

**THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORICAL
PROFESSOR: AN INAUGURAL
LECTURE READ IN THE MUSEUM
AT OXFORD, OCTOBER 15, 1884**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649326297

The Office of the Historical Professor: An Inaugural Lecture Read in the Museum at Oxford,
October 15, 1884 by Edward A. Freeman

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD A. FREEMAN

**THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORICAL
PROFESSOR: AN INAUGURAL
LECTURE READ IN THE MUSEUM
AT OXFORD, OCTOBER 15, 1884**

THE OFFICE
OF THE
HISTORICAL PROFESSOR.



THE
OFFICE OF THE HISTORICAL
PROFESSOR

An Inaugural Lecture

READ IN THE MUSEUM AT OXFORD

OCTOBER 15, 1884

BY

Augustus
EDWARD A. FREEMAN, M.A., HON. D.C.L., LL.D.

REGIUS PROFESSOR OF MODERN HISTORY

FELLOW OF OBIOL COLLEGE

HONORARY FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE

ⁿ
C
London

MACMILLAN AND CO.

1884

[All rights reserved]

I. 1275

Educ 2235.15

FEB 21 1885

Copyright Sec. 20.

INAUGURAL LECTURE.

IN coming forward for the first time, as I do to-day, to fulfil the new duties which the highest power in the land has laid upon me, I cannot forget how soon my first words necessarily come after the last words of the renowned scholar in whose place I find myself. It is indeed matter of rejoicing for us all that his last words were last words only in an official sense. Our guide is taken from us, and yet not wholly taken from us. Called to other and higher duties, we feel sure that he will not forget the studies of his earlier life; we feel sure that he will still be ready, from time to time, to stretch out a helping hand to those whose main work still lies in the fields where his own once lay. And readiest of all, I would fain hope, he will be to stretch forth a hand to him who feels it his highest honour to stand

in his place, and to stand in it, I may make bold to say, with his good will and something more. And yet the fact in which we all rejoice that he in whose place I stand still lives and flourishes does but in some sort heighten the natural difficulties of my first appearance before you. I am thereby driven into more direct comparison than I otherwise might have been with one with whom comparison is indeed dangerous. You have to hear my inaugural professions, while what I may call the exaugural confessions of the Bishop of Chester have as yet hardly passed from your ears. Let me only hope that, if I ever have the same privilege as he had, of parting from you, hardly, like him, to new duties, but when the time may come for me to lay all official duties aside, I may be able to make as good a confession as he made. I would fain hope that, when the time comes, I may part from you with as cheerful a confidence as his, that I may, like him, feel that I have at least done my best, and that you—or those who may then represent you

here—have at least accepted the will, perhaps even, as in his case, the deed also.

There is one point of difference, whether I am to count it as a difference for gain or loss, between him who now speaks and him who spoke last in the same character, which comes strongly home to me when I am tempted to glance, as he did, at the history of the post in which I am called to succeed him. As a rule, the younger succeeds the elder. It is by a rather singular lot that I am called on to take the place which has been held in succession by two living men, by two personal friends, by two of the men of whom among all living men I think most highly, but to neither of whom can I look up with that particular form of reverence which we feel towards our elders and official teachers. Of the last two holders of this chair, the latter is certainly younger than I am by a few years, as even the former is by a few days. And this fact, a disadvantage truly in many ways, is no small advantage when I come to look back at times before either of them was