

# **WASTE: A LECTURE**

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Waste: A Lecture by John Addington Symonds

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**JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS**

**WASTE: A  
LECTURE**



# WASTE:

A

## LECTURE

DELIVERED AT THE

BRISTOL INSTITUTION

FOR

THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE  
AND THE ARTS,

ON

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY THE 10TH, 1863,

BY

JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS, M.D., F.R.S., Ed.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS,  
CONSULTING PHYSICIAN TO THE BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL, ETC., ETC.

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TO  
THE REV. BENJAMIN JOWETT, M.A.,  
REGIUS PROFESSOR OF GREEK  
IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,  
THIS LECTURE IS INSCRIBED, IN TOKEN OF  
ADMIRATION, ESTEEM, AND  
ATTACHMENT.

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Siber  
Baker  
1-20-43  
46749

## SYLLABUS.

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Waste of solid substance of the Earth—surface of mountains—coasts—rocks,—from sea-waves—rainfalls, &c.—pp. 1—10.

Waste of Vegetable Life—struggle for existence—depredations of animals—accidents.—pp. 10—12.

Waste of Animal Life—by human agency—waste in geologic periods.—pp. 12—15.

Waste of Human Life —by natural agents — pestilence and war—destruction of aboriginal races—waste of human capabilities.—pp. 15—22.

Waste of the Works of Man — cities — libraries — literature.—pp. 22—28.

Questions and Reflections.—pp. 29—36.

Compensations.—pp. 36—48.

Waste viewed as transmutation.—pp. 48—51.



## LECTURE ON WASTE.

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IT WOULD not be in accordance with your feelings or my own, were I to commence the business of this evening without making reference to the great loss which this Institution has so recently sustained in the death of our venerated President, the MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE. That event has cast a shade over far wider spheres than this. The gloom has been felt in the Senate, and in her Majesty's Council, and it has spread over the whole nation; but it is not wonderful that the loss should be specially felt in an Institution which has for so many years derived honour and encouragement from the prestige of that illustrious name. I am not so presumptuous as to think of attempting to pronounce LORD LANSDOWNE'S eulogy, though I

might be prompted to say something from the fact that I had the privilege of enjoying his Lordship's acquaintance; for with that largeness of heart, which was one of his prominent characteristics, he extended his friendship from the very highest in the land to the most humble. Many worthy tributes have been already offered to his memory, and there are more to come. Many eloquent voices, many brilliant pens will be ready to set forth and record what HENRY, MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE was as a public man, as one of the leaders of a great political party, as a Senator, a Councillor, a Minister of State;—but it is not fitting that in an Institution devoted to science, literature, and art, silence should be altogether kept, when science, literature, and art have lost one of their most enlightened cultivators, one of their most munificent patrons, one of their most ardent friends. We in this Institution, in particular, must lament his death, but we must also feel thankful that he was so long spared to us. LORD LANSDOWNE was elected President in the year 1836, so that our Institution had the benefit of his protection and patronage for nearly thirty years.

I need not say more—to say more would be ill-timed and impertinent—but I could not well say less; and I proceed, therefore, to the Lecture, the subject of which, and I trust the tone of it also, will not be altogether out of harmony with the thoughts and feelings which must arise in our minds, when we consider how much of highest talent and culture, how much experienced statesmanship, how much knowledge and wisdom, how much taste and refinement, how much worth, nobleness, and goodness, have been lost to the world—how much happiness and enjoyment to a vast circle of admiring and loving friends—how much honour and countenance to ourselves—by that event to which I have thus made so slight and inadequate an allusion.

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TO THE student of Final Causes there are no facts in nature that on a first view present more difficulties than those which belong to decay and destruction. Fertile lands in a very few hours overspread by a desolating inroad of the sea, on the retreat of which, if ever it does withdraw, there is left for a time a sandy, stony desert;