

**MACAULAY'S SPEECHES
ON COPYRIGHT:
LINCOLN'S COOPER
INSTITUTE ADDRESS**

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Macaulay's Speeches on Copyright: Lincoln's Cooper Institute Address by Dudley Howe Miles

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DUDLEY HOWE MILES

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LONGMANS' ENGLISH CLASSICS

EDITED BY

ASHLEY H. THORNDIKE, PH.D., L.H.D.

PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH IN COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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EDITED

WITH INTRODUCTIONS AND NOTES

BY

DUDLEY H. MILES, Ph.D.

CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH IN THE EVANER CHILDS
HIGH SCHOOL, NEW YORK



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INTRODUCTION

MACAULAY'S SPEECHES ON COPYRIGHT

I. LIFE OF MACAULAY

THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY's prosperous life began on October 25, 1800, at Rothley Temple, Leicestershire, where his mother was paying a visit to her sister. His childhood was spent in the heart of London and in the pleasant suburb of Clapham. His father was so much engrossed in the anti-slavery agitation that he had little time to spend on the training of his eldest son. His mother, however, did not spoil the child. Though he crept unwillingly to school, she would hear none of his entreaties to remain home on rainy afternoons, saying stoically, "No, Tom, if it rains cats and dogs, you shall go." He learned without effort, but what he was really interested in was writing long epics or an epitome of universal history—childhood works which were as correct in spelling and grammar, as accurate in punctuation, and as clear in meaning as his mature masterpieces.

At twelve he was sent to a small private school near the great university of Cambridge. He was very homesick, but occupied his whole time with books and the debating society. Of it he early wrote that the subject chosen for the next discussion was "whether Lord Wellington or Marlborough was the greatest general. A warm debate is expected." In these discussions little Macaulay seems to have attracted attention by the loudness and fervor of his

tones, for his father wrote praying "that the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit may be substituted for vehemence and self-confidence."

At Trinity College, Cambridge, which he entered at eighteen, he soon became one of the bright particular lights in the famous debating society, the Cambridge Union. He shone equally in conversation in the rooms of fellow-students, where on all current questions he usually maintained the opposite view with boundless illustration and argument. His brilliancy gave rise to the story of a day spent at the country house of the Marquis of Lansdowne. There he and his friend Austin were entertained at a gathering of ladies, artists and politicians. The two students commenced a conversation at breakfast which was kept up, with only slight interruption at lunch, until the bell rang for dinner, yet to which every one in the house was a listener. At his father's home in Glapham, too, he mingled in the discussions of political subjects led by some of the most influential members of parliament who lived on the Surrey side of London. He thus early gained a thorough schooling in the discussion of questions of public policy. Moreover, his student controversies gradually brought him to the conviction that the Whig party embraced within its principles all that was wise and just. Though he detested mathematics, he was on a third trial granted a fellowship in 1824 and an A.M. in July of the next year.

During his school life he took not the least interest in any athletic sports. He was no less indifferent to skating, shooting, riding, driving, than to swimming, rowing, or cricket. Indeed, his only exercise during his whole life was walking. Yet even on the most crowded streets of London he would thread his way at a rapid pace with a book in his hand, reading