

# **THE STUDY OF AMERICAN HISTORY**

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The Study of American History by Viscount Bryce

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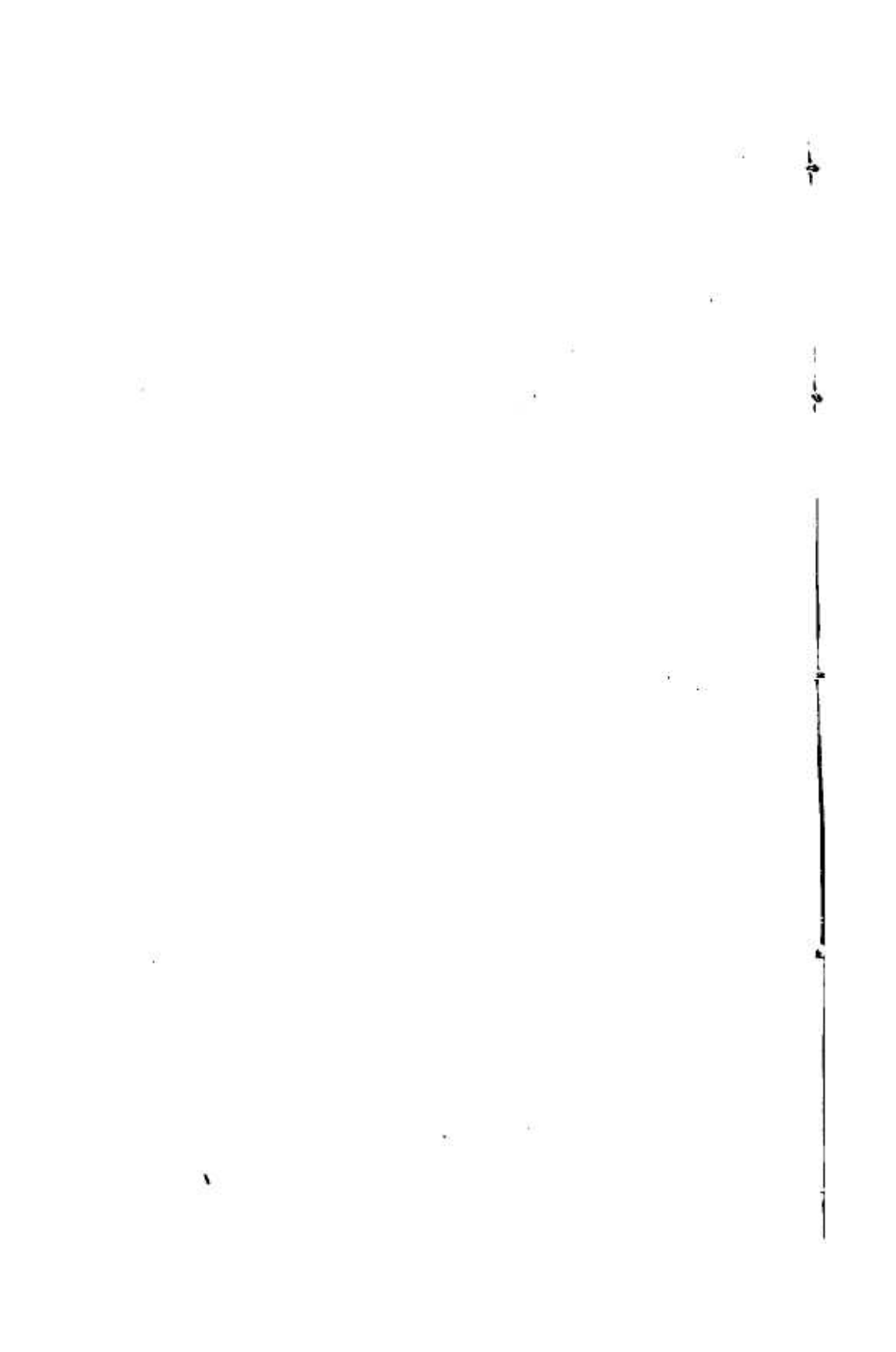
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**VISCOUNT BRYCE**

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**THE STUDY  
OF  
AMERICAN HISTORY**

BY  
**VISCOUNT BRYCE, O.M.**

BEING THE INAUGURAL LECTURE OF THE  
SIR GEORGE WATSON CHAIR OF AMERICAN  
HISTORY, LITERATURE AND INSTITUTIONS

WITH AN APPENDIX RELATING TO  
THE FOUNDATION

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

**CAMBRIDGE  
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## PREFATORY NOTE

BY THE SECRETARY  
OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN SOCIETY

**L**ORD BRYCE'S INAUGURAL LECTURE under the Sir George Watson Foundation, which is here presented to the public, was delivered at the Mansion House, London, on Monday, June 27th, 1921, before a large and representative assembly, including many American visitors. The Rt Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, M.P., presided.

Mr H. S. Perris, the secretary of the Anglo-American Society, read a letter from the Prince of Wales's private secretary regretting that owing to the pressure of public engagements the Prince was unable to be present, "especially as this is a function which it would have given him special pleasure to attend, not only in view of the objects for which the Anglo-American Society exists, but as a further mark of his appreciation of Sir George Watson's generosity."

Mr Balfour, who had to leave the Mansion House before Lord Bryce had concluded his address in order to attend the meeting of the Imperial Conference, said there could not be a more fitting opening of what he hoped was going to be a fruitful course of lectures delivered in this country by authorities upon

Anglo-American history than a lecture by Lord Bryce himself. He had every qualification for the task which he had so kindly undertaken. He had made his name as an historian of European repute much more than a generation ago, and that early reputation of his had been sustained and increased by all his subsequent work. He was not only a trained historian and a universal traveller, but he was also a special authority upon American subjects. He approached questions dealing with America with the special advantage that he knew the subject not merely from books, not merely from the sources which historians ordinarily drew upon in order to complete their picture of the past; he had in addition to that qualification, which he possessed in the fullest measure, the practical experience which residence in the United States had given him; a residence most important from the immediate diplomatic point of view, for he had to deal over and over again with questions profoundly interesting to both the great English-speaking peoples. In addition to that, he made himself acquainted with, and, I think I may say in the presence of American friends, beloved, by every section of public opinion in America, irrespective of party, profession, tastes and all the other varieties of interest which divide mankind. That is a unique qualification. There is no man living who possessed it in anything like the same measure as

Lord Bryce. Happy indeed were we to have secured his services on the present occasion.

Mr Balfour continued: I need not say anything more except that to promote the mutual comprehension of these two great Peoples seems to me the worthiest object which any man can propose to himself at the present time. I do not believe that there is any cause which involves greater consequences for the future of civilization. I do not believe that there is any end for which it is more worth while striving and struggling, and I rejoice to-day that this view is not only held by students and statesmen like Lord Bryce, but has appealed to men who, like my friend Sir George Watson, have the imaginative insight to see how wealth can best be used, and who now, not for the first time in his beneficent career, has expended great sums of money in a cause which I am quite confident will repay all the expectations which he has formed of it.

At the conclusion of Lord Bryce's lecture a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, to Mr Balfour, and to the Lecturer, was moved by Alderman Sir Charles Wakefield, Bart., Hon. Treasurer of the Anglo-American Society and of the Sulgrave Institution.

This was seconded by Dr Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, New York, who said: "It is a privilege to be permitted on behalf of my countrymen, so many of whom are