

**THE PLEASURES, THE  
DANGERS AND THE USES  
OF DESULTORY READING**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649346554

The Pleasures, the Dangers and the Uses of Desultory Reading by Stafford Henry Northcote  
Iddesleigh

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**STAFFORD HENRY NORTHCOTE IDDESLEIGH**

**THE PLEASURES, THE  
DANGERS AND THE USES  
OF DESULTORY READING**





ON  
DESULTORY READING



THE PLEASURES THE DANGERS  
AND THE USES  
OF  
DESULTORY READING

BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF IDDESLEIGH

*Northampton, August 1st 1885*



LONDON  
KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH AND CO

1885



THIS Discourse was read by the Earl of Iddesleigh, Lord Rector of the University of Edinburgh, in the United Presbyterian Synod-hall, the first of a series of Addresses to the Students, on November 3, 1885.










*Introduction.*

GENTLEMEN,

HEN I had the honour of addressing you on the occasion of my inauguration, I expressed a hope that it might be in my power to visit you again in the course of my term of office, so that the intercourse between your Rector and the great body of students might not be limited to the single address which custom prescribed, and which has, I think, usually furnished the only opportunity for our being brought together. I expressed this hope knowing that under any circumstances I should feel the advantage of occasionally renewing my acquaintance with the University. But since the time to which I refer much has happened

to increase—if I may use the phrase, to intensify—the feelings of regard and of kindly goodwill which were engendered at our first meeting. We have rejoiced together, and we have sorrowed together. We rejoiced in the interesting proceedings which attended the celebration of the tercentenary. We sorrowed at the common loss which we sustained in the death of our esteemed and distinguished friend, the late Principal. I should be wanting in all right feeling if I did not take this opportunity of again bearing my testimony to the high qualities and the eminent services of Sir Alexander Grant.

I have referred to the links in the chain of affection which I hope binds us together, but there is still another matter upon which I am anxious to say a few words, and which brings us more directly to the business of this evening. Within the last two years the students of this University have done much to quicken and to develop what I may call the University life. You have felt that, in

---

order to gain the full advantages which these seats of learning are able to offer, it is necessary for you to adopt some method of common action, to set on foot an organization capable of promoting you in the means of expressing your wants, and of taking steps to supply them. To this movement, as I understand, we are to attribute your coming together to-night; and I trust I am a good augur when I foretell that this meeting will be followed by many more, at which you will have the benefit of valuable lectures by eminent men upon the various subjects of interest upon which they will be able to address you. It is a wise idea, and I trust it will not only deserve, but command success.

Gentlemen, you have done me the honour to ask me to open the ball, and to deliver something in the nature of a lecture. If I had had more command of my time, and could have given to any subject which I might have selected the study which a man ought to give before he presumes to appear