

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

BY

THE RIGHT HON. VISCOUNT BRYCE, O.M.

*July 10, 1914.*

My first duty to-day is to express to the Fellows of the Academy my thanks for the high honour they have done me in choosing me to be their President. It was with the greatest surprise that I received, on arriving in England last September from a journey across China and Siberia, the news that I had been so elected; and it was with much hesitation that I ventured to accept the honour, fearing not only that it might be difficult for me to find time to devote to the functions unexpectedly devolving upon me, but also that my absence from England, which had prevented me for more than six years from following the proceedings of the Academy and from becoming acquainted with the members recently added to its body, would unfit me for adequately discharging the duties of the post. For such deficiencies as have been due to this cause I ask your indulgence.

It would in any case have been difficult to succeed a President in whom there were uniquely combined so many of the requisite qualifications as those possessed by my predecessor, Sir Adolphus Ward. The Master of Peterhouse at Cambridge unites to a profound learning in the field of history and literature an unusually wide acquaintance with the leading workers in those fields all over Europe, and a thorough knowledge of the conditions of higher education and of research in the Universities of our own country. His sound judgement, ripened by long experience, has been eminently serviceable to the Academy, and I gladly acknowledge the help which, not only as my predecessor, but as an intimate friend of nearly fifty years' standing, he has rendered to me whenever I have sought his counsel.

The Academy has lost since its last annual meeting three of its most distinguished Fellows. Professor Robinson Ellis, one of our original members, stood in the front rank of the classical scholars of his time. Born in 1834, elected a Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, in 1858, and professor of Latin in that University since 1894, he had devoted his whole life with intense and unwearied industry to the

study of the Greek and Latin languages. His writings, and especially his work on the text of Latin authors, are sufficient evidence of the accuracy and range of his attainments, of the delicacy of his discrimination, and the fineness of his literary taste. Nor was he less admirable as a teacher. It was my privilege to be his pupil when he first began to lecture in Trinity College, and nothing could have been more stimulating to an appreciation of the subtleties of grammar and the elegancies of style than was his method of handling classical texts. He probed every difficulty to the bottom. He caught every shade of meaning. He made us enjoy every hour passed in his room, and created in us a bond of affection for himself which lasted through our lives.

Another Fellow whose loss we have to mourn, Canon Samuel Driver, Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford, resembled Professor Ellis in the exactness of his learning and in his single-minded devotion to the subject which he had chosen to make his own. All the labours of his life were given to the Semitic languages, and in those studies he had won a place second to none of his contemporaries. As a Biblical critic he was equally eminent for his candour and for his caution. He was never afraid to avow any conclusion to which his researches led him, but he never yielded to the temptation to be novel for the sake of novelty. The lectures he delivered for the Academy on the Schweich Foundation witness to the soundness of his judgement as well as to the admirable lucidity of his exposition.

The recent departure from among us of Sir William Anson, Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, and Senior Member of Parliament for the University, has filled us with an even greater sadness, for he was taken away suddenly, and when we were hoping that the Academy and his University would continue for many years to profit by his ripe wisdom and his self-forgetful readiness to serve the cause of learning and education. You are all familiar with the excellence of his published work in the spheres of law and of constitutional history, and some of you know how much he did for legal teaching at Oxford. His *English Constitution* has become authoritative. His *Introduction to the Law of Contract* is a model of all that a text-book ought to be. His latest work, the *Introduction to the Memoirs of the Duke of Grafton*, shows with what literary skill and historical sense he could handle a political biography. He was, however, not only a student but also a man of affairs, rendering service to his fellow men in many ways, and endearing himself to every one in the University and in Parliament by the simplicity and geniality of his character, and by the perfect fairness with which he approached every question. It is many

years since the University has had equal cause to mourn for any of its sons, and the Council of the Academy on which he had long sat, and on which he had consented, at the earnest request of his colleagues, again to serve, will deplore the absence of that singularly judicious counsel which he never failed to render.

Among our Corresponding Fellows there are only two losses to record, that of Professor Leo of Göttingen, member of the Göttingen Academy, and of M. Georges Perrot, whose death a week ago ended a long and fruitful career as a leading member of the French Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres.

The Council proposes to you for election as Ordinary Fellows Lord Haldane, Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, Lord Fitzmaurice, and Mr. J. W. Mackail, men of an eminence in their respective spheres of work so high and well known that it would be superfluous to descant upon their merits. A few words may, however, be said regarding those whom you are asked to elect as Corresponding Fellows. Two of them are distinguished French scholars—M. Bémont, a most learned historian, and M. Omont, an accomplished palaeographer and Keeper of the Manuscripts in the National Library of France. Signor Villari, Senator of the Kingdom of Italy, has been known to us for many years by his masterly works, and especially by those on Machiavelli and Savonarola, and is now the honoured patriarch among the historians of his country. Dr. Charles W. Eliot, who recently retired from the Presidency of Harvard University after nearly fifty years of devoted service, has done more than perhaps any one else among his contemporaries to form and guide opinion upon educational, social, and economic questions in North America, bringing to every topic he has touched in his numerous writings and addresses a vigour of thought, a robust independence, and an elevation of character which have won for him an admiration and deference rarely equalled and certainly never surpassed.

All of these are now respectfully commended to your suffrages. The total number of our Corresponding Fellows is now thirty-five; that of our Ordinary Fellows, at present limited to one hundred, has reached ninety-eight.

During the past year papers have been read by our Fellows upon the following subjects :

- ‘The Origin of the Drama in India,’ by Professor Ridgway.
- ‘The Basis of Realism,’ by Professor Alexander.
- ‘Roger Bacon, his Life and Writings,’ by Sir John Sandys.
- ‘Gleanings in the Italian fields of Celtic Epigraphy,’ by Sir John Rhys.

‘An Annual Report on the progress of Archaeological Research into Roman remains in Britain,’ by Professor Haverfield.

A lecture was also delivered on the Araucanians of Chile, by the Rev. Charles A. Sadleir, who, though not one of our members, consented to give us some account of a group of tribes interesting by their customs and their character, and remarkable as the only American race which successfully repelled the attacks of European invaders. So little has been written regarding them in English that we welcomed the opportunity of obtaining a description from one who had enjoyed exceptional opportunities for observing them.

The usual lectures on the foundations which the Academy administers were also duly delivered.

The Warton lecture on English poetry was entrusted to Professor Vaughan, who, choosing for his subject ‘The Influence of English Poetry on the Romantic Revival in Continental Europe’, presented views and facts which seemed new to most of his hearers and were greatly appreciated by them.

The annual Shakespeare Lecture was delivered by Professor G. G. Murray to an unusually large audience. His subject was ‘Hamlet and Orestes, a Study in Traditional Types’, and gave him an opportunity, used with his accustomed literary skill and grace, of illustrating features or elements common to ancient and modern drama.

The course of Lectures on the Schweich Foundation was in the hands of Professor F. C. Burkitt. His subject, ‘Jewish and Christian Apocalypses,’ also drew many interested listeners, and his treatment of it conveyed to them much new light upon some of the more obscure branches of Hebrew literature.

In connexion with these foundations, all created by gifts in recent years, I have to mention another benefaction which the Academy has just received. Miss Henriette Hertz has bequeathed to us a sum which, after the deduction of legacy duty, amounts to £5,400, to be applied to the following purposes, viz. (1) an annual lecture or investigation or paper on a philosophical problem or some problems bearing on the philosophy of Western or Eastern civilization in ancient or modern times, or on discussions of theories of the phenomena of life in relation to eternity; (2) an annual lecture on some problem or aspect of the relation of Art in any of its manifestations to human culture (Art including Poetry and Music as well as Sculpture and Painting); and (3) an Annual Public Lecture on some Master-mind considered individually with reference to his life and work, especially in order to appraise the essential elements of his genius: the subject to be chosen from the great Philosophers, Artists, Poets, and

Musicians; and (4) for the publication of some philosophical work or to reward some meritorious publication in the department of philosophy. This bequest has been gratefully accepted by the Council, and a trust deed has been drawn up under which the annual income of the fund will be administered for the purposes indicated. I desire to put on record our appreciation of this act of munificence, and to inform you, conformably to the wish expressed by Miss Hertz, that we owe it largely to the personal friendship she entertained for her nephew, our honorary Secretary, whom she had consulted, and of whose zeal for the interests of the Academy you are aware. It is matter for satisfaction that the testatrix should have, very wisely, conferred upon the Council of the Academy a wide discretion as to the particular form in which a part of the income may be applied; and we believe that by a judicious use of that part it may be found possible to promote as well as to reward research into various departments of learning whose importance cannot be measured by their popularity with the public at large. Nothing is more to be desired than that such a body as ours should have the means of encouraging and aiding inquiries of real value not materially profitable to those who undertake them, and of paying for the publication of works needed by students but which cannot be expected to command a remunerative sale.

Several enterprises of this nature have already been undertaken by the Academy whose progress it is fitting here to note.

One of them is the great Dictionary of Islam, in the preparation of which we undertook some years ago to co-operate with the chief Academies of the Continent. At the instance of the British Academy, the India Office consented to make an annual grant of £200 towards its completion, and this sum we receive and apply accordingly in every year. The work goes on, slowly of course, as is to be expected in a thing of such magnitude, but steadily.

Another is the Bibliography of British History, which is under the charge of one of our most active and earnest workers in the field of History, Dr. George W. Prothero. We are paying this year to it the second of three grants of £25.

A third is the new and carefully revised edition of the text of the *Mahabharata*, towards which the India Office has made an increased grant of £100 for each of the first five volumes of this huge work.

A fourth is the grant of £20 in three successive years which the Academy is making for the publication of the accounts of the Sound Dues, a useful contribution to the history of a subject less known

than its international significance demands. Other contributions have been made by some of our Fellows.

A fifth enterprise needs a somewhat fuller notice. Almost since the foundation of the Academy representations have been addressed on its behalf to the Executive Government suggesting that it would be in the general interest of British learning and research that a grant should be made to the Academy to be applied by it for the furtherance of research, for the publication of MS. materials of historical interest, and for the re-editing and issuing of texts of works either not accessible or accessible only in imperfect editions. Ample justification for such grants would be found both in the practice of the chief nations of Continental Europe and in that followed as respects scientific inquiries, grants for which are regularly made to the Royal Society to be administered by that eminent body.

Seeing that the British Academy holds in this country a position in regard to what are called the Human Sciences corresponding to that which the Royal Society holds as regards the sciences of Nature, it would seem fitting that the nation should enable it to accomplish for the benefit of humanistic studies much more than the Academy can now effect from its own very scanty funds.

These representations have at last, thanks largely to the tact and judgement of our late President and to the representations made with persistent earnestness by one of the most learned of our body, Principal Rhys of Jesus College, Oxford (Professor of Celtic), so far prevailed that in 1913 an annual grant of £400, voted by Parliament on the proposal of the Lords Commissioners, was placed at our disposal by H.M. Treasury towards the expenses of the editing and publication of a series of volumes to be called 'Records of the Social and Economic History of England and Wales'. The first volume of this series, containing the Survey of the Honour of Denbigh made in A.D. 1234, has just been published, edited by one of our Fellows, Professor Vinogradoff of the University of Oxford, and by Mr. Frank Morgan, tutor of Keble College in that University. The Academy is fortunate in possessing in Professor Vinogradoff a scholar of wide learning and world-wide authority, who brings to the elucidation of the earlier periods of British economic history a familiarity with the conditions of the holding and use of land in many other countries and a critical capacity matured by long experience. I quote from the Preface to this most interesting volume some words on the character of the projected series which seem to deserve your attention:—

'England possesses the most remarkable set of records of economic

and social history in the world. Beginning with the Domesday Survey, that unique description of eleventh-century society, we get a continuous series of cartularies, extents, ministers' accounts, terriers, revenue-rolls, agricultural, industrial, and commercial documents of all kinds, ranging to the present time. Unfortunately only a comparatively small portion of them has been published or even described. The importance of such publications as those of the Abingdon, Gloucester, Ramsey Cartularies in the Rolls Series, the Domesday of St. Paul's, the Black Book of Peterborough, the Cartulary of Battle Abbey in the Camden Series, brings forcibly home the necessity of rendering accessible to the public a vast store of similar documents. There is at present no Society able to proceed with such work in a systematic manner worthy of its national and scientific importance. The publications of the Rolls Series have been discontinued; the Royal Historical Society, which has taken over the Camden Series, has to divide its energies among many subjects; local societies bring from time to time welcome contributions, but these are scattered and difficult of access, and appear more or less accidentally without any systematic co-ordination. There is surely a field here for a great national undertaking, which at the same time would be highly appreciated by scholars abroad, and the British Academy has decided to make an attempt to call forth and organize efforts in this direction.'

It is much to be hoped not only that this Series will proceed steadily on the lines indicated in the passage I have quoted, but also that the policy which the Treasury and Parliament have adopted in making grants for the publication of documents of high historic value and entrusting the application of these grants to the Academy will be continued, and will be amply justified by the results. The Introduction which Professor Vinogradoff has prefixed to the text is itself a valuable contribution to the history of Mediaeval Wales.

I am glad to inform you that other volumes of the series are in a forward state. One or two will shortly appear.

In continuance of this chronicle of what has been accomplished during the past year, there are to be recorded two Celebrations at which the Academy has been represented. One is the tercentenary anniversary of the foundation of the University of Groningen. Our felicitations to that ancient and respected seat of learning could not have been better conveyed than they were by our former President, Lord Reay, who is equally at home in Britain, the land of his ancient house, and in Holland, where his family had dwelt for several generations before he himself resumed British citizenship and held high office under the Crown. The other celebration was that of the jubilee

(at Weimar, the city of Goethe and Schiller) of the German Shakespeare Society. Our energetic and devoted Secretary, Professor Gollancz, expressed the pleasure felt in this country at the ardour and success with which the study of Shakespeare is pursued among our Teutonic relatives in the old Teutonic motherland, and was rewarded for the fatigue of his journey by the assurances given him of the sympathy felt in Germany for the approaching celebration in England of the Tercentenary of Shakespeare's death, and of the wish of German men of letters to be associated therewith.

This leads me to mention a matter which occupied a good deal of the time and thought of the Council during the earlier part of the year. As far back as December last we were apprised that there existed in many quarters a strong desire that the anniversary I have just referred to should be commemorated in a manner worthy of our greatest poet and of the lustre he has reflected on his country. This wish was not confined to England, and many inquiries were addressed from abroad to English literary men as to the mode proposed for the conduct of a celebration which was assumed to be inevitable. In England itself there were several societies and organizations warmly interested in the idea, and some of these had begun to discuss the means of securing an adequate celebration. It presently appeared, however, that none of these organizations was strong enough to carry through so large an undertaking, nor did there appear to be a prospect of their forming a combination adequate to the purpose. Representations were accordingly addressed to the Council suggesting that here was a *nodus tanto vindice dignus*, an occasion which needed the intervention of a body holding a position of authority and standing apart from the competing pretensions and possible jealousies of the other organizations which had begun to concern themselves with the matter. The Council was at first disposed to consider that although the study of Shakespeare, regarded as a part of the history of literature, fell within our province, a commemoration of his greatness as a poet was a matter fitter for a body constituted for purely literary purposes than for this Academy. As, however, there did not seem to exist in England any such body, enjoying a recognized authority, which was prepared to meet the desire, in itself legitimate, and very generally felt, for a Tercentenary Celebration, the Council ultimately yielded to the requests made, and agreed to call a meeting to which the societies interested in the proposal should send delegates for the consideration of the matter. Invitations were issued, and a meeting was held in the rooms of the Royal Society on March 24th, at which delegates from the societies aforesaid, together with other persons of



literary distinction, were present. This meeting urged the Council to continue to give its approval and guidance to the enterprise. They were told that they might hope for this so far as regarded the starting of the movement, but that the Academy could not undertake to be responsible for carrying it through. What we would do for them was to take steps for creating a special organization which might, by the number and weight of the persons composing it, be able to command public confidence, and to bring to a successful issue what was likely to be, if not an arduous, yet a long and laborious undertaking. Thereupon a circular letter was sent on behalf of the Academy to a large number of societies and persons of eminence, explaining the situation, asking them to say whether they approved of the proposal to commemorate the anniversary, and inviting them, if they did so approve, to become members of a General Tercentenary Celebration Committee. To this circular letter replies were received expressing approval, and acceptance of membership of the Committee, from about 350 societies and persons, including the Ambassadors and Ministers in London of nearly all the nations of the world, the principal foreign Academies, and a large number of Universities in the United States, as well from many men of the highest distinction in literature, science, art, education, and politics. A meeting of these persons and representatives of societies convoked at the rooms of the Royal Society on July 3rd, passed resolutions approving of the proposed celebration, constituting a General Committee, and appointing an Executive Committee to consider the best method for carrying through the Commemoration, and to take the practical direction of it. This meeting was addressed among others by the American and Spanish Ambassadors, the High Commissioner for Australia, one of the Canadian Ministers, Mr. Perley, acting as High Commissioner for Canada, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Mr. Arthur Balfour, as also by Mr. A. E. W. Mason and Mr. H. B. Irving.

Thus the project has been launched with good omens in its favour. The Academy has no further official responsibility in the matter, though many of our Fellows are members of the General and some are members also of the Executive Committee. I have given this sketch of the steps taken for the sake of indicating a class of cases in which the name and authority of the Academy may be used to promote laudable aims which do not come so clearly within the normal scope of its action as to require or justify its taking them up and making them its own.

In two other recent instances the action of the Academy has had

what promise to be useful results. A paper read before the Academy by Professor Rhys Davids, one of our Fellows, marked the beginning of a movement which has now culminated in the foundation in London of a School of Oriental Studies. A Charter has been within the last few months issued to this School, and a suitable local dwelling found for it at the London Institution in Finsbury, while the position of the Academy as an organ of British learning has been duly recognized by giving to it representation upon the Governing Body of this new Institution. I need hardly say how eminently fitting it is that the nation which among all the nations of the West has had most to do with opening up the treasures of Eastern lore, and which also exerts the widest influence to-day upon Eastern peoples, in Egypt, India, China, and Japan, should possess in the centre of the Empire an organization for providing instruction and directing research in every branch of knowledge connected with these and other Eastern countries. May I venture to suggest that the complement of such a School now created here should be the establishment in some Eastern centre of study, say in Cairo, of an institution similar to the British School at Athens and the British School at Rome for the prosecution on the spot of the study of the languages, history, and archaeology of the Near Eastern countries? And if this be deemed desirable, it would seem to be a matter in which the influence of the Academy might properly be exerted.

Another paper read before the Academy by Mr. Sidney Low in November, 1912, on the Organization of Imperial Studies in London, has been followed, and this time more quickly, by tangible consequences. The University of London took up the idea started by Mr. Low, and is organizing such a School as he recommended, endeavouring to provide, especially for young men who are going out to serve in various parts of the Colonial dominions of Britain, a thorough and comprehensive instruction in those branches of knowledge which will be specially useful to them as administrative officials. The Academy may, I trust, find opportunities not only for gathering knowledge from the labours of men so trained, but for rendering practical service in bringing those of its members who are masters of special departments of research into a reciprocally helpful relation with those who are dealing with the social and economic phenomena which the less developed parts of our overseas dominions present.

This record of the year's work may close with the expression of our indebtedness to the Royal Society for the courtesy with which it has continued to place its rooms at our disposal for meetings.

A like word of thanks is due to the Chemical Society and to the Astronomical Society, both of which have allowed the Council, or a Committee, to meet in their apartments when those of the Royal Society were not available.

It is greatly to be desired that some permanent habitation should be allotted to the Academy, and whenever the question of providing better accommodation for the Civil Service Examinations and other kinds of work connected with education or research in which the State is interested, comes to be settled, the Academy ought to urge its claim to have some meeting-place assigned to it in the buildings to be erected for any such purposes. It has been long felt that what may be called the social side of our work, viz. the providing of fuller and more frequent opportunities for the Fellows to meet one another for the discussion in a friendly and informal way of topics which are of interest to them, or to particular sections, ought to be developed; and this can hardly be arranged until a proper local habitation has been provided for it. I venture to believe that one of the chief utilities of the Academy consists in bringing together those who are pursuing researches on similar lines, making them personally acquainted, and putting them in a better position for helping one another. More frequent social intercourse has for men of letters and learning more than a merely social value. We are all fellow workers in the cause of knowledge and truth, and feel, as every such worker should, that there is nothing either more profitable or more enjoyable than the giving to as well as the receiving from other students of all the information, all the friendly criticisms, all the ideas and suggestions which one mind can place at the disposal of another.

My long absence from this country makes me distrust my own competence to attempt any survey, however slight, of what has been accomplished during the past year either here or by the scholars of Continental Europe in the fields of study and research which belong to our province. It may however be worth while to take this opportunity of offering to you a few scattered remarks on the present position of those studies in some of those countries outside Europe which I have visited in the course of several recent journeys, viz. Japan and China, the Australasian Colonies, and South America.

Japan, as you know, has during the last thirty years been making extraordinary efforts to reach the level of Europe in regard to every branch of human knowledge which can contribute to practical efficiency. She seems resolved to make up for her long centuries of silence and isolation by founding institutions dedicated to the higher education, and by encouraging her children to emulate the

most advanced nations in bearing their share in the advance of thought and the accumulation of knowledge both in the human subjects and in the sciences of nature. Into the latter department I will not enter, except to testify to the zeal with which physical science is cultivated, and to some discoveries made in the biological sphere which prove that Japanese inquirers are competent to employ with success modern methods of research.

The Universities founded by the Government have been well equipped with libraries, laboratories, and museums, and now possess a strong staff of highly educated professors. The chairs were at first largely filled by Europeans and North Americans, but latterly a generation of native teachers has grown up, many of whom have completed their training in the Universities of Germany and the United States, so that at this moment nearly all the instruction is given by Japanese. To these State Universities several others have been added by the action of enlightened private citizens who think that there ought to exist institutions where instruction can be given with more freedom and less official supervision than is possible in the State-supported Universities, for the Japanese incline to bureaucratic methods in education as well as in the other departments of administration. The University founded in Tokyo by the venerable but still vigorous and alert Count Okuma, once Prime Minister, is an instance. It devotes itself specially to the political and economic sciences.

That a country which had much leeway to make up in the applications of science to industry should pay more attention to such subjects as physics and engineering than to philology or history or philosophy need excite no surprise. Nevertheless, the latter subjects are not altogether neglected. Some treatises of real value have been produced bearing on economic and social historical topics: for these are deemed to have 'actuality'. For history less has been so far done, yet evidence of an enlightened spirit is to be found in the lively interest now shown in the preservation of the monuments of antiquity and in the investigation of the early annals and traditions of the nation. As nearly all books that are now produced appear in the Japanese language, it is hard for a stranger to estimate their value, and very few of the European residents combine a knowledge of that difficult tongue with a literary taste sufficient to give authority to their judgement. I cannot therefore venture to say about the prospects of purely intellectual development in Japan more than this, that the people are highly alert, intensely ambitious, eager to emulate the West in literary as well as in scientific production. They will, unless distracted by internal troubles, produce work in many branches

of knowledge. But the real question is: How far will that work be original, distinctive, a permanent addition to human thought?

The Japanese are a people of some remarkable gifts. They have an admirable artistic feeling and power of perception of beauty in nature as well as in art. Quick emotions are combined with dogged perseverance, and though they have thrown overboard that system of feudal institutions which recalled mediaeval Europe, the spirit of chivalry which was embodied in the institutions lives on. Only two years ago one of their most famous soldiers killed himself because he could not bear to survive his lord the Mikado. But they have shown little aptitude for constructive thought, and their poetry, like their art and their written character, owes its origin to the more creative genius of the Chinese. As many centuries ago they, like the Koreans, drew inspiration from China, so now they have been eager to imitate the nations of the West. Having acuteness enough to recognize what the West could give them, they have been as willing to learn from Europe now as they were to learn from China and even from the Koreans, in ages long since past, and the upper classes have gone so far as to adopt the dress and many of the social usages of the West. Yet with this readiness to imitate there has been also within the last few decades, and especially since the war in which they overcame Russia, a development of intense national feeling which makes the nation eager to show itself capable of standing alone in literature as well as in politics, and of emulating the West in literature and science as in other things. The desire (already noted) to preserve ancient monuments is an instance both of this and of the growth of an imaginative feeling for history. National feeling and ambition and perseverance are not enough to make a people creative in the sphere of thought. Yet it may be that as there have been nations in which productive literary power has died out—such for instance as the Persians—there may be others in which the stimulus of ideas from without, falling on a fertile soil, may evoke latent capacities and give birth to great works, as happened to the Italians in the days of Lucretius and Catullus under the stimulus of the Hellenic spirit preserved in its writers of the classical age. This will be a topic fit to be discussed by our successors in the Academy fifty years hence.

A remarkable contrast is disclosed when the traveller passes from Japan to China. National feeling had almost died out in China under the Manchu dynasty: and what seemed a revival of it in the so-called Boxer rising was little more than an expression of antagonism to aggressive foreign influence. The dynasty has now been overthrown, overthrown by a handful of youthful conspirators taking advantage of

local troubles in some of the Western and Southern provinces where the Manchu power had always been weakest.

A republic has been proclaimed at the instance of students who had imbibed democratic notions at foreign universities, those who had lived in Japan showing themselves more advanced than even those whose teaching had been received in America. Much that was most characteristic of the old order has been swept away. Pigtails have been shorn off. The feet of women are allowed to grow. The cultivation of opium is forbidden. Cruel punishments have, at least on paper, been abolished, although rebels are still put to death by hecatombs. Even the time-honoured examination cells, most curious monuments of the custom which awarded public office and emolument to those who excelled in the imitation of the ancient poetry, are being fast destroyed as useless, now that the examinations themselves have disappeared. The Cambridge graduate can no longer rejoice to draw a parallel between the country which awarded the posts of governor and general to those who showed most knowledge of the ancient Chinese classics, and that in which prime ministers bestowed bishoprics on the editors of Greek plays. No interest is taken in, no care given to the preservation of the memorials, noble by their strength and lovely by their colouring, of a rich and splendid civilization as old as those of Egypt or Babylon. So too the old worships are languishing. The famous Confucian temple at Peking draws scarcely a worshipper: it is only among the uneducated classes that what we should call religion can now be found. There is space—a vast vacant space—for a new religion, new institutions, a new literature. But so far one sees only destruction. The ancient learning is gone, and nothing has yet come to take its place. Never did an ancient civilization fall so swiftly and, to outward appearance, so utterly. Yet all the while the self-confidence and self-esteem of this strange people have not been affected. They continue to regard us Westerners much as the supercilious Egyptian priests whom Herodotus talked to regarded the Greeks. They are afraid of us, and are now seldom heard to call the passing European a foreign devil. But they are as much convinced as ever of their own superiority, except as respects mechanical inventions, to the outer world: and this is, after all, a hopeful feature, indicating the strength of national fibre, for it coexists with a sense among the better educated that, however inferior the foreign devil may be, they must learn and profit by all that he has to teach them. In this state of things, and in the confusion due to widespread brigandage by land and sea, rising in some provinces almost to the dimensions of civil war, there can be no question of literary production. The only work done for learning, philological or historical,

is being done by a few European scholars. It is much to be wished that some of our students of history should set themselves to observing and recording the singular phenomena, without parallel in the annals of the world, which this disintegration and dissolution of one of the oldest and most compact of all civilizations presents. Such phenomena can never recur again elsewhere, for Chinese civilization had outlived every other system of ancient government, every other type of ancient art and learning.

From China to Peru it is a far cry. There are in that country, and in some of the other Spanish American states, a few persons of superior attainments who cultivate letters and produce books of a certain merit. But neither there nor in Colombia, and still less in Venezuela and the republics of Central America or of the Antilles, is there anything that can be called a learned class, occupied with serious study. The Central American states have made scarcely any progress, except in the production of sugar, coffee, cocoa, and bananas, during the century of their independence. Even Mexico, which had, under the rule of Porfirio Diaz, been advancing so rapidly in material prosperity that when I visited it twelve years ago there seemed hopes for the upspringing of literature and the spread of higher education, has now fallen back to the level of Guatemala. Even then, however, the backwardness of Mexican interest in learning appeared in the fact that nearly all archaeological research was being conducted by scholars from the United States or England. When I inquired as to whether there were any ancient Aztec legends or songs current among the people, the only person in the city of Mexico mentioned as capable of giving information was an Irish priest, who had formed a school for Indian children, and took me to hear them sing ditties in the ancient language. It is now only in the three great southern republics, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil, that one finds a number of men interested in the things of the mind, for it is only there that the conditions needed for the production of works making contributions to human knowledge have begun to emerge from the disorders of many years. Chile and Argentina have organized regular universities on the model of Germany and the United States, and books of substantial merit, chiefly dealing with legal and economic topics, but sometimes also with history, are now published in their capitals. In Brazil, however, with nearly seventeen millions of people, there exists no university, only institutions intended to prepare for the professions. Disappointing as this is, one ought to add that there remains in the race that produced Camoens a true literary gift; and among many who do not show any creative power one finds an appreciation of literary excellence which

maintains the general level of taste. Taking Latin America as a whole, though at present it does comparatively little for any of the studies for the promotion of which this Academy exists, there are ample grounds for hope that in the two or three now stable and prosperous states, the growth of material prosperity will be followed by an increase in the numbers of the educated class, which in its turn will produce minds capable of applying scientific methods primarily to those studies which are most related to the conditions of the country, such as law, politics, and economics, but ultimately to the whole range of human endeavour. The interest which some Argentines and a few Brazilians show in the sociological writings of some recent European writers whose reputation stands higher in South America than it does in Europe is at least an indication of the growth of a spirit which does not wish to rest content with the production of more cattle, more wheat, more sugar, and more coffee. There seems no reason why within another half-century we shall not have to take account of the literary output of those nations as an element in the intellectual progress of the world. *Inter arma silent Musae* has too long been true of Spanish America, but the new forces which will enable the Muses to be heard seem to be now in the ascendant over a large part of those vast regions which have fallen to the lot of the Iberian race.

I had hoped to add here some reflections upon the causes, physical and economic, political and social, which have depressed intellectual life in the Spanish and Portuguese colonies and made their literary history so different from that of the United States, or of the newer British dominions, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. But the subject is too large a one to be introduced at the end of such an address as this.

These things, therefore, interesting as they are—

spatiis exclusus iniquis

Praetereo atque aliis post me memoranda relinquo.