

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS
DELIVERED ON THE EVENING OF
THE EIGHTH OF FEBRUARY, 1842.
LIMERICK PHILOSOPHICAL AND
LITERARY SOCIETY**

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Inaugural Address Delivered on the Evening of the Eighth of February, 1842. Limerick philosophical and literary society by Aubrey De Vere

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AUBREY DE VERE

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DELIVERED ON THE EVENING OF THE EIGHTH OF
FEBRUARY, 1842, AT THE HOUSE OF THE

LIMERICK PHILOSOPHICAL AND
LITERARY SOCIETY.

BY

SIR AUBREY DE VERE, BART.

PRESIDENT, ETC.

PUBLISHED AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOCIETY.

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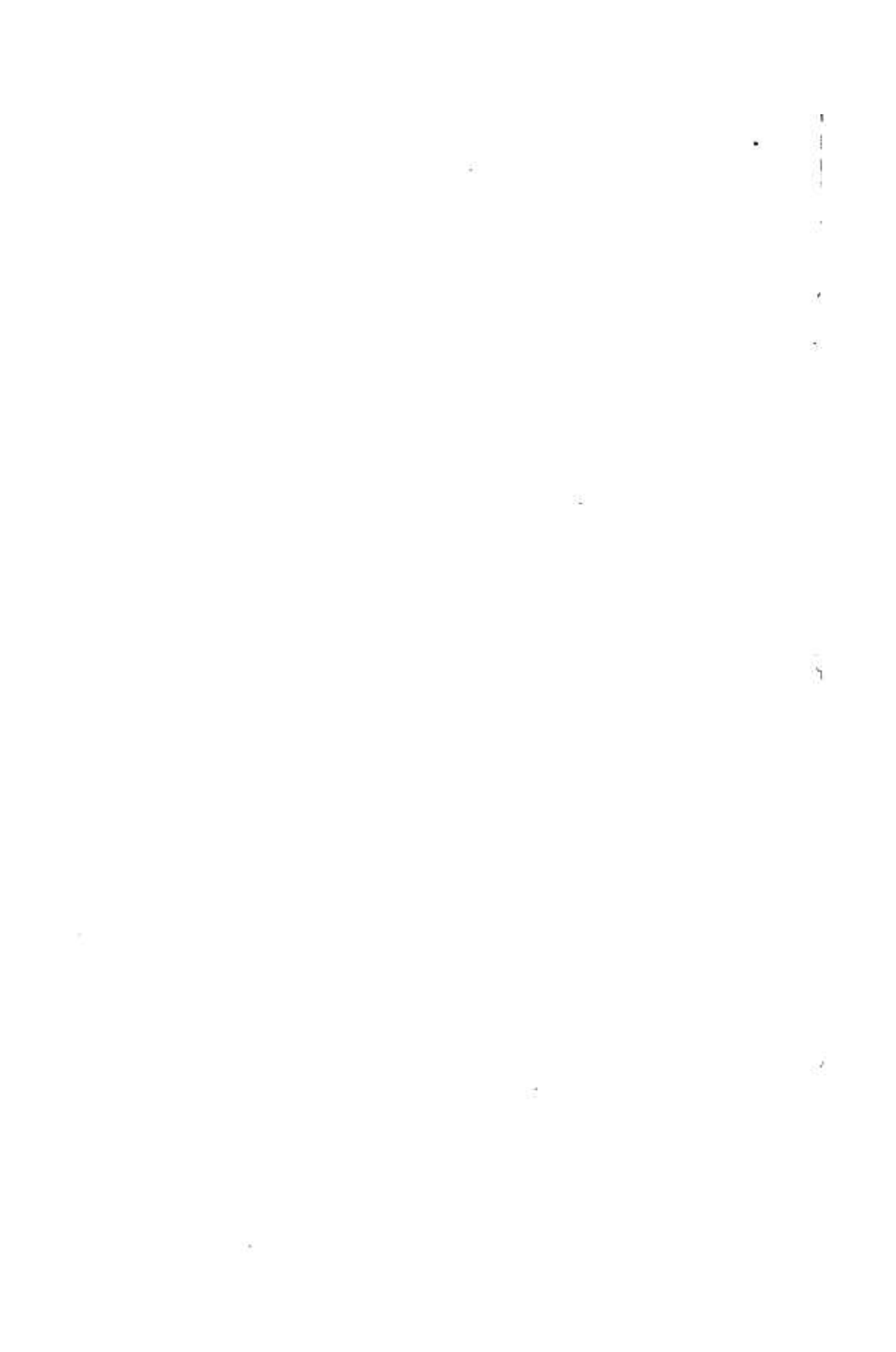
1842.

The profits of this publication are intended for the benefit of the Philosophical
and Literary Society of Limerick.



My dear Goshalung
From how affectionate a heart

TO THE
MEMBERS AND BENEFACTORS
OF THE
LIMERICK PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY,
THIS ADDRESS IS DEDICATED
BY THE AUTHOR.



INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

When I consider that meeting, for the first time, the members of the Limerick Philosophical and Literary Society, I have to address them from this chair, and within this hall now first thrown open for their use, I feel myself bound, however conscious of my own manifold deficiencies, to follow the course which you require, and custom has prescribed; and, having first acknowledged the honour you have conferred on me, proceed to discuss, with all needful brevity, the objects of our association, and the worthy ends to which our labours may contribute.

In England, not only are places of instruction more numerous, more convenient, and more munificently endowed, than in Ireland, whether schools for the young on public foundations, or those noble colleges, still increasing in number as in general favour, where knowledge is matured; but in every great town, associations for the en-

couragement of arts, the sciences, and literature, have been formed ; wherein all classes unite for one high purpose, the developement of the human faculties. To enlarge the understanding, purify the taste, elevate the desires, and discipline the habits of our nature ; to combine all parties and classes in common interests, through participated pleasures, free from unwholesome excitement and unseemly dispute, has been the aim, and is a consequence of such institutions.

These improvements, to which so much of the prosperity of England may be traced, have made slower progress in our beloved country ; through causes, which it would be out of place, and unseasonable, to discuss at present. But though our morning has been clouded, the day at length grows brighter. Not few have been the men eminent in intellect, and revered for their virtues, who have arisen among us ; poets, philosophers, divines, statesmen, soldiers, whose thoughts and actions have contributed to the glory of the entire nation, the good of all mankind. At length may we hope to take our stand beside the sister people, their moral and intellectual equal ; deserving to partake their power, and share, without diminishing, their glory.

But to reach this station, much exertion is necessary: and of our progress, the frequent establishment throughout the country of such associations as ours, supplies a gratifying proof.

Hitherto, however, this city, so advantageously placed for commerce or society, has, in all that concerns the improvement of human faculties and tastes, been lamentably deficient. While, with fewer advantages, Cork and Belfast have been honourably distinguished by their institutions and attainments, Limerick has confined her improvement to trade. Wealth has accumulated; our coffers, if not our minds, have been enriched; yet I must not be unjust: the scene before me is an evidence of that better spirit, which adds refinement to our gold, and makes men wise and virtuous. The want of an institution such as we have formed was felt; knowing our deficiencies, we sought amendment. At length, a few exertful men, clear-sighted and full of hope, prepared the plan on which we have acted, appealed to the public, and this building, not unworthy of its object, has been the result.

I shall not occupy your time by expatiating, at any length, upon the peculiar fitness of our