INAUGURAL ADDRESS DELIVERED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW, NOV. 19, 1873

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Inaugural Address Delivered to the University of Glasgow, Nov. 19, 1873 by Benjamin Disraeli

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BENJAMIN DISRAELI

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED TO THE

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

NOVEMBER 19, 1873

BY THE

RIGHT HON. BENJAMIN DISRAELI, M.P.

LORD RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GLANGOW

SECOND EDITION

INCLUDING THE

OCCASIONAL SPEECHES AT GLASGOW

AUTHORISED EDITION, CORRECTED BY THE AUTHOR

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PREFACE.

THE PUBLISHERS having informed me that there is a demand for the occasional Speeches made by me during the recent visit to Glasgow, I avail myself of the second edition of the 'Inaugural Address' to comply with their wish that they should be added to it.

D.

HUGHENDEN: December 4, 1878. 30

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE COLLEGE OF GLASGOW, NOVEMBER 19, 1873.

MR. PRINCIPAL, PROFESSORS, AND STUDENTS-

My first duty, and my deepest gratification, is to thank you for the honour which you conferred on me two years ago. It is a high one. No one can be insensible to sympathy from the unknown, but the pleasure is necessarily heightened when it is offered by the educated and refined; when that body is representative, and, above all, when it represents the youth of a famous country.

My next duty, and one of which the fulfilment is scarcely less gratifying, is to avail myself of the privilege attendant on the office to which you have raised me, and to offer you some observations either on the course of your studies or the conduct of your lives, which, if made by me, will be made without pretence or presumption, quite satisfied if, when we are separated, any chance remark of mine may recur to your memory, and lead you to not altogether unprofitable meditation.

Were I to follow my own bent, I would dwell on those delightful studies which occupy a considerable portion of your time within your academic halls, studies which, while they form your taste and strengthen your intelligence, will prove to you in future years both a guide and a consolation; but when I recollect the illustrious roll of those who have preceded me in this office, and remember how fully and how recently many of them have devoted their genius and their learning to such an enterprise, I am inclined to think that the field, though in my opinion inexhaustible, has been for the present sufficiently cultivated, and that as you are about to enter life at a period which promises, or rather which threatens, to be momentous, it would not be inappropriate were I to make some observations which may tend to assist you in your awaiting trials.

He who would succeed in life, and obtain that position to which his character and capacity entitle him, has need of two kinds of knowledge. It would seem at the first blush that self-knowledge were not very difficult of attainment. If there be any subject on which a person can arrive at accurate conclusions, it should be his own disposition and his own talents. But it is not so. The period of youth in this respect is one of great doubt and difficulty. It is a period