

**THE PLACE OF ICELAND IN
THE HISTORY OF EUROPEAN
INSTITUTIONS: BEING THE
LOTHIAN PRIZE ESSAY, 1877**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649497126

The Place of Iceland in the History of European Institutions: Being the Lothian Prize Essay, 1877
by C. A. Vansittart Conybeare

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Iceland. — 8

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LOTHIAN PRIZE ESSAY, 1877.

BY

C. A. VANSITTART CONYBEARE, B.A.

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“ orð mar af orði
orða leitaði,
verk mar af verki
verka leitaði.”

Hávamál 141.

Oxford and London:

JAMES PARKER AND CO.

1877.

Χαῖρε, καὶ ἐν νεφέλαισι καὶ ἐν νεφέθεσσι βαρεῖαις
καὶ πυρὶ καὶ σεισμοῖς πῆσσε σαλευομένη·
ἐνθάδε γὰρ βασιλῆος ὑπέρβιον ὕβριον ἄλυξας
Δῆμος Ἵπερβορέων, κόσμου ἐπ' ἔσχατιῃ,
αὐτάρκη βίοντων θεῶν τ' ἐρεθίσματα Μουσῶν
καὶ θεσμοὺς ἀγνῆς εὐρεν ἑλευθερίας.

Robert Lowe.

ΧΑΙΡΕ ΝΕΦΕΛΑΙΣ
ΚΑΙ ΝΕΦΕΘΕΣΣΙ
ΒΑΡΕΙΣ

TO
CONRAD MAURER
AND
GUÐBRANDR VÍGFUSSON.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

To any one writing on Iceland, the elaborate works of the learned Maurer afford at once a help and a difficulty, — a help, in so far as they shed the fullest light upon the subjects of which they treat; a difficulty, in that their painstaking completeness has brought together well-nigh everything that can be said. I have not, therefore, in the following pages thought it necessary to do more than add references to his writings, where it seemed necessary to do so. Mr. Carlyle has observed (“Early Kings of Norway,” p. 2), that “next to nothing has been shewn in English histories (*Rapin’s excepted*) of the many and strong threads of connexion between English affairs and Norse.” After looking over the ponderous tomes of Rapin’s History, I have failed to find that exhaustive treatment of the subject which Mr. Carlyle’s words would lead one to expect.

I have thought it best to add in notes a good deal that served to illustrate the text, in addition to mere references to original authorities (which I have in all cases where possible consulted); and on a few important questions, which, though closely connected with the main subject, I could not conveniently introduce into the text, I have ventured to add longer notes in the form of Appendices.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. F. York Powell, of Ch. Ch., for his kindness in helping me to revise and prepare this essay for publication; as also to my colleague at Manchester, Mr. Joseph Hall, for his careful revision of the proof-sheets.

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