parts of the Empire, we may realize an intellectual federation which may prove more permanent than a federation based on more material considerations.

The claim of the leaders of thought in India and in the Colonies to be represented in this Academy will be readily admitted. I think that we may expect to reap from this exchange of opinions an invigorating result. If we can inspire our fellow workers in the Colonies and in India with the sense that their efforts meet with due recognition in the centre of the Empire, we shall have strengthened the feelings of true kinship.

By this combined intellectual effort throughout its scattered parts, the British Empire cannot fail to be even materially consolidated.

By this combined effort of representatives of every part of the Empire linked together in one common aim, perchance the British Academy may contribute to a fuller significance of what should be our watchword, *Civis Britannicus sum*, and of the great truth underlying Bacon's noble utterance, which might well be our motto, '*Human knowledge and human power meet in one.*'