

**TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND ITS
INFLUENCE ON SOCIETY: AN ADDRESS
DELIVERED BY HIS GRACE THE
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AT THE
OPENING OF THE CROYDON COUNTY
POLYTECHNIC, DECEMBER 22ND, 1891**

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Technical education and its influence on society: an address delivered by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury at the opening of the Croydon County Polytechnic, December 22nd, 1891 by Anonymous

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L. Russell
1893

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An Address

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I HOPE I need scarcely say to the inhabitants of Croydon that it gives me very great pleasure to be with them on any occasion which marks the progress of this remarkable Borough, which within the lifetime of many people was scarcely a tenth of its present size, and which has during the whole of this great increase shown a real tendency to advance in every direction. To-night is by no means an insignificant illustration of its forwardness in affairs which belong to the improvement, advance, and prosperity of our country. In many places the first idea, in almost all places in fact the first idea of a

Polytechnic or Technical School and Institution, which should do the work you have before you, has been actually suggested by their finding themselves to their great surprise in possession of a sum of money, and being told they had better found a Technical School with it. Over a very considerable part of the country not very long ago there was very little idea indeed as to what a Technical School was. But when this message is delivered to Croydon, Croydon not only thoroughly understands what is meant by a Technical School, but says: "Here we have the Institution established and at work; we only want a good house and means for teachers to proceed. We ourselves have already (and I am sure I ought in the first instance to give honour where honour is due) owing to the exertions of one of the Clergy, a Technical School in all essential particulars, only at present on a small scale, but at work and

succeeding." I need not say to you with what devotion, with what zeal, with what thorough knowledge of the subject your work has been carried out. It is for you no experiment at all. Upon a greater scale I should like to insist presently on the fact that these things which come upon you now are no experiments. Here in Croydon you have made actual proof of the working and I should like to put in the forefront of what I have to say—which will be really very little because the work is too new—I should like to put almost in the forefront the fact that I think you so very right in entering on this in a most serious spirit; in the idea that the move you are making is for the improvement and advance of the individual, and that so far as the improvement and advance extends to many individuals, so far it is the whole country which is being benefited, not only by the actual progress of the men and boys who

learn their work here, or learn what is most important to their work here, but also by the spirit of serious improvement which will be awakened and produced. You have determined that this shall not be a place for amusement. You have watched other places, started with the kindest and most benevolent intentions. You feel that work is work and amusement is amusement, and that if work and amusement are tried under one roof and run together, there are many natural tendencies in all of us which will make the amusement-scale go up and the work-scale go down. You mean to be quite in earnest about everything you undertake here. Well then, I feel bound almost to say it, but when I say it, it is something you are already acquainted with, it is the fact that pupils will not learn, will not be taught, trades ; for many reasons, economical and political partly, but for one very good reason to my mind. It is